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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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## Community Packs Tense but Orderly Lakeland School Meeting

By Abby Luby

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Lakeland High School auditorium as police guarded the lobby and aisles and were on stage with trustees during the Board of Education's tense but orderly meeting on Feb. 17.

The tense atmosphere came one week after the Feb. 10 meeting had become disorderly when several individuals screamed racial epithets and Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Gagliardi was escorted by police from the building. That forced the district to add security for last Thursday's meeting to

ensure the safety of those in attendance.

Tensions have been mounting since last year when the district established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) team, drawing the ire from a group of parents opposed to the program. Those parents have grown increasingly vocal at board meetings.

A large contingent of the audience was in solidarity with the district's proposed DEI program, including the Lakeland Federation of Teachers and the Yorktown Democratic Committee. Although the mood was tense, there was also a sense of comradery and enthusiasm.

At the start of the meeting, Board

President Adam Kaufman said comments made at the previous meeting were reprehensible.

"We welcome public comment and want to hear from those that disagree with us but with civility and decorum," he said. "We have a larger police presence and if anyone yells out or is disruptive, they will be removed. If they fail to comply the police will be pressing no-trespassing charges."

There were 34 people, including about six students, who signed up to speak Thursday evening. Miguel Feliciano, a Walter Panas High School senior and founder and president of the school's Equity

*continued on page 2*



PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

There was a standing-room only crowd at Lakeland High School for the Lakeland Board of Education meeting one week after racial epithets were used during a budget discussion that featured comments on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

## Croton Fire Department Honored for 130th Anniversary



New York State Senator Pete Harckham honored the Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department on its 130th anniversary at a special celebration recently, and also awarded a Senate proclamation to its longest serving member, John Giglio, who has been with the department 78 years. The award ceremony was held at the Washington Engine Firehouse on North Riverside Avenue.

## Peekskill BID President Appointed to Fill Seat on Common Council

By Rick Pezzullo

The president of the Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID) Board of Directors was appointed last week to fill a vacancy on the city's Common Council.

Brian Fassett, who just completed his fourth year as BID board president, was named to the council at the Feb. 14 meeting to occupy a seat left empty when Vivian McKenzie was elected mayor last Nov. and took office Jan. 1.

"We look forward to having Brian become a part of the council and believe he will make an excellent addition," McKenzie said. "Brian's years of experience as a business owner along with his community involvement and enthusiasm make him the perfect candidate to complete our council. We look forward to working alongside him as we lead the city through continued growth and transformation."

Fassett is a founding partner of Eclectic Precision, a design firm established in 2000,

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Brian Fassett

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# Peekskill in Search of City Manager as Stewart Departs for Nyack

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill Common Council is searching for a new city manager after Andrew Stewart announced he is leaving in March to take a job as village administrator in Nyack in Rockland County.

Stewart, who served three terms as town supervisor for Orangetown in Rockland from 2012 to 2017, was hired in Peekskill in mid-January in 2020 to replace former City Manager Richard Leins.

"Though I am leaving earlier than I had hoped, I am every proud of my service to Peekskill during an amazingly challenging two years, from police and fire department reform, to pandemic survival, staff turnover, major capital projects, two budgets, several new laws, grants, and strategic planning," Stewart said.

Following his tenure as supervisor,

Stewart was a Senior Vice President for Research & Analysis at Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a not-for-profit policy, planning, advocacy and research organization whose mission is to promote regional, balanced and sustainable solutions that enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. He also led community cleanups, beautification and educational efforts as the CEO of Keep Rockland Beautiful for 11 years, working closely with volunteer groups, schools, and local governments to reduce blight and improve quality of life for area residents.

Mayor Vivian McKenzie said Stewart will be missed.

"During these past two years, it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Andy," McKenzie said. "While his time as city manager has been anything but ordinary, he has helped lead our city

through an ongoing pandemic and brought much growth and positive change for our community. We will be sad to see him go and wish him all the best as he begins a new chapter."

Among the accomplishments cited during Stewart's tenure were the hiring of the city's first full-time fire chief; negotiating an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester to provide enhanced youth programming at the Kiley Center; passing an Affordable Housing Ordinance; and completing a Downtown Revitalization Initiative planning process after the city was awarded \$10 million from the state.

After Stewart leaves in mid-March, City Comptroller Matt Alexander will serve as Acting Search Manager while the city looks for a permanent replacement.



Andrew Stewart

## Community Packs Tense but Orderly Lakeland School Meeting

*continued from page 1*

Club, asked how the community became so divided. Feliciano was joined by students from several social justice advocacy clubs who openly support the district's proposed DEI program.

"We are prepared to join the DEI team and make our voices heard," said Feliciano. "We are here to stand up for what's right and stand up against hatred and bigotry."

Since last spring, the district has added members to the DEI team but its progress has slowed.

Michael Morey, a Panas graduate, lambasted the board for allowing people with extreme prejudices be on the DEI team and for renaming the DEI program Equity for All.

"We won't even use the words diversity and inclusion in this program and that says we are listening to voices we shouldn't be listening to," Morey said.

He said past actions by the board led to the disturbing outbursts at the previous meeting. He singled out Trustee Becky Burfeind who had previously stated that some voices were being excluded from the DEI process.

"She gave credence to the notion that all voices should be at the table, even the most extreme voices," Morey said. "We heard those voices last week; they were loud and

divisive and represent a fringe movement in this country of white grievance politics and they should not be at the table. For too long the board has let those voices slow-walk progress of DEI. You haven't done the best job in leading this district."

Many speakers commenting on the disturbing behavior on Feb. 10 were also critical of the board and its apparent inability to be in control of the meetings.

"As board trustees, I'm sorry, but your lack of leadership in regard to DEI and managing this from the onset, have allowed this type of behavior to fester," said Lisa Piccirillo, a 24-year district resident and mother of three children. "You need to unequivocally denounce this behavior."

"As a student, the incivility of adults acting in this way was disturbing and disconcerting for me and my peers," added seventh-grader Alex Ascanio, who received a standing ovation. "From a middle schooler, the adults in our district must do better. Do better."

Judy McLaughlin, team leader for the Lakeland chapter of Save Our Schools, a national organization that is critical of DEI programs and of critical race theory, said parents had the right to question their children's constitutional rights and the changing curriculum without being slandered.

"DEI has so many good things but not all of it is good," McLaughlin said. "The Black Lives Matter movement has been involved in Lakeland's DEI (program) and this has caused many to believe only one viewpoint is valued and the diversity of thought has no seat."

McLaughlin urged the audience to watch previous boards meetings to become fully informed.

Michael Lillis, president of the Lakeland Federation of Teachers who led a contingent of teachers to the meeting, said he was troubled about the district's future and referenced last week's meeting.

"The past year a great deal of toxicity has been spewed into this room," Lillis said. "There is a direct line between the behavior in this room and the behavior in our classrooms. We can no longer watch from the sidelines."

Lillis asked for a moment of silence to show appreciation for board members, after which he said, "Silence can communicate as much as any scream."

Daks Armstrong, a guidance counselor at Yorktown High School, said last week's board meeting was a wake-up call.

"Racism exists in our community in a big way," he said. "If you want to continue to brag about our amazing town and school district, we need to do this (DEI) work."

Impassioned comments often brought applause and standing ovations. But some comments elicited boos and jeers from the crowd, including when Cortlandt resident Heather Conway repeatedly asked how the district was paying for illegal students and berated the board for complying for the state's mask mandate for public schools.

Conway compared the board's attitude to that of Nazi supporters during World War II who also said they were just doing their job.

"Your actions are just as complacent as they were," she said.

Attending the meeting last night was Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-Yonkers), who would represent Yorktown if he wins re-election in the fall.

"I'm here to listen and learn about what's going on in order to understand the community, the parents, teachers and students," Bowman told The Examiner. "This is happening all over the country and is based on historic segregation writ large. It's important to know about each other, about the ignorance and hatred."

Also in attendance were state Sen. Pete Harcham (D-Lewisboro), whose district includes Lakeland, state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers), chair of the Senate's Education Committee, Westchester County legislators Colin Smith and Vedat Gashi and Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater.

## Verplanck Thrift Boutique Hosting Prom Dress Giveaway

Let It Shine is a 501-c-3 volunteer run nonprofit organization created to "gather love and give it away" and connect women to the goods and services they need. Currently, Let It Shine is giving away scores of free dresses to prom goers throughout the Hudson Valley.

The "Let It Shine Again" Thrift Boutique (L.I.S.A) is hosting a Prom Dress Giveaway. Dresses are on display at the boutique where students can select one free of charge Saturdays and Sundays during regular hours, or by appointment, through April. Prom goers are encouraged to bring friends and family to say "Yes!", to the free prom dress.

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Let It Shine's L.I.S.A Boutique and The Sunday Market on the River (May - October) support the Let It Shine Food Pantry.

For more information, visit [letitshineonline.com](http://letitshineonline.com) and email [info@LetItShineOnline.com](mailto:info@LetItShineOnline.com).

## Peekskill BID President Appointed to Fill Seat on Common Council

*continued from page 1*

and Vivid RGB Lighting, an LED product development company founded in 2011. He and his husband, Sepp Spennlinhauer, purchased the historic Peekskill Evening Star building in 2015 and then moved to Peekskill a year later after living in Crown Heights in Brooklyn for 15 years.

In 2018, Fassett won a seat on the BID Board of Directors. In 2019, he led an effort to form Peekskill Pride, a nonprofit organization with a mission to create safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community where he currently serves as president of the board.

"My passion for making the City of Peekskill a better place for everyone grows

every day that I wake up here, and I am truly honored by this appointment," Fassett stated. "I thank the City Council members for their trust and look forward to bringing my skills to this diverse team."

"As a council member, I'll continue building on the touchstones that I have already been involved with during the last four years as BID president, honoring Peekskill's rich history and looking to a brighter future," he added. "I am committed to doing my best to represent all of the people of Peekskill as we are all on this journey together."

To retain his seat, which has an unexpired term, Fassett will have to run for election in November.

# Westchester Unveils New Opioid Prevention Effort as Crisis Deepens

By Martin Wilbur

A sharp rise in Westchester overdose deaths since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted county health and law enforcement officials to partner on a new initiative to save lives.

County Executive George Latimer and District Attorney Mimi Rocah last Wednesday introduced the Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative (ORI) that coordinates strategies among the Departments of Community Mental Health, Health, Social Services, Public Safety, the Medical Examiner's Office, the and the County Executive's office to partner with the District Attorney's office and local and federal law enforcement to try and reverse the disturbing trend.

Rocah said too many families across Westchester have lost loved ones in recent years. A serious problem before the onset of the pandemic, overdoses have continued to soar. In 2020, there were 119 overdoses in the county, representing about a 30 percent spike from 2019.

"Too many young people have struggled painfully with substance abuse and too many of our communities have shouldered the burden of this crisis, facing crime and sometimes violence driven by illegally trafficking opioids," Rocah said.

The strategy will include collaboration on public health and law enforcement data sharing; identifying the communities most in need of overdose support services; provide more effective education, training and distribution of Narcan, a medication administered to reverse serious overdoses; increase community education, outreach and support services to populations in need; make access easier for those who need addiction, mental health and co-occurring treatment, harm reduction and family support services, including substance use prevention services; and implement evidence-based treatment approaches for individuals with addiction who are also struggling with co-occurring mental health needs.

Michael Orth, the commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health, said the ORI initiative brings together the resources and those with the expertise to address the county's opioid crisis.

