

**FREE**

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April 21 - April 27, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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## Carmel Woman Charged with Animal Cruelty of Dogs

By Rick Pezzullo

A Carmel woman was charged with animal cruelty and other offenses in connection with three severely emaciated Pit Bull dogs that were found abandoned in Putnam Valley last month.

Tammy Williams, of Sunset Boulevard in Carmel, was arrested April 14 by the Putnam County SPCA on three counts of animal cruelty and three counts of animal abandonment.

The dogs, one brown/white male, one brown/white female and one brindle/dark brown female, all approximately mid-aged

to older, were brought to Carmel Animal Hospital when they were discovered emaciated March 2 on Tinker Hill Road.

All three animals were rate 1 on the Body Condition scale (1 being severely emaciated/5 normal/9 obese) when they arrived at the hospital. After extensive veterinary care, all three dogs are much healthier and are in foster care.

"The conditions the dogs were found in and the circumstances of their abandonment required a team approach—from the PC-SPCA DCO Mary Madsen recognizing the severe condition the dogs were in, to the expertise of

Carmel Animal Hospital's care and the assistance of the Sheriff's Department, Carmel Police, Kent Police and PC Probation in providing help in locating the suspect, made the arrest of the individual currently charged in the alleged commission of the crimes possible," said Putnam County SPCA Chief Ken Ross.

Officers of the SPCA spent a month conducting numerous interviews with associates of Williams. Public donations were made to help pay for the medical care of the dogs.

Williams is scheduled to be arraigned in Carmel Court May 12 and Putnam Valley Court May 19.



Three emaciated Pit Bull breed dogs that were found in Putnam Valley.

## Brewster Sophomore Creates Food Pantry for Village Needy

By Rick Pezzullo

The coronavirus pandemic has opened the eyes of many to the large number of people in communities that need assistance.

While volunteering at Putnam Community Action Partnership's (or Putnam CAP) food pantry, Brewster High School sophomore Nora Paladino was inspired to find a way to lend a helping hand to residents of Brewster who couldn't afford the food they needed.

"I realized that while there are wonderful resources for the food insecure, there are understandably some limitations," Nora said. "People are only allowed to visit food pantries a specific number of times in a month, the hours of the food pantry may prevent people from getting what they need, and people might be too ashamed to go to a food pantry."

This led Paladino to create a Little Free Pantry at 10 Park Street. Modeled after Little Free Libraries, these freestanding food pantries are generally stocked with non-perishable items that community members can take as needed.

"I thought Brewster could benefit from a supplement to food pantries that is open 24/7 and completely anonymous," Nora explained.

After presenting her idea to the village board and working to get approval, Paladino reached out to decide on the best location.



Nora Paladino stands next to food pantry she created.

"We eventually landed on 10 Park Street, since it's well-lit, has security cameras, is accessible by foot and by car, and is close to the center of the village," she said.

Paladino's goal for the Little Free Pantry is to help as many people as possible.

According to the pantry's Instagram page, Paladino recently found a thank you note left by someone who said they were living in a camp in the woods nearby and were so grateful for the donations.

For more information and updates on the Little Free Pantry, visit the Facebook and Instagram pages Paladino created. Anyone wishing to help can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45AAAF2CA4F49-little>.



## Spectacular Results

Last month, Brewster High School hosted the Ninth Annual Mr. Brewster Spectacular. The event is a beloved tradition that requires months of preparation and ends with an incredible evening and thousands of dollars raised to find a cure for cystic fibrosis. This year's event far surpassed the goal of raising \$60,000, with Brewster families raising \$80,677.57. Since 2012, the event has raised \$312,316.82.

# Lake Carmel Community Pulls Together to Combat Crisis

Amid the myriad of challenges facing local merchants across the country during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, Putnam County communities are coming together to help each other survive the impact on their local economies. In Lake Carmel, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support to help keep small businesses open during the ongoing crisis, as residents have come forward to patronize them in these very challenging times.

Starting in early March, the Lake Carmel Residents Facebook page managed by local

residents Beth Makaj and Sabrina Cruz created a poll to help support local businesses, first responders and essential workers, as residents voted for their favorite mom and pop shops and local businesses.

The fundraiser generated close to \$4,000, and funds raised are being split—half to buy gift certificates from local merchants to be given to the first responders and essential workers from the top 40 merchants in the poll, and half to a winning Lake Carmel resident who voted. The final poll:

- |                                     |                              |                            |                      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Ice Cream Studio 105 - 152 votes | 11) Jar Worthy- 34           | 22) Parlor 109 - 21        | Countryside-12       |
| 2) New Grace-88                     | 12) Deliland-34              | 23) Prato - 20             | 33) Sals-10          |
| 3) McCarthys- 77                    | 13) FooKan-33                | 24) LC Pharmacy- 19        | 34) D'tails-10       |
| 4) Pastry Palate- 64                | 14) Carmel Flower Shop- 32   | 25) Carmel Brick Oven - 18 | Six-way tie for #35  |
| 5) La Famiglia-63                   | 15) Luigis-29                | 26) Hair Palace - 18       | 35) Fiddlers-9       |
| 6) Ultimate auto Detailing- 49      | 16) Carmel Diner-29          | 27) Greek Village-15       | Golden Polish-9      |
| 7) Gino's Grab n Go - 48            | 17) Florrie Kays- 26         | 28) Owen Car Care -14      | Cool Styles-9        |
| 8) Three Brothers- 47               | 18) Georges- 26              | 29) Scoops-13              | Cameron's-9          |
| 9) Carmel Bagel-35                  | 19) Limni - 25               | 30) Town Square -12        | Boyd's-9             |
| 10) Gappys - 43                     | 20) Kent Cleaners-24         | 31) 5210 -12               | Thai Golden-9        |
|                                     | 21) Katherine's Gift Shop-23 | 32) Kent                   | Chris Auto -8        |
|                                     |                              |                            | Anthony's Jewelers-8 |
|                                     |                              |                            | Alejandra's Deli-8   |

## Putnam COVID-19 Cases Breakdown:

Countywide: 807  
Carmel: 287  
Kent: 147  
Southeast: 142  
Putnam Valley: 89  
Philipstown: 75  
Patterson: 67  
(As of April 20)

## In Memory of Former Carmel Police Chief Gregory Amato

Once and for, all let's pronounce it: "Ma-HO-pac", with a wink and a nod to the late Mahopac resident and former Carmel Police Chief Gregory J. Amato.

Amato, retired from the Carmel Police Department in 1998, after having served 34 years, died April 18 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 77.

Among the many hats he wore, Amato served as a trustee for the Town of Carmel Historical Society and co-authored, "Images of America: Mahopac" (2012, Arcadia Publishing) with friends Eugene J. Boesch and Barbara Lacina Bosch. He was also a 20-year volunteer with the Putnam County Historian's Office. He shared his knowledge and

images from his collections in illustrated public talks at the Mahopac Library and elsewhere, especially on the history of the local schools and the old hotels around the lake.

"Greg was a sharer," said Sallie Sypher, Putnam County's Deputy Historian. "He freely shared his amazing knowledge of local history, his time and talent in digging for information, and the collection of historical artifacts and ephemera that he had acquired over the years. He spent countless hours digitizing photographs and important newspaper stories, especially about the town of Carmel, and has donated all of that work to the County Historian's Office as a digital collection. We relied on Greg as a ready

resource to answer queries of all sorts on local history. We have lost a good friend, but his legacy is immense."

Amato was a 25-year member of the Lake Mahopac Rotary Club, board member of the Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension, United Way, Red Cross, Elks, Lions, Greater Mahopac/Carmel Chamber of Commerce and served as a vital member of the Putnam Board of Ethics and Bureau of Emergency Services.

"Greg's pride in Putnam County was infectious," said MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive. "He loved the history and the people, and the stories he told about our past made us all stand a little

taller. Greg's generosity was felt in every inch of this county. From his career with the Carmel Police, to his volunteer work with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and a host of other organizations, he made the county a better place to live."

Most recently, the Putnam County Legislature issued a proclamation on behalf of Putnam County that recognized Amato with sincere appreciation for his commitment to making the county "a great place to call home."

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, a memorial gathering and service will be held at a later date to honor and celebrate Amato's life.

# Information is healthy. Fear is not.

## What is Social Distancing?

Social Distancing is one of the most effective ways to avoid coronavirus infection. It simply means avoiding crowded settings, mass gatherings and maintaining a 6-foot distance from others when possible.

We know that this may mean missing an event you've been looking forward to, or breaking your weekly routine, but it will also protect you and those around you.

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Get the facts at  
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Facts and guidelines related to coronavirus are constantly evolving. The facts contained here are Northwell's best judgment at time of publication.



# State Launches Antibody Testing as Part of Reopening Strategy

By Martin Wilbur

New York State began the most vigorous antibody testing in the nation on Monday, a step that officials hope will eventually help lead to the gradual reopening of the state's economy.

The state has reached out to some of the top private labs in New York, such as Northwell Health, which operates 23 hospitals statewide, including Phelps and Northern Westchester.

Antibody testing is needed to discover who has been infected with COVID-19 and could likely return to work safely because of a level of immunity. Public health experts have speculated that as many as 20 to 50 percent of those who have been infected with the virus had mild symptoms or were asymptomatic.

Throughout the past week and again on Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo repeatedly urged the federal government to help with opening up the supply chains that is preventing the states from accessing all of the equipment required to undertake the level of robust testing that is needed.

The governor said that shortages in critical components to complete the antibody tests, such as swabs, vials and reagents, are inhibiting the process.

"The goal is to do the maximum amount of testing as we possibly can because that's the way our economy can reopen," Northwell Health President and CEO Michael Dowling said on Sunday. "If you don't do the testing, like the governor said, and you make too rash a move, open too quickly, then you walk into the scenario that you just described, and that would be one of the most dangerous things you could possibly do."

Cuomo said he wants to start with a cautious reopening of the economy but doesn't want to regress and reignite the acute public health emergency experienced last month and into early April. Despite a public spat with President Donald Trump last Friday, Cuomo said the states should coordinate the logistics of testing but don't have the wherewithal to repair the supply chains, calling it "a quagmire."

"The big question on the testing is the national manufacturers' supply chain and getting that up to scale quickly," Cuomo said.

Dowling said after the initial rollout during the upcoming week where about 2,000 daily tests will be done, Northwell's labs will eventually be able to complete 10,000 tests a day. Northwell is just one of many labs that will be testing, he said.

The antibody tests will be conducted randomly by region taking a representative sampling based on percentage of the state's population, Cuomo said.

Throughout the week, the governor also sounded the alarm on the lack of funding for states to help pay for coronavirus-related expenses. He said the National Governors Association, of which he is vice president, has estimated that about \$500 billion is needed to help the states. The latest version of the next federal legislation once again does not include money for states, he said Monday.

Without relief, Cuomo said early projections of 20 percent across-the-board cuts in education, hospitals and local government may be necessary.

"This is the worst time to do this," he said. "New Yorkers need funding for this budget. We

can't do it otherwise."

Word on the antibody testing and the lack of federal funding comes as another 478 New Yorkers died Sunday from COVID-19-related illness, the first day since Apr. 2 with less than 500 deaths in the state. There have been 776 deaths through Sunday in Westchester and 37 in Putnam County, according to the state Department of Health daily tracker.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said Monday there were 10,080 active cases and 1,089 current hospitalizations, the lowest number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in 12 days.

Statewide the hospitalizations have slowly fallen for seven consecutive days, from well over 18,000 a week ago to slightly more than

16,000 through Sunday.

The federal government did provide the state with 1.5 million cloth masks since Cuomo issued an executive order last Wednesday mandating that anyone who goes out in public and unable to maintain social distancing must wear a facial covering.

In other decisions, Cuomo proposed as much as 50 percent hazard pay bonus for frontline workers, including nurses, transit workers, building maintenance staff and others who must show up to work because they have essential roles, putting their own health at risk.

