Chlorine Leak from Tank at Yorktown Town Pool Contained

By Rick Pezzullo

A crack in a storage tank at the Brian J. Slavin Aquatic Center at Shrub Oak Memorial Town Park that allowed 1,400 gallons of liquid chlorine to leak out was contained on site and cleaned up without incident Friday night.

“We were very fortunate that the leak was discovered by an alert Town Parks Department staff member at about 4 p.m. and was determined to not pose any danger to the surrounding neighborhood,” said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater. “The chlorine was contained within the building, and thanks to the quick response by the Westchester County Hazardous Materials unit and the expertise of a crew from Miller Environmental Associates, the liquid was safely pumped into a separate container and the eight-hour cleanup completed by midnight. They were backed up by the Mohegan Lake Fire Department and the Peekskill EMS in a true team effort.”

Slater said the incident at the Sunnyside Street facility was reported to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

“This is an example of the importance of having well-trained personnel in both the public and private sectors who can mobilize quickly and have the training to know what needs to be done,” Slater said. “In this instance, employee diligence and knowledgeable responders prevented what could easily have been a serious environmental issue and a threat to nearby residents. We can’t thank them enough for their quick action.”

The swimming pool is scheduled to open for the 2021 season on Saturday, June 5.

Opening of Rental Townhomes Near Town Center Celebrated

By Rick Pezzullo

Cortlandt officials joined representatives of Finkelstein Timberger East in celebrating the opening of an upscale rental townhome community next to the Cortlandt Town Center in Mohegan Lake.

Located on the former site of Lakeview Cottages, Meadowbrook Commons on the Boulevard on Route 6 offers more than 50 two-bedroom townhomes, ranging from $3,000 to $3,575 per month.

“Meadowbrook Commons is a wonderful addition to our town. The property is lovely, the amenities are very attractive, and the fit and finish of the residences are top-notch,” said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi. “The builders and the developers have done an impeccable job on these residences. We welcome the addition of this high-quality housing stock. It’s a perfect fit to the unique character of the town.”

Meadowbrook Commons townhomes have a variety of layouts, offering garages, dens and family rooms, open floorplan kitchens, and high-end fixtures and premium appliances. The development’s clubhouse features a fully equipped gym, lounge with a television, Wifi and wet bar, as well as outdoor amenities including seating areas, barbecue pit, guest parking, and a large pond encircled by a nature trail.

“We view our properties as our family’s legacy, and as a long-term investment into our local communities,” said Tony East, one of Finkelstein Timberger East’s principals. “We keep what we build and own, as evidenced by our commitment to the Town of Cortlandt. Meadowbrook Commons has been and is a labor of love, and we anticipate it being a wonderful addition to housing options available for residents of the local area. Everyone at FTERE and Meadowbrook Commons looks forward to being part of the Cortlandt community for many years to come.”

Cortlandt Councilman and Deputy Supervisor Dr. Richard Becker emphasized the location of the townhomes to commercial and recreational destinations in town for young professionals, families and active adults.

“Meadowbrook Commons is a unique and necessary addition to Cortlandt’s varied housing stock,” Becker said. “This development is centrally located, and ideally situated adjacent to wonderful shopping and recreational activities. A perfect example of ‘residential reuse,’ it adds another option of quality and affordable housing for our community.”

Memorial Day 2021

A Tri-Village Parade was held in the Village of Buchanan Monday, one of several Memorial Day events that returned to the region after being cancelled last year by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more photos, see page 15.
‘Progress 4 Peekskill’ Slate Unveils Housing Platform

By Rick Pezzullo

The Progress4Peekskill slate of Democrats that are gearing up for a crucial June 22 primary has released a housing plan as part of their campaign platform.

The four members of the slate, Conor Greene for mayor, and Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo, Amy Perlow and Amy Vele for Common Council, firmly believe that housing is a human right.

“Everyone deserves to have a nice, safe and secure home they can afford. Peekskill faces an affordability crisis that’s only going to get worse unless we take aggressive steps now to create more housing and enact meaningful protections for tenants,” Greene said. “Too many of our neighbors can barely afford the rising costs of housing, and myself and my running mates are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that everyone can afford to call Peekskill home.”

“Housing should be viewed, not as a commodity used to manipulate the tax base, but as a right every person should have access to,” said Agudelo, who is seeking a second four-year term. “We need our elected representatives to recognize that a community is only truly healthy and stable when no one needs to worry about being displaced and losing their home. Addressing the housing crisis, especially after this year where so many are facing financial hardship, must be a priority — and it is for the Progress 4 Peekskill team.”

The slate has pledged to prioritize enacting legislation to protect tenants by adopting rent-control programs, mandating affordable and workforce units in new development, and spurring creation of new affordable housing on underutilized city properties.

Some of the plan’s highlights include:

- Partnering with nonprofit organizations to create new housing on underutilized city properties that is affordable to working and middle-class Peekskill residents.
- Expanding the state Emergency Tenant Protection Act to include Peekskill.
- Adopting the state Good Cause Eviction Law in Peekskill to ensure that every tenant is entitled to a lease renewal and protected against unreasonable rent hikes.
- Requiring developers to provide additional community benefits including transportation options such as e-bike share, public shuttle service subsidies and broadband Internet.
- Adopting legislation to require that at least 20 percent of units in new private development are designated workforce and affordable, targeted for working and middle class residents.
- Enforcing codes against banks and absentee landlords to ensure appropriate maintenance and livable conditions.
- Advocating for improved county services and funding including for transitional housing and to support the relocation and expansion of the Jan Peek shelter.
- “There is no doubt that Peekskill is facing a housing crisis as the highest rent-burdened municipality in Westchester. The legislation outlined in this platform is sorely needed to protect tenants and ensure affordability for our community,” Perlow said.

“My family immigrated from Ecuador in the 1990s and Peekskill became their home. They were able to build a life, but they had to sacrifice a lot. The issues around affordability haven’t changed since then,” Vele said. “People deserve the opportunity to build a better life, but wages have stayed the same and the cost of living continues to increase. As Peekskill continues to grow, we have to ask ourselves: Who is it growing for? I’m proud to say our housing platform is centered on the families and hardworking individuals who most need local government to step up. No matter who you are — a recent college graduate, retired, a homeowner, a renter — you should feel like city hall is working for you.”

The Peekskill Democratic Committee endorsed Councilwoman Vivian McKenzie to run for mayor to succeed Andre Rainey, who is not seeking a third term. Running with McKenzie for council are councilmen Ramon Fernandez and Dwight Douglas and Rob Scott.

The Peekskill Republican Committee has tapped Emiliano Perez, owner and operator of the bakery/restaurant Perla de Oriente Panaderia for the last 14 years, to run for mayor, and Leesther Brown, Ken Gilleo and Bill Moran for council.

Garden of Hope in Yorktown

Approximately 100 volunteers recently used their muscle and green thumbs to establish the new home of the Garden of Hope at Willow Park in Yorktown. The workers of all ages amended the garden beds and planted all the seedlings donated to the garden from Graymoor nurseries. All food will be donated to local food banks.

Your Community Energy Program Celebrates its 5th Anniversary!

Thank you to all of our participating municipalities & residents!

With you, we reduced CO₂ emissions by 775,000 metric tons, the equivalent of taking 168,000+ cars off the road for one year!

Learn more at sustainablewestchester.org/wp
Available only to residents of participating municipalities. Want to get YOUR community involved? Contact us at 914-242-4725.

Man Pleds Guilty in Fatal Stabbing of Peekskill High Teen

By Anna Young

The Peekskill man who stabbed and killed a 17-year-old Peekskill High School student on North Broad Street last year will be sentenced to nearly two decades in prison later this summer, according to the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

Jahliv Niles pled guilty May 11 to manslaughter in the first degree for the March 2020 stabbing death of Omarion McKenzie, District Attorney Mimi Rocah said. Niles also pleaded guilty to two years in prison but three years post-supervision and was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Brian Bendish and Laura Murphy.

McKenzie was transported to New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police.

McKenzie then traveled a short distance to 214 North Broadway, where he collapsed in the front entranceway, police said. Police and EMS responded around 11:24 a.m. and immediately began life saving measures.

McKenzie was transported to New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

Niles was apprehended by Peekskill Police shortly thereafter.

Niles is expected to be sentenced on Aug. 19 to 18 years in prison plus five years post-release supervision, officials said. Additionally, he is expected to be sentenced to two years in prison but three years post-release supervision on the assault charge, to be served concurrently with his sentence on the manslaughter charge.

The case is before Judge Barry Warhit and was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Brian Bendish and Laura Murphy.

PHOTO BY PAUL SILVERMAN
State Offering Free College Tuition Lottery for 12- to 17-Year-Olds

By Martin Wilbur

New York State continues to search for ways to attract people who have yet to get a COVID-19 vaccine to roll up their sleeve and get a shot.

Last week Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that to entice young people between the ages of 12 to 17 to get the vaccine, they will be entered into a lottery where 50 winners will receive free tuition to a four-year public college in the state.

“Through July 7, anyone in that age group who gets their first Pfizer dose, will automatically be entered into the sweepstakes. A drawing with 10 new names will be drawn every Wednesday for five weeks, Cuomo said.

“It’s a significant incentive for students, and by the way, it’s a significant incentive for a parent,” he said. “Tell your 12- to 17-year-old go out, get a shot, it protects the family, it protects the 12- to 17-year-old and then they are eligible for a raffle.”

The earlier a youngster gets a vaccine the better. Once they receive a first dose, they are eligible to be selected in each drawing. The latest plan to get more people vaccinated comes as the vaccination rate continues to slow. Through Sunday, 8,991,805 New Yorkers, or 56.9 percent of the population at least 18 years old, have completed the vaccine. Through May 26, the percentage stood at 55.5 percent.

In that same four-day time frame, the percentage of those who have received their first dose went up from 64.2 to 65.2 percent, according to the state’s vaccine tracker.

A bit of good news is that 21.6 percent of 12- to 15-year-old are now vaccinated statewide, up from about 5 percent two weeks earlier.

Cuomo also mentioned last week that employers must give their workers who have received a vaccination can receive a paid day off if they have side effects from the shot.

A recent Kaiser Family Foundation study found that 48 percent of unvaccinated people said that missing work in case they don’t feel well was the chief reason for not getting inoculated, he said.

While virtually all side effects are mild, the fear is real even if it isn’t grounded in reality, Cuomo said.

“I don’t know anyone who couldn’t go to work the next day because of the side effects of the vaccine, but it is possible that you get mild flu-like symptoms, but it’s not about the reality, it’s about the perception,” Cuomo said.

The state tracker reported on Monday that 499,562 Westchester residents have been fully vaccinated and more than 548,000 have received their first dose, 72.8 percent of the population at least 18 years old.

Despite the challenges the state faces continuing to get people vaccinated, the local, regional and statewide infection rate continues to stay extremely low. On Sunday, New York State reported a .69 infection rate, with 494 positives from 71,242 tests.

Westchester reported falling to 547 active cases last Friday, the last day that numbers were available. Last Thursday Putnam had just 13 active cases throughout the entire county.

‘Trailblazing With Byrne’ to Continue This Saturday in Mahopac

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) has announced his next two Trailblazing With Byrne events will be coming up this Saturday, June 5 in Mahopac and on Saturday, June 26 in Yorktown.

Byrne meets with constituents virtually and in-person for an hour-long Q&A, which are livestreamed on YouTube, before taking a walk to continue the discussion, promote healthy living and take in the local natural beauty. Discussion on a variety of issues is welcome.

This Saturday’s event begins with Coffee with Kevin from 9 to 10 a.m. followed by Trailblazing With Byrne from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Mt. Hope Road Trailhead, across from the Mahopac Public Library.

On June 26, it will take place at the Yorktown Town Hall Trailhead behind Town Hall near the memorial at 363 Underhill Ave. in Yorktown Heights.

