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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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# Carmel BOE Reduces Tax Levy, Trims \$1M From Budget

By Anna Young

The Carmel Board of Education has agreed to trim more than \$1 million from the school budget as the district looks to place a second plan up for a vote in two weeks after its original proposal was defeated last month.

Superintendent of Schools Mary-Margaret Zehr presented trustees last week with three budget scenarios that reduced the tax levy and made various cuts to services, supplies and positions. Board members agreed to move forward with a proposed \$132,507,952 budget that reduced spending by \$1,073,414.

The newly proposed budget, which is scheduled for adoption during Tuesday's meeting, carries a tax levy increase of .60 percent.

"I know that we're sitting here talking in theocratics in a budget that's an actual but putting in out there right now there's a lot of moving pieces to this," Trustee Eric Mittelstadt said at the May 25 meeting. "I hope everyone knows we're doing the best we can with what we have."

During the May 18 election, Carmel's proposed \$133,581,366 budget was defeated in a 1,296 to 1,125 vote. The budget carried a tax levy increase of 1.69 percent and sought to maintain academic programs and services that benefited the needs of the students and taxpayers, school officials said.

Now the board is required to place a new budget up for a vote on June 15. However, if the reduced proposal is voted down a second time, a contingency plan with even more cuts to the district must then be approved.

The current proposal, while subject to change before Tuesday's adoption, will see a \$256,000 spending reduction in bus refurbishments. Officials say the district was intending on replacing four busses within its fleet, but the new proposal will seek to only replace two.

There will be a 10 percent, or \$195,372, reduction in supplies, \$235,000 decreased from transfer to capital, \$61,200 trimmed from equipment and a \$187,075 savings on retirement, with breakage on one teacher, two teaching assistants and one nurse.

Furthermore, an elementary school position that was subject to retirement this year won't be replaced, a savings of \$73,595.

"That was a goal, rather than cutting staff who are currently employed as a way to look at staff as they retire in looking at each position to see if that is needed based on class size and enrollments," Zehr said.

However, despite an agreement among officials to not fill retired positions within the district, board members took issue with cutting an elementary position as class sizes continue to increase as in-person learning returns to normal.

Trustee Matt Vanacoro said he was in favor of the current proposal but only if the elementary teaching position is returned to the budget.

"I do not think that the elementary

parents in that constituency are going to like that we're going to increase class sizes after COVID," he said. "This (budget) needs to pass, and I think we need to show that we're making the largest effort we can to reduce the tax levy to the smallest amount that we can and reducing it by a full percentage is a pretty big statement."

The remaining \$65,172 slashed in the budget from technology professional development, summer compensatory services and summer school programs at Carmel High School will be moved to federal stimulus funding, officials said.

After the budget is adopted on Tuesday, officials will schedule a public hearing for June 8 and hold budget presentations with question and answers from June 9 to June 15.

## PV Officials Look to Put an End to Lakefront Parking

By Anna Young

Areas along the lakefront in Putnam Valley will no longer allow parking with several safety concerns arising as the summer months approach.

Town officials intend to restrict parking in the Roaring Brook Lake District to property owners, their lessees, members of their immediate families and their guests at their June 2 Town Board meeting. A draft of the amended law states the town will only allow vehicles to park in the district parking lots if a permit is displayed.

Furthermore, any vehicles not displaying a Roaring Brook Lake District registration sticker or tag may be removed from district parking lots at the owner's expense. Vehicles will also be prohibited from parking overnight in a district parking lot.

Along with being towed, violators could also face a maximum fine of \$250, imprisonment of up to 15 days, or both.

Supervisor Sam Oliverio stated during the May 19 Town Board meeting extra precautions are needed by the town with a rise in visitors along the shore during the summer months.

"The laws are already there preventing parking on the streets – you can't park on the streets. But these beach areas, well, everybody has to be able to get down there," Oliverio said. "We don't want to tow anybody quite frankly, we create a lot of hard feelings, but if somebody was obstinate and refused to move their car then we'd have no other choice."

Residents who live in the Roaring Brook Lake District strongly agreed that regulations are necessary, sharing their

gratitude to the town for moving quickly to approve strong enough legislation to deter visitors from causing a continued nuisance to the area.

District resident John Groetch said he was glad the town was addressing this issue and taking it as far as they are.

"We've witnessed in the last year the rebirth in working from home and vacationing is now Airbnb event," Groetch said. "Our responsibility is exactly addressing the pressure on this lake, as we know is difficult to manage, and if we don't have fines with teeth in them, I think people will abuse the low fines here relative to other areas."

While Oliverio advised residents to contact the Putnam County Sheriff's Department if someone is spotted in violation, he said a beach superintendent will also be enforcing the town code.

Along with the Roaring Brook Lake District, parking will soon be prohibited on Aqua Lane, with officials explaining parked cars on the roadway cause a safety hazard for emergency vehicles. While Oliverio said legislation is expected to be approved by the board on June 2, signs have already been erected on the narrow roadway warning folks against parking.

Residents who live along the roadway were also strongly in favor of the decision by the town.

"This is safety issue. You can't get any type of vehicle past a car that's parked on that roadway, it's just that narrow," Oliverio said. "It's really an overgrown walking path – it shouldn't be driven upon at all. Nobody should be parking there at all, and it will be enforced by the town."

## Blazing a Trail in Southeast



Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R/C/Mahopac) hosted a Trailblazing event at the Tonetta Lake Trailhead in Southeast Town Park. Pictured with Byrne (right) are Southeast Town Councilman Eric Larca, former MTA Police Chief Kevin McConville, Southeast Town Planning Board Member Eric Cyprus, and Putnam Co. Legislator Joseph Castellano.



# Senior Friendship Centers Reopen in Putnam County

There were hugs, tears, and smiles as senior citizens were welcomed back to Putnam County's four Friendship Centers on May 24.

"Our seniors did what they had to do to get to this moment," County Executive MaryEllen Odell said. "It wasn't easy, but they stayed home to stay safe. Instead of luncheons with their friends, they had meals that volunteers and Office of Senior Resources staff delivered to their homes. They got vaccinated as soon as it was possible, and that's why we could reopen the centers."

Odell issued an Executive Order on March 13, 2020 closing the Office of Senior Resources (OSR) Friendship Centers in

order to protect vulnerable seniors from COVID-19.

"After 14 months and 11 days, the mood was exuberant and emotional as seniors returned to Friendship Centers in Carmel, Mahopac, Philipstown and Putnam Valley, and were greeted by their friends and the staff," Office of Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham said. "To quote a song – 'Reunited and it feels so good.'"

With more than 90 percent of the seniors who participate in OSR programs fully vaccinated, and COVID case numbers in the county remaining low, the centers were able to open by simply following CDC guidelines, according to Cunningham. That means vaccinated seniors do not need to

wear masks at the Friendship Centers, but those who have not been vaccinated still need to do so, except when they are eating. All seniors and drivers must wear masks on the OSR buses.

Additional safety protocols are in place, including hand sanitizers at every table and individual condiment packages.

To get seniors fully moving again, exercise classes have resumed and are held outside.

When the weather requires, the classes will move indoors. Soon other



recreational activities and crafts will be offered again.

For those who are unable or reluctant to return to the centers, OSR will continue offering the highly successful remote programs that were developed during the pandemic.

"I want to thank the OSR staff for their hard work and ingenuity in helping meet the needs of our seniors despite the challenges of the pandemic," Odell said. "The staff really care about the people they serve, and it shows."

# Brewster High Teacher Finalist for STEM Educator Award

Brewster High School teacher Dr. Brittany Kozlenko was selected as one of New York State's three finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). PAEMST is the highest honor a STEM educator can receive in the United States.

Over the next month, the National Science Foundation will review applications and choose one of the three finalists to be New York's national winner. The winner will be announced by the Science and Technology Committee at the White House and will receive a \$10,000 award.

Dr. Kozlenko, a physics teacher, was nominated anonymously and had to complete a 13-page application on the five dimensions applicants are assessed on: mastery of content, instructional methods, assessments for student learning, reflective practices, and leadership inside and outside of the classroom. In addition, she had to provide a video of one of her classes, photos, three recommendations and more.

An honors student her whole life, Dr. Kozlenko always knew she wanted to be a



teacher.

"I really enjoyed math and science," she said. "When I started thinking about which one I would enjoy doing for the rest of my life, I leaned towards science because I like how you can explain the world through it."

She credits her physics teacher, Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft (himself a PAEMST winner

and former National Science Teachers Association president), with leading her to physics over the other sciences.

"He was just incredible," she said. "He came in every day super excited. You couldn't help being excited about what you were learning."

That excitement certainly rubbed off on Dr. Kozlenko, whose enthusiasm for her work is impossible to miss when she starts speaking about it.

"My favorite part about teaching is that first, it's super fun," she laughed. "I love watching students start out by throwing words around that have true physics meaning but which they are not using correctly. As soon as we go into why a certain phenomenon happens and explain it, all of a sudden it clicks and they say 'this is so cool!' That, to me, is the most exciting — seeing how enthusiastic they get at being able to understand the world."

Understanding the world around them is Dr. Kozlenko's hope for all of her students.

"I hope they understand that physics is everywhere and that they start to see the

world in a different light; that they start to think about the impact of what's happening and why it's happening," she said.

But she doesn't want it to stop there.

"I want them to shift their thinking and, rather than being passive learners and taking the world as it is, to get in control and start thinking through it when they come to a problem. A lot of the class is showing them something that is happening and asking them to figure out why. It's transitioning them from being sponges to being more active learners in their own lives."

It is not just students who are affected by her passion for her work. Peter LaMoreaux, a physics teacher at the high school and one of the people who wrote a letter of recommendation for Dr. Kozlenko, noted that her influence is felt throughout the school community.

"Dr. Kozlenko inspires learning through her innovative pedagogy and infectious enthusiasm," LaMoreaux said. "She is a wonderful teacher and colleague and serves as an instructional leader for her students and all of Brewster High School."

# Carmel Schools Music Program Receives National Recognition

Carmel Central School District's music program has been honored with a 2021 Best Communities for Music Education designation for the eighth consecutive year by the NAMM Foundation, a non-profit supported by the National Association of Music Merchants. This designation was awarded to the district for its outstanding achievement in its efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

"This achievement is a testament to our dedicated staff who encourage our students to explore opportunities and pursue their passion," said Michelle Yorio, Carmel Central School District Board of Education president. "It is truly a measure of the entire community and not just our finest students. Our district is proud to be able to offer our students an exceptional music program."

To be selected, the district had to provide detailed information about its funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, facilities, support for music programs in the district and community among other data. The information was verified by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"At Carmel, we work hard to foster a love for music. That is what the District did for

me as a student and it is the same gift I strive to give to my own students," said Nina Madison, music teacher at Kent Elementary School and a CCSD graduate.

"Music education is important to Carmel Central School District and its students," said Lizzette Ruiz-Giovinazzi, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel. "First and foremost, we have incredibly talented students currently in our program who have thrived as musicians. In addition, music education has a tremendous impact on student learning, social-emotional wellbeing, creativity, and awareness of different cultures."

Carmel schools continue to be a leader in providing students with a well-rounded education, in line with its mission to educate the whole student to become lifelong learners in an ever-changing world. This has been especially true during the pandemic where music and arts have continued to provide valuable ways to keep students engaged in school during an unprecedented time.

"The music department has done an outstanding job of creating such a tightknit, encouraging, and lively community," said Molly Radigan, Carmel High School student



and orchestra member. "My fellow students and I adore this wonderful space and use it as a creative outlet while learning life lessons we will never forget. The department made my high school years fantastic."

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. After two years of music education, researchers found that study participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college as well and

have stronger everyday listening skills. In addition, social benefits for participants include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

"We are proud to be in a community where music education is seen as crucial to the development of our children," said Edward Durkee, executive director at Arts on the Lake, in Carmel. "The Carmel music teachers are an outstanding group of professionals whose impact influences the students for their entire lives."



# State Offering Free College Tuition Lottery for 12- to 17-Year-Olds

By Martin Wilbur

New York State continues to search for ways to attract people who have yet to get a COVID-19 vaccine to roll up their sleeve and get a shot.

Last week Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that to entice young people between the ages of 12 to 17 to get the vaccine, they will be entered into a lottery where 50 winners will receive free tuition to a four-year public college in the state.

Through July 7, anyone in that age group who gets their first Pfizer dose, will automatically be entered into the sweepstakes. A drawing with 10 new names will be drawn every Wednesday for five weeks, Cuomo said.

"It's a significant incentive for students, and by the way, it's a significant incentive for a parent," he said. "Tell your 12- to 17-year-old go out, get a shot, it protects the family, it protects the 12- to 17-year-old and then they are eligible for a raffle."