Many of these workers are minorities



## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

who have been hit disproportionately hard in the pandemic, he said.

"You know what, thanks is nice but also recognition of their efforts and their sacrifice is also

appropriate," Cuomo said. "They're the ones carrying us through this crisis, and this crisis is not over."

Over the weekend, an amended executive order allows anyone in the state who is licensed to officiate a marriage to do so remotely. The original order allowed only clerks to administer the vows via technology.

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		<b>LaMarca Presecco</b> \$15.97	<b>Kendall Jackson Chardonnay</b> \$11.97
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# New Castle Nixes Possibility of Emergency Leaf Blower Ban

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials have concluded that they do not have authority to impose a temporary leaf blower ban during the COVID-19 crisis despite calls from several residents last week urging the Town Board to consider the action.

Supervisor Ivy Pool said that the town's counsel advised the board that any executive order issued would be subject to state Department of Health approval unless a ban

was limited to municipal employees or town property. Furthermore, if an approval was obtained, it would be valid for only five days.

The agency's approval would be needed because New Castle does not have an existing leaf blower law on the books, Pool said. Issuing an order would be "executive overreach" and damage any goodwill that has been gathered as the town debates regulating use of the gas-powered machines, she said.

Various forms of legislation have been

periodically debated by town officials, residents and area landscapers for about two years since former New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) member Rand Manasse delivered a report outlining how gas-powered blowers were harmful to the health of the operator and residents and produced high carbon emission levels.

The original legislation received angry pushback from landscaping companies and some residents, although the town has been making progress on compromise legislation.

"I'm afraid that by doing so would hurt our chances of passing leaf blower legislation by undermining my credibility as well as the credibility, Rand, of the work that you've done on behalf of the SAB," said Pool, a strong proponent of regulating leaf blowers.

The supervisor also mentioned legislation that the town continues to work on would be reasonably consistent with some other northern Westchester municipalities. None of those towns are considering emergency bans, she said.

The issue was raised during the broadcast of last week's Town Board meeting. Conservation Board member Victoria Alzapiedi said that the villages of Croton-on-Hudson, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Larchmont and Mamaroneck have all suspended the use of the blowers because of concern for their residents' respiratory health.

She said that whether someone had the virus or pre-existing respiratory issues such as asthma, the issue is one the town could

control.

"Whatever negatives people can think of, the benefits, the health benefits for adults and children alike for our residents, our seniors, for everyone in our town, this is some action we can absolutely take," Alzapiedi said.

Manasse said that with landscapers still performing basic maintenance and pest control through the COVID-19 emergency, this is a crucial time for the town to consider the temporary measure. The blowers cause particulate matter to be airborne, which is harmful to those who are compromised, and it isn't known yet if the coronavirus is on the ground whether it can be blown and carried.

"I do understand that it is an added burden for residents not being able to clean their properties and the extra cost that might be borne by having to wait for something like that at a time when people are trying to conserve their costs, but I find the health risk is greater than the actual cost," Manasse said.

The rest of the board agreed with Pool, preferring to wait until the town has legislation in place.

Councilman Jason Lichtenthal said he has suspended landscaping on his property believing that it wasn't an essential service, but didn't want to jump the gun and impose any type of restriction before it is fully debated.

The Town Board is scheduled to discuss reworked leaf blower legislation during its Tuesday evening work session this week.

## In Need of a Cup of Joe



The drive-through line at the Chappaqua Crossing Starbucks caused quite a traffic jam outside Whole Foods on Saturday. The line might have been long but with everyone in their cars at least they were socially distanced.

JOHN EHRLICH PHOTO



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# Caring for Terminally Ill Patients in the Shadow of COVID-19

By Sherrie Dulworth

Virtually overnight, the COVID-19 pandemic has jolted society into a collective consciousness about a subject many people usually try to avoid – death and mortality.

Dealing with death is part of the routine work experience for hospice employees. But the coronavirus has affected their work of caring for people with terminal illnesses.

Like other essential workplaces, the team at the White Plains-based Hospice of Westchester quickly made changes to work schedules and physical office boundaries to ensure physical distancing.

"We used to meet in person every Tuesday and now caregivers call in their report to their directors," explained Carol Townsend-Ross, director of clinical services. "For now, they don't come into the office but go straight home from patient visits."

One of the hardest adjustments for the hospice team and their patients has been the need to limit in-person visits to clinical caregivers only. Their goal is to help patients live as fully and comfortably as possible in their own surroundings until the end.

Social workers, chaplains and bereavement counselors are all integral, but those team members now make virtual visits via phone or video. Visits from family and friends have also been curtailed. The isolation makes it more difficult to comfort the dying, said Chief Executive Officer Mary Spengler.

"Our whole mission is care and comfort, not only for the patient but for the family," she said. "This grief and grieving has been equally

challenging to our staff."

When clinical caregivers meet with patients, the physical distancing is difficult.

"Touch is key to what we do," Spengler said.

The patients often live alone or with a frail or elderly spouse or a family-employed caregiver. Donning personal protective equipment, the hospice's home health aides help patients with intimate comfort care like bathing.

"The home health aides are among the unsung heroes," said Spengler.

Founded in 1991, Hospice of Westchester serves people who are diagnosed with a life-limiting illness with a life expectancy of six months or less. The agency currently serves about 80 patients, most of whom live at home or in assisted living facilities or nursing homes.

"If it wasn't for hospice, those patients would be in the hospital," Spengler noted.

Along with their regularly scheduled visits, a nurse may be called to a patient's home at any time. Spengler said the mission is 24/7.

A registered nurse with more than 40 years in acute care settings, Spengler has been with Hospice of Westchester for nine years. She described the balancing act required for the 63-person team.

"We are caring for patients and families, caring for our staff and caring for our organization," she said.

When a hospice patient dies, a nurse helps to set the arrangements into motion. That's usually routine, but with a growing total of COVID-19 deaths – more than 700 people in Westchester County as of Apr. 18, funeral homes and crematories have become overwhelmed.



Hospice of Westchester CEO Mary Spengler, right, and Director of Clinical Services Carol Townsend-Ross speak of the challenges facing Hospice of Westchester during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Townsend-Ross, who has been with Hospice of Westchester for 10 years, talked about a time last week when at 3 a.m., she needed to coordinate arrangements among the area's various funeral directors.

Bill Flooks, owner of Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville and chair of the development committee for Hospice of Westchester, said that with the delays mounting for funeral homes "we are in uncharted waters."

"Once someone is on hospice, they need to have the conversation with their family and pre-plan so everyone knows what they want to do," Flooks said.

Last Thursday, Apr. 16, was National

Healthcare Decisions Day, which is typically dedicated to stressing the importance of advance care planning and its associated issues such as choosing a healthcare advocate, advanced directives and organ donation.

"Confronting end of life makes people think about resources, decisions and utilization of hospice services," Spengler said. "The most significant comment we get back on satisfaction surveys is 'We wish we had known about you sooner.'" Townsend-Ross added, "Talk. Have a conversation. Listen to what your family is saying and what they want. It's about life and dying is a part of life."



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# Mohansic, Hudson Hills Golf Courses to Reopen; Playland to Remain Shut

By Martin Wilbur

Area golfers received some good news on Monday when Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced the reopening this weekend of two of the county's six golf courses.

Mohansic Golf Course in Yorktown Heights and Hudson Hills in Ossining can be accessed starting this Saturday because the two facilities are the most conducive to successfully practice social distancing, Latimer said.

"We believe these courses are the best controlled environment of the six that we have and we can make sure that the social distancing programs that we're implementing, over and above the fact that a golf course is naturally distanced, will make it a safe place to be," Latimer said.

The county courses had opened on time in mid-March but by Apr. 10 the Empire State Development Corporation, which determines which businesses and operations are essential, ordered golf courses closed. However, the county has determined that it can operate these two facilities safely.

The other four county courses, Maple Moor in White Plains, Saxon Woods in Scarsdale and Dunwoodie and Sprain Brook in Yonkers will remain closed.

Visitors must follow the guidelines established by the county. Golfers are asked to check in early for tee times; a minimal number of guests will be allowed in the pro shop at one time; there will be longer

intervals between tee times; flagsticks must be left in the holes; bunkers must not be raked by golfers; rakes, ball washers and coolers have been removed from the courses; golfers must not gather in groups on the grounds; and the courses' restaurants will remain closed.

While golfers will be able to enjoy outings, Playland will not make its scheduled May 9 opening and is unlikely to return before sometime in June at the earliest, Latimer said. The county beaches are virtually certain to remain closed into June as well.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week extended the stay-at-home order until May 15.

No decision has been made regarding the county pools, which typically open later in June, toward the end of the public school academic year.

Latimer said he's holding out hope the facilities may open at some point this year but was unable to ensure that will happen.

"It's almost impossible to envision how we would do social distancing effectively in an environment where a hot day comes, when we have literally thousands of people in a very confined area, Playland Beach (or) over on the Hudson River side," he said.

Next month, the county is planning to hold its Bicycle Sundays on the Bronx River Parkway and will monitor whether social distancing can be maintained, Latimer said. If not, the county would have to discontinue the popular weekly event that sees the closure of the parkway for about four hours.

**Latimer Named to Task Force**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday that Latimer will be part of the four-member Reimagine New York Task Force that will concentrate on how best to reopen and reinvigorate the downstate region at the appropriate time.

Latimer will be joined by New York City Mayor Bill Di Blasio, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

Cuomo said he wanted the task force to return with recommendations regarding potential improvements to public safety,

the public health system, social equality, technology use and public transit.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, lower Manhattan returned stronger than ever while portions of Long Island bounced back after Superstorm Sandy, Cuomo said.

"Let's use this situation, this crisis, this time to actually learn the lessons, value from the reflection and let's reimagine what we want society to be," he said.

It wasn't mentioned how long the task force would meet for and when the members may expect to return with recommendations.

## Visiting the Front Lines

Michael Dowling, center, CEO of Northwell Health, visited Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow last Thursday. He individually thanked nurses, doctors and support staff for the extraordinary efforts they have made during the COVID-19 crisis. As of last Thursday, 143 COVID-19 patients had been discharged from Phelps. Pictured with Dowling are Dr. Michelle Espinoza, left, and Eileen Egan, interim executive director of Phelps Hospital.



## In these Difficult Times...



Michael Schiliro



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(Jefferson writing from Paris to Edward Carrington, a delegate to the Continental Congress, regarding the importance of a free press.)



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# Obituaries

## Donald Duren

Donald Gray Duren, a longtime Cortlandt Manor resident and former resident of Peekskill, made a peaceful transition on Apr. 16. He was 85.

He is survived by his son, Darryl, daughter-in-law Deborah and grandson James; brother Chauncey; and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by wife Mary, his parents, Hosea and Helen Duren, and his sister, Gloria Foote.

Duren was born and raised in Winston-Salem, N.C. He received his bachelor's degree in sociology from North Carolina A&T University and a masters of social work from Atlanta University. He also served in the Army during the Korean War and received a good conduct medal.

He came to Peekskill in 1960, and held several positions at the Montrose VA. Later, he joined the Department of Psychiatry at

Phelps Hospital, where he was instrumental in developing mental health clinics. He was director of the Ossining Mental Health Clinic for 12 years and was an adjunct professor at Mercy College.

Duren served on the Ossining Community Development Advisory Board, Peekskill Family Resource Center and Westchester-Putnam Adult Day Care Center. He had been an officer in the Peekskill NAACP. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a charter member of Phi Nu Chapter in Peekskill.

Duren was a 50-year member of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, serving on the Board of Trustees, the Men's Club, the Men's Choir and the Education Committee.

He was an avid sports fan, with his favorite teams being the New York Knicks, Giants and Yankees.