Byrne held his last Trailblazing event on May 22 at Southeast at the Tonetta Lake Trailhead, which is part of the Maybrook Trailway and larger Empire State Trail.
Mt. Kisco Seeks Public Input on Whether to Permit Marijuana Sales

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials want to hear from residents about whether the village should permit within its borders the retail sale of recreational marijuana and commercial lounges to consume cannabis or choose to opt out.

The Village Board has scheduled a public hearing on the issue for its next meeting this Monday, June 7.

Under the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act approved by the state legislature earlier this year and signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Mar. 31, each municipality in the state may decide whether they want to allow cannabis sales within the community and/or to have the on-site consumption facilities.

Municipalities have until Dec. 31 to pass a local law to opt out of the program, but that decision would be subject to a permissive referendum. A petition containing at least 20 percent of a municipality’s registered voters would be needed to trigger a referendum and must be received by the village clerk within 30 days of the passage of the local law.

If a community decides to opt out, it may reverse that decision at any time.

Mayor Gina Picinich said that roughly 1,000 signatures would be needed for any resident that wants to trigger a referendum.

“This board wants to hear from the community so that any decisions that are made to stay in or stay out, or some variation of, is reflective of the will of the community so that there won’t be a need for a permissive referendum,” Picinich said.

Under the law, anyone at least 21 years old would be allowed to buy or consume marijuana and carry up to three ounces of cannabis and up to 24 grams of concentrated cannabis.

With the establishment of the state Office of Cannabis Management, it is expected to take until at least the end of 2022 before any retail outlets will open.

A state license would be needed to grow, process, distribute, deliver or dispense marijuana.

Picinich said that if the village were to allow retail sales it could set reasonable restrictions related to hours and location.

Sales of marijuana would carry a 13 percent sales tax. If the municipality opts in, the state would receive 9 cents of every dollar of marijuana sales generated within its borders, while the local government would get 3 cents. The county would receive 1 cent.

The law states that consumption would be legal anywhere that cigarette smoking is permitted.

Village Board members agreed that the best way to gauge public sentiment is to hold a public hearing and to inform the community that their input is sought to help the board decide which direction to go.

“Let’s make sure that a lot of people in our village know about it so they can come and express themselves,” said Trustee Peter Grunthal.

Municipalities locally and throughout the state are faced with the same decision.

Marijuana supporters have pointed to the creation of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars that could be generated through its sale in addition to correcting racial injustices caused by the disproportionate enforcement of old drug laws against poor people and communities of color.

Opponents have argued that it could add to the state’s drug woes while many police agencies hold the position that there isn’t an effectively accurate roadside test, such as test for blood-alcohol levels, to determine if someone is disoriented from marijuana.

The hearing is part of the regularly scheduled Village Board meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. and can be viewed live on the Mount Kisco Facebook page and through Zoom.

Immunotherapy: A Game Changer in Cancer Treatment?

The leading-edge of cancer care – offered right here at NWH

Ask the Doctor
Lev Davidson, MD
Medical Oncologist
Medical Director, Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital

Learn more about Dr. Davidson, visit nwh.northwell.edu/davidson

Q: What is Immunotherapy?
A: Your immune system is a network of cells, tissues, and organs that work together to keep you healthy by defending your body against harmful invaders.

Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses your immune system to thwart cancer cells. Immunotherapies are often used in combination with traditional chemotherapy medications to boost the effectiveness of those regimens.

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

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

Next are “monoclonal antibodies,” which are immune-system proteins produced in a lab. These antibodies are designed to attach to specific targets found on cancer cells. Some monoclonal antibodies mark cancer cells so they will be better seen and destroyed by the immune system. Another immunotherapy agent is a vaccine called “BCG” that is instilled directly into the bladder to attack very early bladder cancer.

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

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

By Samuel Rowland

The Ossining Community Equity Task Force and various local and state officials threw their support last week behind the E-Let’s Expand Access to Remote Learning Now (E-LEARN) Act.

The proposed legislation, which was introduced by state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) last Nov. 24, aims to create an E-LEARN Fund to provide free broadband internet access for every student in the state. The initiative would be funded by a quarterly tax on the intrastate revenues of internet service providers operating in New York.

“We used to provide a blackboard chalk in school as part of the essentials. Now the essentials are broadband and a tablet or some other instrument,” said Mayer, chair of the Senate’s Education Committee, at a May 27 press conference at Louis Engel Waterfront Park in Ossining.

The bill proposed that every student will have free 24-hour broadband access wherever they live at 25 megabits per second, which is the quality standard for broadband.

Access to broadband for families in lower income areas and communities of color has been lagging for years, but the digital divide became glaring after the need to switch to remote learning last March because of the pandemic.

New York’s budget for the current fiscal year includes a program, found in Bill S2506-C, Section 117(3), requiring all broadband providers operating in the state provide $15-per-month service plans to low-income families who qualify for certain government benefits. The plans would have to provide the 25-megabits-per-second download speed outlined in Mayer’s bill.

State Sen. Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (D-Nyack) and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) also spoke at the event. Reichlin-Melnick is one of the Senate bill’s co-sponsors while Galef is a co-sponsor of the version in the Assembly.

“This was one of the very first bills that I co-sponsored when I became a member of the Senate in January,” Reichlin-Melnick said. “In 2018, a study found that over 15 percent of students in the U.S. had no access to broadband at home and over 30 percent of children of color have no access to broadband at home. We can’t accept that as the status quo.”

Reichlin-Melnick noted his own experience with the digital divide before the pandemic. His first job was as a teacher at an elementary school in a district comprised predominantly of students of color. Many families at the time were still struggling to obtain dial-up internet service, he said.

Community leaders recounted the challenges they saw children and families facing during the past year. Ossining Councilwoman Jackie Shaw, a task force member and Executive Director of the IFCA Housing Network, said immediate assistance is required.

“So, we have people choosing between rent and prescriptions and things like that. So broadband access and paying for that is not high on their list. But of course, they want their children educated,” Shaw said. “And we have a lot of kids in shelters who had a tablet or...phone but had no internet access. They were shut out of the educational system for long periods of time.”

On Mar. 2, the Senate bill was approved by the Education Committee and is now being debated in the Finance Committee. The Assembly bill was introduced on Feb. 11 and is still being debated in its Education Committee.

“The digital divide between our students became very evident during the COVID pandemic,” said Sandy McAllister, co-chair of the Ossining Community Equity Task Force and a member of the Ossining NAACP. “We wanted to find a way...of bringing forth this bill that we fully support. And we hope that everyone else will support us as we continue to strive to reduce the division.”

The Ossining Community Equity Task Force is a coalition of local stakeholder groups serving in an advisory role on town policy aimed at addressing systemic racism and other forms of systemic discrimination. The task force was formed after a suspected act of hate crime vandalism in Louis Engel Waterfront Park in 2019 shocked the community. Its relevance and profile increased in the wake of the murder of George Floyd last year.
No. Castle Amends Outdoor Dining Regs, But Won’t Allow Music

By Martin Wilbur

Several North Castle residents last week criticized a town proposal to allow music for outdoor dining, forcing the Town Board to eliminate that provision before amending its regulations.

With the increasing popularity of outdoor dining once restaurants were allowed to reopen after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the board has been looking to revise its regulations to help the establishments attract customers but balance its impact on the community.

Revisions included requiring restaurants to obtain a yearly permit for outdoor dining; allowing it from Apr. 1 through Jan. 31 to keep it a seasonal amenity so it won’t impact capacity limits or parking; furniture must be brought in overnight; and there can be no outdoor lighting other than candles. Restaurants could also remain open until midnight.

However, it was the potential disturbance from music that received all of the attention.

North White Plains resident Ed Lobermann was one of several speakers to object, pointing out there are about 10 restaurants in his area of town. If those establishments allow even recorded music to be played outside, it would have the potential to negatively impact residents’ quality of life.

“Every single one of these locations is contiguous to a residential neighborhood,” Lobermann said. “Why would you jeopardize the peace and quality of life of these neighboring residents for a very small financial benefit for a limited number of restaurants requesting this proposed legislation?”

Furthermore, the proposal referred to unacceptable noise as objectionable but failed to define how much of a disturbance would rise to that level, he said.

Even background music for some residents could be considered objectionable for some, said Nora Kans Manuele, another North White Plains resident.

She said with the likelihood of crowds dining out on weekends, residents’ lives would probably be upended during the evenings from Thursday through Saturday and possibly Sunday with music.

Additionally, Manuele mentioned that since any complaints would likely be lodged in the evening when the Building Department is closed, contacting the police for nuisance or quality-of-life complaints seems like an inappropriate use of their time.

“I just think it adds a lot of negativity and anxiousness that’s not necessary,” Manuele said.

Armonk resident Joe Laporta, who lives near Main Street restaurant Casa Tequila, said when that establishment has indoor music it is disturbing enough.

“While I understand and agree with the goals and objectives of this potential code modification during these challenging times, I’m hoping there can be exceptions made for specific locations that have a long history of complaints,” Laporta said.

After also hearing from other residents via e-mail, board members promptly removed outdoor music of any kind from the proposal.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said that people already enjoy outdoor dining without music or entertainment.

An overwhelming number of restaurants in town near residences, she added.

“Feel very strongly that we can support this entire legislation except (for) live or recorded music outside,” said Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto. “I do think it’s a quality-of-life issue.”

Councilman Saleem Hussain said it was apparent that with nearly every comment focusing in on the issue of outdoor music, it’s something the board had to address.

“It’s very clear to me that we really should start going in the direction that you all are saying we should go,” he said.

Town Obtains Armonk Parcel to Increase Downtown Parking

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of North Castle has acquired a key Armonk property that could be used for additional downtown parking after trying for years to secure the parcel.

Last Wednesday, the board approved purchasing the lot at 23 Whippoorwill Rd. East for $50,000 from Verizon Global Real Estate. The land measures just over an acre at 45,481 square feet.

Supervisor Michael Chiavari said efforts to buy the property to help ease the town’s parking crunch in the heart of the business hamlet extend back more than a decade.

“It’s been a long time and we’ve had lots of starts and stops, and the idea is we want to expand parking on the west side of Main Street behind The Bagel Emporium, etc., and this finally gives us the ability to do that in a really, really good way at an extremely reasonable price, finally, so it’s all working out really well,” Chiavari said.

The purchase is subject to a permissive referendum, said Town Attorney Roland Baroni. There is a 30-day period where the town clerk can receive a valid petition containing signatures of North Castle residents totaling at least 10 percent of the people in town who voted in the last gubernatorial election in 2018, he said.

If that were to occur then the town would need to schedule a special election.

North Castle has been searching for ways to increase their parking inventory in downtown Armonk for years. Development of Armonk Square includes some municipal parking, and then the town converted an area behind the Hergenhan Recreation Center in 2018. That project more than doubled the number of spaces to about 46, some of which is used for municipal parking.
Rainbow flags, the well-known symbol of the LGBTQ+ community, will be out in abundance as Yorktown for Justice (YFJ), a local grassroots collaborative, marks Pride Month on Saturday June 12 at noon, at Yorktown Town Hall.

“Pride Month is a time for celebration, reflection and recommitment to the work of advancing LGBTQ+ justice,” said Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-White Plains), who will be speaking at the start of the march, along with local religious leaders and community members. “After a long and challenging year, I can’t wait to celebrate Pride with our vibrant and diverse LGBTQ+ community at the Northern Westchester Pride March.”

Following the speakers at Town Hall, the group will march to Jack DeVito Memorial Field, a community gathering area in Yorktown Heights.

Executive Director Judy Troilo of the Loft, Westchester’s LGBTQ+ community center, urges the public to remember the history of Pride. “Each June LGBTQ+ folks and allies gather to celebrate our community with authenticity and pride but we must never forget that Pride started as a riot,” Troilo said. “June is a time to stand up and speak out. We are proud of Yorktown for Justice for organizing this march in the true spirit of activism.”

