



Demonstrators Assemble for Peaceful Rally and March

By Gabriel Harrison

Hundreds demonstrated at Wells Park in Brewster Friday for a Black Lives Matter rally, followed by a march through the village. There was a heavy police presence throughout the proceedings, which were all non-violent.

At the rally, speakers of various ethnicities and ages spoke, including Kevin Joseph, a Mahopac resident.

When Joseph first learned of George Floyd's death, he said he was just sad. "I was that way for days," he said, "until I saw the protests."

"And I saw that it wasn't just black people, but I saw it was a majority of white people," he said, adding he was moved to see people "of all races, of all ages, come out and stand with me and protest with me even when I couldn't do it for myself."

"I want to thank everyone who did that," Joseph said. "It means so much to me, and so many other black men like me around this world."

An elderly woman also addressed the crowd. Speaking through a face shield, she said, "My name is Jennifer Goosechilde, I'm 78 years old. I have lived

as a white person in this society long enough."

Goosechilde teared up as she discussed being on the "wrong side of history."

"I think it's terribly important that change begins by each of us looking inside of our own hearts," Goosechilde said. "I've been a coward too many times in my life and all I can say is I'm sorry. For the last 10 years I've been trying very, very hard to read and learn as much as I can about Native American history and black history."

Other speakers called for political action. One woman sang to the crowd and a man quoted a passage from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Putnam County Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr. and Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery of Philipstown attended the rally.

After the rally, some demonstrators marched to the Brewster train station from Wells Park before looping around Brewster via East Main Street, Peaceable Hill Road, and Crosby Avenue, and North Main Street. The march was led by young people. Police escorted and cleared the roads.

As the crowd marched around Brewster, residents watched from



PHOTOS BY GABRIEL HARRISON

Hundreds demonstrated at Wells Park in Brewster last week.



yards, doorsteps and storefronts. Some waved, cheered, or honked horns.

Three times during the march demonstrators knelt or sat for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time a Minneapolis officer knelt on George Floyd's neck. There was also a moment of silence at the rally.

One of the silent commemora-

tions occurred in middle of the three-way intersection of Route 6 and North Main Street by the Brewster Fire Department building, blocking traffic.

The march ended after 4 p.m., about four hours after the start of the rally. Before dispersing, marchers paused for a final eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence.

Early Reopening for Putnam County Outdoor Dining

By Rick Pezzullo

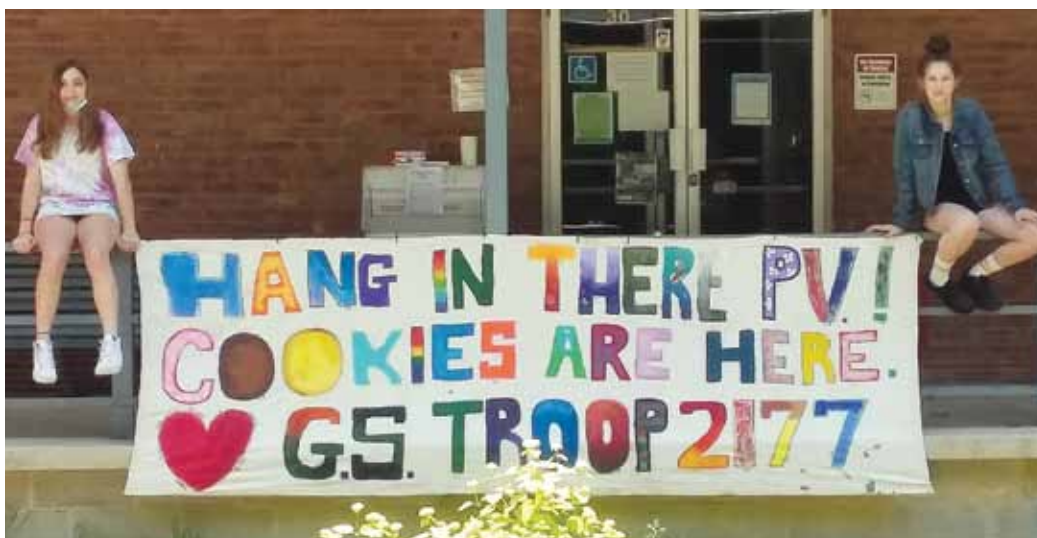
Following Governor Andrew Cuomo's announcement last week that outdoor dining would be allowed in Phase Two of New York's Reopening of Businesses, restaurants and food services in Putnam County are gearing up to reopen on June 9.

Prior to this concession, eateries were not slated to reopen until Phase Three, which was projected to be on June 23.

Some best practices include

how patron safety will be ensured, proper delineation of areas provided for each licensee, consideration of hours permitted for outdoor operation, consideration of how and whether outdoor music will be permitted, etc.

Putnam County Town Supervisors and Village Mayors have been implored to streamline local codes to ease existing restrictions. Several towns have already outlined fee waivers and accommodations to do just that.



Cadette Girl Scout Troop 2177 hung a banner at the town's library that gives Putnam Valley the good news that, after a 10-week delay, cookies have finally arrived!

Putnam Hospital Employees Picket for Hazard Pay

By Gabriel Harrison

Healthcare workers at Putnam Hospital picketed last week for hazard pay after they maintained Nuvance management repeatedly refused to accommodate their demands.

Many said their jobs have been more difficult since COVID-19 reached the county, while some employees said they have been pulled from their usual departments to perform jobs elsewhere. Extra shifts and longer hours are more common, they added.

One worker said mandated double shifts are taking a toll on her health. She has a circulation issue and standing for too long causes swelling in her legs.

"I just feel that because of the circumstances and what we've had to work around that we should be rewarded for our efforts," said Angel Ruppert, another Putnam Hospital employee who noted she's worked with COVID-19 patients.

"It's scary," Ruppert said. "It's life-threatening and we should be recognized for enduring that."

Marcela Rojas, a public relations official for Putnam Hospital, provided a statement when asked about the picketing and hazard pay issue.

"Putnam Hospital supports all our employees, who have done an exceptional job during the COVID-19 pandemic," she said. "As we face the challenges ahead, we will continue to work hard to meet the needs



PHOTO BY GABRIEL HARRISON

Healthcare workers held signs outside Putnam Hospital last week.

of our patients, staff and the community."

One employee described limiting contact with family to protect her loved ones.

"We have been working like crazy," said Nicole Lynch, who works on a medical-surgical unit. "We have been putting

our lives on the line every time we set foot in this hospital to take care of others."

In meetings earlier this week, hospital managers said there would be no additional hazard pay, according to several hospital employees.

"Management doesn't really realize what it's like when you're in a hot zone and you have all your gear on and you're in there for hours, sweating," Lynch said. "When you're taking care of a patient and they suddenly can't breathe, and you're trying your hardest."

"It was hard mentally, it was hard emotionally, it was hard to see people – young people... die," Lynch added. "We deserve to be fairly compensated for risking our lives every day to come to work."

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State, Region's COVID-19 Cases Diminishing as Reopening Accelerates

By Martin Wilbur

Less than 2 percent of New Yorkers getting tested for COVID-19 since the middle of last week are testing positive, helping to slow virus-related hospitalizations and deaths since the earliest days of the crisis.

Of 58,054 tests administered statewide on Sunday, there were 702 positives, a rate of 1.2 percent, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Monday. That follows the three-day period of June 4-6 where the percentage of positive test result declined each day from 1.6 percent last Thursday.

Over the four-day span the state conducted more than 163,000 tests.

Cuomo said the results highlight how measures such as social distancing, wearing face masks and having gradual and measured re-openings around the state have been effective.

"These guidelines work," Cuomo said. "They have been enacted in every other region in the state. These other regions have entered Phase 1, followed these guidelines and there has been no spike. We know that it works if it's followed."

COVID-19 deaths statewide fell to 35 on Friday before ticking back up to 45 on Saturday. In Westchester on Saturday there were no deaths for the first time since the first half of March, said County Executive George Latimer. On Sunday, active cases in the county dropped to 951.

The governor made his remarks on the 100th consecutive day of his daily briefings that started Feb. 29 with the first recorded cases in the state. A few days later there was the first New York hotspot in New Rochelle, which was one of the first in the nation.

It comes during a critical week in the state's reopening plan. New York City, which has been battered by the coronavirus, entered Phase 1 on Monday, while the Mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties, are advancing to Phase 2 on Tuesday. Long Island is scheduled to start Phase 2 on Wednesday.

Phase 2 allows for a far greater level of commerce, allowing nearly all retail and professional offices, such as real estate agencies, lawyers and accountants, to resume with occupancy limited to no more than 50 percent.

Cuomo expressed confidence that moving forward was the correct decision.

"Why are we reopening? Because these numbers say we can," he explained. "There's no guess, there's no ideology. Based on the numbers we can reopen."

Both Cuomo and Latimer remained wary but hopeful on Monday that the outpouring of demonstrators at rallies throughout the state and across Westchester protesting racial injustice will not cause a spike in the number of cases.

Latimer mentioned that at the protests he's attended or watched, the vast majority of people are wearing face coverings.

"I think we're all looking to see what the impact the accumulation of people in close quarters will represent," Latimer said.

"Am I concerned? Yes. Do I automatically assume that we'll see a spike? No," he later added. "We'll see what happens."

Cuomo said he was also concerned with whether cases will jump and urged anyone

who is attending a protest to get themselves tested. There are about 35,000 tests that will be available in New York City alone every day. He said it's also critical for the state's residents to remain vigilant.

"New Yorkers bent the curve by being smart," Cuomo said. "We're celebrating, we're back, we're reopening, we're excited, our mojo's back, our energy's back. Great. Stay smart."

Easing of Restrictions

Last week there was a steady stream of new announcements that added to the Phase 2 guidelines. Outdoor restaurant seating will be permitted starting on Tuesday as long as the establishments adhere to social distancing and masks are worn by employees and patrons

when they are not seated. Restaurants must also follow local zoning and permitting regulations.

The state announced that day camps may reopen as early as June 29, while swimming pools can operate this summer with a maximum 50 percent occupancy while distancing and safety protocols are followed.

Another eased restriction are gatherings at houses of worship, which are now permitted with attendance capped at no more than 25 percent of capacity.

During the past week, Latimer also announced that the popular Bicycle Sundays



on the Bronx River Parkway will continue during July and August. Typically, Bicycle Sundays, where the parkway is closed to vehicular traffic, allows resident to enjoy

biking between White Plains and Yonkers in May, June and September after Labor Day.

The northern end of the bike route has been extended from Main Street in White Plains to the County Center.

Latimer said that starting June 15, Metro-North's three lines will increase service to about 60 percent of a normal weekday schedule, signaling the need for more trains during the gradual reopening.

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New Castle Chief Outlines Police Practices, Procedures of Town's Officers

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Police Chief James Carroll provided a glimpse last week into the training and priorities of his department in light of the highly-charged national debate following the killing of George Floyd.

During a June 2 discussion with the Town Board, Carroll, a 27-year department veteran who was appointed chief last summer, said communication and defusing a situation are the most valuable steps an officer can take when responding to calls.

Last year, two New Castle officers were sent to a four-day training session in California to become certified in police de-escalation tactics and have trained other officers in the 38-member department.

"It's bringing things down, talking calmly, getting to the root of the problem, listening, all those acts," Carroll said.

"The most important tool a police officer has is communication. Communication is de-escalation," he added.

Training includes professional communication, procedural justice, crisis intervention, role playing and training seminars, he said.

Carroll said he has revised the department's policies and procedures where the first attempt in every potential physical-force scenario is de-escalation.

Officers have also engaged in simulated exercises that are evaluated.

"Depending on how an officer handles a situation, if they de-escalate and use proper

tactics, it can be resolved very quickly," Carroll said. "If it does escalate to the point, maybe it was unforeseeable, but it's reviewed afterward what the officer could have done different or what they could have done better."

Despite its relatively small size, the New Castle Police Department is highly diverse, the chief said. Its roster includes seven African-American officers, five Hispanics, four of whom are bilingual, five women officers, one Muslim and one lesbian.

