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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 666

Yorktown to Make Changes After Death of Highway Worker



Jake Arcara

By Rick Pezzullo

The Town of Yorktown is planning to make immediate safety changes to better protect its workforce following the Sept. 14 death of a Highway Department employee who was killed by a driver while working on a drainage project on London Rd.

"We will never, ever allow this to ever happen again," Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli asserted during last week's Town Board meeting.

Jake Arcara, 28, a five-year town employee, was working as a flagger near the intersection of Gomer St. and Quinlan St. at about 11:07 a.m. when a car driven by an 88-year-old Yorktown man sideswiped a highway foreman and hit Arcara from behind,

sending him flying into an excavator.

"He didn't see it coming," Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater said.

Arcara, whose title was Motor Equipment Operator, was transported to NewYork Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The identity of the driver has not been released by Yorktown Police, but Examiner Media has learned it was Irving Breitbart, a member of the town's Senior Advisory Committee and Veterans Advisory Committee.

Breitbart, a 56-year Yorktown resident, Korean War veteran and founder and owner

of Eagle Awards and Trophy Company, suffered broken ribs and other injuries in the accident. He died Sept. 18.

"My heart goes out to his family, too. I'm sure they're suffering, too," Councilman Sergio Esposito said.

Municipalities from throughout the region sent more than 80 highway trucks to Arcara's funeral Sept. 20 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Shrub Oak. Many elected officials from neighboring towns, including Cortlandt Supervisor Dr. Richard Becker and Putnam Valley Supervisor Jacqueline Annabi, attended the service and their respective

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Cortlandt Reaches Deal to Preserve 38 Acres for Open Space

By Rick Pezzullo

Property in the Town of Cortlandt that was once approved for 13 residential homes and envisioned to house a solar farm will instead be preserved as open space.

The Cortlandt Town Board last week approved a resolution to spend \$380,000 to ensure 38 acres on Mill Court will continue to be an environmentally sensitive sanctuary for countless wildlife and open space for hikers and bikers.

Supervisor Dr. Richard Becker said the town was able to negotiate a purchasing price half of what was being sought and noted the money was coming from Cortlandt's Open Space Fund. The transaction is subject to a permissive referendum.

"Our Conservation Advisory Council and Open Space Committee identified it as one of the number one spots to preserve in all of Cortlandt," Becker said.

In 2005, a developer submitted a plan to build a 27-home subdivision on the site. In 2016, the Planning Board approved a scaled down project of 13 homes, but nothing was ever built.

In 2020, CVE North America came forward with plans to clear cut 2,800 trees and install 9,504 solar panels that would extend the length of three football fields.

CVE representatives touted the environmental benefits of producing clean energy from the 4 MW solar farm and explained the area was chosen because it is situated within the ConEdison electric utility territory.

However, nearby residents criticized the plan as "a money grab" and lambasted the destruction of land that is cherished.

"I'm extremely thankful for the hard work that made this conservation possible," Rick Ribeiro, a 26-year resident of Mill Court, told the Town Board at the Sept. 20 meeting.

"Thank you for listening to us," Nancy Young, another resident of Mill Court, said. "It's been a long 17 years discussing various forms of development. This is a habitat for many species."

Becker mentioned the Westchester Land Trust played a role in assisting the town. Cortlandt has preserved more than 3,000 acres of open space during the last 30 years.

Peekskill Attorney Honored as Woman of Distinction



State Senator Pete Harcham recently recognized Tanya Dwyer (center), a Peekskill attorney with Legal Services of Hudson Valley and a community housing advocate, as a 2022 State Senate Woman of Distinction honoree at a special ceremony. Dwyer began working at Legal Services of Hudson Valley in 2018 as a foreclosure and bankruptcy attorney defending homeowners. The following year she founded Parish House, Inc., a nonprofit with a mission to build houses that are eco-friendly and affordable on a minimum wage salary. Prior to her work at Legal Services, Dwyer founded and operated her own law firm for 10 years, primarily defending the rights of homeowners. Dwyer is chair of the Peekskill NAACP Economic Sustainability Committee, where she has an initiative to update Peekskill's City plan to center housing and environmental justice.

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Yorktown Board Lays Welcome Mat for Boutique Hotels

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Town Board voted last week to amend the town's Zoning Code to allow for the construction of boutique hotels in certain business corridors.

The anticipated decision paves the way for two proposed boutique-style hotels to move forward in the planning process in the recently established Yorktown Heights Overlay District through a special use permit.

"It's important that Yorktown consider new uses for outdated properties," said Councilman Tom Diana.

During a public hearing in August, most of the public comment centered on a three-floor hotel called Hotel Gardena, which, if approved, would be built on about a third of an acre of land at the corner of Veterans Road and Commerce Street, adjacent to Albert A. Capellini Community and Culture Center where a real estate office has been located for years.

Project plans, which first surfaced in late 2020, call for a 16-room hotel, with eight rooms, including four suites, on both the second and third floors ranging from 340 square feet to just over 500 square feet. The first floor would see a lobby, lounge and café,

which would offer outdoor seating along Veterans Rd.

In addition, plans call for a rooftop bar and grill that would allow for both indoor and outdoor seating. Legal counsel for the project is former Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace.

"This is not a final approval for the hotel. This is a textual change within our code to provide the parameters by which such applications can be reviewed and processed by our Planning Board," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "This application—like any other within the overlay district—will receive the same level of review in accordance with state and local laws."

A regional inn is also being proposed as part of the Underhill Farm project on Underhill Ave.

According to the new Zoning Code language, a boutique hotel is defined as a small, luxury hotel that does not have more than 25 rooms and offers an enhanced level of services with unique accommodations.

"Our small business owners need more customers in our hamlets. These new boutique hotel rules are one way to diversify the types of businesses in our shopping areas," said Councilman Sergio Esposito.

Yorktown to Make Changes After Death of Highway Worker

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boards held moments of silence in Arcara's memory at meetings last week.

"These people work hard and they shouldn't have to worry if they will come home at night," Cortlandt Councilman James Creighton said. "It's a tragedy that shouldn't have happened."

Slater said two days after the tragedy, Water Department workers were at the accident scene picking up drainage pipe from a resident's lawn when their town vehicle was sideswiped by a passing motorist.

Moving forward, Yorktown will be shutting down any roadway where town employees are working.

"We will make every effort to take the right steps to protect our workers," Slater said. "The only thing we thought of that could have prevented this tragedy is a road closure or a Jersey barrier. Our Highway Department is really hurting losing one of

their own. It's a very difficult time for our workforce."

Arcara graduated from Lakeland High School and was engaged to be married next September to Catherine Brosnan, an assistant engineer with the Town of Cortlandt.

According to his obituary, he took his grandmother out for breakfast every Sunday and would honk his work truck horn twice every time he passed by his mother's office in Yorktown. He loved bass fishing and dirt biking with his father and would only eat sauce and meatballs prepared by his father using the family's secret recipe.

"Jake was fantastic, absolutely fantastic," Slater said. "You just can't take this life for granted. You can't take tomorrow for granted. Jake went to work like he did every day and tomorrow never came. He had his whole life ahead of him."

Kennedy Sophomore Completes Hiking Trail on BOCES Campus

Nestor Garcia had a goal and was determined to accomplish it.

A member of Yorktown Boy Scout Troop 267, Garcia wanted to build something meaningful for the community. But he knew he couldn't do it alone.

Enter: Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES. Garcia approached the agency about the possibility of creating a hiking trail on its 226-acre campus.

Last week, the resulting trail was unveiled with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Garcia, his parents, Bruni and Nestor; his mentors, Jane and Walt Daniels; BOCES Board members; and agency leadership.

District Superintendent Dr. James M. Ryan praised Garcia for taking the initiative to launch the trail project and for seeing it through to completion. "I want to recognize the special partnership between BOCES and the community and Boy Scouts, and especially this Eagle Scout who stepped forward" to make it happen, Ryan said.

Daniel Novak, coordinator of the Center for Environmental Education at BOCES, said "from months of work, Nestor learned how to work with a large agency, obtain insurance and work through important bureaucratic steps, and he did it with patience and excellent communication while keeping us all in the loop."

Completed this summer, the trail, which is almost three quarters of a mile, provides an easily walked loop through

the southern portion of the campus, and connects the south and north campuses through the woods. To make it usable, Garcia cleared vegetation, leveled steep sections and built stream crossings. He also added trail markers. CTE students, including those in the urban forestry program, also assisted in the clearing.

Once completed, the trail was put to immediate use, Novak said. Students in extended school year programs used it, as did district leadership teams attending professional development. He said one group of students with special needs emerged from walking the trail saying they felt calm, peaceful and grounded.

"That was the fruition of all Nestor's work," Novak said.

Jane Daniels, an avid hiker and community activist who, along with her husband, has mentored about 25 Eagle Scouts over the years, said "Nestor is an exceptional scout who encountered obstacles along the way—including his mentors getting sick—but he didn't let anything get in the way of completing the project."

A sophomore at Kennedy Catholic High School, Garcia said he wants to continue to do things that help the community and support Boy Scouts. "Even if it is not related to my profession, I will always want to help scouts," he said.

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



John F. Kennedy High School sophomore Nestor Garcia was recognized for his work on the hiking trail.

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Pleasantville Block Party: A Family and Community Fest

By Abby Luby

This Saturday downtown Pleasantville will be energized with live music, food and fun for children and families.

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce will host Block Party 2022 to celebrate the downtown – and there will be something for everyone.

The event, which has no admission, will run from 2 to 9 p.m. and feature local restaurants, business vendors, a car show, a kids' fun zone and a beer garden.

"This is a much bigger animal than last year," said Paul Alvarez, the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce's vice president. "There's a lot more going on."

Organizers are hopeful for good attendance with invites sent to those attending Pleasantville High School's homecoming weekend and Family Weekend at Pace University.

A similar event called Oktoberfest was held in 2021, but the chamber decided to change the name.

"This year, by calling it a block party, the event appeals to all ages," Alvarez said. "A lot of residents do block parties and we will have events for kids and adults."

Block Party 2022 will take place on both Washington and Wheeler avenues. Children will enjoy rides, bouncy castles, free games, face painting, balloon animals and a magician. There will also be a Mister Softee truck.



PLEASANTVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHOTO

Last year's successful Oktoberfest in downtown Pleasantville has been morphed into Block Party 2022 to make it a more inviting event for families and children. It will be held this Saturday from 2 to 9 p.m.

