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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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## Carmel Voters Reject School Budget for Second Time

By Abby Luby

Carmel Central School District voters last week defeated a scaled-down budget for the 2021-22 school year, the second time within a month residents rejected the district's spending plan.

Final tallies showed that the budget proposition failed 1,755-1,397. Turnout increased by 731 voters for the revote after the original budget was defeated on May 18.

The second defeat forces the district to operate on a contingency budget of about \$131 million next year with no increase in property tax levy. District officials must now find another \$591,566 in reductions.

After the original \$133 million budget was defeated, more than \$1 million in spending was cut for last week's revote, with a reduction in spending on facility improvements and computer equipment. Two buses were proposed to be removed from the replacement cycle of the district's fleet and there would have been expenditure reductions for curriculum work, travel, conferences unrelated to federal grants and a 10 percent cut on all supplies.

The revised budget would have kept vacant seven teacher assistant positions, one secondary-level art teacher, an elementary

school teacher and one office assistant at the district office. The employees that are in those current positions are retiring.

Carmel was one of the five New York State school districts that rejected the first budget. Carmel is now one of two districts in the state to have voted down a second budget. The Three Village School District on Long Island was the other.

Superintendent Mary-Margaret Zehr issued a statement on the Carmel website following the second budget defeat.

"We are disappointed that the revised 2021-2022 budget proposal was not approved by our community," the statement read. "While the outcome is not what we wanted, we respect the voters' decision and will prepare our 2021-2022 school year accordingly."

Zehr added that the Board of Education is forced to adopt a contingency budget for next year. The contingency budget must honor all contracts, include all state-mandated expenses and educational programs, ensure the health and safety of students and staff and the preservation of district property.

District Communications Specialist Suzanne Kaminkow had little information to add regarding what further cuts may be made for the contingency budget.



## Look of a Champion

After going 19-1 and winning the first Section 1 Class AA title in school history, members of the Mahopac softball team – Lauren Zecca, Ela Riccobono, Ashley Usewicz, Gabby Marino, Ava Lichtenberger, Gianna Lafaro, Ally Wanner, Mia Lanter, Michelle DellaMura and Shannon Becker – were honored last Friday night at Palisades Credit Union Park in Pomona, home of the Frontier League New York Boulders.

## Putnam County Legislators Spar Over Sheriff's Issues

By Abby Luby

Members of two Putnam County Legislature committees clamped down on the Sheriff's Department last week on a pair of contentious issues.

The Protective Services Committee announced the county will get rid of its two marine patrol boats stemming from the legislature having eliminated funding for the service in 2021 budget.

The other issue, pursued by the Rules Committee, concerned the impact on the county workers compensation fund should a moonlighting deputy get injured while working security or traffic control for private companies.

Last November, the legislature cut the Marine Patrol out of the current year's budget. Two boats had navigated Lake Mahopac and the Hudson River.

Protective Services Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) said the budget process clearly determined that the lake and the river were adequately patrolled.

"The Town of Carmel added funding to their budget and assured us they are adequately covered for the boating season," she said.

Nacerino added that multiple agencies patrol the Hudson River including the state police, the Coast Guard and numerous volunteer agencies. She said the sheriff's marine patrol on both water bodies was an unnecessary duplication of services.

Despite the cuts, the Sheriff's Department submitted budget requests for tune-ups for the boats, a move which Nacerino described as an act of blatant defiance.

"Those requests were ultimately denied," Nacerino said. "It was our hope and expectation that there would be respect and cooperation from the Sheriff's Department."

The two boats in question are a Boston Whaler for Lake Mahopac, a 21-foot vessel built in 1988 and acquired by the county in 2018 with the ability to search in the dark and handle water emergencies, and the 24-foot Boston Whaler Enforcer for the Hudson, which was acquired in 2013.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell wrote a letter last Thursday to county executives in Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess and Orange about their marine patrol units on the Hudson.

County Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown), the board's only Democrat, responded that the committee neglected to

include her letter to Odell in the meeting's packet of documents even though she requested it. Montgomery read her letter to Odell asking for documentation of mutual aid agreements with the neighboring counties and the Coast Guard.

"As it was your initiative and the eight members of the legislature who voted to defund the Putnam County Sheriff's Marine Unit, I being the 'no' vote, I am assuming that your office has established mutual aid programs with Rockland, Westchester, Dutchess and Orange counties, as well as the United States Coast Guard, prior to defunding the Putnam County marine patrol unit on the Hudson," Montgomery said.

"We really never saw the hard data about response and calls from those that are dispatched on the river," she added.

"We're not here to go backwards and debate the issue at hand," Nacerino responded.

She reiterated that Odell requested both vessels be returned and the marine licenses terminated. The state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which originally provided the boats, is scheduled to pick up the vessels on July 1. All county equipment shall be removed and that the

state-owned equipment and accessories be turned over to the state.

### Police Moonlighting a High Risk

The Committee on Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations raised the issue of sheriff's deputies moonlighting for private businesses.

Committee Chairman Neal Sullivan (R-Carmel) framed the topic as a "discussion of interest." Putnam County Risk Manager Mat Bruno, who addressed lawmakers, said if a deputy is allowed to work on traffic control for a private company and becomes injured, the county is liable.

"If the injury is substantial, the county has to pay out significant expenses for medical treatment," Bruno told the committee. "County reimbursements from workers compensation do not kick in until \$1.5 million in claims are filed. Until then, the county is on the hook for all that money which comes out of taxpayers' pockets. I recommend the county not engage in the private traffic control business."

Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) suggested traffic control monitored by the Sheriff's Department is a better scenario than having lay people do it.

# Mahopac Relay for Life Raises Over \$100,000



More than \$100,000 was raised two weeks ago at the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life event in Mahopac.

# Mekeel's Corner Chapel Site Independence Day Celebration

In keeping with a longstanding tradition, Mekeel's Corners Chapel will offer an Independence Day celebration for the community on July 4 at noon. It is a rain-or-shine event.

The Mekeel's Chapel is planning to host this program as an outdoor celebration, with a maximum of 50 people. Free pre-registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mekeels-independence-day-celebration-tickets-157845641563>.

The program will include musicians leading attendees in the singing of patriotic songs and hymns. There will also be a reading of select passages from our nation's most important founding documents.

The historic Mekeel's Corners Chapel, located at the intersection of Route 9 and Route 301 in Cold Spring, was built in 1867 and was originally called the Union Chapel.

In the mid-19th century, this area of Putnam County was called Griffin's Corners and the crossroads were known as the Post Road and Carmel Road. The hamlet was comprised of a small cluster of buildings including Griffin's Hotel, a school and a blacksmith's shop.

By the 1870s, the name of this small community had been changed to Mekeel's Corners on Reed's Putnam County map. The construction of the chapel began in September 1867 and it took three months to build. It was dedicated in January 1868. It is not clear when the chapel assumed the Mekeel's Corners Chapel name but it was likely sometime in the 1870s.

In a small way Mekeel's Corners Chapel's annual Independence Day celebration is a wonderful reminder of our community's past and the founding of our great nation.

# Carmel Voters Reject School Budget for Second Time

*continued from page 1*

"At this time, we don't have any additional information available to share," Kaminkow said. "We anticipate that we will have more information on the plans for the 2021-2022 school year with the adopted contingency budget in place in the upcoming weeks."

Some residents have pointed to rising tensions in the district as a reason behind the back-to-back budget defeats. A week before the revote, a parent made national headlines condemning the district for teaching critical race theory.

Tatiyana Ibrahim denounced the district

for "emotionally abusing" students, claiming that critical race theory espoused communist values. Others have joined her protests, accusing Carmel educators of promoting Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ and anti-police ideologies.

After Ibrahim's statement went viral, some residents voiced strong opposition to critical race theory under the assumption it was already being taught in the schools. Board of Education President Michelle Yorio said in her opening statement two weeks ago that critical race theory is not part of the school curriculum.

# Putnam County Legislators Spar Over Sheriff's Issues

*continued from page 1*

"If a business could hire them for an hourly rate and cover them on their workers compensation, then there is no liability connection with the county," Albano said.

"I don't see why it has to be under our blanket and our workers compensation."

Bruno mentioned that if deputies moonlight on their own and get injured they can't file for workers compensation if they're not in the line of duty."

Montgomery asked about the impact at county facilities such as Tilly Foster Farm, which uses the Sheriff's Department for crowd and traffic control.

"The Cold Spring fireworks alerts the sheriff as do vaccination sites that are private organizations and law enforcement provides

control," she said. "I'm curious, how do we avoid doing it in the case of public safety that's a liability that we have to take on?"

Nacerino said there are many private organizations that include retired police officers trained in traffic control to take on those types of jobs.

Albano asked about a moonlighting deputy using equipment provided by the county.

"If something happens that's criminal, they have to act and that comes back to us anyway," he said. "Maybe Putnam County shouldn't be involved. It's a very grey area where I don't think we can completely eliminate ourselves from the liability work on the side. Ultimately the decision rests with the county executive."

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# As Summer Begins, State Celebrates Surpassing 70% Vaccination Level

By Martin Wilbur

New York reached the targeted 70 percent vaccination rate for adults 18 years old and up last week as the state continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo congratulated New Yorkers when the state officially crossed the threshold last Tuesday. The milestone was set by health officials as the target to lift most restrictions that had been in place for the past 15 months.

“What New York has done is extraordinary,” Cuomo said. “Not only do we have the lowest COVID positivity rate in the United States of America, we have hit 70 percent vaccination ahead of schedule. We successfully deployed the weapon that will win the war, and New York led the nation.”

With the removal of the state’s minimum standard for reopening, businesses may choose to lift all or some restrictions, continue to adhere to the state’s archived guidance or implement other health precautions for their employees and patrons.

Any mask requirements that businesses choose to implement must adhere to applicable federal and state laws and regulations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

By Monday, New York reached 71 percent of adults who have received at least one dose and 63.2 percent of adults 18 and over have completed the series, according to the state’s vaccine tracker.

The reopening coincides with a continued plummeting of the state, regional and county positivity rates. On Saturday, the state reported a 0.29 percent daily positivity rate with 258 positives from 88,294 tests.

That rate ticked up to 0.43 on Sunday, but the seven-day rolling average fell to 0.37 percent.

Locally, there were minimal positive cases reported on Sunday, according to the state’s tracker. Westchester County had just six positive cases from 3,035 tests and Putnam County had zero positive tests reported in 274 tests. Two other counties in the Mid Hudson region, Rockland and Ulster County, also had zero positive cases on Sunday and no county in the region had as many as 10.

Strong enough progress has been made

that Cuomo announced Monday that the state will hold Independence Day fireworks shows at Jones Beach on Long Island and Empire State Plaza in Albany.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said with the state scheduling fireworks for July 4, the county may also consider presenting its own program at Playland sometime this summer.

Playland and the four county pools are on target to open this weekend as Latimer reported that Westchester has one of the highest vaccination rates in the state. Using the recent Health Department standard of measuring all adults at least 18

years old receiving one shot, the county’s vaccination rate is 75.8 percent.

In the downstate region, only Queens (74 percent), Ulster County (72 percent) and Suffolk County (71 percent) have recorded vaccination rates of at least 70 percent. Sullivan County is at 58 percent, the Bronx 59 percent and Putnam and Orange each at 61 percent.

“We’re proud of what’s happened here,” Latimer said. “Obviously, it’s important for it to happen everywhere.”

As of Sunday, active cases in Westchester had fallen to 243 cases with only 18 hospitalizations. By contrast, a

month ago there were just over three times the number of active cases (782). Since the start of the pandemic there have been 2,291 coronavirus fatalities in Westchester.