Carroll said the department does not employ police bodycams. For a department like New Castle, he said there are more important tools that can be used.

In his 27 years in the town, Carroll said there hasn't been an incident of police misconduct involving physical force or deadly physical force where bodycams would have been necessary to have. If the Town Board wants to consider bodycams, that should be reviewed at budget time, he said.

Supervisor Ivy Pool said she would like to have discussions about introducing bodycams for the department.

"As we start to gear up for the budget for next year, I think it's worth additional consideration within the context of the larger town budget and the department's budget," Pool said.

The discussion was one of a growing number of discussions in towns across the region. Last week, Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced the formation of a task force examining police



New Castle Police Chief James Carroll

practices at the county level.

Several residents posed questions and comments during the live-streamed discussion last Tuesday. Resident Jen Klein said she was concerned about a situation occurring in town similar to the recent occurrence in Central Park where a white woman called the police after a black man asked her to leash her dog.

Carroll said that all citizens are treated

evenhandedly in town.

"All our training is about equality and treating everyone the same and respecting people in general, particularly with the same guidelines and training and rules, regardless of race or religion," he said.

Another resident, Lara Fuhrer, urged the chief to issue a statement denouncing Floyd's killing, which would be more powerful coming from someone in authority in law enforcement.

"I think it needs to be out there," Fuhrer said. "People need to see it and it needs to come from you, the police chief. You need to be one of the leaders in our community to actually be advancing it."

By the next day, Carroll wrote that the department was angry and saddened with the police conduct in Floyd's death and pledged in treating all citizens equally.

"We're disgusted that anyone wearing a police uniform would do what we all saw in that video," he stated. "The actions and inactions of the officers in question are not a reflection on all the hard-working men and women in uniform who serve and protect us every day. Please know that we are more than a uniform, we are ordinary people and we stand with you. "We anticipate and welcome difficult conversations that will result in progressive changes. Our commitment to public safety remains the same."

Pool said she also plans to reactivate the town's Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the near future.



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Q: What is Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and why does it occur?

A: PAD is when plaque deposits of fat, cholesterol, and other substances build up in the walls of your arteries. Over time, these deposits can cause atherosclerosis, a narrowing or complete blockage of the arteries. Think about a clogged shower drain. When there's no place for the water to go, it drains slowly over time. If you continue to ignore the clog, you can expect more serious plumbing issues. The same is true with your arteries.

Q: How do I know if I have PAD?

A: PAD symptoms often begin with leg pain and worsen over time. You're in pain because there's not enough blood flow or oxygen in your limbs to keep up with the demands of the exercise. Symptoms may mirror less serious complications. See your doctor if you have a non-healing ulcer, an ingrown toenail, thickened toenails, hair loss on your feet, cold feet, or no pulse in your feet.

Q: Is it serious?

A: Though progression isn't rapid, severe PAD can cause tissue loss and gangrene, and can even be deadly. Regular screening for PAD is critical because the condition can be a marker for coronary artery disease and cerebrovascular disease, which could ultimately

lead to a heart attack or stroke. As the population ages, PAD is more prevalent, advising an annual screening for PAD for everyone over the age of 70.

Q: How can I reduce my risk? Or, if I'm diagnosed – How can I manage symptoms?

A: Get the help you need to stop smoking. This is a risk factor you can control. By damaging your blood vessels, the chemicals in cigarettes increase your risk for PAD by four times, according to the National Institutes of Health. Also, exercise as regularly as possible, and stick to a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and legumes, and limit meat.

Q: Behavior modification isn't working for me. What are my options?

A: If you've been diagnosed with PAD and your symptoms can't be managed through behavior modification alone, you have options. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we use balloon angioplasty, stent placement and atherectomy procedures to treat PAD symptoms. These techniques help keep the blood flowing in the arteries of the lower limbs and are often done without hospital stays. You'll resume daily activities within a day or less. For severely blocked arteries, bypass surgery lets us bypass severely blocked blood vessels. This often requires a three-to-five-day hospital stay and rehabilitation.

Cuomo Extends School Board, Budget Voting; Primary Ballots Affected

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order Sunday afternoon that will allow voters participating in this year's Board of Education election and budget votes an extra week to submit their paper ballots.

Cuomo signed the order that extends the time period for the ballots to arrive by mail at each district clerk's office to Tuesday, June 16 at 5 p.m. However, voters turning in their ballots in person still have only until this Tuesday, June 9 at 5 p.m. to do that.

The order also permits absentee ballots for the June 23 primaries to only be postmarked by that date. Previously, the ballots had to be received by the Board of Elections office in each county by the end of the business day on June 23.

A reduced number of in-person polling sites for the primary is also expected to be released for each municipality by county Boards of Elections sometime this week.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world, and while we are making great progress and the numbers keep going down, no New Yorker should have to choose between their health and their right to vote," Cuomo said in a statement released by his office.

The school board and budget votes were of immediate concern during the past week. Voters across the state were lodging complaints with their school district offices that they had not received the ballots or that their ballots had arrived during the latter

portion of last week and feared there would not be enough to put them back in the mail and ensure they would arrive on time.

In northern Westchester and Putnam counties, the biggest issue occurred in the Mahopac and Brewster school districts. By early last week no resident had received a ballot because those two districts were among the 50 statewide that had contracted with NTS Data Services near Buffalo to print and send the ballots to registered voters. The company had run out of envelopes for about 30 of those districts, said state Sen. Peter Harkham (D-Lewisboro).

Mahopac and Brewster school officials reached out to Harkham to request more time so their residents could receive ballots and have a fair opportunity to vote. There also had been delays in sending out the ballots in the Bedford School District and some voters in Lakeland and in districts in southern Westchester also reported delays.

Harkham, who introduced a bill last Tuesday extending the deadline for voting in the school elections to June 16 in the event that Cuomo did not issue a new or revised executive order, said he was pleased with the governor's action on Sunday. Any legislation would have likely gone down to the wire on Monday with the risk of it not being approved in time.

"Gov. Cuomo's decision to allow this extension on the receipt of school ballots gives voters ample time, as my bill sought to do as well, to ensure that their votes will count," said Harkham.

The order negates the need for Harkham's legislation to proceed.

Along with statewide school district board elections and budget votes, there are some public libraries that are affiliated with school districts that have their board and budget votes on the same ballot. Cuomo's executive order applies to those elections and votes

and any school-related referendums that appear on the ballot.

Early on in the COVID-19 crisis, Cuomo postponed the Mar. 18 village elections, the Apr. 28 presidential primary and the May 19 statewide school budget votes. The village elections have been rescheduled for Sept. 15.

One Last Time



DONNA MUELLER PHOTO

Seniors on Pleasantville High School's track team gathered recently to be recognized for their contributions to the team and have family photographs taken. Their spring season was short-circuited after schools were shut in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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County, Local Pools Given the Go-Ahead to Open This Summer

By Martin Wilbur

As the weather turns more summerlike each day, there was good news last week for people who enjoy taking a swim on a warm afternoon.

Westchester County announced that four of its five swimming pools will open either later this month or in time for the July 4th weekend after New York State released guidelines allowing pools to operate this summer with restrictions. Municipalities may also start making plans for pool openings if they plan to operate this summer.

The Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains

and the Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers is set to begin its season on Friday, June 26 while the Willson's Woods Pool in Mount Vernon and the Tibbetts Brook Pool in Yonkers are scheduled to begin their seasons on Friday, July 3, County Executive George Latimer announced Thursday.

Under the state's guidelines to combat the spread of COVID-19 cases, pools will be capped at 50 percent capacity. Also, special features at the facilities, such as wave machines, splash ponds and water playgrounds and slides, will be closed, Latimer said. Concession stands, basketball courts and other ancillary activities will remain shut.

"The pools will be open, people will be able to go in, swim and get cool, but they won't be able to have those specialty activities because they represent situations that do not allow for social distancing, and of course, without masks it could advance the spread," Latimer said.

To help control crowds, patrons will be accepted each day on a first-come, first-served basis, Latimer said. There will be two three-hour sessions daily, which will each require a person to get tickets for admittance: an early session from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the late time slot is from 3 to 6 p.m.

From 2 to 3 p.m., staff is required to disinfect the facility.

Face coverings will not be needed in the pool or if a person or family can distance themselves from other parties outside

the pool, Latimer said. Otherwise, face coverings are required, he said.

There will be announcements every half-hour during each swim session reminding visitors of the rules.

While restrictions have to be maintained, Latimer said it's better than not having pools open at all.

"The whole mission in being able to open up our recreation facilities is to give people relief, they can have some enjoyment, but we have to do that knowing we can't let our numbers spike," he said.

Municipal pools in locations where officials haven't already announced summer-long closures will also be able to operate while following the guidelines.

Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich said the hope is for the village pool at Leonard Park to be open the first week in July, if not sooner. Mount Kisco is still awaiting specific guidance from the state, she said.

"We are making plans to create a safe environment for residents to enjoy," Picinich said.

The issue will be discussed by the Recreation Commission at its meeting on Wednesday, said Joanne Aquilino, Mount Kisco's superintendent of recreation and parks.

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro said last week he expects that the town pool on Greenway Road will open at some point. He gave no date when that might occur.

The Village of Pleasantville had announced last month that it would keep its



County and municipal swimming pools will be permitted to open this summer after the state gave the green light, but the facilities will have to operate with restrictions.

pool closed for the summer.

Last week Latimer announced that the Playland pool will be shut for the summer. The county was planning on refurbishing that facility after the swim season, but since the state guidelines don't permit pools to open that are within larger complexes, Latimer said the county will get a jump on the work and look to have it ready for next summer.

He expects that with three weeks lead time for Saxon Woods and Sprain Ridge and four weeks before Willson's Woods and Tibbetts Brook are scheduled to open, the county will have sufficient staff.

The county typically opens its pools in time for the last or next-to-last weekend in June.




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Day Camps Can Open But Slow-Arriving Guidelines Leaves Uncertainty

By Martin Wilbur

New York State will permit day camps to open within three weeks but leaders of private camps and municipalities' recreation departments have yet to receive ground rules that would help guide staff.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last week that day camps can open for the summer season as soon as June 29, however, organizers said that key details such as capacity, distancing, use of pools and other variables will determine the types of programs that can be offered or whether there can be a program at all.

Gordon Josey, an owner and director of Breezemont Day Camp in Armonk, said the guidelines are essential so families know what camps can provide and how safety would be maintained. He remains hopeful that there can be a summer camp season for Breezemont but knows it may be challenging to convince families that it's safe to send their children.

Currently, there is no tentative start date for Breezemont, he said.

"What we sold in January to these families is not what's going to be," Josey said. "It doesn't matter what the guidelines are. Even if they say do exactly what we did last year, some parents are not going to send their child to camp. The world's changed."

Josey was hopeful that the guidelines will be communicated this week.

Joanne Aquilino, Mount Kisco's superintendent of recreation and parks, said her department has been in the planning process of what village camp might entail.



But similar to Josey, she said she is eagerly awaiting word from the state and the Health Department for any new regulations that will be required or changes that need to be made to operate.

The village's Recreation Commission will discuss plans at its meeting Wednesday night.

During his daily briefing on Sunday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that he expects guidelines to be released sometime this week. He said they have been delayed because of questions and concerns regarding pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome, a compilation of symptoms related to COVID-19 that has afflicted at least 160 children throughout the state.

Hundreds of other children around the United States and abroad have also gotten sick with a variety of symptoms, including high fever, vomiting, high fever and in some cases chest pains and rashes.

Nearly all of the children in New York State diagnosed with the illness have tested positive for COVID-19 or for the antibodies, public health officials have said.

Many municipalities in the area have already canceled their summer camp programs out of a high degree of caution or a potential lack of access to a swimming pool or other facilities.

Another municipality that will be offering a camp this summer is the Town of New Castle. Supervisor Ivy Pool announced last week that

the start of the camp season will be delayed until July 13. She said the town's Recreation & Parks Department will be figuring out what a program could look like.

