



Yorktown Terminates Contract with Golf Course Operator

By Rick Pezzullo

The Town of Yorktown has officially severed ties with the developer of a new Par 3 golf course in Jefferson Valley for failing to correct numerous building code violations and not opening the facility as promised.

The action by the Town Board last week came as no surprise since the board voted in early September to terminate a Concession Agreement with RC Recreation Department, LLC if it was unable to clear up outstanding violations and expired mechanical, plumbing and renovation permits, and open the town-owned park by Nov. 15.

"The developer has vacillated from giving us four false reopening dates to claiming

that our contract does not require him to give us a projected opening date. It's clear to the Town Board that this company is an unreliable partner that is either incapable of redeveloping our golf course or unwilling to do so in a reasonable time frame," said Supervisor Matt Slater.

On Nov. 15, town inspectors visited the golf course and found electrical hazards and many unresolved violations cited in July, including people illegally living in trailers, unsafe bridges, and plumbing issues. Parks Superintendent James Martorano told the Town Board some of the recent shoddy work at the nine-hole golf course included laying the sod on the golf greens before

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Supervisor Matt Slater, members of the Town Board and town officials discussed the golf course contract termination at Town Hall Nov. 16.

Ossining to Benefit from State Electric Mobility Grant

By Rick Pezzullo

The Village of Ossining could pave the way for other regional rivertowns by being part of a consortium that was award a multi-million-dollar Clean Transportation grant from the New York State Energy and Research

Development Authority (NYSERDA).

During a press conference Friday at the community center, state officials announced Project MOVER, which is a partnership that includes Ossining, EIT InnoEnergy, Nelson Nygaard and ACTION eBikes, was one of

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Ossining Mayor Rika Levin (second from right) with state officials at Friday's press conference.

Turkey Trot for the Needy



A family fun run to benefit Caring for the Hungry and Homeless in Peekskill took place Saturday in downtown Peekskill.

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Harckham Calls for Hearing on Waste Incinerator Permit Renewal

By Rick Pezzullo

State Senator Pete Harckham has requested a public hearing be held as part of the process to renew a permit for the operation of the waste incinerator plant at Charles Point in the City of Peekskill.

Opened in 1984, the Wheelabrator Westchester plant, which processes about 90% of the county's daily trash total, is one of the nation's oldest waste incinerator facilities. In October 2019, the county's Department of Environmental Facilities extended the contract for the plant, but the required Title V air permit has expired and is currently under consideration for renewal.

In a letter sent last week to Basil Seggos, commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Harckham stated the waste incinerator plant "is in an Environmental Justice Community and contributes greatly to the environmental burden that residents face. Peekskill and the surrounding communities are host to several facilities

that impact the environment, including Indian Point, the AIM pipeline and the Westchester Wastewater Treatment Plant."

He added, "In view of the environmental burdens that the residents face, the DEC should have a public discussion to hear their comments, concerns and questions."

According to Wheelabrator Westchester LP, it "processes" more than 2,000 tons of waste each day, and the resulting energy—60 megawatts of electricity converted from steam—is enough to power more than 63,000 homes.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, "Regardless of what is being burned (mixed municipal solid waste, plastic, outputs from "chemical recycling"), waste incineration creates and/or releases harmful chemicals and pollutants, including: air pollutants such as particulate matter, which cause lung and heart diseases; heavy metals such as lead and mercury, which cause neurological diseases; and toxic chemicals, such as PFAS and dioxins, which cause cancer and other health problems."

Ossining to Benefit from State Electric Mobility Grant

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10 grand prize winners of a three-year \$7 million grant.

Ossining Mayor Rika Levin explained the grant, which Governor Kathy Hochul revealed on Nov. 16 was part of a \$85 million program to enhance clean transportation, improve mobility options and reduce harmful emissions through innovative solutions, would provide an opportunity for the Village and Town of Ossining, and villages of Croton-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry and Tarrytown, to serve as a blueprint for communities across the state.

"Together, the partners will deploy e-bikes, charging and docking stations, and additional gear in a way that removes typical barriers that our communities face with using shared micromobility offerings—like the need to own a smartphone or a credit card," Levin stated.

"This grant allocation is not only about winning; it's about ideation and implementation," Levin continued. "Working

together, we will be able to connect our partner communities and enhance quality of life. This partnership was established from our relationships and gives us something special: an opportunity for widespread, far-reaching, lasting and scalable success. Our access provides opportunity, which in turn provides equity."

Hochul stated the investment supports the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2050 and that at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the benefits of clean energy investments be directed to disadvantaged communities.

"Improving access to clean mobility options, electrifying trucks and buses, and supporting projects that reduce air pollution modernizes the way residents and visitors access community services, recreation, and work opportunities while creating jobs, improving health, and reducing the impacts of climate change," Hochul said.

NYSERDA will actively monitor the projects to measure their impacts as compared to community needs and New York State's Climate Act goals over the next three years. Each awarded project, and the overall program will be assessed, and results will be shared through reports and online updates to encourage the advancement and replication of innovative transportation models.

Ossining will be hosting its first Project MOVER Town Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library.

Croton Seeks Applicants to Fill Board of Trustees Vacancy

By Rick Pezzullo

Croton-on-Hudson Mayor Brian Pugh is accepting applications from residents to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees created by the resignation of Trustee Alejandro Rosales.

Rosales, who recently announced he would no longer be able to continue to serve on the board due to professional reasons, was elected to the board a year ago. A first-generation immigrant from Honduras and a nine-year resident of Croton, Rosales works in the financial and nonprofit sectors.

"We are saddened to lose Trustee Rosales' voice on the board, and we thank him for his historic service to the village," the Croton Democrats stated.

New York State Village Law dictates that the mayor appoint the individual to fill a vacancy. The term of the appointment will be to fulfill the remainder of Rosales' unexpired term to December 4, 2023.

Interested applicants must reside in Croton-on-Hudson at the time their application is submitted. The deadline to apply is Thursday, December 1 by 4 p.m. The part-time position of village trustee pays a stipend of \$3,000 annually.

Application forms are available on the village's website. Residents must submit a resume and letter of interest. For further information, residents should contact the Village Manager's office at (914) 271-4848 or managersoffice@crotononhudson-ny.gov.

Yorktown Terminates Contract with Golf Course Operator

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installing the irrigation system, which sits unassembled on the property.

"I don't see this golf course opening with this group within the next two years, realistically," Martorano remarked.

Yorktown Recreation Commission Chairman Matthew Talbert told the board the prolonged closure of the golf course has been frustrating, noting how other projects in town, such as the Lowe's shopping center, have been completed in the interim.

"It's not being managed properly, and to move forward with this group is not in the best interests of the town. I'm sad, because I like the people that are there, it's just that they're not getting the job done," Talbert said.

The property has not been used since 2007 when Shallow Greek Golf Course shut down. In 2014, town officials entered into a 10-year agreement with RC Recreation to restore the site as Valley Fields Golf Course, but progress stalled when RC President Rocco Cambareri died in 2017.

In 2018, the lease with RC was extended to 2028 when one of Cambareri's partners assumed control. In 2020, Valley Fields was fined by the state for doing work without a required permit. A 2021 spring or summer possible opening never materialized. In December 2021, the town's Planning Board approved the site plan for Valley Fields.

After the golf course failed to open as promised on July 4 weekend, Building Inspector John Landi issued a stop work order to RC, outlining 18 "barebones necessities" that needed to be resolved before golfers could be on site.

Landi also revealed that two campers had been planted on the property for more than a year, with one allegedly being used as a dwelling. When Landi and Yorktown Police visited there was evidence of someone living in the camper and they were ordered to leave.

Ironically, on Nov. 16, a road rage incident on Route 202 and Stony Street led to the arrest of a man illegally squatting at the golf course.

Yorktown Police arrested Dennis Flynn,

57, and charged him with two misdemeanor counts of menacing and endangering the welfare of a child. According to police, Flynn was involved in a dispute with a motorist and is accused of displaying a large butcher's knife and threatening to kill the motorist in front of his child.

After his arrest, Flynn told police that he lived at 795 Route 6, the address of the Par 3 Golf Course.

"This is another sad chapter in this terrible saga. Anyone in town who has tried to work with this group won't be surprised by this. It is time for this bad actor to get out of our town," Slater remarked. "Their performance has been a failure and this latest incident is completely unacceptable."

RC filed an Article 78 proceeding in state Supreme Court in July accusing town officials of using a "Keystone Cops approach to local zoning enforcement" and engaging in a "politically motivated campaign." RC specifically named Slater, Councilman Sergio Esposito and Landi.

"Slater, Esposito and Landi have not hidden their desire to replace RC at any cost, regardless of the existing contract, and along the way have not only engaged in conduct that is arbitrary and irrational and contrary to law, but have also breached the contract in several respects and violated RC's rights to procedural and substantive due process, and the right to be free from warrantless searches and seizures, under the Fourth, Fifth and 14th Amendments in the United States Constitution," the lawsuit states.

In the lawsuit, RC maintains the redevelopment of the course has "from time to time been delayed by external and unanticipated factors, be they insect infestations, COVID-19-related shutdowns, and supply chain disruptions."

The Town Board is seeking Requests for Proposals from other vendors to operate the golf course.

"Everybody has really tried to work with this group," Esposito said last week. "It's unfortunate that it hasn't been reciprocated. We were all on board trying to get this group to succeed."

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Chappaqua School Voters to Decide on \$45.3M Bond Proposal Next Week

By Martin Wilbur

Chappaqua School District voters will decide next Tuesday whether to approve a two-proposition bond totaling \$45.3 million to pay for districtwide infrastructure improvements and a single point of entry at Horace Greeley High School to enhance safety.

The Nov. 29 referendum will be the first to address nuts-and-bolts infrastructure facilities upgrades in nearly 30 years, although the district did hold a \$42.5 million bond in 2016 to enhance learning spaces, particularly at the high school.

Since the early October resolution by the Board of Education to put the propositions to

voters, a series of forums has taken place at each one of the district's schools to inform the public about the scope of work and how much it would cost taxpayers.

One more forum, a virtual presentation the night before the vote next Monday at 7 p.m., can be accessed through a Zoom link on the district's 2022 Facilities Improvements and School Safety Bond section at www.chappaquaschools.org.

Board of Education President Jane Shepardson said school officials have communicated why the bond is being proposed and its importance to district voters.

"We have discussed the bond proposals at numerous meetings throughout the summer and fall, and have used multiple avenues of communication in an effort to educate the community about the bond, and answer any and all questions related to the bond proposals," Shepardson said.

Key items in Proposition 1, totaling just under \$34 million, including \$447,000 of capitalized interest, are \$8.5 million for new roofs for all schools; communications upgrades, including networks and fiber optics districtwide, for nearly \$5 million; air conditioning for the cafeterias in all buildings for \$2.2 million; and air conditioning in all school gymnasiums and the Greeley L Building, estimated to cost \$2,067,655 and \$1,229,832, respectively.

There would also be HVAC improvements at each school, which will run about \$5.4 million, paving projects at the high school and Westorcharde Elementary School for \$1,468,000 and electronic locks at the three elementary schools and two middle schools for \$838,000.

Then there are a host of improvements related to some of the district's athletic facilities and \$872,000 for new lighting and a curtain at the high school auditorium.

Proposition 2, if approved by voters, would borrow up to \$11.34 million to address concerns and recommendations raised in the district's safety audit and by the Greeley Safety Task Force relating to the high school. The money would build a single point of entry at the high school as well as reconfigure the building's front office space.

In public sessions earlier this fall, Assistant Superintendent of Business Andrew Lennon said the if both propositions pass, the average annual tax increase over the 17 years that debt is being repaid on the bond would be \$232 for homeowners with regular STAR and with the median house value of about \$1.25 million. There would be minor fluctuations for those taxpayers eligible for senior STAR and those without the STAR program.

During first six years of repayment, starting in 2024-25, the average cost for the taxpayer with the median house price in the district and with STAR would be an extra \$451 a year.