As people have been more isolated over the past two years, the need to help people has exploded, he said.

"We have all seen the need before and since the pandemic as it relates to opioid and overdose," Orth said. "Tragically, many of our residents have been impacted by opioids as a result of pain treatment (and) management, traumatic stress, addiction and co-occurring medical substance abuse."

What has added to the crisis is the presence of fentanyl in those substances, said Terrance Raynor, deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. Fentanyl, which is inexpensive and easy for dealers to obtain, makes an opioid 80 to 100 times more potent than morphine, he said.

Last year alone in Westchester, law enforcement recovered more than 11 pounds of fentanyl, 12,000 fentanyl pills, 20 pounds of heroin and 2,000 pounds of cocaine. It is fentanyl that has helped cause the explosion of overdoses.

"Many drug users do not realize the product they're taking contains this deadly substance, which is the leading cause of overdose deaths throughout the country, hence the need for first responders to continue training in the use of Narcan in the hopes of saving lives," Raynor said.

Some of the strategies use a novel approach. County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said, for example, public safety, the Department of Community Mental Health and Social Services are piloting a program to install lockboxes in homeless shelters that will contain Narcan and fentanyl test kits.

"Going forward, the unique expertise of the ORI representatives here is going to help us gain valuable insight into the way we understand this problem and presents us (a chance) to make even greater strides we hope in our overdose prevention efforts," Amler said.

Latimer said he recognizes that solutions to ease the opioid crisis have been elusive but the county is making a bold statement to protect those who are in jeopardy of falling prey.

"This interdisciplinary effort is to try and save that other person who has a son or a daughter who's in jeopardy from going through this and losing their life and then causing ripples all throughout the lives of their neighbors," Latimer said. "That's what we're trying to prevent with this."



Westchester County Executive George Latimer speaks last week at the launch of the Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative, which seeks to address the spiraling number of overdoses in the county.

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# Communities Grapple With How to Provide More Affordable Housing

## Accessory Dwelling, Transit Oriented Plans Removed From State Budget

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Kathy Hochul removed two controversial pieces of housing-related legislation from her proposed Executive Budget last week, both of which drew harsh criticisms from most municipal officials throughout Westchester and the state.

The accessory dwelling unit (ADU) law, originally proposed by state Sen. Peter Harcham (D-Lewisboro) and Hochul's own Transit Oriented Development (TOD) proposal, both of which had been inserted into the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, were set aside last Thursday evening by the governor.

In a statement, Hochul said after receiving significant pushback from communities across New York, she would opt to take a different route to make housing in the state more affordable.

"I have heard real concerns about the proposed approach on accessory dwelling units and transit-oriented development, and I understand that my colleagues in the State Senate believe a different set of tools is needed, even if they agree with the goal of supporting the growth of this kind of housing," Hochul said. "So, I am submitting a 30-day amendment to my budget legislation

that removes requirements on localities in order to facilitate a conversation about how we build consensus around solutions."

Towns throughout Westchester and elsewhere in recent weeks had begun approving resolutions rebuking the plan, which would have allowed each residential parcel to have an accessory dwelling unit with sharply reduced restrictions. Local officials argued it amounted to loss of local control that would irreparably harm their communities and the environment.

For some, the TOD proposal was an even greater concern, which would have allowed up to 25 units per acre within a half-mile radius of a train station.

After her announcement, Harcham issued a one-paragraph statement concerning the governor's decision.

"I understand Governor Hochul's decision to remove the ADU initiative from the Executive Budget; this action highlights our primary concern, which is to get all of the details of the bill right, rather than enact a bill right away," he stated. "I will continue to engage with stakeholders and work to settle all concerns with this legislation. It is important that we keep driving a conversation, however, on affordable housing for our workforce and equitable treatment for our residents."

Despite most towns in Westchester having adopted forms of local ADU regulations as well as affordable housing legislation based on the county's model ordinance stemming from the county's

2009 affordable housing settlement with the federal government, Harcham said those efforts have failed to put a dent in what he described as a housing crisis across the state.

Proponents of his bill pointed to the 2019 Westchester Housing Needs Assessment, which concluded 11,703 additional units of affordable housing were needed to meet demand in the county alone. The assessment came 15 years after Rutgers University released a study for the county that had pegged that number at 10,768.

The 2019 assessment also found that more than 20 percent of county residents spent more than half their income on housing expenses.

Harcham said earlier last week, two days before Hochul pulled the ADU legislation, that as earnest as the attempts have been to have greater housing affordability, those efforts have failed.

"The reason why the state needs to get involved is because our system of local control has failed when it comes to housing," he said. "We have a housing crisis in New York, not just in Westchester, but let's focus on Westchester. The average price for a new home last month was over \$750,000. We pay the highest property taxes in the nation. How do our seniors on fixed incomes stay in their homes? How do our young people who've gone away to college come back and find a place to live when everything is single-family zoning and there are no apartments?"



Gov. Kathy Hochul removed accessory dwelling unit and transit-oriented development legislation from the next fiscal year's state budget after opposition to the plans swelled.

Local officials who spoke after Hochul's removal of the items from the budget, said they want to work with the state but the plan that was offered was the wrong approach.

Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich said all sides need to take a step back and do the hard work such as analyzing whether communities that have laws that create more ADUs are more affordable. Mount Kisco, for example, does not have ADU

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# Communities Grapple With How to Provide More Affordable Housing

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legislation, but is one of the more affordable communities in the area.

She agreed with nearly all of her local colleagues that because of unique sets of variables in each community a one-size-fits-all approach was the wrong strategy to employ.

"I greatly appreciate Sen. Harckham who has been an advocate for reducing housing costs for a very long time," Picinich said. "But we need a broader coalition. Folks just sitting in Albany, we cannot expect for them to have the answers and we need a broader coalition."

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro, who was perhaps the most outspoken official against the legislation, said he was pleased the ADU and TOD measures were pulled from the budget, although they could remain as standalone bills. He urged residents to continue to write their state representatives to make sure that the legislation

Schiliro said he would support a task force that includes all stakeholders to see how more affordable housing can be realized without ceding local control. The decision-making process has to remain with local officials because they have the knowledge about what would work regarding concerns about the environment, parking, strain on emergency services and schools, he said.

Similar to many towns, North Castle has had accessory dwelling unit regulations

on its books since 1984, that has produced more than 80 units. The town approved creation of middle-income units in the mid-1990s and adopted an affordable housing ordinance in 2014.

"We're happy to be part of the solution but this (legislation) was a problem and you can see how fervently people pushed back... in what they are trying to do because we support those efforts, but it was how they were trying to do it and one size cannot fit all," Schiliro said.

Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford) recommended the state provide incentives for towns to revise their zoning that increases the number of units in their communities but leave the review to the municipalities. A model ordinance drawn up by the state that communities can tailor to their needs, similar to what Westchester County did in the aftermath of the affordable housing settlement, could also work, he said.

However, proponents of the legislation said until a real commitment is made to increase the housing stock that is more affordable, New York will continue to have a housing affordability crisis.

Michael Romita, president and CEO of the Westchester County Association, the county's largest business organization, said there is the danger of businesses leaving the area because people want to live near where they work. If too many potential employees leave, then businesses leave



State Sen. Peter Harckham's plan to increase housing affordability was dealt a major setback last week after the governor took it out of the budget.

and it could threaten economic stagnation, which leads to higher taxes.

He said there needs to be some state involvement because local control hasn't solved the housing problems facing Westchester. New York lags most other coastal states with strong economies in

addressing state-level zoning regulations to ensure housing stock diversity, Romita contended.

He suggested looking at a Massachusetts law that provides an appeals process if a project is rejected, so there isn't unfettered local discretion. Other states require multifamily housing zones as of right, but if a project builds in a certain threshold of affordability, then the municipality doesn't have to comply with the law.

"If people have an opportunity to vote their values, they will generally vote in favor of inclusive zoning laws," Romita said. "But when they're faced with developments in their backyard, obviously things change and they come out against it. That's exactly the kind of issue that requires a state-level approach."

Moses Gates, vice president of housing and neighborhood planning for the Regional Plan Association, said despite last week's disappointment, he's hopeful the recent debate initiates a dialogue that leads to meaningful solutions.

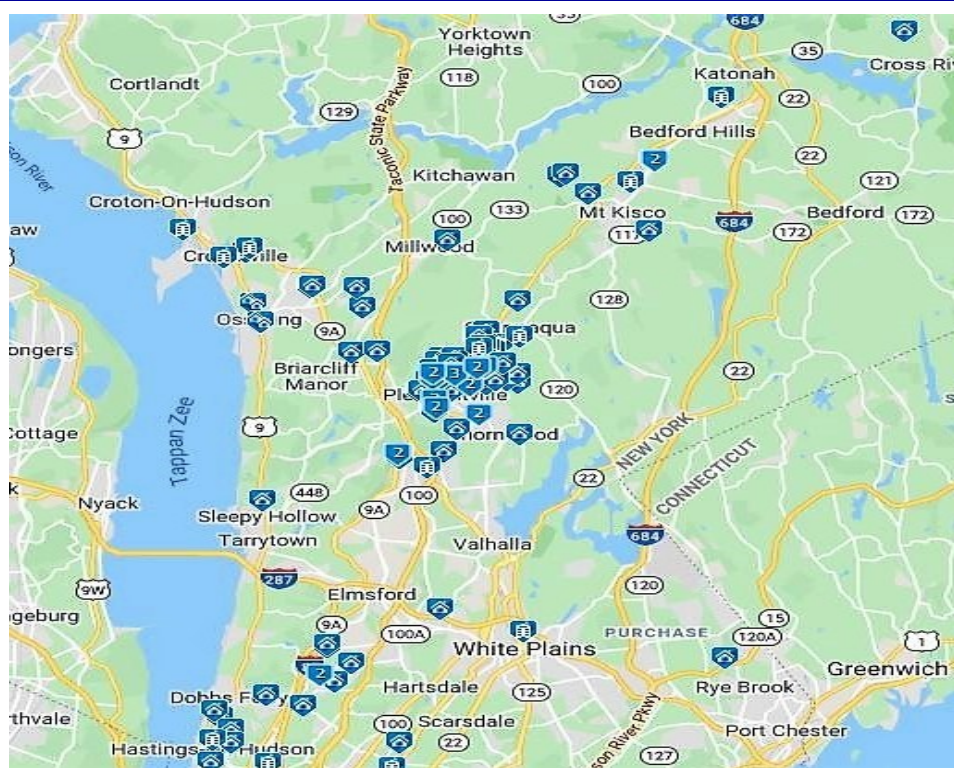
"The region's housing shortage is not going away and will likely worsen," Gates said. "Patterns of residential segregation will remain stubbornly locked in place until we intentionally address them. We look forward to working with lawmakers and our coalition members to continue expanding housing choice and create a more equitable and prosperous region that works for everyone."



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# Bedford Schools Hire Eastchester Superintendent to Lead District

By Martin Wilbur

The Bedford Board of Education announced last Wednesday that it has selected its next superintendent.

Dr. Robert J. Glass, who is currently leading the Eastchester School District, is expected to take over the helm from Dr. Joel Adelberg July 1. Adelberg announced his retirement last year, effective June 30.

"Our decision was guided by the leadership profile that was created from the results of community and staff forums, focus groups and a community survey, and we believe Rob is a great fit for Bedford," said Board President John Boucher.

Contract negotiations with Glass have yet to be completed, according to the board.