Music will keep things humming throughout the day. Performing at Wheeler Avenue's Nonna Park will be the 914 String

Quartet, Blue Storm 4, Luxury Vinyl and Mike.

At the beer garden, located in the parking lot adjacent to Holy Innocents church, there will be performances by Frankenstein's Baby from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Red Hots from 6 to 9 p.m.

The beer garden and food area will be open for the event's duration with Arthur Avenue Wood Fired Pizza, Soul Brewing Co. and Southern Table among the local establishments. Other local restaurants will feature Block Party specials, which can be carried out and taken to the beer garden.

"We also know that those coming home to their Pleasantville High School reunion are planning to meet in the beer garden," Alvarez said.

One of the biggest changes this year is how alcohol is sold. Last year long lines outside Soul Brewing saw people drinking along Wheeler Avenue, making it difficult to control and monitor underage consumption. Alvarez said alcohol can only be consumed in the beer garden, which will require identification and a wrist band to drink. Six security guards will be on hand to check IDs.

"There will be more control this year when it comes to buying a drink for someone underage," Alvarez said. "People will be told they can't do that, that this is a family and community event and they can enjoy alcohol consumption in moderation."

On Wheeler Avenue, which will be closed

to traffic, visitors can find businesses and organizations stationed such as Apollo Chiropractic, Howard Hanna Rand Realty, the Jacob Burns Film Center, the Chamber of Commerce, the Pleasantville Children's Center, Pleasantville Laundry, Boy Scouts Troop #12 and Mister Softee.

Washington Avenue will be closed from Manville Road to the firehouse from 2 to 6 p.m. and will showcase a car show, local organizations, Pleasantville High School classes 2023, 2024 and 2025, Valley Bank and Superior Office Solutions.

The village and local businesses and organizations are supporting the event. Last year there was little time to reach out to businesses, which Alvarez said is why there were no sponsors.

"Last year it was low-key and the village and chamber footed the bill," he said. "But this year there are many sponsors and word has gotten out to all the different villages in the area."

Alvarez said the Chamber of Commerce is hoping to build on the momentum created by Oktoberfest.

"We were inspired by the attendance last year when many people came out for the first time since the pandemic," Alvarez said. "There were so many families, grandparents, kids and neighbors all in one spot who hadn't seen each other in a while. We want to capture that same spirit."

The rain date for Block Party 2022 is Sunday, Oct. 2.



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MTA Pursues Funding for Bridge Over Chappaqua Grade Crossing

By Martin Wilbur

The MTA has renewed efforts to build a bridge to carry vehicular traffic over the Metro-North train tracks on Roaring Brook Road near the Saw Mill Parkway.

New Castle Supervisor Lisa Katz said last week that town officials had a Sept. 19 conversation with MTA representatives, who are looking for the town's support as they pursue grant applications from the federal and state governments.

An 80-20 split between the federal government and New York State is being sought to fund the project.

"We had a call with them (last Monday) and they did affirmatively say that if this did move forward, we would have significant input into the design, what it looks like, where it is as well as materials and tree planting and everything else," Katz said.

Last Friday, the MTA confirmed that it is targeting money for a bridge in that location in a one-sentence statement that followed an inquiry by The Examiner.

"The MTA is working with NYSDOT and the Town of New Castle to secure funding for a potential project," the statement read.

While initially proposed many years ago, the overpass took on renewed urgency in the first few years following the February 2015 train-vehicle crash at a grade crossing in Valhalla that killed six people. It is considered a problem grade crossing, especially during peak hours, because there is a relatively short distance between



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The Roaring Brook Road grade crossing near the Saw Mill River Parkway where the Town of New Castle has been advocating for a bridge to carry vehicular traffic over the Metro-North train tracks.

the tracks and the Saw Mill Parkway.

Katz said with the retail having been opened at the nearby Chappaqua Crossing and 91 townhomes under construction at the site, the project takes on added importance. The grade crossing is also near Horace Greeley High School.

"We started advocating for a bridge over the Saw Mill River Parkway at Roaring

Brook Road for a number of reasons, given its proximity to the high school and the very young drivers who drive there, and we have personally seen people waiting on the train tracks to get up the hill," she said.

The MTA was looking for a letter of support for the town as it tries to capture the funding.

Several years ago, when it was last discussed, rough estimates for the project were pegged in the \$30 million to \$50 million range, said New Castle Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull.

Councilman Jeremy Saland, the only other current board member besides Katz who was serving during some of the discussions in the few years after the Valhalla accident, said it makes sense for the town to do what it can to vie for the funding.

"It's a no-brainer," he said. "We've been pursuing this for some time."

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SCAN ME

Mt. Pleasant Planning Board Chair Steps Down After 37 Years

By Martin Wilbur

For the first time since 1985, the Mount Pleasant Planning Board will operate without its most recognizable member.

Michael McLaughlin stepped down from his seat following the Sept. 19 meeting, wrapping up a 37-year run on the board, including the past 30 years as its chairman.

McLaughlin, who broke the mold of the prototypical Planning Board member by often being jocular and occasionally cantankerous, thanked the town and his board colleagues for allowing him to serve and lead the board for as long as he had.

"It has been a privilege, a true privilege to be able to move things forward in this

town over the years that I've been here," McLaughlin said.

"I want to thank the various Town Board administrations, including the current one, for the confidence and the faith they had given my leadership," he also said.

McLaughlin apologized if he ever offended anyone or if a resident or applicant didn't understand his sometimes-unorthodox ways at meetings.

There were several ovations from the rest of the board and those in the audience following his remarks, including one standing ovation. Both the Planning Department and Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi presented McLaughlin with proclamations, and the town made last Wednesday Michael

McLaughlin Day in Mount Pleasant.

Fulgenzi read the text of the town's proclamation stating that his "booming baritone and commanding presence results in tightly-run and efficient Planning Board meetings."

While McLaughlin did not give a reason for his resignation last week, he was seen wearing a nasal cannula during the meeting, which is used to provide people with supplemental oxygen.

He said if the town ever needed his help, he would be available, although he didn't. He joked that he now looked forward to a cigar and a Jameson, even if it was against doctor's orders.

"I tried to use each meeting as an educational opportunity and perhaps, perhaps, that's why people haven't dragged me by the back of the neck and dragged me out of here," McLaughlin said.

Honoring the Moms of the Fallen



Westchester County paused last Friday afternoon to honor the sacrifice of the families who lost children in the service of the country at the county's annual Gold Star Mothers & Families Memorial Tribute Ceremony at Kensico Dam Plaza. When an active-duty service member dies, his or her mother becomes a Gold Star Mother. "These Gold Star Mothers cannot be appreciated more, cannot be honored more than we do," County Executive George Latimer said during the ceremony. "We need to do this not just one day a year but as many times as we can."



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What a Treasure: Church's Thrift Shop Raises \$26G for Local Nonprofits

By Martin Wilbur

For 55 years, Treasures Thrift Shop at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has not only provided shoppers in Armonk and neighboring communities with great bargains, but has also served a greater purpose.

Last Thursday, the church held a special reception to recognize its volunteers and present checks to six local organizations that benefit from the efforts of those who help run the store, the customers and the community members who donate new and gently used merchandise to sell.

Treasures donated a total of \$26,000 to the Emergency Shelter Program, Hope's Door, Hudson Valley Honor Flight, Neighbors Link, ReSet, which resettles refugees locally, and the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, which represents roughly half of its proceeds. The remainder of the money that the shop brings in goes to help the church pay for its expenses.

Longtime Treasures manager Trina Fontaine said as important as the sales are by giving residents a chance to buy clothes, shoes, purses, accessories, books and items for the home, it's also pitching



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Some of the merchandise at Treasures Thrift Shop at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Armonk. The shop donated \$26,000 to six local organizations last week.

in to help the organizations who need the support to do their work and help others in the area.

"Treasures is a volunteer staff, eco-conscious place to shop for affordable new and gently-used donated merchandise," said Fontaine, who will be stepping down as manager at the end of this week. "We are committed to building a healthier community through our support of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and local nonprofits and continuing volunteer opportunities in a warm

and friendly environment."

While the shop has been a mainstay in the community since the 1960s, Treasures had to navigate challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was shuttered for about 13 months before reopening in April 2021.

Volunteers used the time to reorganize the store, located in the lower level of the church building near Maple Avenue and Bedford Road. There are racks of clothing and the other merchandise where people can browse when Treasures

is open, which is Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The church's Mission and Outreach Committee decides which organizations share in the donations based on a variety of factors, said John Bernson, a St. Stephen's parishioner and warden. Church members and volunteers may also recommend nonprofits for consideration.

"We have typically tried to find organizations that are local, number one, and number two (are) relatively small, so there's a local impact and the organizations are small enough where we can make a difference," Bernson said.

Church member Lena Cavanna, who also is on the board of the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, said the volunteers who make the shop possible work incredibly hard and the congregation and its leaders wanted to make sure that they were given proper credit by holding a reception in person. Previously, the donations to the nonprofits were distributed with little fanfare, but that changed this year, she said.

"We wanted the volunteers to be here, to be part of the process rather than just writing the check and that's it," Cavanna said. "That personal touch, it means a lot and it

means a lot to the volunteers and it means a lot to the organizations."

For the representatives of the six organizations, there was deep appreciation for the support. The nonprofits would have a difficult time providing their services without the help from the community.

"Every service we provide to victims of domestic violence we provide free of charge, so we totally rely on the community and then we rely on county, state and federal grants," said Barbara Turk, director of development for the Hawthorne-based Hope's Door. "But it is our donor base that usually keeps us going."

The pandemic put a strain on vulnerable residents causing a 40 to 50 percent spike in the number of families that turned to the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry for help, said Sharon Seidell, a member of the pantry's Board Management Committee and the president of the Bedford Presbyterian Church.

St. Stephen's is one of 14 are congregations in the interfaith alliance that helps support the pantry.

"It's really critical and we depend on the support of all of the congregations," Seidell said.