If the propositions pass, the current schedule calls for the submission of plans to the state Education Department by next fall with construction beginning during the summer in 2024. Under that schedule, work is estimated to be finished during the 2027-28 school year.

Registered voters can vote cast their ballot at the Horace Greeley High School gymnasium from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. next on Nov. 29. For more details about the bond, visit www.chappaquaschools.org.

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Annual P'ville Puzzle Hunt Kicks Off Friday Morning

The third annual Pleasantville Puzzle Hunt takes place Friday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. through Sunday, Nov. 27 at 4:30 p.m. To access the puzzle pack, the public can e-mail pvillepuzzlehunt@gmail.com or visit [Facebook.com/pvillepuzzlehunt](https://www.facebook.com/pvillepuzzlehunt)

PvilleHunt starting on Friday morning. There will also be a very limited number of printed packets on Friday morning in the Recreation Center mailbox, located at 48 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville, for those without a printer.

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Cortlandt Family Grateful for Daughter's Progress at Blythedale

By Martin Wilbur

Susan and Nicholas Milton have lots to be thankful for, not only this week when they will spend their first Thanksgiving at home with their 13-month-old daughter, Ava Grace, but every day.

Gracie, as her parents call her, was born prematurely on Oct. 22, 2021, after only about 29 weeks and was in respiratory distress. It was discovered when she was about 12 weeks old that she had the rare disorder Beckwith Wiedemann Syndrome, which typically results in an enlarged tongue that restricts breathing and makes eating and drinking difficult, if not impossible.

About 1 in 10,500 babies are born with Beckwith Wiedemann Syndrome.

Admitted last February to Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, the medical team was able to eventually wean Gracie off a ventilator, and for the past several months she's been receiving feeding therapy twice a week.

For the Miltons, residents of Cortlandt Manor, the progress Gracie has made since leaving the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and coming to Blythedale, first for inpatient care followed by outpatient services since the start of the summer, has given them hope that their daughter's health struggles will one day be behind them.

"They've been so instrumental in her growth and her progress, and we've just seen her grow in leaps and bounds, from not being able to lift her head up to standing and pulling up on everything and us having



Susan and Nicholas Milton with their 13-month-old daughter Gracie. Gracie was born with Beckwith Wiedemann Syndrome, a rare disorder that causes an enlarged tongue and makes eating, drinking and breathing difficult.

to babyproof the whole house (to) block off all the things that she shouldn't get into in the house," Susan Milton said. "It's nice, it's nice to need to do that because we didn't know whether we were ever going to need to do that."

Although Gracie had tongue debulking surgery, it initially didn't open up a large



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Speech pathologist Jessica Meyer works with Gracie Milton during a feeding therapy session at Blythedale Children's Hospital last week as Gracie's mother, Susan, looks on.

enough passage for her to breathe or eat as most babies in the first year of life would. That forced doctors to perform additional surgery to allow for gastronomy tube feedings, her parents said.

Speech pathologist Jessica Meyer, who works with Gracie twice a week for her food therapy sessions, said for a child who has been through so much, her progress has been an eye-opener. Her disposition and her personality make Gracie a joy to work with, Meyer said. She lets also her know what she likes and doesn't like.

"She's just so loving and so sweet and she always welcomes me with a smile," Meyer said. "It might be because I have food with me, and that's a big thing that Gracie loves."

Currently, Gracie has progressed to thicker purees, such as mashed sweet potatoes,

pureed turkey and chocolate mousse for dessert, which she had during her session last Friday in advance of Thanksgiving, Meyer said. Staff is taking it slowly, but there have been highly encouraging signs, steps that need to be taken that most people never have to think about.

"She had to learn how to move her tongue upwards differently," Meyer said. "So we are working on taking little tastes, moving it side to side. There are several hours of work that's needed that we never have to pay attention to, and so it's kind of breaking it down, step by step, and directing Gracie how to use her tongue and her mouth safely and appropriately for swallowing."

Nicholas Milton said the wide range of services at Blythedale have been crucial in helping her to make the impressive progress to date. Most importantly, the children's hospital team was to make sure she was untethered from breathing tubes.

"Prior to coming to Blythedale, there was more of a NICU setting," he said. "We were able to get her services and kind of just getting her to play like a normal kid."

Going forward, the goal is to see Gracie fully off the feeding tubes, which supplements her nutrition. It's still too early what the long-term prognosis is but the signs are encouraging, Meyer said.

"I look forward to when she and I can go out to brunch one day," she said.

"You don't want to be in this position, but we're do happy she's home, she'd come this far and making this much progress," Susan Milton added.

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Jones Highlights Infrastructure Bill and Greenburg Forum

Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-White Plains) held a roundtable discussion Monday in Greenburgh with representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, and local municipal officials to highlight the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The legislation was designed to deliver historic investments in the nation's roads, bridges, rail, public transportation, water systems, climate resiliency and affordable high-speed internet accessibility.

The landmark legislation has already delivered more than \$9 billion in announced

funding for projects in New York State and helped more than a million households in the state access affordable internet.

"The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be transformative for our communities," Jones said. "For too long, underserved, low-income areas have gone without basic necessities like internet access, public transportation and safe, clean drinking water – this lack of investment has too often hit communities of color the hardest. This bill delivers billions of dollars in investments to create good paying jobs, strengthen American competition, fortify our country against the climate crisis, and help our communities fully participate in our 21st-

century economy."

Based on formula funding, New York is expected to receive about \$13.6 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges. About \$5.5 billion in funding has already been announced for restoration of New York's roads, bridges, highways.

New York is also expected to receive about \$11.2 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the state.

Other initiatives include modernizing and expanding passenger rail and improve freight rail efficiency and safety; improve the nation's airports; build a network of EV chargers for long-distance travel and provide convenient charging options; and expand high-speed internet access.

Also being considered is delivering clean water to all American families and eliminate the nation's lead service lines. Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child

care centers lack safe drinking water.

The funds are also slated to upgrade the nation's power infrastructure to deliver clean, reliable energy across the country and deploy cutting-edge energy technology to achieve a zero-emissions future.

About \$437 million has been allocated to New York to upgrade power infrastructure and promote clean, efficient energy.

There is also expected to be funds for hardening the U.S. infrastructure against the impacts of climate change, cyberattacks and extreme weather events.

The legislation delivers more than \$50 billion to protect against droughts, heat, floods and wildfires, in addition to a major investment in weatherization. The legislation is the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history.

New York has so far received nearly \$233 million for infrastructure resilience against future climate impacts.



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Mt. Pleasant Schools Hold Groundbreaking for Athletic Facilities Upgrades

By Martin Wilbur

The Mount Pleasant School District celebrated a ceremonial groundbreaking Monday morning for the upcoming athletic facilities improvements that was approved by voters last March in a \$9.7 million referendum.

With about 1,200 of the district's students standing on the main athletic field in the configuration of a Wildcat's paw to recognize the school's mascot, district officials applauded the entire community, which worked hard to educate the public about the importance of the upgraded facilities at the Westlake High School and middle school campus.

"Today we break ground on a massive project of six new fields that will transform our phys ed and our athletic program," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Peter Giarrizzo. "These fields are also our most important outdoor classroom spaces. They are used by the entire community."

The project will include the installation of two regulation-sized turf fields, a new track, bleachers, lights, drainage upgrades, irrigation and sodding of the ball fields at the campus, said Board of Education President Michael Horan.

Westlake High School is one of a dwindling number of campuses in Section 1 in the Lower Hudson Valley that has



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

A student chorus sings the National Anthem before Monday's ceremonial groundbreaking for the upcoming athletic facilities improvements at the Westlake High School campus.

not had an artificial turf field. While once viewed as a luxury, having that surface is beneficial because the school's teams would be able to play soon after

inclement weather.

Passage of the referendum on Mar. 29 by about a 3-to-1 margin came nearly two years to the day that the district was

forced to cancel the originally scheduled vote because of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down schools, most businesses and much of society.

At the start of last school year, interest was rekindled in once again scheduling the referendum and various segments of the community went to work, Horan said.

Getting word out at youth and district sporting events, the supermarkets and on social media paid dividends, he said.

"Long awaited and long overdue, we are proud to be here this morning at the groundbreaking of our new athletics facilities," Horan said.

Giarrizzo said that some work can begin this winter, with the improvements at the main competition field to begin in earnest in the spring. Under that scenario, the main field would be ready in time for the start of the football season next September.

Work on the other fields will be done once the seasons for the teams that use those surfaces end.

In addition to school officials, the groundbreaking was attended by all five members of the Mount Pleasant Town Board, state Sen. Peter Harckham, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who will be representing the town starting in January, outgoing Rep. Mondaire Jones and Congressman-elect Mike Lawler.

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Nov. 14: A woman contacted county police at 8:01 p.m. to report that an elderly man called her to demand payment for damage to his car resulting from an accident on Main Street the previous week. The woman said she had not been involved in an accident with him, but had assisted the man after he apparently struck a parked car near the movie theater. The woman said she helped the man retrieve some car parts from the street, but did not report the accident, believing the man would so. County police neither received a report of an accident in that area of Main Street at the time nor has anyone reported a vehicle damaged by a hit-and-run driver.

Nov. 15: An officer responded to Northern Westchester Hospital at 7:21 p.m. on a report that a man who threatened suicide had left the emergency room. A search of the area was conducted with negative results. Later in the evening, officers learned that the person had been located in Yorktown and was in the custody of Yorktown police officers.

Nov. 16: A complaint was lodged regarding loud music coming from a Carpenter Avenue residence at 3:25 a.m. The condition was corrected.

Nov. 16: An officer responded to Maplewood Drive at 4:03 p.m. on a report of wires that are down. The Mount Kisco Fire Department also responded and corrected the condition.

Nov. 18: Officers escorted a man to his

former apartment on Barker Street at 8:07 a.m. so he could retrieve some personal property. The man is prevented by court order from contacting the resident of the apartment, so an officer made a phone call to arrange for the property to be left outside the apartment door. The officer observed the property being picked up without any contact between the two parties.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Nov. 7: Patrol responded to Michaels Lane at 4:12 a.m. on a report of two males trying car door handles. While en route to Michaels Lane, patrol located two individuals in the area of Terrace Place. An investigation by patrol officers and the Detective Division led to the arrest of an 18-year-old and a juvenile from the Bronx. Both individuals were charged with second-degree grand larceny for stealing a motor vehicle from a Michaels Lane residence. The juvenile was also charged with multiple counts of fourth-degree grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property for stealing credit cards from an unlocked motor vehicle on Michaels Lane.

Nov. 13: Patrols reported attempting to stop a gray Audi sedan at 1:50 a.m. that was traveling on Maple Street. The vehicle fled the area at a high rate of speed.

Nov. 14: A caller from South Riverside Avenue reported at 1:26 p.m. that he sold \$4,900 worth of equipment to a customer from out of the area. The caller

then discovered that the equipment was purchased using a stolen credit card. An investigation is ongoing.

New Castle Police Department

Nov. 15: At 5 a.m., officers responded to Croton Dam Road on a reported road rage incident. The caller stated that a vehicle overtook her, blocked the road, got out and began to yell and bang on the hood of her car, causing minor damage. Officers located the other driver, who admitted to causing the damage but explained that the other driver passed him when he was about to make a left turn, almost causing an accident. Both drivers were warned about their behavior and agreed to settle the matter civilly.

Nov. 16: A person reported that three credit cards and \$120 in cash were taken from his wallet, which was left inside his unlocked vehicle parked on the North County Trailway on Station Place.

Nov. 16: Officers responded to a domestic incident where an order of protection was violated due to the respondent making several telephone calls. Officers are attempting to locate the other party.

North Castle Police Department

Nov. 11: An officer reported a flooding condition at 6:20 p.m. on North Broadway affecting all four lanes. The responding officer requested the state Department of Transportation be notified for storm drain blockage. The DOT corrected the issue and the roadway is clear.

Nov. 12: A caller reported observing what appears to be a party passed out next to a brown Jeep on Route 128 at 3:11 p.m. Fire Control was contacted, which had a report of a call of a motor vehicle accident at the location with an unconscious male. Assigned officers responded with the Armonk Fire Department. Upon the

officers' arrival, CPR was in progress. The aided party was transported to Westchester Medical Center by Armonk Fire Department, and the involved vehicle was removed by Armonk Garage.