In Eastchester, he oversaw a successful

bond referendum and worked with the community on a strategic vision for future teaching and learning.

Before arriving in Eastchester, Glass served for nine years as superintendent of Bloomfield Hills Schools in suburban Detroit and was named Michigan Superintendent of the Year in 2017 by that state's Association of School Administrators. While there, he engaged the community to build consensus around the design and construction of an innovative high school model. Glass also supported staff development around diversity, equity and inclusion.

He began his career as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher before becoming an elementary school principal and an executive director of instruction.

The board selected Glass after a national

search, assisted by educational consultant and search firm Hazard, Young, Attea Associates.

"Guided by the community's input at the onset of the search process, it was clear that our next leader needed to have a strong track record of success in developing a vision, unifying all stakeholders in developing strategic planning and inspiring academic success across an array of interests," said Board Vice President Ed Reder.

"Throughout our interviews, Dr. Glass continually impressed the board with his leadership traits, past success, and thoughtful manner in bringing together each community he has served," he added.

The board will introduce Glass to community in the coming months.



Dr. Robert Glass will become the Bedford Central School District's next superintendent, the Board of Education announced last Wednesday.

## Byram Hills Board of Education to Fill Vacancy on March 8

By Martin Wilbur

The Byram Hills Board of Education will select an interim board member at its Mar. 8 meeting after it met and briefly interviewed two candidates last week for the vacant seat.

Residents Melissa Jacobs and Gwen Torre each read roughly five-minute statements and answered several questions from the board.

Jacobs and Torre both have a

background in education, have had children in the district and have volunteered in different capacities in the community.

After starting her career as a second-grade teacher in Pleasantville, Jacobs said she has worked as a substitute teacher in various districts throughout Westchester. She has also served on the Byram Hills Education Foundation and has been involved in all of the district's schools as a parent.

She said her professional experience and familiarity with the school district would be an asset to the board and would help in continuing the high standards that are synonymous with Byram Hills.

"I would love the opportunity to support Byram Hills' continued emphasis on academic excellence and rigor while also addressing students social and emotional growth," Jacobs said. "I believe we need to continue to hire and retain the superlative teachers


and principals that my sons have experienced, individuals who are truly experienced in our students' education and who are a vital part of our learning community."

Torre started her teaching career in Staten Island, where she was raised, and also taught in Queens and districts throughout Westchester. She has also volunteered as a board member for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation.

"I would like to learn and contribute to the educational

future of my own community using some of the skill sets that I have already built over the years," she said.

The vacancy was created at the end of last year following the resignation of longtime board member Ira Schulman, who was elected North Castle town justice. The appointed board member would serve until the May 17 election.



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# Rainey Kicks Off Campaign for Assembly; Levenberg Unveils Ad

## 95th Assembly District Race Update

By Rick Pezzullo

Former Peekskill mayor Andre Rainey formally kicked off his campaign for the 95th Assembly District at a rally in downtown Peekskill.

Rainey, who served two terms as mayor before opting not to run for re-election last year, told a crowd of supporters on Feb. 12 about the need for affordable housing and protections against evictions as he talked about his family's struggles.

"I come from a struggling family. Both of my parents can share their stories. We know what it's like just getting by," said Rainey, a single father of three children. "When you had to be reminded Christmas was about religion and family, not only because it is but because that helps remove the expectation of lots of Christmas gifts, we've been there. We couldn't always afford it."

"Whether a veteran, a single parent in hard times or a person who's had a rough time making ends meet, we need to stand with them," Rainey said. "We need funding and resources for health care in all forms. The cost of rent rises, taxes rise, and yet, salaries just can't seem to keep up. This makes it harder and harder for us to live. And I can assure you, get me up to Albany



Former Peekskill mayor Andre Rainey officially kicked off his campaign for the 95th Assembly District seat recently while Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg debuted a new campaign ad last week. They are two of the four Democrats vying for the party's nomination and to succeed Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

and I won't just fight for this, but I'll do the work."

Rainey is one of four Democrats to date to throw his hat in the ring to succeed retiring Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

The other candidates who have announced their intentions are Westchester County Legislator Colin Smith, Ossining



Supervisor Dana Levenberg and former Peekskill councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo.

Rainey mentioned his strategy for prevailing in the June 28 Democratic primary, where the victor is expected to win the seat in the November general election.

"I will canvass neighborhoods that have

not always seen leaders at their door. I will work to support local candidates for office, because change starts from the bottom up," Rainey said. "I will bring attention to the issues that our constituents want us to face head on. After serving the City of Peekskill for six years, I feel that it has become part of my family. I believe that, as I run outreach into Ossining, Cortlandt, Yorktown, Cold Spring, Philipstown and each corner of the 95th, that I will learn much from you, as you get to know me."

Meanwhile, released a new campaign ad last week that lays out her priorities, qualifications and readiness to serve.

In the video ad, Levenberg stressed her years of fighting for safer and more equitable schools, gun safety, marriage equality, environmental sustainability and environmental justice, a woman's right to choose, fair and affordable housing and taxpayer fairness.

"After almost 30 years of exemplary service from Sandy Galef, the residents of the 95th Assembly District expect an assemblymember who is prepared to serve our communities well on day one," Levenberg stated. "They deserve a lawmaker who will lead the way on issues like protecting taxpayers, ensuring a bright future for our children, and safeguarding our environment for generations to come. I am that leader and I am eager to make my case to the voters as I ask for their vote."



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# Obituaries

## Raymond Nuytkens

Raymond Nuytkens, of Jupiter, Fla. and formerly of Pleasantville, passed away peacefully on Feb. 1 after 96 years of a beautiful life well lived.

He leaves his beloved wife of 69 years, Carol Haight Nuytkens; his son, Peter Nuytkens, and his wife, Margaret, of Franklin, Mass.; daughter Pamela Davis Pagano and her husband, Vince, of Jupiter, Fla.; five grandsons; one granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

Ray was born on Oct. 21, 1925, in Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn, son of a Belgian father and French mother. A World War II veteran, he served in the infantry in France and Germany and took part in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. When he and his platoon traveled through France, it was bitter cold and many men suffered frostbite, but not Ray. He used the tapdancing skills he learned as a youth to keep from freezing while standing watch.

When he returned from the war, he enrolled at Pratt Institute where he met the love of his life, Caro. They both graduated with degrees in interior design. They moved from Brooklyn to Pleasantville where they designed and built their dream house in the modernist style of Frank Lloyd Wright on a hillside, blasting away rock that they used to create beautiful stone walls lining the 32 steps to the front door. Their welcoming living room, a favorite gathering place for family and friends, was striking with its wall of floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on their beautiful view of trees, rocks and lush carpets of moss where they enjoyed watching the birds and squirrels for more than 50 years. He will always be remembered by his grandchildren for his fastidious vacuuming of the moss!

Ray commuted into New York City for 36 years, working in retail store planning and design. He was vice president of Bonwit Teller and finished his career as vice president of Hambrecht Terrell International where he designed stores for Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales, FAO Schwarz and Marshall Fields, as well as other stores around the world including in London, Asia and Australia.



Raymond Nuytkens

He continued his long family tradition of sailing, buying an Ensign sailboat when his children were very young, and naming it for them, The Peter-Pam, with a nod to eternal youth. It was the center of many family adventures as he sailed it for more than 40 years on Long Island Sound.

He and Carol loved ballroom dancing and were always the first on the dance floor; the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center was a particular favorite. They also loved swimming and riding the waves at East Hampton and cross-country and downhill skiing in New York and Vermont. He was a fitness buff and loved to walk – at a pace that was tough for most everyone to keep up with!

Ray was active in the Chappaqua Congregational Church where he was committed to giving back by serving others. Always an optimist with a zest for life, his most frequent conversational remark in his last months was, “It’s been a good life, so what the hell!”

A Celebration of Life service is being planned for the spring or early summer.

## Margaret Cullen

Margaret Ahern Cullen, 90, died peacefully at home on Feb. 17, fortified and anointed by the sacraments, surrounded by her loving family.

She was predeceased by her husband, John Robert; their infant daughters, Catherine and Roberta; and her brother, the Rev. Monsignor Thomas Ahern.

Marge was born Sept. 3, 1931, to Thomas Paul and Margaret (Elliott) Ahern in San Francisco, and graduated from Lone Mountain College for Women with a degree in Early Childhood Education. As a college student, Marge worked summers at Yosemite National Park; she always had a great love for travel and the outdoors.

She married her lifelong love, Bob, in 1954, and taught elementary school until their first child was born. When Bob’s work took them cross country to New York, they embraced the change and the challenge. After their three girls were older, she returned to teaching, as a reading specialist and a nursery school teacher.

For 19 years she served as a teacher’s aide at Westorchard Elementary School in Chappaqua, supporting teachers and students across all grades as well as in the art program. Her kindness, compassion and humor touched the hearts of her colleagues and enriched the lives of hundreds of children.

Marge also worked at the Chappaqua Public Library for over 20 years, stopping only due to the pandemic at age 88. She found so much enjoyment in all the latest books and films, and the companionship of the library staff and in interactions with the public.

Marge was a concert-trained pianist and loved sharing music with family and friends, accompanying singalongs and Christmas carols. She was also an extraordinary seamstress, sewing holiday dresses for her girls, suits for herself, bathrobes for Bob and elaborate ball gowns and other costumes for theatrical

productions. A creative healthy cook, Marge discovered brown rice years before most; her carrot pudding and blueberry tart were legendary.

She served as a Girl Scout leader, and was game for camping out with her daughters’ troops.

Marge hosted inner-city children for summers in Chappaqua under the auspices of the Fresh Air Fund. She was known for welcoming all to her table – visiting priests, lonely friends and assorted children.

Along with Bob, Marge was very active in the Church of Saint John & Saint Mary in Chappaqua as a eucharistic minister, Sunday school teacher and member of the Women’s Auxiliary. She also devoted decades of service to the Rosary Altar Society.

In September, friends celebrated her 90th birthday pandemic-style with a 40-car parade around the Chappaqua train station, kindly led by the New Castle police.

Marge is survived by her sister, Mary Dean, brother Paul Ahern (Stephanie) and many wonderful nieces and nephews and their children. She also leaves her daughters Mary Zorich (Michael), Patricia and Teresa Bueti (Sandy) and her grandchildren Timothy Zorich (Melody), Regina Sparks (Michael), Serafino, Gianina and Paul Bueti.

Marge’s kindness and love for family, music and children will live on in all who knew her. She taught by example what it means to live a principled life.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at the Church of Saint John & Saint Mary in Chappaqua on Feb. 21. A Celebration of Life will be held outdoors in the spring. As the spouse of a veteran, Marge will join Bob and their two daughters in the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Francisco.

In Marge’s memory, donations may be made to the Cancer Institute at Northern Westchester Hospital, Northwell Health (<https://give.northwell.edu/support-us>)

or The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church ([www.assumptiontruckee.com](http://www.assumptiontruckee.com)) in Truckee, Calif.

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# Students to Be Disciplined in Somers for Noose Incident

By Rick Pezzullo

An undisclosed number of students are facing disciplinary action for an incident involving a noose at Somers Middle School last week.

In a message to parents, Somers Middle School Principal Jeffrey Getman stated on Feb. 16 that a student brought to school an approximately four-foot piece of quarter-inch rope that was tied into a noose. A teacher learned of the rope, confiscated it and reported the matter to school administrators.