He will be laid to rest at Rose Hills Cemetery. A formal memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

## Edward Khuns Jr.

Edward A. Khuns Jr., a longtime Peekskill resident, passed away on Apr. 16. He was 88.

Born in Ossining to the late Geraldine Newman Khuns and Edward Albert Khuns Sr. on Apr. 28, 1931, he served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He was employed as a well-loved Peekskill School District custodian until his retirement in 1992.

Khuns was married to the late Patricia Dullea Khuns of Croton-on-Hudson for 57 years. He is survived by five sons, Edward Khuns III (Heidi) of Poughquag, N.Y., Stephen

Khuns (Kathy) of Hopewell Junction, N.Y., David Khuns (Jeanne) of Conway S.C., Russell Khuns of White Plains, and Timothy Khuns (Annie) of Milton, N.Y.; two sisters, Brenda Khuns Parent (David) of Greenwich, Conn. and Beverly Khuns Cmero (Michael) of Carmel; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Siblings Bobby, Carol and Joan predeceased him.

A private burial was planned. A graveside memorial celebration of Khuns' life will be planned in the future. Arrangements were handled by Dorsey Carlone Funeral Home in Peekskill.

## Frank Mondello Jr.

Frank Mondello Jr. passed away on Apr. 16 after a battle with COVID-19. He was 65.

Mondello was predeceased by his father, Frank, and his mother, Theresa. He is survived by his sisters, Frances Madera, of Palm Coast, Fla. and Sara Koshofer of Putnam Valley and her husband, Wayne. He leaves behind seven nieces and nephews.

Mondello moved to Seth Canyon in 1991 and loved living with his peers and making lasting friendships. The staff became an extension of his family and he loved all of them dearly, especially Diane who called him her "Little Man." He was a gentleman and greatly loved.

Frank was an avid bowler, singer and

dancer. A true fan of Frank Sinatra, he sang "My Way" at every family function. He loved being involved in Hidden Treasures where he loved doing arts and crafts and would participate in the yearly talent show. He was also involved in Special Olympics for over 30 years winning the Peter Cutignola Athlete of the Year Award for his positive attitude and spirit. He also was a recipient of the Luis Herzog Award. Frank participated in North East Recreation where he won many medals in track, bowling and basketball. He was truly popular among both staff and athletes.

Donations can be made in Frank's memory to Community Living Corporation, 135 Radio Circle, Mount Kisco, N.Y. 10549 or North East Westchester Special Recreation, Inc., 63 Bradhurst Ave., Hawthorne, N.Y. 10532.

## John Sullivan

John E. Sullivan, a longtime Somers resident, died on Apr. 8 at Putnam Hospital. He was 88.

Sullivan was born on Aug. 31, 1931, and grew up in Yonkers, before moving to Somers in 1968. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served during the Korean War. He was a graduate of Mount St. Michael High School and Manhattan College.

Sullivan was the beloved husband of Barbara and the loving father of Frances of Hyde Park, N.Y., John of Hawthorne, Joseph of Carmel and James of Fort Edward, N.Y. He was the devoted grandfather of Shannon, Shane, Jack, Victoria, Abigail, Jimmy and Emma. He is also

survived by his brothers, Eugene, Emmett and Joseph. A brother, Michael, and his sister, MaryLou, predeceased him.

Two years ago, Sullivan proudly flew to Washington, D.C. on one of the Hudson Valley Honor Flights to commemorate veterans who died in service to the country.

He was past president of the Sno Cats Ski Club of Rye, where he was still an active member. He was a past president and is a life member of the Somers Lions Club, past commander of the Somers VFW and a member of the Marine Corps League. He was belonged to the Westchester Trails hiking group. Sullivan loved boating, fishing, skiing, going to the gym and spending time with his family.

His final resting place is at Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, N.Y.



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# Navigating a Pandemic While Serving a Vulnerable Community

By Martin Wilbur

Nearly every doctor has felt the strain that the coronavirus crisis has placed on the healthcare system. Whether it's large hospitals or smaller doctor's offices, seemingly all medical personnel have been impacted in some way.

The same holds true for Dr. Carmen Tamayo, but she has a different set of challenges than many of her colleagues in Westchester and Putnam counties. Tamayo is the medical director at Open Door Family Medical Center in Mount Kisco, where she has been seeing COVID-19 patients since the second week in March.

As of two weeks ago, more than 50 of Tamayo's patients had tested positive for the virus, overwhelmingly from Mount Kisco or a neighboring municipality. Like many who visit Open Door, most are from the area's immigrant community.

"It is really affecting our communities, and that is why it's so important to follow the CDC and Department of Health recommendations because it's definitely here," Tamayo said. "We're definitely seeing sick patients."

Open Door, located at 30 W. Main St., is an all-purpose medical facility. Many people pay visits for any one of a variety of health issues and routine check-ups. That

is one of the challenges Open Door faces during the pandemic.

To reduce the possibility that healthy people aren't infected, there is a staff member at the front door who checks each patient as they come in, Tamayo said.

Over these past six weeks, a fair number of patients have come for something entirely unrelated to COVID-19, but have turned out to be positive, she said.

"Many come for something else, got infected with COVID and they might turn out having a fever and they weren't even aware," Tamayo said. "We stop them and take temperatures at the front door."

Unlike many area residents who may have a basement or an extra bedroom to self-quarantine effectively, she said many Open Door patients don't have that luxury, risking the health of others in their household.

"That is very challenging for our patients," Tamayo said. "Most of them live in small apartments or share a house with another family or with multiple families or friends. They are isolating in their room and if they have to share common spaces, we have been telling them to make sure to disinfect surfaces, for example, if they need to share the kitchen or the bathroom."

Fortunately, for Open Door's patients, it has a strong relationship with Northern

Westchester Hospital. If someone needs greater attention than what their office can provide, the hospital

As of two weeks ago, 45 percent of patients who have been tested at Open Door's seven sites in Westchester and Putnam counties have tested positive.

One situation was particularly difficult, when an older woman was told that her test came back positive. The woman asked if she was going to die.

"When I told her, she started crying and couldn't stop," Tamayo said. "I could feel her worry. I helped her to calm down and went over the facts we know. I was happy I could be there for her and give her some counseling. Understanding the illness has been tough for everyone in the community."

For those patients who do test positive, the Open Door staff of seven clinicians checks in on them at least every other day if they haven't been hospitalized, since monitoring is essential with COVID-19. If more attention is needed, the hospital is notified.

Despite the fears and challenges, Tamayo is confident that she and her staff and the people they serve are equipped to handle what the pandemic can throw their way.

"I think Open Door and the community



Dr. Carmen Tamayo, the medical director at Open Door Family Medical Center in Mount Kisco, has been working to keep her patients healthy through the COVID-19 outbreak.

in general is very resilient and will come through this and move forward," she said.

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# Westchester Lawmakers Approve Reduced Penalties for Late County Taxes

By Martin Wilbur

The Board of Legislators approved last Friday sharply reduced penalties for Westchester County property taxpayers who are unable to pay their bills by the Apr. 30 deadline.

By a 14-3 margin, the Democratic-controlled board passed the emergency measure that will delay the imposition of full penalties until after July 15.

"This is a public health and an economic emergency that has touched every corner of this county," said Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains). I'm grateful that we've been able to act to

provide relief to taxpayers in our towns in a way that will also allow us to continue to provide essential services."

The legislation authorizes towns to reduce the penalties they collect on taxes paid from May 1 to May 31 from 2 percent to 0.5 percent. For taxes paid from June 1 to July 15, penalties are reduced from 5 percent to 1 percent.

For those who wait until after July 15, the full 7 percent penalty would go into effect.

Another level of fine of 1.5 percent for the first half of July was eliminated in the final bill.

The plan was developed by a group of town supervisors, a majority of whom opposed a plan introduced earlier this month by County Executive George Latimer that would have delayed any penalty until after July 15 provided the taxpayer qualified for a hardship.

Most supervisors, however, argued that Latimer's plan would have encouraged some taxpayers with the ability to pay to try and wait until the last minute, depriving cash-strapped towns of critical revenue. The reduced fines provide incentive for those who can pay on time while imposing only a nominal penalty for those who have lost their income.

"The reason why the supervisors were in agreement that just eliminating that deadline of Apr. 30 was problematic," said North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro. "Many people who could pay wouldn't pay

*'The individual who's lost their job may not have money yet from unemployment to compensate.'*

COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATIMER

and just hold onto their money until July. But we've been running our town and all towns have been running since January and haven't collected any money yet."

Regardless of whether the towns collected the taxes, the county would have to be paid a portion of what it is owed in May, Schiliro added.

Latimer said he disagreed with the reworked proposal because for many of those who are unemployed or whose businesses have been forced to close, unemployment and stimulus checks may not arrive until after Apr. 30.


"The individual who's lost their job may not have money yet from unemployment to compensate," Latimer said "They may not have the check yet from the federal government. Why should we apply a late fee? It's not a willful decision. It's a lack of an ability to pay because of the coronavirus. That's a real set of circumstances."

Business Council of Westchester Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Ravitz said the organization agreed with Latimer's proposal and called the Board of Legislators' revised measure "a slap in the face."

"With so many businesses closed and laying off workers, deferment of tax payments is a way to buy time for these hardworking men and women who are the backbone of the county economy," Ravitz said. "For the Board to amend County Executive Latimer's legislation dropping the late penalties on county taxes is incomprehensible considering that the penalties, while significant to businesses and employees, are relatively small amounts for the town governments that collect them."

Only towns and not cities are affected by the new law. Cities do not fall under the same law and must take their own actions regarding penalties.

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# Landmark Hyatt House in Yorktown Severely Damaged in Storm

The Hyatt House, one of Yorktown's 15 official landmarks, was damaged in last Monday's storm when a tree fell on a portion of the 18th century dwelling.

Constructed around 1732, and one of the few pre-Revolutionary houses still standing in northern Yorktown, it was believed to be a home of Col. John Hyatt, a "Soldier of the Revolution" and one of the leading officers of the Third Regiment of the Westchester County Militia during the Revolutionary War. The property was designated a landmark on Nov. 16, 1976.

An old tree surrounding the house toppled onto the overhang of a porch on the older wing of the structure. The intense winds on Apr. 13 sent the tree smashing through the roof, exposing the building's massive hand-hewn beams.

Homeowner Jesse Kempter was not in the house at the time. Kempter, who has lived in the house since 1978, is optimistic that it will be repaired.

"I feel confident that the majority of the damage is primarily centered on the collapsed porch roof," said Kempter, who is waiting for an insurance representative to survey the damage.

Hyatt family members were among the first settlers of Yorktown and the name figures prominently in town lore and

Revolutionary War history. In 1739, Col. Hyatt's father, also named John Hyatt, was one of three original trustees of the First Presbyterian Church on Route 202.

In the Third Militia, Col. Hyatt fought alongside Pierre Van Cortlandt as well as his own son, Capt. John Hyatt Jr. His brother, Joshua Hyatt, also served. The John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak occupies another former Hyatt home. Kempter's home and the land surrounding it were bequeathed to the youngest John Hyatt through the estate of his father, Col. Hyatt, in 1843.

On behalf of Yorktown's Landmarks Preservation Commission (YLPC), Chair Lynn Briggs expressed sadness at the damage to one of the town's 15 landmarks. She said she has already contacted the state Historic Preservation Office to discern whether there is any precedent for aid to owners of historic properties that have experienced similar damages due to a weather event.

The Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission (YLPC) seeks applicants for traditional landmarking or the Homes of Historic Distinction Program. To qualify, homes must have historical significance based on age, architectural style, past ownership or association with a person or



The Hyatt House, a nearly 290-year-old landmark in Yorktown, was damaged in last Monday's storm. It is one of the town's 15 landmarks.

event important to Yorktown's history.