Nov. 12: A party reported at headquarters at 4:30 p.m. with an aided juvenile who reportedly sustained injuries from a fall while at an event at the American Legion Hall next door on Bedford Road. The accompanying adults with the aided reported that the juvenile has a history of seizures, which may have resulted in the fall. Officers rendered aid and county Fire Control was contacted for ambulance dispatch. Armonk Fire Department ambulance transported the aided party to Westchester Medical Center.

Nov. 14: A caller from the Jennie Clarkson campus on Old Orchard Street reported at 11:44 a.m. that a 19-year-old student is preventing a bus to leave by holding onto the bus. Assistance requested. Officers responded and reported that staff has escorted the student back to the building. The bus left without further issues.

Pleasantville Police Department

Nov. 16: A resident surrendered a firearm at police headquarters at 2:59 p.m. due to an Order of Protection that had been issued.

Nov. 17: An officer discovered offensive graffiti on a utility pole near the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church at 9:14 a.m.

Yorktown Police Department

Nov. 15: Chris Martinez, 31, of Yorktown, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, a Class E felony. At 8:31 p.m. he was involved in a verbal argument and struck a victim's vehicle with his vehicle, causing more than \$250 in damage.

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No Criminal Charges Filed Against Boarding School in Student's Death

The Westchester District Attorney's office found no criminal wrongdoing in the death of a 17-year-old Italian national last winter who attended a Thornwood boarding school.

On Feb. 17, Claudio Mandia was found dead in a dorm at the EF Academy in an apparent suicide, according to the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

An investigation revealed that Mandia had been expelled from the boarding high school, which hosts numerous international students, for academic reasons three days before his death. His parents had scheduled a trip originally to celebrate his approaching 18th birthday but would be picking him up to take him home, police said.

An investigation revealed that after Mandia's expulsion was official, he was immediately separated from the rest of the school's population and was relocated to another dorm room to be by himself, police said. He was told not to leave the

dorm without permission.

The police investigation revealed that Mandia had been deceased for several hours before he was discovered by staff.

When Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul Oliva and school officials met Mandia's parents at JFK Airport when they arrived from Italy to inform them of the circumstances, Mandia's father said that he had told EF Academy representatives not to isolate his son, according to police.

Police said the district attorney's office was contacted on Feb. 21 to be briefed on the matter and to determine if the circumstances warranted the prosecution of a criminally negligent homicide charge.

After completing the investigation and consulting the staff at the district attorney's office, Mount Pleasant police were informed that there was not enough evidence to support the filing of a criminal charge, authorities said.

— Martin Wilbur

Stellar Performances Honor Late Ex-Bedford School Board Member

By Abby Luby

Live music performed by talented high school students last Wednesday would have delighted Suzanne Grant, who was passionate about the performing arts throughout her life.

Grant, a former six-year Bedford Board of Education member and a passionate community volunteer, died in 2019. Her love for giving back to the community inspired her husband, Dave Grant, to create the nonprofit Suzanne Grant Foundation.

Last year the foundation funded an extensive remodeling project in what is now the 200-seat Suzanne Grant Theater at Fox Lane Middle School. When the project was completed, there was a grand opening celebration featuring performances by faculty, alumni and students.

Last week's benefit concert again attracted talented musicians within the Bedford School District.

"We were encouraged to have a repeat performance of last year," Grant said. "So this year we quite literally rolled out the red carpet from the parking lot up to the theater as a nice way to welcome people."

Performances featured a wide range of music styles, from classical to contemporary, jazz to folk and operatic.

"The performances were incredible,"



Fox Lane High School students Madden Osherow and Jasper Sizer perform the Paul McCartney song "Calico Skies" at last week's Suzanne Grant Foundation Benefit.

Grant said. "It was great for the kids to share the stage with teachers and for the alumni to reconnect by performing together. Some of the performances brought the house down."

Helping the community is key to the foundation. Last year it established Fox Lane Community Volunteer Day, connecting 200 Fox Lane High School juniors who volunteered their time to help 20 community organizations, including local schools, food pantries and neighborhood help centers.

The day is planned again for the upcoming



DAVE GRANT PHOTOS

Bedford School District music teachers performed at last week's Suzanne Grant Foundation Benefit. Pictured are Matt Vanacoro, piano; Bryan Filetto, saxophone; Mike Pieski, drums; Leigh Tooker, vocalist; Alyssa Calo, bass; and PJ Van Galen, drums.

spring and is schedule to be a permanent part of the school calendar.

"It was wonderful to see students learning the importance of giving back," Grant said. "Kids last year got a lot out of it and now they are out on their own. We are creating the volunteers of tomorrow."

The foundation has found myriad ways to help the community, including some that are unplanned.

"I saw a music teacher pushing a 500-pound piano down the hall to get to her next class," Grant recalled after a visit to Mount Kisco Elementary School. "The piano was hard

to move around. But now the school has a brand-new keyboard and the kids never miss a music class."

Grant said those contributing to last week's successful benefit were extremely generous.

"The plan as it sits now is to have this live showcase event twice a year, one in the fall and the other in the spring," he said.

Requests from community leaders seeing opportunities for how the foundation can help are received regularly.

"The good is sustainable and contagious and that ties back to Suzanne. Her legacy was good breeds goodness," Grant said.

Westchester Health Dept. Releases Food Safety Tips for Thanksgiving

Westchester County Executive George Latimer reminded county residents to plan ahead for a safe and healthy Thanksgiving celebration.

"As we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, we should be reminded of our many blessings – family and friends, good health and happiness," Latimer said. "But it is also important that we celebrate the holiday safely. If you are planning to hit the road to gather with relatives make sure to drive responsibly, and if you have a drink, please do so in moderation. If you are going to play host or hostess on Thursday, make sure to follow the Health Department's guidelines to cook your Thanksgiving meal properly."

Whether you take to the road to visit with family and friends, or plan to celebrate at home, it is important to drive, cook and drink responsibly to enjoy a healthy Thanksgiving. Leave early to allow extra time for traffic, follow the Health Department's food safety advice and always let moderation be your guide.

For a healthier holiday, the Health Department recommends residents go for a turkey trot, take a long walk or add some other exercise to their holiday traditions. When preparing the meal, boost flavor with herbs, skip the salt and cut down on the amount of fat and sugar in recipes.

"To avoid germs, wash hands thoroughly after exchanging greetings or reading a menu, and before you take that first bite," said County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler. "With viruses circulating and flu season here, good hand hygiene is critical."

Follow these food safety tips for a fabulous feast:

To thaw a turkey, the USDA recommends placing it in a refrigerator and allowing one day for every four to five pounds of weight. A

16-pound turkey will take four days to thaw. On Thanksgiving, remove your turkey from the refrigerator, but do not wash it as this spreads germs onto kitchen surfaces.

Keep raw turkey separated from all other foods at all times. Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils when handling raw turkey to avoid cross-contamination. Wash items that have touched raw meat with warm soap and water, or in a dishwasher. Cook the turkey until it reaches 165° F, as measured by a food thermometer. Check the turkey's temperature by inserting the thermometer in three places: the thickest part of the breast, the innermost part of the thigh, and the innermost part of the wing.

The Health Department also recommends holiday hosts and their helpers follow these seven food safety tips:

- Wash hands and food-contact surfaces with hot soapy water thoroughly and often.
- Thaw turkey in a pan in the refrigerator, allowing 24 hours for every five pounds.
- Keep raw meat and poultry and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods.
- Rinse all fruits and vegetables in cool running water and remove surface dirt.
- Cook turkey and stuffing to an internal temperature of 165°F.
- Refrigerate turkey, stuffing and sides within two hours.
- Reheat leftovers to at least 165° F before serving. (Check the temperature with a metal probe thermometer.)

For more food preparation safety tips, visit www.westchestergov.com/health. The USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline can be reached at 1-888-674-6854.

This is a press release provided by Westchester County. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.



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Letters to the Editor

Support Independent Stores, the Backbone of Local Communities

In these difficult economic times, as a result of inflation, it is especially important to patronize your neighborhood businesses. Do it not only on annual Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26 this year, but every day of the year.

Small independent businesses are at the mercy of suppliers, especially third-party brokers, who control the price they have to pay for merchandise.

I don't mind occasionally paying a little more to help our local stores survive. The employees go out of their way to help

find what I need. Customer service is their motto. As an independent mom and pop store, they don't have bulk buying purchasing power that Amazon or large national chain stores have. The owners can't negotiate lower prices from suppliers. This is why they sometimes charge a little more. It is worth the price to avoid the crowds and long lines at larger stores in exchange for the convenience and friendly service your neighborhood community store offers.

Remember these people are our

neighbors. Our local entrepreneurs have continued the good fight to keep their existing staff and suppliers employed without layoffs and canceling product or supply orders. They continue to work long hours, pay taxes and keep as many employed as possible. Many maintain the tradition of offering job opportunities to students during the holidays and summer.

Customers also patronize other commercial establishments on the block. Foot traffic is essential for the survival of any neighborhood commercial district. If

we don't patronize our local community stores and restaurants to shop and eat, they don't eat either. This helps keep our neighbors employed and the local economy growing.

The owners of independent mom and pop stores are the backbone of our neighborhood commercial districts. Show your support by making a purchase.

Larry Penner
Great Neck, N.Y.

Proposed Flavored Tobacco Ban Restricts Consumers' Freedom

A flavored tobacco sales ban would be another way the government is chiseling away at our freedoms.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is considering banning the sales of all flavored tobacco across the county. As Americans honored veterans

across the U.S. recently for their service and recognized the sacrifices they and their families have made for our country, I'm struck by an effort by our local legislators to restrict some of the freedoms many Americans, and particularly veterans like me, have come to enjoy.

I served for a year in Korea on the DMZ, defending our country's interests and allies. I put my life on the line and am proud of my service. I was 19, deemed old enough to serve my country and old enough to smoke. I did both. The government has now raised the legal age for people to

smoke to 21 years old. You only have to be 18 to serve, but 21 to smoke. Fine. I agree with that.

What I don't agree with, and I think many feel the same way, is how the local government is chiseling away at our freedoms, little by little. I'm most struck by how they are now telling me where I need to go to buy an adult product I've been enjoying since I first started serving. The county wants to make it illegal for my favorite neighborhood store here in Yonkers to sell me menthol cigarettes. I will now have to travel outside the county.

As a 63-year-old man who has done a pretty good job of taking care of myself, I don't believe I need my local legislators telling me I will no longer have the freedom to choose where I buy my tobacco. It's just another way the government is getting in our business and restricting our freedoms.

I encourage them to rethink their plan to ban the sales of menthol tobacco in Westchester County.

Election Information in The Examiner Was Invaluable

I live in Ossining and when I went to bed on Election Night, Pete Harckham, who was favored to become our new state senator after all the lines were redrawn, was way behind in the vote count to Gina Arena. When I checked the results online Wednesday morning, Harckham had come

from way behind and won.

How this happened was not explained (at least as far as I saw) on News12 or Lohud. It was explained, however, in Martin Wilbur's article I saw online on Wednesday. which was in this past Tuesday's print edition.

Just wanted to say thank you for your thorough coverage of all the local races. We do appreciate it.

Victor Eichorn
Ossining

Correction

In last week's article on the opposition to Westchester County's proposed ban on flavored tobacco products, the year of Eric Garner's death was incorrect. Garner died in July 2014. The Examiner regrets the error.

Nathaniel Whitney
Yonkers

Calendar Submissions

We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Robert Schork at happenings@theexaminernews.com.

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Columns

Why I'm Thankful for America This Thanksgiving

It's easy to forget the "thanks" in Thanksgiving.

We focus on getting together with our families, wondering which cranky relative is going to start an argument, shopping for just the right kind of giant turkey that refuses to cook well in the oven and watching the kids kick up leaves on the lawn.

As our historically stable system of government seems to waver unsteadily in this current moment, we may want to consider giving thanks for what we have.