Yorktown for Justice co-founders Marisa Ragonese and Rachel Frederick are excited to help bring the event to the community. “Recognizing Pride Month embodies Yorktown for Justice’s commitment to honoring diversity, equity and inclusivity,” they said in a statement. “We are honored to play a role in amplifying our community members’ voices. And we are, simply, better together.”

This will be the first Pride March in Yorktown and will be followed by an official post-march party at 1:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Grille.

Yorktown resident and post-march party organizer Anthony Calbi captures the spirit of many residents. “I have lived in this area since 1996. I knew I was gay two years later when I was 10,” Calbi said. “The idea of us gathering for the first Pride March in Yorktown brings so much joy to my heart. It seemed like a pipedream many years ago but it is reality today. This is history and I couldn’t be more excited.”

Yorktown Town Hall is at 363 Underhill Ave. The Yorktown Grille is located at 347 Downing Drive.

Yorktown for Justice is asking local government leaders and businesses to show their support by flying a rainbow flag on June 12.

For further information, visit https://yorktownforjustice.org. Yorktown for Justice is a grassroots collaborative working toward equity and justice in our community through education, advocacy and activism.
Marie Donnelly

Marie Cronin Donnelly, 89, of Hawthorne and formerly of Tarrytown and Boston, died on May 23 at her home.

Donnelly was an accomplished librarian who worked until she was 84 years old. A devoted mother and wife, she always put her family and faith first, and received much joy from her four devoted children and 12 adoring grandchildren.

She was a devout Catholic and parishioner of Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville. She also served as an active member of the Rosary Altar Society and volunteered in the school library for Holy Rosary Parish in Hawthorne.

She was born on Aug. 24, 1931, in Boston to the late John and Marion (nee Noonan) Cronin. On Aug. 11, 1956, she married Robert Donnelly at St. Teresa’s Church in North Tarrytown. They were married for 51 years, until Robert died in March 2008.

She graduated from Girls’ Latin School in 1948 and attended Boston College. She obtained her bachelor’s degree from Mercy College. In 1978, she graduated magna cum laude from Southern Connecticut State College. She later attended Boston University, graduating magna cum laude from Southern Connecticut State College with a master’s in library science.

She began her lifelong career as a librarian working in the Boston Public Library fulltime at the age of 16. Her love for people and working in the Boston Public Library fulltime for a lifetime would take her to the Tarrytown Public Library, where she retired as head of circulation and public services.

She continued working there until she was 84 years old. A devoted mother and wife, she always put her family and faith first, and received much joy from her four devoted children and 12 adoring grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, David Cronin, of Yonkers and her daughter-in-law, Rebecca Whitney Donnelly, of Putnam Valley.

She will be missed dearly by daughter, Star, of New York City; and her grandchildren, Ryan, Samantha, Sean, Andrew, Kailey, Heather, Sara, Ben, Angela, Christina, Alex and Noah; her cousins, Janie (Cronin) Reinertsen of Tom's River, N.J. and Marian (Cronin) Meling of Norway; her sister-in-law, Virginia (Meade) Cronin; as well as many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Patricia Sanderson

Patty Sanderson, a longtime White Plains resident, died peacefully after a short illness on May 18 at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow. She was 85.

Patty was born in Bronxville on June 7, 1935, to James W. and Margaret (Lonergan) Sanderson. She grew up in Armonk and attended both the Anderson School in Saugatuck, N.Y. and Greenhrier College for Women in West Virginia. After attending Greenhrier, she became a nurse’s aide and worked at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains for 42 years.

After retiring from Burke, Patty continued her calling as a caregiver, volunteering her time to help anyone in need. She was a lifelong animal lover, artist, competitive ballroom dancer and an excellent competitive swimmer. Coached by her father in the same pool as Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan), Patty won many medals in amateur swimming.

She will always be remembered for her caring, warm, compassionate ways for all people and animals alike.

Patricia leaves a sister, Carol Sanderson; nephew and niece Michael Cameron and Maya Cameron-Gorton and their spouses, all of California; brother Robert Sanderson and his wife, Susan, of Poughkeepsie and their daughter, Star, of New York City; and brother Christopher Sanderson of Florida.

Police Investigate Chappaqua Jewelry Store Burglary

New Castle police continue to investigate the burglary of a Chappaqua jewelry store that was discovered in the early morning hours of May 22.

Police were alerted to the incident at 6:40 a.m. by the owner of ROCKS Jewelry Gifts Home at Chappaqua Crossing at about 6 a.m. a week ago, said Detective Sgt. Christopher Ragni.

Ragni said the front door of the store, one of the smaller retail shops at the complex, was pried open allowing one or more individuals to enter and steal an undisclosed amount of merchandise. As of last Friday morning, the police were still working with the owner to complete a full accounting, he said.

Police were hoping that surveillance video could provide some clues on a perpetrator, Ragni said. There were no injuries.

ROCKS owner Tanya Tochner posted on social media early last week that is grateful no one was hurt and that the New Castle police have made the burglary a top priority.

The store continues to operate, but Tochner stated in her post that she has installed a buzzer to control who enters the store.

If anyone has information on the burglary, they can call New Castle Police Department at 914-238-4422 and ask for the Detective Division.

—Martin Wilbur
Re-Elect No One
Carmel Town Board
Read NYS Comptroller's Report First

Career Politicians

Diapers & Politicians Should Be Changed Often Both For The Same Reason

Paid For By LL2 LLC

VOTE MICHAEL CAZZARI
On Primary Day, June 22nd
For Carmel Town Supervisor

VOTE
ERIN LEE CROWLEY
Primary Day, June 22nd
Carmel Town Council

"For The Future of Carmel"

Paid For By Michael Cazzari
Paid For By Erin Lee Crowley for Carmel Town Council
**Police Blotter**

**Croton-on-Hudson Police Department**

**May 17:** Patrol responded to the area of Croton-Harmon High School at 2:36 p.m. on a report of a protester with signs. Patrol spoke with the male who reported that a group of youths threw eggs and a water bottle at his vehicle.

**May 18:** Report of a male worker coming onto a private property on Benedict Boulevard at 9:54 a.m. and leaving. Patrol advised workers to stay off the property.

**May 20:** Patrols responded to the area of Grand Street at 10:18 p.m. on a report of a drunk and disorderly person refusing to leave an establishment.

**May 21:** Report of a disorderly group of youths riding skateboards on Bungalow Road at 5:54 p.m.

**May 23:** Patrol responded to the area of Grand Street at 9:53 p.m. on a report of domestic dispute.

**North Castle Police Department**

**May 21:** Report of an unwanted subject on scene at a Virginia Road business at 9:58 a.m. The caller stated that the subject was on the premises regarding a prior call for service in the past and that he would like the person to be escorted off the property.

The responding officers reported assisting the subject from the scene without further incident and provided a courtesy transport to his residence.

**May 21:** Bedford police report an erratic driver traveling southbound on Route 22 toward Armonk at 10:18 p.m. The driver, about 25 years old, appears disoriented and was operating what was described as a maroon Honda. The responding officer stopped the vehicle at Middle Patent Road and arrested the operator for DWI.

**May 24:** An Oregon Road caller reported at 7:59 a.m. that she received checks in the mail from two new accounts that she did not open.

**May 26:** A Terrace Circle resident reported at 4:34 p.m. that his babysitter fell down a flight of stairs and possibly broke her ankle. The call was transferred to 60 Control who dispatched Armonk Ambulance. The responding officer stated that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Ossining Police Department**

**May 27:** Damage to headstones at Historic Sparta Cemetery was reported. A chemical residue was reportedly left behind on stones with the potential to cause severe and permanent damage to the headstones. Detectives conferred with investigators from the Sleepy Hollow Police Department and found an Ohio woman had used modeling clays to create casts of headstones. She then took those castings with her in an attempt to recreate ornamental parts of the stones. Using foreign substances on the stones violates the rules of the cemeteries, but does not rise to the level of a crime.

**State Police/Cortlandt**

**May 22:** Police arrested Daniel R. Usher, 31, of Beacon, for third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, both Class B felonies, and DWI, an unclassified misdemeanor. At about 1:15 a.m., troopers conducted a traffic stop on a 2012 Subaru Impreza on Route 9 in Croton-on-Hudson for multiple vehicle and traffic law violations. The investigation determined that the suspect was driving while intoxicated and in possession of approximately 25.2 grams of cocaine. He was arraigned virtually before the Town of Cortlandt Court and released on his own recognizance.

**White Plains Police Department**

**May 25:** Police responded to a burglary alarm at City Hall in the early hours of the morning. A maintenance worker discovered a man, who claimed he was there visiting his uncle, inside the building. The man fled but was apprehended the next day. The suspect, identified as Troy Brown, was arrested for criminal trespassing and was found to be homeless with no legitimate reason to be in the building.

**Yorktown Police Department**

**May 21:** Frederick Humphrey, 34, of Port Ewen, N.Y., was arrested at 12:11 a.m. and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance following a 911 call of an erratic driver who appeared to have been in a recent accident and was now parked at the Sunoco gas station on Lake Road. An investigation revealed Humphrey was in possession of more than four ounces of cocaine.

**May 22:** Juan Reyes, 23, of Peekskill, was arrested and charged with DWI at 2:53 a.m. after an officer observed a parked vehicle blocking the right travel lane on Route 6.

---

**Anthony’s Power Equipment**

*It’s Spring Tune-Up Time*

*Get Your Mower Lawn-Ready!*  

Repair Tech:   

Tony Cinquanta  

1943 Baldwin Rd  

Yorkton NY 10598  

914-962-3800  

M-F 8-5, Sat 8-4

*Find us on “Yorktown Moms” Facebook!*  

Proudly serving Yorkton and surrounding communities since 1991

---

**Happy Father’s Day from Yorkshire Funeral Home**

Some things are more important than others. Like serving our community. With Compassion. With Integrity. With Sincerity. We care for the individuals and the families we serve when they most need it. We believe it is one of the most important things we do. We know our responsibility is to you.

“Where The Difference Is In The Caring”

Anthony J. Guarino  

Funeral Director  

Family Owned & Operated  

945 East Main Street  

Yorkton, NY 10588  

(914) 962-0700  

www.YorktownFuneralhome.com  

yfh945@gmail.com

---

**Bill Primavera “The Home Guru” Realtor**

Specializing in both Residential and Commercial Sales in Upper Westchester and Putnam Counties

Offering:

- Expertise in his local market
- Longterm real estate experience
- Solid background in marketing
- Reliable, mature in judgment

Call Bill directly for a free comparative market analysis at:

914-522-2076 (cell)


---

**Raveis.com**

Realty | Mortgage | Insurance

---

**William Raveis**

1820 Commerce St | Yorktown Heights | NY 10598 | 914.245.0460

---

**Congratulations Class of 2021!**
By Abby Luby

In 2018, 19-year-old Pleasantville resident Brian Halloran took his own life. The tragedy prompted his family to create Break the Hold (BTH), an organization that brings attention to the pervasive spread of mental illness, especially among teenagers and young adults, and provide educational programming and resources.

That same year, BTH organized its first Into the Light Walk in Pleasantville, stepping off at 4 a.m. This year, the walk is on Sunday, June 13, starting at Pleasantville High School, where Halloran graduated.

“Mental health is a dark place and the walk is symbolic of walking out of darkness as a community and into the light,” said Brian Halloran, founder of BTH and father of Brian.

The second walk was held in 2019, but last year it was canceled due to COVID-19.

This year, the community has the option of walking in person with COVID-19 protocols in place or participating in a virtual walk on Instagram. Because COVID restrictions have recently been lifted by New York State, the walk can now accommodate up to 500 people. As of last Wednesday, 50 people had registered online.

Shortly after the onset of the pandemic last year, BTH e-mails and phone calls tripled.