Getman stated an investigation by administrators, the school resource officer and members of the threat assessment team concluded the student did not pose a threat to other students.

“At no time was the rope used to threaten or harm other students,” Getman stated.

However, Getman stated students involved would be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Getman advised parents to tell their children to speak out if they come across any item they feel does not belong in school.

“By working together, we will ensure that Somers schools remain a safe environment for everyone,” Getman said.

# Woman Killed in Condo Fire at Heritage Hills in Somers

A 70-year-old woman was killed in a fire that broke out in a Heritage Hills condominium in Somers last Wednesday afternoon.

The Somers Fire Department was dispatched to 973 Heritage Hills on the West Hill for a structure fire at 4:11 p.m. on Feb. 16. There were reports from neighbors of two people trapped inside.

Due to the conditions of the fire, a thorough search of the residence was delayed as mutual aid was provided by more than a dozen area fire departments.

The two-alarm fire was brought under control at about 6 p.m. and fully extinguished by 11 p.m. The blaze was contained to two residential units.

The woman was the sole occupant of the unit and was found dead by firefighters. Her identity has not been released.

New York State police are conducting an investigation. The official cause of the fire is undetermined.

--Rick Pezzullo

A Somers condominium fire killed a woman at Heritage Hills last week.



# Philipstown Gas Station Robber Nabbed By Authorities

By Rick Pezzullo

A parolee who robbed a Philipstown gas station at gunpoint was arrested last week by the Putnam County Sheriff's office in Newburgh five days after the incident.

Police apprehended David M. Peres, 23, of Newburgh after he attempted to flee police, but was quickly taken into custody.

According to Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville, on Feb. 13 the department received a call for a robbery in progress at the Gulf gas station at 1122 Route 9D in Philipstown.

The suspect had entered the store,

displayed a handgun and proceeded to zip-tie the clerk's hands at gunpoint. Sheriff's deputies on patrol immediately responded to the scene and were assisted by the Putnam County Sheriff's Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene Unit and Narcotics Unit, the Cold Spring Police Department and the New York State Police.

Upon arrival, the suspect had already left the area in a vehicle in an unknown direction.

The sheriff's Crime Scene Unit processed the scene, while other members of law enforcement scoured the area for witnesses and clues. As the investigation was pursued, various leads were followed which, led to the identification of the vehicle and the suspect.

On Feb. 18, the sheriff's office teamed up with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the City of Newburgh Police Department and Town of New Windsor police to apprehend Peres, who failed in his attempt to flee the scene.

After consultation with law enforcement authorities, it was determined Peres would be federally prosecuted.

Peres was turned over to U.S. marshals in White Plains for arraignment before a federal judge.



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Editorial

With Housing Bills Out of the Budget, Now Comes the Difficult Part

Over the past month there was a groundswell of opposition to two pieces of legislation that were surreptitiously included in the upcoming fiscal year's Executive Budget.

The Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bill, which had been introduced last year by state Sen. Peter Harckham, and Gov. Kathy Hochul's own addition, a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) proposal, ignited a firestorm of backlash. Some of the criticism was warranted.

The ADU plan would have given residential property owners the right to build an accessory unit if they wanted with far fewer restrictions than what most municipalities currently have on the books. The TOD proposal would have allowed 25 residential units per acre within a half-mile radius of a train station, an unsustainable idea no matter how pro-affordable housing one may be.

At least residents and municipal officials had a heads-up last year with Harckham's plan, if they were paying attention, since he introduced it in 2021 through conventional legislative channels. The same cannot be said of the TOD bill, which blindsided most people in the state.

Last Thursday evening, Gov. Kathy Hochul correctly removed them from her budget so those proposals – or others – can be properly debated.

However misguided it was for Hochul to stick them in her proposed budget, it had one very positive effect, intentional or not. It jumpstarted a regionwide, if not statewide, conversation on the need for more housing for those who don't earn a six-figure salary but are a vital cog in the local economy and community.

For too long, policymakers at all levels have ignored the spiraling costs of housing in the Hudson Valley and throughout the metropolitan area, seemingly forgetful that you need people who pick up the garbage, work at the delis and diners, provide daycare for kids and many other tasks society takes for granted until no one's there to do them.

There was hope that after Westchester County complied with the affordable housing settlement a little more than five years ago, that a model was in place to gradually start closing the gap between supply and demand. A good-faith effort was put forth by many of the county's municipalities by passing some form of Westchester's model ordinance that required 10 percent affordable units for subdivisions.

What is now evident since Westchester met the settlement's deadline is just how woefully deficient it has been. In 2004, a housing needs assessment from Rutgers University revealed a need for about 10,700 additional units. Fifteen years later the next assessment showed the need grew to 11,703. And Westchester is just one of 62 counties in New York.

There is no shortage of ideas out there that aren't the ADU or TOD proposals. Many local officials still want local control, which when exercised responsibly is fine. But local control can't be a euphemism for no.

Some have suggested a state task force to explore the range of possibilities. That could be a good place to start. Other states have enacted meaningful legislation that is not the draconian elimination of single-family housing seen in communities in California. A review of sensible policies elsewhere should be undertaken. Incentives can be offered.

Perhaps one possibility is for the state to require that each county, based on its population and needs assessment, make headway to reduce its affordable housing shortfall. For those communities within a county that have developed more affordable units and ADUs already, their share could be proportionately lower based on their population and what has been developed.

Whatever solutions emerge, this challenge must be viewed as a shared responsibility by all communities, not as punishment. Everyone has a stake in having a well-rounded, diverse community – with diversity not just being racial but economic, white collar and blue collar and generational as well.

Otherwise, don't complain if there's no one to prepare your burger deluxe at the diner one day.

Letter to the Editor

Time to Move Forward With a New Carmel Master Plan and Show Vision

Okay, the honeymoon for the new Master Plan project is over. Carmel cannot afford to wait any longer.

Supervisor Mike Cazzari said that "decisive leadership is what is called for." To be fair, he has been in office nearly eight weeks and he has a lot on his plate. But a word on what the status of the new plan is would be helpful.

I know he is a huge fan of this project as he told me during his campaign. We are tired of Suzy McDonough's answers "soon, very soon." She is the head of the task force, and as such, has responsibility to communicate to the public what the status is.

The vision is fading at Town Hall. The chamber white paper was called Carmel Vision to call forward dreams. From my task force sources, the Nelson group is dragging their feet! They were paid more than \$100,000 of taxpayer money and I, along with other townspeople, are tired of it. Bad business. No accountability. Inferior performance.

A draft of the Master Plan has been on the town's website since October. There was no communication of this, and except for my sharing it with a group of concerned voters, I do not believe there has been any announcement to the public to review it or encourage any conversations. Once more the criticism that the town does not know how to effectively communicate with the public rears its head.

It has been five years since presenting this to the Town Board. Enough already. Even with a pandemic, we should be further down the road. Like the movie "Network," it is time for all to go to a Town Hall meeting and yell "I am mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore."

You are probably thinking "I told you so, this town never follows through." I cannot do this alone and do not expect chamber leadership to step up to the task. So, I am releasing this project to you, the public. Continue putting up with high taxes, how the town looks and no growth of this municipality or start holding the Town Board accountable.

I leave you with Supervisor Cazzari's words after he was sworn in: "We have all these great ideas, but it's been all talk and nothing ever seems to get done with these long-winded politicians." Contact him at 845-628-1500 or [msc@ci.carmel.ny.us](mailto:msc@ci.carmel.ny.us) and let him know your thoughts. He needs your support to unclog the process.

**Thom Iannicari**  
*The letter writer is a local insurance broker and former chair of the Mahopac Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Advocacy Board.*

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## Guest Column

### Chappaqua's Buttonhook Development Would Desecrate Sacred Site

*This column was written and submitted by Victoria Alzapiedi, Tracey Bilski, Kate Brady, Hermian Charles, Bill Connors, Haley Ferraro, Stacy & Robert Morgan, Maxine Margo Rubin, Cristina Shih and Lynn Trotta on behalf of Friends of Buttonhook.*

There is about to be a decision on whether to issue a key stormwater permit for six luxury homes that would be built atop a sacred Native American ceremonial stone complex that was recently discovered deep in the woods in Chappaqua.

The permit application is in front of New York City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that is responsible for protecting the city's watershed and reservoirs.

Multiple Native American tribes have made clear that this stone complex is of the highest spiritual and cultural value. It has been the location of rituals throughout the year for hundreds, if not thousands, of years before the tribal communities were driven off this land. Native American researchers and an archeology team have declared this

a sacred site of critical historical significance and one that should be studied and preserved.

Native American descendants view this location as uniquely important and irreplaceable. The indigenous peoples who walked the lands of modern-day Chappaqua hold a deep understanding of the value of keeping this complex intact. For them, this area is tantamount to what we would understand as a church, synagogue or mosque today. It is precious and irreplaceable. Destroying a site of such spiritual meaning would be yet another traumatic assault on their people and their heritage and there are not many intact complex areas like this left. Losing it would be tragic, and some have argued as horrific as the treatment that Native Americans have historically endured when driven from their homes in this town.

Today, we speak out to prevent another chapter of cultural erasure.

Unfortunately, the city isn't concerned with protecting and preserving the Native American history recently discovered in

this forest if it issues a permit without full consideration of impact to these vital resources.

The DEP is currently evaluating the stormwater permit application submitted by the developer and owner of this land, the Chappaqua Central School District. This permit would be another critical step toward final approval before the New Castle Planning Board for the development of this 20.3-acre forest – a surplus parcel of land owned by the district called the Buttonhook/Zauderer site.

The stormwater permit will result in negative impacts to this ceremonial complex and to the spiritual meaning of the site that is closely tied to the water and the ecology of this land. We urge further study that the impact the stormwater permit would have and a full consideration of the long-term implications of such a permit to make this land buildable. That requires ongoing operation and maintenance obligations left to a homeowners' association with no guarantees of proper maintenance.

The stormwater permit is meant to address and protect sensitive streams in the city's watershed on both sides of this forest that cascade into the Croton Reservoir. But this housing plan would bring known and unknown changes to water and to its spiritual value demonstrated by the Native Americans' marking of this site with ceremonial stone engravings centuries ago.

The Buttonhook land, as it now sits, is a stunningly beautiful expansive and untouched rocky hilltop forest with steep slopes. The housing plan also calls for the clear-cutting of 676 trees and forested woodlands – currently a rich, untouched

and unspoiled wildlife habitat for bobcats, coyotes, foxes, owls, hawks, countless songbirds, mammals and beneficial insects who call this forest their home. They will all be displaced if these trees are clear-cut – at a time when expansive woodland wildlife habitats of this type are increasingly difficult to find here in New Castle.

As New Castle residents, we are today's land stewards with a responsibility to respect and honor the Indigenous people who were the first caretakers of this land. We hope the city and the New Castle Planning Board will be on the right side of history and take a thorough and cautious approach to fully understand what is at stake and to prevent the needless desecration of this sacred site in our forest.

As an ever-increasing group of concerned citizens, currently more than 50 people, we want to offer to the Chappaqua School District an alternative – to make it possible for them to withdraw their plan to develop this area and to consider the benefits to the district, the community and to the invaluable spiritual and historical value of this land, instead of selling for development of the Buttonhook forest.

There are viable and common-sense alternatives, like a purchase of this land so it can be turned over to a nonprofit organization to be preserved as open space in perpetuity. To that end, an effort is underway to help raise funds to purchase the Buttonhook land from the district. For more information, visit [www.preservebuttonhook.org](http://www.preservebuttonhook.org) or contact us at [PreserveButtonhook@gmail.com](mailto:PreserveButtonhook@gmail.com).