The earlier a youngster gets a vaccine the better. Once they receive a first dose, they are eligible to be selected in each drawing.

The latest plan to get more people vaccinated comes as the vaccination rate continues to slow. Through Sunday, 8,991,805 New Yorkers, or 56.9 percent of the population at least 18 years old, have completed the vaccine. Through May 26, the percentage stood at 55.5 percent.

In that same four-day time frame, the

percentage of those who have received their first dose went up from 64.2 to 65.2 percent, according to the state's vaccine tracker.

A bit of good news is that 21.6 percent of 12- to 15-year-old are now vaccinated statewide, up from about 5 percent two weeks earlier.

Cuomo also mentioned last week that employers must give their workers who have received a vaccination can receive a paid day off if they have side effects from the shot.

A recent Kaiser Family Foundation study found that 48 percent of unvaccinated people said that missing work in case they don't feel well was the chief reason for not

getting inoculated, he said.

While virtually all side effects are mild, the fear is real even if it isn't grounded in reality, Cuomo said.

"I don't know anyone who couldn't go to work the next day because of the side effects of the vaccine, but it is possible that you get mild flu-like symptoms, but it's not about the reality, it's about the perception," Cuomo said.

The state tracker reported on Monday that 499,562 Westchester residents have been fully vaccinated and more than 548,000 have received their first dose,



## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

72.8 percent of the population at least 18 years old.

Despite the challenges the state faces continuing to get people vaccinated, the

local, regional and statewide infection rate continues to stay extremely low. On Sunday, New York State reported a .69 infection rate, with 494 positives from 71,242 tests.

Westchester reported falling to 547 active cases last Friday, the last day that numbers were available. Last Thursday Putnam had just 13 active cases throughout the entire county.

## 'Trailblazing With Byrne' to Continue This Saturday in Mahopac

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) has announced his next two Trailblazing With Byrne events will be coming up this Saturday, June 5 in Mahopac and on Saturday, June 26 in Yorktown.

Byrne meets with constituents virtually and in-person for an hour-long Q&A, which are livestreamed on YouTube, before taking a walk to continue the discussion, promote healthy living and take in the local natural beauty. Discussion on a variety of issues is welcome.

This Saturday's event begins with Coffee with Kevin from 9 to 10 a.m. followed by Trailblazing With Byrne from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Mt. Hope Road Trailhead, across from the Mahopac Public Library.

On June 26, it will take place at the Yorktown Town Hall Trailhead behind Town Hall near the memorial at 363 Underhill Ave. in Yorktown Heights.

Byrne held his last Trailblazing event on May 22 in Southeast at the Tonetta Lake Trailhead, which is part of the Maybrook Trailway and larger Empire State Trail.

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# Mt. Kisco Seeks Public Input on Whether to Permit Marijuana Sales

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials want to hear from residents about whether the village should permit within its borders the retail sale of recreational marijuana and commercial lounges to consume cannabis or choose to opt out.

The Village Board has scheduled a public hearing on the issue for its next meeting this Monday, June 7.

Under the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act approved by the state legislature earlier this year and signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Mar. 31, each municipality in the state may decide whether they want to allow cannabis sales within the community and/or to have the on-site consumption facilities.

Municipalities have until Dec. 31 to pass a local law to opt out of the program, but that decision would be subject to a permissive referendum. A petition containing at least 20 percent of a municipality's registered voters would be needed to trigger a referendum and must be received by the village clerk within 30 days of the passage of the local law.

If a community decides to opt out, it may reverse that decision at any time.

Mayor Gina Picinich said that roughly 1,000 signatures would be needed for any resident that wants to trigger a referendum.

"This board wants to hear from the community so that any decisions that



are made to stay in or stay out, or some variation of, is reflective of the will of the community so that there won't be a need for a permissive referendum," Picinich said.

Under the law, anyone at least 21 years old would be allowed to buy or consume marijuana and carry up to three ounces of cannabis and up to 24 grams of concentrated cannabis.

With the establishment of the state Office of Cannabis Management, it is expected to take until at least the end of

2022 before any retail outlets will open.

A state license would be needed to grow, process, distribute, deliver or dispense marijuana.

Picinich said that if the village were to allow retail sales it could set reasonable restrictions related to hours and location.

Sales of marijuana would carry a 13 percent sales tax. If the municipality opts in, the state would receive 9 cents of every dollar of marijuana sales generated within its borders, while the local government would get 3 cents. The county would

receive 1 cent.

The law states that consumption would be legal anywhere that cigarette smoking is permitted.

Village Board members agreed that the best way to gauge public sentiment is to hold a public hearing and to inform the community that their input is sought to help the board decide which direction to go.

"Let's make sure that a lot of people in our village know about it so they can come and express themselves," said Trustee Peter Grunthal.

Municipalities locally and throughout the state are faced with the same decision.

Marijuana supporters have pointed to the creation of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars that could be generated through its sale in addition to correcting racial injustices caused by the disproportionate enforcement of old drug laws against poor people and communities of color.

Opponents have argued that it could add to the state's drug woes while many police agencies hold the position that there isn't an effectively accurate roadside test, such as test for blood-alcohol levels, to determine if someone is disoriented from marijuana.

The hearing is part of the regularly scheduled Village Board meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. and can be viewed live on the Mount Kisco Facebook page and through Zoom.



## Immunotherapy: A Game Changer in Cancer Treatment?

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#### Q: What is Immunotherapy?

**A:** Your immune system is a network of cells, tissues, and organs that work together to keep you healthy by defending your body against harmful invaders. Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses your immune system to thwart cancer cells. Immunotherapies are often used in combination with traditional chemotherapy medications to boost the effectiveness of those regimens.

#### Q: Are there different types of immunotherapy treatments?

**A:** Yes. The first, called "checkpoint inhibitors," are drugs that help your immune system respond more strongly to a tumor by blocking the proteins that keep T-cells from killing cancer cells.

Another type of immunotherapy, "adoptive cell transfer," boosts the natural ability of your T-cells to fight cancer. In this treatment, T-cells are taken from your tumor, and those that are found to be most active against your cancer are grown in large batches in the lab, and then eventually returned to your body to fight off the cancer.

Next are "monoclonal antibodies," which are immune-system proteins produced in a lab. These antibodies are designed to attach to specific targets found on cancer cells. Some monoclonal antibodies mark cancer cells so they will be better seen and destroyed by the immune

system. Another immunotherapy agent is a vaccine called "BCG" that is instilled directly into the bladder to attack very early bladder cancer.

#### Who is a good candidate for immunotherapy?

**A:** The best candidates for immunotherapy are patients whose disease may have a genetic component. We test for a number of things to see whether a patient's particular tumor may be due to a genetic cancer syndrome. Those types of tumors seem to have better susceptibility to immunotherapies. Whether or not immunotherapy is used alone or with other treatments is determined on a case-by-case basis.

#### What are treatments like?

**A:** Immunotherapy can be administered intravenously, orally, topically (for very early skin cancers), or intravesically (directly into the bladder). How often and how long the patient receives immunotherapy depends on the type of cancer and how advanced it is, the immunotherapy agents themselves, and how the patient tolerates and responds to the medications. Exciting new uses of immunotherapy agents are seen on a regular basis, says the doctor. They're really making their way through the treatment of many different types of cancers now. This is the cutting edge of oncological care.



# Support Pledged for Mayer's E-LEARN Bill to End Digital Divide

By Samuel Rowland

The Ossining Community Equity Task Force and various local and state officials threw its support last week behind the E-Let's Expand Access to Remote Learning Now (E-LEARN) Act.

The proposed legislation, which was introduced by state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) last Nov. 24, aims to create an E-LEARN Fund to provide free broadband internet access for every student in the state. The initiative would be funded by a quarterly tax on the intrastate revenues of internet service providers operating in New York.

"We used to provide a blackboard chalk in school as part of the essentials. Now the essentials are broadband and a tablet or some other instrument," said Mayer, chair of the Senate's Education Committee, at a May 27 press conference at Louis Engel Waterfront Park in Ossining.

The bill proposed that every student will have free 24-hour broadband access wherever they live at 25 megabits per second, which is the quality standard for broadband.

Access to broadband for families in lower income areas

and communities of color has been lagging for years, but the digital divide became glaring after the need to switch to remote learning last March because of the pandemic.

New York's budget for the current fiscal year includes a program, found in Bill S2506-C, Section 117(3), requiring all broadband providers operating in the state provide \$15-per-month service plans to low-income families who qualify for certain government benefits. The plans would have to provide the 25-megabits-per second download speed outlined in Mayer's bill.

State Sen. Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (D-Nyack) and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) also spoke at the event. Reichlin-Melnick is one of the Senate bill's co-sponsors while Galef is a co-sponsor of the version in the Assembly.

"This was one of the very first bills that I co-sponsored when I became a member of the Senate in January," Reichlin-Melnick said. "In 2018, a study found that over 15 percent of students in the U.S. had no access to broadband at home and over 30 percent of children of color have no access to broadband at home. We can't accept that as



SAMUEL ROWLAND PHOTO

Pictured, from left, are Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, state senators Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and Shelley Mayer and Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg. They held a press conference at Ossining's Louis Engel Waterfront Park last week to advocate for Mayer's bill that would ensure access to high-speed broadband for all students at home.

the status quo."

Reichlin-Melnick noted his own experience with the digital divide before the pandemic. His first job was as a teacher at an elementary school in a district comprised predominantly of students of color. Many families at the time were still struggling to obtain dial-up internet service, he said.

Community leaders recounted the challenges they saw children and families facing during the past

year. Ossining Councilwoman Jackie Shaw, a task force member and Executive Director of the IFCA Housing Network, said immediate assistance is required.

"So, we have people choosing between rent and prescriptions and things like that. So broadband access and paying for that is not high on their list. But of course, they want their children educated," Shaw said. "And we have a lot of kids in shelters who had a tablet

or...phone but had no internet access. They were shut out of the educational system for long periods of time."

On Mar. 2, the Senate bill was approved by the Education Committee and is now being debated in the Finance Committee. The Assembly bill was introduced on Feb. 11 and is still being debated in its Education Committee.

"The digital divide between our students became very evident during the COVID pandemic," said Sandy McAllister, co-chair of the Ossining Community Equity Task Force and a member of the Ossining NAACP. "We wanted to find a way...of bringing forth this bill that we fully support. And we hope that everyone else will support us as we continue to strive to reduce the division."

The Ossining Community Equity Task Force is a coalition of local stakeholder groups serving in an advisory role on town policy aimed at addressing systemic racism and other forms of systemic discrimination. The task force was formed after a suspected act of hate crime vandalism in Louis Engel Waterfront Park in 2019 shocked the community. Its relevance and profile increased in the wake of the murder of George Floyd last year.

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# No. Castle Amends Outdoor Dining Regs, But Won't Allow Music

By Martin Wilbur

Several North Castle residents last week criticized a town proposal to allow music for outdoor dining, forcing the Town Board to eliminate that provision before amending its regulations.

With the increasing popularity of outdoor dining once restaurants were allowed to reopen after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the board has been looking to revise its regulations to help the establishments attract customers but balance its impact on the community.

Revisions included requiring restaurants to obtain a yearly permit for outdoor dining; allowing it from Apr. 1 through Jan. 2 to keep it a seasonal amenity so it won't impact capacity limits or parking; furniture

must be brought in overnight; and there can be no outdoor lighting other than candles. Restaurants could also remain open until midnight.

However, it was the potential disturbance from music that received all of the attention.

North White Plains resident Ed Lobermann was one of several speakers to object, pointing out there are about 10 restaurants in his area of town. If those establishments allow even recorded music to be played outside, it would have the potential to negatively impact residents' quality of life.

"Every single one of these locations is contiguous to a residential neighborhood," Lobermann said. "Why would you jeopardize the peace and quality of life of these neighboring residents for a very

small financial benefit for a limited number of restaurants requesting this proposed legislation?"

Furthermore, the proposal referred to unacceptable noise as objectionable but failed to define how much of a disturbance would rise to that level, he said.

Even background music for some residents could be considered objectionable for some, said Nora Kans Manuele, another North White Plains resident.

She said with the likelihood of crowds dining out on weekends, residents' lives would probably be upended during the evenings from Thursday through Saturday and possibly Sunday with music.

Additionally, Manuele mentioned that since any complaints would likely be lodged in the evening when the Building

Department is closed, contacting the police for nuisance or quality-of-life complaints seems like an inappropriate use of their time.

"I just think it adds a lot of negativity and anxiousness that's not necessary," Manuele said.

Armonk resident Joe Laporta, who lives near Main Street restaurant Casa Tequila, said when that establishment has indoor music it is disturbing enough.

"While I understand and agree with the goals and objectives of this potential code modification during these challenging times, I'm hoping there can be exceptions made for specific locations that have a long history of complaints," Laporta said.