“With the pandemic things have gotten exponentially worse,” Halloran said. “We hear stories of struggles all the time and people are asking for assistance.”

BTH’s website lists resources for families and individuals seeking help. The nonprofit organization’s key contribution has been introducing a mental health curriculum to area schools that is integrated into health classes.

BTH, which operates under the umbrella of the Mental Health Association of Westchester, sponsors instruction known as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) in Pleasantville High School and Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford.

BTH pays for certified instructors to teach the classes in the fifth, sixth and ninth grades.

“Educators have been super-cooperative,” Halloran said. “We should be teaching mental health and emotional wellness at a young age to prevent future mental care and treatment. If we get to them early, we can help solve lifelong issues.”

In 2019 and in 2020, BTH awarded scholarships in Halloran’s son’s name to graduating Pleasantville High School seniors who volunteered their time for mental health advocacy.

Halloran said school districts, including Ossining and Byram Hills, are interested in incorporating DBT instruction.

“We’ve also been approached by a number of different schools but the pandemic slowed the momentum,” he said.

The Into the Light Walk is one of two main fundraisers BTH holds, along with a gala typically held in February. Halloran estimated that both events typically raise about $75,000 a year combined.

Last year, the gala was also canceled, but BTH received a grant from the Westchester Youth Bureau for $50,000, an annual sum that runs through next year. Halloran said he hopes BTH becomes an independent nonprofit by the end of the year.

It also receives donations from schools and organizations. After a student suicide at James Madison University a couple of years ago, funds were raised for BTH. In 2019, Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford hosted the Youth Suicide Prevention Fundraiser and raised $100,000.

Halloran said suicide has increasingly captured the attention of the public. For youngsters 10 to 24 years old, the number one killer is car accidents followed by suicide.

“People see what the need is and how trends have been negative for some time,” he said.

Registration for the Into the Light Walk and other information about Break the Hold can be found at https://bthbreakthehold.org/event/into-the-light-walk-2021.
Letters to the Editor

Levenberg's Efforts as Supervisor Have Served Ossining Well

I want to let you know how much I respect, admire and support Dana Levenberg as she serves all of us as Ossining town supervisor.

Dana is an excellent manager, and I know that because she was my chief of staff for many years and handled and balanced all the issues raised by constituents, developed strategies and programs for our office to engage in, worked so hard on resolving constituent problems and never gave up even when the issues were very difficult to get done. She also organized an intern program for high school and college students, and so much more.

She is so energetic and forward thinking. In the environmental area, Dana is advancing new ideas such as making the Town of Ossining a walkable community, participating with Teatown to start food scrap recycling, bringing renewable energy projects to the town, being a leader in bringing electric charging stations to the train station, and so much more.

She has reached out to obtain grants for the community using all tax dollars locally and providing for new services and programs. At one point, I noticed that the town had requested and received more grants than most other communities. Dana is so successful because she has developed a network throughout the county and the state to learn about these grants and knowing to apply for them on our behalf. Writing grants is not easy but Dana is an excellent writer and can do this, and so much more.

You don’t build relationships with other elected officials in other communities or the county or the state overnight. Nor do you build contacts with organizations beyond the town borders quickly. Dana has those contacts and is admired by all for her talents to promote the interests of the town in so many ways, which is good for us as Ossining and Briarcliff residents. As an example of her leadership, she serves as 1st vice president of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association.

Why would we want to replace a person that has served us so well, represented us with knowledge and inspiration and shows her talents and management skills all the time.

Please join me in voting for Dana Levenberg in the Democratic primary on June 22. Your vote really matters.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

Ossining

Advocacy for Small Businesses, Environment Sets Levenberg Apart

I am writing in support of re-electing Dana Levenberg for Ossining town supervisor. Her years of hard work and dedication have shown me that she is the right person for the position. Dana truly cares about Ossining and the people who live and work here. She has always been a supporter of small businesses even before the pandemic. Her advocacy for the environment and equity as well as her leadership during the pandemic prove she is the person to lead Ossining out of this crisis.

At state Sen. Shelley Mayer’s recent annual Labor Breakfast, Westchester County Executive George Latimer said that having worked with Sen. Mayer for decades, he had deep respect for her intelligence, judgment and work ethic. So much so, he said, that when they disagreed on an issue, it caused him to reassess his own position. On a broader level, I believe the county executive was expressing something fundamental yet often overlooked: disagreement is a gift.

In my decision-making, I like to think that I carefully consider every significant alternative and make the optimal choice, while at the same time avoiding unintended consequences.

That approach only gets a person so far. I am, of course, biased when it comes to my own decision-making. I would like to think I am often right, but realistically I know that I am not. That is why disagreement is so valuable.

Dissenting views cause me to re-evaluate my own views. If opposing opinions reveal flaws in my thinking, I modify my position accordingly. Sometimes I find that I have missed the boat entirely. But through this process of encountering and evaluating disagreements, I make better decisions.

Disagreement, then, is an essential tool in my decision-making toolkit.

Should I become Harrison’s next mayor, please do not be surprised if from time to time I greet you in a way you may not expect: “Thank you for disagreeing with me.”

Frank Gordon

Candidate for Mayor
Harrison

Carmel Board of Ed Making Another Error With Second Budget Vote

Here we go again. The Carmel school budget gets defeated and right away the Board of Education wants to vote on it again. Sound familiar?

Once again, they disregard the vote of the people. Again, they want to tell us what’s good for us.

In the real world, successful businesses operate within a realistic budget. They don’t keep pulling money from their profits to operate. If they do, sooner or later they will go broke. It is the school board’s responsibility to operate within the budget that the voters have approved. To keep putting failed budgets up for a re-vote, quite frankly, shows the board’s failure to conform to the voters’ wishes. Remember the bus garage fiasco?

Furthermore, it shows they cannot figure out how to make things work. Successful people figure these things out. This is a lesson the board needs to learn. While it is not an easy task it is the way it is.

Trying to send the budget for a re-vote is just another attempt to take the easy way out. When are they going to figure out that most people are tired of paying ridiculously high school taxes? Taxes that go up every year. The board needs to figure out what they can do to make things work with what they have. Winners can make things work. Losers cannot.

John Cianflone

Stormville

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
The Form Based Code in New Castle: There’s a Better Way Forward

By Lisa Katz, Tara Kassal, Andrea Sanseverino Galan and Victoria Bayard Tipp

The Town of New Castle is at a significant crossroads. As the community grapples with the need to create a sustainable vision for our town, revitalize our hamlets and address questions of social equity and housing affordability, a misguided Form-Based Code (FBC) has been proposed as the best zoning mechanism for future development of the 72-acre Chappaqua hamlet.

This FBC is not the answer to tackling those fundamental issues. It is ill-conceived, the result of a flawed process that prioritized input by for-profit developers, denied residents a consensus-building charrette through open debate and dialogue, ignored key stakeholders, including the Chappaqua Central School District, and failed to conduct any economic analysis for the town or tax implications for residents. It also ignores the longer-term impacts of the global pandemic, which we are just beginning to understand.

The proposed FBC serves New Castle up on a silver platter to developers, and relinquishes resident, Town Board and Planning Board control over the future of our community. The proposal would enable private for-profit developers to build up to 1,000 units of primarily luxury apartments in four-story buildings over 50 feet in height “by right” with minimal input from residents or the Planning Board. That’s 40 percent higher than our highest existing downtown building under our current zoning code.

Development under the proposed FBC could result in the displacement of the most socioeconomically diverse and vulnerable residents in the available multifamily housing currently in the Chappaqua hamlet.

It limits the affordable housing requirement to 10 percent of units across the town, hindering future Town Board investments in developments by modifying our current zoning code.

There also will be a significant increased tax burden on our residents, many of whom are already struggling with the high housing costs and taxes. The town admits that it has conducted no studies on the cost to taxpayers of development under the FBC.

Given that town tax revenue is about 0.8 percent of assessed value, $100 million in new development will generate, at best, about $800,000 in town tax revenue (even less if developers receive tax abatement deals).

The Chappaqua Board of Education has indicated that school taxes, the largest component of resident tax bills, will be underfunded relative to per-student district costs as a result of the proposed FBC.

Despite hundreds of residents’ letters and statements to the Town Board opposing this plan, the majority of the board has refused to consider alternatives or scale back the scope of the study area.

The “new direction” recently promoted by board members misleadingly assures residents that only six acres along the North Greeley Avenue corridor will be developed. It is a classic bait-and-switch maneuver. The Town Board is simultaneously studying the full 72-acre zone, from the train station commuter lot to the Walgreens at the top of the King Street hill.

This means that future boards can easily expand four-story development zoning under the FBC throughout the hamlet with a simple majority vote. Furthermore, completing the study on the full 72 acres opens up the town to lawsuits from local developers seeking to build anywhere in the study area outside the North Greeley corridor.

There is a better way. The Unite New Castle Democratic slate was founded on the belief that our residents and local merchants are smart, engaged community members who deserve a voice in our town. Our experience maintains that smart towns create a sustainable vision with robust resident input and effectively manage growth by working collaboratively with developers to create compelling residential, commercial and mixed-use projects that enhance a sense of place.

Smart towns do not willingly set the stage for overdevelopment that will negatively impact residents and the environment. Smart towns do not cede control of their future to for-profit developers.

There are ways to achieve revitalization and development by modifying our current legislation and simplifying our approval processes. Our opponents for Town Board favor the FBC. They would have residents believe that the FBC is the only way to encourage economic growth and diversity.

This is simply not true. If anything, the FBC would reduce the potential for true economic growth, displace renters of current affordable housing in town and increase the luxury housing market the majority of whom ignore the greater tax burden on single-family homeowners. It does not make provisions for workforce or senior housing. It necessitates the construction of multi-story parking garages, remote lots that require shuttle service and/or robotic stacked parking to deal with the potential five-fold increase in the hamlet’s population.

Make no mistake, the FBC is a giveaway to developers looking to make a profit off of our town, and it is not a sustainable path toward improving housing diversity and affordability in New Castle. We believe the town can better achieve economic vitality and diversity by including residents and merchants in the process, rather than muscling through unpopular and ineffective legislation that will eradicate our community.

The Unite New Castle plan will streamline and accelerate the development process. We will focus development on existing vacant structures and simplify the existing review process to expedite projects using overlay zones, special permits and variances if a particular project makes sense for our community’s vigor and diversity.

Levenberg’s unwavering commitment to Ossining is impressive

I have been an Ossining resident for 30-plus years, and I am excited to support Dana Levenberg for re-election as town supervisor. Dana’s list of accomplishments for Ossining is multitudinous. Her ability to collaborate with different agencies and secure a variety of grants has proven her fiscal responsibility and ingenuity. Not only has she kept our taxes in check, she has implemented infrastructure improvements and created green initiatives such as the food scrap composting program.

Dana has gone above and beyond what is expected of a public servant in so many ways because she truly cares about Ossining and all of its residents. For me, the most significant quality is her unstoppable commitment to making Ossining the best place to live for all of us.

Help keep that commitment going forward by voting for Dana Levenberg on June 22 in the Democratic primary.

Shami Arslanian
Ossining

Guest Column

State Infrastructure Funding Needs to Find its Way to Peekskill

My name is Jesenia Morocho. I am a 12th-grader in Peekskill High School. We have been discussing certain topics in class and are concerned about Peekskill’s infrastructure, advantages we suffer from and by working with local government.

A recent article that has contributed to this idea was entitled “Infrastructure Projects Worth $306B Will Help NY’s Economic Recovery: Cuomo.” Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s administration has millions in planned infrastructure projects around New York and he stated it would revitalize the economy after COVID-19 shut down businesses and non-essential construction. Some projects are for upstate and will improve and renew highways, roads and bridges.

The plans described in his address showcased Cuomo’s firm focus on infrastructure, saying that “building with bricks and mortar also builds public optimism and confidence.”