Please join us in this time sensitive effort to better understand, to appreciate, and most importantly, to save this sacred forest.

## Letter to the Editor

### If We Teach Our Kids One Thing, Let it Be Respect

The nature of discourse at school board meetings across the country has devolved into pandemonium. And this month, it crept into our backyard.

Things got particularly nasty last week when a Lakeland parent, who is Black, attempted to address the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) curriculum proposals of the budget at a Board of Education meeting. He was literally shouted down by other parents with phrases like, "we're not trying to live in Harlem," and "we don't want diversity."

After the meeting, racial slurs were hurled at the superintendent and one of her Black colleagues. She even had to be escorted home by police because she was being followed by the agitators.

This isn't how we should behave toward one another as neighbors, and it certainly isn't the example we should be setting for our children.

In the land of the free and the home of the

brave, how can we accept this behavior as a community? It harkens back to a time when persons of color needed National Guard escorts just to attend school. We cannot and will not allow ourselves to be drawn backward in time. We have come too far and sacrificed too much.

I am relieved to report that at last Thursday night's board meeting, which I attended, many came out in support of the melting pot we call home. I'm proud of our school leaders who, against all odds, have maintained their own decorum even while under attack. I'm proud of the students who stood up and spoke against bigotry and hate, and did so from the heart. And I'm proud of Michael Lillis, president of the Lakeland Federation of Teachers, who may have said it best: "Sunlight is the best antiseptic" for ignorance, intolerance and hatred.

Indeed, last Thursday night, the Lakeland community lit up that darkness with tolerance, equity and love.

We must draw the line at hatred and bigotry and continue building on the progress we have made. We must remain laser-focused on providing the best possible education for our children. And we must come together and show our children that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

If we fail at that as a society, we've got bigger problems than masks.

**Colin Smith**

**Westchester County Legislator**

*Colin Smith represents District 1 on the County Board of Legislators, covering Peekskill, Cortlandt and a portion of Yorktown and is a Democratic candidate for the 95th Assembly District.*

## Correction

Last week's article regarding the updated mask rules at the Pleasantville School District may have been unclear. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tina DeSa said that currently the district will continue to practice a mitigation strategy that will require a daily health screening; enhanced ventilation and cleaning and disinfection; weekly surveillance testing; contact tracing and quarantining protocols; and universal masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status while indoors, on a bus or in the locker rooms.

The Examiner regrets any misunderstanding as a result of the article.







# What To Know As A New Landlord

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## If Not Now, When? Reasons to Enjoy Your Best Household Possessions

One of the saddest stories I've encountered in my lifetime happened when I was representing a celebrity chef for public relations.

It was during the AIDS epidemic and, unfortunately, he had contracted the disease. He would have some terrible days, but he tried his best to live as normally as he could, keeping up with his professional commitments.

At one point, I was surprised when he announced that he was going on a tour of Italy with a group of friends, even though he was at one of his low points health-wise. He turned to me and said, "If not now, when?"

A really horrible aspect of this story, as he later shared with me before he died, was that he became very ill while traveling on that trip and couldn't continue on with his group. At the time, the hospitals were filled in that region and he could not be accommodated. Instead, they placed him in a jail cell, which was able to offer him shelter and a place to sleep while his group traveled on, abandoning him there until he was able to recover enough to get a flight back to America.

Without his knowing it, he had planted



By Bill Primavera

in me a seed that gradually germinated into my way of life, that is, to do it now rather than wait. While I had that lesson to learn, my wife Margaret was way ahead of me.

We've been married for many years, but one day, about seven years ago when we moved to a brand-new condo at Trump Park in Shrub Oak, I noticed that my morning breakfast was plated on her best china and served with her best crystal glasses and sterling silver flatware. What's this, I asked?

She gave me a similar answer to the celebrity chef's: If not now, when?

It's kind of funny when you think about what most of us do; usually we save our best stuff only for special occasions. But why? Are we afraid of wearing it out or breaking a piece of crystal or china? Perhaps so, but is that worse than having our finer things squirreled away in a kitchen cabinet, just waiting for us to eventually die and leave it to someone else to not use? For my wife and me, that philosophy is so over.

Today, each day, we use the "good" china and crystal with joy. I swear, I think it makes the food and beverages taste better. For sure, it enhances the experience of



each meal.

This reminds me of another story of enjoying life in the moment. My mother- and father-in-law were wonderful people who had it rough early in their marriage, escaping Communist rule when their native Lithuania was annexed to Russia after World War II. They immigrated to America and worked very hard to have some of the better things in life.

When their hard work afforded them their own home with some nice furnishings, the new sofa and side chairs were covered with sheets to shield the fabric from fading by the sun, whenever there were no visitors expected. It was an "occasion" when the sheets were removed for company, and I can totally understand.

When I had my first apartment in New York City, I wanted to replicate a bit of the colonial charm I had known in

Williamsburg as a student at the College of William & Mary. I was delighted to find that the wonderful B. Altman's in the city, now long gone, had a Colonial Williamsburg department where, as soon as my salary permitted, I acquired some pieces, a settee and some framed print reproductions. I was so protective of the Scalambre fabric I chose to cover the settee that I tended to resent it when any visiting guest actually sat on it! Imagine living that way? Hopefully I've eased in the ensuing years, especially after my philosophy about "using it now" was formed after my celebrity chef client had died.

As a side note, when I visited B. Altman's to purchase that settee, I invited a female co-worker to join me. It was sort of a first date with the woman who soon became my wife, and together we have been enjoying sitting on that same settee for many years.

Never once have we thought that we might be wearing it out by using it daily.

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

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# Inspired by Tevye, Local Actor Brings His Own Story Home

By Martin Wilbur

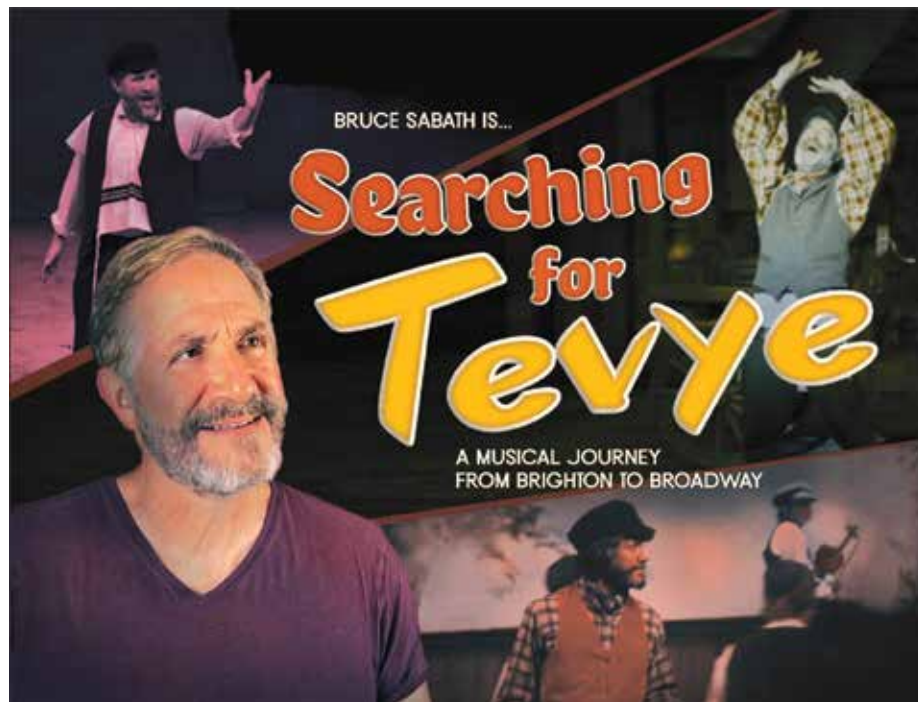
Bruce Sabath had previously sung in the sanctuary of Temple Shaaray Tefila, where he is a member, but it's always been during a major Jewish holiday or for Saturday morning services.

On Thursday, Mar. 3, he will be performing something different in a benefit for the synagogue that hits close to home for him and likely for much of the audience.

Sabath, who has Broadway, Off-Broadway and television credits on his resume, will be doing his one-man show "Searching for Tevye" based on his journey that started as a theater-loving kid growing up in Rochester, continued to Harvard and through a decade-plus career working on Wall Street before making the transition to follow his dream and try to make it as an actor.

As a child, Sabath was well-acquainted with the show "Fiddler on the Roof," and at about 10 years old the movie was released. It also didn't hurt that one of his grandfathers was a dairyman in his native Ukraine, just like Tevye, the lead character in 'Fiddler.'

"So when I became a professional actor after coming back to acting after being in finance and corporate business, Tevye was sort of this idea," explained Sabath who made his Broadway debut in 2006 in Stephen Sondheim's "Company," which won a Tony Award the following year for Best Revival.



Katonah actor Bruce Sabath, who has appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway and on television, will be bringing a performance of his one-man show, "Searching for Tevye," to Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford on Mar. 3.

"That was a role that I really wanted to play, that I had a strong connection to as well as my own family background."

Before the pandemic struck, Sabath had been performing the acclaimed "Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish" when he was asked to

come to the Rochester JCC by an artistic director of a theater there to do a talk-back and Q&A with the audience about his path to acting and his various 'Fiddler' roles. Soon after in March 2020 everything shut down and it was during that time

that Sabath got the notion to expand his personal story into a one-man show that would become "Searching for Tevye."

Last November, he was performing it at the New York City nightclub Don't Tell Momma when fellow members of Temple Shaaray Tefila were in attendance and appealed to Sabath to do a performance for the congregation. The show is also open to the general public.

Sabath's production will include a three-piece band – a piano, bass and violin – under the direction of Ben Kiley, who was the assistant conductor of "Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish." For those looking to attend, there's an option for to buy tickets to pre-show reception with small bites by Matt Miller Events and a tasting by local wine specialist Bill Tisherman of Wine For All, who will pair wines for the occasion. The performance will be live-streamed.

"I'm really blessed to be able to bring this piece to my fellow congregants, my friends at Shaaray Tefila," Sabath said. "I've sung many times over the years at services both on Shabbat and High Holiday services at various times. So I'm very familiar with singing for this group of people, but it's really kind of special to be able to bring my own story and bring it here and be able to do it for people I know so well."

For those attending, wearing a mask and proof of vaccination will be required. The performance starts at 8 p.m. For tickets and additional information, visit [www.shaaraytefila.org](http://www.shaaraytefila.org).



"With their genuine hospitality, I felt as if I was really celebrating my mother's beautiful life, not mourning a loss. Without them, the process would have been so much more stressful."

– Rcee C.



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# Police Blotter

## County Police/Mount Kisco

**Feb. 13:** Police responded to Maple Avenue at 8:20 a.m. after a Door Dash deliveryman said he was pushed down the front steps by a man who accused him of trespassing. The deliveryman said he did not want to press charges but was upset that he had dropped his phone in the snow and could not find it. An officer was able to find his phone for him.

**Feb. 13:** A Barker Street resident reported at 12:46 p.m. that he observed a woman walking with a large stuffed animal and believed she was possibly away from a group home without permission. The officer who responded knew the woman and reported that there was no cause for concern.