With many of us caught up in the vicious political divisions, it might help to recall the foundation of this holiday.

Abraham Lincoln declared a National Day of Thanksgiving during another deeply fractured time in our national life – the Civil War. The South had seceded from the Union two years earlier, over the issue of enslavement of human beings for economic gain. The Battle of Gettysburg had taken place in July 1863. There were more than 50,000 casualties in the field during the three-day engagement, the most in any battle during the entire war, which would consume the lives of more than 600,000 combatants and lay waste to great sections of our great nation.

Lincoln was obviously grateful for the Union victory at Gettysburg, but also troubled by its cost. He decided to issue a proclamation to urge his fellow citizens to give thanks for the everyday joys they

could still experience.

His proclamation, issued in early October 1863, stated, in part: "The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies...order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict...the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom...It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens..."

On the Street

The proclamation concluded with a request of his fellow Americans, to "fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the

wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

When I was a schoolteacher in the Bronx, we used to ask the kids the day before Thanksgiving to write what they were thankful for. It's a useful exercise for anybody.

My students often wrote that they were grateful for their families – parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, even a baby brother or sister. They appreciated the care their parents and relatives provided in raising them.

These kids survived in often difficult circumstances, in cluttered apartments, with high rents and utility bills and incomes that didn't necessarily meet the needs of the family at any given time. Many struggled to get an education, the parents hoping their children would go to college and advance in America.

I was their teacher, but a lot of students inspired me too, with their drive and commitment to succeed.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I acknowledge the debts I owe to my great country and know that the gifts the Founding Fathers have provided us are rare and special, gifts we have maintained for almost 250 years.

We live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world. We can speak and write freely about our opinions on anything, without fear of government retribution. We can go to whatever church, synagogue, mosque or temple we want. Or we can choose not to go at all. None of us are forcibly compelled to follow a religion our government has designated for us.



By Michael Gold

Many of us take these precious freedoms for granted, but they are clearly not universal to the nations of this world. Russia, China, Iran and Saudi Arabia, for example, do not acknowledge that freedom of speech, press and religion should be guaranteed by the government.

My students seemed to know that America is still a land of promise, despite its faults. Many nations are not. For this reason,

I want to give thanks for the United States as a place where we are still able to strive in the direction we choose, to be able to figure things out for ourselves and not suffer with a government propaganda ministry that instructs us daily in what it determines we should think, or be forced to listen to an official state religious authority that tells us how to behave, so we can freely debate with others what is the best way forward, to a future we will all share.

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has had articles published in the New York Daily News, the Albany Times Union, The Virginian-Pilot, The Palm Beach Post, other newspapers, and The Hardy Society Journal, a British literary journal.

Ending Sale of Flavored Tobacco Will Save Black Kids' Lives in Westchester

By Frank Williams Jr.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is considering a bill that would end the sale of flavored tobacco products. Despite the urgent public health needs for this critical reform, there have been some in our community that are concerned that a bill like this could lead to the further criminalization of Black children and families in our county. It's time to set the

record straight.

By ending the sale of flavored tobacco, the bill seeks to reverse at their root cause generations of racially unjust practices by tobacco companies, practices that have long had real and deadly consequences for Black Americans across the country. Big Tobacco is playing by the same playbook they've followed for decades, and we have to stop them here in Westchester once and for all.

Like so many other Black mothers and fathers, I know all too well the fear in our community of having an encounter with law enforcement go terribly wrong. Here in New York, we saw practices like stop-and-frisk be abused by law enforcement for years, and we have fought against injustices like the death of Eric Garner.

But it's important to note that this proposed bill poses absolutely no risk of criminalizing our children or inducing stop-and-frisk enforcement activity against our community.

The bill's language makes crystal clear that only the sale of flavored tobacco products will be outlawed – not their purchase, possession or use. This will not allow police to stop or arrest anyone for smoking or possession of something like menthol cigarettes, not even business owners who break the law in selling them. The bill leaves all enforcement of this bill in the hands of the Westchester County Department of Health, who will simply issue the business a violation.

With no threat being posed to any Westchester residents who use flavored tobacco products, this bill's positive impact cannot be overstated.

Since the 1950s, Big Tobacco has

targeted Black Americans, especially Black youth, with menthol-flavored cigarettes. They've flooded our communities with persuasive marketing campaigns and retailer programs and made menthol-flavored cigarettes widely available and cheap.

This is because Big Tobacco knows the truth: menthol cigarettes are easier to get addicted to and harder to quit. And they've chosen Black America – and, in particular, Black youth – as their main target.

Today, 85 percent of Black smokers prefer menthol cigarettes, and smoking-related illnesses are the number one cause of death in the Black community, killing more people than AIDS, car crashes, alcohol, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined.

I'm supporting this bill because it will do nothing to put our children in further danger, and everything to help save them from the deadly consequences of smoking. With an estimated 280,000 kids now alive in New York who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking unless we act, every day we wait to end the sale of these products risks losing more lives.

Frank Williams Jr. is a parent in Westchester County.

Support Connection Program for Men With Spouse or Partner Battling Cancer

Support Connection will hold a free program, "For Men Only, Let's Talk: An Open Discussion for Men With a Spouse or Partner Going Through Cancer," on Dec. 13 from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom.

The program is available for men who have a spouse or partner living with breast, ovarian or gynecological

cancer. The discussion will be led by David Tartaglia, a volunteer facilitator who has personally experienced coping with his own wife's breast cancer journey.

To learn more or to register, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290 by Dec. 12

In Shadow of Tragedy, Yorktown Man Conquers Creative Project

By Adam Stone

It was the 1980s, and the mother of Jeffrey Veatch's girlfriend offered an invitation to her workplace that would ultimately change the trajectory of his creative life.

Veatch accompanied his girlfriend to Camp Berwick, at Dyer Island in Maine, where Marina's mom was a nurse.

What he saw blew his mind.

"Teen boys ran the camp and spent their time learning trades, piloting boats and building the island infrastructure," Veatch explained. "I had jokingly referred to it as a real-life 'Lord of the Flies' experiment."

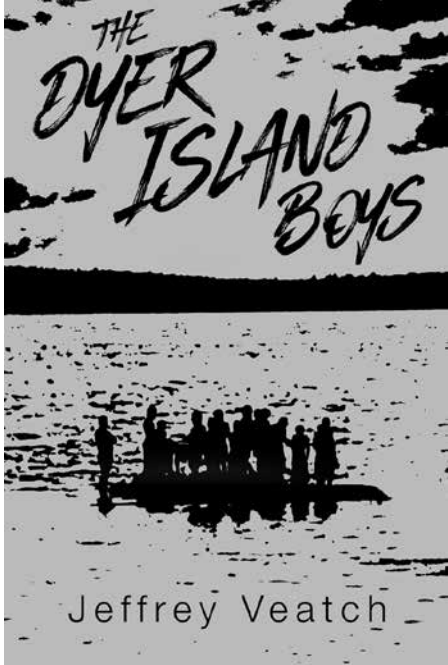
Girlfriend Marina soon became wife Marina, and in the years that followed the Veatches started a family. First came Justin, then Elena three years later.

All along, Camp Berwick tugged at Veatch. Something deep and profound was unfolding at that camp. He wanted to capture that special essence for the world to see.

Veatch began banging away at a documentary, then a screenplay, all the while navigating a busy life as a radio network news writer, not to mention as a family man in Yorktown. The plan was to keep pecking away now and again at that screenplay for as long as it took.

And then, in 2008, Veatch's world was torn to shreds.

Music-loving Justin, only 17, died of an



Yorktown's Jeffrey Veatch waited years to finish the story of "The Dyer Island Boys," a story based on a trip he took to the island off the Maine coast in the 1980s. The book is available for sale through various platforms starting to early next month.

accidental drug overdose.

The screenplay was set aside as Veatch turned his attention to creating and building a foundation in his son's

memory. For the past 13 years, the Justin Veatch Fund has been delivering music scholarships and musical events for local students. (Veatch has also created a multimedia talk, A Message from Justin, delivering the message to thousands of students throughout the Northeast.)

But after about a dozen of those years, Veatch decided to finish what he started.

Success with the screenplay at a film festival convinced him the story needed to be a novel.

"The story of 'The Dyer Island Boys' is even more compelling to me since our family's loss because so many teens that I'd met during my talks – even the most talented among them – were struggling to find direction," Veatch explained.

That story, "The Dyer Island Boys," is scheduled for release by Volossal Publishing in early December.

The book begins in 1946, as a pair of New York City area surgical residents, Wick and Doc, seek summer adventure and purchase a small, undeveloped island off the Maine coastland.

They eventually take a struggling inner-city teen, Harry, under their wing.

Half a century passes, and Harry returns to Dyer Island to help an elderly Wick deal with a 15-year-old misfit who is wreaking havoc in the camp community.

At the heart of the passion project is Veatch's awe at the unique circumstances he discovered all those years ago when

visiting a girlfriend's mother at her camp. He found a scene that day which would animate the next three decades-plus of his creative life.

"What struck me was the fact there were no adults in sight and these boys were running things," Veatch marveled.

Veatch's fictional account of that striking scene will be available in softcover and e-book through bookselling platforms as early as next week.

News about the book can be found on 'The Dyer Island Boys' Facebook page. Veatch also plans to organize local bookstore appearances.

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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz
By Edward Goralski

Something Different The vocabulary challenge this week is adapted from the "Different Words for the Same Thing" quiz found in the book The Ultimate Book of Pub Trivia by Austin Rogers, "the smartest guy in the bar," and 12-time Jeopardy! winner. Also different this week, the quiz does not offer multiple choice answers as it does in other weeks.

1. The rock dove is more commonly called this name.

2. The pilomotor reflex or piloerection is the technical term for this R. L. Stine skin reaction.

3. A muselet keeps this from popping.

4. Paresthesia is when this happens to your hands or feet.

5. This symbol, also known as the lemniscate, goes on and on and on ...

6. Runcation is another word for this gardening task.

7. Where would you find a tittle?

8. What's everyone's favorite word for the act of throwing something or someone out a window?

1. ANSWERS:
2. Pigeon
3. Goose Bumps
4. Champagne cork
5. Fall asleep
6. Infinity
7. Pulling Weeds
8. The dot atop an i or j
9. Defenestration

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Armonk Ready to Celebrate Return of Frosty the Snowman on Sunday

By Martin Wilbur

The Thanksgiving weekend and the start of the holiday season is a time when communities look forward to what they hope are bustling downtowns and a fun and successful end to the year.

For North Castle and the hamlet of Armonk, it also means welcoming home the world's most famous snowman.

On Sunday, hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of visitors from throughout the region will descend on Armonk for the 13th Frosty Day, the annual celebration where Frosty the Snowman comes to life – and you don't have to be a kid to appreciate it.

Starting at noon, downtown Armonk

will be transformed into a festive winter wonderland with an array of activities for children and families and treats to eat and drink. It's followed by the parade down Main Street starting at 4 p.m., which makes its way to Wampus Brook Park for the Christmas tree lighting as day turns to evening.

"It's one of these things that we took from like a small winter walk and a lighting ceremony to almost like a Disney production of Frosty the Snowman," said Robby Morris, president of Friends of Frosty, the nonprofit group of volunteers that organizes the day with the town. "So we've really taken it into the next level after that. It's just one of those great community events."

Armonk claimed Frosty as its own more than a decade ago when it was documented that Steve Nelson, the lyricist of the classic Christmas song "Frosty the Snowman," lived in Armonk for decades until his death in 1981.

While the celebration is similar from year to year, there are small changes that are typically made to improve the experience and keep the day fresh. This year, there will be a main stage on Main Street that will feature local performers, including musicians, singers and dancers, who will entertain the crowds, said Judy Willsey, a member of the Frosty Committee that organizes the event.

When they aren't performing on stage, many of them will rove throughout the downtown.

Another new feature this year is a small petting zoo where children can visit with goats, rather than reindeer, Morris said.

The bubble bus will return along with the train and horse-drawn wagon rides around the downtown, he said.