Hopefully, some of this money has been earmarked for fixing the infrastructure in Peekskill.

Jesenia Morocho
Peekskill

Letters to the Editor

State Infrastructure Funding Needs to Find its Way to Peekskill

Levenberg’s Unwavering Commitment to Ossining is Impressive

My name is Jesenia Morocho. I am a 12th-grader in Peekskill High School. We have been discussing certain topics in class and are concerned about Peekskill’s infrastructure, advantages we suffer from and by working with local government.

A recent article that has contributed to this idea was entitled “Infrastructure Projects Worth $306B Will Help NY’s Economic Recovery: Cuomo.” Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s administration has millions in planned infrastructure projects around New York and he stated it would revitalize the economy after COVID-19 shut down businesses and non-essential construction. Some projects are for upstate and will improve and renew highways, roads and bridges.

The plans described in his address showcased Cuomo’s firm focus on infrastructure, saying that “building with bricks and mortar also builds public optimism and confidence.”

Hopefully, some of this money has been earmarked for fixing the infrastructure in Peekskill.

Jesenia Morocho
Peekskill

Levenberg’s Unwavering Commitment to Ossining is Impressive

I have been an Ossining resident for 30-plus years, and I am excited to support Dana Levenberg for re-election as town supervisor. Dana’s list of accomplishments for Ossining is multitudinous. Her ability to collaborate with different agencies and secure a variety of grants has proven her fiscal responsibility and ingenuity. Not only has she kept our taxes in check, she has implemented infrastructure improvements and created green initiatives such as the food scrap composting program.

Dana has gone above and beyond what is expected of a public servant in so many ways because she truly cares about Ossining and all of its residents. For me, the most significant quality is her unstoppable commitment to making Ossining the best place to live for all of us.

Help keep that commitment going forward by voting for Dana Levenberg on June 22 in the Democratic primary.

Shami Arslanian
Ossining
Softball and Pleasantville Make for a Perfect Match

By Michael Gold

The field stretched out and away from the backstop, a carpet of green dividing the Saw Mill Parkway from the Village of Pleasantville.

Two half-circle American flags, red and blue with white stars, hung proudly from the chain link metal fence.

Lime painted the dirt on the first and third base lines a solid white, then continued on into the outfield, marking off the boundaries of fair and foul.

The elements all added up to a night of softball at Parkway Field.

The sun lowered toward the west, and the temperature cooled. Clouds puffing up to the top of the sky, their ragged edges lit orange by the setting sun, hovered toward the plate or catching it as it came into a double.

Clouds burned up into the sky, their ragged edges turned a blue with white stars, hung proudly from Parkway Field.

To meet the ball? How quickly can you get your mitt down to dig a grounder out of the dirt? Can you snag that fly ball quickly soaring past you?

It seems that playing the game can liberate you from your worries, at least temporarily. Mark Markarian, the founder, manager and captain of the Expendables, started the team to have fun and meet some new people.

"From 18 to Way Old to Rock & Roll," announced his hot pink flyer, posted on dozens of houses in the neighborhood a few months ago, when he was recruiting players for the team.

Markarian, who lived in Queens for decades, had a lot of trouble getting into a city softball league. Many of them are closed to newcomers, unless you have a personal connection.

Markarian moved to Pleasantville, in large part because of the sense of community he found here.

"I moved because of the Pleasantville Music Festival," Markarian said.

A town that could organize and gather enough people to fill Parkway Field was a big draw, he said.

Pleasantville is "a real home town," he explained.

One member of the team said he was there because he’d been dragged into it by his friend, but he seemed quite happy as he went to bat and took the field. Other team members talked about why they joined. The words "fun" and "meeting new people" and "community" came up a lot in conversation.

The Expendables are scheduled to play 16 games, all as part of doubleheaders, throughout the season, which started in late April and ends late this month. The seven-inning games move pretty fast, unlike Major League Baseball.

Alex Lepre, an Expendable, wearing a tee-shirt that said, "I Am the Big Dog," lined a single toward first base. A teammate popped out to shortstop. Markarian turned a grounder he hit down the first base line into a double.

In the third inning, the lights came on from the tall stanchions looming over the field. Gnats swarmed around the players’ heads, and they tried to wave them away, unsuccessfully.

Gnats are attracted to people, in part, because of the carbon dioxide we exhale. The gnats seemed to be enjoying a carbon dioxide feast of ignant people.

A Captain Lawrence batter hit a soaring fly far out into the outfield, but the Expendables center fielder, Henry Heredia, plucked the ball out of the air as it came just a few feet away from landing, almost a shoe-string catch. Then Heredia threw out the tagging runner at second base.

The second game started almost immediately after the first game ended. As I walked away from the field to go home, a Captain Lawrence batter slugged a fly ball over Expendable Mike "Blatt" Rosenblatt’s head in deep right field.

Rosenblatt ran after it and grabbed the ball over his shoulder at the last possible second before it would have fallen for a certain extra base hit.

The score didn’t matter. The real winner was Pleasantville. And the gnats.

The Diamond Hospitality Group and the Alzheimer’s Association are partnering to present an Alzheimer’s awareness evening event to be held at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco on Wednesday, June 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. and broadcast live on The Clubhouse sports radio show on WGCH 1490-AM.

The Alzheimer’s Association will have a table at GPNY during the radio broadcast with staff on hand to talk about the organization’s programs, services and fundraisers.

An estimated 5.8 million Americans in 2019 were living with Alzheimer’s dementia, including 200,000 under the age of 65. Barring the development of medical breakthroughs, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer’s dementia may nearly triple from 5.6 million to 13.8 million by 2050.

Alzheimer’s is the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S., and it is the fifth-leading cause of death for those age 65 and older.

Local residents can help find a cure by participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, held at more than 600 locations nationwide. The Westchester walk is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 3 at SUNY Purchase. More information about the walk is available at www.alz.org/walk.
Communities Commemorate Memorial Day 2021

It may not have been completely back to normal, but this year communities throughout Westchester and Putnam found a way to return in person to recognize those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Many towns and villages held only ceremonies, while Buchanan, Montrose and Verplanck combined for the Tri Village parade. There also were parades in Yorktown and in several towns in Putnam.
How Local Government Impacts Enjoyment of Our Homes

It is always surprising to me when I meet people who tell me that they have no interest in local politics or voting.

Statistics would prove that they are in the majority. In my town, for instance, slightly less than one-third of all qualified voters actually turn out to cast their ballots for local elections.

I must confess that when my wife and I moved to Westchester, we were quite naïve about the impact that local government has on home ownership. Since that time, however, I have learned that town government can deeply affect how we enjoy our homes and neighborhoods. And I’ve learned it issue by issue, problem by problem, side by side with the good things our elected officials, department heads and committee volunteers strive to accomplish.

Now politically involved myself on a volunteer basis, I must say that I tip my hat to those brave souls who battle to be elected and to govern, many times dealing with the most contentious issues, as well as to those who volunteer their time and expertise to make our communities better places to live.


Parks and recreational facilities. Are we hemmed in by restrictive codes, or are they to be managed on a local level. Property taxes. Road maintenance. Garbage pick-up. 


to be managed on a local level. Property taxes. Road maintenance. Garbage pick-up. 

Who volunteer their time and expertise to make our communities better places to live.

It can be something as astounding as 9/11, which sent many on a mission to determine how Indian Point was safe in our midst, to the simple quest of wanting to remove a large tree from one’s property.

The structure of local government may vary somewhat, but most are run by a supervisor or mayor, sometimes assisted by a manager and supported by a common council or board.

In my town, the supervisor is elected to a two-year term and the board members, every four years, on a staggered basis, currently with no term limits. There are many departments involved in local government: planning, building, engineering and sewer, highway, parks and recreation, the clerk’s office, the assessor’s office, police, comptroller, tax receiver, water, senior housing and services, town attorney and courts, library and, sometimes, a museum.

At the same time, there are many volunteer committees and boards whose expertise and interests are focused on supporting town departments, such as planning, zoning, environment, traffic, architecture review, open space, conservation, ethics, senior services, landmarks and, occasionally, a museum committee, among others. There are also clubs which enhance community living, like garden clubs that plant around town in the spring.

Some voluntary boards carry more weight than others. I happen to serve on my town’s Architectural Review Board, and sometimes a disgruntled applicant whose plan has not been received favorably might say, “You have no power.” In a sense it’s true. We serve only in an advisory capacity, while approval is required from similar committees in nearby towns in order for a project to move forward.

A common complaint is that the process for approval takes too long in some towns, particularly with such issues as zoning. But towns have responded to this criticism by saying that they must exercise due diligence, especially when factoring in the environmental impact of larger projects.

The most common complaint we hear in Westchester and Putnam counties is that we pay too much in taxes. There is a rush to assign blame to local governments. While our elected officials remind us that it is our school systems and not the towns that take the greatest bite out of our tax bill, the towns nonetheless must take the abuse since it collects taxes on the schools’ behalf.

A town’s character can depend on the personal style of those citizens who put themselves forward to serve, either through election or volunteerism. And, of course, individual personalities and frailties come into play, which can make any local issue even more interesting.

When I first moved to Yorktown a half-century ago, I was very impressed with one of the town’s most beloved citizens, an owner of large commercial properties named Grace Roma (there’s the Roma Building downtown). She was at Town Board meetings and work sessions every week without fail. She once told me that she’d much rather be there than at a stage play “because the drama in town beats anything on Broadway!”

Grace had a point, a good one.

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

SPRING IS HERE!
Don’t Fall Behind on your Spring Projects
Call NOW for a FREE estimate with our Spring Savings!

MIRACLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

914.271.9119
2010 Albany Post Road
Croton-On-Hudson, NY

www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

This Memorial Day We Honor Those Who Served

GET GREAT VALUE ON BETTER CAR INSURANCE

AARP® Auto Insurance Program from The Hartford®

Matthew Feehan
Feehan Insurance Agency
845-278-7070
MattF@feehaninsurance.com
BR-669481

AARP does not employ or endorse agents or brokers. AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. Paid endorsement. The Hartford pays royalty fees to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. The AARP Automobile Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates. One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155. You have the option of purchasing a policy directly from The Hartford. Your price, however, could vary, and you will not have the advice, counsel or services of your independent agent. 

In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company through Hartford of Texas General Agency, Inc. Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company.

PLA035-3
They Wanted Pleasantville’s Blood – and They Got It!

By Michael Gold

Area residents donated 93 pints of blood, potentially saving 279 lives during the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department Blood Drive at the village’s firehouse last Thursday.

The blood drive exceeded the New York Blood Center’s (NYBC) goal of 90 donations, said Elizabeth Hernandez, business development manager for the NYBC, which is responsible for donations in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess counties and New York City.

The nonprofit NYBC offers 1,500 blood products daily to 200 area hospitals, in the tristate area, treating patients who have suffered an accident, a burn, have cancer or require blood for any other reason.

“Each donation can save three lives,” Hernandez said.

After donation, the blood is divided into three parts. Red blood cells go to accident victims and transplant patients. Platelets are for people who have cancer. Plasma goes to burn victims, Hernandez said.

This is a particularly urgent time for the need for blood in area hospitals, she said, COVID-19 has severely cut donations.

“We used to average 500 blood drives a month,” Hernandez said. “Now we’re down to about 100. The gap is 8,000 donations a month that are not being captured. We went down to zero blood drives in February 2020. Most of our donating schools, colleges, government agencies and corporations were closed because of COVID. We’re down 100,000 donors.

Also, with the summer holidays, “people have cabin fever, and they are leaving” to go on vacation, Hernandez explained. So, donations and the local blood supply drop as people go on holiday.

The need to replenish the blood supply is constant, Hernandez said. Platelets expire after five days, red blood cells expire after 42 days and plasma expires after one year.

“What we need is more donations, sponsors’ drives and donated drive space to help supply our area hospitals,” Hernandez said.