After also hearing from other residents via e-mail, board members promptly removed outdoor music of any kind from the proposal. Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said that people already enjoy outdoor dining without music or entertainment.

An overwhelming number of restaurants in town near residences, she added.

"I feel very strongly that we, I, can support this entire legislation except (for) live or recorded music outside," said Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto. "I do think it's a quality-of-life issue."

Councilman Saleem Hussain said it was apparent that with nearly every comment focusing in on the issue of outdoor music, it's something the board had to address.

"It's very clear to me that we really should start going in the direction that you all are saying we should go," he said.

## Town Obtains Armonk Parcel to Increase Downtown Parking

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of North Castle has acquired a key Armonk property that could be used for additional downtown parking after trying for years to secure the parcel.

Last Wednesday, the board approved purchasing the lot at 23 Whippoorwill Rd. East for \$50,000 from Verizon Global Real Estate. The land measures just over an acre at 45,481 square feet.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said efforts to buy the property to help ease the town's parking crunch in the heart of the business

hamlet extend back more than a decade.

"It's been a long time and we've had lots of starts and stops, and the idea is we want to expand parking on the west side of Main Street behind The Bagel Emporium, etc., and this finally gives us the ability to do that in a really, really good way at an extremely reasonable price, finally, so it's all working out really well," Schiliro said.

The purchase is subject to a permissive referendum, said Town Attorney Roland Baroni. There is a 30-day period where the town clerk can receive a valid petition containing signatures of North Castle

residents totaling at least 10 percent of the people in town who voted in the last gubernatorial election in 2018, he said.

If that were to occur then the town would need to schedule a special election.

North Castle has been searching for ways to increase their parking inventory in downtown Armonk for years. Development of Armonk Square includes some municipal parking, and then the town converted an area behind the Hergenhan Recreation Center in 2018. That project more than doubled the number of spaces to about 46, some of which is used for municipal parking.

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# Yorktown for Justice to Hold Town's First Pride March on June 12

Rainbow flags, the well-known symbol of the LGBTQ+ community, will be out in abundance as Yorktown for Justice (YFJ), a local grassroots collaborative, marks Pride Month on Saturday June 12 at noon, at Yorktown Town Hall.

"Pride Month is a time for celebration, reflection and recommitment to the work of advancing LGBTQ+ justice," said Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-White Plains), who will be speaking at the start of the march, along with local religious leaders and community members. "After a long and challenging year, I can't wait to celebrate Pride with our vibrant and diverse LGBTQ+ community at the Northern Westchester Pride March."

Following the speakers at Town Hall, the group will march to Jack DeVito Memorial Field, a community gathering area in Yorktown Heights.

Executive Director Judy Troilo of the Loft, Westchester's LGBTQ+ community

center, urges the public to remember the history of Pride.

"Each June LGBTQ+ folk and allies gather to celebrate our community with authenticity and pride but we must never forget that Pride started as a riot," Troilo said. "June is a time to stand up and speak out. We are proud of Yorktown for Justice for organizing this march in the true spirit of activism."

Yorktown for Justice co-founders Marisa Ragonese and Rachel Frederick are excited to help bring the event to the community.

"Recognizing Pride Month embodies Yorktown for Justice's commitment to honoring diversity, equity and inclusivity," they said in a statement. "We are honored to play a role in amplifying our community members' voices. And we are, simply, better together."

This will be the first Pride March in Yorktown and will be followed by an official post-march party at 1:30 p.m. at the



Rep. Mondaire Jones will speak at the start of Yorktown's first-ever Pride March on Saturday, June 12.

Yorktown Grille.

Yorktown resident and post-march party organizer Anthony Calbi captures the spirit of many residents.

"I have lived in this area since 1996. I knew I was gay two years later when I was 10," Calbi said. "The idea of us gathering for the first Pride March in Yorktown

brings so much joy to my heart. It seemed like a pipedream many years ago but it is reality today. This is history and I couldn't be more excited."

Yorktown Town Hall is at 363 Underhill Ave. The Yorktown Grille is located at 347 Downing Drive.

Yorktown for Justice is asking local government leaders and businesses to show their support by flying a rainbow flag on June 12.

For further information, visit <https://yorktownforjustice.org>. Yorktown for Justice is a grassroots collaborative working toward equity and justice in our community through education, advocacy and activism.

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# Obituaries

## Marie Donnelly

Marie Cronin Donnelly, 89, of Hawthorne and formerly of Tarrytown and Boston, died on May 23 at her home.

Donnelly was an accomplished librarian who worked until she was 84 years old. A devoted mother and wife, she always put her family and faith first, and received much joy from her four devoted children and 12 adoring grandchildren.

She was a devout Catholic and parishioner of Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville. She also served as an active member of the Rosary Altar Society and volunteered in the school library for Holy Rosary Parish in Hawthorne.

She was born on Aug. 24, 1931, in Boston to the late John and Marion (nee Noonan) Cronin.

On Aug. 11, 1956, she married Robert Donnelly at St. Teresa's Church in North Tarrytown. They were married for 51 years, until Robert died in March 2008.

She graduated from Girls' Latin School in 1948 and attended Boston College. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Mercy College. In 1978, she graduated magna cum laude from Southern Connecticut State College with a master's in library science.

She began her lifelong career as a librarian working in the Boston Public Library fulltime at the age of 16. Her love for people and books would take her to the Tarrytown Public Library and the White Plains Public Library, where she retired as head of circulation and technical processes at the age of 60. She was instrumental in modernizing the White Plains library system. Shortly after her retirement, she took a part-time job at the Mount Pleasant

Public Library, in the children's room, and continued working there until about five years ago.

Her hobbies included reading, camping and traveling with her family. In 2004, Marie and her daughter, Ellen, traveled through North Dakota, completing Marie's travels to all 50 states.

She is survived by her four children, Kevin (Elaine Yvars) of LaGrange, N.Y., Ellen Donnelly-Acker (Gifford) of White Plains, Paul (Susan Ruiz) of Milwaukee and Philip (Daniela Wrede) of Thornwood; her grandchildren, Ryan, Samantha, Sean, Andrew, Kailey, Heather, Sara, Ben, Angela, Christina, Alex and Noah; her cousins, Janie (Cronin) Reinertsen of Toms River, N.J. and Marian (Cronin) Meling of Norway; her sister-in-law, Virginia (Meade) Cronin; as well as many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, David Cronin, of Yonkers and her daughter-in-law, Rebecca Whitney Donnelly, of Putnam Valley.

She will be missed by her beloved cat Georgie.

The family received friends at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on May 28. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Innocents Roman Catholic Church in Pleasantville on May 29.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Ave., Hawthorne, N.Y. 10532 would be appreciated.

## Patricia Sanderson

Patty Sanderson, a longtime White Plains resident, died peacefully after a short illness on May 18 at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow. She was 85.

Patty was born in Bronxville on June 7, 1935, to James W. and Margaret (Loneragan) Sanderson. She grew up in Armonk and attended both the Anderson School in Staatsburg, N.Y. and Greenbrier College for Women in West Virginia. After attending Greenbrier, she became a nurse's aide and worked at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains for 42 years.

After retiring from Burke, Patty continued her calling as a caregiver, volunteering her time to help anyone in need. She was a lifelong animal lover, artist, competitive ballroom dancer and an excellent competitive swimmer. Coached by her father in the same pool as Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan), Patty won many medals in amateur swimming. She will always be remembered for her caring, warm, compassionate ways for all people and animals alike.

Patty leaves a sister, Carol Sanderson; nephew and niece Michael Cameron and Maya Cameron-Gordon and their spouses, all of California; brother Robert Sanderson and his wife, Susan, of Poughkeepsie and their daughter, Star, of New York City; and brother Christopher Sanderson of Florida.



Patricia Sanderson

Patty will be greatly missed by many very dear friends, including Virginia Saccone and Keith Eddings. She was predeceased by her brother, George, and sister Margaret.

Interment was held at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 10 W. Stevens Ave. in Hawthorne.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the SPCA of Westchester, Inc. by calling 914-941-2896 or visiting <https://spca914.org/donate>. You may leave online condolences at <https://www.mcmahonfuneralhome.com/memorials/patricia-sanderson/4623845/obituary.php>.

## Roger Kobee

Roger S. Kobee peacefully passed away on May 28. He was 82.

Roger will be missed dearly by daughter Wendy (Michael); son John; stepchildren Michaelann, Christine (Greg), Jeffrey (Jennifer) and Keith (Dana); grandchildren Andrew, Hannah, Marykate, Joey, Serena, Mia, Max, Julia, Emily, Evangeline and Lucy. All admired him and looked up to him very much. He is survived by his wife, Mary Kobee, who will miss him most.

Roger loved every person introduced into his family and was always willing to help whoever needed it.

He was born on Dec. 18, 1938, and

attended SUNY Buffalo while studying business. Roger proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. Throughout his life, Roger developed his own business and worked tirelessly to create a great life for his children. He is remembered for his humor, willingness to listen and great advice. He touched many people and will be remembered fondly for many years to come.

The family received friends on May 30 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. In lieu of flowers, kindly make donations in his name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Police Investigate Chappaqua Jewelry Store Burglary

New Castle police continue to investigate the burglary of a Chappaqua jewelry store that was discovered in the early morning hours of May 22.

Police were alerted to the incident at ROCKS Jewelry Gifts Home at Chappaqua Crossing at about 6 a.m. a week ago Saturday, said Detective Sgt. Christopher Ragni.

Ragni said the front door of the store, one of the smaller retail shops at the complex, was pried open allowing one or more individuals to enter and steal an undisclosed amount of merchandise. As of last Friday morning, the police were still working with the owner to complete a full accounting, he said.

Police were hoping that surveillance video could provide some clues on a perpetrator, Ragni said. There were no injuries.

ROCKS owner Tanya Tochner posted on social media early last week that is grateful no one was hurt and that the New Castle police have made the burglary a top priority.

The store continues to operate, but Tochner stated in her post that she has installed a buzzer to control who enters the store.

If anyone has information on the burglary, they can call New Castle Police Department at 914-238-4422 and ask for the Detective Division.

—Martin Wilbur



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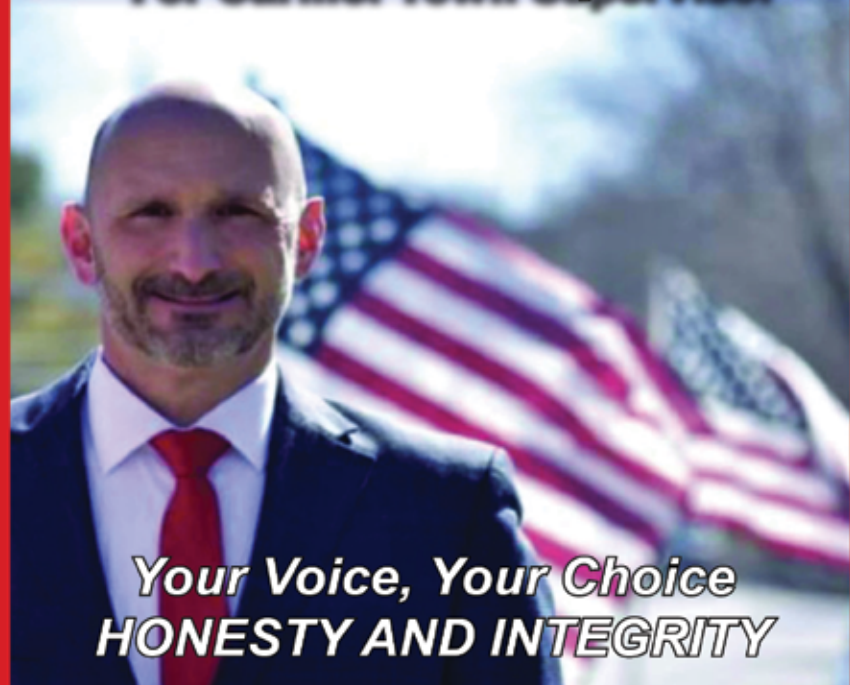


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# Police Blotter

## Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

**May 17:** Patrol responded to the area of Croton-Harmon High School at 2:36 p.m. on a report of a protester with signs. Patrol spoke with the male who reported that a group of youths threw eggs and a water bottle at his vehicle.

**May 18:** Report of a male worker coming onto a private property on Benedict Boulevard at 9:54 a.m. and urinating. Patrol advised workers to stay off the property.

**May 20:** Patrols responded to the area of Grand Street at 10:18 p.m. on a report

of a drunk and disorderly person refusing to leave an establishment.