Through the program, plaques designating the basic facts about each house's history are fabricated and installed on or around the home. The commission will work with each homeowner on

appropriate wording for the plaque and will assist in research. The cost for the application and the plaque is \$100. Applications are available online at [www.yorktownny.org/planning](http://www.yorktownny.org/planning) or by e-mailing [nmilanese@yorktownny.org](mailto:nmilanese@yorktownny.org).

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## Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.



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## Editorial

### Community Journalism More Important Than Ever

By Martin Wilbur

Since launching The Examiner nearly 13 years ago, when publisher Adam Stone had the audacity to think he could make a go of a brand-new newspaper in uncertain times, it's nearly impossible to recall whether there's been one article or even a few that have stood out.

Certainly, there have been those that brought a smile to my face or a tear to my eye. Many of our readers likely have their favorite stories along the way.

The task of covering local communities is not about sensational accounts of celebrities and eye-candy photos, as much fun as that can be in small doses, but rather to tell the stories of the real people who give the towns and villages in Westchester and Putnam counties their special character. The dedicated public servants, elected officials and school administrators, the sacrifices of scores of volunteers, the great work by local students and the innumerable talented and extraordinarily gifted residents who make this corner of the world a great place to work and live.

Perhaps what I am most proud of is that with an often-rotating staff and collection of freelancers, interns, contributors, graphic designers and advertising reps, without whom The Examiner would not exist, we have been

doing our best to bring quality community journalism to our readers for what now is 659 consecutive weeks.

It is a badge of honor to know that we have printed every Tuesday since Sept. 11, 2007, and as time has progressed, as often as needed online.

At a time when our world has been turned upside down and seemingly every business is fighting for its survival and unemployment is skyrocketing to levels most of us have never seen in our lifetimes, there is comfort in familiarity. Some of our favorite eateries are still open for takeout or delivery, but there's no place to sit down right now for a meal or a cup of coffee to socialize.

Too many other stores that I would have liked to visit or to look for a couple of gifts just in these past five weeks are closed.

For a small part of your week, we hope that The Examiner has been and will continue to be a small part of that comfort and familiarity. But there are no guarantees. Late last week, I read about the demise of three weekly community newspapers in southern California – the Glendale News Press, the Burbank Leader and the La Canada Valley Sun. The two former publications are ceasing operations after 115 years; the latter was founded in 1946.

For those communities, it's a terrible

loss. So many of the larger publications over the years, themselves fighting for survival, have curtailed coverage of the ordinary, yet extraordinary people who comprise each of our communities. That is not easily replaceable.

When Adam launched the Examiner – COVID-19 Local News Fund a couple of weeks ago, I secretly wondered who is going to reach out, with so much chaos and so many worried about their own health and finances. Thankfully, I was grossly mistaken. We have all been humbled by the hundreds of mostly small donations that keeps your community newspaper alive. No donation is too small. Every dollar helps and it gives each of us the boost we need to soldier on for the next issue.

We all look forward to the day, hopefully sooner rather than later, when we can visit and relax and see one another face to face again, whether at a board meeting, a coffee shop or just passing through one of the local downtowns.

It will have been possible because of each and every one of you.

*Our Examiner – COVID-19 Local News Fund online donation page is <https://givebutter.com/theexaminernews> and all contributions are tax-deductible as part of our partnership with the Local Media Association nonprofit.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Positive Train Control Finally Completed in Hudson Valley Region

In early March, the MTA and Metro-North completed full implementation of positive train control (PTC) on both the Hudson and Harlem lines. For those who have been following this issue closely, this is something that I have been pushing for consistently during our joint Senate and Assembly budget hearings on transportation every year since being appointed to the Transportation Committee in January 2018.

In addition to speaking up at these public hearings, I was pleased to work with colleagues from both political parties from across the Hudson Valley in sending correspondence directly to the MTA and Metro-North, as well as attending demonstrations on PTC along the Metro-North Railroad to ensure our state received timely updates on the progress of this critical project.

For those of you who are unfamiliar, the purpose of PTC is to prevent high-speed

derailments by eliminating the possibility of human error from occurring by utilizing this technology to slow or stop trains, which are either going too fast into a switch which has been misaligned or into a curve. The completed project includes all 74 miles of the Hudson line, from Grand Central Station to Poughkeepsie, and all 82 miles of the Harlem line, from Grand Central to Wassaic, including Goldens Bridge, Purdys, Croton Falls, Brewster, Southeast and Patterson train stations.

Throughout my time serving in the Assembly, I have been honored to join colleagues from across the aisle at both the state and federal level to communicate with leaders of the MTA and Metro-North, all to guarantee PTC was being completed as quickly as possible to ensure the safety of all our commuters. I fully realize that many New Yorkers must still wonder how it took

so long to finally get here. After all, these projects have been talked about for well over a decade. This is certainly a fair point and is further evidence there is always room for improvement within our government.

Despite it taking longer than expected, I am glad to report we have finally reached the point where full implementation of PTC has been completed for Westchester and Putnam counties while I have continued to serve as your representative in the state Assembly. I'd like to thank my colleagues at the county, state and federal level, as well as Metro-North Railroad President Cathy Rinaldi, for their increased communication and determination in getting this crucial project for public safety complete.

Stay healthy and stay safe.

**Assemblyman Kevin Byrne**  
94th Assembly District

### President Trump's Incompetence Has Made Crisis Immeasurably Worse

The United States' total COVID-19 fatalities, on Apr. 16, were 34,283. For China, on this same date, the total was only 3,346. President Trump had two months warning from scientists that the virus was coming and he did nothing. China had no warning at all but jumped on the epidemic. Trump engaged in denial, happy talk and magical thinking in the face of warnings from the world's greatest epidemiologists and the CDC. China has over four times our population and yet we now have more than 10 times the deaths!

And thanks to Trump's ineptitude our deaths are still increasing. Our healthcare workers are short of PPE supplies, and to this date, testing is still hard to come by. (Last

month, Trump had said that anyone who wants to get tested can get tested, yet another lie!) The U.S. is number one in fatalities worldwide thanks to Trump's arrogance. That Trump is dangerous and unqualified to lead a nation has become starkly apparent as people die unnecessarily due to his bloviating incompetence. There is NO testing plan.

What else should we expect from a game show host who's a con artist, real estate scammer and hates government and governing. Trump is the swamp. But it's no surprise; Trump's the id of the Republican Party – a party that hates government. Trump knows NOT how to govern or how to administrate – nor does he care – a man-child

who only cares for himself.

Watch Gov. Cuomo if you want to know how to govern in an emergency. Democrats love administrating and see government as being a potential force for good. Trump and the Republicans see government (as Ronald Reagan famously said) as being the problem, not the solution.

So, why should we expect Trump to be any better than this? There is no excuse for this awful man.

**Nicholas Kuvach**  
Putnam Valley



# Guest Column

## The Importance of Following the News: A Kid's Perspective

By Maddie Stone

As a 13-year-old, I've found some people form an assumption about kids that isn't true. They automatically infer kids don't follow the news. Why? Because we're an inch or two shorter? Because we haven't yet studied trigonometry? I intend to shoot down this myth and explain the importance of following the news.

It seems the day people turn 18, they immediately begin to believe anyone younger is clueless about what's happening in the world. Don't they recall the previous day, when they knew as much?

While kids almost always understand more about what's going on than adults realize, including the importance of local news, I have a slight advantage. My dad (people other than my sister and I call him Adam Stone) is publisher of The Examiner, our local print and online local community newspaper. Having a publisher as a dad, I

grew up learning all kinds of lessons about the press and why it's important.

But don't let that make you think I'm one of the rare few. Just read what my friend Max Rubinstein has to say: "The idea of children being dismissive to the media is simply preposterous and is most likely a result of modern stereotyping," he said.

Max, like me, is a seventh-grader at Fox Lane Middle School in Bedford and we often talk about current events. How are we informed? By reading, watching and listening to quality journalism.

"I watch the news to gain insight into the international community and to learn about the status and structure of American politics," Max added.

My friends, my teammates and I are keenly aware of the world around us; we're not naive or ignorant. For the most part, we listen to our local news broadcasts, read our community newspapers, just as much as the average person. Keeping up

with the times is important for people of all ages.

The press informs the people of important issues and events, from a local carnival to a global pandemic. Especially now, when faced with a crisis, it is even more urgent to stay updated on the data, or, in this case, the spread and containment of the coronavirus. Even on a local level, when a mayor, town supervisor or school board reveals a proposal, it is critical for the public to be alerted of the news. In addition to keeping citizens informed, journalists provide coverage that allows people to remain up to date, and, therefore, safe and free from harm.

Circling back to the coronavirus, newscasters and print journalists are frequently emphasizing self-quarantine, hand washing and remaining six feet apart if you must leave home. This does not just apply to the epidemic that has swept the nation. Most news outlets will showcase topics such as poverty, equality, environmental contamination, and locally, clean drinking water, jobs and crime. News supplies citizens with knowledge they can use to make decisions about their safety and general well-being.

"An informed society is an educated society, and you cannot have a well-functioning democracy unless a country's citizens are informed," observed Martin Wilbur, editor-in-chief of The Examiner.

His insight led me to my next point: It's essential for every country, every state, every county, every city to remain educated. If the general public is educated, the people are empowered.

However, people can only be educated if the news sources they're using are reliable. It's like dominos; if you're educated, you're informed. If you follow reliable news sources, you're educated. But even if you read the news, and you read a biased, untrustworthy source, the whole thing comes crashing down. That's what makes becoming a knowledgeable citizen so challenging.

Furthermore, journalists keep the government in check. They expose fraud and unethical behavior in our leaders. An invisible fourth estate that monitors authority figures. This includes local government. Former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, was perhaps most famous for saying, "all politics is local." This certainly applies here. Most controversies that arise in local government and are highlighted by local reporters can't be compared to controversies as grand in scope as, say, Watergate. But those stories are often the ones most impactful to people's lives.

Also, keeping the government in check does not just involve reporting on controversy and scandal. Keeping the government in check means keeping elected leaders honest, so when a government official says or does anything, and a journalist reports on it, that's a

perfectly valid example of keeping the government in check.

Speaking of keeping an eye on local government, whether my dad is talking about his work day at the dinner table or running away from the dinner table to write about a breaking political story, the news is definitely a large part of our life at home. I'm aware of what's happening locally, so I know journalists are always attending school board meetings, writing about politicians and scrambling to meet deadlines. Either way, they are constantly busy with elected officials. But never too busy to watch their awesome, fleet-footed, line-drive hitting, 13-year-old daughter's softball games, of course.

While I usually like to just make fun of my dad, I figured I would quickly take this unique opportunity to suggest you read his column on how The Examiner has been trying to survive these turbulent times: <https://www.theexaminernews.com/want-to-save-journalism-start-local-support-the-examiner/>

And as much as I love Inside Press, The Examiner, and local news in general, let's take a moment to step away from our neck of the woods. Journalism also allows us to understand places beyond our backyard. Without journalists to report on places far away, how would we know what's happening in India? What about Canada? What about upstate New York? What about anywhere outside our little bubble?

As important as it is to study journalism, it is equally important to support it. The adult consumers of today were once kids and the kids of today are the adults of the future. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

In order to preserve this liberty, the youth of today must value and support well-sourced, quality journalism. We must be thankful for the news outlets we have but also think back on how much we've lost.

Just a few years ago, the country enjoyed so many more journalists, especially print journalists. Over the past 15 years, one in five newspapers have gone out of business, and the number of journalists employed at newspapers have been cut in half. These numbers are only getting worse. My dad taught me most of what I know about journalism, but the following I can infer on my own: save the press now while there's still time.