If anyone gets a bit cold, they can get something to eat or drink at one of the shops in town or warm up at the North Castle Public Library in downtown to take in a continuous loop of the roughly 50-minute-long "Frosty the Snowman" movie. Carol Morris, one of the Friends of Frosty organizers along with her husband, Robby, said the library will also be offering a snowman craft for children to grab and go.

While many communities host holiday lighting ceremonies, what makes Frosty Day unique is the event's centerpiece, a cold-weather parade, said North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro. In just over a decade, it has also become an event that residents throughout Westchester and beyond have become familiar with and look forward to.

But it's also a fun way to usher in the holiday season without it being overly commercialized, he said.

"It's important because it has become a tradition and I don't see it ever going away, and I think it'll be part of this town forever," Schiliro said. "It's so important to the kids in town, the kids look forward to it now, and the county looks forward to it."

For those coming for Frosty Day, this year Maple Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic between Bedford Road and Main Street, Morris said.

Frosty Committee member Ed Woodyard said the day is a success because it's great



Frosty the Snowman will be back in his hometown this weekend as the Town of North Castle and the hamlet of Armonk are prepared to hold the 13th annual Frosty Day celebration.

for families and harkens back to a time that many believe is lost.

"It's a little bit of lost Americana and we're bringing it back," Woodyard said. "It makes you feel good. It's one of those kinds of days."

For more information on Frosty Day, visit www.armonkfrosty.com.



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Nineteenth Century Piano Finds its Way Home to Mt. Kisco

By Martin Wilbur

A piece of Mount Kisco history has made it back to the village after crisscrossing the United States for decades.

The Mount Kisco Historical Society received a more than century-old Malcolm Love piano last week, an upright that was purchased by Col. Robert Woodward Leonard in the late 19th century. Leonard, a Civil War and Spanish American War veteran, was a son of Judge William Henry Leonard, a state Supreme Court justice from 1859 to 1872, according to "The Judges of the New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical History."

The family owned significant property in what is present-day Mount Kisco, and in later years donated about 96 acres of their Meadowside estate to create much of what is now Leonard Park, said Historical Society President Ralph Vigliotti.

That the organization now has not only the Malcolm Love piano, which was a popular purchase for well-to-do families in the New York area from the 1890s into the early 20th century, but a portrait of Col. Leonard in his Spanish American War uniform and a treasure trove of photos, documents and two formal dresses from the 1880s, is a stunning find for the historical society, Vigliotti said.

"We hope to have a museum one day. I may not be around to see that, but the piano and Col. Leonard's portrait is just perfect," he said. "He's one of the backbones of our

history, Mount Kisco's history."

How the historical society obtained the piano, the portrait and other artifacts and possessions took a stroke of great luck.

Polly Holyoke, the great-granddaughter of William Henry Leonard II, early last year was selling her home in Plano, Texas to relocate to her native Colorado. Holyoke, a children's book author, was in possession of the piano, which she had kept in her living room.

She had gotten it from her aunt, Evelyn, a daughter of Holyoke's grandfather, who had moved to Maryland.

"That's where I remember seeing the piano," Holyoke said. "I remember playing the piano at her place. I think we lent it to a community center."

At some point, Evelyn got it back and had it in her farmhouse, one of her two homes, in Martinsburg, Md. she said.

Holyoke, who married a businessman where relocating was a recurring event over the years, toted the piano around the country from the West Coast to the East Coast, including for several years when she and her family lived in Wilton, Conn. She said the piano has a beautiful cabinet and ivory keys that are in outstanding condition.

"Whenever we had to move this thing – it's one of those old-fashioned uprights – it was just crazy heavy," Holyoke said. "It would take eight men, nine men, 10 men to lift it."

Looking to downsize when moving to Colorado, Holyoke realized she could no



RALPH VIGLIOTTI PHOTO

The Malcolm Love piano, left, owned by Col. Robert Woodward Leonard when he and the Leonard family lived at what is now Leonard Park, is back in Mount Kisco at the village's Historical Society archives. Leonard's Spanish American war portrait is on the wall overlooking the piano.

longer keep the piano, so she left it to the house's new owner, Suzanne Phillips. Phillips and her husband moved to Texas in July 2021 from Chappaqua after their youngest child graduated from Horace Greeley High School.

Phillips said when they were ready to move in after purchasing the home, Holyoke asked them if they were interested in keeping the piano. Phillips enthusiastically agreed.

"I was like absolutely, it will be loved and cherished here and it will be played," she

said. "But then we got here with no children and I was like, 'What is happening?'"

When her children visited, they closely read a letter that Holyoke had left the family. It outlined the history of the piano through the generations.

"They were sitting there and they said, 'Oh my God, we've all played at Leonard Park,'" Phillips remembered her children remarking. They suggested to contact the Mount Kisco Society if their parents didn't want to keep it.

Vigliotti said when Phillips reached out, he and other members of the organization were so thrilled that they agreed to pay the \$2,400 to ship the piano. Holyoke also donated the portrait, photos, letters and other possessions. The historical society is currently fundraising to offset the cost, he said.

The items are all in the historical society's archives at 40 Green St., a facility that it shares with the Westchester County police at the village's old police headquarters.

"It's striking," Vigliotti said of the portrait, which now is on a wall over the piano. "It gives the archives a sense of a museum. It's very special."

For Holyoke, she's ecstatic that one of the most appropriate places was found for the piano and other possessions.

"It's a huge relief and it absolutely makes me smile to think that the piano will be looked after from now on, and that Robert Woodward, the portrait, is there also," she said.

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Smiles for Veterans Program Offers Free Dental Services

By Jessica Jafet

It is said that a smile is contagious, and when shared, can make a person feel better about themselves and their environment.

Through its Smiles for Veterans program, the Hawthorne-based Touro College of Dental Medicine is recognizing the sacrifice of service members by providing veterans, military personnel and their families with the gift of a healthy smile by providing free dental care for the month of November.

Last Wednesday, the school hosted a special event that welcomed 22 veterans for a breakfast with special guest speakers, followed by a day of dental treatments that were given by third- and fourth-year students in pairs, supervised by faculty, as part of their clinical experience.

Touro has offered free state-of-the-art professional dental services to veterans each November since 2018 via its program that the school's dean, Dr. Ronnie Myers, believes aligns with the culture and mission of the seven-year-old college. Along with its dedication to a rigorous education in dentistry, the school maintains a focus on public health and service to the local

community; it requires every student to participate in a minimum of 40 community service hours.

Its future dentists are instilled with the belief that professionals have an obligation to help others in need if they are able to do so.

"It is a no-brainer; what better way to give back than to be able to support our veterans who support us and allow us the privilege of living in this country under the freedoms that we have," Myers said.

Throughout November, there is no charge for exams, cleanings and routine fillings. For the remainder of the year, veterans and their immediate families receive 25 percent off.

To see the benefits of this program, one has to look no further than the megawatt smile of veteran Miguel Sanchez, a former United States Army reservist.

In need of a full mouth reconstruction, he was considered a complex case by the team at Touro. Sanchez said that like many other veterans he did not know where to turn or how to improve his situation. After searching for years, he happened to see an ad for Smiles for Veterans.

"I decided to call them up and come over

for the first level of care," said Sanchez, who was later referred to an expert team who transformed his smile. "I guess you can tell, smiling has always been a part of me – I smile easily and I enjoy it – so having this work done has given me confidence and I can interact with people without reservation."

Hannah Howell, one of about 460 students enrolled at Touro, said that being able to provide this kind of service for veterans was especially rewarding, given that her grandfather was an army dentist.

"It is really cool to be able to provide care to somebody who has gone through the same thing he has," Howell said. "The vets are no different than anyone else. It is great to chat and hear about their lives and offer them something that they might struggle getting otherwise."

Given the financial burdens that might cause many veterans to postpone or neglect routine dental visits, the school's dean said he is pleased to continue the program to ensure access so vets can get the oral health care they deserve.

"We hope it goes on for years to come," Myers said.



JESSICA JAFET PHOTO

Miguel Sanchez who has benefitted from Touro College of Dental Medicine's Smiles for Veterans program.

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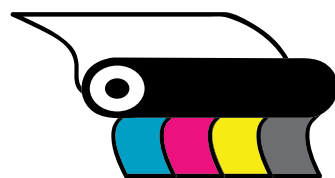
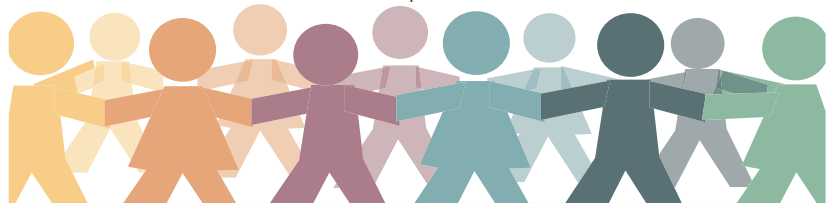
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The Inescapable Reality of Dust in the Home

My first household chore as a five- or six-year-old was to crawl under the dining room table at my mother's request to dust the table stretchers. I suppose I was the only one in the family small enough or limber enough to accomplish that task, and I really felt quite accomplished at it.

Maybe it was the seed planted for my development into The Home Guru and, ultimately, into a realtor who shows and sells homes. In the latter capacity, I always check to make sure that a house is impeccably clean before it is shown, and the basics of cleanliness is a good dusting.

My early experience as the family duster for low-lying surfaces probably made me more aware of dust than most people. While dust is inevitable, it horrifies some of us, as though its presence on our furniture and floors tells the world something unflattering about us, not only as housekeepers but as human beings.

Some of us just don't give a damn. I'm somewhere in between. If there were anything of which I might be accused of being obsessive-compulsive about, it certainly wouldn't be involved with housekeeping.

I remember an interview long ago in The New York Times in which an eccentric artist said she hadn't dusted her apartment in over 30 years, saying that "after the first two years or so, you really can't tell the

difference." That kind of empirical research really impresses me.

In that wonderful HBO movie "Grey Gardens," Jackie Kennedy Onassis' aunt and cousin, Edie Beale and her daughter, Little Edie, are depicted as living in squalor in a neglected ramshackle house, with garbage strewn throughout and a hoard of cats and raccoons relieving themselves on the floor. When Jackie arrives to help remedy the situation and registers her shock at the condition of the property, Big Edie dismisses the condition of her living environment by saying simply that her daughter "hasn't been keeping up with the

dusting."

Is inattention to dust the first degenerative step to chaos in the home? Maybe for some, depending on their mental attitude about it, and in turn, how unkempt homes can affect its occupants.

A recent survey revealed that 83 percent of us are happier in a clean house. The act of cleaning itself gives 57 percent of the population a feeling of satisfaction. Further, it shows that 38 percent of women and 24 percent of men experience real stress living in a messy environment.

It would seem that dusting and cleaning can be therapeutic. Psychologists have found that there is a marked difference in mood before and after doing cleaning, just as with



a therapy session.

For those who don't mind living with a coating of dust on their furniture, floor and appliances, it may be motivating to know that dust is composed largely of our own flaking skin cells! Now that we know what it contains and that it can cause real stress, does this explain the expression "uncomfortable in our own skin?"

Add to our skin cells other flaky stuff like fabric fibers, dust mite excrement, hair, pet dander, pollen, regular dirt, debris and microparticles, and you have a pretty nasty brew that can give people with allergies and breathing problems a real hassle.

But beyond the psychological and unhealthy effects of dust, it can do real physical damage to most everything it lands on, from furniture surfaces to those things it clogs up like computer keyboards and vents.

There are both fancy and simple ways to get rid of dust. The fancy way is with an air purifier of which there are two types: those

with fans that pull air through filters that trap the dust and those called electrostatic precipitators in which an electrical charge is applied to the dust drawn into the device and captured on oppositely charged plates. Both are available as either portable units, which offer varying degrees of effectiveness, depending on the model, or as whole-house systems.