**May 21:** Report of a disorderly group of youths riding skateboards on Bungalow Road at 5:54 p.m.

**May 23:** Patrol responded to the area of Grand Street at 9:53 p.m. on a report of a domestic dispute.

## North Castle Police Department

**May 21:** Report of an unwanted subject on scene at a Virginia Road business at 9:58 a.m. The caller stated that the subject was on the premises regarding a prior call for service in the past and that he would like the person to be escorted off the property. The responding officers reported assisting the subject from the scene without further incident and provided a courtesy transport to his residence.

**May 21:** Bedford police report an erratic driver traveling southbound on Route 22 toward Armonk at 10:18 p.m. The driver, about 25 years old, appears disoriented and was operating what was described as a maroon Honda. The responding officer stopped the vehicle at Middle Patent Road and arrested the operator for DWI.

**May 24:** An Oregon Road caller reported at 7:59 a.m. that she received checks in the mail from two new accounts that she did not open.

**May 26:** A Terrace Circle resident reported at 4:34 p.m. that his babysitter fell down a flight of stairs and possible broke her

ankle. The call was transferred to 60 Control who dispatched Armonk Ambulance. The responding officer stated that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

## Ossining Police Department

**May 27:** Damage to headstones at Historic Sparta Cemetery was reported. A chemical residue was reportedly left behind on stones with the potential to cause severe and permanent damage to the headstones. Detectives conferred with investigators from the Sleepy Hollow Police Department and found an Ohio woman had used modeling clays to create casts of headstones. She then took those castings with her in an attempt to recreate ornamental parts of the stones. Using foreign substances on the stones violates the rules of the cemeteries, but does not rise to the level of a crime.

## State Police/Cortlandt

**May 22:** Police arrested Daniel R. Usher, 31, of Beacon, for third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, both Class B felonies, and DWI, an unclassified misdemeanor. At about 1:15 a.m., troopers conducted a traffic stop on a 2012 Subaru Impreza on Route 9 in Croton-on-Hudson for multiple vehicle and traffic law violations. The investigation determined that the

suspect was driving while intoxicated and in possession of approximately 25.2 grams of cocaine. He was arraigned virtually before the Town of Cortlandt Court and released on his own recognizance.

## White Plains Police Department


**May 25:** Police responded to a burglary alarm at City Hall in the early hours of the morning. A maintenance worker discovered a man, who claimed he was there visiting his uncle, inside the building. The man fled but was apprehended the next day. The suspect, identified as Troy Brown, was arrested for criminal trespassing and was found to be homeless with no legitimate reason to be in the building.

## Yorktown Police Department

**May 21:** Frederick Humphrey, 34, of Port Ewen, N.Y., was arrested at 12:11 a.m. and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance following a 911 call of an erratic driver who appeared to have been in a recent accident and was now parked at the Sunoco gas station on Lake Road. An investigation revealed Humphrey was in possession of more than four ounces of cocaine.

**May 22:** Juan Reyes, 23, of Peekskill, was arrested and charged with DWI at 2:53 a.m. after an officer observed a parked vehicle blocking the right travel lane on Route 6.

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# P'ville Walk to Raise Awareness for Mental Illness Returns June 13

By Abby Luby

In 2018, 19-year-old Pleasantville resident Brian Halloran took his own life. The tragedy prompted his family to create Break the Hold (BTH), an organization that brings attention to the pervasive spread of mental illness, especially among teenagers and young adults, and provide educational programming and resources.

That same year, BTH organized its first Into the Light Walk in Pleasantville, stepping off at 4 a.m. This year, the walk is on Sunday, June 13, starting at Pleasantville High School, where Halloran graduated.

"Mental health is a dark place and the walk is symbolic of walking out of darkness as a community and into the light," said Brian Halloran, founder of BTH and father of Brian.

The second walk was held in 2019, but last year it was canceled due to COVID-19.

This year, the community has the option of walking in person with COVID-19 protocols in place or participating in a virtual walk on Instagram. Because COVID restrictions have recently been lifted by New York State, the walk can now accommodate up to 500 people. As of last Wednesday, 50 people had registered online.

Shortly after the onset of the pandemic last year, BTH e-mails and phone calls tripled.

"With the pandemic things have gotten exponentially worse," Halloran said. "We hear stories of struggles all the time and people are asking for assistance."

BTH's website lists resources for families



The Into the Light Walk, which raises money to help fund education programs about mental health in local schools, will be held on Sunday, June 13 in Pleasantville. It starts at 4 a.m. and continues as the sun rises.

and individuals seeking help. The nonprofit organization's key contribution has been introducing a mental health curriculum to area schools that is integrated into health classes.

BTH, which operates under the umbrella of the Mental Health Association of Westchester, sponsors instruction known as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) in Pleasantville High School and Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford.

BTH pays for certified instructors to teach the classes in the fifth, sixth and ninth

grades.

"Educators have been super-cooperative," Halloran said. "We should be teaching mental health and emotional wellness at a young age to prevent future mental care and treatment. If we get to them early, we can help solve lifelong issues."

In 2019 and in 2020, BTH awarded scholarships in Halloran's son's name to graduating Pleasantville High School seniors who volunteered their time for mental health advocacy.

Halloran said school districts, including

Ossining and Byram Hills, are interested in incorporating DBT instruction.

"We've also been approached by a number of different schools but the pandemic slowed the momentum," he said.

The Into the Light Walk is one of two main fundraisers BTH holds, along with a gala typically held in February. Halloran estimated that both events typically raise about \$75,000 a year combined.

Last year, the gala was also canceled, but BTH received a grant from the Westchester Youth Bureau for \$50,000, an annual sum that runs through next year. Halloran said he hopes BTH becomes an independent nonprofit by the end of the year.

It also receives donations from schools and organizations. After a student suicide at James Madison University a couple of years ago, funds were raised for BTH. In 2019, Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford hosted the Youth Suicide Prevention Fundraiser and raised \$100,000.

Halloran said suicide has increasingly captured the attention of the public. For youngsters 10 to 24 years old, the number one killer is car accidents followed by suicide.

"People see what the need is and how trends have been negative for some time," he said.

Registration for the Into the Light Walk and other information about Break the hold can be found at <https://bthbreakthehold.org/event/into-the-light-walk-2021>.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Levenberg's Efforts as Supervisor Have Served Ossining Well

I want to let you know you how much I respect, admire and support Dana Levenberg as she serves all of us as Ossining town supervisor.

Dana is an excellent manager, and I know that because she was my chief of staff for many years and handled and balanced all the issues raised by constituents, developed strategies and programs for our office to engage in, worked so hard on resolving constituent problems and never gave up even when the issues were very difficult to get done. She also organized an intern program for high school and college students, and so much more.

She is so energetic and forward thinking. In the environmental area, Dana is advancing new ideas such as making the Town of Ossining a walkable community, participating with Teatown to start food

scrap recycling, bringing renewable energy projects to the town, being a leader in bringing electric charging stations to the train station, and so much more.

She has reached out to obtain grants for the community saving us all tax dollars locally and providing for new services and programs. At one point, I noticed that the town had requested and received more grants than most other communities. Dana is so successful because she has developed a network throughout the county and the state to learn about these grants and knowing to apply for them on our behalf. Writing grants is not easy but Dana is an excellent writer and can do this, and so much more.

You don't build relationships with other elected officials in other communities or the county or the state overnight. Nor

do you build contacts with organizations beyond the town borders quickly. Dana has those contacts and is admired by all for her talents to promote the interests of the town in so many ways, which is good for us as Ossining and Briarcliff residents. As an example of her leadership, she serves as 1st vice president of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association.

Why would we want to replace a person that has served us so well, represented us with knowledge and inspiration and shows her talents and management skills all the time.

Please join me in voting for Dana Levenberg in the Democratic primary on June 22. Your vote really matters.

**Assemblywoman Sandy Galef**  
Ossining

## Advocacy for Small Businesses, Environment Sets Levenberg Apart

I am writing in support of re-electing Dana Levenberg for Ossining town supervisor. Her years of hard work and dedication have shown me that she is the right person for the position. Dana truly cares about Ossining and the people who live and work here. She has always been a supporter of small businesses even before the pandemic. Her advocacy for the environment and equity as well as her leadership during the pandemic prove she is the person to lead Ossining out of this crisis.

I have lived in Ossining-Briarcliff for over 30 years. I am a grandma to an Ossining High School graduate and senior. Over the years the impacts of severe weather have made me really look at environmental issues. Led by Dana, Ossining has been at the forefront in sustainability. Under her leadership Ossining installed electric car charging stations, started food scrap collections and so many other wonderful programs. We are working toward a more sustainable Ossining for my grandchildren.

I have known Dana for several years.

I first met her at the Ossining Matters 5K Run/Walk. We hit it off immediately and have stayed in touch ever since. She supports the efforts of nonprofits and attends more community events than should be possible for one person.

Dana is the right person for the job now and for the future. I strongly endorse Dana Levenberg for Ossining town supervisor.

**Patricia Gonsalves**  
Briarcliff Manor

## Disagreement Makes for Better Candidates and Elected Officials

At state Sen. Shelley Mayer's recent annual Labor Breakfast, Westchester County Executive George Latimer said that having worked with Sen. Mayer for decades, he had deep respect for her intelligence, judgment and work ethic. So much so, he said, that when they disagreed on an issue, it caused him to reassess his own position.

On a broader level, I believe the county executive was expressing something fundamental yet often overlooked: disagreement is a gift.

In my decision-making, I like to think that I carefully consider every significant

alternative and make the optimal choice, while at the same time avoiding unintended consequences.

That approach only gets a person so far. I am, of course, biased when it comes to my own decision-making. I would like to think I am often right, but realistically I know that I am not. That is why disagreement is so valuable.

Dissenting views cause me to re-evaluate my own views. If opposing opinions reveal flaws in my thinking, I modify my position accordingly. Sometimes I find that I have missed the boat entirely. But through this

process of encountering and evaluating disagreements, I make better decisions.

Disagreement, then, is an essential tool in my decision-making toolkit.

Should I become Harrison's next mayor, please do not be surprised if from time to time I greet you in a way you may not expect: "Thank you for disagreeing with me."

**Frank Gordon**  
Candidate for Mayor  
Moving Harrison Forward  
Harrison

## Carmel Board of Ed Making Another Error With Second Budget Vote

Here we go again. The Carmel school budget gets defeated and right away the Board of Education wants to vote on it again. Sound familiar?

Once again, they disregard the vote of the people. Again, they want to tell us what's good for us.

In the real world, successful businesses operate within a realistic budget. They don't keep pulling money from their profits to operate. If they do, sooner or later they will go broke. It is the school board's

responsibility to operate within the budget that the voters have approved. To keep putting failed budgets up for a re-vote, quite frankly, shows the board's failure to conform to the voters' wishes. Remember the bus garage fiasco?

Furthermore, it shows they cannot figure out how to make things work. Successful people figure these things out. This is a lesson the board needs to learn. While it is not an easy task it is the way it is.

Trying to send the budget for a re-vote is just another attempt to take the easy way out. When are they going to figure out that most people are tired of paying ridiculously high school taxes? Taxes that go up every year. The board needs to figure out what they can do to make things work with what they have. Winners can make things work. Losers cannot.

**John Cianflone**  
Stormville

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## Guest Column

### The Form Based Code in New Castle: There's a Better Way Forward

By Lisa Katz, Tara Kassal, Andrea Sanseverino Galan and Victoria Bayard Tipp

The Town of New Castle is at a significant crossroads. As the community grapples with the need to create a sustainable vision for our town, revitalize our hamlets and address questions of social equity and housing affordability, a misguided Form-Based Code (FBC) has been proposed as the best zoning mechanism for future development of the 72-acre Chappaqua hamlet.

This FBC is not the answer to tackling those fundamental issues. It is ill-conceived, the result of a flawed process that prioritized input by for-profit developers, denied residents a consensus-building charrette through open debate and dialogue, ignored key stakeholders, including the Chappaqua Central School District, and failed to conduct any economic analysis for the town or tax implications for residents. It also ignores the longer-term impacts of the global pandemic, which we are just beginning to understand.

The proposed FBC serves New Castle up on a silver platter to developers, and relinquishes resident, Town Board and Planning Board control over the future of our community. The proposal would enable private for-profit developers to build up to 1,000 units of primarily luxury apartments in four-story buildings over 50 feet in height "by right" with minimal input from residents or the Planning Board. That's 40 percent higher than our highest existing downtown building under our current zoning code.

Development under the proposed FBC could result in the displacement of the most socioeconomically diverse and vulnerable residents in the available multifamily housing currently in the Chappaqua hamlet.

It limits the affordable housing requirement to 10 percent of units across the board, hindering future Town Boards from collaborating with developers to secure diverse and increased affordable housing such as the award-winning model

of the cupola building at Chappaqua Crossing, which intersperses market rate, affordable and workforce housing.