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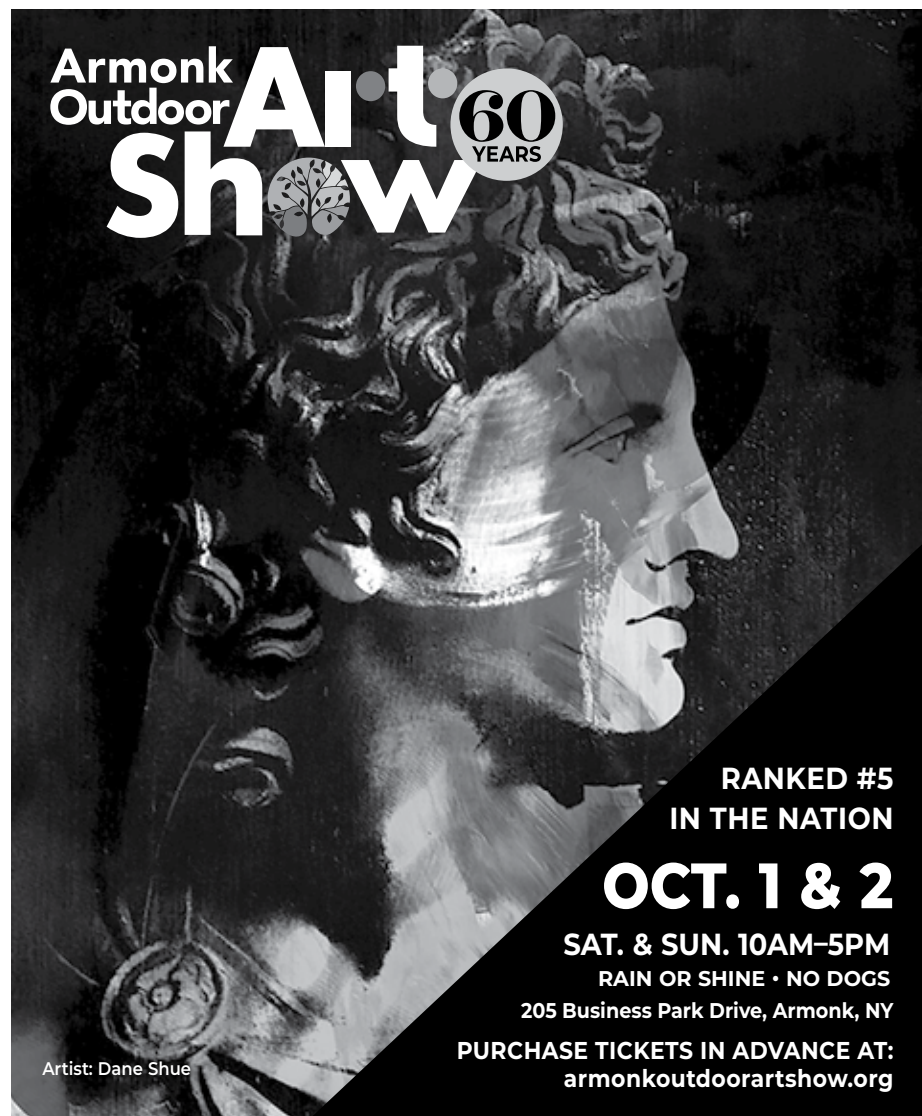
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Police Blotter

Carmel Police Department

Sept. 15: Putnam County 911 dispatched police to the vicinity of 912 Route 6 in Mahopac at 10:39 a.m. for a subject, possibly with a gun, engaging in a verbal dispute. Responding officers arrived at the location within one minute and determined one of the subjects, Zongbo Xu, 48, of College Point, Queens, had reportedly displayed a handgun during the dispute. Xu was taken into custody without further incident and a firearm was recovered from the scene. After an investigation by police, Xu was charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and second-degree menacing. The suspect was arraigned in Carmel Town Court and held at Putnam County Jail on \$25,000 bail to await further proceedings.

County Police/Mount Kisco

Sept. 20: Security staff at Target on North Bedford Road reported at 2:30 p.m. a larceny of more than \$1,000 in merchandise that occurred the previous day. Video evidence was provided to a patrol officer. The matter was subsequently turned over to detectives for continued investigation.

Sept. 21: Officers responded to Gregory Avenue and Main Street at 10:22 p.m. on a report of a verbal domestic dispute in progress. A woman told officers that her boyfriend was following her around and she wanted him to stop. The boyfriend stated that he might harm himself and ran off. Officers were able to locate him and bring

him to Northern Westchester Hospital for mental health care.

Sept. 21: Christian Monroy, 24, of Moore Avenue was charged at 6:39 p.m. with operating a motor vehicle without a required interlock device and second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. The charges followed an investigation into a minor accident on Main Street, where it was determined that the suspect had a revoked driver's license and had been previously ordered not to operate a vehicle without an ignition interlock device. He was released pending an Oct. 6 appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

Sept. 21: An officer responded to a gas station on Main Street at 6:09 p.m. on a report of a dispute between a customer and employee. The employee requested that the patron leave the property and the customer complied.

Sept. 21: A 56-year-old man was issued a summons for drinking an alcoholic beverage in public at 2:27 p.m. after an officer on patrol observed him drinking beer in the Shoppers Park parking lot. He is due in Mount Kisco Justice Court on Oct. 20.

Sept. 21: A resident arrived at the Green Street precinct at 9:21 a.m. to turn in a credit card he found on the street. An officer was able to return it to its owner.

Sept. 22: A building owner on the 300 block of Lexington Avenue reported at 7:57 a.m. that he discovered damage to a door and rear window of the structure while conducting an inspection. He said it was

unclear when and how the damage occurred. He requested a report be prepared because he intends to file an insurance claim.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Sept. 13: Patrol arrested a 66-year-old Croton man at 5:03 p.m. and charged the suspect with third-degree assault. The defendant was arraigned and released on his own recognizance.

Sept. 14: A caller reported a possible assault occurring in another apartment within her building on Munson Street at 12:41 p.m. Patrols responded and arrested a 37-year-old Croton man for assaulting his 77-year-old mother. The defendant was arraigned and released on his own recognizance.

Sept. 19: A caller reported at 3:38 p.m. that a driver in a white sedan appeared to be falling asleep while traveling northbound on Route 9. The caller reported that the operator's head was bobbing up and down. The caller was able to tell the operator to pull over, which she did. The caller pulled over along with the other driver at the Senasqua Road exit ramp. Patrols were dispatched and requested an ambulance for the operator. Patrol reported that the operator refused further medical attention and was given a courtesy transport to Springvale Apartments.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 16: A complainant reported that a large bear was near the rear of her Round Hill Road property at 6:17 p.m. The caller reported that the animal was near fruit trees on the property and not behaving in an aggressive manner but requested an officer respond to check the area. The responding officer reported speaking with the resident. The animal was gone on arrival.

Sept. 18: The Westchester County Department of Emergency Services

reported at 5:19 p.m. that a 79-year-old woman had too much insulin. Armonk Ambulance and Paramedic was dispatched. The responding officer reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Sept. 19: Caller reported at 9:25 a.m. receiving calls about the road closure sign on Route 128. Vehicles are making U-turns at location creating a hazard. The responding officer reported that the "Road Closed" sign needs to be changed to "Road Closed 2 Miles Ahead." An officer responded to the work site and reported speaking with DOT workers who will be correcting the condition.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 16: Report of criminal mischief on Irvington Street at 10:30 p.m. A subject reported that all four tires on his vehicle were slashed. An investigation is ongoing.

Sept. 17: A male and a female were engaged in an argument on Bedford Road at 12:21 a.m.

Sept. 20: A caller from Advanced Auto on Marble Avenue reported at 7:05 p.m. alleged that there was the theft of merchandise from the store. The matter is under investigation.

Sept. 21: A village resident reported at headquarters at 10:41 a.m. that he was being billed for an AT&T account that he had never opened.

Yorktown Police Department

Sept. 22: A 40-year-old Yorktown man was charged at 12:25 p.m. with two counts of forcibly touching, a Class A misdemeanor, following an Aug. 25 walk-in complaint at police headquarters. The victim alleged she was touched inappropriately and against her will on two separate occasions. The man was remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of bail.

Director of Westchester's Domestic Violence High Risk Team Named

Expanding Westchester County's mission to reduce domestic violence cases, the Office for Women has received a federal grant for the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team.

David Ryan, former chief of the Pound Ridge Police Department for 23 years and a member of law enforcement for over 40 years, will serve in the new post through a contract with Hope's Door, a Westchester-based domestic violence services provider funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women.

Ryan will be responsible for reviewing domestic violence cases from a law enforcement perspective, following County Executive George Latimer's commitment to improving community-police response to family violence. The team will help connect victims with the appropriate service providers.

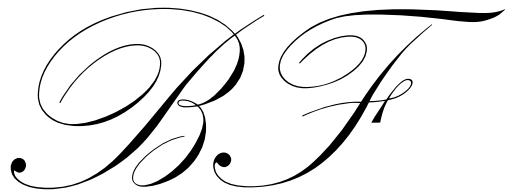
Ryan will help oversee the continued training of the county's local police departments, with the five remaining police departments scheduled for training this fall.

"Reducing the risk of violence stemming from domestic disputes has always been my passion, and when you have a long career in law enforcement, it's possible to experience too many tragic and violent homicides," Ryan said in a statement.

"I have seen enough pain and suffering over the years that I knew could have been prevented, so I am personally invested in seeing this program succeed. We have seen a dramatic difference in the way our police officers respond with this new training, and while public safety will always be our mantra, we have a much more empathic and compassionate approach when we are engaged with victims of domestic violence."

Of the county's 42 local police departments, only one remains to be trained. The Mount Vernon, Larchmont and Harrison police departments are scheduled for training in the upcoming month.

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



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Armonk Outdoor Art Show Celebrates 60th Year in Style This Weekend

By Martin Wilbur

One of the top ranked art shows in the United States right in the middle of Westchester County returns for a milestone celebration this weekend.

The 60th Armonk Outdoor Art Show will feature a wide array of art, artists, food and activities that has made it a local favorite for decades, and more recently has been discovered by others throughout the country.

This Saturday and Sunday, thousands of patrons and those looking to take in a special event who may not be art connoisseurs will gather on the field at Community Park and browse through rows containing more than 140 artists who practice their craft in an assortment of mediums.

"It's a great combination of returning favorites, and by that I mean, artists that many people look for year after year and are excited to see what new collections they have, and the first-time exhibitors, which is important to the show and important to us to give our visitors a mix of artists that they are already fans of and artists that they can see for the first time," said Nicole Blum, who took over as the managing director of the event this year.

One of the goals of the jury that decided which artists of the more than 600 who applied for a spot would get in was variety of style and price point, Blum said.

Of course, without the army of more than 300 local volunteers, in tandem with town departments, it would be difficult for the show to be a reality.



The 60th annual Armonk Outdoor Art Show returns this Saturday and Sunday, a nationally acclaimed event that draws thousands to the hamlet.