The decision on whether camps will open is whether it makes sense financially for each operation, Josey said. For example, if a camp has access to 50 acres there will be a greater likelihood of successful social distancing than on a much smaller parcel.

"If somebody lives on camp and has no mortgage on their buildings, on their property they might be able to do that," he said. "But if you just purchased the camp and you don't live on camp - everyone is in a different situation."

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Obituaries

Adam Livingstone

Adam Livingstone, a longtime Pleasantville resident, passed away on June 2 in Chatham, Mass. He was 91.

Livingstone was born on Aug. 17, 1928, to Mary and Adam Livingstone, who had emigrated from Scotland. He grew up on an estate in Bedford Hills where his parents were both employed. He had fond memories of being driven to school by the estate's chauffeur with the other children who lived there.

Livingstone attended Bedford Hills High School where he was very involved in student activities – senior class president, basketball team and band. He met his wife, Phyllis, after a basketball game at Pleasantville High School and they married in 1949.

He received both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from NYU. He served overseas in the Air Force and was stationed in Newfoundland as an air traffic control supervisor, 64th Air Division, during the Korean War. Adam was a history teacher at Mount Kisco High School beginning in 1954, moving to Fox Lane High School when it opened in 1957. He then completed the major part of his career as a guidance counselor at Yorktown High School, retiring in 1996.

Adam was a member of the Presbyterian Church where he served as deacon, Sunday

school teacher and assistant scoutmaster. He also belonged to the Moses Taylor Jr. American Legion Post 136, holding the offices of service officer and historian.

Livingstone loved traveling, especially his many trips to Europe which he enjoyed planning and mapping out in great detail. His most cherished memories were with his family, both in his beloved Pleasantville and during long days at the beach in Chatham. He was a history buff and had a remarkable memory for all things historical as well as sports trivia.

In Pleasantville, Adam enjoyed walking downtown to the post office and puttering around his yard. He was a kind, devoted family man and was always interested in what was happening with his family and the lives of others.

Livingstone is survived by his son, Christopher (Peggy), of New Milford, Conn.; daughter Patricia O'Leary (John) of Ipswich, Mass.; grandchildren Jennifer, Kelly, Jack, Molly, Dylan and Sean; and great-grandson Jackson S. He was predeceased by his wife of 71 years, Phyllis, and son Curtis Stephen.

A private funeral took place on June 5 at Beecher-Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville followed by burial at Kensico Cemetery.

Hilde Elisabeth Hughes

Hilde Elisabeth Hughes, 86, passed away on Thursday, May 14 in Brewster.

Hilde was born Jan. 24, 1934, in the Rheinland-Pfalz region of Germany to Karl and Klara Gries. Hilde married the love of her life, Michael C. Hughes, on Mar. 17, 1961, in West Germany. They met at Landstuhl Regional Hospital in Kaiserslautern, where Hilde worked as a nurse. After Mike retired from the U.S. Army, they settled in Brooklyn to raise their family.

Hilde dedicated her life to serving her family. She was an avid gardener, tending to her beautiful flowers and vegetables. She was an excellent baker known for her cakes – tortes, Apfel, Plumb, Crumb – and extraordinary Christmas cookies, as well as a talented chef and winning several recipe contests, earning her the moniker the "Martha Stewart of Brooklyn."

She was always stylishly dressed with perfectly coifed hair, polished nails and a variety of seasonal hats and scarves. Hilde was an avid music lover, with a fondness for country music and Lawrence Welk. She was also a terrific bowler and a proud Yankee fan. She loved all animals, especially her dogs Max, Fritz, Rex, Sandy, Suzy and Toby.

Hilde was also very devoted to her Roman Catholic faith, a gift she bestowed upon her grateful family.

She always had a smile and kind word to share along with a piece of candy. She was known affectionately by her friends and staff at the nursing home as the "German Princess." She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Hilde is survived by her three beloved children, Thomas, Michaela and Monika; her sister, Monika; brother-in-law Mario; sister-in-law Johanna; and three cherished granddaughters, Kristin, Heidi and Bridget.



Hilde Elisabeth Hughes

Hilde was predeceased by her beloved husband Michael in 2006, sister Franziska, nephew Franzel and brother Benno.

A private service and blessing to celebrate and honor Hilde's life was held on May 21 at Calverton National Cemetery in Calverton, N.Y. A memorial Mass to celebrate Hilde's life will be announced once we can gather safely again.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Hilde's name can be made to Louie's Legacy Animal Rescue and the Alzheimer's Association.

The family would like to thank everyone for their understanding during this difficult time.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc. in Mahopac. Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc. is deeply committed to responsibly responding to the health, well-being and needs of the families, guests and communities we are privileged to serve. Please take care of yourselves and each other. Blessings.

Eileen Brady

Eileen T. Brady, a Peekskill resident for more than 30 years, died May 31. She was 87.

Brady was born in New York City on Feb. 22, 1933, to Andrew McCarthy and Mary Elizabeth (Conroy), the oldest of seven children that included Andrew McCarthy (Margaret), Veronica Tobin (John), Mary Sweeny (Tom), Denis McCarthy (Maureen), Kathleen Taylor (John) and Thomas McCarthy (Katie).

She was raised and taught in the Bronx and accomplished her main goal of being a devoted, caring wife and mother. Her husband, Joe, predeceased her in 2013 after 58 years of marriage. Her son, Vincent, and grandson Vincent also predeceased her. She is survived by her loving children, Joe (Ann), Jamie (Karen) and Jean; doting granddaughters Kris Ann, Lauren, Caitlin and Nikki Dee; sister-in-law Anne Martyn; and many loving nieces and nephews.

A Mass will be offered at a later time.

Those wishing to honor Eileen may make a donation to the This is Me Foundation, 1829 Maple Ave., Peekskill, N.Y. 10566 or



Eileen Brady

the 69th Infantry Regimental Historical Trust, 68 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010.

The Bradys would like to thank all our family and friends, especially our "essential friends," for their wonderful support over the past few weeks.

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Towns Rush to Amend Regulations to Allow Outdoor Dining

By Martin Wilbur

Several local municipalities are working with restaurant owners in their business districts to ease restrictions on the permitting process for outdoor seating as the region enters the second phase of the state's reopening plan.

Last week the towns of North Castle and New Castle took steps to establish an expedited process while the Village of Pleasantville and other communities throughout the area are expected to discuss the matter this week.

Food service establishments, closed except for take-out and delivery service since mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic forced businesses to shutter, were originally scheduled to reopen in Phase 3, which wouldn't start before June 23. However, early last week, Gov. Cuomo amended that restriction, allowing for socially distanced seating outside.

The region has entered Phase 2, effective Tuesday, which includes the opening of retail and professional offices with capacity restrictions and guidelines for personal protection equipment.

While towns and villages in the area typically have a stringent approvals process for outdoor dining, some have been lifted or loosened to benefit the business owners and also the residents, many of whom are clamoring to get outside.

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro

said the process of filling out the application with the Building Department will remain in place but it will be the building inspector that will issue licenses for outdoor seating rather than through a special permit from the Town Board.

"What we're doing is helping our building inspector facilitate as quickly as we can any of these requests," Schiliro said. "We're not saying that every restaurant may want to do this, or every eatery, but this will hopefully help them."

In North Castle, the license will be valid until Nov. 1 or when 100 percent capacity is allowed inside restaurants by the state, whichever comes first. Under the resolution that was approved at a special meeting last Saturday, tables and chairs must be at least six feet apart, all employees must wear masks at all times and patrons must wear masks except when they are seated.

Tables and chairs are permitted on the sidewalk in front of the establishment or on the side or rear of the business, and can be extended if allowed by the adjacent property owners, said Director of Planning Adam Kaufman.

If the restaurant has a parking lot, up to 50 percent of its off-street parking can be used for seating as well, he said.

The furniture must be removable and not cause a safety concern for pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

In New Castle, the Town Board agreed last week to amend its process for allowing



BRIDGET BONANNI PHOTO

One of the public spaces in downtown Chappaqua where New Castle officials are prepared to issue permits to local restaurant and business owners to conduct commerce outside as the region gradually reopens.

outdoor dining, however, made a distinction between public and private property.

The board approved a resolution last Tuesday suspending current zoning to allow business owners to apply for the use of public spaces or private property. Food establishments along with retail, gym operations and personal care services are the types of businesses that can seek the outdoor space, said Town Attorney Nicholas Ward-Willis.

For requests to use public property, the town can issue permits administratively without delay. Town Administrator Jill

Shapiro has been authorized to create an application form that business owners could submit to Building Inspector Thomas DePole for consideration. Shapiro would issue permits based on DePole's recommendation.

For private property, the town is holding a public hearing on June 16 to discuss a needed revision in local law to allow for outdoor commerce. The expectation is that the hearing will be opened and closed with the board taking a vote that same evening.

The law would be in effect until Nov. 15 to try to capture the remainder of the outdoor season.

"The intent here is to make this as user-friendly as possible recognizing the temporary use until the end of the year," Ward-Willis said. "We don't want it to be unduly burdensome both on the administrative side as well as the cost and expense to comply with the law."

All business owners must comply with safety guidelines, including social distancing and the use of masks.

Supervisor Ivy Pool said the town wants to do everything it can to help merchants and restaurant owners survive the pandemic and the significant disruptions it has caused.

"I think it's a win for our business community and I also think it's a win for the community at large when we think about the overall safety of the community," Pool said.

Cortlandt Announces Initiatives to Assist Businesses With Reopening

By Rick Pezzullo

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi and the Town Board last week announced various steps to help businesses reopen after having been closed for nearly three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, the region is entering Phase 2 of the four-step reopening plan, which allows all retail, with the exception of indoor malls, and professional offices with restrictions. Restaurants, which have been limited to takeout and delivery service, may have outdoor seating only.

"The Town of Cortlandt wants to provide a smooth path for businesses to reopen and assist them as they open their doors," Puglisi said.

While many stores, shops and offices are poised to reopen, certain safety equipment and crowd-control strategies will be needed for social distancing. Recognizing those circumstances, Cortlandt is proposing a streamlined system to ease the permit process for any renovations. The initiatives include:

- While businesses will need a permit to erect tents and barriers for outside seating or waiting areas, requirements are eased as no architectural plans need to be submitted and all fees will be waived.
- The Planning Board approval process will be waived for any alterations to a site, unless the business is new or its

use is being changed.

- Businesses seeking permits for COVID-19-related alterations will be given priority and the town's staff will be available for assistance.

"These steps are a continuation of the town's effort to assist our businesses during the COVID pandemic," Puglisi said.

Since March, the town's website and social media platforms have provided businesses with more than 40 updates regarding available state and federal aid and operational guidelines.

It also launched an effort dubbed "It's in the Bag." The program provided Cortlandt restaurants that remained open for takeout and delivery with "It's in the Bag" signs and listed them on the town's website and through social media.

Cortlandt is also seeking input from the business community.

"This week a survey will be sent to Cortlandt business owners and operators with a series of questions about their current status and future plans," Puglisi explained. "The most important aspect of the survey though is finding out what the town can do to facilitate the reopening of those businesses that have been closed during the 'pause' due to COVID-19."

"Our local businesses are the backbone of our economy and community and they deserve our help," added Puglisi, concluding that "we are in this together, and together we will emerge even stronger."

Detailed Guidelines for Businesses, Offices to Follow in Phase 2

By Martin Wilbur

On Tuesday, the Mid-Hudson region advances to a Phase 2 reopening, which includes nearly all retail and office spaces, including real estate and professional offices, with extensive restrictions.

Wearing a face covering is mandatory and keeping employees socially distanced is required as well. There is an extensive list that businesses in office settings and in retail have to follow, including special guidelines for barbershops and hair salons.

"There's specific guidelines on how to reopen in Phase 2," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo. "It's not just open the doors and everyone has a party."

Under the state's guidelines for office buildings, there is a maximum 50 percent occupancy; daily mandatory health screenings of all employees, including a health questionnaire and temperature checks; Plexiglas or other barriers if six-foot separation for employees cannot be maintained; the posting of signage and distance markers; limited in-person meetings and no congregations in small areas; no meetings without social distancing; and no communal sharing of food and beverages.