There also will be a significant increased tax burden on our residents, many of whom are already struggling with the high housing costs and taxes. The town admits that it has conducted no studies on the cost to taxpayers of development under the FBC. Given that town tax revenue is about 0.8 percent of assessed value, \$100 million in new development will generate, at best, about \$800,000 in town tax revenue (even less if developers receive tax abatement deals).

The Chappaqua Board of Education has indicated that school taxes, the largest component of resident tax bills, will be underfunded relative to per-student district costs as a result of the proposed FBC.

Despite hundreds of residents' letters and statements to the Town Board opposing this plan, the majority of the board has refused to consider alternatives or scale back the scope of the study area.

The "new direction" recently promoted by board members misleadingly assures residents that only six acres along the North Greeley Avenue corridor will be developed. It is a classic bait-and-switch maneuver. The Town Board is simultaneously studying the full 72-acre zone, from the train station commuter lot to the Walgreens at the top of the King Street hill.

This means that future boards can easily expand four-story development zoning under the FBC throughout the hamlet with a simple majority vote. Furthermore, completing the study on the full 72 acres opens up the town to lawsuits from developers seeking to build anywhere in the study area outside the North Greeley corridor.

There is a better way. The Unite New Castle Democratic slate was founded on the belief that our residents and local merchants are smart, engaged community members who deserve a voice in our town. Our experience maintains that

smart towns create a sustainable vision with robust resident input and effectively manage growth by working collaboratively with developers to create compelling residential, commercial and mixed-use projects that enhance a sense of place.

Smart towns do not willingly set the stage for overdevelopment that will negatively impact residents and the environment. Smart towns do not cede control of their future to for-profit developers.

There are ways to achieve revitalization and development by modifying our current legislation and simplifying our approval processes. Our opponents for Town Board favor the FBC. They would have residents believe that the FBC is the only way to encourage economic growth and diversity.

This is simply not true. If anything, the FBC would reduce the potential for true economic growth, displace renters of current affordable housing in town and increase the luxury housing market while simultaneously putting a greater tax burden on single-family homeowners. It does not make provisions for workforce or senior housing. It necessitates the construction of multi-story parking garages, remote lots that require shuttle service and/or robotic stacked parking to deal with the potential five-fold increase in the hamlet's population.

Make no mistake, the FBC is a giveaway to developers looking to make a profit off of our town, and it is not a sustainable path toward improving housing diversity and affordability in New Castle. We believe the town can better achieve economic vitality and diversity by including residents and merchants in the process, rather than muscling through unpopular and ineffective legislation that will eviscerate our community.

The Unite New Castle plan will streamline and accelerate the development process. We will focus development on existing vacant structures and simplify the existing review process to expedite projects using overlay zones, special permits and variances if a particular project makes sense for our community's

vigor and diversity.

The four successive moratoriums on downtown development have effectively made it impossible to develop buildings like the former Rite Aid site. Most significantly, we will forge a truly collaborative process with developers to ensure each and every project is optimized with respect to community outcomes, with a focus on a true mix of uses and increasing affordable and attainable housing options to achieve housing diversity.

Our slate is committed to economically sustainable development, ensuring new projects contribute to the tax base rather than add to the tax liabilities of single-family homeowners, driving out New Castle's most vulnerable residents and reducing the town's long-term marketability.

New Castle has an incredible opportunity to set the stage for a resilient future with a sustainable vision that affords the town the flexibility to embrace technological and societal advances that will enhance the quality of life for all residents. Maintaining control over the development of our hamlets will ensure every project is welcoming and inclusive to people of all races, religions, creeds and socioeconomic status. The proposed FBC permanently eliminates these opportunities for collaboration and optimization in favor of a cookie-cutter approach to revitalization.

Unite New Castle was formed around our commitment to creating thriving hamlets and a more vibrant and diverse New Castle. We are ready to meet the challenge – not just FOR our community, but WITH them.

Please support us on June 22 in the Democratic primary. Together, and with the best interests of New Castle at heart, we will shape the town you want to live in.

*Lisa Katz is a New Castle councilwoman and a Democratic candidate for supervisor. Tara Kassal, Andrea Sanseverino Galan and Victoria Bayard Tipp are Democratic candidates for Town Board. They will also appear on the independent Unite New Castle line in November.*

## Letters to the Editor

### State Infrastructure Funding Needs to Find its Way to Peekskill

My name is Jesenia Morocho. I am a 12th-grader in Peekskill High School. We have been discussing certain topics in class and are concerned about Peekskill's infrastructure, advocating for pedestrian safety and by working with local government.

A recent article that has contributed to this idea was entitled "Infrastructure Projects Worth \$306B Will Help NY's Economic Recovery: Cuomo." Gov. Andrew Cuomo promoted the \$306 billion in planned infrastructure projects around New York and he stated it would revitalize the economy after COVID-19 shut down businesses and

non-essential construction. Some projects are for upstate and will improve and renew highways, roads and bridges.

The plans described in his address showcased Cuomo's firm focus on infrastructure, saying that "building with bricks and mortar also builds public optimism and confidence."

Hopefully, some of this money has been earmarked for fixing the infrastructure in Peekskill.

**Jesenia Morocho  
Peekskill**

### Levenberg's Unwavering Commitment to Ossining is Impressive

I have been an Ossining resident for 30-plus years, and I am excited to support Dana Levenberg for re-election as town supervisor. Dana's list of accomplishments on behalf of our town is multifaceted. Her ability to collaborate with different agencies and secure a variety of grants has proven her fiscal responsibility and ingenuity. Not only has she kept our taxes in check, she has implemented infrastructure improvements and created green initiatives such as the food scrap composting program.

Dana has gone above and beyond

what is expected of a public servant in so many ways because she truly cares about Ossining and all of its residents. For me, the most significant quality is her unstoppable commitment to making Ossining the best place to live for all of us.

Help keep that commitment going forward by voting for Dana Levenberg on June 22 in the Democratic primary.

**Shami Arslanian  
Ossining**



# Softball and Pleasantville Make for a Perfect Match

By Michael Gold

The field stretched out and away from the backstop, a carpet of green dividing the Saw Mill Parkway from the Village of Pleasantville.

Two half-circle American flags, red and blue with white stars, hung proudly from the chain link metal fence.

Lime painted the dirt on the first and third base lines a solid white, then continued on into the outfield, marking off the boundaries of fair and foul.

The elements all added up to a night of softball at Parkway Field.

The sun lowered toward the west, and the temperature cooled. Clouds puffing up to the top of the sky, their ragged edges lit orange by the setting sun, hovered overhead, but threatened nothing so terrible as even a drizzle. The brown infield dirt was indented with the impressions of fielders' shoes from pre-game practice.

The Expendables were fighting it out in a doubleheader with the Captain Lawrence Brewing Company in the Pleasantville Men's Softball League.

The league has nine teams. Besides the Expendables and Captain Lawrence, the teams are Foley's, P-Daddy's, the Nomads, the Free Agents, Craft, the Soul Brewing Company and the Moonlight Grahams, which sounds like a really delicious cookie, but is in honor of Archibald "Moonlight" Graham, who appeared in a single game in the Major Leagues without getting an at-bat. It's a story popularized in "Field of Dreams."

An observer could guess every pitch – a sinker. The pitches came slow, but in tricky arcs. The big, fat softballs looked like easy targets at first, but they could fool anyone.

The batters swung at the pitches, rotating grapefruits, that had to hang in the air just long enough for their bats to connect with the ball.

For the men on the teams, the game was the chance to forget about work or household chores for a few hours and think about nothing but hitting a softball floating toward the plate or catching it as it came racing through the infield or flying into the outfield.

Softball reduces everything in your life to reflexes. How fast can you swing a bat



MICHAEL GOLD PHOTOS

A team photo of the Expendables, one of nine teams that compete in the Pleasantville Men's Softball League.

Below: Expendables manager Mark Markarian takes a turn at bat.



to meet the ball? How quickly can you get your mitt down to dig a grounder out of the dirt? Can you snag that fly ball quickly soaring past you?

It seems that playing the game can

liberate you from your worries, at least temporarily.

Mark Markarian the founder, manager and captain of the Expendables, started the team to have fun and meet some new

people.

"From 18 to Way Old to Rock & Roll," announced his hot pink flyer, posted on dozens of houses in the neighborhood a few months ago, when he was recruiting players for the team.

Markarian, who lived in Queens for decades, had a lot of trouble getting into a city softball league. Many of them are closed to newcomers, unless you have a personal connection.

Markarian moved to Pleasantville, in large part because of the sense of community he found here.

"I moved because of the Pleasantville Music Festival," Markarian said.

A town that could organize and gather enough people to fill Parkway Field was a big draw, he said.

Pleasantville is "a real home town," he explained.

One member of the team said he was there because he'd "been dragged into it by a friend," but he seemed quite happy as he went to bat and took the field. Other team members talked about why they joined. The words "fun" and "meeting new people" and "community" came up a lot in conversation.

The Expendables are scheduled to play 16 games, all as part of doubleheaders, throughout the season, which started in late April and ends late this month. The seven-inning games move pretty fast, unlike Major League Baseball.

Alex Lepre, an Expendable, wearing a tee-shirt that said, "I Am the Big Dog," lined a single toward first base. A teammate popped out to shortstop. Markarian turned a grounder he hit down the first base line into a double.

In the third inning, the lights came on from the tall stanchions looming over the field. Gnats swarmed around the players' heads, and they tried to wave them away, unsuccessfully.

Gnats are attracted to people, in part, because of the carbon dioxide we exhale. The gnats seemed to be enjoying a carbon dioxide feast of gigantic proportions.

A Captain Lawrence batter hit a soaring fly far out into the outfield, but the Expendables center fielder, Henry Heredia, plucked the ball out of the air as it came just a few feet away from landing, almost a shoe-string catch. Then Heredia threw out the tagging runner at second base.

The second game started almost immediately after the first game ended. As I walked away from the field to go home, a Captain Lawrence batter slugged a fly ball over Expendable Mike "Blatt" Rosenblatt's head in deep right field. Rosenblatt ran after it and grabbed the ball over his shoulder at the last possible second before it would have fallen for a certain extra base hit.

The score didn't matter. The real winner was Pleasantville. And the gnats.

*Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has written op-ed articles for The New York Daily News, Albany Times-Union and other newspapers.*

## Grand Prix New York to host Alzheimer's Awareness Evening June 9

The Diamond Hospitality Group and the Alzheimer's Association are partnering to present an Alzheimer's awareness evening event to be held at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco on Wednesday, June 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. and broadcast live on The Clubhouse sports radio show on WGCH 1490-AM.

The Alzheimer's Association will have a table at GPNY during the radio broadcast with staff on hand to talk

about the organization's programs, services and fundraisers.

An estimated 5.8 million Americans in 2019 were living with Alzheimer's dementia, including 200,000 under the age of 65. Barring the development of medical breakthroughs, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's dementia may nearly triple from 5.6 million to 13.8 million by 2050.

Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading

cause of death in the U.S., and it is the fifth-leading cause of death for those age 65 and older.

Local residents can help find a cure by participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, held at more than 600 locations nationwide. The Westchester walk is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 3 at SUNY Purchase. More information about the walk is available at [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk).



# COMMUNITIES COMMEMORATE MEMORIAL DAY 2021



It may not have been completely back to normal, but this year communities throughout Westchester and Putnam found a way to return in person to recognize those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Many towns and villages held only ceremonies, while Buchanan, Montrose and Verplanck combined for the Tri Village parade. There also were parades in Yorktown and in several towns in Putnam.





## How Local Government Impacts Enjoyment of Our Homes

It is always surprising to me when I meet people who tell me that they have no interest in local politics or voting.

Statistics would prove that they are in the majority. In my town, for instance, slightly less than one-third of all qualified voters actually turn out to cast their ballots for local elections.

I must confess that when my wife and I moved to Westchester, we were quite naïve about the impact that local government has on home ownership. Since that time, however, I have learned that town government can deeply affect how we enjoy our homes and neighborhoods. And I've learned it issue by issue, problem by problem, side by side with the good things our elected officials, department heads and committee volunteers strive to accomplish.

Now politically involved myself on a volunteer basis, I must say that I tip my hat to those brave souls who battle to be elected and to govern, many times dealing with the most contentious issues, as well as to those who volunteer their time and expertise to make our communities better places to live.

There are so many complicated questions to be managed on a local level. Property taxes. Road maintenance. Garbage pick-up. Public safety. Protecting our drinking water. Parks and recreational facilities. Are we hemmed in by restrictive codes, or are they



By Bill Primavera

too loose? Do we have a healthy business environment, properly balanced with the suburban lifestyle we all sought by coming to this region?

And what happens when we want to design and construct an addition or a deck? Is the town easy or difficult to navigate in obtaining approvals?

Some of us, perhaps most of us, get involved with town government only when an occurrence affects us personally or just makes us plain angry, while others are involved with the political process from the start.