Donors can give blood safely every 56 days. All blood types are needed, but there is a special need for O negative, O positive, B negative and A negative, the four core blood types, which can be safely transfused to a great portion of the population. O negative is the universal blood type because it can be safely given to patients with any blood type.

Hernandez credited the Pleasantville Fire Department and its blood drive coordinator with being “extremely professional, generous, methodical and organized.”

The Pleasantville Fire Department has sponsored blood drives since 1997. It has generated 1,859 total donations, potentially saving 5,577 lives, according to Hernandez.

A steady stream of donors last Thursday was greeted by volunteers who asked for identification. They were then asked to complete a computerized questionnaire regarding their health.

Everyone wore a face mask. After completing the questionnaire, donors were directed to sit in chairs to wait to get their blood tested to ensure there was enough iron in their blood. A phlebotomist, a person professionally trained to draw blood, jabbed fingers with a sharp stick. She also took everyone’s temperature. The room has to be chilly to keep the blood viable.

The phlebotomist said she was taking one pint of blood, about 500 grams. The blood is collected in thick plastic pouches. It takes about another eight minutes to complete a donation.

It’s also important not to drink alcohol or exercise vigorously for the rest of the day after a donation.

For those interested in donating, you can donate at NYBC’s locations in Elmsford and Nanuet or the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah. There are three NYBC locations in Manhattan as well. Visit the NYBC website at www.newyorkbloodcenter.org to find out more, including locations and times.

Hospital patients’ needs are great and the NYBC wants to borrow your arm for 20 minutes, at the most. And there’s juice and cookies at the end.
White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival Set for This Weekend

The White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival (WPOAF) is back for 2021.

Generations of area residents have enjoyed the treasured annual community event.

The all-outdoor festival will be held this Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine in Tibbits Park at North Broadway and Main Street in White Plains.

“Aafter the difficulties of the past year and the stress everyone has been under to balance health and safety with a need for normalcy, being able to safely bring back the arts festival is a great feeling; we are very much looking forward to greeting friends from the community that we have not seen in some time,” said organizing committee member Beth Roach.

The organization is in its 50th year and its mission is to host a vibrant and fun cultural event for the community and to support local young artists who want to pursue their creative passions by studying visual art in college.

Proceeds from the event, including sponsorships by Jackson Lewis and Nick Wolff and the Wolff Team at Howard Hanna Realty, as well as generous donations from Friends of the WPOAF, generate scholarships awarded to White Plains High School seniors. This year, two scholarships of $3,500 each were awarded to Nathaniel Fields and Selena Mendoza.

WPOAF is free and is eagerly anticipated by thousands of Westchester residents of all ages. Unique artists of all kinds will set up their arts and fine crafts and visitors will shop at more than 50 booths for beautiful artwork for their homes and purchase one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family.

The festival will feature paintings, photography, drawings and prints, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, glassworks, accessories and many other handcrafted items. In addition, guests of the show can participate in a popular raffle, with items donated by participating artists. Food vendors will also be on hand.

COVID-19 safety precautions will still be observed and all visitors are requested to follow Centers for Disease Control and New York State guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing.

For more information about the White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival, visit www.whiteplainsoutdoorartsfestival.com or on Facebook at The White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival.

P’ville Farmers Market to Host its Next Vaccine Day on Saturday

With a continued focus on the Westchester community, the Pleasantville Farmers Market will once again join with Phelps Hospital and the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps (OVAC) for a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination site this Saturday, June 5.

Free vaccines will be administered to up to 122 people, as well as second doses for any resident who received their first Pfizer dose at the market on May 15. This is the second time Phelps, OVAC and the Pleasantville Farmers Market have collaborated to bring COVID-19 vaccines into the community.

In addition to administering the second dose for residents who received their first dose on May 15, there are 42 first doses of the Pfizer vaccine (for those 12 and up) and 80 single doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for those 18 and older.

While no appointment is necessary, the vaccine will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no insurance required, but those seeking a vaccine must bring identification to verify age.

The vaccines will be administered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow-up doses of Pfizer will be administered on Saturday, June 26.

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is located on Memorial Plaza.

When Down Time is NOT AN OPTION... We’ll get you back in business! Fleet, Vans, Boxes and Light Duty Trucks BRING YOUR VEHICLE TO US OR WE’LL COME TO YOU

HOT JUNE SPECIALS

BUMPER TO BUMPER SPECIAL
OIL & FILTER CHANGE
UP TO 5 QTS. SYNTHETIC BLEND MOTOR OIL, MOST CARS OR LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS
SYNTHETIC OIL EXTRA
CHECK BATTERY, FLUIDS, BELTS, HOSES, BRAKES, STRUTS, SHOCKS, TIRES, WIPERS, LIGHTS ENGINE HEALTH REPORT

+29.95 plus tax

IS YOUR AC WORKING EFFICIENTLY?
DON’T WAIT FOR A HEAT WAVE TO FIND OUT!
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 15% OFF (B.G.) CLIMATE CONTROL SERVICE TODAY
ADD ANY OTHER (B.G.) PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE
AND GET 15% OFF THAT SERVICE TOO

ALL SERVICES by Appointment ONLY. MUST Mention Special when Dropping off Vehicle. ALL SPECIALS EXPIRE 6/30/2021

COLLISION REPAIR - NYS INSPECTION - AIR CONDITIONING - WHEEL ALIGNMENT & BALANCING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE - TOWING - TIRE CENTER - LIGHT DUTY VEHICLE SPECIALISTS

2597 Rt. 22 Patterson PattersonAutoBody.com 845.878.3456
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th># of Our Students Accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucknell University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerson College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Air Force Academy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Naval Academy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vassar College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanova University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You Can Too! Apply Today & Invest in Tomorrow!

Contact Brian Bruder – Director of Admissions
bbruder@kennedycatholic.org | 914-232-5061 Ext. 137
Justin Veatch Fund Honors Seven Area HS Students With Scholarships

By Anna Young

The Justin Veatch Fund announced last week it will award music scholarships to seven graduating high school students from five Westchester schools this month.

The recipients, selected from a competitive field of applicants, are Taylor Setterstrom and Jacob Krauss from Somers High School; Richard “Jake” Leis and Noah Crosby Solomon from Pleasantville High School; Lexi Ann from North Salem High School; Mia Williams from Westlake High School; and Julia Levin from The Masters School.

Each year, The Justin Veatch Fund awards music scholarships to graduating high school students who live within a 40-mile radius of Yorktown Heights. The scholarships honor the legacy of Veatch, a Yorktown High School senior who died from an accidental overdose in 2008.

The organization has awarded 55 scholarships to students who plan to pursue music in college since the fund was created in 2009.

“We’re thrilled to be able to continue honoring my brother’s legacy by celebrating young musicians and helping them offset the costs of pursuing their dreams,” board member Elena Veatch said.

The 2021 Award Recipients

Lexi Ann is graduating from North Salem High School and plans to attend Belmont University’s Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business to pursue a major in songwriting.

“I know that I’ve just scratched the surface, waiting to unlock so much potential lyric power underneath,” Ann said. She looks forward to honing her craft and incorporating her vocals, guitar, ukulele, piano and saxophone into a colorful portfolio of original songs.

Jacob Krauss, who graduates this month from Somers High School, is a guitarist and singer who has expanded his talents to other instruments and became deeply involved in producing music through collaborations.

After signing up for a music theory class, Krauss became involved with his school’s jazz ensemble, concert and chamber choir. He calls himself a music nerd and formed a band with three other friends who held their first live performance just before the COVID-19 shutdown.

Going the virtual route to continue his passion, he organized Quarantine Collab, a YouTube cover series, in which he enlisted other local talent to provide a bright spot in his community.

Richard (“Jake”) Leis of Pleasantville High School and plans to pursue jazz studies and performance at the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music with the goal of becoming a performer and educator. Leis is a baritone saxophone performer who has excelled in the WCSSA All-County Jazz Big Band, the Pleasantville High School Honors Jazz Band and the Lagond Music School.

His introduction to jazz, Latin and funk helped him grow and inspired him to prioritize music in his daily routines.

Julia Levin is graduating from the Masters School and plans to attend the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California in the fall. She is a guitarist who thrives on playing live music and collaborating with other musicians, though she is also an accomplished solo artist.

Her honors include winning the Fender X Splice Loop Contest, being a featured artist on Norman’s Rare Guitars’ YouTube channel and presenting a 2019 TEDx talk on the lack of respect for female guitarists.

Levin received numerous honors while attending the Lagond Music School. Her goal is to tour, perform and collaborate with other artists while working behind the scenes supporting others in the music business.

Taylor Setterstrom is graduating from Somers High School and will attend SUNY New Paltz. Her primary musical interest is drums, but she also plays guitar. Setterstrom said she is generally shy and introverted, and music enabled her to make many friends that she would have never made otherwise.

Since she auditioned for the house band at School of Rock in Bedford, Setterstrom became a key player in developing new techniques and skills, which she has used in community events and fundraisers. Last year, Setterstrom was a winning finalist in her age group in the international competition “Hit Like a Girl” for female drummers.

She said she may pursue music therapy so she can give back to the community while pursuing her passion for work in music.

Noah Crosby Solomon is graduating from Pleasantville High School with an eye on performance and music production at Berklee School of Music (and later, a master’s degree in music education).

A guitarist, Solomon has excelled in settings such as the Lagond Music School, the Pleasantville High School Honors Jazz Band and the Westchester All-County Jazz Band. He frequently dedicated his lunch period and free periods to talking about music and jazz in the band room. One teacher said Solomon is “a musical truth-seeker, a strong critical thinker, who has humility.”

Mia Williams is graduating from Westlake High School and plans to pursue jazz and contemporary music with a concentration in voice.

Williams is president and soloist in her high school’s select jazz choir, a leading performer in the Westlake Players and the lead singer of West Lake Rock Band. One teacher called Williams “one of the top vocalists and most talented musicians I have had the pleasure of teaching in my 34-year career” while another compared her growth with that of established Broadway vocalists.

Crossword

Across
1. All those in favor
2. Busy insect
3. “C’est la __”
4. Military award
5. Routing word
6. “Titanic” setting
7. Sound of longing
8. Allude to
9. Film genre
10. Undergo a chemical transformation
11. “The Lord of the Rings” character
12. Refiner’s stuff
13. Mom or Dad
14. Earlier style back in fashion
15. Excerpt
16. Moves like a butterfly, stings like a __
17. Fish often smoked
18. Brush in painting
19. Arm joint
23. Undergo a chemical transformation
25. “Breakdown ahead” warning
27. “I do” location
28. Manicurist’s concern
31. Feature
34. Loafing
36. Zoo attractions
39. Enter, 2 words
40. Express aloud
41. Listen to
42. “Move, as an eyelash __ heads around, let alone try to explain in __ words, and why the many analogies that churches use to try and explain it – like the three-leaf clover, for instance – tend to break down quite quickly.
43. Yet, although it might be frustrating not to be able to understand the concept – or to explain it even remotely adequately – there is actually a huge positive side: that God is so far beyond human understanding and reasoning that all we can do is acknowledge this with wonder and awe. Knowing that there is a divine entity so much vaster than us puts everything about our world and our lives into proper perspective. It also gives us the reassurance that we can still believe in things that seem to defy rational explanation.
By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A Spiritual View

By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A couple of days ago, many Christians celebrated a holy day called Trinity Sunday, which focuses on the core Christian belief that there is one God who has three unique aspects of personhood.

If “aspects of personhood” sounds a bit of a clumsy phrase, and not really very clear, that’s because, unfortunately, it is clumsy and unclear. The problem is in trying to explain something that is, basically, inexplicable.

Let me back up a little. When Christians refer to the Trinity, what they are saying is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But they’re also saying that they believe in one God, not three. Because, you see, all three “persons” are all three at the same time, yet also all only one at the same time.