Stores and all retail outfits must also abide by the 50 percent occupancy rule, social distancing, mandatory face masks

for employees and the posting of signage, including distance markers, according to the guidelines. Merchants also have the right to refuse service to any customer who arrives at an establishment without covering their face.

The only location where retail stores are not permitted to operate are within enclosed shopping malls unless there is an exterior entrance and exit for that store. However, curbside pickup can continue to be used for all other stores in a mall.

The state also has developed specific guidelines for barbershops and hair salons. At these establishments, only hair cutting, coloring and styling can be provided, not manicures, pedicures, facials or other services.

Hair stylists are required to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks and are urged to take a test before they return to work, the guidelines state. The state also recommends that customers ask their haircutter whether they have been tested.

Service will be by appointment only. Establishments are required to maintain a log of all patrons who have entered the premises in case of a positive test result. That will enable the region's contact tracers to reach out to everyone who may have been exposed.

Face coverings and the 50 percent maximum occupancy are also mandatory.

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Letters to the Editor

Abinanti the Clear Choice for a Sixth Term in the Assembly

With the June 23 Democratic primary fast approaching, I recently re-ceived my absentee ballot like everyone else, and was about to record my sixth consecutive vote for Assemblyman Tom Abinanti when I dis-covered that, for the first time in years, he has a primary opponent.

Instead of automatically voting again for Tom, I decided to step back, dig a bit into his experience in public service, research his opponent –

Jennifer Williams – and make a more-reasoned decision.

What an eye-opener!

Tom already has 10 years of experience in the Assembly, authoring and advocating for hundreds of bills on a wide range of issues: public health, gun safety, immigration reform, penal reform, protecting women's rights, environmental issues and advocating for people with special needs. Most recently, he has drafted New York's new 3-D Printed-Gun Ban and supported

the Red Flag law, the bump-stock ban, and the mu-nicipal gun buyback program. He's also a strong advocate for the land-mark NY SAFE Act, and Tom is currently the chair of the Assembly Banking Committee – especially critical in the face of state and local economic disruption.

Over the years, Tom has earned the respect of his Assembly colleagues, his state Senate counterparts and the governor's office. He is considered one of the best-informed, progressive and effective voices in the cham-ber.

Prior to his election to the Assembly, Tom served as majority leader of the Westchester Board of Legislators three times and also served on numerous committees.

At every level, Tom has forged close working relationships with the town supervisors, village mayors and councilmembers throughout the 92nd Assembly District.

Tom's staff in the Greenburgh office handles an average of 500 requests a day from constituents, which frankly amazed me.

As for Williams, she's virtually a blank slate. No legislative experience at any level. No history of engagement with the Democratic Party in ei-ther Mount Pleasant or Greenburgh and no evidence of leadership in community organizations. Disbelieving, I tried to dig deeper. Nothing. And no history of a passion for government service, puzzling in itself for a person running for public office.

So sorry, Jennifer, there's no question which of you I'd like to represent me in Albany for at least the next two years.

John Fisher
Pleasantville

Burdick's Experience, Record Makes Him Best Candidate for 93rd District

In anticipation of the primary election on June 23, campaign signs are popping up everywhere. Lots of candidates are running – lots of confusion – all during a pandemic.

To make matters worse, the primary this year is critically important since the winners of the Democratic primary for Congress and state Assembly are expected to win the general election on Nov. 3. In other words, the primary is the election that matters most for these races. Now is the time to learn about the candidates.

The five candidates running in the Democratic primary for the 93rd Assembly District are Chris Burdick, Alexander Roithmayr, Kristen Browde, Jeremiah Frei-Pearson and Mark Jaffe. This seat currently is held by David Buchwald. I am proud to endorse Chris Burdick.

In my six years as New Castle town supervisor, I was always very impressed with Chris. He has been the Bedford town supervisor since 2014, and is the only

candidate in this race to hold elected office. Since taking office, Chris has developed a real record of accomplishment in Bedford: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 44 percent; breaking ground on a major sewer project 100 years in the making; building affordable housing in a timeframe no one thought possible; and adopting one of the strongest immigrant protection policies in the county. Most recently, along with Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich, Chris set up the only drive-through COVID-19 testing facility in northern Westchester.

What impressed me most was his effectiveness as a leader in many regional organizations, such as the Westchester Putnam Association of Town Supervisors, the Westchester Municipal Officials Association, the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation and Sustainable Westchester. His experience and knowledge were always apparent, and his voice respected not only by those at the local level, but at the county and state levels as well. I

believe Chris has the vision, experience, temperament and integrity to be an effective member of the Assembly, and I have no doubt he will be a strong advocate for the residents of New Castle.

But don't just take my word for it. Among those who have also endorsed Chris is our own state Sen. Pete Harkham, Westchester County Legislator Kitley Covill, Pound Ridge Supervisor Kevin Hansan, Lewisboro Supervisor Peter Parsons, North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro and Picinich. He is also endorsed by the Democratic parties of Bedford, Mount Kisco and North Castle, as well as Moms Demand Action, the New York League of Conservation Voters and the Working Families and Independence parties.

Rob Greenstein
Former New Castle Town Supervisor

Independent Local Small Businesses Matter, Now More than Ever

The Yorktown Small Business Association (YSBA) has been advocating, advising and mentoring independent local small businesses since we opened our doors in January 2014. Our presentation to the Town Board that year included quotes and statements emphasizing the significant contributions of our independent local small businesses. "Make every day a small business day," "Be vocal, buy local" and "Shop Local" were quotes included with the presentation.

Now, more than ever, our independent local small businesses need your support. Please take the time to seek opportunities to patronize them. They have and continue to give back to the community they do business in where many of them live, work and play. Recent reports from the Institute

for Local Self-Reliance indicated that of every \$100 spent in a local business, \$68 stays in the local economy.

Much less of the money you spend at big-box, national and regional chains and with e-commerce sites stays in the local economy. Our independent local small businesses support all aspects of our community from sports clubs, scouts, Lions, Rotary, Elks, American Legion, VFW, fire departments, police as well as many of our nonprofits and community service organizations. Most often they live here, their children go to school here and they pay taxes here.

The Small Business Administration recently reported that there are 30 million small businesses in the country. Westchester County recently posted

a chart that indicated of the 31,733 businesses in the county, 25,411 have less than 10 employees.

Most all your needs can be filled by an independent local small business in our community. Please shop our town's five business hamlets (Crompond, Jefferson Valley, Mohegan Lake, Shrub Oak and Yorktown Heights) now and in the future. Independent local small businesses are the heart and soul of our community. They are the economic backbone of our town. They need and deserve your full support now, during these trying times.

Bob Giordano
Founder and President
Yorktown Small Business Association

Guest Column

There Should Be Limits to Yorktown's Proposed Battery Storage Facilities Law

By Susan Siegel

Do industrial facilities belong in residential neighborhoods? Your neighborhood?

That's the question that will be before the Yorktown Town Board at a public hearing on June 16.

The issue: A proposed amendment to the zoning code that would allow battery storage facilities in any zoning district, residential or commercial, on parcels at least 30,000 square feet with a special use permit issued by the Planning Board.

Battery storage facilities make sense. They can play a critical role in enabling New York to meet its ambitious energy goals. Instead of building new power plants to address peak demand, storage facilities take surplus electricity from the grid when demand is low and return the electricity to the grid at times of peak demand. Yorktown should permit them.

But where? In what zones? With what restrictions and conditions? Subject to which board's approval?

As residents, property owners and concerned citizens, it may look like we're faced with conflicting goals: supporting a

smart energy policy or protecting our property values and quality of life. But the two goals don't have to be in conflict. It's possible to accomplish both – if our Town Board is open-minded and willing to explore and compare alternative zoning approaches for permitting battery storage facilities. To date, the board has only considered the single approach that's been handed to it.

Battery storage facilities, powered by lithium batteries, vary in size and design but often look like rows of tractor-trailer storage containers.

Just as no two battery storage facilities are alike, no two undeveloped residentially zoned parcels are similar in size, location, proximity to other homes and the general character of the neighborhood. That's why the decision to radically alter the use of a parcel from residential to industrial should be made on a case-by-case basis through the rezoning process.

But the proposed law would permit battery storage facilities on ANY parcel above a certain size, regardless of its location or the character of the surrounding neighborhood. And the only limitations on the facility would be what's in



the law. Those provisions may not provide sufficient protection for the neighborhood. Your neighborhood.

The same concern over allowing an industrial use in residential neighborhoods without rezoning the property was brought to the board's attention last year when an initial draft of a solar law was the subject of a public hearing. At the time, residents supported the concept of solar farms, but expressed concern about allowing them in any residential neighborhood.

During the hearing, the board was asked to consider a case-by-case rezoning approach and three possible rezoning options were suggested. But the alternative options were never considered. There was never a discussion of the comparative advantages and disadvantages of case-by-case rezoning versus

the "any parcel" approach.

If you have questions or concerns about the proposed battery storage law you need to speak up at the June 16 hearing. Because the hearing will be held under Zoom procedures, you'll have to register in advance with the Town Clerk at dquast@yorktownny.org, notifying her of your desire to speak during the hearing; when the hearing begins, you'll be unmuted.

Alternately, you can share your questions and/or concerns with members of the Town Board via e-mail. See the town's website for their e-mail addresses.

Which approach makes sense to you? Is the proposed law the only way to permit battery storage facilities in Yorktown? The hearing is your opportunity to let the board know what you think. What do you want for your community? Your neighborhood? If they've considered any of the other approaches. If not, why not? And if they did, what's their rationale for choosing the any parcel approach over rezoning?

Yorktown resident Susan Siegel is a former town supervisor.

Letters to the Editor

Schleifer Would Be Strongest Candidate to Take on Bigotry, Anti-Semitism

In the world, in the nation, in New York and in our district, living in fear of an anti-Semitic attack has become the norm for Jewish people. And as a Jewish teen, I worry about anti-Semitism. That's why I strongly believe the 17th Congressional District needs a leader who will not only take a stand against hatred but will also ensure the passing of legislation to keep the district's Jewish community safe.

Congressional candidate Adam Schleifer recognizes the fact that overt prejudice in leadership emboldens people to act on their hatred. To combat the growing presence of hatred, Adam supports strengthening the enforcement of federal hate crime legislation, collaborating with state and

local officials, as well as increasing federal funding for security measures in public and religious spaces.

As a young Jew in New York, I know that it's easy to become disillusioned when anti-Semitic incidents fill the news. I remember sitting at a family gathering last December, right after a rabbi's home during Hanukkah was invaded by an anti-Semitic attacker in Monsey. The attack seemed to be the only thing on mine and my relative's minds. Despite the presence of hatred, however, I believe it is important to stay hopeful. I am hopeful that Adam's plan to fight hate crimes will be effective and help District 17's people stay safe.

Due to many of Adam's policies, but

especially his stance on fighting hatred, I am proud to support Adam Schleifer for Congress. Adam's hate crime policies will help to ensure that anti-Semitic vandalism and anti-Semitic threats sent to citizens are no longer realities in the 17th Congressional District.

It's time to address the growing threat of hatred in the world, and in our communities. District 17 needs strong, organized, inclusive and dignified leadership to combat hatred. I am proud to support Adam Schleifer for Congress.

Ariel Sheinberg
Pleasantville

Farkas Has the Attributes Needed to Step into Rep. Lowey's Shoes

We're in the home stretch now in the race for the coveted 17th Congressional District seat held for so many years by a champion of progressive values, Nita Lowey.

I had the privilege of spending some time speaking to Nita on a few notable occasions: at a demonstration for immigrant rights in the rain in Ossining, at her White Plains office as a representative of CCoHope Indivisible and at a victory party for then newly-elected County Executive George Latimer at a private home reception in Croton-on-Hudson. From those conversations I learned a lot.

So with Nita's impending retirement, I set about trying to determine who, in this election, might be the one candidate to best acquit themselves in advancing those same values...the one person exhibiting a steely resolve to fight against the lies and deceit of the current administration and its supporters in Congress.