It might take only one event, small or cataclysmic, that sends a person into the fray of political activism. It can be something as astounding as 9/11, which sent many on a mission to determine whether Indian Point was safe in our midst, to the simple quest of wanting to remove a large tree from one's property.

The structure of local government may vary somewhat, but most are run by a supervisor or mayor, sometimes assisted by a manager and supported by a common council or board.

In my town, the supervisor is elected to a two-year term and the board members, every four years, on a staggered basis, currently with no term limits. There are many departments involved in local government: planning, building, engineering

and sewer, highway, parks and recreation, the clerk's office, the assessor's office, police, comptroller, tax receiver, water, senior housing and services, town attorney and courts, library and, sometimes, a museum.

At the same time, there are many volunteer committees and boards whose expertise and interests are focused on supporting town departments, such as planning, zoning, environment, traffic, architecture review, open space, conservation, ethics, senior services, landmarks and, occasionally, a museum committee, among others. There are also clubs which enhance community living, like garden clubs that plant around town in the spring.

Some voluntary boards carry more weight than others. I happen to serve on my town's Architectural Review Board, and sometimes a disgruntled applicant whose plan has not been received favorably might say, "You have no power." In a sense it's true. We serve only in an advisory capacity, while approval is required from similar committees in nearby towns in order for a project to move forward.

A common complaint is that the process for approval takes too long in some towns, particularly with such issues as zoning. But towns have responded to this criticism by saying that they must exercise due diligence, especially when factoring in the environmental impact of larger projects.

The most common complaint we hear in Westchester and Putnam counties is that we pay too much in taxes. There is a

rush to assign blame to local governments. While our elected officials remind us that it is our school systems and not the towns that take the greatest bite out of our tax bill, the towns nonetheless must take the abuse since it collects taxes on the schools' behalf.

A town's character can depend on the personal style of those citizens who put themselves forward to serve, either through election or volunteerism. And, of course, individual personalities and frailties come into play, which can make any local issue even more interesting.

When I first moved to Yorktown a half-century ago, I was very impressed with one of the town's most beloved citizens, an owner of large commercial properties named Grace Roma (there's the Roma Building downtown). She was at Town Board meetings and work sessions every week without fail. She once told me that she'd much rather be there than at a stage play "because the drama in town beats anything on Broadway!"

Grace had a point, a good one.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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PLA033-3



# They Wanted Pleasantville's Blood – and They Got It!

By Michael Gold

Area residents donated 93 pints of blood, potentially saving 279 lives during the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department Blood Drive at the village's firehouse last Thursday.

The blood drive exceeded the New York Blood Center's (NYBC) goal of 90 donations, said Elizabeth Hernandez, business development manager for the NYBC, which is responsible for donations in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess counties and New York City.

The nonprofit NYBC offers 1,500 blood products daily to 200 area hospitals, in the tristate area, treating patients who have suffered an accident, a burn, have cancer or require blood for any other reason.

"Each donation can save three lives," Hernandez said.

After donation, the blood is divided into three parts. Red blood cells go to accident victims and transplant patients. Platelets are for people who have cancer. Plasma goes to burn victims, Hernandez said.

This is a particularly urgent time for the need for blood in area hospitals, she said. COVID-19 has severely cut donations.

"We used to average 500 blood drives a month," Hernandez said. "Now we're down to about 100. The gap is 8,000 donations a month that are not being captured. We went down to zero blood drives in February 2020. Most of our donating schools, colleges, government agencies and corporations were closed because of COVID. We're down 100,000 donors."

Also, with the summer holidays, "people have cabin fever, and they are leaving" to go on vacation, Hernandez explained. So, donations and the local blood supply drop as people go on holiday.

The need to replenish the blood supply is constant, Hernandez said. Platelets expire after five days, red blood cells expire after 42 days and plasma expires after one year.

"What we need is more donations, sponsors' drives and donated drive space to help supply our area hospitals," Hernandez said.

Donors can give blood safely every 56 days. All blood types are needed, but there is a special need for O negative, O positive, B negative and A negative, the four core blood types, which can be safely transfused to a great portion of the population. O negative is the

universal blood type because it can be safely given to patients with any blood type.

Hernandez credited the Pleasantville Fire Department and its blood drive coordinator with being "extremely professional, generous, methodical and organized."

The Pleasantville Fire Department has sponsored blood drives since 1997. It has generated 1,859 total donations, potentially saving 5,577 lives, according to Hernandez.

A steady stream of donors last Thursday was greeted by volunteers who asked for identification. They were then asked to complete a computerized questionnaire regarding their health.

Everyone wore a face mask. After completing the questionnaire, donors were directed to sit in chairs to wait to get their blood tested to ensure there was enough iron in their blood. A phlebotomist, a person professionally trained to draw blood, jabbed fingers with a sharp stick. She also took everyone's temperature. The room has to be chilly to keep the blood viable.

The phlebotomist said she was taking one pint of blood, about



500 grams. The blood is collected in thick plastic pouches. It takes about another eight minutes to complete a donation.

There were Lorna Doone shortbread cookies and Oreos, as well as apple and cranberry juice, spread out on a table. Blood donors must replenish their fluids, which helps make more blood. Also, the sugar in the cookies and juice helps to keep blood-sugar levels at an optimal level. Donors can also eat a salty snack.

Leaving the site, a volunteer offered a bottle of water. Blood donors should drink at least 32 ounces of water for two days afterward.

It's also important not to drink alcohol or exercise vigorously for the rest of the day after a donation.

For those interested in donating, you can donate at NYBC's locations in Elmsford and Nanuet or the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah. There are three NYBC locations in Manhattan as well. Visit the NYBC website at [www.newyorkbloodcenter.org](http://www.newyorkbloodcenter.org) to find out more, including locations and times.

Hospital patients' needs are great and the NYBC wants to borrow your arm for 20 minutes, at the most. And there's juice and cookies at the end.

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# White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival Set for This Weekend

The White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival (WPOAF) is back for 2021.

Generations of area residents have enjoyed the treasured annual community event

The all-outdoor festival will be held this Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine in Tibbits Park at North Broadway and Main Street in White Plains.

"After the difficulties of the past year and the stress everyone has been under to

balance health and safety with a need for normalcy, being able to safely bring back the arts festival is a great feeling; we are very much looking forward to greeting friends from the community that we have not seen in some time," said organizing committee member Beth Roach.

The organization is in its 59th year and its mission is to host a vibrant and fun cultural event for the community and to support local young artists who want to pursue their



The popular White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival returns this year at Tibbits Park, featuring more than 50 artists. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## P'ville Farmers Market to Host its Next Vaccine Day on Saturday

With a continued focus on the Westchester community, the Pleasantville Farmers Market will once again join with Phelps Hospital and the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps (OVAC) for a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination site this Saturday, June 5.

Free vaccines will be administered to up to 122 people, as well as second doses for any resident who received their first Pfizer dose at the market on May 15. This is the second time Phelps, OVAC and the Pleasantville Farmers Market have collaborated to bring COVID-19 vaccines into the community.

In addition to administering the second dose for residents who received

their first dose on May 15, there are 42 first doses of the Pfizer vaccine (for those 12 and up) and 80 single doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for those 18 and older.

While no appointment is necessary, the vaccine will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no insurance required, but those seeking a vaccine must bring identification to verify age.

The vaccines will be administered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow-up doses of Pfizer will be administered on Saturday, June 26.

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is located on Memorial Plaza.

creative passions by studying visual art in college.

Proceeds from the event, including sponsorships by Jackson Lewis and Nick Wolff and the Wolff Team at Howard Hanna Realty, as well as generous donations from Friends of the WPOAF, generate scholarships awarded to White Plains High School seniors. This year, two scholarships of \$3,500 each were awarded to Nathaniel Fields and Selena Mendoza.

WPOAF is free and is eagerly anticipated by thousands of Westchester residents of all ages. Unique artists of all kinds will set up their arts and fine crafts and visitors will shop at more than 50 booths for beautiful artwork for their homes and purchase one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family.

The festival will feature paintings, photography, drawings and prints, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, glassworks, accessories and many other handcrafted items. In addition, guests of the show can participate in a popular raffle, with items donated by participating artists. Food vendors will also be on hand.

COVID-19 safety precautions will still be observed and all visitors are requested to follow Centers for Disease Control and New York State guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing.

For more information about the White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival, visit [www.whiteplainsoutdoorartsfestival.com](http://www.whiteplainsoutdoorartsfestival.com) or on Facebook at The White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival.

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# Justin Veatch Fund Honors Seven Area HS Students With Scholarships

By Anna Young

The Justin Veatch Fund announced last week it will award music scholarships to seven graduating high school students from five Westchester schools this month.

The recipients, selected from a competitive field of applicants, are Taylor Setterstrom and Jacob Krauss from Somers High School; Richard "Jake" Leis and Noah Crosby Solomon from Pleasantville High School; Lexi Ann from North Salem High School; Mia Williams from Westlake High School; and Julia Levin from The Masters School.

Each year, The Justin Veatch Fund awards music scholarships to graduating high school students who live within a 40-mile radius of Yorktown Heights. The scholarships honor the legacy of Veatch, a Yorktown High School senior who died from an accidental overdose in 2008.

The organization has awarded 55 scholarships to students who plan to pursue music in college since the fund was created in 2009.

"We're thrilled to be able to continue honoring my brother's legacy by celebrating young musicians and helping them offset the costs of pursuing their dreams," board member Elena Veatch said.

## The 2021 Award Recipients

**Lexi Ann** is graduating from North Salem High School and plans to attend Belmont University's Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business to pursue a major in songwriting.

"I know that I've just scratched the surface, waiting to unlock so much potential lyric power underneath," Ann said.

She looks forward to honing her craft and incorporating her vocals, guitar, ukulele, piano and saxophone into a colorful portfolio of original songs.

**Jacob Krauss**, who graduates this month from Somers High School, is a guitarist and singer who has expanded his talents to other instruments and became deeply involved in producing music through collaborations.

After signing up for a music theory class, Krauss became involved with his school's jazz ensemble, concert and chamber choir. He calls himself a music nerd and formed a band with three other friends who held their first live performance just before the COVID-19 shutdown.

Going the virtual route to continue his passion, he organized Quarantine Collab, a YouTube cover series, in which he enlisted other local talent to provide a bright spot in his community.

**Richard ("Jake") Leis** of Pleasantville High School and plans to pursue jazz studies and performance at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music with the goal of becoming a performer and educator. Leis is a baritone saxophone performer who has excelled in the WCSMA All-County Jazz Big Band, the Pleasantville High School Honors Jazz Band and the Lagond Music School.

His introduction to jazz, Latin and funk helped him grow and inspired him to prioritize music in his daily routines.



Lexi Ann is one of seven Westchester high school students who will be continuing their music studies in the fall in college. It was recently announced that they received scholarships from The Justin Veatch Fund.

**Julia Levin** is graduating from the Masters School and plans to attend the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California in the fall. She is a guitarist who thrives on playing live music and collaborating with other musicians, though she is also an accomplished solo artist.

Her honors include winning the Fender X Splice Loop Contest, being a featured artist on Norman's Rare Guitars' YouTube channel and presenting a 2019 TedX talk on the lack of respect for female guitarists.

Levin received numerous honors while attending the Lagond Music School. Her goal is to tour, perform and collaborate with other artists while working behind the scenes supporting others in the music business.

**Taylor Setterstrom** is graduating from Somers High School and will attend SUNY New Paltz. Her primary musical interest is

drums, but she also plays guitar. Setterstrom said she is generally shy and introverted, and music enabled her to make many friends that she would have never made otherwise.

Since she auditioned for the house band at School of Rock in Bedford, Setterstrom became a key team player in developing new techniques and skills, which she has used in community events and fundraisers. Last year, Setterstrom was a winning finalist in her age group in the international competition "Hit Like a Girl" for female drummers.

She said she may pursue music therapy so she can give back to the community while pursuing her passion for work in music.

**Noah Crosby Solomon** is graduating from Pleasantville High School with an eye on performance and music production at Berklee School of Music (and later, a master's degree in music education).

A guitarist, Solomon has excelled in settings such as the Lagond Music School, the Pleasantville High School Honors Jazz Band and the Westchester All-County Jazz Band. He frequently dedicated his lunch period and free periods to talking about music and jazz in the band room. One teacher said Solomon is "a musical truth-seeker, a strong critical thinker, who has humility."

**Mia Williams** is graduating from Westlake High School and plans to pursue jazz and contemporary music with a concentration in voice.

Williams is president and soloist in her high school's select jazz choir, a leading performer in the Westlake Players and the lead singer of West Lake Rock Band. One teacher called Williams "one of the top vocalists and most talented musicians I have had the pleasure of teaching in my 34-year career" while another compared her growth with that of established Broadway vocalists.