It’s all very confusing. Which is why it’s such a difficult concept to try and get our heads around, let alone try to explain in

A Spiritual View

By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A couple of days ago, many Christians celebrated a holy day called Trinity Sunday, which focuses on the core Christian belief that there is one God who has three unique aspects of personhood.

If “aspects of personhood” sounds a bit of a clumsy phrase, and not really very clear, that’s because, unfortunately, it is clumsy and unclear. The problem is in trying to explain something that is, basically, inexplicable.

Let me back up a little. When Christians refer to the Trinity, what they are saying is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But they’re also saying that they believe in one God, not three. Because, you see, all three “persons” are all three at the same time, yet also all only one at the same time.

It’s all very confusing. Which is why it’s such a difficult concept to try and get our heads around, let alone try to explain in

A Spiritual View

By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A couple of days ago, many Christians celebrated a holy day called Trinity Sunday, which focuses on the core Christian belief that there is one God who has three unique aspects of personhood.

If “aspects of personhood” sounds a bit of a clumsy phrase, and not really very clear, that’s because, unfortunately, it is clumsy and unclear. The problem is in trying to explain something that is, basically, inexplicable.

Let me back up a little. When Christians refer to the Trinity, what they are saying is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But they’re also saying that they believe in one God, not three. Because, you see, all three “persons” are all three at the same time, yet also all only one at the same time.

It’s all very confusing. Which is why it’s such a difficult concept to try and get our heads around, let alone try to explain in

A Spiritual View

By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A couple of days ago, many Christians celebrated a holy day called Trinity Sunday, which focuses on the core Christian belief that there is one God who has three unique aspects of personhood.

If “aspects of personhood” sounds a bit of a clumsy phrase, and not really very clear, that’s because, unfortunately, it is clumsy and unclear. The problem is in trying to explain something that is, basically, inexplicable.

Let me back up a little. When Christians refer to the Trinity, what they are saying is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But they’re also saying that they believe in one God, not three. Because, you see, all three “persons” are all three at the same time, yet also all only one at the same time.

It’s all very confusing. Which is why it’s such a difficult concept to try and get our heads around, let alone try to explain in

A Spiritual View

By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A couple of days ago, many Christians celebrated a holy day called Trinity Sunday, which focuses on the core Christian belief that there is one God who has three unique aspects of personhood.

If “aspects of personhood” sounds a bit of a clumsy phrase, and not really very clear, that’s because, unfortunately, it is clumsy and unclear. The problem is in trying to explain something that is, basically, inexplicable.

Let me back up a little. When Christians refer to the Trinity, what they are saying is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But they’re also saying that they believe in one God, not three. Because, you see, all three “persons” are all three at the same time, yet also all only one at the same time.

It’s all very confusing. Which is why it’s such a difficult concept to try and get our heads around, let alone try to explain in
"I have always had the ability to attach my demons to my chariot." Ingmar Bergman

Butwhatifs.
It’s slang for the feeling one gets that despite all the planning and accomplishments, you come to realize you got it all wrong in the end.

One of the advantages of coming to this anxiety-filled realization is that it enables us to become aware of ourselves. Not an easy time for some, especially in our ego-centric world of materialism and consumerism.

What we should consider doing is to accept the notion that the pain of change is milder than the pain of complacency. To achieve this, we will need to rein in our self-discipline and slack surrogate motivations that are merely sense-like emotions, oftentimes fickle. In essence, we do not live until we take control of our self-discipline.

With this said, we should inquire of ourselves as to who is driving our chariot of life. And, have we delegated our destiny to ourselves as to who is driving our chariot of our existence in our finite time.

For it is those who stand for themselves aside the herd of popular culture who seek the essence of life by taking the reins of their chariot to chart their own destiny. We may consider asking ourselves, why am I in a state of despair and feeling alone in the crowd of humanity? We have the power to be ourselves or to delegate our senses to despair.

To quote Socrates, we must first honestly “Know thyself,” to be achieved by knowing the inner constitution and moral compass is weak and without direction, our senses will slack the reins to allow us to be dragged to our fate, as opposed to having our mind control our self-discipline and hold firm the reins of our destiny.

We may do this unconsciously or for the need to be accepted; finding a false sense of security and happiness by being part of a lost thundering herd. If our inner constitution and moral compass is weak and without direction, our senses will slack the reins to allow us to be dragged to our fate, as opposed to having our mind control our self-discipline and hold firm the reins of our destiny.

For it is those who stand for themselves aside the herd of popular culture who seek the essence of life by taking the reins of their chariot to chart their own destiny. We may consider asking ourselves, why am I in a state of despair and feeling alone in the crowd of humanity? We have the power to be ourselves or to delegate our senses to despair.

To quote Socrates, we must first honestly “Know thyself,” to be achieved by scrutinizing our motives, intentions and our desires – all of which can easily betray us as we fulfill our actions.

For example, take work, which we need for our sustenance, and for some to rank themselves in the hierarchy of social status. In our goal to keep up with the Joneses for bragging rights, we perform work in return for sustenance; a salary functions as a modern-day servitude. This is quite a paradox in that the very means we need to survive and maintain our social standings must be financed at the cost of our own existence in our finite time.

Yet we continue believing we will find our El Dorado. We like to believe that our troubles are due to our environment, and to change our existence to essence all we need to do is change our environment. We erroneously believe externalizing will help us find our internal peace and essence. Or believing our less-than-perfect environment is the cause of our anxiety. Well, let’s test this hypothesis.

Take Adam and Eve. Living in paradise for all eternity with not a worry on their mind. Complete with social distancing, being the only two humans in paradise strutting around au naturel, and never aging. No mortgage, no job, just heavenly bliss, and complete with social distancing, being the only two humans in paradise strutting around au naturel, and never aging. No mortgage, no job, just heavenly bliss, and never aging. No mortgage, no job, just heavenly bliss, and never aging. No mortgage, no job, just heavenly bliss, and never aging.

They also had a subscription to Ted Turner’s cable station “Heavenly Classics,” paid for with their guardian angel debit card. Then they just got bored, partook of the forbidden fruit. The devil made an angel out of him and took him down to paradise. He got bored, partook of the forbidden fruit.

Be well. Be safe. Be Happy. Be nice. Amor fati!

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a published author, playwright and retired professor. His body of works can be viewed at www.demitasseplayers.com. He looks forward to your comments, and can be reached at profcirulli@optonline.net.
**ADDITIONAL CLASSIFIEDS**

**GOLD / SILVER WANTED**

HIGHEST PRICES PAID - Visit Westchester's Top Buyer for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins & Currency, Watches, Jewelry. Licensed & Professional. No Appointment Necessary. Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am-6pm, Mt. Kisco Gold & Silver, 139E Main Street. 914-244-9500

**HELP WANTED**

$18.50 NYC, $17 L.I. up to $13.50 Upstate NY! If you need care from your relative, friend, or neighbor and you have

*continued on page 24*
Westchester Officials Look for a Summer of Fun in 2021

By Martin Wilbur

While the weather was horrendous for the unofficial first weekend of summer, there will be plenty for Westchester County residents to look forward to when Mother Nature does cooperate.

County officials announced last week a list of expanded summer activities, including eight drive-in movies at three locations and four live concerts to go along with the previously planned openings of Westchester beaches at Playland and Croton Point Park and pools and Playland amusement park the last weekend in June.

One of two key restrictions will be the continued closure of Glen Island Beach, which remains a COVID-19 testing center, although the park is accessible to the public for walking and hiking. Playland Pool will again be closed this summer as it continues to undergo construction.

A year after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled or curtailed most activities, the plunging active caseload and increased vaccinations have given residents of all ages hope that 2021 will be a far better summer than last year.

“We look forward to a really happy and healthy 2021 season,” said county Parks Commissioner Kathy O’Connor at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

Starting on Friday, June 11 and continuing on alternating Friday nights through September, Screenings Under the Stars returns drive-in style, with five family-friendly movies at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, two at Croton Point Park and one at Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers.

Each car will be charged $25 through online admission sales in advance only at https://www.showclix.com/event/screenings-2021.

Additionally, there will be four weeknight concerts at Croton Point Park and Kensico Dam Plaza between June 29 and July 20 starting at 7 p.m. O’Connor said the county will be selling spaces for pods that can hold up to eight people each for $10 a person.

Attendees must maintain six feet of space on all sides during the concerts. They will not be allowed to combine designated areas or bring pets. Limited tickets are available now at https://www.showclix.com/event/wcp-scs21.

The county has also scheduled the Naturally Essential Challenge, which encourages residents to visit all Westchester parks through October. To enter the challenge, park-goers will log visits by scanning QR codes on posters at each facility to be entered for a chance to win a $50 Westchester County Parks gift card.

The challenge is accessible at all Westchester County parks facilities that are open to the public. At this time, it does not include the County Center in White Plains, which is currently a COVID-19 vaccination site, and the Miller House in North White Plains. The Miller House is closed to the public for safety purposes.


The following is the Screenings Under the Stars schedule for this summer:

• June 11: “Pixar’s Onward,” Kensico Dam Plaza.
• June 25: “Trolls World Tour,” Kensico Dam Plaza
• July 9: “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” Kensico Dam Plaza
• July 23: “Tom & Jerry,” Croton Point Park
• Aug. 6: “Godzilla vs. Kong,” Kensico Dam Plaza
• Aug. 20: “Forrest Gump,” Kensico Dam Plaza
• Sept. 10: “Pixar’s Soul,” Croton Point Park
• Sept. 24: Disney’s “Mulan,” Tibbetts Brook

The schedule of concerts are:

• Tuesday, June 29: High Noon, Croton Point Park
• Thursday, July 1: Songs in the Attic, a Billy Joel tribute band, Kensico Dam Plaza
• Tuesday, July 13: Back to the Garden
• Tuesday, July 20: The Nerds, Kensico Dam Plaza

The county has also scheduled the Naturally Essential Challenge, which encourages residents to visit all Westchester parks through October. To enter the challenge, park-goers will log visits by scanning QR codes on posters at each facility to be entered for a chance to win a $50 Westchester County Parks gift card.

The challenge is accessible at all Westchester County parks facilities that are open to the public. At this time, it does not include the County Center in White Plains, which is currently a COVID-19 vaccination site, and the Miller House in North White Plains. The Miller House is closed to the public for safety purposes.

continued from previous page

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

©2021

dental50plus.com/nypress

Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer: Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C2500); Insurance Policy P50 (GA: P50GA; NY: P50NY; OK: P50OK; TN: P50TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).

6255

WANTED TO BUY

FREON WANTED: We pay $$$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

NEWSPAPER CLASSIFIEDS

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

Note:

Classified Ad Deadline is Thursdays at 5pm for the next week’s publication.

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail classifieds@theexaminernews.com

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the next week’s publication.

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail classifieds@theexaminernews.com

June 1 - June 7, 2021 Examiner Media

MEDICAID

Medicaid, they may be eligible to start taking care of you as personal assistant under NYS Medicaid CDPA Program. No Certificates needed. 347-713-3553

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. $0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 888-871-0194

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. $200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

MISCELLANEOUS

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! $59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-3313

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 14, 2021, 8:00pm via Zoom id: 980 7284 3245 and Passcode: 650072 to hear comments on proposed amendments to Village Code chapter 98 concerning fees for building permit renewals.

Eric Morrissey
Village Administrator/Clerk,
Village of Pleasantville

TAG SALE

Saturday, June 5, 9am-3pm: A variety of STUFF! Something for everyone. Teaching materials, clothes, furniture, games, collectables, odds and ends... 16 Wharton Drive, Cortlandt Manor. (Raindate: Sunday, June 6).

TV INTERNET PHONE

DISH TV $64.99 For 190 Channels + $14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 7/21/21. 1-888-609-9405

Have FREON?

Seek refuge in the safety of our services. Contact RefrigerantFinders.com to learn more about our Freon WANTED program!