Even better news, through Sunday Westchester had seen six consecutive days without a COVID-19-related fatality, the first time that has happened since the earliest days of the pandemic, Latimer said.

“Let’s hope we have another day and another day followed by another, so that fatality numbers stay static at the level things are at now,” he said.

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# P'ville Amends Regulations to Avoid Oversized Houses

By Abby Luby

Last year, when a new house was under construction on Pleasantville's Ashland Avenue, neighbors noticed its enormity.

Residents on the street voiced their concerns that the new three-story structure, which has a 3,809-square-foot footprint with a half-finished basement and attic, was out of place in a neighborhood where the total

square footage of homes typically measure 3,000 to 5,000 square feet.

The village and zoning boards examined regulations requiring variances and hired a consultant to review and propose new codes that limit the size of new homes and update stipulations.

Last week, the Village Board unanimously approved an amendment to the code that uses a sliding scale regulation for floor-area ratio. The new amendment is aimed at limiting the size of new homes and some additions to existing homes, especially those on large lots within the village's single-family zoning districts. Pleasantville already uses floor-area ratio for two-family residences and the residence/professional office and business industrial districts.

After the Village Board voted to accept the revision, Mayor Peter Scherer responded to a question about the house being built on Ashland Avenue.

"That house, were it to be proposed under this code, would not be as big," Scherer said. "That's one of the reasons this issue came to the fore."

Floor-area ratio calculates total floor area to lot size. For example, on a 7,500-square-foot lot, the former allowable building footprint is 1,500 square feet, which means a two-story home could be as large as 3,000 square feet, excluding attic or basement space.

Under the revised calculations, a home of 3,525 square feet would be permitted on that lot size. This would result in 525 square feet

of additional allowable floor space that may only be used in a finished attic or finished basement.

More than 300 existing parcels in Pleasantville range from 7,500 to 11,000 square feet and could be impacted by the updated regulation. The amendment excludes homes on lots of less than 7,500 square feet, which affects 236 parcels in Pleasantville.

About 220 lots measure at least 22,000 square feet, which would allow a house footprint of up to 4,400 square feet with a total floor area of 5,500 square feet.

Builders using the total footprint could only add 1,400 square feet of additional flooring, which might result in uneven floors.

For new homes, an attic that is deemed habitable is included in floor-area calculations. But existing habitable attics are excluded from the calculation, allowing homeowners to use that space without adding to floor area.

Included in the floor-area calculations are finished basements that have a story partly underground with at least half of its height above grade and used for storage or maintenance. An interior space with ceilings as high as 12 feet will be counted at 1.5 times in calculating floor-area ratio.

Not included in the calculations are cellars partly underground, basements used for storage, areas for accessory off-street parking, open roof-covered porches, crawl spaces, unenclosed attached decks and porches or breezeways.



## Spreading Something Positive

Congratulations to fifth-grade Girl Scout Troop 1238, all students at Pleasantville Middle School, for recently completing their Bronze Award. The girls dedicated more than 20 hours to their project theme of "spreading positivity." They created signs with messages of hope that have been on display in front of the Girl Scout building in Pleasantville for the community to see and painted rocks with a Daisy troop and seniors at the Clinton Street Center, spreading positivity across all generations. Pictured, left to right, are Mila Valente, Cecilia Verminski, Sabrina Busch, Cammie Pattinson, Sophia LaPunzina, Bonnie Garcia and Lexie Boyce.

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# Million Air Sues W'chester for \$30M for Delay in Airport Hangar Approval

By Martin Wilbur

A private aviation company with operations at Westchester County Airport filed a federal lawsuit last week contending that the county breached its lease which has prevented the construction of a second hangar.

The Houston-based Million Air, a fixed-base operator, is seeking damages of more than \$30 million because the county failed to honor the lease that was signed in 2016, according to the suit. It was to have allowed the firm to build a state-of-the-art eco-friendly hangar to house additional private aircraft at the airport.

"We were about to build the second hangar and that's when the county pulled out the rug from beneath them," said Russell Yankwitt, one of the lead attorneys representing Million Air. "The county has provided inconsistent reasons why they can't build a second hangar, none of them based in fact."

Yankwitt said his clients are looking for an expedited declarative judgment from Federal District Court Judge Vincent Briccetti, who has been assigned to the case, to allow Million Air to build the second hangar. It is also seeking damages in the amount of \$175,000 a week since November 2017, the time that it submitted plans under terms of the lease to build a modified hangar. Therefore, damages currently amount to more than \$30 million, and Yankwitt expects that figure to go



Million Air's existing hangar at Westchester County Airport. The firm was to have started construction on a second hangar more than three years ago but has been blocked by the county, leading to last week's \$30 million lawsuit.

higher.

The damages are a result of lost revenue because of the company's inability to rent the hangar space for aircraft, the rental of office space that would be part of the facility and the sale of fuel, Yankwitt said.

One of the concerns the county has raised about the second hangar is that it would increase noise by adding to the number of private aviation flights landing and departing at the airport, he said. However, by having the additional facility, Yankwitt

argued that more planes would be stored at the airport eliminating the need for "ferry flights" that arrive and depart with just a pilot so the aircraft can be stored at other locations.

He estimated that the hangar would decrease the number of total flights into and out of Westchester County Airport each year by more than 1,000.

The timeline for damages outlined by Million Air in last week's suit roughly coincided with the sharp increase in noise

levels generated by aircraft reported by some of the airport's surrounding communities. County officials have been besieged with complaints from New Castle and Rye Brook, which is south of the airport, with some complaints sprinkled in from Mount Pleasant and Pleasantville.

Last week, The Examiner reached out to the offices of the county attorney and county executive and was told by the latter that there would be no comments on pending litigation.

The lease, which was negotiated under former county executive Rob Astorino's administration, allowed for major improvements to Million Air's facilities at the airport. During the first phase of improvements, Million Air constructed a new 50,000-square-foot hangar and a modern passenger services terminal, which opened in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Yankwitt said Million Air did everything that was asked of it by the county under the terms of the lease but the county has exercised "bad faith" by refusing to let them move forward with hangar construction.

He said Million Air CEO Roger Woolsey did not want to sue the county but was left with no choice.

"I look forward to the opportunity to depose the officials and try and have them come forth with reasons, which I don't believe they will be able to proffer," Yankwitt said. "What I can tell you is the noise will decrease if a second hangar is built."

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# Peekskill's Fleischmann House Added to National Register of Historic Places

Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently announced the nomination of the historic residence known as the Fleischmann House in Peekskill to the National Register of Historic Places.

The register is part of a federal program authorized by Congress to identify and evaluate structures of architectural and historical significance. To be considered, a property in New York must first be placed on the state Register of Historic Places; only then can it be nominated to the National Register. Nominations must meet rigorous documentation requirements and are accompanied by extensive research that is reviewed by the New York State Board of

Historic Preservation.

"The nominations reflect the state's commitment to supporting the incredible range of history present across New York," said Erik Kulleseid, commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. "Securing recognition for such places will help keep this history alive."

The Fleischmann House was designed by Chester Patterson and built in 1927 for Gustav and Marion Fleischmann. Patterson was a nationally prominent architect whose design style was tied to the Colonial Revival movement. A number of his designs have been entered into the National Register of

Historic Places, including Soundview Manor in White Plains.

As the house's original owner, Gustav Fleischmann, served as executive vice president and general manager of the Fleischmann Company's sprawling manufacturing and distilling plant in Peekskill from 1920 to 1953. Founded in the 1870s by his uncles, Charles and Maximilian, the Fleischmann Company produced much of the nation's yeast, and marketed "America's First Gin." commercialized a variety of fermentation processes.

The company's Peekskill plant was once the largest yeast and distilling factory in the world. It consisted of 125 buildings

connected by an internal railroad that was spread across 65 acres on the shores of the Hudson River. It employed thousands of area residents in a wide range of positions. Peekskill's future mayor and governor of New York, George Pataki, spent summers during his youth working the factory's midnight shift.

"Gustav Fleischmann was not only an industry leader, he made a number of contributions to the community," said Michael Stewart, who now owns the Fleischmann House with his husband, John Perrone. "He served on the board of Peekskill Hospital, which is now NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley."

Most of the Fleischmann plant's buildings were razed in 1977, when the company moved its operations to Baltimore. Yet, the Fleischmann House still stands on a hillside overlooking the Hudson River, where the company's operations once dominated the landscape. The house is one of the last visible reminders of the important role that the Fleischmann family and its company played in Peekskill's history.

That history is still remembered by local residents, who attended a weekend celebration of the company's 150th anniversary in 2019 that was sponsored by the Peekskill Museum. The weekend's festivities included a museum exhibit, lectures on the history of the Fleischmann Company, slide presentations and the display of archival photographs.

For more information on the Fleischmann House, visit [www.fleischmannhouse.com](http://www.fleischmannhouse.com).

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## Westchester Parks Foundation to Host Barre Class Series

The Westchester Parks Foundation is joining forces with Xtend Barre and two NewYork-Presbyterian hospitals to launch a new summer workout series in called "Fit in the Park."

The series will kick off this Wednesday, June 23 at 5:45 p.m. at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson. The free outdoor barre workout classes are open to any level of fitness and take place the next several months at Croton Point Park and Glen Island Park in New Rochelle.

"With so many people working from home the past year, we decided to continue our fitness offerings in the park with a super-energizing workout that is great for everyone at all fitness levels," said Christine LaPorta, deputy director of the Westchester Parks Foundation. "We are thrilled to team up with Xtend Barre to bring their popular workouts to popular parks in Westchester County so all residents can de-stress, re-focus and recharge."

"Xtend Barre is a barre-based, full-body workout designed for everybody with low-impact, cardio-infused, high-energy classes," said Director

of Training Jennifer Cordiner. "Founded on principles of Pilates and dance, this program is for anyone who wants and needs to move their body for strength, power, cardio and confidence."

Fit in the Park is sponsored by NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital. Participants must register in advance and bring their own mats or towels. No other equipment is necessary, but participants can bring weights or resistances bands to use.

Participants will be asked to follow park rules regarding masks and social distancing protocols and will be asked to space mats six feet apart. Each installment of the series will take place from 5:45 to 7 p.m.

The series will continue on July 14 at Glen Island Park, Aug. 11 at Croton Point Park, Sept. 8 at Glen Island Park and Oct. 6 at Croton Point Park. In the event of weather-related cancellations, participants will be notified of rain dates.

For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fit-in-the-park-tickets-157079437827>.

## Chappaqua Schools Names New Athletic Director

The Chappaqua Board of Education last Thursday appointed Geoff Curtis as the district's new director of athletics, physical education and health.

The appointment is effective July 1.

A former collegiate athlete, Curtis began his coaching career (basketball, football, softball, track and volleyball) in 1989, and entered the classroom in 1991 as a health science, physical education and U.S. history teacher at Marcus Whitman Junior High in Port Orchard, Wash.

He moved east in 2001 to teach at John Jay High School, where he currently serves as a teacher, assistant athletic director, instructional leader, varsity baseball coach and peer leadership adviser.

"Geoff has been described as an exceptional human being and educator who builds strong relationships with students, teachers and families," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman. "And that he teaches and leads with compassion and empathy, which will help nurture a positive morale throughout our schools and athletic programs."

Curtis has been recognized in his ability to motivate and instruct students and connect with the community. Throughout the extensive search process, which included interviews with committees of parents, students, teachers, staff, administrators and the Board of Education, he consistently demonstrated a deep knowledge of health



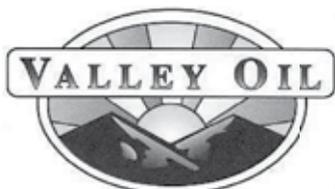
The Chappaqua School District's new athletic director, Geoff Curtis. Curtis, who was appointed last week, will begin in his new role on July 1.

and physical education, a passion for athletics and his enthusiasm for learning.