Having such an impressive show for a small town has become a source of pride for Armonk and the Town of North Castle, Blum said.

"This is an annual art show that is nationally recognized, currently ranked number five by Sunshine (Artist) magazine, which is pretty incredible for what can be described as a small town," Blum said. "Personally, the art show represents community to me."

Proceeds from the art show go to the Friends of the North Castle Public Library, which helps it raise several hundred thousand dollars each year for programs at the library.

This year, to help celebrate the show's 60th anniversary, organizers have scheduled a reception and fundraiser this Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. to help promote the event. A pre-exhibition and auction to raise funds will be held at the library's Armonk branch, located at 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East., and will highlight the "The Art of Storytelling" exhibit at the show.

It consists of an eclectic collection of more than 40 pieces, including the use of books and stories that were used as inspiration.

Information on how to attend the Thursday

night reception can be found on the Armonk Outdoor Art Show's Facebook and Instagram pages and the library's website.

Along with great art, patrons will have plenty of food and refreshments to satisfy their appetites. Area eateries and food purveyors at the show will include Fortina, DeCicco and Captain Lawrence, Blum said.

There will also be the Family Activity Tent featuring a range of children's art-related activities and the return of the Byram Hills High School students for the first time since the pandemic.

North Castle Deputy Supervisor Barbara DiGiacinto said she recalled decades ago when the show who was in the parking lot behind Citi Bank and was comprised of nearly exclusively by local artists.

Today, it is a boon to the town that it hosts an event that receives national recognition, she said, lauding the organizers and volunteers for making that happen.

"The attention to detail is just incredible," DiGiacinto said. "They're very proud, they're perfectionists, but again, it's done for the love of the town, giving back to the town, specifically programs for the library."

The Armonk Outdoor Art Show is open this Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is a rain-or-shine event. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$13 for seniors. Children 18 and under are admitted free. For tickets and more information, visit www.ArmonkOutdoorArtShow.org.

Community Park is located at 205 Business Park Drive in Armonk.

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The Yorktown Consolidated Water District will be flushing fire hydrants in parts of sections 4, 5, 6 & 7 from October 3, 2022 to November 4, 2022 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Letters to the Editor

Vote Early, By Mail or in Person, But Vote

The Yorktown Small Business Association (YSBA) is nonpartisan and nonpolitical, and so should you be too!

During these tough economic times, many businesses and community organizations are being asked to take a position by supporting a certain political party or candidate. It is selfish and unfair for political parties and candidates to put any group in a position where they feel pressured to make a choice.

Local independent businesses are

operated by people who come from a variety of political persuasions, as do the customers upon whom they rely. The same is true of individuals who belong to one or more organizations or members of community organizations who also own a business. Pressuring either businesses or community organizations to post political signs, posters and brochures in their establishments could put them in a difficult position.

If your business or organization is

approached by any political party or candidate to display signs, posters and brochures, just say no. But if like many people, you feel obligated to do so, simply say yes. Say yes to all parties and candidates by displaying opposing campaign literature, too.

Remember, don't risk harming your business or organization by taking a stand that could cause shoppers, donors or clients to take their business elsewhere. It's hard enough running a business or

organization without turning off half the electorate – and it's the fair and equitable thing to do.

Do the right thing! Businesses and community organizations need to be inclusive, not exclusive.

Bob Giordano
Founder/President
Yorktown Small Business
Association

As Big Oil Ignores Climate Crisis, Ramping Up Renewables is Crucial

Putnam County officials recently confirmed that the county is experiencing a "severe drought" from a lack of rainfall. This lack of rainfall is a direct consequence of the climate crisis – with the larger United States and Europe sharing in some of the hottest summer temperatures ever recorded.

All the while, misinformation from fossil fuel companies continues. In hopes of blunting the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act plan, oil companies have been mounting a PR campaign calling wind and solar "unreliable and unaffordable." This just as National Grid has announced price increases of up to 39 percent for gas this winter!

Last week, Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, the chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, held a hearing to examine the adequacy of climate pledges made by Exxon, Chevron, BP and Shell. The

committee also heard testimony from Isabella M. Weber, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Asked by Chairwoman Maloney about why Big Oil companies fought to avoid commitments to align their business practices with their climate pledges, Dr. Weber said, "We

have seen in the present crisis that profits are the ultimate and only goal of Big Oil corporations."

Stopping oil companies and shifting to wind and solar must be our only goal. Battery storage and grid modernization is being ramped up to address the need to store wind and solar energy, while

NYSERDA and federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act will help New York meet its climate goals. New York State deserves a reliable and clean energy source.

Christine Arroyo
Carmel

Mother Nature Controls Climate Change, Not Humans

When it is proposed to discuss or indoctrinate students into climate change, shouldn't there be a baseline as to the ideal climate period for comparison?

When was it, the great Ice Age, which ended 10,000 years ago, the Medieval warm period, which lasted 500 years, the "little ice age" of the Middle Ages, the 1930s warm period or the 1950s/'60s/'70s cold period which followed?

When did the Earth ever experience a

"normal" period as its climate is effected by the Earth's distance, tilt and wobble as it orbits the sun and the sun's solar periods?

The natural cause is Mother Nature over which humans have no control. Do humans control the Sahara winds that generate hurricanes in the Americas?

Do humans control the jet stream, which generates the weather conditions in the United States? Do humans control the

Pacific Ocean, which generates the cyclical El Nino weather conditions in the United States?

Let's analyze the climate:

Drought and forest fires in the Western U.S. cause climate change.

Torrential rains, floods and tornadoes in the mid- and Eastern U.S. cause climate change.

Torrential rains, floods in Europe cause climate change.

Drought in Australia causes climate change.

It is, has been and always will be Mother Nature at work and humans have no way to change it.

E. Patrick Mosman
Pleasantville

Correction

In last week's article about Lynda Cohen Loigman's new book, "The Matchmaker's Gift," it was incorrectly reported that the author spoke to the grandmother of her daughter's college roommate, who was a matchmaker. The Examiner regrets the error.

Calendar Submissions

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

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Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
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Peter Stone
C.F.O.
pstone@theexaminernews.com

PO Box 611
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878
www.TheExaminerNews.com

Print Team:

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

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs
Sports Editor
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardi
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
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Morris Gut
Food Writer

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Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

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Support-A-Walk Welcoming In-Person Participants Back to FDR Park

By Rick Pezzullo

It has been the feel-good annual celebration of love and hope for more than a quarter-century. Now thousands of participants are returning following two years of COVID-19 pandemic limitations.

The 2022 Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer, the largest fundraiser for Support Connection, Inc., is slated to take over FDR State Park in Yorktown on Sunday, Oct. 2. The Yorktown-based nonprofit organization offers free and confidential support services to people affected by breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer.

Support-A-Walk was founded 28 years ago by local residents as a way to focus attention on breast and ovarian cancer. The financial goal this year is \$250,000. Since Support Connection was founded, thousands of people locally and across the country have received help from the organization.

Of every dollar donated, 88 cents directly fund support services. Support Connection does not receive funds from any national cancer organizations such as Relay for Life, Susan G. Komen or Making Strides.

"The Support-A-Walk is Support Connection's largest awareness and fundraising event of the year," said longtime Executive Director Kathy Quinn. "We want people to know that they are not alone when dealing with a breast or ovarian cancer diagnosis. Our professional peer counselors

have had cancer and are there to provide educated, empathetic and compassionate support."

"We are so grateful to our sponsors and donors that raise money so that we can provide year-round programs and services, all free of charge, to those who utilize them," she said. "While we are delighted to be back at FDR Park once again, we welcome people to walk with us in communities nationwide. This is very fitting since we offer services to people throughout the country."

This year's walk ambassadors are Janet Fletcher and Ebony-Joy Igbinoba. In February 2019, Fletcher was diagnosed with Stage 3C ovarian cancer. Encouraged by a colleague who had used Support Connection services in the past, Fletcher connected with a peer counselor who became a lifeline.

"A diagnosis of advanced ovarian cancer terrified me," Fletcher said. "My life plans blew up in one brief phone call. The insightful, affirming and tender support I received from Support Connection's counselors carried me through the greatest trial of my life. They're still there for me in every way I need, three years later."

"As much as surgery and chemotherapy saved my body from ovarian cancer, Support Connection saved my psyche and soul through their one-on-one counseling, support groups, therapeutic exercise, art and social activities," she added. "They're an extraordinary organization supporting

women with gynecological cancers and their caregivers. I'm blessed to have found them."

Igbinoba was 38 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in September 2019. Two months later, she had a bilateral mastectomy, lymph node removal and reconstructive surgery. Her chemotherapy continued until April 2020, then radiation lasted until June during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A resident of Georgia, Igbinoba first reached out to Support Connection in February 2020 by submitting a website form asking to connect with a counselor.

"I was dealing with insomnia due to the anxiety. I believe I did some Google searches looking for support for breast cancer, then I found Support Connection and filled out the form," Igbinoba said.

"It was so good to talk with someone who really gets it. She truly is an angel. When I see an e-mail from her, my spirit is full of joy. It's a wonderful feeling to have someone like her to check in. I thought strength was doing everything alone. She has shown me there is amazing power in asking for help."

Pre-walk activities kick off at 9 a.m. The walk gets underway immediately after the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m.

To learn more about the Support-A-Walk or to donate or participate, visit www.supportconnection.org/support-a-walk or contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or walk@supportconnection.org.



Thousands of walkers are expected to return to FDR State Park in Yorktown on Sunday for the annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer. For the past two years it had been curtailed because of the pandemic.

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Obituaries

Robert Dell'Angelo

Robert Joseph "Moonie" Dell'Angelo, a Brewster resident, died Sept. 22 at Putnam Hospital in Carmel. He was 67.

Bobby was born Apr. 8, 1955, in the Bronx, to Emilia (Runco) and Frances Dell'Angelo, who predeceased him. His older brother, Dennis, also predeceased him. He is survived by his loving daughter, April (Dell'Angelo) Braidster and her husband, Rob; his adoring grandchildren, Mason and Hudson and former wife, Dana Porcelli Blair; his cousins Joe Streppone, Maryanne (Streppone) Fitzpatrick and Laura Streppone; and by his niece, Danyelle Dell'Angelo.

Mr. Dell'Angelo attended and graduated from Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak in 1973. He was a retired U.S. postal worker and he most recently worked at both the Mahopac Golf Course and Candlewood Valley Country Club in New Milford, Conn.