*Maddie Stone is a 13-year-old, seventh-grader at Fox Lane Middle School in Bedford. She is asking readers who want and support professionally produced journalism in their hometown to visit <https://givebutter.com/theexaminernews> and consider making a donation to the Examiner - COVID-19 Local News Fund.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Putnam County Has Stepped Up to Address Residents' Needs During Crisis

Before the first coronavirus case even appeared in Putnam County, residents and community leaders embraced the opportunity to set politics aside and work together for the common good, putting health and safety first. That's the kind of leadership people are looking for and what we at Putnam County government continue to represent.

So, I was disappointed and, frankly, stunned to read Philipstown Town Supervisor Richard Shea's letter saying that the county government under my leadership has not taken appropriate action to protect Putnam residents during this awful COVID-19 pandemic.

He is simply wrong. As county executive, I and the employees who are running the county government with just 50 percent staffing are laser-focused on protecting our residents, workers and communities from the devastation this global pandemic has caused elsewhere.

I have repeatedly demanded state Health Department officials set up a test site in Putnam so that we could get accurate data quickly and respond appropriately.

Although there are many who would like to take credit for the drive-through testing the county Health Department ran recently. All of the credit should go to our incredibly dedicated and hardworking Health Department staff. This limited testing is not enough, as we have let the state know, and we intend to keep pressing the state for more.

Just last week, I requested the county legislature transfer more than \$220,000 in funds to cover the cost of essential personal protective equipment that our Bureau

of Emergency Services and Purchasing Department were savvy enough to locate in this time of scarcity. Those supplies will not only go to county first responders and healthcare workers, but to first responder groups from municipalities as well.

Information is vital and so, after every day's conference call with the Health Department, Putnam Hospital President Peter Kelly, relevant county department heads and legislative leaders, we post a dashboard showing our latest COVID-19 data.

In addition to that daily call, I have daily briefings with the governor, the White House, NYSAC and Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Putnam's health commissioner. All of these calls and actions are in service of protecting the 99,000 residents of Putnam County. At the same time, the county leadership is wrestling with a state budget handed down to us with gaping holes to fill.

Putnam County has teamed up with The United Way of Westchester and Putnam and the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley to provide food to families and seniors who face a new economic uncertainty.

The COVID-19 public health crisis has had an impact on our Main Street economy, our schools and our families. This administration is working hard to aid those businesses, employers, workers and families.

The road to recovery is uncharted, but Putnam County government will be there to assist every step of the way. It would help if we all worked together.

**MaryEllen Odell**  
Putnam County Executive

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Spring is a time of renewal, and soon we will be gathering together again, laughing and enjoying the gifts that God has bestowed on all of us!

And finally, a special *"Thank you"* to first responders everywhere! You have answered our calls for help in this time of need without complaint.

*Sincerely,*  
**Yorktown Councilman**  
*Vishnu Patel*



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*-Annette Colasuonno*

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# The Mudroom: Unglamorous Name, Spectacular Function

Living now in the Trump Park condo in Yorktown, I rarely think about certain household chores or needs that I enjoyed (or hated) in my former single-family home.

One of the features I had to give up was probably the most practical room in the house: the mudroom.

What the decompression chamber is to astronauts and what the hyperbaric chamber is to deep sea divers, so the mudroom is to homeowners. It's that in-between area that allows one to transition with impunity from one environment that may be dusty, dirty, muddy or wet into a cleaner space.

At least that is the purpose it served when we were an agrarian society and kicked off boots muddied from a day in the fields before entering the main house.

Mostly as a lean-to shed or an enclosed porch attached to the back of the house, mudrooms were popular from the 18th century to the 1920s. But as our society shifted way from farming, mudrooms were banished in back to give way to the foyer in front.

But in the 1950s, perhaps because Americans started to collect more "stuff" in a more prosperous time following World War II, the mudroom regained popularity, adding storage space to the function of housing coats and shoes. At the turn of the



By Bill Primavera

21st century, it morphed into a combo storage/laundry room when homeowners demanded that washers and dryers make their way up from the basement.

But eventually designers questioned the wisdom of combining a place for shedding dirt with laundering, and washers and dryers made their way up to the more convenient second-story bedroom level.

Today the mudroom serves many individualized needs of the homeowner and most times is now incorporated into the footprint of the house, taking space from the kitchen and most often situated as an entry from an

attached garage. I've listed homes where the mudroom has featured a pantry as an extension to the kitchen, an office, a hobby center, a sports equipment storage facility, a potting room for the garden and a changing room for the pool, the latter of which was the case with my mudroom.

When I found my former historic home, it featured a motley mudroom that had been tacked on to the back of the house sometime after 1860. All but abandoned in terms of maintenance, it was just a loosely framed lean-to with a cracked cement floor, and the ceiling was just the raw rafters of the roof, overlaid with wood shingles. There was no insulation and only wood shelves on one wall suggesting that the structure may have

doubled as a potting shed.

Because it was the direct access from our driveway to the kitchen, it was hardly an attractive entrance to the house.

In my boldest construction project before or since, I chipped away the broken cement and hand-poured a new concrete foundation from a number of mixings in my wheelbarrow. I insulated the walls and created a nice closet and space for a half-bath. Other than the installation of the bathroom fixtures and a new windowed door that replaced one with decaying solid wood, I did all the work myself. And, now, as a retired fixer-upper, I can appreciate the memory of my work on that mudroom from long ago.

When designing a mudroom and selecting its finishes, it's well to remember that there's a reason that the word "mud" lingers in its name. Materials for flooring should therefore be durable, easy to clean and water resistant. This is not the space for wall-to-wall carpeting, but tile, vinyl, natural slate or porcelain tile are excellent flooring choices.

Wall treatments also should not be delicate, but might be a solid vinyl, which can be scrubbed without damage, or paneling that will be more forgiving when



visitors lean against the wall to remove their soiled shoes or boots.

One design trick is to use the same cabinetry in the mudroom that is used in the kitchen, which gives the impression that both rooms are bigger than they actually are.

Many times, mudrooms don't have windows, although it's ideal if they do. If not, overhead lighting is preferred rather than wall fixtures that protrude into cramped space or standing lamps that could interfere

with cleaning the floor.

A modern mudroom might best include closed storage areas and a large closet organized in a way to separate clothing and equipment for the outside. Lacking a closet, the mudroom can accommodate an armoire for storage purposes.

Considering how many uses the mudroom has today, perhaps it deserves an upgrade in title to the "all-purpose" room.

*Bill Primavera is a writer, editor and public relations practitioner (www.PrimaveraPR.com) who also happens to be a realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate (www.raveis.com). To engage his marketing and real estate expertise to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

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# Local Firefighters Extinguish Birthday Blues for Children

By Ariel Markowski

On Apr. 16, Mia Stone awoke to what could have been a sad sixth birthday. For the first time, she would be unable to celebrate together with friends.

Throughout the day, she opened her home-delivered gifts, but something was inevitably missing: the excitement.

That afternoon, a sound, increasing in volume, emanated from outside as she chatted with her kindergarten pals on a Zoom birthday call. Could it be fire engines? Yes.

But in this case, the fire trucks weren't summoned to respond to an emergency. Instead, the local heroes were going to help Mia celebrate her special day and avoid the birthday blues.

"It was such a special thing," said Mount Kisco resident Alyson Stone, Mia's mother. "[It] made what would have been a pretty quiet birthday into something truly memorable."

The Mount Kisco Fire Department initiated this new program to provide a little cheer to young children bummed out on their birthdays because of the coronavirus social distancing.

Mount Kisco was inspired to provide the option after hearing about the Elmsford



The Mount Kisco Fire Department came to the birthday rescue, giving six-year-old Mia Stone the surprise of a lifetime as a fleet of firetrucks drove through the neighborhood and serenaded the birthday girl with a symphony of song and blaring horns. She was also treated to a pink fire helmet, all while abiding by social distancing.

Fire Department offering the same program to its residents from Examiner

Publisher Adam Stone, Mia's father.

Capt. Jon Pucila said local residents can

e-mail [chiefs@kiscofire.com](mailto:chiefs@kiscofire.com) with their location, desired date and phone number.

"We also request at least a few days' notice," he noted.

As for Elmsford, the department's chief said the program is all about delivering birthday satisfaction to children during a difficult time.

"In thinking of bringing happiness to kids and families during this tough time, we've decided to bring joyful moments," Elmsford Chief Nelson Diaz said.

Debuting on Saturday, Apr. 11, the special treat will continue every Saturday in Elmsford at least into May. Lucky children will also receive a small gift from the local heroes. (Mia received pink plastic fire helmets during her special delivery.)

"Residents in the village and fire district that signed up will be visited by the department and we will sing happy birthday to them," Diaz remarked. "While the COVID-19 virus restrictions are necessary, in some ways so is celebrating these kids' birthdays during this pandemic. This small and easy gesture of visiting these kids brought a big smile to all them as well as the firefighters. It was a good time for all."

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# Nonprofit Provides Pathway From Prison Through Higher Education

By Lindsay Emery

Sean Pica was hired as the first executive director of the Hudson Link for Higher Education in 2007, but recidivism rates for ex-convicts suggested he should have never gotten his job.

"It's 68 percent of the men and women in this country that go to prison return to prison," he said. "I'm not supposed to be here right now running a nonprofit. I'm supposed to be back in prison."

Hudson Link offers pre-college, two-year and four-year college education programs to more than 640 incarcerated men and women in five prisons throughout the Hudson Valley, as well as providing support for re-entry into society once they leave prison. Pica, who helps develop relationships between the colleges and the prisons, was in the room when the program was founded.

Pica was on the verge of earning his bachelor's degree in 1994 when Congress eliminated Pell grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals. At the time, Pica had accumulated 118 credits through various colleges, when the legislation temporarily derailed him. He had earned an associate's degree from Ulster Community College at Shawangunk Correctional Facility in 1991.

However, with no federal funding, there was a push by prisoners to create college programming for prisoners through other sources. He was invited by some of the

men who had already graduated to sit in on conversations about how to create a nonprofit organization. In 1998, Hudson Link was established.

"In the end, what these guys did was create Hudson Link as a nonprofit and that acted as a third-party facilitator that would coordinate the Department of Corrections interaction, registration and selection of students, raise the money to pay the colleges and figure out which college would be the partner," said Pica, who is currently working on his MBA after earning masters in professional studies and another in social work.

Hudson Link raises every penny privately. When Pica started, the annual budget was about \$280,000 but that has expanded to \$2.4 million. Hudson Link has also become a third-party facilitator model that has been replicated in other states.

The higher education program has a two-year waiting list at some sites. In order to be accepted, an applicant must have a high school diploma or a General Education Diploma (GED), Pica said. For those without a high school or equivalency diploma, the Department of Corrections offers a high school program. The inmate is required to have one discipline-free year, which is harder than it sounds, Pica said.

"So living in a max security prison, and be disciplinary-free for one year, you need something to motivate you for that because otherwise there are a lot of things that are



For inmates who earn a college degree through Hudson Link for Higher Education, there is a greater chance of success following release from prison.

going on that you're not really motivated to not get into trouble," he said.

An inmate is also not allowed to have any disciplinary infractions during the college program. Therefore, the program has a positive ripple effect on the prison's population, Pica said.

"If we have 200 students at Sing Sing alone and there's only 1,800 in the whole prison and 200 can't have a disciplinary infraction, all of a sudden, it has this effect on this whole population that you just can't even imagine," he said.

Hudson Link is in five prisons across New York state – Sing Sing Correctional Facility, Greene Correctional Facility, Taconic Correctional Facility, Sullivan Correctional Facility and Shawangunk – with different colleges partnering at each



A college graduation for the inmates can be an emotional experience.

site. All sites offer a college preparatory program and offer different degrees and course studies depending on the colleges that are at each prison.