Curtis received his undergraduate degree in general studies from Lewis-Clark State College and holds a master's degree in physical education from Southern Oregon State College. He also holds an advanced certificate in administration from the College of St. Rose and certifications in school building leadership, 4-12 health and K-12 physical education.

Curtis replaces Jason Semo, who served the district in the same capacity for four years.

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WAITING LIST OF THE WESTCHESTER HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (ADMINISTERED BY CVR NEW YORK)

STARTING MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

ENDING FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.

CVR New York, Local Administrator for New York State Homes and Community Renewal, hereby announces the opening of the Westchester County Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program Waiting List. Applications will be accepted online only from Monday, July 12, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. through Friday, July 16, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. The HCV Program provides income-based assistance to eligible participants. After the Waiting List opening period has concluded, CVR NY will conduct a random lottery to place and sort 5,000 applicants on the Westchester HCV Waiting List. More information is available online at [applicantportal.cvrnewyork.com](http://applicantportal.cvrnewyork.com).

For assistance, email [nynquiries@cvrnewyork.com](mailto:nynquiries@cvrnewyork.com) or call 914-256-8877, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., during the wait list opening period. Individuals with disabilities are eligible for the Westchester HCV program. Reasonable accommodations will be made where necessary to ensure equal participation in housing assistance.

**APPLICANTS MUST APPLY ONLINE AT APPLICANTPORTAL.CVRNEWYORK.COM. CVR NY WILL NOT PROVIDE OR ACCEPT PHYSICAL APPLICATIONS AT ITS OFFICE, NOR WILL CVR NY PROVIDE COMPUTERS, INTERNET ACCESS, OR IN-PERSON ASSISTANCE AT ITS OFFICE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.**

Preliminary eligibility of applicants will be based on HUD's Federal Income and other eligibility guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Applicants must have annual household incomes that do not exceed the following limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### HUD Provided HCV Eligibility Income Limits - Westchester County

Household Members:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income Limits:	\$44,650	\$51,000	\$57,400	\$63,750	\$68,850	\$73,950	\$79,050	\$84,150

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# White Plains Man Charged With Murder in Fatal Shooting

By Martin Wilbur

A 25-year-old White Plains man was arrested last Thursday night and charged with murder in the shooting death of an Elmsford man earlier that day.

White Plains police charged Shakar Lerke with second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter in connection with the killing of Maurice Wilson Miller in the vicinity of 33 Fisher Court.

Police said they received a call of shots

fired at 3:59 p.m., and responding units found Miller, 30, unconscious outside with an apparent gunshot wound to the chest. Miller received medical aid by first responders before being transported to the White Plains Hospital emergency room, where he was pronounced dead.

A suspect was identified with the help of residents in the community who had witnessed the shooting, police said.

The motivation for the shooting was unclear.

At about 7:50 p.m. that evening, a subject fitting Lerke's description was seen walking on East Post Road where he was taken into custody by police. In addition to the felony murder and manslaughter charges, Lerke also faces second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and first-degree criminal use of a firearm. Lerke was arraigned Friday afternoon.

White Plains police worked the investigation in tandem with the Westchester County district attorney's office.

## Support Connection Announces Annual Support-A-Walk

Support Connection announced Monday that its 2021 Annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 3.

The event is Support Connection's most important fundraiser of the year. Proceeds provide funding for year-round breast and ovarian cancer support services, which have helped thousands of people since the organization was founded in 1996.

The Support-A-Walk was created by local residents to bring attention to the needs of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Thousands of people of all ages walk, often in honor of loved ones. There is also a tribute to those who are affected by breast and ovarian cancer.

Once again this year, the Support-A-Walk theme is "Walk With Us, Wherever You Are."

As the date of the walk draws closer, there will be updates on the possibility of an in-person gathering at FDR State Park in Yorktown. Regardless, people are still welcome to walk where they are, near and far.

It's easy to participate. Walk with family, friends, neighbors or co-workers. Walk in your neighborhood, your local park, even your backyard. Create your own tee-shirts and personal messages about your reasons for walking, then send photos to [walk@supportconnection.org](mailto:walk@supportconnection.org) so Support Connection can share them online as part of the celebration.

By participating in or donating to the Support-A-Walk, community members can make a positive difference in the lives of women and families facing the challenges of a breast or ovarian cancer diagnosis.

To help raise funds, participants can create personal online fundraising pages at <https://secure.frontstream.com/support-a-walk2021>. Donations to the Walk are accepted by check, cash and online.

To learn more, and for ongoing updates about the Support-A-Walk, visit [supportconnection.org/support-a-walk](http://supportconnection.org/support-a-walk) or contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or via e-mail at [walk@supportconnection.org](mailto:walk@supportconnection.org).

## Bronx Man Jumps to Death at Kensico Dam in Apparent Suicide

A Bronx man died last Friday morning after he jumped from Kensico Dam in Valhalla to a corner of the county park below.

Westchester County Police Friday morning investigated the death of a man who jumped from the Kensico Dam in Valhalla.

Westchester County police investigated the death of the man in what was called as an "apparent suicide." His identity had still not been released by Monday.

Police said the man, described as in his late 50s, jumped from the dam around 11 a.m. He was found in the

plaza's northeast corner at Kensico Dam Park.

Rescue workers responded to the incident and declared the man dead at the scene. County cops were assisted by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Police Department.

The plaza area remained closed for several hours as the investigation was conducted, police said.

The dam is owned by Department of Environmental Protection while the park property is owned by Westchester County, the press release also noted.

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# Alzheimer's Association Welcomes ADA Approval of Aducanumab

On behalf of those impacted by Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association enthusiastically welcomes the recent historic FDA approval of aducanumab (Biogen/Eisai) for treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

"We are excited about the potential for this new drug to slow the progression of Alzheimer's for countless people in the Hudson Valley and beyond," said David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter.

"This approval is a victory for people living with Alzheimer's and their families," said Harry Johns, Alzheimer's Association president and chief executive officer. "This is the first FDA-approved drug that delays decline due to Alzheimer's disease. This means individuals may have more time to actively participate in daily life, have sustained independence and hold on to memories longer. We can experience longer – the relationships we hold most dear – our families and friends."

Aducanumab addresses Alzheimer's in a new way compared to previously approved drugs. This therapy slows progression of the disease, rather than only addressing symptoms. It is the first approved therapy of this type; it demonstrates that removing amyloid from the brain may delay clinical decline in people living with Alzheimer's. Amyloid is the protein that clumps into sticky brain plaques that are a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

"This FDA drug approval ushers in a new era in Alzheimer's treatment and research," said Maria C. Carrillo, Alzheimer's Association chief science officer. "History has shown us that approvals of the first drug in a new category

invigorates the field, increases investments in new treatments and encourages greater innovation. We are hopeful and this is the beginning – both for this drug and for better treatments for Alzheimer's."

Early diagnosis has demonstrated better health outcomes for individuals and their caregivers. The approval of this new therapy makes early detection and diagnosis even more critical to ensure individuals receive the most benefit at the earliest point possible.

"This therapy will be of great interest to many, but it is not the only important element of Alzheimer's treatment and care," said Dr. Joanne Pike, Alzheimer's Association chief strategy officer. "The Alzheimer's Association has made it a priority to partner with health care systems, physicians and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure early and accurate diagnosis and access to treatment, care management and care planning."

If you or a loved one is experiencing memory changes, the Alzheimer's Association strongly encourages speaking with a health care provider for a thorough evaluation and diagnosis and to discuss treatment options.

"We are proud of what the Alzheimer's Association has done to accelerate the drug development process, so individuals will have access to more effective treatments faster," Carrillo said. "This new drug approval, and sustained progress in the research field, is due to years of investment, unrelenting dedication and our vision of a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia."

Driven by Alzheimer's Association

advocacy, federal investment in Alzheimer's and dementia research funding is \$3.1 billion annually. The federal commitment, combined with unprecedented philanthropic support, provides the foundation for an optimistic view of the future, which is needed because there is much work to be done.

The Alzheimer's Association, which is leading the fight against dementia, has established foundations that have accelerated the drug development process and made advancements like this possible.

The Alzheimer's Association provided the initial seed money for the development of amyloid PET scans that made this clinical trial possible. It also leads the IDEAS and New IDEAS studies to demonstrate the value of amyloid PET imaging for improving diagnosis and disease management.

For more information on diagnosis or to find a local health care provider, visit the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or the helpline 24/7 at 800-272-3900.

## Punching His Ticket

Mike Bub, an aquatics lifeguard at Club Fit, was informed last Tuesday that he will be representing New York in the June 2022 Special Olympics in Orlando, Fla. Mike has been a swimmer since he was 11 years old and had joined the Club Fit team in January. As a past member of the Lakeland/Panas/Putnam Valley swim team, he is comfortable in the water and still swims competitively in Special Olympics. He is a 12-time state champion, amassing 213 gold medals. Last week, Mike's family, along with the Special Olympics Committee and Club Fit staff, surprised Mike after his lifeguarding shift outside the club with the special announcement.



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# Letters to the Editor

## The State Would Benefit From Climate and Community Investment Act

There has been much discussion of proposed climate legislation in Albany. Let's talk about it.

The science says we have only a few years to effectively combat climate change. How we go about combatting climate change is less straightforward. In New York State we have taken the lead on this issue. We passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which set bold standards for reducing our emissions. We have codified the goal, but there is more to do. We need a roadmap.

The Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) is part of the roadmap. The CCIA places a surcharge of \$55 per ton of toxic pollutants produced. This is the real-world price of pollution. It will hold our worst

corporate polluters financially accountable for the damage they cause, and finance the repair. The bill provides direct assistance to ratepayers, offsetting most price increases. It also invests in our green energy infrastructure, helping us meet the goals of the CLCPA.

It is also why I support the New York Build Public Renewables Act. This bill would ramp up the New York Power Authority's ability to generate and sell utility-scale renewable energy. NYPA already sells power at a cheaper rate than most utilities across the state, has access to low-cost bonds and already generates 83 percent of its power from renewable sources. This bill, along with the CCIA, would create robust mechanisms for community engagement and a strong renewable energy

workforce across the state.

A recent study from the Climate and Community Project at the University of Pennsylvania found that this bill "could create somewhere between 28,410 and 51,133 total direct and indirect jobs and between \$48.6 billion and \$93.5 billion of additional economic activity by 2030."

This legislation would make a difference. Climate change is not backing down, and neither are we. We have the obligation to combat climate change. We owe it to our children and grandchildren.

**Assemblywoman Sandy Galef**

## Yorktown Town Board Focusing on Wrong Problem in Ethics Inquiry

I am torn between bemusement and fury over the Yorktown Town Board's decision to hire a "special counsel" to investigate the unauthorized disclosure of records pertaining to an Ethics Board investigation into the illicit behavior engaged in by Planning Board member John Kincart.

I find it ironic that the Town Board is incensed by the leak of this information to the public and not the unethical behavior of the Planning Board, which bent over backwards

to ignore environmental guidelines and the express wishes of many residents who opposed the Sandvoss subdivision to shove through a decision that it turns out enriched one of their own. Oh, no! The board's righteous indignation is directed at the revelation of the whole sordid affair.

But I am also infuriated at the scandalous misuse of taxpayer money in an effort to expose a whistleblower.

If it's going to spend money in this manner,

the Town Board should ask the special counsel to investigate its ties to the developer community, and whether those ties result in decisions that run counter to the interests of their constituents. The Town Board seems to forget that the seeds of despotism are sown by petty corruption.