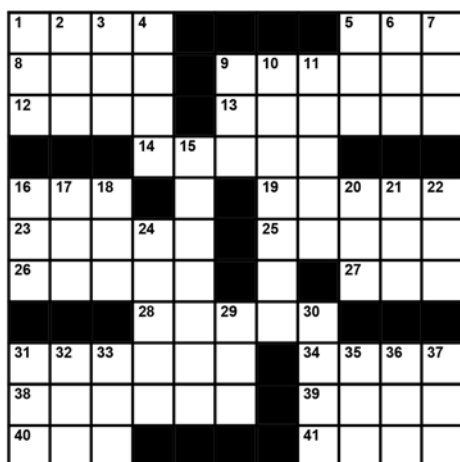
## Crossword

### Across

1. All those in favor
5. Routing word
8. Allude to
9. Film genre
12. Spark
13. Mom or Dad
14. Earlier style back in fashion
16. "Moves like a butterfly, stings like a \_\_\_"
19. Arm joint
23. Undergo a chemical transformation
25. "Breakdown ahead" warning
26. "I do" location
27. Golf equipment
28. Manicurist's concern
31. Feature
34. Loafing
38. Zoo attractions
39. Enter, 2 words
40. Express aloud
41. Listen to

### Down

1. Sorority letter
2. Cleansed
3. \_\_\_ stop shop
4. Military award
5. "C'est la \_\_\_"
6. "Am \_\_\_ the list?" - 2 words
7. Busy insect
9. Pertinent
10. Guarded



11. "The Lord of the Rings" character
15. Excerpt
16. Woman's support
17. Fish often smoked
18. Dine out
20. Move, as an eyelash
21. Refiner's stuff
22. Tiny
24. Walking sticks
29. For what \_\_\_ worth
30. Sound of longing
31. Workout target
32. "Titanic" setting
33. Take care of a bill
35. Forest grazer
36. Not be honest
37. Curtain call time

Answers on page 26

## A Spiritual View

By Fr. Nils Chittenden

A couple of days ago, many Christians celebrated a holy day called Trinity Sunday, which focuses on the core Christian belief that there is one God who has three unique aspects of personhood.

If "aspects of personhood" sounds a bit of a clunky phrase, and not really very clear, that's because, unfortunately, it is clunky and unclear. The problem is in trying to explain something that is, basically, inexplicable.

Let me back up a little. When Christians refer to the Trinity, what they are saying is that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But they're also saying that they believe in one God, not three. Because, you see, all three "persons" are all three at the same time, yet also all only one at the same time.

It's all very confusing. Which is why it's such a difficult concept to try and get our heads around, let alone try to explain in

words, and why the many analogies that churches use to try and explain it – like the three-leaf clover, for instance – tend to break down quite quickly.

Yet, although it might be frustrating not to be able to understand the concept – or to explain it even remotely adequately – there is actually a huge positive side: that God is so far beyond human understanding and reasoning that all we can do is acknowledge this with wonder and awe. Knowing that there is a divine entity so much vaster than us puts everything about our world

and our lives into proper perspective. It also gives us the reassurance that we can still believe in things that seem to defy rational explanation.

Fr. Nils Chittenden is rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Hillside Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.





## Butwhatifits: Who Drives Your Chariot?

*"I have always had the ability to attach my demons to my chariot."*

*Ingmar Bergman*

Butwhatifits.

It's slang for the feeling one gets that despite all the planning and accomplishments, you come to realize you got it all wrong in the end.

One of the advantages of coming to this anxiety-filled realization is that it enables us to become aware of ourselves. Not an easy time for some, especially in our ego-centric world of materialism and consumerism.

What we should consider doing is to accept the notion that the pain of change is milder than the pain of complacency. To achieve this, we will need to rein in our self-discipline and slack surrogate motivations that are merely sense-like emotions, oftentimes fickle. In essence, we do not live until we take control of our self-discipline.

With this said, we should inquire of ourselves as to who is driving our chariot of life. And, have we delegated our destiny to chance and/or apathy?

I will use the analogy of the charioteer as a guide to help bring balance, stability and direction in our lives – in the anticipation it will assist us in regaining control of our reins on life.

Just imagine the chariot as our body, the horses as our driving motive force, our mind as our inner spirit. If we feel and believe we are not finding our essence in life, it may be that we do not rein in our horses with

true direction, but merely let the horses follow a lost crowd and popular culture, delegating our fate to others.

We may do this unconsciously or for the need to be accepted; finding a false sense of security and happiness by being part of a lost thundering herd. If our inner constitution and moral compass is weak and without direction, our senses will slack the reins to allow us to be dragged to our fate, as opposed to having our mind control our self-discipline and hold firm the reins of our destiny.

For it is those who stand for themselves aside the herd of popular culture who seek the essence of life by taking the reins of their chariot to chart their own destiny. We may consider asking ourselves, why am I in a state of despair and feeling alone in the crowd of humanity? We have the power to be ourselves or to delegate our senses to despair.

To quote Socrates, we must first honestly "Know thyself," to be achieved by scrutinizing our motives, intentions and our desires – all of which can easily betray us as we fulfill our actions.

For example, take work, which we need for our sustenance, and for some to rank themselves in the hierarchy of social status. In our goal to keep up with the Joneses



By Richard Cirulli

for bragging rights, we perform work in return for sustenance; a salary functions as a modern-day servitude. This is quite a paradox in that the very means we need to survive and maintain our social standings must be financed at the cost of our own existence in our finite time.

Yet we continue believing we will find our El Dorado. We like to believe that our troubles are due to our environment, and to change

our existence to essence all we need to do is change our environment. We erroneously believe externalizing will help us find our internal peace and essence. Or believing our less-than-perfect environment is the cause of our anxiety. Well, let's test this hypothesis.

Take Adam and Eve. Living in paradise for all eternity with not a worry on their mind. Complete with social distancing, being the only two humans in paradise strutting around au naturel, and never aging. No mortgage, no job, just heavenly bliss, and maybe listening to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers singing "I'm In Heaven."

They also had a subscription to Ted Turner's cable station "Heavenly Classics," paid for with their guardian angel debit card. Then they just got bored, partook of the forbidden fruit. The devil made

me do it! Always looking for a scapegoat. Unfortunately, confessionals had not yet been invented. And within a blink of an eye, they had fallen from paradise to their earthly incarnation, going from fig leaves to face masks and having to social distance with home incarceration. Since they were over 65, they were immediately given their COVID shots. Holy Jehovah!

So now totally bored living with each other, and getting on each other's nerves, and raising Cain – with no restaurant making deliveries of the forbidden fruit. Shuttered from society, with their iPhone, YouTube, Netflix and all their downloaded apps, not to mention credit card debt and working for bosses at a mindless job in cubicle hell.

Then having the epiphany that Old Jehovah was not so bad after all. As they fall into an existential abyss of despair, they begin to sing:

Swing low sweet chariot  
Coming to carry me home  
Swing low sweet chariot  
Coming to take me home

Let's not drive ourselves into a hell of existence by turning over the reins of our life to our weaker emotions to follow a lost crowd only to find ourselves as Butwhatifits.

Be well. Be safe. Be Happy. Be nice. Amor fati!

*Dr. Richard Cirulli is a published author, playwright and retired professor. His body of works can be viewed at [www.demitasseplayers.com](http://www.demitasseplayers.com). He looks forward to your comments, and can be reached at [profcirulli@optonline.net](mailto:profcirulli@optonline.net).*

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*continued on page 24*

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# Westchester Officials Look for a Summer of Fun in 2021

By Martin Wilbur

While the weather was horrendous for the unofficial first weekend of summer, there will be plenty for Westchester County residents to look forward to when Mother Nature does cooperate.

County officials announced last week a list of expanded summer activities, including eight drive-in movies at three locations and four live concerts to go along with the previously planned openings of Westchester beaches at Playland and Croton Point Park and pools and Playland amusement park the last weekend in June.

One of two key restrictions will be the continued closure of Glen Island Beach, which remains a COVID-19 testing center, although the park is accessible to the public for walking and biking. Playland Pool will again be closed this summer as it continues to undergo construction.

A year after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled or curtailed most activities, the plunging active caseload and increased vaccinations have given residents of all ages hope that 2021 will be a far better summer than last year.

"We look forward to a really happy and healthy 2021 season," said county Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

Starting on Friday, June 11 and continuing on alternating Friday nights through September, Screenings Under the Stars returns drive-in style, with five family-friendly movies at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, two at Croton Point Park and one at Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers.

Each car will be charged \$25 through online admission sales in advance only at <https://www.showclix.com/event/screenings-2021>.

Additionally, there will be four weeknight concerts at Croton Point Park and Kensico Dam Plaza between June 29 and July 20 starting at 7 p.m. O'Connor said the county will be selling spaces for pods that can hold up to eight people each for \$10 a person.

Attendees must maintain six feet of space on all sides during the concerts. They will not be allowed to combine designated areas or bring pets. Limited tickets are available now at <https://www.showclix.com/event/wcp-scs21>.

All attendees must show proof of purchase upon entry. For more information, call 914-231-4564.

County Executive George Latimer said when the Parks Department and Parks Foundation scheduled two drive-in movies last summer, there was enthusiastic public response. He said he expects demand to be just as high this summer.

"I think that's reading the marketplace, and there is a clamor for it because people talked to me over the course of the year and said we loved the drive-in movies, can you do more," Latimer said of the decision to expand programming this summer.

While life and activities have been slowly returning to normal, Latimer mentioned that two other popular happenings have been canceled for a second straight summer – the July 3 fireworks display and the weekend ethnic festivals, both at Kensico Dam Plaza.

## The following is the Screenings Under the Stars schedule for this summer:

- June 11: "Pixar's Onward," Kensico Dam Plaza.
- June 25: "Trolls World Tour," Kensico Dam Plaza
- July 9: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," Kensico Dam Plaza
- July 23: "Tom & Jerry," Croton Point Park
- Aug. 6: "Godzilla vs. Kong," Kensico Dam Plaza
- Aug. 20: "Forrest Gump," Kensico Dam Plaza
- Sept. 10: "Pixar's Soul," Croton Point Park

- Sept. 24: Disney's "Mulan," Tibbetts Brook

## The schedule of concerts are:

- Tuesday, June 29: High Noon, Croton Point Park
- Thursday, July 1: Songs in the Attic, a Billy Joel tribute band, Kensico Dam Plaza
- Tuesday, July 13: Back to the Garden
- Tuesday, July 20: The Nerds, Kensico Dam Plaza

The county has also scheduled the Naturally Essential Challenge, which encourages residents to visit all Westchester parks through October. To enter the challenge, park-goers will log visits by

scanning QR codes on posters at each facility to be entered for a chance to win a \$50 Westchester County Parks gift card.

The challenge is accessible at all Westchester County parks facilities that are open to the public. At this time, it does not include the County Center in White Plains, which is currently a COVID-19 vaccination site, and the Miller House in North White Plains. The Miller House is closed to the public for safety purposes.

For more information about the Naturally Essential Challenge, visit <https://parks.westchestergov.com/203-highlights/3024-take-the-naturally-essential-challenge>.

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The Board of Trustees of the **Village of Pleasantville** will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 14, 2021, 8:00pm via Zoom

id: 980 7284 3245 and Passcode: 650072 to hear comments on proposed amendments to Village Code chapter 98 concerning fees for building permit renewals.

Eric Morrissey  
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## How to Make Sure Aging Parents Are Never Taken Advantage Of

There is a moment, as a parent, when you become instantly aware that you are no longer looking down to make eye contact with your child. Your child's power and strength are growing while yours is slowly ebbing (hopefully very slowly).

Growing up is a time of expanding horizons and finetuning your understanding of the world. Aging is not always an opposite force. In many ways, aging offers a different but still compelling view of the world.

But sharpness, technological proficiency and skepticism may fade over time. Predators, both strangers and unscrupulous family members, may try to take advantage of those who are unable to process activities like they used to.

The first step is identifying what needs protection. Your parents' assets may include a home, checking and savings accounts, life insurance, retirement accounts, cars and personal property.

Different generations sharing their financial history is not always

a smooth process, but a parent who implicitly trusts an adult child should make the effort. Powers of attorney allow a chosen agent to have access to financial accounts, make payments and handle a variety of financial matters. This is a valuable first step to ensure basic oversight.

An adult child must be aware of the people that their parents interact with on a regular basis. We are not talking about hassling their neighbor who stops by with sourdough bread (although we will keep an eye on the loaf). Strangers offering a pricey service that your parents do not need should raise concerns. Having a checkbook is one form of independence that should not be affected without a serious discussion between parents and adult children.