He was an avid sports enthusiast and enjoyed coaching the Mahopac High School varsity girls' basketball team along with one of his best friends, Head Coach Jay Paldin, for over a decade. Bobby was a competitive bowler, enjoyed horse racing and the camaraderie of many friends. He was also a member of the once famous Sports Barn-Gherkins Softball championship team, where he joked that he was probably one of the best hitters in the last spot of the lineup.

He was a friend to many, always had a kind word, friendly smile and a funny story ready for all his listeners. His greatest joy was



Robert Dell'Angelo

being a dad to the love of his life, April, and his son-in-law Rob. He spent his happiest hours babysitting, teaching and playing with his grandchildren, Mason and Hudson.

Robert's life will be celebrated on Friday, Sept. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home. Private cremation services will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Robert to Green Chimneys in Brewster. Green Chimneys is an educational and therapeutic program (using animals which the students care for) that teaches special education students the skills and confidence to focus on their own well-being, academic development and abilities to achieve success. For more information, visit <https://www.greenchimneys.org/give/>

James Ennis

James J. Ennis, 53, of Pleasantville (and formerly the Bronx) passed away on Sept. 19 after a courageous battle with glioblastoma multiforme. He was surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor his legacy by living their lives to the fullest while remembering to create humor and laughter each day.

James was born on Jan. 15, 1969, to Hannah Mai (O'Conner) and James G. Ennis in the Bronx. He earned a bachelor of arts degree and worked in the marketing and advertising field for over 25 years, eventually establishing his own consulting company.

However, his greatest achievement is the relationships he developed with family, friends, teammates and community members. All who know James will agree he was unique and memorable, as nobody could fill a room with laughter quite like him. He was a fast-talking, quick-witted man with an amazing sense of humor and was a kind-hearted soul who wanted all those around him to laugh and have faith in themselves.

James' most honored role was father to his two precious daughters, Meaghan and Mackenzie. Always an involved, cheerful presence in their lives, James could be found attending every school and after-school event because he was their greatest fan and treasured the time he spent with his girls and their friends. He encouraged his girls to be leaders and stick up not just for themselves but for the underdog as well. This was a lesson he taught by example, for James could often be found helping those in need no matter how big or small the issue.

People would often tease that his two favorite sports teams, the Mets and Jets, were the real underdogs. However, James remained a faithful fan and never missed their games. A true sports fanatic, James could actually be found watching most any sports game, professional to local schools. This love of sports led to another favorite role – coach. He always took the time to help all players gain confidence in themselves on the court, the field and in life. James was truly a gift to all the lives he touched and will never be forgotten. All who know him will definitely be laughing when they share stories of time spent with James.

Helen Ochs

Helen Ochs passed away on Sept. 18 at the age of 92.

She was a Pleasantville resident for over 60 years. Born and raised in the Bronx to her parents, Inez and Maurice Jerkowski, she graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in 1948. In 1955, she married her husband, George Ochs, with whom she would raise four children.

Helen worked for Reader's Digest for many years before her retirement. Not wanting to sit home idly, she went to work for Human-I-tees in Pleasantville. "One her favorite jobs," she would always say.



James Ennis

His greatest wish was to thank everyone for the unwavering support and strength they provided during his courageous battle. Simple words can't express how truly touched James was by all the acts of kindness bestowed upon him and his family over the past 14 months. He was truly blessed.

James leaves behind his best friend and wife Deirdre; two daughters, Meaghan and Mackenzie; sister Doreen Johns (John); brothers-in-law Rick Tavernia and Kevin Hurley (Liz); sister-in-law Kerry Dineen (Patrick); nieces and nephews Connor, Rory, Brogan, Owen, Erin, Caitlin and Andrew; and an army of faithful friends. James was predeceased by his parents and sister, Frances Ennis.

James' family received visitors at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Sept. 22. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be sent to the Break the Hold Foundation, at www.bthbreakthehold.org, so that James' legacy of helping others will continue.

She is survived by three of her children, Robert (Lauren), Carol and Richard (Nancy); her three grandsons, Gregg, Tyler and Jason; as well as many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, George, son Steven and brother George.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations in her memory be sent to the Joe Raso Hospice Residence in New City or the charity of your choice.

A wake was held on Sept. 20 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Sept. 21 at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville.

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Garden-Turned-Classroom Teaches Next Generation About Growing Food

By Martin Wilbur

When Jessica Colon moved to Mount Kisco about two years ago, she looked for a way to get involved in the community and indulge in her love for the outdoors.

As an educator at the New York Botanical Garden, she found a nearly perfect outlet to engage herself and local children – along with a need to head outside after being cooped up indoors for too long during the pandemic.

Colon learned of the Mount Kisco Community Garden, less than a half-acre of space on the ARC of Westchester site on Main Street in the village. It's where she met Livia Fleming, a Bedford resident, who had been volunteering at the garden with her children, and hooked up with Allison Turcan, founder of D.I.G. Farm in North Salem, a nonprofit operation to help connect local communities with farming.

"I wanted to get out, I wanted to get my hands dirty," recalled Colon, who is also the founder of For the People and Kids! an educational services website. "I said to Allison, 'Why don't we put programs here?' She said go for it. I said, 'Livia, you're coming with me.' We started developing classes here and look at what we did."

What they did was, with the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Part of the Mt. Kisco Growing Academy, which offers classes to children and families. Insert: Pictured, from left, are Livia Fleming, Allison Turcan and Jessica Colon, who have collaborated to take over the old Mount Kisco Community Garden and transform it into the Mt. Kisco Growing Academy, an outdoor classroom stressing the importance of growing and harvesting one's own food.

help of D.I.G. Farm, take over the garden in April from InterGenerate, which operates several community gardens in the area, and launched the Mt. Kisco Growing Academy, an outdoor classroom that introduces children to the value and the importance of growing and harvesting their own food.

Earlier this month, Colon, Fleming and Turcan began offering classes for children as young as

three years old as well as provide volunteer opportunities and workshops for residents of all ages in the community.

Turcan said they collectively concluded that the site would be a great place for teaching.

"So, it's just trying to take the model of education in the garden, the garden itself producing food, obviously, and getting kids and people involved," Turcan said.

"Connecting the community with their local food source."

Starting the week of Sept. 12, the Mt. Kisco Growing Academy began Growing Academy Homeschooling, a five-week program to learn how seeds can become crops, how to plant to harvest and how to take care of the garden. Since Colon is bilingual, there is also a session in Spanish.

Another five-week program on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. is a class called Meals in a Jar, which helps teenagers understand how easy it can be to eat healthfully by harvesting and using fresh ingredients.

"At the end of the day, all our mission is, is to educate the community, bring the community together to show them how to grow food," Colon said.

Then there are community volunteering days on Tuesdays and Thursdays, an art session on Friday afternoons at 4 p.m. for families with children 12 and up and a 45-minute garden yoga session at 10 a.m. on Saturdays for all ages.

Fleming said they entice parents, some of whom may not have been exposed to growing their own food as children, to get involved to make it a family experience.

"I definitely feel, especially young children can teach their parents," Fleming said. "So, everything that

grows here we try to learn (about), learn to smell it, touch it and some of them taste it."

Everyone who participates helps share the harvest with produce to take home, she said. Any extras are donated to local food pantries.

A wide variety of crops is grown at the garden, depending on the season. Fall crops include radishes, turnips, carrots, lettuce, spinach and kale, Turcan said.

Fleming added that the Growing Academy is not only about gardening but teaching youngsters and perhaps some adults how the entire food cycle works.

They offer the five-week sessions for \$100 a child to help keep costs reasonable. The academy has also started a donation board that they call the Giving Tree in hopes of receiving community donations and sponsorships to help families who may find it a struggle to pay for the programs.

Colon hopes over time to continue to increase their offerings when they return in the spring.

"We want to introduce how easy this is," she said. "I mean it's not easy, it's hard work, (but) it's easier than you can imagine and it's a wonderful feeling when you're able to work outside."

For more information about the Mt. Kisco Growing Academy, visit www.westchesterlocalfood.org.



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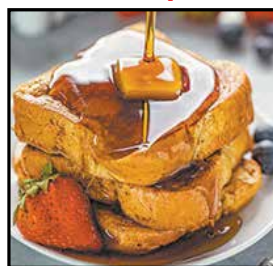
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When Home is Someplace Other Than Expected

As I write this piece, I have just returned from a fundraising event in which my adult daughter was deeply involved: an initiative to feed the hungry of her community.

While sitting enjoying the food and the company of a highly diverse group, I looked around and wondered in amazement how I, an inveterate "city boy," ever could have ended up in that suburban location. It was not planned or anticipated.

I grew up in the South in a suburban community, but from the time I was 10 years old when I accompanied my parents to New York City for a summer in which my father had an assignment there, my ultimate objective was to live and work in that big city.

I did exactly that for 10 years, from the week after I graduated college. I entered the communications business with my first job as a trade magazine reporter, then editor. While there, I discovered the discipline of public relations through its agents seeking client placement in the publication for which I worked, and I was fascinated by it. I applied for a job with a firm offering public relations services and got it, thereby changing the trajectory of my career.



By Bill Primavera

But later, in the late 1970s, there was a cataclysmic event in the communications business in New York – a newspaper strike that put many communicators out on the street and jobs in the field were hard to come by. Besides that, being somewhat feisty and independent as an employee, occasionally making it difficult for my early bosses to accommodate my individualistic kind of ideas, I lost a job or two.

But I'll say this for myself: I always landed on my feet. One such instance was being out of work when applying for the job of public relations and development director of the Culinary Institute

of America. It was a great slot, but required my leaving my beloved New York City in order to work at its location in Hyde Park in Dutchess County.

I couldn't find it in my heart to move two hours away from Manhattan, but I did compromise and moved exactly in between – one hour from the city and one hour from work. I simply looked at a map and placed a pin between the two locations and landed in Yorktown Heights in northern Westchester.

As providence would have it, I also looked at classified ads in The New York Times for colonial homes, my bent since having



attended the second oldest college in America, William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Lo and behold, I found one that was located in exactly the town where my pin had landed. How coincidental was that?

My wife and I, with our three-and-a-half-year-old daughter in tow, visited that home, which had been built in 1734, enlarged in 1797 and added on to again in 1861, as my research indicated. I was not in any way a "home guru" at that time, or I would have recognized all the vagaries that might be encountered in an antique home. From our first weekend in residence when it rained and the roof leaked, it was a matter of constant upkeep and repair to keep the place going. It was a few years before I acquired the knowledge and skills to upgrade and maintain the place.