Most importantly, I was seeking the candidate who had the legislative experience at multiple layers of government enabling them to step into that seat on Day One and continue Nita's work without missing a beat.

After attending no less than eight

candidate speaking events and personally engaging many of the speakers thereafter, I concluded that Evelyn Farkas met that criteria with both the personality and intelligence to make a difference. If you watched any of her Zoom events, I think you'll agree.

May I ask that you join me in supporting Evelyn Farkas for Congress in the 17th Congressional District. She won't let you down.

Jay Forbes
Peekskill

Buchwald Has All the Qualities to Effectively Serve in Congress

Are you like I was politically? Tired of the partisanship, the unacceptable bad behavior, the belief that all politicians are corrupt?

Then I met David Buchwald. I was very impressed but expected that would change. After all, he is a politician.

What a surprise – nothing has changed in my opinion. David blends his understanding of how politics works with his representation of his constituents. He is not afraid of controversy. He brings people together. Look at the legislation David has written, the bills he has sponsored, he stands he takes.

A Harvard law degree and masters of public policy give David the foundation to understand the complex, challenging public issues. As a tax attorney he is uniquely qualified as New Yorkers have been so negatively impacted by the federal tax changes.

David works with equally qualified professionals to craft bipartisan legislation. He does not over-promise. He understands that change takes time and leadership. He pays attention to both large and small issues, not just to the ones that garner positive press. Call his district office and you will be helped.

There are a large number of people running for Nita Lowey's seat. David does not need to come up to speed; he is already ahead having interned for and worked with Lowey. He can immediately continue her legacy.

David will get the job done in a way we can be proud of. Please listen to him, watch his actions, and most importantly, please vote for him to represent the 17th Congressional District. You will not be disappointed.

Gail Jasne
White Plains

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Obituary

Calvin Thompson

Calvin Thompson of Mount Kisco passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Memorial Day, May 25. He was 95.

Thompson was born in Norwalk, Conn. to the late Charles L. Thompson and Dorothy Estelle Ashe on June 11, 1924. Raised in Mount Pleasant S.C., Fredericksburg, Va. and St. Petersburg, Fla., he was a member of the first class at Moultrie High on Sullivan's Island, S.C. His family had strong ties to the Charleston community that continued through Calvin's life. He later graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University in New York.

As war broke out across Europe, Thompson enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as an officer in the European Theater, stationed in Normandy during World War II. A Francophile since that time, he formed many friendships in France that would remain lifelong. He was a humble, but proud veteran who wore his uniform as recently as just a few years ago for a Veterans Day celebration in remembrance of veterans of World War II.

Calvin married Patricia Beach of West Hartford, Conn. in July 1959 and they enjoyed over 60 years of adventure together, including sojourns in France, family holidays at their home in St. Thomas, treks in the Himalayas and visits to many remote

corners of the world.

Thompson was a pioneering businessman by day, but by night he was a magician, sculptor, artist, chef, tennis player, winemaker, legendary raconteur and countless other things. He was a 20th century renaissance man – rarely seen without a bowtie, even while gardening – with a keen wit and wry sense of humor. Also, rarely without his sketchpad when traveling, he drew and gave away thousands of whimsical caricatures of children. No doubt, many remain treasured possessions.

Surviving Calvin are his wife Patricia; children Melissa T. Fischer, Jennifer A. Thompson, C. Alexis B. Thompson and Thaddeus A. G. Thompson; son-in-law and daughters-in-law Stephen E. Fischer, Carmelina R. Thompson and Lucia B. Thompson; grandchildren Nathaniel, Jonathan, Arielle, Justin, Oliver and Felix; and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter, Megan Ariel, as well as his five brothers and one sister.

Thompson was laid to rest in Bedford following a family service at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. There will be a memorial service celebrating Calvin's life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a



Calvin Thompson

contribution in Calvin's name to the Italian American Club of Northern Westchester.

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Racism Discussion Takes Center Stage at Ossining Waterfront Forum

By Rick Pezzullo

At least 150 residents gathered at Louis Engel Waterfront Park in Ossining June 4 to listen to a frank discussion on racism in society.

The free-flowing forum was the third call for action in the community in recent months and the first of several that took place last week in the village in reaction to the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis.

"We're trying to create a world so you don't have to fear that anyone in your family will be negatively affected," said Jalay Knowles, organizer of the event, who mentioned his first experience with racism occurred in school when he felt singled out by a teacher. "We need to be open-minded as people. We need to see all different perspectives. We need to have empathy."

Kelly Lavelle, 40, remarked the injustices that continue to happen nationwide because of the color of someone's skin are

"unbearable."

"Everyone can say all lives matter. That's not the point," she said. "It's not a win that those people (four police officers in Minneapolis) were charged. We need to love each other and respect each other."

The actions of some police officers were targeted by several speakers, including Stephen Ferrari, who unleashed a sometimes profanity-laced tirade on police while directly speaking to Ossining Police Chief Kevin Sylvester, who was standing nearby at the edge of the stage.

"How do you stop racism? You start with the cops," Ferrari asserted. "There are no good cops. They're hypocrites. There's no thin blue line. You guys (cops) disgust me."

Another speaker, who only identified himself as John, agreed police reform was necessary.

"It's not fair that black children have to be taught how they have to act with a police officer. It makes kids grow up faster than they have to," he said. "It's over 400 years of oppression. That's a lot. We need to treat people like human beings."

Tiffany Thomas, a 1993 Ossining High School graduate, appeared on stage with her four-year-old daughter.

"Racism is taught. My daughter plays with anybody because she likes to play. She doesn't see skin color," Thomas said. "Racism starts in the home. Start telling your children all people are alike. When we bleed, we all bleed red."

County Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) urged everyone to stand up



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia, on stage, speaks to crowd at Louis Engel Waterfront Park in Ossining last week.

against racism and have the courage to speak to friends and loved ones.

"It's really astonishing that we're still in this place still talking about these issues," she said. "We have known about these issues for a long time. All of us benefit from institutionalized racism. It's all of our responsibility. We need everyone's talent.

We need everyone's passion."

Knowles implored the crowd to take out any frustration and anger they have when they visit the polls in November.

"Please vote," he said. "Educate. Listen. Advocate. Part of change is continuing the conversation."



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No. Castle Approves Firm to Increase Sewage Plant Flow Without Expansion

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of North Castle has found a way to accommodate sewage flow for additional downtown development without investing in a multimillion-dollar expansion project for the Sewer District #2 wastewater treatment plant.

At its last regular meeting, the Town Board approved a resolution retaining the firm Environmental Design & Research (EDR) to design a treatment enhancement system that would make the plant more efficient without increasing its current 500,000-gallon-a-day capacity.

Sal Misiti, the town's director of water and sewer, said EDR scored the highest of seven firms based on highly innovative concepts to

make the plant operate more efficiently. The company also had the lowest bid at \$249,300.

"Based upon the proposal received and the scoring analysis I performed, it's evident that EDR is the successful consultant," Misiti said. "They have some design concepts that are unique and if we pursue their recommendation their fee will be lowered."

He said EDR's concept is to build an all-inclusive prefabricated structure that is procured separately from the general contractor. Westchester County has used EDR successfully in the past with a similar design from one of its facilities, Misiti added.

The concept could potentially reduce flow into the plant by as much as 30 percent, placing the plant well under its capacity

even with proposed development within Sewer District #2, which covers the area in and around downtown Armonk.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said that early estimates for the work have been pegged at \$1 million to \$2 million, a fraction of the \$12 to \$15 million projections to expand the plant from its current 500,000 gallons a day to 700,000 gallons.

"It's a better way to approach it and it took a lot of brain power amongst everybody, with Sal helping us to figure out a smarter way to do this and be more efficient, and this is a good path and a good process," Schiliro said.

In 2009, the town increased the Sewer District #2 wastewater treatment plant from 450,000 to 500,000 gallons a day. However, with several significant development

proposals within the district, including Mariani Gardens, Eagle Ridge and the approved but stalled project at the old lumberyard, capacity was quickly running short.

The plant had had a previous expansion from 350,000 to 450,000 gallons a day.

The proposal also received praise from Town Administrator Kevin Hay, who said he liked the idea that a prefabricated structure is built in a controlled setting and tested before it is constructed on site.

"I thought it was a very interesting idea and concept," said Hay, who along with Misiti interviewed the contending firms. "I thought it would probably work well for us."

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Snapshots From a Week of Protests, Vigils, Rallies and Calls for Reform



The killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers has struck a nerve that hasn't been seen for decades throughout the United States. The reaction has been similar in Westchester and Putnam counties. From White Plains to Brewster, Pleasantville to Peekskill, people of all backgrounds hit the streets to amplify the calls for major reforms and to express their anger and revulsion at Floyd's death and the many people of color who have been killed over the years by law enforcement.



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Confessions of a Compulsive Weeder

In spring, my thoughts turn to the joy of planting, along with the chore of the necessary weeding which accompanies it.

But it's been five years since I've planted or pulled a weed because I've been living in a wonderful condominium, which doesn't afford me a garden.

Do I miss weeding? Don't think I'm crazy, but yes, I do. I actually enjoyed weeding.

It would never fail. I'll be in a rush to meet a client, dashing to my garage across my parking area, covered with crushed bluestone and I'll spy a tiny fleck of green peeking through the gravel. Another weed. I must stop to pull it out.

When I bent over, I might drop my car keys, my glasses might fall out of my breast pocket and, if the weed is deep-rooted, like a dandelion, my hands would get dirty, requiring that I return to the house to wash them after the deed was done.

Or I might be coming home very late, dead tired, and I would notice that, almost like spontaneous combustion, that nasty grout weed had all but consumed a clump of perennial geraniums. It would be getting dark but there I was, stooped over again, releasing those delicate flowers from the clutches of that hostile invader.

Worse yet, we might be entertaining guests on our patio and, in my peripheral vision, I would detect another unwelcome

visitor in a nearby flower bed. Nonchalantly, I'd push myself out of my glider, perhaps in the middle of a sentence, and conduct an enemy attack without missing a beat. Annoyed, my wife would later tell me that I must not have been giving full attention to our guests.

Yes, I confess. I was a compulsive weeder.

When I first discovered the joys of gardening as a youngster, it was all about planting annuals and seeing quick results. But by the time I was in high school, perhaps in dealing with my impetuous nature, I found that I equally enjoyed pulling weeds to help ease those first bouts of post-adolescent anxiety.

My weeding addiction became full blown as an adult when I moved to Westchester from the city and my responsibilities were upgraded from a small square patch of earth in front of my house, where a sickly gingko tree sprang from the concrete sidewalk, to a verdant one-and-a-half acres of lawn and garden.

At the same time, I had started a new job and commuted a long distance every weekday to report to a boss who was the Mr. Hyde personality of all time. My weeding activity was especially intense during that period. Every time I yanked a weed, it was as though I was vicariously yanking his head bald, even though he was already bald.



Rather than considering weeding a chore or even therapy, it can be approached as an art, complete with its own techniques and disciplines, as I first learned many decades ago when I read a joyous book called "The No-Work Garden" by Ruth Stout, sister of the detective fiction writer Rex Stout.

Recently, I was reminded of the healing art of weeding when I discovered that the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series features an edition "For the Gardener's Soul" by Marion Owen. In her blog at www.plantea.com, Owen says that weeding can be a pleasant "zen-like" experience. I agree.

She also writes that regular weeding in the garden is like regular vacuuming in the home. We probably don't like either chore, but it's essential to a successful garden, as to a clean home.

Considering that a single weed can produce as many as 250,000 seeds, and that those seeds arrive through a multilevel attack from the air, rain runoff and bird

droppings, weeding would seem to be a losing battle. But there are preventative measures that can help diminish the occasion of weeds sprouting.

Just keep up with the following:

1) Uproot the offenders and place them in the compost pile before they go to seed.

2) Mulch, mulch, mulch. A three- to four-inch layer of mulch applied between plants or garden rows can slow down or in many cases prevent the re-growth of weeds.