The classes that are offered through Hudson Link's program are the same as the ones that are offered through the college that they are partnered with. Hudson Link only runs in-person classes and uses adjunct professors who are paid the same rate as if they were on campus. Computer

*continued on page 20*

**A MESSAGE FROM**  
**MICHAEL J. NESHEIWAT, M.D.**  
 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**MARYELLEN ODELL**  
 PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
**TONI E. ADDONIZIO**  
 PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CHAIRWOMAN  
**AND PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

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# To our community, thank you

On behalf of the staff at Putnam Hospital, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to our community—**from residents to civic groups to local businesses**—for the tremendous outpouring of support, donations and words of encouragement we have received throughout this global crisis.

You have all had a profound and positive impact on our work and personal lives, and for that, we are immeasurably grateful. We will continue to serve our community like family, with the utmost care and compassion. **We remain honored to be your trusted healthcare partner and neighbor.**

With sincere appreciation,  
Peter Kelly, President  
Putnam Hospital

**We're #PutnamStrong**



# Con Edison Helps Outfit Healthcare Workers in Coronavirus Fight

By Martin Wilbur

Con Edison is known for bringing electricity to its customers throughout portions of the metropolitan area. This month its technicians, managers and engineers are also delivering critical protective equipment to those in the trenches in the battle against the coronavirus.

The utility is donating 40,000 face shields made at its multipurpose machine shop in the Bronx by members of Local 1-2 to

healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients at Westchester County hospitals and other facilities.

Last Friday, Con Edison Vice President Bronx-Westchester Electric Operations Shakira Wilson presented the first 6,000 shields packed in boxes to County Executive George Latimer at the Department of Emergency Services in Valhalla. The remaining 34,000 pieces will be delivered by the end of the month and distributed by the county.

"We are all working together to get everyone through the pandemic safely and we can think of none other than to support the healthcare workers on the front lines risking their lives to save others," Wilson said.

To make the face shields, workers use 500-pound rolls of thin, plastic sheeting and cut into three-foot by eight-foot sections. Then, 40 of those sections are placed between two pieces of plywood.

The stack is fed into a machine with a robotic arm that fires a thin, high-pressure spray of water and garnet to cut the plywood and plastic sheets. One sheet makes 12 shields, and in less than three hours, 480 shields can be produced. Two shifts of workers are making the protective equipment, turning out 4,000 a day. The shields soak in a solution of water and Windex before being wiped cleaned and packed in boxes of 600 for shipping.

Each lightweight shield is one piece, with ties that hook behind the wearer's head to hold the protection in place. The shields are easy to clean, which makes them reusable.

"The folks working on this take great pride in it," said Nurrani Alli, a construction manager in Con Edison's Central Operations. "The fight against coronavirus requires a collective effort with every one of us contributing. We're happy to play a role by providing healthcare workers with equipment they need to take care of us."

Several weeks ago, Chris Bentley, a section manager in Con Edison's Central



A technician at the Con Edison machine shop in the Bronx making one of the 40,000 face shields that are being produced this month for healthcare workers in Westchester.

## Nonprofit Provides Pathway From Prison Through Higher Education

continued front page 18

labs on a closed system are available at all five sites so that students have the opportunity to conduct research, write and print their papers for their professors.

Pica said the students might learn differently, but they outperform some of their traditional college campus peers.

"The thing that I'm hearing over and over from professors is that they actually have to overprepare because the students read so much more than the traditional student and give so much more in the discussion in the classroom, that they find themselves having to prepare more to get through the 16 weeks of course work than they would on the traditional campus," he said.



Hudson Link for Higher Education provides inmates at five state prisons, including Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, with the chance to earn a college degree.

## Crossword

### Across

1. Flatten
5. The \_\_\_ button
9. He fiddled while Rome burned
10. Czech capital
12. Box
13. Brown, of hair
14. Personal quirk
15. Most festive
16. Makes more animated
19. Strips
20. Dreary song
24. Drink
26. Edge
29. Raise your hand at auction
30. Crystal clear
31. Without thinking
32. \_\_\_ file: Frederick Forsyth spy thriller
33. On the ocean
34. Marries
35. German guy

### Down

1. Shoe section
2. Complain
3. Big tech company
4. Neither's partner
5. Look after a child
6. Chills and fever
7. Nasty dogs
8. Spiderman's real name
10. Part of a website
11. "Hotel \_\_\_" movie
17. Malady
18. WW II victory symbols
21. Type of sugar
22. Thyroid problem
23. Win over
25. Phi \_\_\_ Kappa
26. Move like lava
27. Bad-mannered
28. Wiped out the competition
31. Cheer leader cheer

Answers on page 22

# KEN KEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

4-13-20

20×		1-		3	13+
8+			2	5-	
2-		24×			
12+		2÷		9+	
	2	4-		2÷	
7+		2-			4

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### RULES

- 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
- 2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

Answers on page 22



# New York AG: Stimulus Checks Off Limits to Debt Collectors

New York Attorney General Letitia James took action Monday to protect millions of New Yorkers and block debt collectors from raiding billions of dollars in emergency stimulus payments authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

James issued official guidance to banking institutions, creditors and debt collectors, making clear that financial relief provided through stimulus payments are exempt from garnishment under New York law.

The CARES Act authorized the U.S. Department of Treasury to send billions of dollars to Americans struggling as a result of the economic fallout of the coronavirus, but these emergency stimulus payments were not designated as exempt from garnishment, allowing debt collectors to potentially benefit before consumers.

"As the coronavirus crisis continues to wreak havoc on our society, I will do everything in my power to protect the wallets of every New Yorker," James said. "Today, we are taking concrete action to ensure debt collectors keep their hands off New Yorkers' stimulus payments. This official guidance makes clear that banks and debt collectors cannot freeze or seize stimulus funds that are on their way to New York families, and any institution that violates this guidance will face swift legal action from my office."

Her guidance is based on multiple state and federal consumer protection laws and clarifies that any attempt to garnish stimulus funds from New Yorkers will be treated as a violation of these laws.

Congress passed the law, but still left vulnerable Americans susceptible to predatory creditors. James led a bipartisan coalition of 25 states in calling on Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and the Trump Administration to ensure CARES Act payments would be exempt from garnishment. To date, the Treasury Department has refused the request.

The guidance also addresses what are known as "setoffs," where a bank seizes funds in a consumer's account at the bank to pay a debt owed to the bank. CARES Act payments are now exempt from this abusive and unfair

practice.

The CARES Act authorized the Treasury Department to issue emergency stimulus payments of up to \$1,200 for eligible adults and up to \$500 for eligible children to help offset the costs of essentials, like housing, groceries, car payments and other necessary expenses.

The attorney general has also sent 13 cease and desist letters to individuals and companies selling and marketing certain products as preventive treatments or cures for the coronavirus and has sent 78 cease and desist orders to companies providing

medical transportation services to Medicaid recipients that are violating the state's requirements prohibiting medical transports with more than one occupant per vehicle during this crisis.

Working with domain name registrars across the nation, James has removed more than 20 fraudulent websites for marketing scams. Additionally, the attorney general's office has responded to more than 3,000 individuals regarding labor-related complaints or questions.

## Boy Scouts Create, Donate Protective Equipment for Critical Workers

The Westchester-Putnam Council of Boy Scouts of America has teamed up with Westchester's United for the Troops to make masks and scrub caps for local county day care workers, first responders, supermarkets and stores.

"We were approached by the National Boy Scouts of America Council along with other councils in the area to give away neckerchiefs for the purpose of making masks and scrubs," said Rich Stockton, scout executive and CEO for the Westchester-Putnam Council.

The project was coordinated by Daniel Conniff, assistant scout executive and COO for the Westchester-Putnam Council.

"Once we knew we were getting 8,640 neckerchiefs, we reached out to United

for the Troops, who has outreach in the Westchester, Putnam and Rockland areas," Conniff said. "They connected us to several organizations to distribute the neckerchiefs."

Jimmy Rathschmidt, co-founder of United for the Troops, said the neckerchiefs have been donated to several organizations in the area.

Yorktown BSA Troop 165 Scoutmaster Jann Mirchandani has been making scrub caps from the donated neckerchiefs with her Facebook group, Croton Face Masks Makers.

"We wanted to help our local community who may be in short supply of masks and scrub caps," she said.



WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM COUNCIL PHOTO

Ethan Burns of Somers Troop 376 picked up a case on Friday to make masks and face bandannas for day care workers, first responders and supermarket and store employees.

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## 1918 to 2020: A Stolen Aunt and the Power of a Brother's Memory

Six months ago, few of us could have imagined our current world as even remotely plausible, as if we had strayed into a Stephen King novel.

For most, neither knowledge nor experience would have prepared us for such a turn in our lives, and the lives of everyone on this planet we share.

But for those whose parents saw the early years of the 20th century, we are no strangers to a prior time summed up simply: 1918. A staple now on every news broadcast, we hear much about the cataclysm that shook the world that year when a virulent strain of influenza swept the planet in three waves, sent at least 50 million people to their deaths and left in its wake a trail of guilt and remorse in many of its survivors.

Spanish Influenza, so called despite no evidence of Spanish origin, placed its indelible mark on my family with that third wave in October 1918. It was a story my siblings and I learned at an early age, as my father recounted the tragic loss of his younger sister, Florence, one of 33,000 New Yorkers taken by this scourge.

Every death is tragic. My father's parents knew that only too well. In a little more than a decade they buried four of their seven children, three of them dead before seeing a third birthday, victims to the common childhood ailments of the time.

But Florence was different. She was no two- or three-year-old. She was a beautiful, vibrant, intelligent, sweet girl of 13, on the cusp of womanhood. The apple of her father's eye, my grandfather made no effort to hide his favoritism.

To my father, five years her elder, she was his to protect from the ruffians of their Yorkville neighborhood, then quite a different place from the gentrified area it is today. Still, it was a clear rung up the ladder

from the Five Points and Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods family members had called home as they left Ireland behind and made their way to the American dream.

In 1918, that dream turned into a nightmare. And when Florence died in October 1918, a fighter to the end, my grandfather blamed himself for her death. A streetcar motorman, in contact every day with thousands, he was convinced until

the day he died that he had brought the virus home.

Growing up, listening to our father's tales, my siblings and I came to know Florence as if she walked beside us. My father would show us the scar on his arm where a direct blood transfusion had been done, his vein to hers, in a desperate attempt to save her in the hours before death. But in the end my father could not save her, other than to preserve and pass on to his children the memory of a young girl's brief 13 years. There was not a day that she did not cross his mind.

I am blessed with three daughters, and with joy I have watched them grow from children to mature women with families of their own. And as each approached the age of 13, my stolen aunt came alive in them, and I felt anew the enormous loss my family had suffered.

Florence shone in their smiles, laughter, intelligence and grace. The few photos of her that survive bear mute testimony to what was lost when she died – children,



By Brian McGowan

grandchildren, cousins, an aunt, an uncle – all people I would have proudly called family, shared holiday meals with and hailed at weddings, wakes and yes, funerals.

My oldest granddaughter just turned 10, a perfect blend of her Irish and Italian roots. Apple of many an eye, in three short years I will look upon her and be reminded that those we have lost are never really gone, as long as we remember them and continue their story.

*Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx. He is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, and author of two books: "Love, Son John," about a U.S. soldier's World War II experiences, and "Thunder at Noon," historical fiction based on the Battle of Waterloo. Both are available at Amazon.com. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). To see more of his writing on "things Irish," follow his blog, "Rethinking Irish," at www.rethinkingirish.com.*

## Pace Career Services Extends Help to Parents Affected by Coronavirus

Responding to the economic fallout from the global coronavirus pandemic that has wiped out jobs, decimated incomes and is threatening to push the economy into a recession, Pace University is now offering its career services resources to parents of students who have lost jobs, the university announced last week.

In extending its full range of resources, relationships, recruitment and know-how to include parents adversely affected by economic fallout of this crisis, Pace's Department of Career Services is ready to help families in need find employment.