At first, I thought I might perish away from the buzz of the big city. I remember that we were kept awake most of our first

night from the hum outside of katydids – crickets – and I got really depressed when we ventured out for our first meal outside the home and found little more in our town at that time than the local McDonald's.

But gradually, we began making friends with neighbors on our street, then broadened our reach to the community and became involved in its social and governmental activities. Early on I volunteered for our town's Advisory Board on Architecture & Community Appearance, for which I still serve, and my wife worked for the chamber of commerce. After a while, we became so busy in our new surroundings that they were no longer new and we settled into the comfort of feeling at home. Really at home, where we were planted.

So now this city boy is a certified country bumpkin who has learned that the concept of home can be quite different than what was originally planned. It's just a matter of adapting to what the vagaries of life place before you and keeping an open mind.

Bill Primavera is a residential and commercial realtor associated with William Raveis Realty, as well as a publicist and journalist writing regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to buy or sell a home, he can be e-mailed at williamjprimavera@gmail.com or called directly at 914-522-2076.

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Playwright/Director Forges Path in Theater World on Own Terms

By Martin Wilbur

Elise Maurine Milner's career trajectory isn't one that anybody would typically associate with a path to success in the theater world.

But through hard work, gumption and resourcefulness, Milner has been able to carve a solid niche in the cut-throat New York theater scene, having directed and produced 15 Off Broadway or Off-Off-Broadway shows in a little more than 15 years.

She is now bringing her first full-scale production to Westchester, which she once again calls home after escaping from Manhattan during the pandemic. Milner's "Angels Among Us," a show she has presented more often than any of her other works, is set for five performances at Yorktown Stage from Oct. 6-9.

The vignette-style show follows nine characters, some of whom are going through the worst day of their lives, and other characters who step in and try to help.

"When I got to New York I realized that the theater scene is huge here. (I said) I can do theater here," said Milner, who lives in Cortlandt Manor with her husband. "I can go back to my roots here and I don't have to wait for someone to cast me in a show like in L.A. in film or television. I could just literally build something from the ground up."

What Milner built was Hanging Cow



Elise Maurine Milner, left, founder of the entertainment company Hanging Cow Productions, with her stage manager Suzanne Lynn. They and the cast are preparing for a five-performance run of "Angels Among Us," a production Milner co-wrote and directs, at Yorktown Stage Oct. 6-9.

Productions, an entertainment company she established about 20 years ago where she writes, directs and produces all original shows. While she may not have had the

big bucks or have been able to attract large investors for elaborate productions, Milner fuses her self-taught skills in marketing, graphics and web design along

with theater training from high school and random college courses to have cobbled together a fascinating and fulfilling career.

Nearly all of Milner's works are influenced by experiences in her life. The common thread running through her productions and her writing is spirituality.

"All of my shows have a spiritual undertone, all of my shows are about humanity, finding our higher selves, working toward becoming better people, and (the) people we put in our lives for a reason to help us for the better and inspire us," Milner said. "You come to one of my shows, no matter what show it was, whether it's a comedy or drama, and you're going 'Gee, it's very thought-provoking stuff, but not offensive.' It's relatable, thought-provoking and it can be a little edgy at times."

Milner's own story is as fascinating as many of her productions. Born and raised in the tiny western town of Virginia City, Nev., she discovered the love of theater while in middle and high school, participating in school and local productions. The town's secondary school, which housed grades 7-12, had just 80 students; her high school graduating class numbered 15 or 16 kids.

Since the school was so small, the drama teacher made sure each theater participant was involved in everything that needed to be done to bring a production to the stage.

"If I didn't have his teaching us from a young age (that) everyone participates in

continued on page 29

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Playwright/Director Forges Path in Theater World on Own Terms

continued from page 21

every aspect of the theater and that's the way it is, I wouldn't be able to do what I do today," Milner said. "I'm so grateful for that."

But with her mother having gone through multiple divorces and not getting much support at home, Milner headed for San Francisco, waiting tables and taking a variety of college courses that could help her realize her dreams of a theater career, but eschewing a formal degree to avoid going into debt. She performed stand-up comedy and other odd jobs.

She went to Carson City, Nev. where Milner worked in community theater and snagged a job as a radio disc jockey despite having no experience or training. About nine months later, Milner landed in Los Angeles and worked as a production assistant at Universal Studios.

She then had the itch to try New York and discovering its vibrant but ultra-competitive theater scene. Milner hooked up with a small reparatory company doing original works from unknown playwrights in 50-seat theaters. The company folded about six months later, but Milner believed she could make a model work where that outfit had failed.

"I said, 'Oh my gosh, everything these guys did, I'm going to take how they failed and make a company myself doing what



A scene from "Angels Among Us," scheduled for five performances Oct. 6-9 at Yorktown Stage.

they're doing but make it a success," Milner recalled.

That's how Hanging Cow Productions was created, where her old high school training of doing all the jobs in the shop, helped her launch and maintain the

company.

After coming to New York, Milner lived in West Point and Highland Falls, before moving to Ardsley and meeting her husband. They lived in Manhattan but came back to Westchester shortly after

the pandemic struck, where theaters were shut down for the better part of two years. Today, they live in a cottage-style house in Cortlandt.

Milner said she probably receives about 20 requests a year from playwrights who send her scripts and ask her to produce their works. Unfortunately, she doesn't have the resources to produce them but she helps fledgling writers in another way. She created a workshop called Back Door to Broadway, where she teaches those aspiring to have a theater career how to do it without going down the traditional path.

"So I have been able to I have a dream of becoming a playwright/producer to I'm doing it now," Milner said.

Milner is preparing for the five performances of "Angels Among Us" in Yorktown. It's a daunting challenge to try and come close to filling the more than 500-seat auditorium for five shows.

"It's a huge risk, it's a giant theater, but I'm just going to do my best," Milner said. "I'm one person and my husband and my little skeleton crew and my actors, and I'm just going to work as hard as I can."

Performances of "Angels Among Us" are at 8 p.m. on Oct. 6, 7 and 8 along with 2 p.m. matinees on Oct. 8 and 9. Tickets are \$30 each. For tickets and more information, visit www.hangingcowproductions.com or www.yorktownstage.org.

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Don't Fall for the Headlines of Meteors Crashing Into Earth

A friend grabbed me a few weeks ago to ask about a headline he saw saying an asteroid the size of the Empire State Building was heading our way. Run for your lives!

These headlines, which stop just short of hoaxes, appear out of thin air any time there's a slow news day, it seems. Unsurprisingly, that asteroid, like all the others on these click-bait articles, glided by with no catastrophes.

What the headlines always seem to leave out is, while the meteors are certainly heading our way, they're heading our way millions of miles off in space, far, far beyond the orbit of the moon. These objects are everywhere in space, and generally have no business with us, but there is a certain connection they give us to the solar system.

Mixed in among all the planets, moons, asteroids (not only skyscraper-sized) and other solar system objects is some leftover junk that either never managed to get pulled into something larger, or it was kicked off when a couple of bigger things crashed into each other.

We use the word meteoroid to describe objects that orbit the sun and

sometimes cross Earth's orbit. When Earth runs into them, some burn up high in our atmosphere and streak across the sky. We call these meteors. If a meteor manages to survive the trip through our atmosphere and makes it to the ground, we call it a meteorite.

Small meteors often stumble across Earth. In fact, somewhere between 18,000 and 84,000 meteors heavier than 10 grams hit Earth each year.

Many of the ones we see are even smaller, just the size of a grain of sand.

We usually give most of our thought to meteors around the times of meteor showers, when Earth, as it travels through its orbit, plows through patches of meteoroids, usually of the broke-off-from-passing-comets variety.

The last few months of the year are a busy time for these showers. There

are six in October alone, including the understated Southern Taurids, which peak Oct. 10. In November, come the famous Leonid meteors, which peak Nov. 17. The year's last major shower, the Geminids, peaks Dec. 14.

I don't write much about meteor showers because they tend to be a little finicky. They're usually at their best very early in the morning, but not too early, and there's always a gamble that the moon or clouds will get in the way of the whole thing. Sometimes sitting outside at 2 a.m. on a January morning isn't as fun as it sounds. On the other hand—, with this fragility come chances for truly spectacular showers, with what feels like an endless run of meteors streaking high above.



By Scott Levine

While showers vary from one year to the next, the time of year when we see them is very predictable because our orbit is predictable. We return to the same place in space relative to the sun every year at the same time. When we come back, these pockets of meteoroids are still there waiting, still orbiting the sun just like

we are.

With a little patience, some warm clothes and a little coffee, too, meteor showers are certainly worth giving a try – and just laugh at those headlines. Clear skies!

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of Westchester Amateur Astronomers, a group 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 www.westchesterastronomers.org.

Clear Skies



First Quarter
October 2



Full Moon
October 9



Last Quarter
October 17



New Moon
October 25

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC.,

V.

JOHANNA PURVIS, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 21, 2019, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, wherein REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. is the Plaintiff and JOHANNA PURVIS, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the LOBBY OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on October 4, 2022 at 9:30AM, premises known as 89 CHAUNCEY AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801: Section 5, Block 1442, Lot 13:

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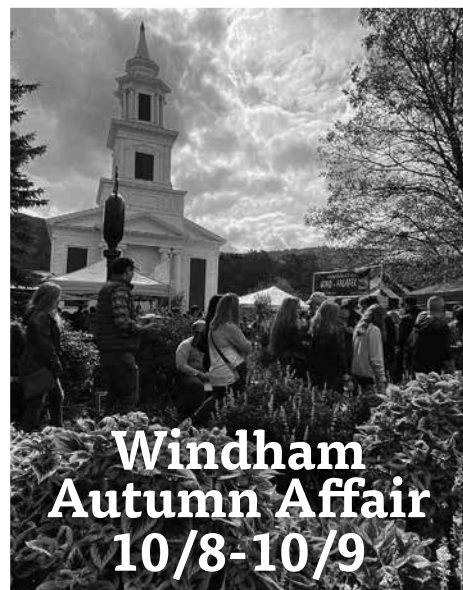
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Maud Gonne: Unlikely Rebel, and a Poet's Muse

We continue our “Women of Ireland” series, focusing on a distinctly different type of Irishwoman, one born into the very heart of the Anglo-Irish ruling class – Maud Gonne.

Born in 1866 in England, Maud was the eldest daughter of a British officer, Capt. Thomas Gonne, of a family with roots in County Mayo. In 1882 he took a post in Dublin, and 16-year-old Maud accompanied him.