3) In the spring, after preparing the soil for planting, let it set for seven to 10 days. Then work the surface of the soil with a hoe. This will slice off the newly emerged weed seedlings. If you have time before planting, let the soil rest another week or so and hoe again.

4) Cover the soil for a short while with black plastic, but don't leave it on for more than a couple of months, because the soil needs air and water to remain healthy.

5) Use those vertical barriers, such as wood, metal or heavy plastic edging to prevent grass and weeds from encroaching from lawn to garden.

And, be mindful of what William Shakespeare wrote: "Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste."

Bill Primavera, while a writer and editor, is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the talents and services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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The Piñata Project Launched for Frontline Worker Appreciation

A small idea that began as a Spanish class project has turned into a full-on community initiative to recognize the local frontline workers who have sacrificed every day to keep the public safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marion Ricci, a Spanish teacher at Yorktown's Mildred E. Strang Middle School, and her colleague, ENL teacher Mary Lou McIntosh, spent the morning of May 28 delivering 20 brightly decorated piñatas filled with goodies to six local hospitals and the Yorktown Police Department. The piñatas were generously donated by the staff and families of middle school students.

Ricci said The Piñata Project initially began because she wanted to create a how-to video for her seventh- and eighth-grade Spanish students to make piñatas at home. But when she thought about it, Ricci concluded that piñatas – associated with celebration – could brighten the days of local frontline workers.

"My feeling was that making piñatas would be an interesting and diverting activity for the families to do together during the extended quarantine, something to help relieve stress in the home," Ricci said.

She added that she then thought of the essential workers and first responders



Mildred E. Strang Middle School teachers Marion Ricci and Mary Lou McIntosh filled the back of a car with piñatas that they recently delivered to frontline workers at six area hospitals and the Yorktown Police Department. The project that each teacher undertook with their students recognized the sacrifices made by essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



One of the piñatas being delivered to the Yorktown Police Department.

who have sacrificed greatly and wanted to recognize them.

Although many different forms of gratitude have already taken place, Ricci said this initiative was different. Instead of making piñatas, families and staff enthusiastically agreed to donate them.

It was a team effort to bring this uplifting project to fruition. Ricci was in charge of contacting students and school faculty and McIntosh reached out to hospitals in and around Westchester. The hospitals that received their piñata deliveries on May 28 and 29 included Danbury Hospital,

Lawrence Hospital, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, Northern Westchester, Phelps and Putnam Hospital.

With the success of the first delivery, Ricci and McIntosh are ready to take the next step.

"Our plans are to expand to homeless shelters, nursing homes, houses of worship to benefit needy families and the list goes on," Ricci said.

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This advertisement is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

Pleasantville Pays Tribute to its Class of 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has cost so many so much during the past three months. That includes the students in this year's high school graduating classes. Whether it was opportunities on the athletic fields or the stage, or to have those special final moments in the classroom with friends and teachers, the end of high school was spent mostly sheltering at home. But last Saturday, Pleasantville provided this year's class with a special experience. The graduates were given a wonderful sendoff, being part of a car parade around the village as vehicles were festooned with balloons, ribbons or decorative paint.



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TOMORROW ALONG THE HUDSON

WHAT THE SHUTDOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING OF INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER WILL MEAN FOR OUR AREA.

The nuclear power plants at Indian Point have powered New York City and Westchester County for nearly 60 years. Now, due to challenging economic conditions and an agreement with the state of New York, Indian Point will stop generating electricity and permanently shut down by April 2021.

After shutdown Indian Point will transition to decommissioning, a federally-regulated process that will ultimately return the land to a new productive use. Entergy has taken the first step by selecting a leading decommissioning company as our partner, Holtec International.

Here are a few things New Yorkers should know about the Holtec plan:

Decades Sooner — With Holtec, decommissioning will begin immediately, allowing the site to be repurposed as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy were to remain the owner of Indian Point. Holtec's plan calls for completion of major decommissioning activities by the 2030s, decades sooner than it would take Entergy to complete decommissioning.

Decommissioning Expertise — Holtec and its expert team have decades of experience managing large decommissioning projects around the world.

Employee Retention — Holtec will begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership and will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site.

Spent Fuel Management — Holtec is the global leader in spent nuclear fuel storage technology and transport. Holtec will transfer all of Indian Point's spent nuclear fuel to secure canisters designed to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and other events within about three years of shutdown.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety remains our top priority. Indian Point is ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top column for safety and we fully intend to continue our strong safety record over our final months of operation.

The NRC will regulate decommissioning at Indian Point and a citizen's advisory board is already in place. As of today, more than 34 U.S. nuclear plants have safely completed decommissioning or are in the process of doing so. To learn more about Holtec's plan for prompt decommissioning, visit:

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Indian Point Energy Center



What's in a Name? That's Wagler's Macaw to You

By Brian Kluepfel

The blue-throated macaw is feted with names for its color (the blue throat patch distinguishes it from the commoner blue-and-gold), a noted scientist (Wagler) and for a native place-name (Caninde-yu – “macaw-yellow” in Guarani – is also a town in Paraguay).

Avian namesake Johann Georg Wagler was born in Nuremburg in 1800. He didn't actually travel to Brazil with Johan Spix, for whom a more famous blue parrot is named. (Perhaps you've seen Rio? Blu is based on the near-extinct Spix's macaw.)

But Wagler was Spix's man-behind-the-scenes in the museums of Germany, processing the latter's collections and first describing for Europeans this lovely family of birds. (In the year of his death, his notable “Monographia Psittacorum” was published.)

Johann's true love was reptiles, but in honor of his work with birds, the blue-throat got its first common European name. (In Spanish-speaking Bolivia, it's known by yet another, barba azul, or bluebeard. That's quite a cool moniker.)

Whatever its name, the bluebeard is in grave danger.

For The Birds

Once known across parts of Paraguay and Argentina as well as Bolivia, it's now only found in one small corner of grasslands near Trinidad. Cattle ranching has decimated its favored palm tree habitat, and until recently poachers and indigenous feather-gatherers did their damage, too.

But there's hope. In 2016, I met Tjalle Boorsma of Armonía, Bolivia, who manages big tracts of land across the country, including Reserva Barba Azul.

They work with local ranchers in preserving habitat while grazing herds of cattle as well. Artificial nest boxes supplement the disappearing palm trees, and breeding surveys have shown a slight uptick. Native groups now make ceremonial headdresses from artificial, not macaw, plumes.

Wagler died at 32 years old of an accidental gunshot wound while hunting, an ironic demise for someone who spent so much of his life cataloging fallen carcasses “collected” as specimens. His legacy lives on in the many birds and reptiles he studied, a handful of which bear his name.

Call it what you like, but if Wagler's namesake parrot disappears in the mists of extinction, we have only ourselves to blame.

Brian Kluepfel is an author of Lonely Planet travel guides and other renowned publications, as well as editing the Saw Mill River Audubon's newsletter. This piece originally appeared in his blog, birdmanwalking.com.



A pair of blue-throated macaws sitting high on their perch.

Common Name: Blue-throated macaw (aka Wagler's macaw, aka Canindé macaw, aka barba azul)

Scientific Name: Ara glaucogularis previously Ara caninde

Habitat: North-central Bolivia

Estimated population: 300-400


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A Spiritual View

By Lilah Sugarman

At a time in which our country, our county, our towns are in great need of healing, let us better ourselves. Let us work toward a society that honors our differences and is one we can all be proud of. Let us work to combat racism by learning, listening and pursuing justice.

We, as members of the Armonk Faith Alliance, will not be silent. Our traditions teach, "Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is being shed" (Leviticus 19:16.) We join together to express our respect and empathy for all human beings for our tradition also teaches that we are all created in God's sacred image. We are here, we are listening, we are taking action and doing the work to acknowledge and confront racism. We are coming together, and we are hopeful.

When Rabbi Heschel returned from

Selma, he was asked by someone, "Did you find much time to pray when you were in Selma?" Rabbi Heschel responded, "I prayed with my feet."

Let us all pray with our feet and let us, step by step, create a world of justice and wholeness.

Please join us for a Candlelight Vigil for America on Tuesday, June 9 at 8:30

p.m. at Wampus Brook Park on Maple Avenue in Armonk. Let's shine our light, for justice, equality and the hand of friendship. Please bring a tea light holder, light and mask. Sponsored by the Armonk Faith Alliance, with many thanks

to the Town of North Castle and the North Castle Police Department.

Lilah Sugarman is the cantor at Congregation B'Nai Yisrael in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Hillside Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.



Surfing Through Life Each Wave at a Time

As we reach the evening of our life, we find ourselves with more free time on our hands to reminisce and self-reflect – like watching an old movie in rewind.

We amuse ourselves with memories of our youth, and even smirk at yesterday's mistakes and indiscretions, appreciating the happiness they now render us in our later days, now far removed from their consequences by time.

Our evening of life comes complete with those age waves that touch the shores of our once youthful past – and break with more frequency. Each age wave hits us with a new ache, pain, soreness and a new diagnosis to deal with, along with doctors feeding us more medications than we can remember to take.

Yes, another wrinkle here, another there, and, of course, all those grey hairs. We do complain with much despair about our loss of youth, but find some consolation in appreciating we have made it this far in light of the gauntlet of



By Richard Cirulli

trials and tribulations we endured along life's path.

If we are true to ourselves, we must not spend our evening of life in a state of regrets or what ifs. Our present self defines us, and we are fortunate and blessed to look upon our rewind of life. Personally, I would conclude that if I could do it all over, I would not change a thing. We have lived our destiny, even if

by fiat, chance, luck or a structured vision. Though in the evening of our life we should conclude our life was a hybrid of planning, fiat, chance and luck.

Life is our mentor, confidant, friend and often our enemy. Though in the evening of life we have grown wise, weary, a bit jaded and having required the prerequisites needed to navigate life's next age waves when they breach our existential shores. After all, life is simply a matter of time.

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a retired professor, playwright, producer, an author of "The Songs of Roland" and "Demitasse Divorce." Feel free to refer to his troupe's website at www.demitasseplayers.com.

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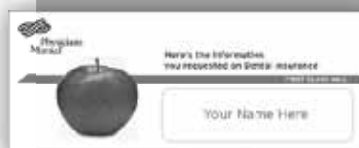
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Westchester to Expand Electric Bus Fleet With \$1.5M Federal Grant

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced last week that the county will be expanding its electric vehicle fleet, thanks to a \$1.5 million grant for the purchase of two, 40-foot battery electric buses.

The county plans to use the grant money, provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation, to replace two diesel buses from 2005 with New Flyer buses, the same manufacturer that provided 78 diesel-electric buses for the fleet in 2018.

“Westchester County has proven our commitment to promoting public transportation as a means to decrease the number of vehicles on the road, traffic

congestion and air pollution, as well as supporting a long-term plan to phase in additional clean vehicles as we can get them,” Latimer said.

The county is working with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to purchase and install a pair of chargers at its Valhalla garage, where the two buses will be stored and maintained. This will bring its electric transit bus total to six. A recent NYPA grant is funding a charger for each of four additional electric 35-foot buses that will be ordered next month.

Westchester’s previous bus purchase was from New Flyer for 78 hybrid electric, 60-foot vehicles, which were put in service in

2018 and 2019. The Bee-Line system is the second largest transit bus fleet in New York State, operated by the county’s Department of Public Works and Transportation.

“These all-electric buses are a natural progression from our previous diesel-electric hybrid bus acquisitions,” said DPW Commissioner Hugh Greechan. “Those vehicles were specially designed with the optional ability to run for distances of up to a mile on battery power alone. Thus, the diesel can be shut off when in one of our various depots, or when traveling in a very congested area. Our overwhelmingly satisfactory experience with that feature has given us confidence that we’re going in the right direction with full-battery electric buses.”

Zero emissions vehicles are significantly cleaner and more energy efficient than conventional diesel vehicles. They reduce pollutants associated with greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, particulate matter, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. The benefits of zero emissions vehicles

also mitigate the negative health impacts associated with these harmful pollutants such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

The 40-foot buses are the workhorses of the Bee-Line fleet, accumulating nearly three million revenue miles in 2019, and operating on routes that have a combined daily weekday ridership (pre-COVID-19) of more than 84,000.