The question is, do you wait for that first scam payment before you step in or not? Account holds initiated by banks overseeing the holdings of vulnerable adults previously victimized is a legislative action item in New York. Institutional controls

may make sense in the absence of responsible family members, but the fear of overreach is always present.

With phone and online scams specifically targeting seniors, adult children who are caregivers and also agents under a power of attorney should try to set up alerts with the bank notifying them of all transactions that exceed a certain amount.

When the concern rests within one's own family other issues arise. Sometimes a parent may choose the least suitable family member to become an agent under a power of attorney. Having multiple co-agents acting together under a power of attorney may make sense to avert problems down the line.

In many cases, the family member with questionable attitudes may be the sole agent and fail to provide



By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

information to the rest of the children. Banking records are supposed to be confidential, but real property deeds are public records. An unscrupulous adult child may try to transfer the parent's home to themselves. Checking the county clerk land records may not prevent the transfer, but if discovered quickly it may allow for an

expedient legal response and avoid a surprise years later.

The best way to protect aging parents is to be involved, speak regularly and understand the legal protections available to your family.

*Alan D. Feller, Esq. is managing partner of Sloan & Feller Attorneys at Law, located at 625 Route 6 in Mahopac. He can be reached at [alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com](mailto:alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com).*

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EOE



# The Belmont Will Be the Very Best of the Triple Crown

By Charles Palombini

Yes, the Triple Crown series comes to an end this Saturday at Belmont Park. This year there will be no opportunity for a Triple Crown champion. That fell by the wayside when Medina Spirit was beaten in the Preakness by a non-Kentucky Derby starter named Rombauer.

So, each of the first two Triple Crown races gave us a different winner leaving us with a Belmont that will lack the excitement of a Triple Crown quest. But don't be fooled as this will be the best of the three races loaded with some really talented horses.

Will there be a third winner after the Belmont Stakes? Most certainly, yes.

First, it looks as if Derby winner Medina Spirit won't run in the Belmont as his connections are still dealing with the complications of their tainted Kentucky Derby victory. Preakness winner Rombauer is running in the Belmont but is destined to meet much tougher competition than the field he faced in Baltimore.

But let's not have that detract from the excitement of the day. The glamour of Derby Day hats is displaced by Armani suits, and the Baltimore beer fest gives way to Champagne and martinis at perhaps the greatest racetrack in the world – beautiful Belmont Park.

The Belmont Stakes is known as The Test of the Champion, and is the oldest of the three American classic races, having

first been run in 1867. It is traditionally the last and longest leg of the Triple Crown. Its place as the final leg of the Triple Crown has produced indelible memories, such as Secretariat's 31-length victory in 1973 to become the first horse to sweep the series in 25 years, widely considered the greatest single performance in the history of the sport.

In 2015, American Pharoah rocked the stands at Belmont Park when he ended an even longer Triple Crown drought, becoming the first winner of the series in 37 years. And just three years later, a horse named Justify added his name to the elite list of 13 to win all three legs.

So, let's look at the probable starters. (The actual draw is scheduled to take place on Tuesday.)

**Essential Quality:** The odds-on favorite in the Kentucky Derby, he went to the Derby with four Grade I stakes victories but somehow got lost in the mix of the race. A fourth-place finish was disappointing, and his connections decided to skip the Preakness.

**Hot Rod Charlie:** Another Derby starter to skip the Preakness, even after finishing a competitive third in Louisville. He won the Louisiana Derby and sported a second-place finish in last fall's Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

**Rombauer:** The talented Preakness winner did not run in the Derby. So, the question is, will he be able to contend with much stronger competition than he faced in Baltimore?

**Rock Your World:** He didn't rock anybody's world with his 17th-place finish in the Kentucky Derby. But he is surely more talented than that showing. He had three wins in three starts before the Derby and hopes to regain that form. Another runner that opted to skip the Preakness, he represents yet another new challenger for Rombauer.

**Known Agenda:** The Florida Derby winner never really got untracked in the crowded Derby field and finished a disappointing ninth. Yup, you got it, another who skipped the Preakness in favor of the Belmont.

**Rebel's Romance:** Here is one of the most talented horses in the field – and he skipped both the Derby and Preakness. But don't sell him short; he was the winner of the United Arab Emirates Derby in Meydan. That is one of the most competitive and richest races in the world – and he won handily. He's rested and now comes to claim the Belmont crown.

**Promise Keeper:** A mystery entry from Todd Pletcher. He impressively won the Peter Pan, a prep race for the Belmont, which was run over the Belmont surface, but that five-horse field was not a particularly fast or competitive race. He is lightly raced and eligible to show improvement.

**Keepmeinmind:** Ran a good fourth in the Preakness, which leaves us to guess just how good he could be. I'll guess – oink, oink.

**Brooklyn Strong:** He may carry Brooklyn

in his name, but he sure ain't as good as the Nets! Yet another who was absent from the Preakness after a dismal 15th-place showing in Kentucky.

**Bourbonic:** Thirteenth in the Derby, his connections also decided to skip the trip to Baltimore. He did win the Wood Memorial, but that was a weak race run in very slow time. Represents wishful thinking by the owner.

**France Go de Ina:** A horse from Japan that hopes to compete on American soil. I guess he gets his inspiration from the auto industry. But he's no Lexus, and he's not competing against your father's Oldsmobile.

**Overtook:** A horse that seemingly doesn't belong. He finished behind Promise Keeper in the Peter Pan and didn't look particularly good in that small field. But he is sired by Curlin and trained by Todd Pletcher, and that gives him some credibility. Not much, but some.

### The Pick

Yes, I know, why even bother. I threw out Medina Spirit in the Derby, and my Preakness pick was nowhere to be found. But here we go again.

I just can't get away from Essential Quality as the class of the field. I will key him ahead of Rebel's Romance, Hot Rod Charlie and Promise Keeper.

Enjoy the race!

*Charles Palombini is a Cortlandt resident and an owner of thoroughbred horses.*

# Tips for a Safer, More Enjoyable Summer at the Pool

Pools are great for play, exercise and therapy. However, it is critical that while enjoying ourselves, we take appropriate safety precautions.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 275 children nationwide under the age of five drown in swimming pools annually, and more than 4,100 children receive medical treatment for pool-related accidents, the majority of which occur in backyard pools. Luckily, building codes and standards can help.

"Building codes are life savers, and as the leading building codes and standards developer, we are accounting for every facet of the home, which includes specific provisions to make pools and spas safer," said Dominic Sims, CEO of the International Code Council.

To drive the importance of water safety home and ensure individuals are having safe pool fun, the Code Council shares the following tips.

- Install fences and protective gates. To ensure the pool area is inaccessible to unauthorized swimmers and children when there is no supervisor, install a fence at least four feet high around pool and spa areas with a self-closing, self-latching gate or door. Move all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects away from the perimeter that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable someone to climb over the fence.
- Keep safety devices nearby. Always keep basic lifesaving equipment handy (pole, rope and personal flotation devices) and know how to use them. These aids should be kept on both sides of the pool and should remain stationary – not be misplaced through play activities.



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- Install alarms. Install alarms on all doors and windows to detect unauthorized access from the home into the pool area. You can also install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it is not a substitute for the barrier fences, door and window alarms or safety covers.
- Remember safety covers: Install an approved safety cover on any pool. For the safety of all individuals, do not allow anyone to stand or play on it.
- Be code-compliant with drain covers and grates. To help identify compliance with current standards, all pool and hot tub drains must have a cover or grate

- marked with the appropriate product marking, including the service life in years and an information label that is provided to the pool owner. Not having a compliant cover could result in some part of a swimmer's body being entrapped in the drain – a dangerous situation that could result in injury or drowning. If a cover is broken, missing or noncompliant, the pool should be closed immediately and a replacement should be performed by pool professionals.
- Ensure an existing pool has safe suction outlets. Pools and spas with a single drain – other than an unblockable outlet – must have a certified blockable suction outlet and one of the following: a safety vacuum

release system; a suction-limiting vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with industry standards.

- Secure the proper permits for a pool installation/ If you're installing a pool, it will be important to contact your local building department first to determine what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.
- "With warm weather here and families spending more time at home, a pool offers hours of fun for everyone," Sims said. "In addition to adult supervision, safety code compliance helps ensure a safer, more enjoyable pool experience."
- For more building safety resources, visit [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).
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## Crossword Answers

1	P	2	R	3	O	4	S				5	V	6	I	7	A
8	H	I	N	T				9	A	10	C	11	T	I	O	N
12	I	D	E	A				13	P	A	R	E	N	T		
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16	B	E	E			X			19	E	L	B	O	W		
23	R	E	A	C	T				25	F	L	A	R	E		
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					28	N	A	I		30	L	S				
31	A	32	S	33	P	E	C	T		34	I	D	35	36	37	E
38	B	E	A	S	T	S				39	G	O	I	N		
40	S	A	Y							41	H	E	E	D		



# Evolution of American Winemaking By Way of a Glass of Zinfandel



By Nick Antonaccio

Over the weekend, I was enjoying a glass of Zinfandel for the first time in a long time. I began to contemplate an element of Zinfandel other than its terroir and unique flavor profile – its place in the grand scheme of America's winemaking history.

My thought process was triggered by the words "100-year-old vines" on the label.

This unique attribute applies to Zinfandel as a reflection of several factors that tell the broader tale of the evolution of American winemaking. This history is not limited to winemakers' ambitions or wine drinkers' preferences. Rather, it is mainly influenced by several notable social and political factors.

In 1919, the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, due to the significant influence of the lobbying efforts of the Temperance Movement in the United States. This amendment made it a federal crime to manufacture, sell, transport, import or export "intoxicating liquors," thus ushering in the Prohibition Era.

For 14 long, dark years in the social and political history of our country, the very fabric of our society was torn and strained. Americans could produce their own homemade wines (limited to 200 gallons a year) and they were able to consume wine at their religious services, but that is where the federal government drew the line.

We all know what transpired during those years. Wineries were driven out of business; terms like moonshine, bootleg and speakeasy were popularized; organized crime grew and profited in the black market; acts of crime grew at historic rates; and police corruption was rampant.

Most of the history of the era centers on distilled spirits, but there was a profound effect on the wine industry as well. Here is a short analysis of the state of the American wine industry before, during and after Prohibition.

Before Prohibition. There were more than 2,500 commercial wineries across America. Americans' preference

was for inexpensive, easy to drink, high-alcohol wine. Most of the wine produced was fortified and sweet. Italian immigrants found their way West in the late 1800s and planted Zinfandel, primarily for personal consumption. Grapes such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot were not popular (hence the exclusivity of

the 100-years-plus Zinfandel vines still growing).

During Prohibition. Wineries were decimated; only 100 survived. Demand for wine increased 100 percent. New religious orders sprang up every day in unconventional venues, "nourishing" the needs of their flocks. The demand for permitted "religious wines" increased by 800,000 gallons in the first two years of Prohibition. The Italian immigrant winemakers who survived during this period continued to produce Zinfandels for their "family" consumption.

Post-Prohibition. States assumed responsibility for alcohol-control legislation. "Dry" states and localities continued to proliferate. It wasn't until 1966 that the last dry state, Mississippi, legalized alcohol sales; vestiges of local laws exist to this day. The wine industry began a slow and laborious comeback.

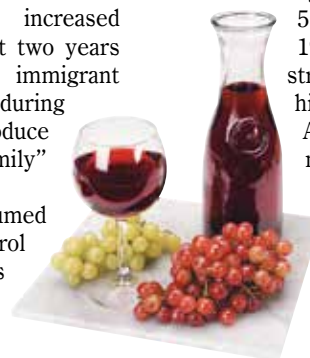
1. As American preferences changed, varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay were planted. These varietals dominate wine production today.
2. In the 1960s, jug wines came into vogue; entrepreneurs with labels like Gallo, Almaden and Paul Masson began to thrive.
3. In the 1970s, dedicated winemakers began to produce world-class wines.

In 1976, American wines won a competition against the finest French Bordeaux wines.

4. By the late 1980s, American winemakers enhanced their techniques for growing grapes and producing wines. The United States became a highly respected wine nation.
5. In the mid- to late 1990s, Zinfandel made a strong comeback, becoming a highly regarded and uniquely American wine in the world marketplace.

Despite efforts to destroy the wine industry less than 100 years ago, the industry has risen from the ashes as a testament to the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of our young nation. Thankfully, today I can raise my glass of old-vine Zin in honor of those citizens who have toiled before us.

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



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Carmel | WEB# PE2843032 | \$325,000



## 627 Fox Run Lane

1 BEDS • 1 BATHS • 706 SF  
Carmel | WEB# PE2836432 | \$129,000



## 260 Doansburg Road

4 BEDS • 3 BATHS • 2,528 SF • 1.15 ACRES  
Brewster | WEB# PE2839282 | \$549,000