Among the houses I've listed or sold, I was aware of only one that had a whole-house air purifier system. So, unless people are plagued by allergies, I suspect that most of us dust with old-fashioned elbow grease, using either regular rags or one of those new magic dusters to which particles cling. Because the latter option can be expensive, a regular rag can be made just as effective if dampened before use and shaken out frequently.

I definitely do not recommend a feather duster because it merely spreads the dust around until it lands again on the surface of things.

It's funny how the exploratory process can affect you. As I sit at my computer, I'm very aware and uncomfortable in the knowledge that between the keys of the keyboard is a lot of trapped dust. Are the raccoons soon to follow?

Bill Primavera is a licensed realtor affiliated with William Raveis Realty's Yorktown Heights office and a marketing practitioner. For questions or comments about the housing market or selling or buying a home, Bill can be reached directly at 914-522-2076.

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Aging With a Plan: Experts at The Feller Group, P.C. Can Help

As the holiday season approaches and family members from multiple generations gather together, thoughts of wellness and future security come to mind. At the Feller Group, P.C., the Mahopac-based law firm previously known as Sloan & Feller, the experienced staff will help clients make estate planning decisions and counsel them on how to look ahead in terms of caring for a loved one—something that can give peace of mind to the whole clan.

The practice which is made up of professionals in a discipline that is known as elder law, has helped clients for the past 20 years with matters such as wills, advance directives, guardianship, trusts, power of attorney, living wills and caregiving assistance. Having these legal issues settled in advance can ease the burden when one is faced with many difficult decisions at once.

“When someone in the family has a health care crisis or a health care issue and they go to the hospital, the family has to figure out what is going to happen, how they are going to deal with long-term care, how they are going to protect their finances,” said Alan Feller, owner of the firm.

To protect a family’s assets and financial well-being, for example, a medical coordinator is on staff to determine eligibility for Medicaid and to navigate its services. Staying prepared by completing necessary health-related legal directives along with anticipating costs—including tax consequences and other potential liabilities—is extremely important at any age, according to Feller, because no one is immune from a crisis.

“As far as getting basic documents, everyone should have a power of attorney in the case of a health care crisis or an accident—you will need to have other people make decisions for you and pay bills for you—and a health care proxy so that someone can speak for you if you can’t,” he said. “And whether you have a will or a trust, that depends on your estate and what your planning is going forward.”

The Brewster resident found his calling when his grandfather passed away in 1996 while Feller was attending Brooklyn Law school. He immediately understood that during life’s most challenging times, the logistics of handling care for an aging relative while preserving one’s finances can seem overwhelming. Feller decided to focus his career on providing clients with highly-personalized service and assisting them with creating proactive plans for the future.

It is something that has brought the attorney much satisfaction.

“The best part of it is that you’ll start with a conversation with someone looking for guidance—you will help them all the way through, and then you will work with their family, their siblings and their children. We stay with families through all types of issues and help people throughout their lives for many, many years.”

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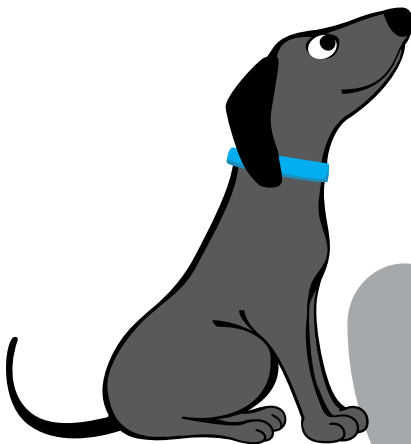


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Places to Dine When Going to Winter Wonderland at Kensico Dam Plaza

The ninth season of Westchester's Winter Wonderland will run from this Friday, Nov. 25 through Jan. 1 at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. The drive-thru event, sponsored by Westchester Medical Center and presented by the Westchester Parks Foundation, draws thousands for a big dose of holiday cheer.

The glittering 1.2-mile drive featuring thousands of lights chock full of festive seasonal attractions begins at 5 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. on weekends. Tickets are \$25 to \$35 per car.

This year Wegman's Market added Ned & Alberts Holiday Treat Bag as an option, and each carload is promised a personal visit by Santa.

For reservations and additional, call 914-231-4600 or visit www.winterwonderland.com.

If all this makes you hungry, here are some nearby dining suggestions for everyone in the family. It's a busy time of the year, so reserve ahead if you can.

Mulino's of Westchester

It is over the top at Mulino's of Westchester in White Plains during the holidays, and it begins with the bright glittering lights at the entrance. Its annual Christmas holiday fest lasts through the season, a sight to behold for the whole family. The fountain garden is beautiful as is the lavish dining room and bar and lounge.

General Manager Gimmy Cavagna and his staff are keeping the premises spiffy as ever: Christmas decorations galore, life-sized toy soldiers, bursting colorful floral displays and the handsome multilevel seating area. A special holiday menu is served. Open seven days. Valet parking. Reservations advised.

Mulino's of Westchester is located at 99 Court St. in White Plains. Info: 914-761-1818 or visit www.mulinosny.com.



Life-sized toy soldiers guard the dining room at Mulino's of Westchester during the holiday season.



By Morris Gut

Squire's of Briarcliff

Proprietor Kurt Knox has been serving patrons for a cool 55 years. When I entered the bar and lounge for the first time I felt right at home. The stories and history go perfectly with all the memorabilia on the walls in the bar and dining room.

We usually zero in on the Squire's Burger, topped with bacon and cheese and served on a soft bun with a mountain of fries. Their basic burger probably has not changed in

years. It is a retro-delish indulgence. The regular menu covers a lot of ground, and prime rib is listed on the weekends.

Squire's of Briarcliff is located at 94 N. State Rd. in Briarcliff Manor. Open daily. Free parking. Info: 914-762-3376 or visit www.squiresofbriarcliff.com.

The Barley House

A warm friendly greeting from the staff is a welcoming start. The wraparound bar with its barnwood accents and high tops is inviting. There is a good craft beer selection posted on the wall. A second dining room is a little less noisy on the side of the freestanding house.

Portions are very generous and nicely plated. There's a giant homemade soft pretzel with dipping sauce, and that was just for starters. Then there were those overstuffed sandwiches. My pastrami Reuben with Swiss, coleslaw and Russian dressing on rye and served with fries was decadence on a plate.

Their burgers are prepared with a blend of short rib, brisket and chuck, served on a croissant-brioche bun.

Owner Bobby Harris also operates The Barley Beach House in Rye and the seasonal Barley on the Hudson in Tarrytown.

The Barley House is located at 665 Commerce St. in Thornwood. Info: 914-495-3333 or visit www.thebarleyhouseny.com.

Mughal Palace

Owner Mohammad Alam serves delicious Indian regional specialties. Look for the tandoori chicken or shrimp; lasuni Gobi (cauliflower florets tossed with bell peppers, onion, garlic and green herbs); chicken barbecue kabab; Lamb Bhuna (pieces of lamb cooked in a medium-spiced sauce of bell peppers, tomatoes and fresh Indian herbs); and mango chicken (boneless chunks of chicken cooked with fresh mango, ginger, garlic and dry spices). There's a bar to get a drink. Open seven days.

Mughal Palace is located at 16 Broadway in Valhalla. Info: 914-997-6090 or visit www.mughalpalace.com.

Valhalla Crossing

Personable owners Stan and Louise Chelluck operate this bustling vintage old train station next to Valhalla's Metro-North stop. Over the years, Chelluck has spruced up the railroad cars, facade and sweeping bar and offers flavorful authentic rail car dining. The kitchen serves an eclectic menu of American tavern



The mouthwatering prime rib is a great reason to go to Squire's of Briarcliff.



The Barley House in Hawthorne offers a delicious pastrami Reuben with fries.

specialties – wings, sliders, burgers with choice of toppings, mac 'n cheese, chicken pot pie, fresh salads and wraps. There's a kid's menu, too. Portions are generous.

Valhalla Crossing is located at 2 Cleveland St. in Valhalla, just off the Taconic Parkway and across from Broadway. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Free parking. Info: 914-682-4076 or visit www.valhallacrossing.com.

Village Creamery & Sweet Shop

Walk down Broadway in Valhalla and stop at the most colorful shop in the hamlet. Village Creamery & Sweet Shop owners John and Kristin Caldarola have done a charming job decorating the shop's front. It is all decked out in a palette of color highlighting all their tempting homemade ice creams, soft serve,

Italian ices, crepes and waffles, candy, espresso, latte and coffee. There are acai bowls, too. A good place to cheer up and relax.

Village Creamery & Sweet Shop is located at 32 Broadway in Valhalla. Info: 914-421-1300 or visit www.villagecreamerysweetshop.com.

Alex's Bar & Grille

Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj updated the menu at his restaurant, offering big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served northern Italian and continental fare. The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with white tablecloths and colorful de Villeneuve impressionist paintings. Mediterranean clay-colored banquets and chairs complement wooden walls and plush beige curtained windows.

Check out specialties such as the pan-fried calamari with hot cherry peppers; linguini alla vongole; a delicious fresh branzino prepared tableside; classic veal parmigiana; grilled filet mignon; New York sirloin steak; a hefty rib-eye; or pork chops. There's also a bar and lounge.

Alex's Bar & Grille is located at 577 N. Broadway in White Plains. Info: 914-358-1444 or visit www.alex577.com.

The Beehive



A delectable cannoli is a great way to end a meal at Alex's Bar & Grille.

The Beehive has been buzzing in Armonk for 15 years for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Their comforting combination of eclectic specialties sprinkled with a tasty Greek influence has patrons returning to this popular dining destination on Old Route 22.

It is a diner-esque experience. Try the Greek spanakopita with fresh dill, spinach and feta cheese wrapped in country phyllo or the Turkey Chop Chop Cobb Salad loaded with cubed roast turkey, avocado, egg, bacon, tomato and a big helping of creamy ranch dressing on the side. Takeout and curbside pick-up is available. Open daily.

The Beehive is located at 30 Old Route 22 in Armonk. Info: 914-765-0688 or visit www.beehive-restaurant.com.

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

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
CHAPPAQUA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT,
IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York, adopted on October 3, 2022, a Special District Meeting of the qualified voters of said School District will be held on:

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 9:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) at the Gymnasium of the Horace Greeley High School, Chappaqua, New York for the purpose of voting upon the following Bond Propositions:

BOND PROPOSITION #1

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to District school buildings and/or sites (the "Project") substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C. (the "Plan"), available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk, including (as and where necessary): roof replacements and/or reconstruction; improvements to the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical, fire safety, lighting, and communications systems; bridge replacement; and site and athletic improvements including the construction of bathrooms, a storage building, playground resurfacing and a modified baseball field and paving improvements; all of the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$33,985,000; provided that the costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Plan may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District;
- (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and
- (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

BOND PROPOSITION #2

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct a single point of entry at Horace Greeley High School (the "Project") substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C. (the "Plan"), available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk, including (as and where necessary): including a new entrance and connector to gymnasium, and reconfiguration of main office; the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$11,340,000; provided that the costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Plan may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District;
- (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and
- (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

Such Bond Propositions shall appear on the ballot used for voting at said Special District Meeting in substantially the following condensed forms:

BOND PROPOSITION #1

YES NO

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to District school buildings and/or sites, substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C., and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$33,985,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

BOND PROPOSITION #2

YES NO

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct a single point of entry at Horace Greeley High School, substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C., and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$11,340,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

The voting will be conducted by ballot as provided in the Education Law and the polls will remain open from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 9:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters then present to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that registration of voters is required pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law. If a voter has registered to vote with the School District and has voted at an annual or special school district meeting within the last four calendar years, (after January 1, 2018) s/he is eligible to vote at this Special District Meeting. If a voter is currently registered to vote with the Westchester County Board of Elections, s/he is also eligible to vote in this Special District Meeting. All other persons who wish to vote must register. Registration may be done on any business day at the office of the District Clerk, during business hours, at the Education Center at 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, New York, up to November 23, 2022. Any person possessing all of the following qualifications may register to vote:

1. Is a citizen of the United States; and
2. Is eighteen years of age or older; and
3. Has resided in the School District for a period of thirty days immediately preceding the day of the Special District Meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared, including the names of military voters who submitted valid military registrations, shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:30 o'clock A.M. and 4:00 o'clock P.M., (Prevailing Time), beginning November 23, 2022, except legal holidays, Sunday and on Saturday, November 26, 2022 by appointment only. Said register will be open for inspection at the polling place on the date of the election and vote.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, applications for absentee ballots for said Special District Meeting may be obtained at the Office of the School District Clerk. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no more than thirty (30) days and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the Special District Meeting, if the ballot will be picked up personally at the District Clerk's Office by the voter or the voter's designated agent set forth in the application. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 o'clock P.M., (Prevailing Time), on November 29, 2022.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued and a list of all military voters to whom military ballots shall have been issued, will be available for inspection from qualified voters of the District in the said office of the District Clerk during regular office hours, 8:30 o'clock A.M. to 4:30 o'clock P.M., (Prevailing Time), until the day of the Special District Meeting. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Military Voters who are not currently registered to vote may request an application to register as a qualified voter of the District and Military Voters who are registered to vote may request an application for a military ballot by contacting the District Clerk at 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514, Telephone (914) 238-7200, Ext. 1002 or email: lielsner@chappaquaschools.org, for the Special District Meeting on November 29, 2022. The Military Voter may indicate their preference for receiving the registration application and/or application for military ballot by mail, facsimile or email. The application to register and the application for military ballot must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. (Prevailing Time) on November 3, 2022. Military ballots will be mailed or otherwise distributed no later than 25 days before the election. Military ballots must be returned by mail or in person and received by the District Clerk by 5:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) on November 29, 2022.