**Michael Hickins**  
Yorktown Heights

## NYSEG's Lack of Consideration, Incompetence Strikes Again

On June 7 at approximately 1:30 p.m., while the outside temperature was above 90 degrees, Yorktown Heights customers of the New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) service area suffered another power outage.

It should be noted that a NYSEG contractor was working on the power poles on Route 202/35/118 in the vicinity of Willoway Street.

The power outage can be attributed to the I-don't-give-a-hoot-about-my-customers attitude of NYSEG, or to the sheer incompetence of NYSEG and its contractor

or both. If the power had to be shut down on a 90-plus degree day, then NYSEG should have notified the town and the Yorktown Police Department. The police department could then have sent out a proactive Nixle message rather than a reactive one after the outage occurred. Additionally, if it was a planned outage, NYSEG could have notified its customers via e-mail, text or pre-recorded telephone message since it has some or all of that information.

If the outage was caused by NYSEG's

contractor, one has to question the supervision provided by NYSEG over the contractor and the quality of the work being performed by the contractor.

I wonder if NYSEG notified the New York State Department of Public Service of this power outage?

**Jay Kopstein**  
Yorktown Heights

## Democrats' Refusal to Pass the New York Health Act is Baffling

Another year has gone by without Democrats passing the New York Health Act. This is a massive betrayal by Democrats in Albany and a fraud that is being perpetrated against the public.

For years, Democrats in the Assembly have voted on and passed the New York Health Act knowing that the Senate would not do so. A few years ago, we were told that we had to organize and defeat the Independent Democratic Conference. We did that. Still no

Senate vote on the New York Health Act. Then we were told that Democrats simply needed to win a majority in the Senate. We did that. Then, suddenly, a few folks that had co-sponsored the bill in the past withdrew their support, and others who ran on passing the bill decided that they no longer supported it.

Democrats now have a supermajority in the Senate and a majority of senators are co-sponsoring the bill. This means the bill had the votes to pass, but the Democratic leadership,

including Assemblyman Carl Heastie, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Gov. Cuomo are refusing to allow the bill to even be voted on.

A universal health care system, which is what this bill would create in New York, is overwhelmingly supported by Democratic voters. It also has a clear majority of support from among all voters. If Democrats cannot be relied on to pass, or even vote on, bills that have overwhelming support from their voters, what is the point of electing Democrats in the first place?

Democratic officials often bristle at the accusation that their party is the lesser of two evils, but when they behave in this way, they are making the argument themselves. It should not be this hard to pass popular progressive legislation when the supposedly progressive party controls all the levers of power in Albany.

Whose side are they on, the people or the health insurance companies?

**Ron Widelec**  
Rye Brook

## Corrections

In last week's Carmel supervisor and Town Board primary preview article, it was incorrectly reported that there would be no Democrats on the November ballot. There is no Democrat running for supervisor but Democrats April Daly and James Carmody are running for Town Board.

In last week's story on the Democratic primary for Greenburgh supervisor, it stated that Supervisor Paul Feiner would be the longest continuously serving supervisor in Westchester. If victorious, Feiner would be the currently longest serving supervisor.

In last week's article on the Yorktown Pride parade, it was incorrectly reported that Supervisor Matt Slater's brother had been a former president of SUNY Stony Brook's Gay Student Union. It should have read that Councilman Ed Lachterman's brother served in that capacity.

Last week's Business Spotlight article on Dana's Diner contained an incorrect street address. Dana's Diner is located at 565 Route 6 in Mahopac.

The Examiner regrets the errors.

## Guest Column

### How We Can Stop Cigarettes From Poisoning the Saw Mill, Hudson and Beyond

By Michael Gold

Have you wondered if, after they're smoked, cigarettes go to heaven?

If there is a cigarette heaven, I imagine it would be a crowded bar, smoke-filled, of course.

Happy little cigarettes would dance on the top of the bar to "I Will Survive," "Stayin' Alive" and other catchy songs, as the customers clapped along to the music. The cigarettes would enjoy an eternity of fun.

I don't have to tell you, there is no cigarette heaven. Instead, people often throw their dead cigarettes on streets all over the world.

Do you think the cigarettes like this? Of course not!

I recently picked up more than 100 cigarettes in Pleasantville in just one hour each day over several days. It's a sickness, I know. I plan to get help soon.

Why did I do this? I have a crude understanding of what happens when a cigarette is flushed into a river. When it rains, the streams on the street carry debris right into storm drains.

From there, they are flushed into the Saw Mill. The Saw Mill flows into the mighty Hudson River, and then of course, into the oceans of our world.

What does a discarded cigarette do to the water we depend on for our lives?

"One cigarette contaminates one liter of water," explained George Jackman, a senior habitat restoration manager with Riverkeeper. Jackman is a retired New York City police lieutenant, with 21 years on the

force.

Think of a one-liter bottle of Coca-Cola with a cigarette butt on the bottom. Would you want to drink it?

Cigarettes contain pesticide and trace amounts of heavy metals, in addition to nicotine, according to [www.truthinitiative.org](http://www.truthinitiative.org), a nonprofit dedicated to stopping smoking.

Also in cigarettes are cadmium and lead, The Scientific World Journal reported. Cadmium can cause damage to bones and kidneys. Lead is extremely toxic to the brain and body. Inhaling lead can actually diminish your intelligence, which is why lead was banned from house paint in the U.S. in 1978.

In addition to all their other poisons, cigarette butts are made from cellulose acetate, a plastic.

Do your lungs and blood want to go on a date with pesticides, cellulose acetate and heavy metals? I think not.

If this stuff is so incredibly bad for your body, think of what it can do to our fish and other marine life.

A lot of people like to eat fish. So, they are taking in trace amounts of this junk, too.

"Fish ingest the microplastics or the butts," Jackman explained. "The butt gets in the digestive tract, which choke and kill the fish. Or a turtle or bird could swallow the filter."

"Microplastics can be incorporated into the flesh of the fish," Jackman added. "Then we consume the microplastics through eating the fish."

"We poison our environment, we poison

ourselves," he said. "It's a closed system."

"Everything we throw in the Saw Mill ends up in the Hudson," Jackman said.

And beyond.

Worldwide, about 4.5 trillion cigarettes are littered each year, according to Truth Initiative.

The Cigarette Butt Pollution Project estimates that smokers in the United States toss about 100 billion cigarettes onto the ground and into the water every year.

They travel far into watersheds, said Sarah Kollar, outreach manager for international coastal clean-up for the Ocean Conservancy.

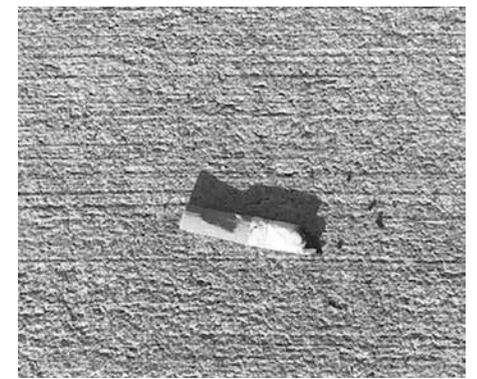
Ocean Conservancy teams collected more than four million cigarette butts globally in 2019. New York State Ocean Conservancy teams collected about 60,000 butts that year.

The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing ocean pollution. It is fighting to keep our beaches and waterways clean. Surfrider's Virginia Beach chapter and the City of Virginia Beach have developed a possible solution for diminishing the volume of cigarette waste.

Surfrider has purchased 30 cigarette receptacles and donated them to Virginia Beach. The city will install them in area parks by summer's end.

Virginia Beach has arranged for the cigarette litter it collects to be recycled by Terracycle, a New Jersey company, which melts cigarette litter and packaging into hard plastic, which is used to make outdoor furniture, tiles and other products.

Aimee Rhodes, chair of Surfrider's Virginia Beach chapter, explained the



One of the many cigarette butts on our communities' streets.

rationale for the partnership.

"For future generations, I hope for them to enjoy what our environment has to offer to the fullest extent," Rhodes said.

Of the waterways we are polluting, Jackman said, "Think of our bodies of water as a circulatory system. It's akin to a cigarette smoker's blood, filled with chemicals."

"We protect these organisms, we're protecting ourselves. We have a symbiotic relationship with the environment," he said.

Cigarettes need a better afterlife than we're giving them. Pleasantville and other Westchester County towns can help, by following Virginia Beach's example.

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

## Letter to the Editor

### Form Based Code Would Be No Friend to Chappaqua's Small Businesses

I have owned and operated Squires Family Clothing & Footwear in downtown Chappaqua since 1987. Chappaqua's small-town, neighborly feel has enabled me to maintain a loyal customer base for more than 34 years.

I am deeply concerned that passage of the Form Based Code could incentivize large-scale construction in the hamlet and have a serious impact on businesses.

During the two-and-a-half years that the town underwent a massive streetscape

project, which took longer than expected and only partially helped with the flooding issue (we had a flash flood recently that affected the sidewalks in front of my store and allowed water to once again enter the store), many stores in town, mine included, suffered greatly. Customers told me that they didn't want to deal with the traffic, parking and construction debris on the roads. It was easier to take their business elsewhere. Thankfully, that project was completed by 2020.

But now, the town is forecasting a buildout under the Form Based Code that could last 15 years!

I realize that the Form Based Code is being "tested" on just part of the hamlet. But as I understand it, the entire hamlet is still being studied for future buildout. If a subsequent Town Board were to proceed with it, I don't know if many businesses in our hamlet could survive. In my case, the increased traffic could result in widening lanes surrounding the T-intersection coming over the bridge. This is right in front of my store. I shudder to think what that will do to business.

I have heard Town Board members promise that the increased number of residential units will add vitality to the town, but more residents doesn't guarantee more customers. New York City has plenty of apartments, condos/co-ops and still there are empty storefronts. This is also true for communities like Scarsdale. And now, in the aftermath of COVID-19, we store owners are competing more than ever with online retailers. Easy, quick access to a store, sufficient parking and a steady and reliable customer base are the key to keeping a small business afloat.

The Form Based Code will undermine all of that. Construction will drive our long-term customers elsewhere. And when it's

finally over, if any of us are still standing, what guarantee do we have residents won't just shop and dine someplace where the parking is better?

Beyond the construction nightmare, I have concerns property development will likely result in rent increases for small businesses that operate in the hamlet. I have seen no analysis on how that will impact other store owners and no assurances from the Town Board that anything will be done to help keep our much-loved local businesses in town.

One of the things that makes having a store in Chappaqua so special is the neighborly feel of the hamlet. I have now clothed generations of customers. I hope to continue. The Form Based Code is not a friend to small businesses. I sincerely hope the town recognizes this. Our little stores are the backbone of the town's business community. The local stores are just beginning to recover from mandatory lockdowns as most were not deemed essential. Please don't let us down.

**Michael Kushner**  
Owner, Squires Clothing & Footwear  
Chappaqua

### Valhalla American Legion Post to Hold Fundraiser This Thursday

The Valhalla American Legion Post 1038 is hosting a fundraiser, Pizza Doughnate 2 with Music, this Thursday, June 24 at 5 p.m. at its location at 27 Legion Drive in Valhalla. The event is a fundraiser for the American Legion post.

Grilled pizza, sandwiches, beverages and snacks will be available for pickup or to dine on the post's lawn starting at

5 p.m. Anyone attending may bring their own chair or blanket.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., listen to acoustic classic pop music performed by Eddie Denise. Admission to the musical performance is free with the \$5 cover charge. CDC guidelines are in effect for this event.

For more information, visit [www.ALPost1038ny.org](http://www.ALPost1038ny.org).

## Obituaries

### Therese Driscoll

Longtime Lake Lincolndale resident Therese Driscoll, the wife of former Somers Police Department Chief Michael Driscoll Sr. and the mother of five sons, passed away peacefully on June 14. She was 84.