**Feb. 13:** Police conducted a welfare check at the Holiday Inn on Holiday Inn Drive at 11:36 p.m. A man reported that he had been speaking on the phone to a woman at the hotel who was very upset and he was unable to reach her again a short time later. Officers spoke with the woman who advised that she was fine and that she had missed the man's calls because she had fallen asleep.

**Feb. 17:** An anonymous caller reported at 12:04 p.m. that he had observed drug paraphernalia on the bridge at Leonard Park while walking there a short time earlier. An officer canvassed the area but did not observe any items of that nature.

**Feb. 17:** A Langeland Drive resident reported at 1:15 p.m. that she was unable to enter her home because a German Shepherd was running loose. The condition was corrected and the woman was able to get out of her car and go inside.

## Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

**Feb. 9:** A resident reported at 9:22 p.m. that a neighbor was throwing snow and ice onto Farrington Road. Patrols responded and interviewed the subject involved. Patrols issued a summons for violating a village ordinance.

**Feb. 11:** At 2:52 p.m., a resident reported that her child gets on the bus at the intersection of Truesdale and Nordica Drive at 7:48 a.m., and that between 7:45 and 7:50, a black pickup truck speeds up Nordica Drive and fails to stop at the stop sign at the intersection. She reported this morning that the bus was picking up her child when the truck sped through, and she put her arm out to signify to the driver that her child was crossing the street to get on the bus. She said at the last minute the truck did stop and did not pass the school bus. She reported this happens several mornings every week and is worried that the vehicle is being operated unsafely. Patrols will monitor the location.

**Feb. 12:** A resident reported at 3:57 p.m. that her daughter and her friends were approached the previous day at Senasqua Park by an adult male. Her daughter stated that between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., a male, about 30 years old, with brown wavy hair, light olive skin tone and facial stubble, approached her and her two friends by the picture tunnel. The man was wearing a white shirt and a black jacket. She reported that they noticed the man walk past their location several times before approaching them, stating his name was Eddie and inquired if they could exchange Instagram accounts. He then asked the girls for their mobile numbers. The girls declined to

provide the information to the man before he walked back toward the park.

## Mount Pleasant Police Department

**Feb. 14:** Report of two Black males having entered a liquor store in the Thornwood Town Center Shopping Center at about 1:30 p.m. The subjects brought several bottles of liquor to the front counter, then suddenly grabbed them and fled the store. A license plate number of the vehicle they used was documented by a store employee. Detectives processed the scene and are actively investigating the case.

**Feb. 15:** A Hawthorne resident who was attending a yoga class on Commerce Street in Thornwood observed the back passenger window of her vehicle broken at about 8:30 p.m. She subsequently discovered that her purse was taken from the vehicle. The purse contained cash and multiple credit cards. An investigation is ongoing.

**Feb. 18:** A Thornwood resident reported that he was contacted by e-mail regarding a subscription renewal by the Geek Squad for \$925. He received further e-mails that reported a mistake on the transaction and that they would supply a refund. A subsequent check by the complainant revealed that the e-mail was not legitimate. Someone had gained access to the complainant's bank account. An investigation is continuing.

## North Castle Police Department

**Feb. 11:** An officer reported being out with a suspicious vehicle on Main Street at 2:58 a.m. Subsequent to an investigation, it was revealed that the operator stole the Mercedes-Benz he was driving and was arrested.

**Feb. 11:** The manager at Fortina on Maple Avenue reported at 10:55 p.m. that a party passed out while seated at a table. The call was forwarded to 60 Control for EMS dispatch. The responding officer reported the person was taken to Northern Westchester.

**Feb. 14:** A Bedford Road resident reported at 10:35 a.m. that he was notified through his bank that checks that were addressed to the Town of North Castle were cashed by an unknown party. The complainant stated that he left the checks in the mailbox at home several months ago and believes that they may have been taken from there. The responding officer stated that depositions were secured.

**Feb. 15:** An IBM security employee reported at 9:16 a.m. receiving information

from other maintenance workers who stated that they heard possible gunshots or a loud popping sound from a distance about 10 minutes in the past. Police contacted the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which confirmed that the agency has subcontractors in the area of the Kensico Reservoir conducting wildlife preservation efforts.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**Feb. 16:** A subject arrived at headquarters to report unauthorized credit card charges on their card. The matter is under investigation.

**Feb. 19:** Police assistance was requested to remove an unwanted patron from Pleasantville Laundry on Wheeler Avenue. The individual was suspected of wanting to sleep there overnight. Police successfully removed the party from the premises without incident.

**Feb. 20:** A disturbance was reported on Bedford Road. A driver's two friends refused to leave the vehicle. The responding officers had the two people exit the car without incident; situation correction.

## Yorktown Police Department

**Feb. 11:** Adam Petrillo, 34, of Yorktown, was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and criminal obstruction of breathing after police responded to a call for an alleged domestic assault at 8:13 p.m. Following an investigation, it is alleged Petrillo applied pressure to the neck of a female. When officers escorted him to another residence in Yorktown, Petrillo surrendered his firearms, two of which were classified as "assault weapons."

**Feb. 12:** John Casas, 33, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated and other traffic violations following an accident on Route 6 in the area of Sunnyside Street at 4:28 a.m.

**Feb. 13:** Juan Narvaez-Sanchez, 36, of West Haverstraw, was charged at 4:38 p.m. with driving while intoxicated and speeding following a property damage accident on Strawberry Road.

**Feb. 15:** Andre Davis, 53, of Peekskill, was charged at 4:03 p.m. with criminal possession of a forged instrument for allegedly submitting a fake COVID-19 vaccination card to the Human Resources Department of a Yorktown residential group home on Feb. 1.

*Editor's Note: The policy of providing names for people who have been arrested varies between each department.*

## Pleasantville HS Blood Drive Set for March 3

Pleasantville High School and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps will hold a community blood drive on Thursday, Mar. 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the high school located at 60 Romer Ave. A donation to Feeding Westchester will be made on behalf of each donor.

The return of local blood drives should allow more people to donate in a convenient location and during convenient

hours and help reduce often severe blood shortages. Whole blood and red cell units will be collected from qualifying candidates. Donors from everywhere are invited.

Donors will be required to wear a mask. For information regarding eligibility, call 800-688-0900. To schedule an appointment, call 800-933-2566.



## On the Rise

The Town of North Castle and Police Chief Peter Simonsen celebrated the promotions of two officers during last week's Town Board meeting. The department elevated Police Officer Donald Ahrenberg, left, to sergeant and Sgt. Regan Hufnagle to lieutenant as a result of the upcoming retirement of Lt. Brant Sammann. The promotions as well as Sammann's retirement are effective this Saturday, Feb. 26.

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the “District”) that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:

**Proposition**

Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) reconstruct school buildings and construct and reconstruct athletic fields, tracks and related facilities, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which buildings, athletic fields, tracks and facilities are to be used, at a maximum cost of \$9,777,745, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$9,777,745, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such proposition shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

Any resident of the School District who is registered to vote in general elections is qualified to vote at said meeting without having their name placed upon the School District register of voters provided they voted at a general election at least once within the last four calendar years. Further, provided that any person who has previously registered to vote in any annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election and who has voted at an annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election held during the past four years (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018) shall not be required to re-register. The Board of Education has also provided for registration of qualified voters at the District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on any regular school day through March 23, 2022.

The register prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District at the Office of the Clerk of the District, District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, at the polling place on the day of the vote, as well as between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on each of the five (5) days prior to the election excluding Sunday, March 27, 2022, except on Saturday, March 26, 2022 it will be available for inspection only between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on or prior to March 28, 2022 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting for “military” voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for “military ballots” in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive their absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return their original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The District Clerk of the District shall transmit the military voter’s military ballot in accord with the military voter’s preferred method of transmission. Absentee ballots, including military absentee ballots, must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2022.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the vote. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list by making their challenge and reasons therefor known to the District Clerk before the close of the polls.

DATED: January 19, 2022

District Clerk, Board of Education  
Mount Pleasant Central School District

AVISO LEGAL  
AVISO DE REUNIÓN ESPECIAL  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR CENTRAL DE MOUNT PLEASANT

**POR ESTE MEDIO SE NOTIFICA** que en cumplimiento con una resolución adoptada por el Consejo de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant (el “Distrito”) en el sentido de convocar a una reunión especial de los votantes calificados de dicho Distrito, dicha reunión se convoca por este medio en dicho Distrito, en el gimnasio de la Escuela Preparatoria Westlake, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York el martes 29 de marzo de 2022, de 7:00 a.m. a 9:00 p.m. con el fin de votar la siguiente propuesta:

**Propuesta**

¿Debe el Consejo de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant recibir autorización para (1) reconstruir los edificios escolares y construir y reconstruir campos deportivos, pistas de atletismo e instalaciones relacionadas, incluyendo los trabajos en el sitio, y adquirir el mobiliario, el equipamiento, la maquinaria o los aparatos necesarios para los propósitos para los que se usarán los edificios, los campos deportivos, las pistas de atletismo y las instalaciones, con un costo máximo de \$9,777,745, (2) gastar esa suma con ese fin, (3) aplicar los impuestos necesarios y cobrarlos en pagos anuales, en los años e importes que determine el Consejo de Educación, tomando en cuenta la asistencia estatal; y (4) en previsión del cobro de dicho impuesto emitir bonos y notas del Distrito Escolar en una sola ocasión o de forma ocasional por un monto nominal que no exceda \$9,777,745 y aplicar un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichas obligaciones a su vencimiento?

El voto para dicha propuesta será con máquinas o papeletas para voto en ausencia. El horario en el que los centros de votación estarán abiertos será de 7:00 a.m. a 9:00 p.m., hora predominante, o durante el tiempo que sea necesario mantenerlos abiertos al final para permitir que los votantes calificados que estén en el centro de votación a las 9:00 p.m. puedan emitir sus votos.

Todos los residentes del Distrito Escolar que estén registrados para votar en las elecciones generales pueden votar en esta reunión sin necesidad de incluir su nombre en el registro de votantes del Distrito Escolar, si han votado en las elecciones generales por lo menos una vez en los últimos cuatro años calendario. Además, si una persona se ha registrado previamente para votar en cualquier reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o en una reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar y ha votado en una reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o en una reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar en los últimos cuatro años (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018), esa persona no necesita volver a registrarse. El Consejo de Educación también ha tomado medidas para el registro de votantes calificados en la Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 3:00 p.m. de cualquier día regular de clases hasta el 23 de marzo de 2022.

El registro preparado en los términos de la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación se entregará en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, y estará disponible para que lo inspeccione cualquier votante calificado del Distrito en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, en el centro de votación el día de la votación, así como entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 4:00 p.m. de cada uno de los cinco (5) días previos a la elección, excluyendo el domingo 27 de marzo de 2022, excepto que el sábado 26 de marzo de 2022 estará disponible para inspección entre las 8:30 a.m. y las 10:30 a.m.

Las papeletas para votar en ausencia pueden solicitarse en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito. Las solicitudes de papeletas para voto en ausencia deben ser recibidas por la Secretaria del Distrito por lo menos siete días antes de la votación si el votante enviará su voto por correo, o a más tardar el 28 de marzo de 2022 si el votante entregará su papeleta en persona. La Ley de Educación contiene disposiciones especiales para el voto en ausencia de los votantes “militares” del Distrito. Específicamente, la ley contempla un procedimiento especial para las “papeletas militares” en las votaciones de distritos escolares. Si bien las papeletas de voto en ausencia deben ser recibidas por el votante por correo, un votante militar puede optar por recibir su solicitud de papeleta de voto en ausencia y su papeleta de voto en ausencia por correo, correo electrónico o fax. Sin embargo, el votante militar debe entregar su solicitud original de papeleta militar y su papeleta militar por correo o en persona. La Secretaria del Distrito transmitirá la papeleta militar del votante militar usando el método de transmisión que prefiera el votante militar. Las papeletas de voto en ausencia, incluidas las papeletas de voto en ausencia de militares, deben recibirse en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito a más tardar a las 5:00 p.m. del 29 de marzo de 2022.