The new buses will have state-of-the-art safety features including driver safety shields composed of half-inch thick Lexan semi-bulletproof glass to protect passengers and drivers. Passengers will be less prone to tripping due to cantilevered seats and a “jerkless” transmission that will make the ride smoother.

Lighting will be improved as the LED provides better color rendition for those on-board. The low-floors and “kneeling” feature will ease boarding for those with mobility challenges and reduce the risk of passenger falls.

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Words of the Month Club – June Edition. This week the quiz words come from the June entries found in the book “The Cabinet of Linguistic Curiosities” by Paul Anthony Jones. The book is “A yearbook of forgotten words” that features a “curious or long-forgotten word of the day, picked from the more obscure corners of the dictionary.”

1. **enstaff** (v.)

A) to strive to attain B) set forth C) hoist a flag
2. **vespering** (adj.)

A) heading towards sunset B) spreading out C) relaxing
3. **orthophony** (n.)

A) an untrue statement B) false teeth C) correct enunciation
4. **boot-hale** (v.)

A) to smuggle B) plunder C) promote
5. **noctilucy** (n.)

A) the shining of the moon B) a bad dream C) a piano composition
6. **polymicrian** (adj.)

A) extremely prolific B) arranged in rows C) extremely cramped
7. **curfuggle** (n.)

A) disturbance B) disarray C) discomfort
8. **hiemate** (v.)

A) to spend the winter B) keep secret C) go quickly

1. C. To hoist a flag

2. A. Flying westwards; heading towards sunset

3. C. Perfectly correct speaking or enunciation

4. B. To pillage; to plunder

5. A. The shining of the moon

6. C. Extremely cramped; containing a great deal in a small space

7. B. A confused mess; disorder; disarray

8. A. To spend the winter

Crossword

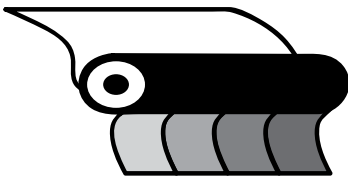
Crossword by Myles Mellor

- Across**
1. Bon ___, witty saying
4. Tree juice
7. Time period
9. Took on
12. Impressive display
13. Top of the line
14. A drink with jam and bread....
15. Chess piece, in a way
16. Best friends, as children
22. Kind of cheese
23. Alias
27. Know-how
28. Not at home
30. Disappear
33. ___ pad, for the computer
35. Tarnish
36. Analyze, in a way
37. Low island
38. Store posting (abbr.)

- Down**
1. Fable message
2. Wood sorrel
3. Yours, in the Bible
4. Cow or sow
5. Bother
6. ___ Time
7. Consume
8. Get ready, for short
10. Sorority letters
11. Secluded room
17. Historic time

18. “___ are the apple of my eye”
19. Pie mix
20. “Much ___ About Nothing”
21. Go brown
23. In the ___ imity of
24. Impassive
25. Complimentary close
26. Rump
27. Give it ___
29. Golf spot
31. Food approvers in the government
32. Hardly macho
33. Speed, abbr.
34. Rowing equipmentGreen Wave, in college sports....

Answers on page 28



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Lessons to be Learned During the Time of Our Health Crisis



By Nick Antonaccio

The summer of 2020 is approaching, and with it, the annual plans for family and friends' get-togethers, travel to nearby beaches, attendance at outdoor concerts and sporting events have been short-circuited.

Adapt we must and adapt we will. We're slowly and deliberately coming out of three months of sheltering in place, social distancing and the effects of a pandemic seemingly randomly striking family, friends and health-compromised citizens all around us. I hope each of you has been able to cope during these difficult times.

As we move into the summer with due caution and uncertainty, allow me to digress from the tumult by focusing on the subject of my column.

Leading up to these summer months, the state government deemed that wine shops provide an essential service. The general public agreed. Sales of wine increased significantly from March through May, compared to the same 2019 timeframe. Graeme Goldstein at Art of Wine in Pleasantville has been a direct benefactor of our increased drinking.

"Sales have increased on several fronts.

'Folks are generally purchasing their go-to wines, their comfort wines.'

-GRAEME GOLDSTEIN

The new normal of customers calling in orders and picking up curbside has been very popular. Folks are generally purchasing their go-to wines, their comfort wines. A few have sought my recommendations to experiment with new wines," Goldstein told me during one of my recent phone-in orders.

Wine consumers have developed new habits in wine consumption while sequestered. For those with the financial means, earlier and longer cocktail hours have become more popular. Wine with dinner (and lunch?) have become more frequent. Virtual dining with family or friends has created another opportunity to enjoy a bottle of wine.

At dinner tables, home-prepared meals and curbside take-out have become the norm in place of restaurant visits. This has impacted wine sales.

Goldstein tells me "customers are buying higher priced wines at a level that they

would normally spend at a restaurant. For some this is a significant increase in their wine shop spending."

As consumers are now treading into new areas of wine purchasing, I've been asked how I approach wine consumption and specific selection criteria. I offer two maxims that I live by to keep my perspective on a practical plane.

First, always view wine as an enjoyable, positive experience. Never elevate it to the status of the Holy Grail. Don't become a wine snob (or a wine geek, for that matter). Wine is an agricultural product, not a rare gem. It is meant to be an accompaniment to food and enjoyed with like-minded friends in an atmosphere of conviviality. It enhances our dining and social experiences; it shouldn't be the focal point of those encounters.

Second, the appreciation of a particular wine is an individual experience. A great wine is a wine that you enjoy. Each of us has unique palates, unique olfactory senses and time-tested individual experiences in discerning good from poor. Don't rely on others for anything more than general guidance. Continue experimenting and finding new "favorite wines."

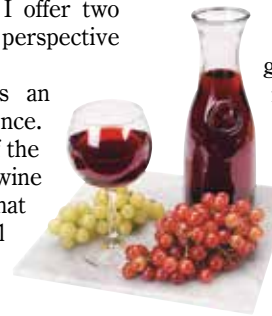
I'm frequently asked to recommend wines for meals, for special occasions, for hanging out in the kitchen or sitting in front of the fireplace. My response is always the same. Think of a recent wine that you especially enjoyed, one that stood out from others.

It's likely that as much as you enjoy a particular producer, your palate was simpatico with the grape varietal or the wine region. Experiment with other wines from that producer (each producer has an individualistic style for creating wines); or other wines produced from the same grape or blend of grapes (chances are your palate is sensitive to a flavor profile that can be matched to other producers' offerings); or other wines from the same wine region.

In the vast sea of Cabernet Sauvignons, if you find a special bottle from Washington state and prefer it over those you've sampled from California, Australia or Chile, explore the multiple Washington offerings currently available.

As we emerge from our current health crisis, an enhanced understanding of your preferences and more refined palate will bode well for a harmonious and socially pleasing lifestyle.

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



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Restaurants Raring to Reopen in the Region – But Gradually

Phase 2 reopening is scheduled for Tuesday and includes permission for restaurants to have outdoor dining with restrictions. The Phase 3 reopening has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, and will allow for indoor seating at restaurants with strict guidelines.

This is, of course, great news for the restaurant community, which has been struggling for months since the coronavirus shut down everything but take-out and delivery.

Restaurants in nearby Fairfield County, Conn. have had permitted outdoor dining for several weeks. Many New Yorkers have taken advantage by crossing the border.

I, for one, am anxious to get back out again to restaurants. I miss the ambiance, conviviality and the food. But there will be a new normal. We will keep you posted in the coming weeks.

The Banh Mi Shop

The buzz surrounding this Vietnamese eatery, claiming a space on Mamaroneck Avenue near the corner of East Post Road in White Plains, began four years ago. The anticipation almost grew into a roar when the new signage went up. Once the doors had finally been opened by proprietor Len Dang and his family, patronage began growing steadily. The long wait was over. Foodies have been clamoring for a Vietnamese restaurant in White Plains for a long time.

I had to try it again recently. It has always been mostly take-out with limited seating inside, and now during the coronavirus lockdown the Dongs have been struggling valiantly to stay in place. I indulged in one of their Original Banh Mi sandwiches, a crispy baguette layered with Vietnamese ham, roasted ground pork, cucumber, cilantro, spicy mayo and pickled vegetables. I ordered a side of roasted Brussels sprouts with lemongrass and garlic. I can confirm, the sandwich and the sprouts were delicious. I kept thinking about those Brussels sprouts all week.

Additional specialties include vegetarian spring rolls; chicken wings; fried calamari with basil and garlic; short rib Banh Mi; grilled lemongrass chicken rice; marinated sliced pork noodle; classic sliced beef or seafood Pho; Vietnamese ice coffee; and bubble tea.

While eating, I spoke with the amiable Deng, who confided that he was happy to be in White Plains.

About the menu? While keeping to tradition, he was taking a more modern approach to his cuisine. On my next visit, I must try the Pho, one of the Vietnamese big bowl noodle soups.

The Banh Mi Shop is located at 148 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. Hours



By Morris Gut

are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Available for take-out and catering. Local delivery. Info: 914-686-6888. (The website is under construction.)

El Barrio Opens in Scarsdale

They had barely put up new signage when the coronavirus crisis hit. Chef Sal Cucullo Jr. and partners at the former 808 Social have rebranded the eatery into El Barrio highlighting Mexican street food. It is open for take-out and delivery. There is fine talent at work here and a playful new design. Cucullo also operates The 808 Bistro on Scarsdale Avenue in Scarsdale.

Specialties at El Barrio ready for take-out or delivery with patio dining coming soon, include calamares y camarones fritos, arbol aioli; traditional guacamole; wood-fired quesadillas; tacos and tostadas; an El Barrio Burger wrapped in a flour tortilla; and freshly made south-of-the-border cocktails.

El Barrio is located at 185 Summerfield St. in Scarsdale. Patio dining coming soon; seven days a week. Info: 914-723-2600 or visit www.elbarrio.com

Soft-shell Crab Season is Here

The season for fresh soft-shell crab runs through September and there are legions who crave this delicacy simply sautéed or deep fried with some lemon and butter (perhaps some capers). Of course, there are other recipes, too. Nothing like a crispy soft-shell crab sandwich with the proper condiments. I'm a big fan. They have been showing up at area markets.

Here's where to get them for take-out, delivery and soon on-premise dining at restaurants.

La Piccola Casa. Chef/owner Walter Ricci, who cooks across from blossoming Harbor Island Park, personally shops the Hunts Point Fish Market during the wee hours of the morning, and he was clued about the arrival of soft shells from one of his valued seafood purveyors. He does a flavorful job with them. Located at 410 W. Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck. Info: 914-777-5766 or visit www.lapiccolarestaurant.com.

Riverview. Jim Ely and company have kept this picturesque spot bustling for 20 years. They will offer soft-shell crab in a variety of styles. Take-out and delivery. Located at 45 Fair St., Cold Spring. Info: 845-265-4778 or visit www.riverviewdining.com.

Fin & Brew. Right on the banks of the Hudson at Charles Point and part of the Factoria complex, they serve a fine soft-shell crab sandwich with the works. Limited availability. Temporary kitchen hours are Friday through Sunday, 12 to 8:15 p.m. Located at 5 John Walsh Blvd., Peekskill. Info: 914-788-4555 or visit



El Barrio, left, has opened in Scarsdale in time for the phased reopening plans. The Banh Mi Shop in White Plains serves Vietnamese cuisine.



www.finandbrew.com.

Trattoria Vivolo. Chef/proprietor Dean Vivolo will have soft-shell crab on hand as they come up from the Chesapeake, fried or sautéed, as you like it. Located at 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. Info: 914-835-6199 or visit www.trattoriavivolo.com.

X20 Xaviar's on the Hudson. Chef Peter X. Kelly and company do a fine job with soft-shell crab every year. Enjoy them along with expansive views of the Hudson River. Take-out and delivery. Located at 71 Water Grant St., Yonkers Info: 914-965-1111 or visit www.xaviars.com.