Born Oct. 3, 1936, to Helen and Patrick Mahon, Therese was the fourth child of six from an Irish-Catholic family from the Bronx. She married her husband, a U.S. Marine and New York City police officer also from the Bronx, on May 3, 1962.

They started a family with two sons before moving to Lake Lincolndale, a sleepy hamlet in Somers in 1966.

There the family expanded with three more sons and Ellie (Grandma) Driscoll, Therese's mother-in-law, who moved in, along with various family canines and felines over the years who always liked mom the best.

Like many moving "upstate" in the 1960s from New York City, Therese at first felt strange in Lake Lincolndale, a Bronx girl without a driver's license now in a leafy suburb with no sidewalks.

But summers in Lake Lincolndale revolved around the neighborhood lake, where Therese's boys learned to swim while she held court with the neighborhood moms. At the lake she had an endless supply of iced tea and vanilla wa-fers for her children, along with quarters for the pinball machine.

She volunteered on the board of directors of the Lake Lincolndale Property Owners Association, where she served as financial

secretary and proudly ran the beach snack bar.

Therese could be headstrong and opinionated, with a temperament at times not far from Maureen O'Sullivan's character in "The Quiet Man," with whom she proudly shared fiery red hair.

While her sons attended public schools, she was a fierce advocate for kids in special education. She was also a bowler, playing in Putnam County leagues and winning a league championship in a senior league.

But her husband, Michael Sr., and her five sons were the pride of her life, which she conveyed to anyone she met.

She was born to raise children and to be a grandmother, a wish fulfilled with the arrival of her first grandchild, Thomas, in 1995.

Next came granddaughter Megan, finally adding a baby girl to the Driscoll family mix, to Therese's delight.

Therese is survived by her husband, Michael Sr., who recently retired after more than 54 years in law enforcement to care for her when she fell ill; a son, Michael Jr., and his wife, Diane, of Clearwater, Fla., and their children, Dennis and Jennifer; a son, Joseph, and his wife, Barbara, of Somers, and their children, Megan and Matthew; a son, Thomas, and his wife, Creslyn, of Pine Island, N.Y. and their children, Thomas and Daniel; a son, James, of Lake Lincolndale; a son, Eugene, and his wife, Autumn, of Derby, Conn. and their children, Jack and Emma.

In addition to cousins and many nieces and nephews, Therese is survived by her brother, John Mahon, and his wife, Maureen, of Yonkers, and her sister, Leah Dieteman,

and her husband, David, of Erie, Pa.

She was predeceased by her father, Patrick, and her loving mother, Helen Ma-hon; her older brother, David Mahon, and two older sisters, MaryEllen Mahon and Regina Wilson.

### Robert Leinweaver

Robert "Bob" Leinweaver, 79, died June 15 with his family by his side in Venice, Fla.

He was born Apr. 15, 1942, in New York City to Edward and Florence Leinweaver.

Robert attended Commerce High School in Manhattan and began his career in banking at 15 years old with First National Bank. He later joined Barclays Bank, where he worked for over 25 years. He ascended to assistant vice president and oversaw branch locations throughout Long Island and the Hudson Valley region of New York.

Robert and his loving wife, Barbara, of 49 years moved to Yorktown Heights in 1976, where they lived for 26 years. After retiring from banking, he proudly established RCL Enterprise, a sporting goods company that combined his passion for the business with his love for baseball.

Bob was actively involved with the Yorktown Athletic Club, where he served in numerous executive roles including president, commissioner and treasurer. His

Calling hours were on June 20 at Cargain Funeral Home in Mahopac.

A Mass of Christian Rite was held on June 21 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Somers.

dedication and commitment to the YAC resulted in him being awarded Man of the Year.

Bob and Barbara moved to Venice, Fla. in 2002, where he served as treasurer of the Lakeside Woods Homeowners Association and was also actively volunteering with Meals on Wheels.

Leinweaver is survived by his wife, Barbara; son Matthew and his wife, Gabrielle; son Mark; daughter Diane and her husband, Jeremy Brown; granddaughters Karli, Grace and Madison; grandson Brandon and his wife, Stephanie; and great-grandsons Kyle and Cole.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Edward.

The Leinweaver family is extremely grateful to Tidewell Hospice for their care and comfort of Robert. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to Tidewell Hospice at [www.tidewellhospice.org](http://www.tidewellhospice.org).

A Celebration of Life will be held on a future date at Venice Memorial Gardens in Venice, Fla.

To sign his online guest book, visit [www.farleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.farleyfuneralhome.com).



Robert Leinweaver

## Police Blotter

### Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

**June 13:** Patrol responded to the area of Half Moon Bay Drive at 7:04 a.m. regarding a previously reported domestic dispute involving an assault. Patrol arrested a 64-year-old resident of Lake Peekskill and charged him with multiple penal law offenses, including third-degree assault, fourth-degree criminal mischief and obstruction of breathing.

### North Castle Police Department

**June 11:** A caller reported observing a party laying in the grass on the side of the road on North Broadway at 6:01 a.m. It is unclear if the party was conscious. The responding officers reported that the party was transported to White Plains Hospital. Units cleared.

**June 11:** Report of a dispute on Leisure Farm Drive at 8:14 p.m. A resident reported that her neighbor had threatened her.

**June 13:** A caller reported a large black bear going into the neighbor's yard at 12:11 p.m. Responding officers reported locating the bear on Limestone Road. The bear was last seen entering the woods in the area of 1 Nichols Rd. The area was canvassed and officers spoke to the residents about possibly having interactions with bears in their neighborhood. Residents were directed to the town's website for the police department page for the state Department of Environmental Conservation's suggestions for interactions with black bears.

**June 13:** A Nichols Road resident reported

a suspicious incident at 4:17 p.m. in which she believes someone may have entered her residence a few days ago and stuck her in her rear end with a dirty needle. The caller was asked if she required an ambulance and she declined. She also stated that a suspicious grey vehicle keeps parking near her residence to access her Wi-Fi. The responding officers reported that the party declined medical attention and declined to file a report.

**June 15:** A party arrived at police headquarters at 11:02 a.m. to report a road rage incident which occurred in the area of 111 Bedford Rd. A young male operating a black Jeep Wrangler impatiently sped around him. The subject also stated that the operator of the jeep made gestures and cursed him out. He stated that he exited his vehicle and approached the jeep, which is where the verbal altercation escalated before both parties came to headquarters to document it. The subject stated that he wanted to come in and report it before the other party claimed that he was punched.

### White Plains Police Department

**June 17:** Police were notified of an intruder having entered White Plains High School on North Street in the early afternoon. Andrew Campbell, 19, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal trespass after he had gained access to the building by walking in through a door that a student had come out of. Police said the suspect was erratic and hostile.

*B.F.*

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# Latimer Introduces County Bill to Bolster Fight Against Discrimination

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County Executive George Latimer introduced legislation last week that reinforces the county and Human Rights Commission to combat discrimination and protect the public from hatred and violence.

Standing with County Legislator Christopher Johnson (D-Yonkers), members of the commission and volunteer members of various advisory boards, Latimer announced that the county hopes to amend its human rights law to expand the types of actions and behaviors that would be covered. Currently, the law allows for civil action regarding offenders in the areas of employment, public accommodations, housing accommodation, commercial space and land transactions and the issuing of credit.

The amendment would enable the Human Rights Commission to seek compensatory and punitive damages, attorney's fees and equitable relief from offenders. It would also look to increase the reporting of hate incidents to help police in investigating incidents.

If the bill is approved by the Board of Legislators, it will prohibit interfering with a person's right to the enjoyment of their home or residence, to use public transportation free from threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion or violence because of the person's actual or perceived membership in a protected class.

Latimer stressed that it will not infringe on anyone's First Amendment rights,



Westchester County Executive George Latimer, surrounded by County Legislator Christopher Johnson and members of the Human Rights Commission, announces last week an amendment to a county law that expands the definition of discriminatory harassment.

but it means to address discriminatory harassment.

"We have to make sure that everyone understands that they are safe and protected in this county and this is one step in that direction," Latimer said.

In recent months there has been an upswing in anti-Asian discrimination, including in Westchester, as well as anti-Semitic acts and behavior, particularly in New York City.

Tejash Sanchala, executive director of the county Human Rights Commission, said the proposed amendment is a proactive approach to the surge of hate incidents that have made headlines nationwide. He said

discriminatory harassment would have to include not just words but also conduct.

The revised law would seek to protect Westchester residents from someone who intimidates them because they are gay or someone who attacks another person on the street because they're an immigrant or wearing a hijab or yarmulke, he said.

"The commission strives for a beloved community where no one experiences the fear of being attacked or faces discrimination because of how they look, what they believe, where they were born or who they love," Sanchala said.

Over the past year, Asian Americans have been victimized twice, by both the pandemic

and being on the receiving end of abuse and attacks from some who look to blame them for COVID-19, said David Imamura, a member of the county's Asian American Advisory Board.

"I'm thrilled that Westchester County is coming together in considering this discriminatory harassment bill to make sure that we send a message that hate has no place in Westchester County," Imamura said.

William Schrag, president of the Westchester Jewish Council, which represents more than 130 congregations and tens of thousands of residents, said as a 35-year New Rochelle resident, he is proud of the diversity of his home community and of the county at large.

However, everyone must do what they can to make sure that discriminatory behavior and harassment does not gain a foothold in locally. That's why the Westchester Jewish Council supports the proposed legislation.

"If the world has learned anything over the last 75 years, it is that once hate is allowed to take hold against one group it can and will metastasize against others," Schrag said. "We cannot and dare not remain silent. We must be vigilant, speak up and call out hate in all of its manifestations."

Latimer mentioned that when he took over as county executive in 2018, he bolstered the Human Rights Commission and its scope. He said the goal of the legislation is to drive home the point to treat each other as brothers and sisters, "not as the other."

The legislation will be submitted to the Board of Legislators for its review.

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Thursday July 8th  
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Thursday Aug 5th  
**School of Rock**

Thursday Aug 19th  
**Trillium**

Thursday Sept 2nd  
**Grandpa Moses**

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at the Gazebo*

**Wampus Brook Park...  
Bring the entire family!  
6:00-8:00pm**

Thursday July 15th  
**Tramps Like Us**

Saturday July 31st  
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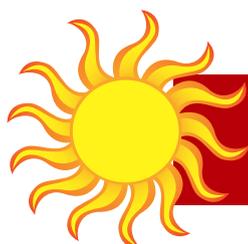
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# Catholic Charities, Mt. Kisco's St. Francis Partner to Feed the Hungry

By Martin Wilbur

New York State may be reopening with a steadily larger percentage of the state's adult population continuing to get vaccinated.

However, for those who lost jobs and income during the past 15 months and who still may be finding it difficult to return to pre-pandemic salary levels, the crisis is far from over.

Last Friday, Catholic Charities of New York made a stop at St. Francis of Assisi church in Mount Kisco as part of its effort to reach communities and parishes around the 10-county metro region to help feed hungry residents in local communities.

"In almost every community, there are people in need," said Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of the Catholic Charities of New York. "So when we find a parish in a neighborhood that is willing to work with us, we do what we call our Friday pop-up pantries."

Since March 2020, and the onset of the pandemic, Catholic Charities has organized more than 200 of the pop-up pantries throughout its territory. Along with its other efforts, it has donated about 8.4 million meals to people extending from New York City up to Brewster and as far away as Port Jervis in Orange County, Sullivan said.