Habrà disponible una lista de todas las personas a las que se enviaron papeletas para voto en ausencia en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito durante su horario regular de atención, hasta el día de la votación. Todos los votantes calificados pueden impugnar la aceptación de la papeleta de cualquier persona de la lista, manifestando su impugnación y los motivos de la misma a la Secretaria del Distrito antes de que cierren los centros de votación.

FECHA: 19 de enero de 2022

Secretaria del Distrito, Consejo de Educación  
Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant



# Registration Open for Tri County Science and Technology Fair

The 2022 Virtual Tri County Science & Technology Fair has begun accepting registrations for its regional science competition.

This valuable STEM event is organized by The Putnam Children's Discovery Center Inc., with Pepsi Global R&D as grand sponsor. Held every year, the fair provides hundreds of students across a wide spectrum of diverse backgrounds an opportunity to have their voices heard and their research shown.

Join students such as Ishana Kumar, who won first place at the virtual 2020 Tri County Fair and the prestigious Samuelli Foundation Prize – \$25,000 at the Broadcom Masters competition. Or Irene Basu who won first place in biology at Tri County and earned Top 300 at Broadcom 2020.

Tri County has proudly seen students continue to Top 300 at Broadcom Masters, a national middle school competition. The Lemelson Early Inventor Prize, sponsored by The Lemelson Foundation, is also obtainable by participating at the Tri County Fair. At the high school level, four of the best entrants are sent, and every year students place at the New York State Science Congress.

The fair has not missed a year since its inception 36 years ago. Janice Newman, a former Putnam County resident, wanted to give back to the community and decided to start the first county-wide fair



in Putnam. The grassroots effort had no major corporations in the county. Today, the fair has a corporate sponsorship from Pepsi Global R&D, as well as matched employee donations and private donations from businesses and the public.

The Discovery Center is able to accept stock donations as well as cash. The Putnam Children's Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and qualifies for matching grants and tax-deductible contributions. Donations can be

made by sending checks to PCDC at P.O. Box 222, Carmel, N.Y. 10512. Electronic donations can be made through PayPal at [paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1565662](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1565662) or Square at [putnam-childrens-discovery-center-inc.square.site](https://putnam-childrens-discovery-center-inc.square.site). The Putnam Children's Discovery Center is also registered with Benevity.

"This year we are even better prepared to provide our fair virtually again," Newman said. "Nothing can match the warmth of engaging with our students in

person, so we look forward to resuming in-person fairs, afterschool programming and much more in the coming years as the pandemic hopefully winds down.

"This year the fair is virtual, and we are extremely proud of the dedicated participants, judges and volunteers that help make the Tri-County Science and Technology Fair the only regional science fair in New York State that includes elementary school."

The fair is open to private and public school students in grades K-12 in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties. Homeschooled students may also participate.

The fair has the following project categories: biology; chemistry; clinical/social psychology; Earth/space, engineering/technology; environment, health and nutrition; math/computers; medicine and medical science and technology; physics, psychology; and physiological/experimental psychology.

The fair could not take place without volunteer judges with expertise in the aforementioned categories. Scientists, retired science teachers and college students are welcome to judge. Visit [sites.google.com/view/virtual-pcdctcsf/home](https://sites.google.com/view/virtual-pcdctcsf/home) if you are interested in judging.

If you are a science teacher, principal or interested parent, visit [www.DiscoveryCtr.org](https://www.DiscoveryCtr.org).

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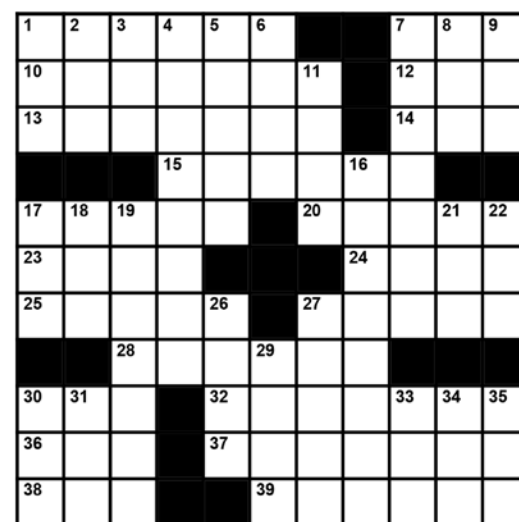
## Crossword

### Across

1. Cereal grain or Thornwood tavern, \_\_\_\_ House
7. Jack Black title role
10. Chanted
12. Technology giant
13. Poor movie rating
14. Big English clock
15. Mistakes section
17. Drain
20. Pilgrimage destination
23. Painter of limp watches
24. Cries of discovery
25. Pillow covers
27. Glides
28. Texas Rose or Mahopac antique shop, \_\_\_\_ Shed
30. "\_\_\_\_ Wiedersehen"
32. Penitent's emotion
36. Large, bearded antelope
37. Indian turnovers
38. \_\_\_\_ de tête (French headache)
39. Lawn grass

### Down

1. Memoir
2. Bay State cape
3. Map abbr.
4. Fall behind
5. Contest application
6. Four quarters
7. Japanese grill
8. 16th President



9. Alphabet run
11. Small amount
16. Shipbuilding material
17. "GQ" execs
18. Start of a Chinese game
19. Full of fun and high spirits
21. Shutterbug's equipment, briefly
22. Nincompoop
26. Some cameras, for short
27. English Channel feeder
29. Cordelia's father
30. Annual meeting, abbr.
31. "The Faerie Queene" heroine
33. Consonantal trio
34. Saint, in Portuguese
35. "Medium" like perception

*Answers on page 20*

Buy Myles Mellor's easy, super easy, medium crosswords, family puzzle books, word searches and cryptograms at [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)



## A Barry Funny Guy

*Humor columnist and author Dave Barry dishes about life in his native Westchester and beyond.*

By Erin Maher



*You are reading this week's excerpt of an article from our Examiner+ digital newsmagazine. To read the entire article and others like it, visit [www.examiner-plus.com](http://www.examiner-plus.com) and join our community as a member.*

*Armonk native Dave Barry knows funny. In fact, it's his job. The humorist wrote a weekly column for the Miami Herald for more than 20 years, with his wit and prose earning him a Pulitzer in 1988. Barry has since published more than 30 books and even had a sitcom based on his life.*

*Examiner+ caught up with Barry to discuss life in Westchester, his fond memories of "Barmonk," and his one*

*and only humor column he wrote for the Pleasantville High School newspaper.*

**Examiner+: What was it like to grow up in Westchester County?**

Dave Barry: Well, it was good for me. I grew up, and this was millions of years ago, in Armonk. The town I was born and raised in was just a little village then. It was the best of both worlds because we were a little town. Literally, everybody knew everybody. So, the kids could run free and we knew everybody we saw on the street. But also we were 30 miles from New York. We could get to White Plains and get the train to "the big city." So we thought we were sophisticated, but we lived this bucolic, happy life — the kids did, anyway, in Armonk. I have really good memories of that time.

It's really different now. I'm sure that somebody's having a good time in Armonk as we speak, but whoever that is has way more money than anybody when I was there. The people who lived literally on my street; one guy was an advertising executive, one was a Nestle executive. But also, there was a carpenter, a plumber, a guy who ran a stationery store — let's say, regular blue-collar people. I don't think there's a lot of that in Armonk anymore. It's become a high-end, pony town. And I'm sure there



Dave Barry

are a lot of wonderful people there, but it's not what it was when I grew up.

**E+: You attended Pleasantville High School and you wrote humor columns for the school newspaper. What were people's reactions to your columns?**

DB: Well, first of all, I think I only wrote one because the editor of the paper was a friend of mine named Tom Parker, who only became the editor of the paper so that he could put it on his application for college, which worked. He got into

Yale. But he didn't really didn't do it out of a passion for journalism.

I wrote a column that I thought was hilarious, and I honestly don't remember if anybody else did, or if anybody even read it. I do remember what it was about. The senior boys had a tradition: back then we would go to a field and drink a bunch of beer — which I want to stress is illegal and young people should never do this — and then play football. It was called, "Load Ball," and it was just a ridiculous drunken running-around, falling-down thing.

But I wrote an account of the Load Ball game as though it was a real sporting event for the Pleasantville High School paper. I can't remember anything else about it other than a, I thought it was hilarious, and b, as far as I know, nobody but me read it. Certainly, nobody in the administration at Pleasantville High School was even vaguely aware of what it was about. I imagine everybody who could punish me is by now dead. so I'm glad I got that ...

*To read the rest of this article, and others like it, visit [examiner-plus.com](http://examiner-plus.com) and click subscribe. We hope you've enjoyed this week's excerpt from Examiner+. We love honest feedback. Tell us what you think: [examinerplus@theexaminernews.com](mailto:examinerplus@theexaminernews.com)*

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## February is Children's Dental Health Month



## Healthy Smile Tips for Your Child

- ✓ Brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.
- ✓ Clean between your teeth daily.
- ✓ Eat a healthy diet that limits sugary beverages and snacks.
- ✓ See your dentist regularly for prevention and treatment of oral disease.

Source: American Dental Association



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# The Ongoing Search for Far-Off Planets in Our Skies

Last December, NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA/JPL) launched the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Many people see Webb as the much-more-powerful successor to NASA/JPL's Hubble Space Telescope.

For more than 30 years, Hubble has driven our understanding of the universe and given us an endless supply of desktop background photos. It's incredible to think what we might learn once the JWST is fully up and running.

One of the JWST team's goals is to expand the ongoing hunt for exoplanets, planets that orbit stars other than our sun. Astronomers have always imagined planets at other stars, but first identified possible exoplanets in 1988. In 1992, they confirmed the first. According to Extrasolar Planets Encyclopaedia, there are now close to 5,000 confirmed planets at other stars, some near, some far, some in multi-planet systems.

Most of these planets' host stars are too faint or distant for us to see without specialized equipment, and seeing the exoplanets themselves is simply out of the question. They're just too small and their parents' starlight is too bright and washes them out.

That doesn't mean we can't explore a little on our own. Two naked-eye stars that astronomers believe have exoplanets are easy for us to see in the evenings this month.

First, let's find our old friend Orion. He's in

the southern part of the sky in the evenings. Let's draw a line through his three belt stars and toward the west. That's, generally, toward the left. The bright red star we'll come to along that line is Aldebaran, the brightest in Taurus, the bull. It's about 65 light years away. There's some doubt, but astronomers believe there is a star about five times the

size of Jupiter orbiting Aldebaran at about 1.5 times the distance earth orbits the sun.

Next, let's draw a line from Rigel, at Orion's right foot, through Betelgeuse at his left shoulder. Continuing that line, we'll come to Castor and Pollux, which represent Gemini, the mythological twins. Pollux, about 35 light years away, is the brighter of the pair.