"Pace has a long tradition of creating opportunities for our students," said President Marvin Krislov. "In this uncertain time, we're very pleased to do the same for

Pace families by extending Career Services placement expertise to parents of our students. We know that student success is directly tied to family stability, but, more important, it's the right thing to do at a time when people need us most."

In addition to providing career services to adults, Pace University is providing supplies for front-line healthcare workers, sending volunteers to much-needed hospitals and medical centers in the region, and marshaling its resources to assist those who need help, Krislov said.

This is the first time Pace Career Services is being offered beyond students and the alumni population to include parents. Historically, Pace has some of the strongest job placement outcomes among undergraduate and graduate

students. It's one of the many reasons that Pace is ranked first in upward economic mobility among four-year private universities, according to a study conducted by Harvard University's Opportunity Insights.

"As career professionals we know too well the stress a person typically experiences when they lose work, even in the best of circumstances and economies," said Phyllis Mooney, executive director of Pace's Career Services. "But to lose a job in the middle of a pandemic, the team is heartbroken to think how overwhelmed some of our students' families must feel now. This is where we can, and are happy to help, no matter what kind of job a Pace parent is looking for. And we are just one confidential phone call or e-mail away."

Each year, hundreds of companies – from Fortune 500s and the major accounting firms to government agencies and small business – actively recruit from Pace's New York City and Pleasantville campuses. The department of Career Services, which each year brings more than 450 employers to its campuses through 12 career fairs and many other networking events, connects students to brand name companies in accounting, media and entertainment, nonprofits, health care, science and technology and hospitality, among many other fields. It taps into its traditional resources and contacts, and scouring job boards and online resources to help connect people with the right jobs.

In 2019, Pace had access to roughly 60,000 job and internship postings, of which Pace students completed more than 8,000 internships, co-ops, practicums and field experiences. The university expects that number to grow in the coming years.

"From Day One, students are introduced to Pace's expert Career Services team and learn of our many career counseling services, including our robust calendar of employer events for that year," Mooney said.

"At Pace, we help all students no matter who they are, who they know or what they are majoring in find their unique career path. In addition to introducing them to a huge roster of employers through our mega and 'boutique' fairs, we offer students individual appointments and workshops on everything from resume writing, building a professional brand, interview skills and salary negotiation. Now, we're helping parents with those skills."

To contact Pace's Department of Career Services, call 212-346-1950 or e-mail careers@pace.edu.

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### Crossword Answers



### KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

#### PREVIOUS ANSWER

20x	4	5	2	1	3	6
8+	3	1	4	2	6	5
2-	5	3	6	4	1	2
12+	2	4	3	6	5	1
6 <sup>2</sup>	6	2	1	5	4	3
7+	1	6	5	3	2	4

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# Another Wine-themed Diversion While Sheltering in Place



By Nick Antonaccio

As I'm penning this week's column, it feels like a typical mid-April spring day. Blue skies, the sun beating down while the air is still crisp and tulips ushering in the cascade of spring color from flowering bulbs and bushes.

But, unfortunately, it's not a typical spring day. It's a day during which I'm otherwise confined to sheltering in place as we all fight this deadly virus that has upended our lives.

So what am I to do to persevere through these dark days? Remote working still goes on, but my days have free time that I've rarely enjoyed in the past. Now beginning my fifth week of life on pause, I've exhausted many of the diversions that were once invigorating but now lack excitement.

Especially those with a wine theme. I've exhausted viewing the list of wine-themed movies I recommended a few columns back. The Zoom wine tastings I partook in with friends, as I suggested in another recent column, reminded me that digital reality is no substitute for physical reality. What next?

And then it hit me. I went to the wine books section of my home library shelves. Browsing through the titles, I noticed books not yet read and those worthy of a second read. I now

have a new wine-themed diversion.

Allow me to offer for your consideration several of the books on my shelf, grouped by topic. These books transport me to vineyards, wineries and locales where wine has flourished for centuries. The places, people and science remind me that wine is an integral component of the intricate fiber that constitutes our society.

Space restricts the length of my list and any meaningful descriptions. For most books, the subtitle provides an enticing summary of the subject matter. Feel free to contact me for a more comprehensive list.

## 1. A Deep Dive into the Science

"Oxford Companion to Wine" by Jancis Robinson. Google in hard copy, and remarkably on one Google website.

"Kevin Zraly Windows on the World Complete Wine Course, 2019 Edition." Chock-full of interesting tidbits; an amazing four million copies sold.

"Winetaster's Secrets: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Art of Wine Tasting" by Andrew Sharp.

"Native Wine Grapes of Italy," by Ian D'Agata. Everything you ever wanted to know.

## 2. A Practical Understanding of Wine

"Secrets of the Sommeliers" by Rajat Parr and Jordan MacKay.

"Taste Buds and Molecules: The Art and Science of Food with Wine" by François

Chartier.

## 3. Views of the Wine Industry

"Cork Dork: A Wine-Fueled Adventure Among the Obsessive Sommeliers, Big Bottle Hunters, Rogue Scientists Who Taught Me to Live for Taste" by Bianca Bosker.

"Inventing Wine: A New History of One of the World's Most Ancient Pleasures" by Paul Lukacs.

"Napa" by James Conaway. Excellent history of the pioneering families and vintners.

## 4. Traveling the World

"In Search of Bacchus: Wanderings in the Wonderful World of Wine Tourism" by George M. Taber.

"Vanilla Beans and Brodo: Real Life in the Hills of Tuscany" by Isabella Dusi.

"A Year in Provence" by Peter Mayle. His first, a classic.

## 5. Reflections by Wine Professionals

"Passion on the Vine" by Sergio Esposito.

"Reflections of a Wine Merchant on a Lifetime in the Vineyards and Cellars of France and Italy" by Neal I. Rosenthal.

"The Hills of Tuscany: A New Life in an Old Land" by Ferenc Máté.

## 6. Reads Like a Novel

"The Billionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine" by Benjamin Wallace.

"In Vino Duplicitas: The Rise and Fall of a Wine Forger Extraordinaire" by Peter Hellman.

"The Road to Burgundy: The Unlikely Story of an American Making Wine and a New Life in France" by Ray Walker.

"Wine and War: The French, the Nazis, and the Battle for France's Greatest Treasure" by Donald and Petie Kladstrup.

## 7. Fiction

"The Vintage Caper" by Peter Mayle.

"Nose" by James Conaway.

"The Winemaker's Wife" by Kristin Harmel. Resisting the German occupation of the Champagne region during World War II.

Go to your favorite reading spot at home (or outdoors if it's a beautiful spring day), curl up with one of these books (binge reading is acceptable) and a glass of wine (after 5 p.m. of course). And pray for a return to a state of reasonable normalcy.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at [nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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## A Spiritual View

By Rev. Beth Graham

Isolation is hard! So many of my extroverted friends are particularly struggling; they are longing for a party. I hope, along with all of you, that we will be having parties and gatherings sooner rather than later.

But there is one thing I have been reminded of during this time of social paucity; that there is Someone who is there with us no matter what. If we believe in God at all, we know that He is present with us, able to be everywhere at the same time. So, He is in my home, and yours, He's at the hospitals and at the gravesites, comforting, speaking, strengthening.



In the book of Isaiah, God says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you." I hope that each of us senses and seeks the presence of God as we ride out this coronavirus river.

Rev. Beth Graham is the pastor at Hillside Church in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Congregation B'nai Yisrael, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess' Armenian Seminary.

**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

# If Pregnant, Here's How NWH is Taking Care of You and Your Baby

By Dr. Navid Mootabar

We understand your worries about being pregnant during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please know that our level of care for you and your baby hasn't changed.

The only alterations are safeguards to keep both mom and baby safe and healthy. In fact, you'll be relieved to know that so much about being pregnant hasn't changed a bit. Take a look and relax.

What's always been good for a healthy pregnancy is good for your pregnancy now.

Of course, reducing your exposure to the virus is the best thing you can do. So practice proper handwashing and social distancing. Beyond that? In a nutshell, continue your normal healthy pregnancy habits. Eat nutritiously. Get proper exercise in your home, perhaps gentle yoga or low-impact movement videos. Make sleep a priority.

There's good news for pregnant women and babies. Based on what is known now, pregnant women are at no greater risk of infection from the coronavirus than the rest of the population.

What if you get infected? To date, there are no reports of the virus crossing the placenta to an unborn child. What is known at this point, a mother can't transmit the virus to her unborn baby. If you do become positive, we will treat you appropriately.

There are fewer office visits, with the same level of expert monitoring. Right now, expectant mothers are safest at home. That's why we're limiting routine pregnancy visits at the office to those involving important tests, ultrasounds and bloodwork. We'll call to review which visits you'll make at our office, an extremely safe environment. We can offer telehealth visits whenever you like.

We continue to monitor your high-risk pregnancy closely. You will receive your scheduled ultrasounds in the office, which is also very safe. (Please note that Northwell Health Physician Partners and CareMount Medical obstetricians are offering telehealth visits to maternity patients.)

Besides that, you'll meet regularly with our team of maternal-fetal specialists via telehealth technology. There is no change in the level of care and monitoring you receive. If a problem develops, our offices are open and we're here for you –always. That hasn't changed one iota.

If you have a scheduled C-section, it's business as usual. Same with an emergency C-section. Rest assured that your scheduled C-section will go ahead as planned. Because we recognize the importance of support during delivery, delivering mothers can have one support person present.



To create a completely safe labor and delivery environment, we're taking these two steps:

- Screening all support people to make sure they're asymptomatic. We take their temperature upon arrival and every 12 hours thereafter.
- Testing all women in labor and those scheduled for a C-section upon arrival and during labor. This is rapid, easy testing with a swab.

If you need an emergency C-section, the care you'll receive has not changed.

What can you expect when you arrive at Northern Westchester Hospital to have your baby? Up to 9 p.m., everything is the same. Simply enter the hospital's main entrance and go to the third-floor Labor and Delivery Department.

After 9 p.m., maternity patients enter through the emergency room entrance. Please don't worry. You are in no danger of exposure. At this entrance, everyone is immediately screened and masked regardless of symptoms.

If you are pregnant, you bypass the emergency room and go straight to the maternity floor. You do not walk through the ER itself/ Safety protocols at the entrance means you will not be exposed to coronavirus as you pass through the door.

How else do we keep you and your baby safe? Delivery rooms and all postpartum rooms are private; everyone is screened upon arrival; support partners are continually screened; and all pregnant women are tested for the virus.

Stay calm. Keep doing all the healthy things you're doing. We've got you protected.

*Dr. Navid Mootabar is chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Northern Westchester Hospital.*

## A Message for Our Times: Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Hopeful

When news of COVID-19 first broke a few months ago, no one expected it to explode here in the United States, let alone our Westchester community.

With each passing day, we've seen a national emergency declared, thousands of new cases reported and thousands of deaths. We've watched as the virus began to consume the media, our education and everyday life as we knew it.

As a high school senior, I understand the frustration many students feel. It's suffocating to remain stuck indoors all day when all you want to do is run around on the field, and it's disheartening to think that prom, graduation and other school traditions may be pushed back or canceled.

My sympathy goes out to the spring athletes who have put in countless hours of training all year, only to have their seasons stripped away from them.

My sympathy goes out to the juniors, who now worry about the effect canceled testing days and

extracurriculars may have on college admissions.

My sympathy goes out to my fellow seniors, who are devastated over the loss of their second semester. Now should have been the time we celebrated our hard work and accomplishments over the course of our high school careers.

And my heart goes out to anyone else who wants nothing more than an end to this pandemic.

But I also understand the fear. The fear that consumes parents as they witness stocks plummeting and supermarket shelves emptying. The fear that they or their loved ones will somehow contract the virus.

We may feel helpless at times – school administrators who try to salvage our education to the best of their ability, parents as they watch their kids lose hope and students as they become increasingly frustrated with the restrictions imposed on them. None of us feel in control, and that's okay.

However, there are some things we can do to help the situation.