For two hours last Friday morning, parish and community volunteers organized the more than 300 boxes available for families in the church's parking lot. They handed out two boxes to each, one comprised of fresh produce, such as lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes, the other containing various non-perishables,



Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of the Catholic Charities of New York, displays some of the fresh produce that is included in the organization's food boxes. Catholic Charities made its latest stop last Friday at St. Francis of Assisi in Mount Kisco.

including pasta and tomato sauce, apple sauce and honey.

Sullivan said if there's a larger family and enough supplies are available, they provide two boxes of each.

Parish volunteer Beth Mannion said St. Francis connected with the Interfaith Food Pantry, which operates out of the United Methodist Church in the village, to help identify and communicate to local residents that Catholic Charities was going to be making a stop locally.

St. Francis is also one of the many area houses of worship that participates in the Emergency Shelter Program, which provides shelter and food for the homeless during the cold weather, she said.

"We reached out to all our partners via those who come to Mass and social media and any other means that we have, through the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

County Legislator Kitley Covill, left, and Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, center, of Catholic Charities, along with volunteers were on hand last week to distribute food to needy families outside St. Francis of Assisi in Mount Kisco.

food pantry, Neighbors Link is an important part of our neighborhood providing education and support for people who don't have jobs," Mannion said.

Helping out last week was Westchester County Legislator Kitley Covill (D-Bedford), who said she and the community are grateful to have the extra help.

"I wish we did not have to have these because no one in this county or this country should be hungry," Covill said.

Sullivan said Catholic Charities receives donations from the public, which it uses to buy most of the food it donates. Occasionally, the

organization will have

He lauded the volunteers in each parish for making the pop-up Friday pantries a success.

"One of the reasons why we like to work with a parish like St. Francis is because it's not just about giving people a box of food," Sullivan explained. "They're our neighbors and they know them and you've got to treat people individually as made in God's image and likeness, even if they need a helping hand. When you're working with local parish volunteers it's not impersonal. They know who these people are."

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# Ronald McDonald House Celebrates 10 Years With Remodeling

By Martin Wilbur

It was supposed to be a different kind of celebration for Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley's 10th anniversary.

Having opened in 2011 across the parking lot from Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla, under more normal conditions there may have been a large gala or another type of major celebration.

But instead, it welcomed its partners and the community to its grounds last Friday afternoon and paid tribute to the people and organizations who helped Ronald McDonald House refresh and remodel its facilities through the pandemic.

"I think we got a better gift because now we have these incredible spaces for families," said Christina Riley, executive director of the Ronald McDonald House of the Hudson Valley. "Now that the world is coming back together, it really kind of instills hope in humanity what all these people have done."

During the past year, One Room Wonders, a Westchester nonprofit organization founded by Harrison resident Sara Touijer helps other nonprofits redesign their spaces. Smart Playrooms, a firm started by Karrie Bowen-Poole, designs unique children's playrooms. Both approached Ronald McDonald House to see if they could contribute their talents and resources.

What came from their philanthropic



The redesigned Great Room at Ronald McDonald House.

endeavors was a redesigned Great Room and kitchen by One Room Wonders and an overhauled playroom space that is used by the siblings of Maria Fareri patients.

The remodeling of those areas didn't cost Ronald McDonald House a dollar," Riley said.

Richard Landau, president of the Ronald McDonald House board, said since its doors opened 10 years ago, the 12 residential rooms where families can stay while their child is treated at Maria Fareri, have served more than 2,000 families over about 32,000 nights.

Landau, whose niece passed away at the children's hospital 17 years ago and whose name is on the outside of the playroom, said everyone connected with Ronald McDonald House is grateful for the assistance that One Room Wonders, Smart Playrooms and all the organizations



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Christina Riley, center, thanks representatives from One Room Wonders and Smart Playrooms, who remodeled portions of the Valhalla facility. Board President Richard Landau, right, looks on.

and some 3,000 volunteers a year who help them complete their mission.

"So it's awful that we get to do it, but we only get to do it because of the help that we get," Landau said.

Riley said after the facility's first decade the space was due for a bit of a makeover. What is critical at Ronald McDonald House is to make sure its spaces are as warm and inviting as possible for families that are going through a crisis that most people

will not experience.

"They don't want to be here, we don't want them to be here, but if they have to be at least they have a beautiful, comforting, welcoming space to be," Riley said.

County Legislator Nancy Barr presented proclamations to Touijer, and her One Room Wonders Chairman Bjorn Bjornsson and to Bowen-Poole for their efforts.



*"What you've done for my father is nothing short of a miracle. If he had stayed where he was I'm not sure he would be alive today. His medical care and managing his medications has improved his health dramatically. He eats regular well balanced meals and has activities to be a part of." - Karen B*

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# Local Writer's Walking Journeys Provide a Healthier Outlook on Life

By Ariel Markwoski

In his novel "One Man's Journey: A Walk on the Croton Aqueduct Trail," 33-year Mount Kisco resident Ed Perratore invites you to accompany him on his frequent long walks.

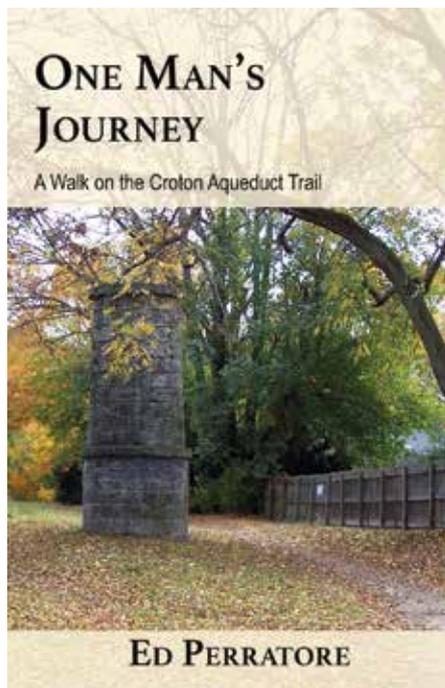
Throughout the book, Perratore skillfully immerses readers in the local natural environment. But perhaps even more important, is his description of the mental element of detaching from the world by trail walking.

Perratore dealt with heavy challenges such as his father's cancer diagnosis, and the doctor visits which followed, insecurity in the workplace and a series of difficult situations in his personal life.

To help him handle his emotions, he would commit the time to walking the trail, generally amidst a busy day of work as a writer. It wasn't so much to detach from the world, but rather to connect in a meaningful way, establishing a healthier mindset in the process.

"Imagine...that whatever happens to be troubling you on a given day...were physical objects filling a jar representing the mind," writes Perratore. "Standing before anything representing a great achievement, natural or man-made, can have a way of enlarging that jar."

This comparison encompasses his core message: our happiness and general worldviews are composed of our mindset.



He acknowledges the obstacles and makes them appear smaller, yet avoids minimizing them.

Many themes of struggle detailed in the novel are universal. The concept of an unwelcome, negative thought occupying one's mind is all too common. Perratore's long walks have allowed him to uncover considerable insight into his own ability

to develop and maintain resilience and optimism.

Although he initially viewed his walks as a respite from life's day-to-day stresses, the story of the revelations he made along the way eventually took the form of a descriptive novel, containing a degree of imagery and relatability that enables the feeling of immediacy that would be brought about by a walk alongside him on the Croton Aqueduct Trail.

"There's something in it that everyone could appreciate," Perratore said.

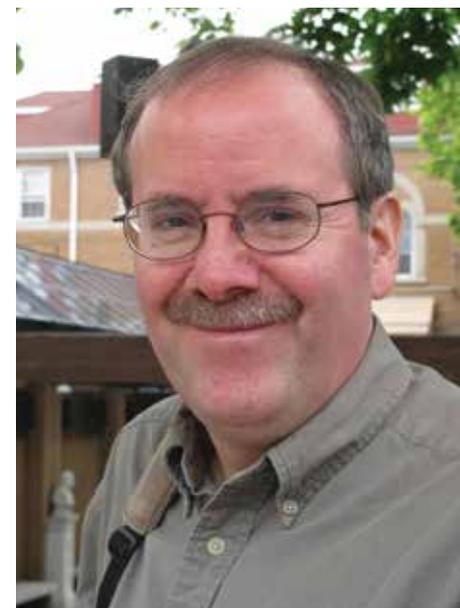
In order to construct this sense of attachment, the author employed an intriguing method.

"I had...a digital audio recorder that I brought with me and I would just be walking along chatting into it," he said.

Having the recorder available allowed him to pick up on noteworthy details, which may have otherwise been overlooked or forgotten. His recorded commentary related to both his thoughts and surroundings so the reader is able to take a glimpse at both.

"It has helped me to be a happier person," Perratore reflected of his peaceful journeys.

To all those who have walked along a trail before, 'One Man's Journey' may provide new insight into the joys and the deeper understanding someone can make about their surroundings and themselves. The images are present along any woody



Longtime Mount Kisco resident Ed Perratore has written a novel based on his walks along the Croton Aqueduct Trail, which he initially used to establish a healthier mindset during difficult times.

destination, and the messages apply to all. "One Man's Journey: A Walk on the Croton Aqueduct Trail." can be purchased on Amazon and www.BarnesandNoble.com, and at various local bookstores and their websites.



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# Everything Around the House Comes to an End...But When?

Just recently my wife attempted to turn on our central air conditioning and nothing happened. After a visit from an HVAC technician, we found that it couldn't be repaired but had to be completely replaced. It was only six years old!

As a realtor, I'm always so conscious of checking all utilities in a home about to sell or be purchased, and while I might guarantee a client that they are working, there is no guarantee of how long they will continue to do so.

Don't you just hate the concept of planned obsolescence where everything you own will eventually either die or need to be replaced? Don't you wish that everything, including ourselves, could last forever?

The harbinger of trouble ahead with any product or appliance in the home is usually just a little kink in its operation. Once that whiz is heard or blip is seen, it's only a matter of time before the death knell inevitably tolls. The time in between can produce great anxiety, even anger, over being betrayed by something we depend on.

Why must all trusted equipment and appliances have so limited a life span? Why can't everything be made to last at least as long as we do? Would we ever grow tired of the same old things hanging around the house indefinitely? I think not.

The only mechanical/electrical device that I



By Bill Primavera

have enjoyed without interruption for many years is one of the biggest and earliest desk lamps made with a technically brilliant flexible arm and a rotating device on a base that is heavy as solid lead. Even its twin fluorescent tubes seem to last forever. While every other piece of equipment in my home office has eventually failed, this one has lived on to see another working day, then another.

The lamp originally belonged to my Aunt Pearl who gave it to my wife and me when she retired, telling us at the time that it was indestructible. She was right. It was already at least 30 years old at the time and we've put another 30

years into it. It has always stood next to my main office computer du jour, which since my first primitive Wang has been replaced more

times than I can remember.

Last week the latest edition of my main computer began to shut down unpredictably on its own. I panicked until I found that I could get it to restart. But after an hour or two it would shut down again and my unsaved work would be lost in the process.

I called in my local technician who at first thought it could be the electrical connection, which he replaced. But after he left, the shutdown problem continued. When he returned and opened up the computer again, he proclaimed that the problem was a failure in the motherboard.

Feeling betrayed as I did by the trusted repository of my work for at least six years, I denounced the computer without reservation as another kind of "mother."

Curious about the life expectancy of common household products, I happened upon a survey conducted a while back by Kiplinger on that very subject. The life expectancy of some items was surprising and others, from my personal experience, incredulous.

Here are a few highlights from the survey.

1. Washing machines and dryers typically last 11 to 12 years, with top-loading washers lasting a bit longer than front-loading models.
2. Dishwashers fare better, lasting an average of 13 years. (Here's a tip: dishwashers actually run better and longer if you use them regularly; otherwise problems such as sticky motor seals and mold can develop.)
3. A electric range lasts 15 years, 13 if fired by gas.