Only qualified voters who are duly registered will be permitted to vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dated: October 3, 2022
LIISA ELSNER
DISTRICT CLERK

**AVISO DE REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DEL DISTRITO
DISTRITO ESCOLAR CENTRAL DE CHAPPAQUA
EN EL CONDADO DE WESTCHESTER, NUEVA YORK**

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que, de conformidad con una resolución de la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York adoptada el 3 de octubre de 2022, se llevará a cabo una Reunión Especial del Distrito para los votantes cualificados de dicho Distrito Escolar el:

martes, 29 de noviembre de 2022

desde las 7:00 AM a las 9:00 PM (hora vigente) en el gimnasio de la Escuela Secundaria Horace Greeley, Chappaqua, Nueva York, con el propósito de votar sobre las siguientes Propuestas de Bonos:

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 1
SE RESUELVE:

- (a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), por la presente está autorizada a construir mejoras y modificaciones en los edificios y/o sitios escolares del Distrito (el “Proyecto”) sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, PC (el “Plan”), disponible para inspección pública en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, que incluye (según y donde sea necesario): reemplazos de techo y /o reconstrucción; mejoras a los sistemas de calefacción, ventilación, aire acondicionado, electricidad, seguridad contra incendios, iluminación y comunicaciones; reemplazo de puente y mejoras deportivas y del sitio, incluida la construcción de baños, un edificio de almacenamiento, repavimentación del patio de recreo y un campo modificado de béisbol y mejoras de pavimentación; todo lo anterior para incluir el mobiliario original, el equipo, la maquinaria, el aparato y el sitio auxiliar o relacionado, la demolición y otros trabajos requeridos en relación con los mismos; y a gastar para ello, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales y para el financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$33,985,000; siempre que los costos de los componentes del Proyecto como se establece en el Plan puedan reasignarse entre dichos componentes si la Junta de Educación determina que dicha reasignación es en el mejor interés del Distrito;
- (b) que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto total que no exceda \$33,985,000 para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y cobrará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que serán determinadas por dicha Junta de Educación; y
- (c) que anticipándose a dicho impuesto, se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por el monto principal que no exceda los \$33,985,000 y se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos, a medida que los mismos vengzan y sean pagaderos.

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 2
SE RESUELVE:

- (a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), está autorizada por la presente a construir un único punto de entrada en la escuela secundaria Horace Greeley (el “Proyecto”) sustancialmente como está descrito en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, PC (el “Plan”), disponible para inspección pública en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito, incluyendo (según y donde sea necesario): una nueva entrada y conexión con el gimnasio, y reconfiguración de la oficina principal; lo anterior para incluir el mobiliario original, el equipo, la maquinaria, el aparato y el sitio auxiliar o relacionado, la demolición y otros trabajos requeridos en relación con los mismos; y para gastar por ello, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales a los mismos y al financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$11,340,000; siempre que los costos de los componentes del Proyecto como se establece en el Plan puedan reasignarse entre dichos componentes si la Junta de Educación determina que dicha reasignación es en el mejor interés del Distrito;
- (b) Que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto total que no exceda \$11,340,000 para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y cobrará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que serán determinadas por dicha Junta de Educación; y
- (c) que anticipándose a dicho impuesto, se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por el monto principal que no exceda los \$11,340,000 y se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos, a medida que los mismos vengzan y sean pagaderos.

Dicha Propuesta de Bono aparecerá en las boletas utilizadas para votar en dicha Reunión Especial de Distrito en sustancialmente la siguiente forma condensada:

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 1
SÍ NO

SE RESUELVE:

- (a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), está autorizada por la presente a construir mejoras y modificaciones en los edificios y/o sitios escolares del Distrito, sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, PC, y gastarlo, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales y el financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$33,985,000; (b) que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto total que no exceda los \$33,985,000 para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y recaudará en cuotas en los años y en los montos que determine dicha Junta de Educación; y (c) que en previsión de dicho impuesto, por la presente se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por un monto de capital que no exceda los \$33,985,000 y por la presente se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos a medida que vengzan y sean pagaderos.

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 2

SÍNO

SE RESUELVE:
(a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), está autorizada por la presente a construir un único punto de entrada en la escuela secundaria Horace Greeley, sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, P.C., y gastar para ello, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales y el financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$11,340,000 .para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y recaudará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que determine dicha Junta de Educación; y (c) que en previsión de dicho impuesto, por la presente se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por un monto de capital que no exceda los \$11,340,000 y por la presente se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos a medida que vencen y son pagaderos.

La votación se llevará a cabo mediante boletas según lo dispuesto en la Ley de Educación y los centros de votación permanecerán abiertos de 7:00 A.M. a 9:00 P.M. (hora vigente) y más tiempo según sea necesario para permitir que los votantes presentes emitan sus votos.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que se requiere el registro de votantes de conformidad con la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación. Si los votantes han sido registrados previamente en el distrito escolar para votar y han votado en una reunión anual o especial de Distrito escolar dentro de los últimos cuatro años, ellos reúnen los requisitos para votar. Si un(a) votante está actualmente registrado(a) para votar con la Junta Electoral del Condado de Westchester, también es elegible para votar en esta Reunión Especial del Distrito. Todas las personas que deseen votar deberán registrarse. La inscripción se puede realizar cualquier día hábil en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito, durante el horario laboral, en el Centro de Educación en 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, Nueva York, hasta el 23 de noviembre de 2022. Cualquier persona que posea todas las siguientes cualificaciones puede registrarse para votar:

- 1. Es ciudadano(a) de los Estados Unidos
- 2. Tiene dieciocho (18) años o más; y
- 3. Ha residido en el distrito escolar por un período de treinta (30) días inmediatamente anteriores al día de la votación;

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que el registro de votantes así preparado, incluidos los nombres de los votantes militares que presentaron registros militares válidos, se archivará en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito y estará abierto para su inspección por parte de cualquier votante calificado del Distrito entre el horario de 8:30 A. M. y 4:00 P.M., (hora vigente), a partir del 23 de noviembre de 2022, excepto feriados legales, domingos y el sábado 26 de noviembre de 2022 solo con cita previa. Dicho registro estará abierto para inspección en el lugar de votación en la fecha de la elección y votación.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que las solicitudes de boletas de voto en ausencia pueden obtenerse en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito Escolar. La solicitud completa debe ser recibida por la secretaria del Distrito no más de treinta (30) días y al menos siete (7) días antes de la elección si la boleta se enviará por correo a los votantes o el día anterior a la Reunión Especial del Distrito, si la boleta será recogida personalmente en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito por los votantes o los agentes designados por los votantes en la solicitud. Las boletas de voto en ausencia deben ser recibidas por la secretaria del Distrito no más tarde de las 5:00 P.M., hora vigente, el 29 de noviembre de 2022.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que una lista de todas las personas a las que se les habrán emitido boletas de voto en ausencia y una lista de todos los votantes militares a quienes se les habrán emitido boletas militares estará disponible para inspección de los votantes calificados del Distrito en dicha oficina de la secretaria del Distrito durante el horario regular de oficina, de 8:30 A.M. a 4:30 P.M., (hora vigente), hasta el día de la Reunión Especial del Distrito. Todos los votantes calificados pueden presentar una impugnación por escrito acerca de la cualificación de uno de los votantes cuyo nombre aparezca en dicha lista, exponiendo los motivos para la impugnación.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que los votantes militares que actualmente no están registrados para votar pueden solicitar registrarse como votantes calificados del Distrito y los votantes militares que están registrados para votar pueden obtener una solicitud de una boleta militar, poniéndose en contacto con la Secretaria del Distrito en 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514, teléfono (914) 238-7200, Ext. 1002 o correo electrónico: lielsner@chappaqua-schools.org, para la Reunión Especial del Distrito el 29 de noviembre de 2022. Los votantes militares pueden indicar su preferencia de recibir la solicitud de registro y/o boleta por correo, fax o correo electrónico. La solicitud completa para registrarse y/o la solicitud para una boleta militar debe ser recibida por la secretaria del Distrito no más tarde de las 5:00 P.M. (hora vigente) el 3 de noviembre de 2022. Las boletas de voto militar se enviarán por correo o se distribuirán a más tardar 25 días antes de la elección. Las boletas de voto militar deben ser devueltas por correo o en persona y deben ser recibidas por la secretaria del Distrito no más tarde de las 5:00 P.M. (hora vigente) el 29 de noviembre de 2022.

Sólo los votantes calificados que están registrados para votar podrán votar.

POR ORDEN DE LA JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN

Fechada: 3 de octubre de 2022
LIISA ELSNER
SECRETARIA DEL DISTRITO

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Two New Producers Added for P'ville Farmers Market Winter Season

Adding to the momentum of a successful summer and fall season at the Pleasantville Farmers Market, two new vendors join the market in December, providing additional opportunities for shoppers to purchase wheat-free, vegan baked goods and high-quality, well-cared-for meat from the Catskills.

"We are very excited to add these two new producers to our Market," said Executive Director of Market Operations Steven Bates. "We've tasted their delicious products and can't wait to introduce them to the community."

New vendors Bohemian Baked and Hilly Acres Farms join more than 50 producers who already sell at the market.

Bohemian Baked sells wheat-free, dairy-free and vegan baked goods ranging from breads to cupcakes and everything in between using plant-based and natural ingredients. Starting Dec. 10, Bohemian Baked will be at the market twice a month.

Hilly Acres Farm is affordably priced beef, pork, lamb, poultry, turkey and eggs lovingly raised on a farm in the Catskills. Hilly Acres will sell a wide range of sausages and meat cuts. They will be at the market weekly beginning Dec. 3.

"We're especially excited that these producers have agreed to join us this winter," said Peter Rogovin, president of Foodchester, Inc., which runs the market.



"We take great pride in the quality of our vendor selections, and we know that they bring the best of the Hudson Valley to Pleasantville."

The market will be closed this Saturday, Nov. 26, and open again outside at Memorial Plaza on Dec. 3 for its 11th winter season.

Winter hours remain consistent with last year; it will open at 9 a.m. and close at 11:30 a.m.

"We're really proud that we're one of the few markets that remains open weekly throughout the winter; we're truly a year-

round market," Bates said. "Since we moved permanently outdoors two years ago, we shortened our winter hours so that our farmers and food artisans don't have to be out too long and they can keep their items from freezing in the cold winter temperatures."

Shoppers can save time in the market by pre-ordering on its easy-to-use PFM-O, an online service that showcases all of the items available in the market for the coming week. This online ordering service allows shoppers to place their order with multiple vendors in one easy transaction, pay with their credit card and then visit the market to pick up their pre-ordered items.