Initially setting her sights on a career in acting, she fell ill with tuberculosis. While recovering at a French spa, she began an affair with a married man. Ultimately, she would bear two children with him out of wedlock.

About this time, she began to show interest in the Irish nationalist cause, which sought to overturn 700 years of British rule in Ireland. Her passion for nationalism was strongly influenced by her introduction in 1889 to the Irish poet William Butler Yeats.

In 1900, Maud co-founded an organization called “Inghinidhe na hÉireann,” or “Daughters of Ireland.” The organization was formed to give Irish women a strong voice in Irish affairs. Continuing to hone her nationalist views, Maud moved closer to

embracing the violent overthrow of British rule as the solution to Ireland’s condition. In 1903, she co-founded the National Council, which by 1905 morphed into the Sinn Féin party, to this day still a major force in Irish politics.

While involved with political agitation, Maud pursued her ambition to be an actress. Cited by one British journalist as “the most beautiful woman in the world,” Maud took on the lead role in several of her friend Yeats’ plays, including “Cathleen Ní Houlihan.”

Yeats was deeply in love with her, and proposed marriage at least four times. She spurned him on each occasion, yet remained his steadfast friend. She married, in 1903, Maj. John MacBride, a devoted nationalist.

They had a son, Seán, born in 1904, who would himself become a major figure in the Republic of Ireland. But the marriage between Gonne and MacBride quickly faltered, amidst allegations of domestic violence. The couple separated, and Maud chose to live in France.

Maud could not take an active role in the 1916 Easter Rising. The British refused

to issue her a passport. McBride, her estranged husband, was a very active participant and was executed by the British authorities in May 1916.

Maud’s involvement with the struggle for Irish independence increased in the aftermath of the Rising. She returned to Ireland following MacBride’s death, and actively championed the increasingly violent resistance to British rule. She traveled throughout the South of Ireland, and gave numerous speeches in support of Irish Republican Army (IRA) efforts.

Arrested numerous times for subversive activities, she spent many months in English jails. When a treaty was brokered in 1921 to end the Anglo-Irish War, Ireland was partitioned into the “two-state” structure that exists to this day. Gonne adamantly opposed the treaty, as did many. She strongly favored the treaty opponents in the ensuing Irish Civil War between them and the pro-treaty Irish Free State forces. At one point they ransacked her Dublin residence, and she found herself frequently arrested by them.

Instead of languishing in English jails, Maud now found herself imprisoned in Irish jails, as the Republicans were slowly forced to accept the rule of the Irish Free

State, a bitter pill to those who had never given up hope of achieving a united 32-county Irish Republic. Over the next three decades, she continued to champion the marginalized and the oppressed.

Maud Gonne died in Dublin on Apr. 27, 1953, at age 86, a victim of the tuberculosis she had first contracted more than 60 years earlier. She is remembered today as a dedicated patriot and muse to one of the world’s greatest

poets, William Butler Yeats. His work often revealed the pain of his unrequited love.

“The world should thank me for not marrying you,” she once said. Yeats’s “unhappiness,” she claimed, was the very thing that allowed him to “make beautiful poetry...poets should never marry.”

Longtime 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. 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.



By Brian McGowan



Maud Gonne (1866 - 1953)

Irish Eclectic

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

September Finds. You start the month of September in summer, and then find yourself in autumn by the end of the month. You may start the month on vacation, but soon find yourself back in the routine of school or work. The quiz this week is made up of some recent word finds that just might find their way into your vocabulary this September.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. nascent (adj.) | A) disagreeable | B) new and untested | C) neat and smart |
| 2. dissertation (n.) | A) a long essay | B) estrangement | C) a simple song |
| 3. effectuate (v.) | A) to instruct | B) wipe out | C) put into force |
| 4. doughty (adj.) | A) shabbily dressed | B) eccentric | C) displaying courage |
| 5. zeal (n.) | A) meditation | B) great energy | C) texture |
| 6. enchiridion (n.) | A) a handbook | B) power of enduring | C) a feeling of delight |
| 7. quondam (adj.) | A) not showy | B) that once was | C) prototypical |
| 8. grok (v.) | A) to look after | B) search blindly | C) understand intuitively |

- ANSWERS:**
1. New and untested; coming into existence
 2. A long essay on a particular subject, especially one written as a requirement for a Ph.D.
 3. To put into force or operation; bring about
 4. Brave and persistent; displaying courage; valiant
 5. Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective
 6. A concise reference book providing specific information about a subject or location; handbook
 7. That once was; former
 8. To understand (something) intuitively or by empathy

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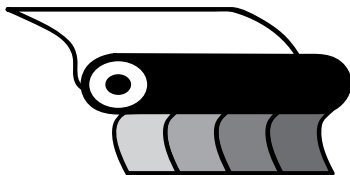


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Local Band Lets Singers Take Center Stage for Karaoke Nights

By Martin Wilbur

Have you ever wondered how well you can sing one of your favorite songs at a crowded club or theater backed by a live band?

That's the experience that brothers Jon and Cliff Rubin and their bandmates have been giving audiences and people who hire them for private events and parties since they stumbled onto the concept in 2015 and formed CenterStage: Live Band Karaoke.

The brothers, who are also half of the local rock band Skyfactor, make people's dreams come true. Jon and Cliff, the bass and lead guitar players, respectively, come prepared with their playlist of more than 150 songs, many of which have become karaoke favorites, such as "Piano Man," "Highway to Hell" and the ubiquitous "Don't Stop Believin'."

They are joined by Brian Gelfand, an accomplished keyboard player from Tarrytown, and drummer Brian Indig who lives Hastings along with Cliff Rubin. Neither Indig nor Gelfand are part of Skyfactor.

On Saturday night CenterStage returns with its next karaoke night at Lucy's in Pleasantville at 8 p.m.

"You're selling the experience and the fun of it, and the people you can see, after a couple of shows of

doing this, people were coming out and people were thanking us afterwards who performed or they'd say to us right as they got on stage, this is the greatest thing I ever did," Jon Rubin said.

The first time Jon and Cliff did a karaoke was in Hastings in 2015. A venue there called Purpl was looking to put together a musical jukebox as part of the annual RiverArts music tour, which occurs annually the first weekend in June.

Armed with a playlist of about 30 songs, they jumped into "Sweet Caroline," "Johnny B. Goode" and "Sweet Home Alabama." The audience of about 60 people that the club loved it and they would return for RiverArts the next couple of years.

Then in 2017, Jon Rubin said they decided to have a karaoke event apart from the festival and charged admission and the audience was equally enthusiastic.

"People were staying for three, four hours because they want to know what's going to happen next," he said. "We were learning, it was so much fun and that was our experience in Hastings for the first few years."

For Cliff Rubin, the unpredictability of the shows make it a blast. During one karaoke in New Jersey, the actor Molly

Ringwald joined the band on stage and belted out a winning version of "Summer Nights" from "Grease."

"So there's a big thrill as a musician kind of going on the tightrope, of showing up to pay a gig and not having any idea what's going to be played and how it's going to come out," Cliff said. "So that's a big, fun part for the band about this project."

Then there are the times where people freeze, forget the lyrics or simply can't sing. When that happens, the band steps in and helps them along, Jon Rubin said. Other times, their friends or even strangers in the crowd do the same.

For CenterStage, having songs where most people are familiar with the tune is the best scenario. Jon Rubin said there may be good songs that are more obscure but the whole point of it is to have most people in the venue sing along.

It's also helpful there are songs from more contemporary artists in their arsenal such as Justin Bieber or Ed Sheeran to help younger adults identify with what they're playing. But many of the requests are '70s and '80s music.

"Like we say, from Van Halen to Van Morrison, from Madonna to Metallica," Jon Rubin said.

While most requests are spur of the moment, the band has song



The members of CenterStage: Live Band Karaoke pictured clockwise, left to right, Jon Rubin, bass; Brian Indig, drums; Cliff Rubin, lead guitar; and Brian Gelfand, keyboards.

slips at each karaoke night. By doing that, Jon Rubin said they can avoid having multiple requests of the same songs and maybe organize a duet or a group on stage.

The most requested song? It's "Don't Stop Believin'," a modest early 1980s hit from Journey that has exploded in popularity since being used in the final episode of "The Sopranos."

"Here's a chance to play all the songs we love," Jon Rubin said.

"We're not above anything, it's just for fun and we get to do it in a different framework."

For this Saturday, you can visit CenterStage's website to reserve a song request for \$15. Otherwise, admission is \$12. Visit www.centerstagelbk.com for more details. You must be at least 21 to attend Saturday's karaoke night. Lucy's is located at 446 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

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DONNA MUELLER PHOTOS

It was a full day of youth football at Westlake High School on Sunday as teams from Valhalla, Pleasantville, Armonk and Scarsdale traveled to take on Mount Pleasant teams at various age levels during the eighth annual Spirit Day. There was an assortment of food, activities, raffles and 50/50 chances to raise money for pediatric cancer. The \$80,000 raised during the event easily eclipsed totals in previous years.





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Regional Dishes of India Flourish at Tandoori Taste of India

Bharat Patel, veteran restaurateur and proprietor of the long-running Tandoori Taste of India, has moved his restaurant from North Main Street to a new contemporized location along Westchester Avenue in Port Chester.

Tandoori, one of the oldest Indian eateries in Westchester, has operated for 25 years. The same management team owns and operates Indi Q in Armonk.

Patel is a pioneer, having brought diners in Westchester and Fairfield counties some of their first vibrant flavors, sights and sounds of regional India. The dining room and bar area are separated. Light grey walls are highlighted by modern industrial fixtures, lighting and colorful Indian artifacts. The dining room can accommodate up to 60 guests.

At a recent sitting, we enjoyed a dramatically presented stuffed dosa with masala spiced potatoes and served with coconut chutney and sambar. An order of chicken curry was an herbal delight. Marinated salmon cooked in the tandoor oven was juicy and delicious. For dessert, the freshly-made gulab jamun, lightly fried dough balls served in aromatic rose water honey syrup, was light and airy.

The menu at Tandoori offers dishes from all over the Indian countryside. Fine starters are traditional mulligatawny soup with lentils; chaat; crispy samosas, stuffed with potatoes, onions, peas and spices; Tandoori chicken wings; and crispy pakora fritters.

Signature main courses also include a selection of classic Indian gravies: curry, masala, korma, vindaloo, madras and saag. Pick your favorites with the addition of chicken, lamb, goat, shrimp or mixed vegetables.