4. Refrigerators should last from 14 to 17 years.
5. Furnaces will usually last about 20 years, although in my last home, a vintage 18th century model, a furnace installed in 1922 had been upgraded somewhere along the way. It lasted another 25 years with occasional replacement of the starter and yearly maintenance.
6. A hot water heater can wear out after 10 years, but it has a better chance if the water is not hard or mineral-filled. To lessen the effects of hard water, the tank can be drained and flushed once a year to prevent mineral buildup. But who has time to think about that?

The summation of the survey noted that the results were based on average life expectancies. There are exceptions on both ends of a product's life cycle, much like a Kenmore dishwasher we had that stopped dead after only a year, but was mercifully capable of being repaired.

For now, I take comfort in the belief that my Aunt Pearl's sturdy adjustable desk lamp will last longer than I. But I admit every time I push the red button to turn it on, I hold my breath.

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



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## Local Cinematographer, Consultant Win Putnam Hometown Media Awards

Videographer Chris Casaburi of Executive PhotoVideo and Lisa Kaslyn of Prosper Communications, both Lake Carmel residents, were named Community Event Activism/Rallies Independent Producer category winners of the 2021 Hometown Media Award from the Alliance for Community Media Foundation.

The awards program was established to honor and promote community media and radio and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels. Proceeds go to the ACM Foundation, which is exclusively used for facilitating, preserving and promoting education in community media.

Designed to educate and encourage Putnam residents and visitors to support local eateries during the pandemic, the winning submission

featured a series of powerful interview vignettes with Putnam County restaurateurs, as well as visuals demonstrating the safety and sanitization protocols that Putnam restaurants have implemented to ensure the health, safety and comfort of patrons during the pandemic.

Kaslyn said that with support of business sponsors, including Tompkins Mahopac Bank, Titan Concrete, Downey Energy, Schech's Pool Spa Patio and Christopher X. Maher, Esq., the Putnam County Business Council funded development of a public service campaign to support the hospitality industry, which was hard hit by COVID-19.

"Working with a talented cinematographer, like Chris Casaburi, truly raised the bar on quality and enabled us to visually portray a true and persuasive story acknowledging our hospitality heroes," Kaslyn said.

Putnam County Restaurant Rally featured establishments from across the county, including Catherine's Tuscan Grill; Clock Tower Grill; Cold Spring Depot; The Freight House Café; Limni; Mezzaluna; Florrie Kaye's Tea Room; Dolly's; Bucci Brothers Deli; Arturo's; Savor Ristorante; Prato Trattoria; Valley Restaurant; Hudson Hill's Cafe; Trattoria Sei; Le Bouchon; and Riverview Restaurant.

View the video at [https://youtu.be/Tc7ynpD\\_bNA](https://youtu.be/Tc7ynpD_bNA) to meet some of Putnam's extraordinary eatery bosses as they share their commitment to safety, good food and great atmosphere.

Each year, nearly 1,000 entries are submitted. These entries, or programs, are evaluated on several factors resulting in more than 100 award winners. A panel of judges from the industry evaluates the entries. Awards are presented to the most creative programs

that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats and move viewers to experience television in a different way.

Prosper Communications worked with local public access channels in Carmel (Comcast Channel 21) and Putnam Valley (Channel 18) to broadcast the public service announcement to Putnam residents.

"The Hometown Media Awards celebrate both the excellence of work and the diversity of media that appears on community channels being produced around the country," said Mike Wassenaar, president & CEO of Alliance for Community Media. "The ACM Foundation is proud of their achievement and of how they represent their communities in their work."

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Hello, my name is Dr. Frank Bottino, founder of Mint Kisco Dental. I've spent the past decade practicing at various dental offices and realized I would never reach my potential without owning my own office. Going to the dentist isn't exactly everyone's favorite thing to do so I had a vision to change the public mindset and create something unlike anything around.

On paper, Mount Kisco's demographics were far from ideal to start a new dental office. Research showed that the town was already saturated with dentists. Maybe it's because I'm from the area, but something about Mount Kisco kept drawing me back and made me believe I could still make an impact and find success. In order to set myself apart, I chose one of the most prominent locations in the area where I would have the greatest chance to connect with the community and become a staple to the town.

I signed my lease the month before the pandemic which turned out to be a blessing in disguise. While the world shut down, I had several months of free time refine my vision and design every aspect of my office. From creating a logo that defines our "mint" core values ("m" for meticulous, "i" for integrity, "n" for nurture, and "t" for transform), to laying out every square inch of the office on graphing paper, I turned my vision into life. I even figured out how to make and manage my own website!

After about 6 months of construction, my office opened in January 2021. For anyone that knows me, or has been to the office, knows that I went all in. Dentistry isn't just a job or a career that I stumbled upon, it's a passion and a calling that I am wholeheartedly obsessed with. I became inspired after my front teeth were badly damaged in a bicycle accident. When my smile was restored, I realized the power of dentistry can be life changing. It was from that moment in 2004 forward that became my life's mission to embrace dentistry and pay it forward.

It's been an unbelievably challenging past several months and I've endured more grit than I could have ever planned for. I put everything I have on the line for my practice and to top that off, my wife, Diana, just gave birth to our 3rd child a month after opening. Despite the obstacles, every time that I step into my office I am more fulfilled and grateful than I have ever been. It's a privilege to be in Mount Kisco and have the opportunity to serve the community and make it a better place for many years to come.



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Learn about the smarter plan at **[indianpointdecommissioning.com](http://indianpointdecommissioning.com)**

The illustration above is an artist's depiction of the Indian Point property after the completion of major decommissioning work.

Indian Point Energy Center



# Actor Palminteri Opens Italian Restaurant in White Plains

Former Bronx boy, actor, writer, producer and restaurateur Chazz Palminteri and his partnership has taken over the former Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza space on Main Street in White Plains.

The new eatery is called Chazz Palminteri Restaurant & Pizza.

Palminteri is best known for his hit 1993 film "A Bronx Tale," which was filmed in the "Little Italy" neighborhood around Arthur Avenue, and his roles in "Bullets Over Broadway" and "The Usual Suspects."

The Bedford resident has already added his name to a restaurant in midtown Manhattan, in partnership with Jack Sinanaj, who also owns Ben & Jack's Steakhouse and Empire Steakhouse in the city. During my first visit, I was greeted by partner Tony Sinanaj.

The menu combines upscale classic Italian specialties along with dishes for the whole family to enjoy. There are specialty wood-fired pizzas including a traditional margherita; tartufo pizza with truffle oil, mushrooms, fresh mozzarella and mixed herbs; Bianca pizza (fresh mozzarella, ricotta, olive oil and black pepper); and short rib pizza with arugula, sweet peppers and mozzarella.

Hearty main courses include the Gamberi E Scampi (shrimp sauteed with shallots, garlic and cherry tomatoes in a white wine sauce, served with saffron risotto); veal parmigiana; A Bronx Tail (lobster tail with clams, mussels, shrimp and light spicy tomato sauce with homemade fettuccine); and Chateaubriand for two, which is grilled prime beef tenderloin served with a demi-



By Morris Gut

glaze sauce.

The restaurant is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. There's also a bar and lounge menu. An Italian market is in the works. According to the partners, Chazz stops by from time to time, too. More details as they become available.

Chazz Palminteri Restaurant & Pizza is located at 264 Main St. in White Plains. Municipal parking available. Info: 914-600-8430 or visit [www.chazzpalminterinyc.com](http://www.chazzpalminterinyc.com).

## Macelleria Italian Steakhouse Offers Prime Dining

Macelleria, a new high-end Italian steakhouse, serves classic cuts of prime beef and chops along with a hearty helping of Italian-American specialties.

Proprietors Tony and Johnny Lala and their crew will take good care of you. Be seated in the handsomely renovated dining room and bar and lounge and peruse the menu over a glass of wine from their vintage list.

A recent celebratory meal here started with the freshly made jumbo crab cake appetizer served with an herbed mustard sauce and an arugula salad, which included navel orange segments, fennel, goat cheese and lemon vinaigrette.

As a main course my beautifully marbled rib-eye steak was a tender hit, served with a flavorful brandy peppercorn sauce on the side. My companion went for the big diver scallops served with asparagus, mushrooms, leeks and a touch of truffle butter. We had to have the addictive home fries and garlic spinach as sides.

Both entrees were large enough to share. Leftover steak to take home, too. For dessert we shared a most extraordinary house-made tiramisu.

Additional specialties to look for include steak tartare, spaghetti Carbonara, pappardelle with short-rib ragu, zuppa di pesce and a classic burger. Carnivores should consider the lamb chops, veal chop or New York strip steak.

Macelleria Italian Steakhouse is located at 111 Bedford Rd. in Armonk. There is also a location at 142 Fifth Ave. in Pelham and soon in Byram, Conn. Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Free parking. Reservations suggested. Info: 914-219-5728 or visit [www.macelleriaarmonk.com](http://www.macelleriaarmonk.com).

### Henckels Sale in Pleasantville

During a recent drive through Pleasantville, we noticed the sign out in front of the Zwilling J.A. Henckels headquarters on Marble Avenue – a sale cookware with up to 30 percent off.

Some of their sales are ongoing, if you are in need of kitchenware, knives, pots



Actor Chazz Palminteri's restaurant that serves fine Italian food along with dishes the entire family can enjoy.

and pans. There's a nice showroom, too, with helpful staff.

Zwilling J.A. Henckels is located at 270 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville. Open to the public Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 800-777-4308 or 914-747-0300 visit [www.zwilling.com](http://www.zwilling.com).

### Restaurant Help Hard to Find

In recent weeks during my travels through Westchester, I have been hearing the same complaint from restaurant owners: "Can't find any help!"

Now that COVID-19 protocols are being relaxed, restaurants are hiring again, but the going has been tough. The reasons vary. Some argue restaurant workers are staying home and doing fine with their unemployment checks and supplementary payments while they last. Others say, the pandemic caused many workers to just leave the restaurant industry for other lines of work with benefits.

While some states are cutting off supplementary unemployment checks as inducement to get people back into the workplace, New York State has said it will continue the extra payments through September. You can't help but notice "Help Wanted" signs all over the county right now.

### Credit Card Fees Added to Your Bill?

Another trend I have noticed as part of the new normal: restaurants in increasing numbers have started posting up to a 5 percent credit card processing fee to the final bill.

I realize the restaurant industry is emerging from a very difficult period, and



A chef puts the finishing touches on a tartufo pizza at Chazz Palminteri Restaurant in White Plains.

now it seems it is also becoming partly our obligation to help them. Some have signs posted on the premises announcing the charge. Have you experienced this? Will this become permanent?

While the actual dollar amounts are small, I don't like this.

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



A delicious steak and sides at Macelleria Italian Steakhouse in Armonk.

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*continued on page 28*

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# Delving Into the Intriguing Concept of Terroir



By Nick Antonaccio

There are many wine terms tossed around that are useful to describe wine. I've referred to a number of them in previous columns.

Some of the terms describe style: austere, fruit-forward, bold, flabby. Some describe the

inherent components of a particular grape varietal: tannic, acidic, complex, bitter. Others describe characteristics: soft, dry, sweet, alcoholic. Still others describe taste and aroma: blackberries, chocolate, smoky, citrus.

This week we are going to explore a term that is all encompassing in defining the distinction of one wine over the next. It is a term that has become popular in wine circles in the last few decades and is increasingly referred to in the lexicon of mainstream wine lovers. The term is terroir (tair-wahr).

For centuries wine producers have been seeking the perfect combination of grape variety and growing conditions to achieve the best wine suited for their locale. To understand the meaning of terroir is to understand the region from which a wine is produced. Each vineyard in a region has its own unique combination of soil, atmosphere, humidity, wind, altitude and exposure to the sun. The unique combination of these

*'seeking the perfect combination of grape variety and growing conditions to achieve the best wine suited for their locale.'*

factors produces unique bottlings.