Pre-ordering is especially important with delicate greens and apples, which are safely stored for handout. Neither can be displayed in freezing weather.

PFM-O is available at <https://pleasantvillefarmersmarket.localfoodmarketplace.com/Index>

The Pleasantville Farmers Market remains committed to the health and safety of the whole community, including shoppers, vendors, volunteers and staff.

Visit pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org to shop online, get to know participating producers or to learn more about the market's COVID-related restrictions.

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28, 2022 at 8:00pm in person at
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Avenue, Pleasantville, New York
10570 and via Zoom Meeting id
87388256589, Password 022402
to hear comments on Introductory
Local Law 10 of 2022 concerning
the real property tax exemption
for persons with disabilities and
limited incomes.

Alyssa Hochstein
Deputy Clerk, Village of
Pleasantville

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Your Glass of Wine May Have a Water Additive



By Nick Antonaccio

Wine is a natural gift that exemplifies the beauty and wonder of the balance of nature. As a fruit of the gods, it evolves through its interdependencies with the land – and humankind. It is often said that 90 percent of a wine

is made in the vineyard and 10 percent in the winery, a testament to man's respect of nature and humble appreciation of its mastery.

For millennia, wine has been revered for its many qualities: as a life-sustaining liquid, an elixir and a social lubricant. Today, winemakers and consumers have the same high regard for wine and consider the traditional growing and production techniques employed in its creation to be sacrosanct.

However, to a certain extent this may be perception over reality. From adulterating wine with additives to diluting it with liquids, man has interfered with the balance of nature. One of these dilutive adulterations is especially revealing and is the theme of this week's column.

In ancient times, the inhabitants of

'In California, regulators permit the limited addition of Jesus units'

Egypt, Greece and the Roman Empire consumed wine as an integral component of their diet. However, it was not the quality product it is today. Crudely grown and vinified, but appealing for its alcohol (as an inebriant), water was added to tame the wine's bitterness and off-flavors (typically in a ratio of two to three portions of water to one portion of wine).

This was an acceptable and preferred practice and had a desired side effect: more socially responsible, sober imbibers. This ancient practice faded out over time as winemaking techniques improved and consumer palates became more selective.

There is a holdover. The rite of adding several drops of water to wine was practiced by Jesus as a custom of his time. That custom was embraced by the Catholic Church as a symbol of the Last

Supper at Passover, and continues today to symbolize the human aspect of Christ's time on Earth.

Today, modern winemakers produce wine in its natural state and for its intrinsic qualities, which would be abhorrent to alter in any way, especially dilution with

water. In addition, regulations exist to prevent such practices.

Well, kinda, sorta.

Surprisingly, wine dilution practices still exist in small pockets across the wine producing world.

Where? California, for one.

Americans tend to like their wines more fruit forward and less acidic than many of their European counterparts. Therefore, a number of winemakers let grapes mature and ripen as long as possible to build up higher concentrations of flavor and sugars in grapes. However, this extended "hang-time" invariably will reduce the volume of water in grapes (leading to potential dehydration) and increase the level of alcohol in fermented wine juice.

The presence of additional alcohol may counteract the natural aroma and flavor of a wine. Consumers' olfactory senses are influenced by the chemistry of alcohol. If alcohol levels are excessive, the natural characteristics of a wine may be out of balance; our sense of smell and taste could become compromised.

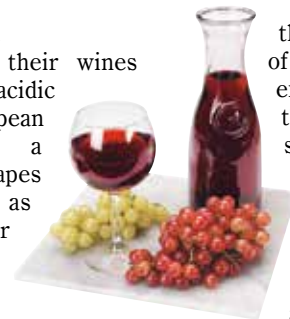
In California, regulators permit the limited addition of "Jesus units" (a term

for water, referencing his miracle of transforming water into wine at the Marriage at Cana). Presumably, the intent is to 1) compensate for the loss of water in overly ripened (dehydrated) grapes by adding volume to them and 2) lower the level of alcohol to keep it in balance with the natural profile of the wine. Proponents argue minor dilution actually enhances the aromas and flavor of certain wines.

It is not clear how widespread this practice is, or the amount of water added. As you might expect, winemakers who follow this legally acceptable – some say desirable – procedure are reluctant to disclose it publicly.

At times, there is a fine line between tradition and modernity – and between adulteration and conscientious dilution. After thousands of years of winemaking and consumption, these issues are still relevant.

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



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Happy Thanksgiving

*From our family to yours,
Have a Happy and
Safe Thanksgiving*



Our Local Equity Fights are the Latest Chapter in an Old Story

He was a Black baseball trailblazer. Organized pro ball's first known African American player. A Hall of Famer who starred right here in New York, a car ride from Westchester.

And no, I'm not referring to Jackie Robinson.

Let me explain.

Last weekend I took a pilgrimage with my older daughter to Cooperstown, for our second trip together to the inimitable Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. (My sixth visit, including twice in childhood.)

When we arrived at the Negro League section of the exhibit, we expected to learn about, well, Negro League Baseball.

But the images on the museum's hallowed walls that captivated us most were of Bud Fowler, the earliest known African American player in organized, professional, mostly white baseball; Fowler was inducted posthumously to the Hall just four months ago, in July.

Color Wars

A Cooperstown resident himself as a boy, Fowler began his long career of playing, coaching and promoting the game in 1878, starting as an infielder and pitcher.

Fowler was flanked by white teammates in one of the photographs we saw, and we started to read up about the history of African Americans in pro ball. We were most interested in this window of late 19th century time when a stricter color line had yet to emerge and firmly harden.

We discovered how Fowler endured nasty, persistent racism throughout his baseball life. Cap Anson, one of the game's early greats, helped orchestrate efforts to stymie any acceptance of people of color in pro ball, Fowler and otherwise.

The race hatred propelled Fowler into a nomadic baseball life, leaping from one team to another. By 1890, Black players were effectively banned, a caption accompanying a photo of Fowler at the exhibit explained.

"My skin is against me," Fowler later wrote, in 1895, the same year he helped found The Page Fence Giants, a famous Black barnstorming team.

"The race prejudice is so strong that my Black skin barred me," added Fowler, whose birth name was John W. Jackson.

In examining Fowler's life, it struck me how you can tell the story of America's late 19th-century and early 20th-century

reckoning with race through Fowler's journey.

Backlash

The Civil War over, and the slaves freed, Reconstruction just ended as Fowler's baseball career began. But the post-Reconstruction

backlash to progress impacted every walk of American life, and baseball was far from immune.

Some opponents and teammates refused to play if Fowler or other people of color took the field. That led to both formal and informal aspects of the eventual ban, a result of both tacit "gentleman's agreements" and officialdom.

In the decades that followed in the United States, an infinite volume of acts, large and small, produced various degrees of racial progress, culminating, in baseball's case, with Jackie Robinson's famous debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. (Just a half-dozen years after a poverty-stricken and sickly Fowler died in 1913 in Frankfort, N.Y., a healthy baby named Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born in Cairo, Ga.)

Amidst and after Jackie's triumphs, in the '50s, '60s, and even the '70s, the fight was about basic civil rights. In the '80s, '90s, early 2000s and 2010s, the battle was about pushing for progress in having the spirit of the law match the letter of the law, not to mention reforming the law itself, to address social justice.

And now, in the 2020s, as those older battles endure, there's also an

intensifying fight over equity in our culture, examining the way our diverse melting pot of a country interacts at school, at work and throughout every walk of daily American life. It's about understanding our complicated past, and how that past impacts our present and forecastable future.

In this era, it seems a week can't go by where we don't end up pulled into covering a local saga with race at the forefront, or at least within the subtext. Just as we were writing about the story of a Somers High School English teacher getting raked over the coals a couple of weeks ago for using a controversial anti-racism book in a lesson, we were also drawn into reporting out last week's local fight involving race and flavored nicotine.

Our piece last week about the local Black community's debate over the Board of Legislators' proposal to ban flavored tobacco in Westchester got me thinking about the mindboggling progress civil rights advocates have achieved over the past 150 or so years – the snap of a historical finger – and about what tactics have been used since Fowler's day to arrive at that progress.

It also got me thinking about how much additional progress today's and tomorrow's activists and pioneers will more than likely realize over the next generation or two.

On Monday, different factions of Black activists debated at a public hearing whether banning flavored tobacco in Westchester was a good idea, given the popularity of menthol cigarettes in the community.

Some Black leaders believe the ban is a great way to improve public health. Others say it can lead to racially-biased enforcement with life-threatening consequences, as the late Eric Garner's mother recently asserted at a White Plains press conference. Her son was notoriously choked to death in 2014 by police in Staten Island during an arrest for selling loose cigarettes.

Backwards and Forward

Contrasting the 19th and 20th-century debate over the racial ban with a 21st-century debate over a flavored nicotine ban is not at all designed to minimize today's battles. In fact, just the opposite. (It's also worth emphasizing how many of the racial issues we face

today feature more nakedly brutal inequities, in the areas of housing, policing and incarceration, to name just a

few.)

Yet if Fowler were here today, he'd be flabbergasted at our incredible progress, living in a country with a female Black vice president, a Black former president, two Black Supreme Court justices, and, not for nothing, Black Major League Baseball executives, Black managers, Black players and all the rest. All that advancement has been accomplished in a historical eye blink of time, with segregated water fountains federally outlawed only 57 years ago.

Fowler would also discover an America painfully striving to become a more perfect union, where grinding, slow, incremental progress is only achieved because people fight and fight hard for advancements large and small, whether that means



NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM PHOTO

Bud Fowler, back row, center, poses with his Keokuk teammates in 1885.

an inter-community squabble over the proper solution to predatory cigarette marketing or the complicated efforts to appropriately reform policing. Good progress doesn't and shouldn't mean good enough.

For anyone who thinks we're spiraling indefinitely backward, it's worth remembering how basic physics also applies to culture and politics – for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, whether in Fowler's era or any other.

Just as reconstruction created a backlash, U.S. racial tensions were also stirred by the election of the first Black president in 2008, ushering in populist pushback. Then came George Floyd's murder, and all we've been fighting about ever since here locally and across the country and the globe.

These spasms, while unsettling to live through, seem to be both inevitable and the precursor to more enduring, positive change. Fowler's ascent spawns Anson's rebukes. MLK's dream triggers Wallace's taunts. Palin and then Trump's populism, followed by Floyd's murder, ushers in constructive aspects of DEI as "woke" excesses also generate simultaneous pushback – both nuanced resistance and hateful indictments.

More than six grueling decades unfolded before Fowler led to Jackie. America's remarkable story of progress often seems to be a story of pioneers ferociously fighting across generations to gain one step, then fall two back, before their movement's children and grandchildren leap three or four steps in front of where their predecessors started.

It's encouraging to know how American history, from an institutional standpoint, is remembering these trailblazers.

There's even a Fowler Way in Fowler's native Cooperstown.

So, with all this in mind, if you haven't ever been to the Hall of Fame Museum, or are itching to return, do yourself a favor and make the trek to Cooperstown.

At the museum, you'll learn how baseball's story is the story of America's past century-and-a-half of pain and glory. (Not to mention how you'll also enjoy a much more lighthearted good time.)

It's a three-and-a-half-hour drive you won't regret.

Epilogue

It should also be quickly noted how this column, due to space constraints, neglects to capture the more complicated history of race rules in late 19th-century baseball and also fails to carefully dissect the differences between pro ball and the emerging "major leagues."

In general, all-Black teams were barred from the majors of the 1880s, according to the Negro League Baseball Museum. But individual Black players did receive opportunities to play, Museum Vice President and Curator Raymond Doswell told me.

Moses Fleetwood Walker is recognized by most historians as the first African American in the major leagues. Complicating matters further, a Black player named William White arrived first in 1879, but he pretended to be white.

"It is true, however, that Fowler played mostly outside of the major teams and was prolific in his travels," Doswell explained. "Historians describe him as the first known Black 'professional' player. That is why he is a pioneer."

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