In 2006, the astronomer Artie Hatzes confirmed the existence of a planet about



By Scott Levine

twice the size of Jupiter there. It's since been named Thestias, for Pollux's son. Like Aldebaran's planet, Thestias also orbits Pollux at about 1.5 times the distance we travel around the sun.

We can't see these planets from our neighborhoods, but at times like these it's always fun to try to imagine the scene as though we could; as though we're closer to it. To help us out a bit, the moon slides past Aldebaran on Mar. 8 and Mar.

9. Then a few days later, it teams up with Pollux on Mar. 12-13.

Imagine seeing the moon drifting across the sky above us. As it does, our gaze stretches off into the galaxy, where we'll see planets orbiting these stars, as well as countless others.

Our lives, and the vastness of the galaxy can be overwhelming. It's hard to know what we're looking at sometimes. I find great comfort, though, in looking up on a clear

night and wondering who's looking back with their space telescopes. Maybe they're wondering who's out there, too.

I hope you'll take a look, and wave, too, this month.

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, who are dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org.

## Clear Skies



New Moon  
March 2



First Quarter  
March 10



Full Moon  
March 18



Last Quarter  
March 25

The phases of the moon for March.

## Crossword Answers

1	B	A	R	L	E	Y		7	H	A	L			
10	I	N	T	O	N	E	11	D	12	I	B	M		
13	O	N	E	S	T	A	R		14	B	E	N		
17	E	M	P	T	Y		20	M	E	C	C	A		
23	D	A	L	I					24	A	H	A	S	
25	S	H	A	M	S		27	S	K	I	M	S		
30	A	U	F				32	R	E	M	O	R	S	E
36	G	N	U				37	S	A	M	O	S	A	S
38	M	A	L					39	R	E	D	T	O	P

Aum- LF 2021-00764  
FCA § 1035(b), 1036  
[NOTE: May be served outside New York State]

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

In the Matter of a Proceeding Under Article 10 of  
the Family Court Act

MARIE ERLANDE DE FRANC (dob  
09/25/2004), MARIE ANGE DE FRANC (dob  
02/01/2009)

Child(ren) under Eighteen Years of Age  
Alleged to be Severely Abused, Abused  
And/or Neglected by

ARNOUS DE FRANC,

Respondent.

Form 10-7a  
(Summons-Child Abuse Case)  
(8/2010)

NA-07846-21  
NA-07847-21

Docket Nos.: NA-03853-21/21-  
NA-04363-21/21-

F/U No.: 163931

SUMMONS  
(Child Abuse Case)

NOTICE: PLACEMENT OF YOUR CHILD(REN) IN FOSTER CARE MAY RESULT IN YOUR LOSS OF YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD(REN). IF YOUR CHILD(REN) STAYS IN FOSTER CARE FOR 15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22 MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO FILE A PETITION(S) TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION. IN SOME CASES, THE AGENCY MAY FILE BEFORE THE END OF THE 15-MONTH PERIOD. IF SEVERE OR REPEATED CHILD ABUSE IS PROVEN BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE, THIS FINDING MAY CONSTITUTE THE BASIS TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION.

UPON GOOD CAUSE, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A RESPONDENT; IF THE COURT DETERMINES THE CHILD(REN) SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM HIS/HER HOME, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE SUITABLE CUSTODIANS FOR THE CHILD(REN); IF THE CHILD(REN) IS PLACED AND REMAINS IN FOSTER CARE FOR FIFTEEN OF THE MOST RECENT TWENTY-TWO MONTHS, THE

AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PETITION(S) FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PARENT(S) AND COMMITMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION, EVEN IF THE PARENT(S) WERE NOT NAMED AS RESPONDENTS IN THE CHILD NEGLECT OR ABUSE PROCEEDING.

A NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) AND TO SEEK ENFORCEMENT OF VISITATION RIGHTS WITH THE CHILD(REN).

BY ORDER OF THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT(S) WHO RESIDE(S) OR IS FOUND AT [specify address(es)]:

Last known address:

ARNOUS DE FRANC (Father)  
36 White Plains Ave  
Elmsford, NY 10523

and to [specify name(s) and address(es) and relationship to child(ren)]: N/A

A Petition under Article 10 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this Court, and annexed hereto

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before this

Court Virtually by Video Conferencing and/or Telephone\*, on MARCH 30, 2022, at 2:30 o'clock in the ☐ morning ☒ afternoon of that day to answer the

petitions and to be dealt with in accordance with Article 10 of the Family Court Act.

Upon your failure to appear as herein directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest and/or the Court may proceed to Inquest and hear and determine the petitions as provided by law.

\*Please contact your attorney and/or the Court by telephone (914-824-5501) or by email (VirtualWestchesterFamilyCourt@nycourts.gov) for further instructions on how to appear via video and/or telephone.

Dated: FEBRUARY 3, 2022.

/s/ William Curry  
Clerk of Court

# A Stone By Any Other Name: Of Scone, or Innisfail, or Pretender?

More than a few things bond Ireland and Scotland, as more than a few articles in this column have suggested. A common indigenous tongue, a fierce sense of pride, dedication to the memory of a dethroned Stuart monarch, a love for lost causes and a stone. Yes, a stone.

Stones seem to loom large in Celtic myths and legends. Standing stones, arranged in rings, with mystical powers for those "in the know," dot the landscape of both countries. To this day they are given acclaim for the miraculous.

But there is one stone in particular that claims pride of place, especially in Scotland. That is the "Stone of Scone," upon which Scotland's kings were crowned for over a thousand years. It has a storied past and a turbulent history.

Who was the first recognized King of Scotland? Why, none other than an Irishman, Fergus Mac Erc! At the turn of the sixth century, he ruled the kingdom of Dalriada, which spanned portions of Ulster in Ireland and Argyll in Scotland. And to seal the occasion, he "borrowed" a sizable piece of the Lia Fáil, a rock embedded atop Ireland's Hill of Tara. It was there that each High King of Ireland was enthroned.



By Brian McGowan

Also known as the "Stone of Innisfail," the Lia Fáil was part of a meteorite that fell from the sky eons ago, in times with no written record. Ironically, it actually fell in Scotland, from where it was taken to Ireland by a prehistoric, pre-Celtic race, the Tuatha de Danaan, eventually ending up on the Hill of Tara. One of the stone's mystical attributes was the ability to roar with delight when a chieftain worthy of the title was crowned. Conversely, when someone less than worthy stepped up, the stone would cry with dismay.

Fergus's reign was short. He was king for only three years, and died in 501 C.E. A long line of kings descended from him and expanded their power throughout Scotland.

Each of them accepted the honor while seated upon the rock that Fergus had "borrowed" from the Hill of Tara, and planted in Scotland's soil.

Enter the English King Edward I. In one of England's many campaigns to subjugate her neighbors to the north, in 1296 he stole the stone, by then ensconced at Scone Abbey, in Perthshire, and brought it back to London. There it has lain under the Coronation Chair that every British monarch has sat upon as they

were crowned, the last being the current monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Talk about a foe being ground underfoot!

Many efforts were made over time to bring the stone back to its rightful owners, the Scots. Or would that be the Irish? Regardless, it wasn't until 1950 that justice was served, if only temporarily. Some enterprising Scottish students stole the stone from Westminster Abbey and carried it back to Scotland. It took four months for the stone to be returned to the authorities, and it was quickly whisked back to London.

Since 1996, 700 years after its original theft, the stone was officially restored to Scotland. It can only be brought back to London on the occasion of the coronation of the next British monarch, after which it returns north, to Scotland.

But a mystery emerges. The Stone of Innisfail, the original in Ireland, is a piece of a meteorite. The Stone of Scone is a block of sandstone, quite different. Some speculate that the enterprising Scots duped Edward I. They substituted an impostor stone, and then buried the real one somewhere about the abbey, its location now lost in the mists of time.

Perhaps someone knows the secret of the stone's whereabouts, and is waiting for the right moment to reveal it, given Scotland's progressive move closer to declaring independence from Great Britain. Maybe a Stuart "heir presumptive" awaits, ready to ascend Scotland's ancient throne.

Who are the Stuarts? Gist for a future



Westminster Abbey's Coronation Chair, with the purloined Stone of Scone secured beneath it.

article!

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

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# BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



# Celebrating the Birth of the Father of Our Country



By Nick Antonaccio

Every once in a while, a seemingly obscure news clip inspires me as a theme for a wine column. On the occasion of the 290th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, I've decided to reprise a column I penned

in 2012 that had a tie-in to the alcoholic beverage of choice of the father of our country and his compatriots.

An ice bucket, commissioned by Gen. Washington, garnered an astronomical price of \$782,500 at auction. What was the significance of this objet d'art that it became such an objet du désir?

As I researched it, I realized that this ice bucket embodied a number of compelling aspects of American history.

1. It was designed by Father George himself to his specific dimensions and construction, but he wanted it to be austere in appearance; no British aristocratic trappings.

2. It was used extensively at Washington's home for entertaining.

3. It was presented by Washington at the end of his term to his long-time friend and collaborator, Alexander Hamilton, whose direct descendants offered it for auction.

I began to consider this wine cooler as it



might have pertained to the drinking habits and preferences of our Founding Fathers. After all, they were of Puritanical heritage, and likely did not tipple. Why a need for a wine cooler during such temperate times?

In fact, the Founding Fathers and their contemporaries were not teetotalers. They seemed to have quite a propensity for all things alcoholic. Their annual per capita consumption was five gallons (nearly twice as much as we consume today). What were they drinking? Apparently, anything they could purchase or home-produce to satisfy their voracious appetite for alcohol.

By way of example, I came across a document recounting an outing of Father George, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and the other Founding Fathers as they were crafting the Constitution. After a particularly stressful day of negotiations and drafting, the 55 delegates gathered at a local tavern to unwind. The tavern's records, surviving to this day, detailed the

bar tab for the evening's festivities. Here is how I envision the evening may have unfolded (the anecdotal dialogue highlights factual history):

George: "Barkeep, bring us your finest beer and cider for these fine patriots."

The night progresses.

George: "Barkeep, although it is my drink of choice, I'm tired of beer. I brew my own, which I consume each evening with dinner. Bring out the good stuff. Don't you have any hard liquor?"

Barkeep: "I just received a shipment of Madeira wine from Portugal. It's all the rage in New York. Fortified and sweet, I can't get enough to satisfy my customers' changing palate."

George: "Bring it on, my good man, I know it well. I pour it at home, utilizing my personally designed bucket at the conclusion of each evening's dinner."

Later that evening, George to Ben: "See if you can convince Jefferson to fetch a few bottles of that fine French wine he brought back from his government boondoggle to France last year."

Ben to Thom: "What do you say, my fellow lover of all things French? You've been saving those expensive Bordeaux wines for a special occasion. Does forming our own citizens' government and creating

our own laws and civil rights qualify?"

Thom: "I don't mind, but I'm concerned about you Ben. I know your motto – everything to excess."

Ben: "Alright then. Tonight, it's all about moderation. Just as our government is turning over a new leaf, so will I."

At the end of the night, the bill is presented: 54 bottles of Madeira, 60 bottles of claret wine, eight of whiskey, 22 of porter, eight of hard cider, 12 of beer and seven bowls of alcoholic punch.

Two bottles of wine plus one bottle of various other alcohols – per delegate? Coincidentally, two days later, the Constitution is formally signed.

My, my. I have a new admiration for Father George. Who knew his talent for raising his arm to lead his loyal troops into battle was equally suited for a toast to the leaders of the Spirit(s) of 1776?

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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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