3 Westerly Bar & Grill. A seasonal crab cake sandwich is on their contemporary American menu. Available for take-out and delivery on weekends from 12 to 8 p.m. Located at 3 Westerly Rd., Ossining. Info: 914-762-1333 or visit www.3westerly.com.

The 808 Bistro. Chef Salvatore will be serving soft shells with creamy polenta and cheese and spinach and stuffed tomatoes on the side. Sounds yummy! Located at 808 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale. Info: 914-722-0808 or visit www.the808bistro.com.

Harbour Fish & Company. This independently owned fresh fish and seafood market offers plenty of take-out options. They will have soft-shell crab on hand live or cooked. Call ahead. Located at 154 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck. Info: 914-630-4790 or visit www.harbourfishandco.com.

KEE Oyster House. They have reopened and are ready to go. The daily catch served with a contemporary attitude and atmosphere. Fish and seafood are pristine. Located at 128 E. Post Rd., White Plains. Info: 914-437-8535 or visit www.keeoysterhouse.com.

Holy Crab Cajun Seafood. Serving fresh Cajun-style seafood as you would see in New Orleans. Steamed sous vide bags, too. Located at 32 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. Info: 914-948-3888 or visit www.holycrabny.com.

Saltaire Oyster Bar and Kitchen.

Soft shells are prepared in a variety of styles. Located at 55 Abendroth Ave., Port Chester. Info: 914-939-2425 or visit www.saltairoysterbar.com.

Eastchester Fish Gourmet & Market. Serving soft shells all season long. They shop the new Fulton Fish Market each week. You can take home from their market a few doors down, too. Located at 837 Post Rd., Scarsdale. Info: 914-725-3450 or visit www.eastchesterfishgourmet.com.

Purdy's Farmer & the Fish. Located on a farm where they harvest herbs and produce for the restaurant kitchen. Seasonal soft shells are a specialty. There is a rustic farmers market on site. Located at 100 Titicus Rd., North Salem. Info: 914-617-8380 or visit www.farmerandthefish.com.

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

Crossword Answers

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Warwick Drive-In is Well Worth the Trip for Outdoor Entertainment

As the Hudson Valley continues to gradually reopen, everyone is looking to get out of the house and enjoy the summer weather. One of the first businesses to reopen were the drive-in movie theaters.

I recently took a trip to the Warwick Drive-In to enjoy a double feature and I was not disappointed.

First, the cost was reasonable at \$12 per adult and \$8 per child. It's important to make plans in advance as tickets sell out quickly. We had to purchase our tickets a week in advance for a Thursday showing, so keep that in mind.

There are three different screens for viewing with a variety of movies for the whole family. I chose to see "Bad Boys for Life" and "Invisible Man," but I noticed on the screen next to ours, there was a showing of "Trolls: World Tour" and "Sonic the Hedgehog."

Each car has an adequately wide parking spot that allows for social distancing compliance. The concession stands are open, but you can also bring your own food. The bathrooms are a little confined, so make sure to wear masks, but the vast majority of people were adhering to PPE and social distancing rules.

The movie was scheduled for 7 p.m., but the screening didn't start until 8:30 p.m. because it obviously has to be dark. I would keep that in mind as we arrived at about 6:45 p.m., which was definitely too early.

Overall, the Warwick Drive-In was a fun



CHERYLINE PEZZULLO PHOTO

A night at the Warwick Drive-In is a safe, fun and affordable night out for the entire family.

experience and is an awesome summer activity for the whole family that provides a small escape from living rooms.

"Bad Boy for Life." I will preface this review with the fact that I did not see the first two movies of this franchise. The movie takes place in Miami, as the

entire series does, with Mike Lowrey (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence) celebrating Marcus' retirement to spend more time with his family.

However, the night is ruined as a drive-by shooting triggers an investigation and action-filled chase. The antagonist of the movie is Isabel Aretas (Kate del Castillo) who is a widowed drug kingpin seeking vengeance for her husband's incarceration and death. She sends her son on a killing spree based off a list that includes Lowrey.

The film isn't well-written and its acting leaves much to be desired. However, if you watch this movie for what it is, a typical popcorn action flick, then you will be entertained. There were definitely funny moments and I didn't feel lost without seeing the first two installments of the franchise.

"Bad Boys for Life" was entertaining, but don't expect any Oscars coming its way.

Rating: 5.5/10

"Invisible Man." Now, I know what you're probably thinking: Horror movies are the worst, they always give me



By Rick M. Pezzullo

nightmares and they have stupid plots.

I would implore you to reconsider in the case of "Invisible Man." It's one of the best horror movies I've seen.

The plot centers around Cecilia Kass, who attempts to escape her abusive relationship with tech prodigy, Adrian Griffin. She finds out soon after she escapes that Adrian has died. Adrian, surprisingly, leaves Cecilia \$5 million in his will. However, Cecilia soon

realizes his presence has not left her side and is haunted by Adrian, even though she cannot see him.

Elizabeth Moss puts in another masterful performance that immediately gives the film credibility. The plot, although slightly far-fetched, is definitely more cohesive and realistic than the majority of horror movies. With a few twists and turns, this film will keep you in suspense more than it terrifies you, which is what makes it great.

"Invisible Man" is certainly worth a watch whether or not care for the horror genre.

Rating: 8.5/10

**RICK'S
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Sports

It's Time to Open Up, Bring Back Normal - Whatever That Is



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

After perhaps the most puzzling week in our nation's history, I'm nearly at a loss for words. For the first time in more than three decades as a local sports enthusiast/columnist, I don't know what to say about the state of our great nation; sports, health, politics or otherwise.

This particular take may not age well at all, but I'm sick and tired of coming straight home to nothing but the unequivocal love of my beautiful wife and children, which, I promise, is something I'll never take for granted. But we've had our fair share of family time during the last three inactive, recreation-free months. And, like so many others during this COVID-19 pandemic, I've lost a portion of my livelihood and income I hope to recoup down the road.

More than that, though, my mental and physical well-being is at stake as we remain in this uneasy lockdown. Luckily, my kids have adjusted from student athletes to house cats, or I'd have driven them crazy without the local sports circuit soaking up much of our time.

For the first time in 31 years, I was not on a Section 1 baseball diamond for Memorial Day weekend, so I didn't know what to do with myself without Lakeland High School chasing its potential three-peat this spring. For the first time in 31 years I didn't get to see 40-time Section 1 champion Yorktown challenge for the boys' lax title #Facts!

We were also denied the Class A title defense of the Walter Panas softball team, missed out on Class AA Mahopac pitcher Shannon Becker's ballyhooed junior campaign and lost the chance to see if 2019 Class AA softball runner-up White Plains was poised to take that championship leap. Briarcliff was denied the opportunity to start a boys' lax dynasty after winning it all in 2019. So much was stolen from our kids as we "flattened the curve," including a raucous prom night and a suitable graduation ceremony.

We didn't get the chance to see if Rye could challenge both Lakeland on the diamond and Yorktown on the lax green in an attempt to fulfill one of the greatest championship runs in Section 1 history. With football and boys' hoops titles already in the hopper, the Garnets were seeking a rare triple crown at the very least this spring.

Love 'em or hate 'em, that would have been fun to witness no matter the outcome, but for this godforsaken lockdown, which has destroyed national morale and kicked the Class of 2020 right between the chops. There will always be a soft spot in my heart for this year's graduates and those students who were denied a fitting finale for 13 years of grind.

Sports has always helped us weave our way through dire straits. I'd like to think that my son and daughter and I are ready to hit an outdoor batting cage for 45 minutes with-



The Class of 2020, including these seniors from Putnam Valley High, deserved a far better fate than the hand they were dealt.

out the fear of contracting coronavirus from some distant droplets. There's only so many catches we can have in the yard before they bolt back to Fortnite and shut me out for the rest of the day.

I'd like to imagine my son can shoot some hoops with his friends in a local park because there's only so many games of Around the World and Horse that we can kick each other's @\$\$ in, though the old man still owns a distinct advantage. I'd like to believe that it's time to re-open America because I'm tired of just accepting information from people who may or may not be accurate regarding COVID-19. (Where is the #ScarfLady?)

I'm a grown-ass man and I'm ready to utilize my common sense to protect my family and those around me. Locking me down for an entire summer - with no baseball in sight - isn't the answer. I need to see and be part of the local and national sports scene. I desperately need an afternoon at the pool afterward, sipping cocktails and talking sports with family and friends somewhere between three and six feet apart this summer.

Yes, thousands have died since this virus was unleashed this winter, and it's only been complicated by other situations and the cul-

tural upheaval this country needs to come to grips with and radically change. Reform is certainly in order, but defunding police departments across the country is the last thing we want to do. Lawlessness will ensue, criminality will overrun us and chaos will abound whether you like law enforcement or not (P.S., I do!).

Like sports, society needs rules. Otherwise, drug abuse will flourish and young children will be lured in. Murders will rise. Hooliganism will run rampant at sporting events. Imagine what Raider Nation could be like when it relocates from Oakland to Vegas this fall without proper supervision before and after a tailgate party. Parks and schools will be vulnerable, as will our children.

Think about that. Schools and parks susceptible to unfathomable levels of crime should we defund the police. The antics of a few bad seeds in our criminal justice system cannot take us all down, though they must be addressed and corrected immediately. Can you imagine domestic disturbances without police intervention? Every city that defunds police departments will experience an historic rise in violent crime, so go ahead and do so. I'll pray that Scooby and Shaggy pull up in the Mystery Machine to handle what-

ever issues you encounter when local P.D. is defunded. Me? I'll stay right here in the cozy confines of my town where the current train of thought is driven by safety and logic, and some of our worst fears are hell-bent hockey dads and mean-spirited cheer moms #MamaDrama.

I maintain ballfields for a living and oversee a large town park in Putnam Valley as an occupation that fills my heart with joy, but it pains me dearly to see these pristine fields untouched every day. Bring back the divots, bring back the giant holes alongside the pitching rubber and home plate, give me a dugout full of splintered seeds and scattered water bottles. It's time to mandate and regulate some rules that will allow our children to flourish in their intended roles. Because living in fear is not an option.

P.S.: Saints QB Drew Brees, who has been a model citizen throughout his NFL career, said all the right things on both accounts; both initially and apologetically. (Google it if you've been under a rock.) Had he tied them together in one tidy knot from the onset, nobody could have vilified him for both social reform and patriotism, neither of which should be disparaged.

Have a great week and let's hope Phase 2 gets our country rocking and our kids back out on ballfields again!

**Direct
Rays**



Donating to the Humane Society

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R,C,Ref-Mahopac), his wife, Briana Byrne, and their newborn son, Braeden, dropped off a donation to the Putnam Humane Society on June 2. The family donated several unused collars and unopened treats and food on behalf of their late Treeing Walker Coonhound, Tracker, who sadly passed over the rainbow bridge in mid-May. They were also able to deliver some hand sanitizer, which was made by Corcraft and the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, to help assist employees with staying safe during this difficult time. "It's always a painful experience to lose any member of the family, and that goes for losing our furry companions too," said Byrne. "Tracker was an amazing dog. We adopted him from a humane society in Arkansas that rescued him from a very dangerous environment. Sadly, his life was cut short at only 5 1/2 years old due to a terminal diagnosis of acute leukemia, a relentless and deadly form of blood cancer. We like to think that the time and life he did have with us improved and filled with love."



PHOTO BY GORDON MOCCIO

Lining Up for Guns in Carmel

On Thursday afternoon dozens lined up over the course of the day to purchase guns at Precision Armory in Carmel as protests continue to soar across the country in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd by Minnesota police. Gun sales are up 80 percent nationally over last May, according to Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting, a private research firm. Gun sales have also spiked in recent months amidst COVID-19 and the ensuing shutdown. According to the FBI's background check system, when the coronavirus outbreak first occurred, there were 3.7 million background checks in the month of March alone, with 2.4 million of those affiliated with firearms purchases. Customers approached for interview requests declined comment.



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