First, stay clean and healthy. Wash your hands, clean your devices and any surfaces and try to keep your hands away from your face. Take your vitamin C, get some sleep and drink plenty of water.

Second, while no one knows for sure when we will return to a sense of "normalcy," it's important to try and maintain a positive mindset. No, staying home all day isn't ideal, but there are plenty of activities to occupy your time. Experiment with recipes you've always wanted to make, try a new workout, maybe read a book. Pick up an instrument, binge on a new television series, meditate. Make some time for yourself.

Finally, it's crucial we remain informed and practice social distancing in accordance with direction from both our local, state and federal governments. While the majority of the severe COVID-19 cases have hit older people and those



By Ellie Dessart

with underlying health issues hard, healthy, younger individuals aren't immune. That isn't to say we should cut off all social interaction with others. We can take advantage of our digital age!

Reach out to a friend or a loved one by sending a quick text. Check in on people through Facetime, Hangouts or Zoom. In times

like these, we need one another more than ever.

While we can't bring an immediate end to the pandemic, we can do our best to slow the spread. Stay home, stay healthy, and above all, please stay hopeful. These are trying times, but our community is resilient. Together, we will recover.

*Ellie Dessart is a senior at Bronxville High School. Her monthly column, "Inside the Mind of a Teen," examines and addresses the issues pertaining to teenagers at both the local and global level.*

### Inside the Mind of a Teen



# How Wine is Getting Us Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

By Marshall Tilden III

*It's no wonder that wine sales are up significantly in our current environment, as it is one of the few things providing comfort and sanity in an insane world right now.*

As I am sure you have already heard, the sales of direct-to-consumer wine are up significantly in the U.S. right now – anywhere from 40 to 100 percent, depending on the statistics you look at.

People are drinking more, there's no doubt about it. Let's face it, when you are stuck home for days upon weeks upon end, it is one of the few enjoyable treats that helps to relax the mind and body during an extremely intense time. But that's just one reason why wine is more popular than ever.

What is just as difficult as dealing with the fear and paranoia of catching the dreaded COVID-19, is the removal of all social gatherings, restaurant outings and all human interaction that we all so naively took for granted. Stopping by a neighbor's house for a beer before dinner is no longer allowed, let alone a simple Sunday barbecue with family.

But one thing we can still share with one another is wine.

I have sent wine and wine essentials (glasses, corkscrews, etc.) to my family and friends that I know will enjoy a little more juice while hunkered down for the foreseeable future, and they are so thankful for it. It allows me to communicate to them that I miss them, and hope they are managing their lives during what has to be the most



unfathomable time of our generation. It allows for that human interaction on some level that we all crave so much right now.

Just the other day an old friend from high school (who happens to live in my neighborhood) reached out and let me know that her dad's wine shop had closed recently (not due to COVID-19), and that they were drinking some of his older stash.

She knew my love for Bordeaux and dropped off a bottle of 2006 Chateau Phelan Segur Saint-Estephe (fully sanitized curbside delivery of course) just because she



Technology and a good bottle of wine allows friends or family to have a virtual happy hour during a pandemic. Left: Mount Kisco resident Marshall Tilden III of Wine Enthusiast.

thought I would enjoy it. A simple gesture that was so thoughtful gave me a glimpse of hope and optimism, in a time filled with grief and despair. I was beyond appreciative of her actions, and the wine itself was drinking just perfectly. It was hands down the best gift ever.

And thank heavens this is happening now. Can you imagine this current quarantine situation even 15 years ago? Now at least we can hop on Zoom and get to see friends and family, maybe even more so than we did before this craziness started.

The virtual happy hour has become wildly popular, and with great reason. Where we

used to gather after work or on a Friday night to share some wine and discuss our work and family lives, we can at least take it to the video chat and enjoy each other's company while enjoying a few glasses of wine.

I am able to see my parents and check in on them, and work in some fun wine geek talk with my Pops about what wines are helping him get through their isolation. Recently, I popped open a bottle of 2007 Bollinger La Grande Annee I had been saving for a special occasion. I figured our friend's virtual 50th birthday party was just that occasion. While I am sure he would have preferred that we were all physically together so he could have actually had a taste (it was phenomenal), this was truly the next best thing.

So in this unprecedented tumultuous period of our lives, it is wine that is still helping to bring people together as it continues to help keep those lines of communication open, and helping us all find those periods of normalcy and joy.

Don't believe me? Try sending a friend a bottle of wine and a few glasses and see what happens. You'll thank me later.

*Marshall Tilden III is vice president of sales and wine education at Wine Enthusiast in Valhalla. Tilden and his wife live in Mount Kisco with their two children, who both attend school in the Bedford Central School District. Tilden is also a Mount Kisco Little League coach and board member. He can be reached at 914-789-8912 or mtilden@wineenthusiast.net. Also visit WineEnthusiast.com.*

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# How to Make This Year Meaningful for Children in Youth Sports

By Michael Hopkins

As I sat with my son, Brady, on his 13th birthday watching an old Yankees game, I couldn't help but consider what was running through his mind.

Instead of going to Yankee Stadium during spring break or preparing for an April weekend baseball tournament of his own, Brady was left watching the rebroadcast of an old game – not even in high-def, to add insult to injury.

"Not having baseball," Brady replied when asked what he missed most during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I then turned to Brady's nine-year-old sister, who participates in various sports but is considerably less competitive.

"I would be very sad," Riley said when told the spring softball season might be canceled completely. "But, if it's played in the summer, I still get to play and have fun with my teammates."

While the pandemic rages across the world, causing death, fear and financial devastation, I begin to think of the one constant that millions of children may miss out on in 2020: youth sports.

Sure, it's disappointing that Major League Baseball missed its Opening Day, while the NBA, the NHL and other leagues suspended their seasons. Yet those sports will return and thrive when they do, and most players won't skip a beat.

But think about a 12-year-old robbed of a last season in Little League. Consider a four-year-old unable to play organized soccer for the first time. Ponder a high school senior getting that final spring season stolen by an invisible virus. Childhood dreams lost forever.

Let's also not forget, while it can be competitive, youth sports are not about winning. Youth sports are about memories, teammates, exercise, sportsmanship, commitment to learning something new, the feeling of accomplishment and, most importantly, fun.

While kids may be unable to chant their team name or play for trophies, youth living through this uncertain moment can still enjoy sports, from the safety of home.

All they need? A parent or older sibling serving as a volunteer coach and a little space. They can create some memories of their own, while providing children with a little piece of the magic of youth sports.

Think about counting how many times you can toss a ball back and forth without dropping it. It can create a feeling of wins, losses and accomplishments as together you try to set new records of clean catches in a row. This simple activity creates teamwork between the participants while developing hand-eye coordination. You also might be surprised who drops the ball more often!

You don't need to spend hours online

searching for the proper technique. While resources exist to learn and teach the proper athletic forms, simply playing can create a memorable experience this spring.

An imaginative game of hitting a balloon with a stick, ruler or other instrument can be fun, while developing simple timing for sports that require striking a ball, such as softball, baseball, tennis and field hockey.

While balloon batting can be fun at any age, as youth athletes get older, they may want more specific and demanding training.

Athletes who are 11 and 12 have typically participated in many practices in previous seasons and will know some drills. Temporary coaches should listen to their young athletes and help them complete the various activities from previous seasons, turning them into games when possible.

Drills such as figure 8 dribbling with a soccer ball or basketball are easy to set up and complete. Time your young athlete completing the course, with each faster time an earned win.

As young athletes become teenagers, they may have developed their own routines. However, you can still serve a purpose, helping push them during their workouts or even joining them.

As older athletes often jog or run to improve their cardio, challenges can be created for the entire family. Each family member can run a portion of a 5K, with the total combined time being the score to beat.



An empty Joseph A. Frank Field. The Bedford Hills/Katonah Little League diamond is one of many local fields where seasons were scheduled to begin Apr. 18 but are instead sitting idle.

Complete the same run the next weekend to beat that time and "win."

This pandemic will end and youth sports will return with smiling faces and cheering parents. In the meantime, all of us can work to create a special season for our young athletes, one creative toss, pass, run and challenge at a time.

A volunteer coach for nine years, Michael Hopkins, his wife, Nancy, and their children, Brady and Riley, live in Bedford Corners. Michael is a volunteer coach with Katonah Lewisboro-Bedford Softball and St. Patrick's CYO Basketball programs, while also serving on the Bedford Hills/Katonah Little League's board of directors.

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"Am glad to do my small part to assist an amazing community newspaper and fellow Hofstra alum during these challenging times for journalism."

"Thanks for all you do to promote local not-for-profit organizations. Support Connection has helped many people because of your articles and ads. During this time, we need you now more than ever!"

"I imagine how incredibly helpful your news is to everyone right now. Sending support!!!!"

"You are so very important to all of our communities - bringing us the up-to-date news. We want you to stay financially healthy."

"Thank you so much for your local coverage. Both World Cup Gymnastics and World Cup Nursery School appreciate what you are going through as a small business. We wish you well and good luck getting through these difficult times."

"Having a good local paper is priceless."

"We're in this fight together. Times are tough, but we'll get through this. Stay strong."

"Thank you for all you do to bring local news to the community. We're all better for having you around, and I'm glad to be able to do my part."

"Great local news. Apple Pie and

the Examiner!"

"Add my name to your list of fans! And that's not because we are related."

"Keep up the great journalism and important work. Old school community journalism at its best."

"We are devout readers of The Examiner. A publication like this is a necessity in our small local communities. Rarely do we go into Starbucks, the barber shop or the lobby at the Jacob Burns without seeing people engrossed in an issue. We are proud to support a paper based on integrity and a generous community spirit."

"Adam, we are all in this together. Hoping this helps a bit."

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"This community is in desperate need of a local, community news source, especially as we wade into these uncharted waters caused by coronavirus. Adam is an amazing journalist who's built an upstanding, quality news outfit. He's been there for all of us, now it's time to be there for him and his team. Godspeed, Adam."

"Proud supporter of The Examiner. It's my favorite resource for news and happenings in our community."

"We have been fans and friends of Adam Stone and were fortu-

nate enough to watch him create and print the first edition of The Examiner in 2007. Adam, his team, and the paper are a shining light in our community. It's not a flim flam local rag, it's real journalism that addresses the tough issues while celebrating and documenting the lives of our neighbors. Local news is important, it's where national news starts... I'm proud that they are in my community and happy to support them in any way I can."

"Your service to the community deserves support in regular circumstances too, but especially in these difficult times."

"You've always supported our community and it's with great pleasure that we return the favor. May The Examiner continue to serve and thrive."

"I worked for The Examiner for about 3 1/2 years as a freelance sports writer and newspaper distributor. I learned a lot working with Adam, Ray and Andy, and they helped and supported me as I moved on to become a full-time sports reporter at the Poughkeepsie Journal. The Examiner is a venerable weekly, and I'm more than happy to offer my support during these hard times."

"I thank you for balanced informative local news. we gladly support you."

"Looking forward to continued fair and accurate local reporting. Wishing your staff and readers good health."

"As a member of CD17Indivisible, I much appreciate the outlet you have provided for the many letters

to the Editor published in support of key local issues. We believe in a Free press that provides a voice to those who seek to call attention to Community concerns. As such, I am pleased to contribute to your continuance and success in these challenging times."

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"Thank you for always covering Lakeland & Panas Sports!"

"We look forward to reading the hard copy of your Examiner every week. Martin Wilbur's reporting is accurate and always right on target."

"Putnam Examiner does a great job promoting student-athletes in our community Stay safe and healthy."

"Your reporting on local government news is excellent! We also enjoy your columnists, especially Nick Antonaccio on wine, Bill Primavera ("The Home Guru"), and Brian Kleupfel on birding. Keep up the great work!"

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"Adam, Martin and team, The Examiner is an important and valued resources for our community!"

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