Traditional Tandoor clay oven specialties include chicken tandoori; lamb chops seared in the clay oven; Tandoori kebabs; whole branzino; whole chicken; shrimp tikka; and Tandoori paneer tikka with soft cottage cheese grilled in the oven.

House specialties include slow-braised lamb rogan josh; biryani (steamed basmati rice with choice of chicken, lamb, goat, shrimp or mixed vegetables); and vegetarian dishes such as aloo gobi (seasoned potatoes, tomatoes and cauliflower), chana masala (chickpeas tossed in a medium spiced tomato gravy) and baingan bharta (charred and mashed baby eggplant simmered with herbs and spices).

The fresh Indian breads are a must. The puffed whole wheat poori, stuffed naan, onion kulcha and garlic naan are favorites. A variety of Indian beers or a glass of mango lassi will help wash it all down. Tandoor Taste of India's liquor license is pending.

For dessert, try the Tandoori special



By Morris Gut

kheer, Bengali rasmalai or the gajar ka halwa prepared with shredded carrots.

Patel said a traditional all-you-can-eat Sunday Indian buffet is coming soon.

The restaurant is open for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and for dinner from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. The same menu is served all day. Main courses range from \$18 to \$35. Full take-out and catering trays are available. Major credit cards accepted.

Municipal parking.

Tandoori Taste of India is located at 223 Westchester Ave. in Port Chester, just up the street from The Capitol Theatre. Reservations suggested for larger groups. Info and reservations: 914-937-2727 or visit www.tandooritasteofindia.com. Also check out Indi Q, located at 61 Old Route 22 in Armonk. Info: 914-273-5931 or visit www.indiqarmonk.com.

Oktoberfest at the Melting Pot

Mondays through Wednesdays in October, the Melting Pot in White Plains will be offering an Oktober FondueFest. Three-course meals start at \$45 per person. Highlighting the menu is a signature Bavarian beer cheese fondue prepared tableside, seasonal Bavarian dippers and fresh salad. For dessert, try the black forest chocolate fondue served with its own special dippers.

The Melting Pot is a national chain out of south Florida. They have been bringing the "fondue experience" to the public since 1975.

The Melting Pot is located at 30 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. Info: 914-993-6358 or visit www.meltingpot.com/white-plains-ny.

Greenwich Wine and Food Festival

The weeklong 10th anniversary event will kick off on Saturday, Oct. 1 with "The Big Easy," a special dine-around tribute to New Orleans that will take place at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester. The festival will culminate on Friday, Oct. 7 with a gala dinner and tribute to Chef Jacques Pepin, honoring his extraordinary years in the culinary profession.

For info and tickets, visit <https://serendipitysocial.com/greenwich-wine-food>.

Fall Drives to Farms, Markets

Want to pick your own produce or visit a farm stall? Take a seasonal fall foliage drive with the whole family. Here are some great destinations. Be sure to check ahead for hours and availability.

Wilken's Farm, 1313 Whitehall Rd., Yorktown Heights. Marking its 105th year, visit the farmers market or pick your own apples, peaches, pumpkins and even Christmas trees. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through mid-December. Info: 914-245-5111 or visit www.wilkensfarm.com.



The Oktoberfest table of offerings at the Melting Pot in White Plains. The restaurant is presenting a "fonduefest" every Monday through Wednesday throughout October.



The delicious stuffed dosa with masala spiced potatoes, coconut chutney and sambar at Tandoori Taste of India.

Stuart's Fruit Farm, 62 Granite Springs Rd., Granite Springs. This farm has been operating since 1828. Strewn with old tractors and rural artifacts, you can pick your own fruit and produce or visit the farmers market for fresh cider donuts, pies and other products. Open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Info: 914-245-2784 or visit www.stuartsfarm.com.

Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard, 130 Hardscrabble Rd., North Salem. Operated by first-generation farmers since 2011, the farm store is open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. On-site kitchen Monday through Friday. Get tickets online for apple picking. CSA membership available. Info: 914-485-1210 or visit www.harvestmoonfarmandorchard.com.

Hayfield's, 1 Bloomer Rd., North Salem. Owner Renea Dayton's multifaceted country market bustles daily inside and out. From the in-house kitchen are coffee, breakfast, lunch, soups, salads and ice cream. There are colorful flowers, too. Info: 914-669-8275 or visit www.hayfieldsmarket.com.



The new location of Tandoori Taste of India in Port Chester, which has operated in the village for 25 years.

hayfieldsmarket.com.

Muscoot Farmers Market, Route 100, Katonah (part of Muscoot Farm). Over 20 vendors. The farmers market operates every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through November. Free entry. Info: 914-864-7283 or visit www.muscootfarm.org.

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

Putnam-NW BOCES District Superintendent to Retire

Putnam Northern Westchester District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Dr. James M. Ryan will leave his post at the end of the calendar year.

Ryan informed state Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa of his plan to retire last Wednesday.

To assist Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES in an orderly transition, Ryan has agreed to serve as chief operating officer through next June 30. This will keep the current leadership team intact for the academic year.

“(The) PNW BOCES Board has always valued Dr. Ryan’s leadership and service and we feel his retirement is a great loss,” said Board President Richard Kreps. “But we believe this period during which he will serve as chief operating officer will maintain stability and consistency for our BOCES and ensure a smooth transition.”

Of his 49 years in public education, Ryan served for 23 years as a district superintendent in Rockland and Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES and Superintendent of Schools in the Carmel Central School District. Ryan began his career as a teacher in the Lakeland Central School District and served as assistant principal of Monroe Woodbury High School and principal of Ossining High School.

Although he is looking forward to



Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES Superintendent Dr. James Ryan will be retiring effective Dec. 31.

retirement, Ryan looked back fondly at his time helping students.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed each position I have held over a 49-year career,” Ryan said. “To my many colleagues and friends, thank you for your incredible support, as that has made all the difference.”

Westchester Youth Bureau Seeks Next Youth Poet Laureate

The Westchester County Youth Bureau is seeking the next youth poet laureate, the second in the county’s history.

In 2019, the post was officially created by County Executive George Latimer in response to requests from Scarsdale teen Danielle Kohn and County Youth Bureau Executive Director Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden.

The youth poet laureate will work with the Westchester County Youth Bureau by creating opportunities that encourage children and youth to engage in myriad activities ranging from creative writing, spoken word poetry, playwriting and filmmaking. If selected, the individual will collaborate with educational institutions, such as schools and colleges, local libraries and after-school programs, along with the current Westchester County Poet Laureate BK Fischer.

“It was an honor to introduce the inaugural Westchester County youth

poet laureate and we are very proud of this program that is undertaken by few other counties,” Latimer said. “We are particularly proud of the immensely talented youth who have the courage to share their private thoughts through their poetry with the world. We look forward to appointing the next youth poet laureate in the coming months.”

“Poetry is an art form that creatively addresses education and literacy, but also civic engagement,” added Harris-Madden. “Finding the next laureate will be a challenge as there are countless youth who exemplify literary excellence. Yet, we are confident that we will identify the next Amanda Gorman, Meera Dasgupta or Alexandra Huynh, former U.S. youth poet laureates.”

Interested youths should e-mail Susan Weisman in the Westchester County Youth Bureau at ssw9@westchestergov.com by Friday, Oct. 7.

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Consumed By Statistics on Wine Production and Consumption



By Nick Antonaccio

Over the many years penning this column, I've periodically focused on the raw statistics of wine production and consumption in the United States – and elsewhere. This week I present the latest update for your consideration.

The history of our collective wine consumption is rather unique. Compared to the nations of Western Europe, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, we are rather new at this indulgence. While we trace our wine roots to 18th and 19th century Spanish missionaries and European immigrants, those countries across the Atlantic Ocean can trace their roots as far back as the Greeks and Romans – 6,000 years ago.

And of course, the United States had a minor interruption in wine production and consumption, setting us back a step compared to other nations. The Prohibition era effectively shut down production and consumption of wine for over a decade. Realistically, today's wine industry is less than 100 years old.

But, in typical American fashion, domestic wine consumption picked itself up by the bootstraps, then caught up to, and surpassed,

the rest of the world. By 2010, the United States became, and continues to be, the top-consuming nation in the world.

Several wine producer stats:

There are currently more than 10,000 domestic wineries and tens of thousands of labels.

Annual production is 333 million cases.

Wine is commercially produced in all 50 states. As you would expect, California leads the pack, accounting for 42 percent of wineries, yet it produces 84 percent of all wine. By contrast, New York is home to 3.8 percent (fourth ranking) of wineries and produces 3.5 percent (third ranking) of total wine production.

Drilling down further, these stats boggle my mind: 84 percent of domestic wines are produced by 2 percent of the wineries.

Seen from the opposite perspective, about 7,500 wineries each produce less than 5,000 cases per year.

A few more stats: Domestic wineries account for 65 percent of overall domestic consumption, according to the Beverage Information Group, a

national tracking organization. These statistics include wine consumed at home and at wine bars, restaurants and group events. I have a suspicion that the latter two categories account for a substantial portion of total consumption (restaurant house wines, wedding reception wines, corporate events). The top supplier of the remaining

35 percent is Italy.

One more stat: Napa Valley lays claim to the most expensive wines in the United States, but it produces only 3.4 percent of the total wines (although it is the number one tourist attraction in California; Disneyland is second).

Now, several wine consumer stats:

Americans consume more wine than the French and the Italians, who are experiencing declines due to the changing beverage preferences of their youth and stricter DUI laws.

And our average annual per capita consumption is about three gallons, almost 17 bottles. That's 1.4 bottles per month (1.7 glasses per week) for every man, woman and child in the United States, which pales in comparison to several of our other favorite beverages (bottled water, 44 gallons; carbonated soft drinks, 37 gallons; beer, 26 gallons).

But we are not at the top of this category. Who are the top per capita wine consumers? The Portuguese (68 bottles; 6.7 glasses per week), French (61 bottles; 6.0 glasses per week) and Italians (60 bottles; 5.9 glasses) consume substantially more than Americans, who rank a lowly 18th in comparison. Of course, population accounts for the apparent dichotomy in consumption statistics; the United States population base of 330 million



dominates Portugal (10 million), France (67 million) and Italy (60 million).

How do these statistics compare to your perspective on the wine industry? And to your personal consumption? Don't lose sight of the underlying basis for all of the above stats – they measure the continuing popularity of wine consumption without addressing the myriad health and social issues.

As someone much more insightful than I once said: "99 percent of all statistics only tell 49 percent of the story."

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

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