CAR DONATION

Visit WheelsForWishes.org or call (877)-798-9474

Car Donation Foundation dba Wheels For Wishes. To learn more about our programs or financial information, call (213) 948-2000 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org

Preparation saves lives!

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

I’m never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
dental50plus.com/nypress

I've fallen and I can't get up!

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

Visit WheelsForWishes.org or call (877)-798-9474

Car Donation Foundation dba Wheels For Wishes. To learn more about our programs or financial information, call (213) 948-2000 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-516-1160

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty* A $695 Value!
Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available Subject to Credit Approval
*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.
How to Make Sure Aging Parents Are Never Taken Advantage Of

By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

There is a moment, as a parent, when you become instantly aware that you are no longer looking down to make eye contact with your child. Your child’s power and strength are growing while yours is slowly ebbing (hopefully very slowly).

Growing up is a time of expanding horizons and finetuning your understanding of the world. Aging is not always an opposite force. In many ways, aging offers a different but still compelling view of the world.

But sharpness, technological proficiency and skepticism may fade over time. Predators, both strangers and unscrupulous family members, may try to take advantage of those who are unable to process activities like they used to.

The first step is identifying what needs protection. Your parents’ assets may include a home, checking and savings accounts, life insurance, retirement accounts, cars and personal property.

Different generations sharing their financial history is not always a smooth process, but a parent who implicitly trusts an adult child should make the effort. Powers of attorney allow a chosen agent to have access to financial accounts, make payments and handle a variety of financial matters. This is a valuable first step to ensure basic oversight.

An adult child must be aware of the people that their parents interact with on a regular basis. We are not talking about hassling their neighbor who stops by with sourdough bread (although we will keep an eye on the loaf). Strangers offering a pricey service that your parents do not need should raise concerns.

Having a checkbook is one form of independence that should not be affected without a serious discussion between parents and adult children.

The question is, do you wait for that first scam payment before you step in or not? Account holds initiated by banks overseeing the holdings of vulnerable adults previously victimized is a legislative action item in New York. Institutional controls may make sense in the absence of responsible family members, but the fear of overreach is always present.

With phone and online scams specifically targeting seniors, adult children who are caregivers and also agents under a power of attorney should try to set up alerts with the bank notifying them of all transactions that exceed a certain amount.

When the concern rests within one’s own family other issues arise. Sometimes a parent may choose the least suitable family member to become an agent under a power of attorney. Having multiple co-agents acting together under a power of attorney may make sense to avert problems down the line.

In many cases, the family member with questionable attitudes may be the sole agent and fail to provide information to the rest of the children. Banking records are supposed to be confidential, but real property deeds are public records. An unscrupulous adult child may try to transfer the parent’s home to themselves. Checking the county clerk land records may not prevent the transfer, but if discovered quickly it may allow for an expedient legal response and avoid a surprise years later.

The best way to protect aging parents is to be involved, speak regularly and understand the legal protections available to your family.

Alan D. Feller, Esq. is managing partner of Sloan & Feller Attorneys at Law, located at 625 Route 6 in Mahopac. He can be reached at alan@felleresq.com.
The Belmont Will Be the Very Best of the Triple Crown

By Charles Palombini

Yes, the Triple Crown series comes to an end this Saturday at Belmont Park. This year there will be no opportunity for a Triple Crown champion. That fell by the wayside when Medina Spirit was beaten in the Preakness by a non-Kentucky Derby starter named Rombauer.

So, each of the first two Triple Crown races gave us a different winner leaving us with a Belmont that will lack the excitement of a Triple Crown quest. But don’t be fooled as this will be the best of the three races loaded with some really talented horses.

Will there be a third winner after the Belmont Stakes? Most certainly, yes.

First, it looks as if Derby winner Medina Spirit won’t run in the Belmont as his connections are still dealing with the complications of their tainted Kentucky Derby victory. Preakness winner Rombauer is running in the Belmont but is destined to meet much tougher competition than the field he faced in Baltimore.

But let’s not have that detract from the excitement of the day. The glamour of Derby Day hats is displaced by Armani suits, and the Baltimore beer fest gives way to Champagne and martinis at perhaps the greatest racetrack in the world – beautiful Belmont Park.

The Belmont Stakes is known as The Test of the Champion, and is the oldest of the three American classic races, having first been run in 1867. It is traditionally the last and longest leg of the Triple Crown. Its place as the final leg of the Triple Crown has produced indelible memories, such as Secretariat’s 31-length victory in 1973 to become the first horse to sweep the series in 25 years, widely considered the greatest single performance in the history of the sport.

In 2015, American Pharoah rocked the stands at Belmont Park when he ended an even longer Triple Crown drought, becoming the first winner of the series in 37 years. And just three years later, a horse named Justify added his name to the elite list of 13 to win all three legs.

So, let’s look at the probable starters. (The actual draw is scheduled to take place on Tuesday.)

**Essential Quality:** The odds-on favorite in the Kentucky Derby, he went to the Derby with four Grade I stakes victories but somehow got lost in the mix of the race. A fourth-place finish was disappointing, and his connections decided to skip the Preakness.

**Hot Rod Charlie:** Another Derby starter to skip the Preakness, even after finishing a competitive third in Louisville. He won the Louisiana Derby and sported a second-place finish in last fall’s Breeders’ Cup Juvenile.

**Rombauer:** The talented Preakness winner did not run in the Derby. So, the question is, will he be able to contend with much stronger competition than he faced in Baltimore?

**Rock Your World:** He didn’t rock anybody’s world with his 17th-place finish in the Kentucky Derby. But he is surely more talented than that showing. He had three wins in three starts before the Derby and hopes to regain that form. Another runner that opted to skip the Preakness, he represents yet another new challenger for Rombauer.

**Known Agenda:** The Florida Derby winner never really got untracked in the crowded Derby field and finished a disappointing ninth. Yup, you got it, another who skipped the Preakness in favor of the Belmont.

**Belief’s Romance:** Here is one of the most talented horses in the field – and he skipped both the Derby and Preakness. But don’t sell him short; he was the winner of the United Arab Emirates Derby in Meydan. That is one of the most competitive and richest races in the world – and he won handily. He’s rested and now comes to claim the Belmont crown.

**Promise Keeper:** A mystery entry from Todd Fletcher. He impressively won the Peter Pan, a prep race for the Belmont, which was run over the Belmont surface, but that five-horse field was not a particularly fast or competitive race. He is lightly raced and eligible to show improvement.

**Keepmeinmind:** Ran a good fourth in the Preakness, which leaves us to guess just how good he could be. I’ll guess – oink, oink.

**Brooklyn Strong:** He may carry Brooklyn in his name, but he sure ain’t as good as the Nets! Yet another who was absent from the Preakness after a dismal 15th-place showing in Kentucky.

**Bourbonic:** Thirteenth in the Derby, his connections also decided to skip the trip to Baltimore. He did win the Wood Memorial, but that was a weak race run in very slow time. Represents wishful thinking by the owner.

**France Go de Ina:** A horse from Japan that hopes to compete on American soil. I guess he gets his inspiration from the auto industry. But he’s no Lexux, and he’s not competing against your father’s Oldsmobile.

**Overtook:** A horse that seemingly doesn’t belong. He finished behind Promise Keeper in the Peter Pan and didn’t look particularly good in that small field. But he is sired by Curlin and trained by Todd Fletcher, and that gives him some credability. Not much, but some.

**The Pick**

Yes, I know, why even bother. I threw out Medina Spirit in the Derby, and my Preakness pick was nowhere to be found. But here we go again.

I just can’t get away from Essential Quality as the class of the field. I will key him ahead of Rebel’s Romance, Hot Rod Charlie and Promise Keeper.

**Tips for a Safer, More Enjoyable Summer at the Pool**

Pools are great for play, exercise and therapy. However, it is critical that while enjoying ourselves, we take appropriate safety precautions.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 275 children nationwide under the age of five drown in swimming pools annually, and more than 4,100 children receive medical treatment for pool-related accidents, the majority of which occur in backyard pools. Luckily, building codes and standards can help.

“Building codes are life savers, and as the leading building codes and standards developer, we are accounting for every facet of the home, which includes specific provisions to make pools and spas safer,” said Dominic Sims, CEO of the International Code Council.

To drive the importance of water safety home and ensure individuals are having safe pool fun, the Code Council shares the following tips:

- Install fences and protective gates. To ensure the pool area is inaccessible to unauthorized swimmers and children when there is no supervisor, install a fence at least four feet high around pool and spa areas with a self-closing, self-latching gate or door.
- Keep safety devices nearby. Always keep basic lifesaving equipment handy (poles, rope and personal flotation devices) and know how to use them. These aids should be kept on both sides of the pool and should remain stationary – not be misplaced through play activities.

**Crossword Answers**

```
PROS
S
VIA
HINT
ACTION
IDEA
PARENT
RETRO
BEE3
X
ELBOW
REACT
FLARE
ALTAR
TREE
NAILS
PECT
BEASTS
GOIN
SAY
HEED
```
Evolution of American Winemaking By Way of a Glass of Zinfandel

By Nick Antonaccio

Over the weekend, I was enjoying a glass of Zinfandel for the first time in a long time. I began to contemplate an element of Zinfandel other than its terroir and unique flavor profile – its place in the grand scheme of America’s winemaking history.

My thought process was triggered by the words “100-year-old vines” on the label. This unique attribute applies to Zinfandel as a reflection of several factors that tell the broader tale of the evolution of American winemaking. This history is not limited to winemakers’ ambitions or wine drinkers’ preferences. Rather, it is mainly influenced by several notable social and political factors.

In 1919, the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, due to the significant influence of the lobbying efforts of the Temperance Movement in the United States. This amendment made it a federal crime to manufacture, sell, transport, import or export “intoxicating liquors,” thus ushering in the Prohibition Era.

For 14 long, dark years in the social and political history of our country, the very fabric of our society was torn and strained. Americans could produce their own homemade wines (limited to 200 gallons a year) and they were able to consume wine at their religious services, but that is where the federal government drew the line.

We all know what transpired during those years. Wineries were driven out of business; terms like moonshine, bootleg and speakeasy were popularized; organized crime grew and profited in the black market; acts of crime grew at historic rates; and police corruption was rampant.

Most of the history of the era centers on distilled spirits, but there was a profound effect on the wine industry as well. Here is a short analysis of the state of the American wine industry before, during and after Prohibition.

Before Prohibition. There were more than 2,500 commercial wineries across America. Americans’ preference was for inexpensive, easy to drink, high-alcohol wine. Most of the wine produced was fortified and sweet. Italian immigrants by 1800,000 gallons in the first two years of Prohibition. The Italian immigrant winemakers who survived during this period continued to produce Zinfandels for their “family” consumption.

Post-Prohibition. States assumed responsibility for alcohol-control legislation. “Dry” states and localities continued to proliferate. It wasn’t until 1966 that the last dry state, Mississippi, legalized alcohol sales; vestiges of local laws exist to this day. The wine industry began a slow and laborious comeback.

1. As American preferences changed, varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay were planted. These varietals dominate wine production today.

2. In the 1960s, jug wines came into vogue; entrepreneurs with labels like Gallo, Almaden and Paul Masson began to thrive.

3. In the 1970s, dedicated winemakers began to produce world-class wines.

In 1976, American wines won a competition against the finest French Bordeaux wines.

4. By the late 1980s, American winemakers enhanced their techniques for growing grapes and producing wines. The United States became a highly regarded and uniquely American wine in the world marketplace.

Despite efforts to destroy the wine industry less than 100 years ago, the industry has risen from the ashes as a testament to the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of our young nation. Thankfully, today I can raise my glass of old-vine Zin in honor of those citizens who have toiled before us.

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.
Informed Voters Trust Newspapers*

Community Newspapers are the top information source.

* National Newspaper Association Survey