Nature is the overriding influence on wine, while winemakers add the nurturing aspect. The planting and cultivation in particular vineyards, coupled with a winemaker's influencing hand in the winery, have a significant impact on the end product in the bottle.

A fundamental example of this concept of terroir is the Napa Valley winemaking region. When we taste a Cabernet Sauvignon, we discern a difference in one produced in California compared to another from South Africa, Chile or nearby Washington state.

Here are several of the many components of terroir that distinguish Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from other regions.

First, geology's role. Grapevines produce the most suitable grapes when they are stressed. Give them rich, loamy soil that is full of nutrients and retains moisture and they live a life of ease and luxury, producing large quantities of foliage and fruit.

However, give them rocky soil with clay or volcanic components that are fast draining and nutrient deprived and they fight a battle every day to perpetuate their species, so to

speak. Thus, the crop is typically smaller, but the grapes are more concentrated and dense, with juice and skins that are more flavorful. This type of soil produces intense wines with complex flavors and deep tannins – the secret to Napa Valley's success with Cabernet Sauvignon.

Second, geography's role. Let's focus on three of the many factors affected by geography.

One, climate. Napa Valley is close to the Pacific Ocean and benefits from morning fog and afternoon sea breezes. The moisture in the morning nourishes the grapevines and the breezes keep the vines cool from the intense sun in the afternoon. The closer to the ocean, the richer and more supple the Cabernet.

Two, altitude. On the valley floor, the growing conditions are ideal (less stress). The higher the elevation, the greater the variation in soil due to erosion and rock formations (more stress). The result: rich, supple Cabernets from the valley floor and

rich, more complex, tannic Cabernets from the slopes.

Three, sun. The valley floor receives the benefits of the sun all day long, while the vines grown on the east- or west-facing slopes surrounding the valley only receive sun in the morning or the afternoon, depending on their location. Result: Cabernets from the valley floor tend to be richer and simpler (less stress), while on the hillsides the Cabernets tend to be more complex (more stress).

California winemakers have adopted their own term in place of terroir. For them, this unique combination of factors is a function of microclimate. But, regardless of the

terminology, winemakers worldwide recognize the interaction of nature and man and attempt to harmonize the varying components of our planet to produce wines of distinction for their locale.

*Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident.*

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

*You Heard It Through the Grapevine*

## The Door is Open for You: NWH is Raising Community Health

By Gail Ritterhoff

The health of a community depends on the wellness of everyone who lives and works within it. When individuals thrive, so does society at large.

Northwell Health is fully committed to this notion, recently launching a Raise Health initiative to "galvanize a coalition of people, organizations and communities that aim to fight for better health for everyone."

Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH), part of Northwell Health, will be an active and enthusiastic partner in this endeavor. Examples of such efforts at NWH include a wellness garden that supplies fresh organic produce for those facing food insecurity in the Mount Kisco area, community outreach and education to promote good health and a robust financial assistance program.

Perhaps most importantly, NWH will continue to "raise health" by working to provide state-of-the-art health care to anyone who needs it. Through its enduring relationship with Open Door Family Health Center in Mount Kisco, the hospital has been doing just that for well over a decade.

### An Open Door

Serving almost 60,000 patients each year at various locations in Westchester and Putnam counties, Open Door's guiding vision is that quality health care is a right, not a privilege, and should be accessible regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

"Excellent care is available in this country, but predominantly for those that have the right insurance," Open Door's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Daren Wu said.



Dr. Daren Wu, chief medical officer at Open Door Family Medical Center, and his staff works with Northern Westchester Hospital to help deliver the health care needs to the underserved population.

Open Door's mission is to help correct this inequity, said Wu. He is especially grateful that NWH is a partner in that mission.

"Northern Westchester Hospital employees do not care if you don't have insurance, don't care where you are from or about the color of your skin. They treat everyone equally based on need," he said.

"Many of our patients are able to see specialists and to access diagnostic capabilities

such as mammography, CT scans, MRIs and X-rays at generously discounted prices, often free; it has been really wonderful."

In addition, the hospital has also created a new gastrointestinal clinic specifically for Open Door patients without insurance, enabling them to receive endoscopies and colonoscopies.

Patients who have benefited from NWH's charity care clearly appreciate its accessibility and the compassion with which it is provided.

"I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and I've been going to the hospital for radiation therapy. I am very grateful for the doctors there, and the people in the finance department, who helped me with the charity care application," said a recipient named Louise.

Marie, another recipient, had her baby at the hospital, her mind at ease.

"The Prenatal Care Clinic at Northern Westchester Hospital is great, and so close to home, I didn't have to worry about transportation," she said. "The staff answered all my questions and made my prenatal process easy. Delivering my baby at the hospital was a wonderful experience."

### High cost of neglect

Patient testimonials certainly underscore the humanitarian benefits of charity care. But providing aid to vulnerable populations is about much more than the satisfaction of doing the right thing. In fact, the cost of neglecting the underserved and uninsured members of our community can be quite steep.

"From a public health standpoint, we need to care for everyone in order to lift the health and well-being of the entire community," Wu

said. "Even if you are well-to-do and fully insured, you are not immune to inequities in health care because you can't live life in a bubble. At some level, we are all interacting – in schools, restaurants and stores. The pandemic really magnified that reality."

Beyond issues of contagion and community spread, a society must address issues of dollars and cents. If the uninsured do not have access to basic health care and screenings for chronic diseases and cancers, their conditions will progress unchecked. Eventually, Wu noted, these people will need more expensive treatments that might even be administered too late.

"Our society doesn't let people die on the doorsteps of hospitals, so large sums are spent on individuals who don't have insurance," Wu said. "This affects all of us. The cost is priced into our insurance premiums and tax dollars. It actually pays, then, to provide preventative, early care to everyone."

A vital part of the Raise Health initiative is getting the word out about its comprehensive programs.

"Northern Westchester Hospital works hard to make its financial assistance options visible, so the community knows about them," Wu said. "At Open Door, we never feel that Northern Westchester Hospital wants to throttle down the number of patients we refer. Instead of saying, 'Call us when you need us,' hospital staff reaches out to ask if we have anyone else who needs help. It's a message that speaks volumes."

To learn more about Northern Westchester Hospital, visit [nwh.northwell.edu](http://nwh.northwell.edu).

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the "Village"), at a meeting held on June 14, 2021, adopted a bond resolution, which is subject to a permissive referendum, that authorizes the issuance of an additional \$1,400,000 serial bonds of the Village to finance the reconstruction and improvement of Manville Road, including sidewalks, curbs, gutters, drainage, landscaping and grading or improving the rights of way, with flexible pavement of a type described in the Local Finance Law Section 11(a)(20)(c), including surveys, preliminary plans and detailed plans, specifications and estimates required in connection therewith (the "Project"). The bond resolution supplements the Village bond resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees on July 22, 2019 (the "Original

Bond Resolution"), which authorized the issuance of \$2,600,000 of serial bonds of the Village to finance the Project. The new maximum authorized cost of the Project, and the maximum amount of obligations authorized to be issued, is \$4,000,000. The period of probable usefulness is fifteen (15) years, computed from the date of the first bond anticipation note issued in anticipation of the Bond or serial bonds or bond anticipation notes authorized pursuant to the Original Bond Resolution, and the bonds are payable from amounts to be annually levied on all the taxable real property in the Village. Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), the Village, as lead agency, has previously determined that the project is an "unlisted action" under SEQRA and that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. No further action under SEQRA is required.

Eric Morrissey, Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, NY

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# Changes You Should Know About the Power of Attorney Law

On Dec. 15, 2020, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law legislation substantially amending the New York General Obligations Law which governs powers of attorney in the state.



By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo, Esq.

Effective June 13, the new law, among other things, modified the power of attorney form. The new form must now be used, although a power of attorney drafted prior to the effective date is still valid.

Here is a brief overview of the key changes as a result of the new legislation.

### Substantial Conformity.

One of the nuances of the old law was that the form of the power of attorney signed by the principal (meaning you) needed to exactly match the wording of the form provided by the statute. For the unwary, a slight alteration to the form, in the wrong place, may have resulted in it being considered a "non-statutory" form, thereby losing the protections of the statute.

Under the new law, the form signed by the principal only needs to "substantially conform" to the wording of the form

found in the statute. This makes it much easier to rely on the statutory provisions benefiting powers of attorney such as imposing sanctions on those who unreasonably refuse to accept the power of attorney.

### Elimination of Statutory Gifts Rider.

This is a very cumbersome aspect of the old statute centered around the statutory gifts rider. The statutory gifts

rider was necessary – and required – to allow your agent to exercise any power that might change your beneficial interest. For instance, to transfer your assets to a family member or to change beneficiary designations on your accounts, a statutory gifts rider would be necessary.

The statutory gifts rider was complex, but it was also often improperly implemented.

For instance, for it to be effective, a box on the power of attorney needed to be initialed. Moreover, the rider needed to be

signed at the same time as the power of attorney otherwise it was invalid.

The new law eliminates rider. While this may appear to simplify things, great care must be taken to incorporate those modifications ordinarily found in a statutory gifts rider into the new power of attorney form. This is not a straightforward assignment and counsel must be sought.

### Acceptance and Reliance by Others.

A practical issue with powers of attorney is that many financial institutions might refuse to honor the form simply because it is not the form prescribed by their legal department. It has always been unlawful to unreasonably refuse to honor a valid statutory short form power of attorney; however, there were no consequences to doing so.

Now, to encourage acceptance of the form, the new law imposes sanctions, such as legal fees, on those who unreasonably refuse to accept a valid statutory short form power of attorney.

To further encourage acceptance, a third party who reasonably accepts a power of attorney form properly acknowledged and witnessed shall not

be held liable for any unauthorized transactions by the agent.

### Signing at the Direction of Another.

Here is an interesting tidbit. In New York, one can direct another to sign a Last Will and Testament on one's behalf. Similarly, the new law allows a power of attorney to be signed on behalf of the principal by someone other than the agent, in the principal's presence and at the direction of the principal.

There are several other technical changes made by the new legislation that require the expertise of counsel who regularly practices in this area. The consequences of having an improper power of attorney may lead to an unanticipated guardianship proceeding where a judge will appoint someone to handle your affairs. The implementation of the new law is an opportune time to meet with us and review your overall estate plan.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with *Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP* in Rye and Yorktown Heights. He is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. Di Costanzo can be reached at 914-925-1010 or at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com). You may also visit [www.plantodayfortomorrow.com](http://www.plantodayfortomorrow.com).

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# Screening of Local Troupe's 'An Existential Date' Held at Wolf and Warrior

The Wolf and Warrior Brewing Company in White Plains hosted the private screening of local author and playwright Richard Cirulli's first psychotronic movie, "An Existential Date," on June 14.

The movie was filmed at the Wolf and Warrior last winter, and may be the first movie shot in White Plains post-COVID-19.

Guests included the cast, crew and Demitasse Players staff, along with its board of directors and invitees, with some guests coming from as far away as St. Louis.

The pre-release screening served as a fundraiser for mental health awareness. The movie includes original soundtrack by the troupe's musical director, Drew Caico, who performed the music with troupe member Eric Scholz. Cinematography was by Chris Casabury, who also directed the movie.

The movie is a dark romantic comedy about two middle-aged philosophy professors meeting for a date for the first time at a



local college pub, where the talk of philosophy becomes a mutual aphrodisiac.

The cast included Rob Ansbrosio as Camu, Donna L. White as Neisky and Michelle Osojnak as the waiter. Many locals served as

extras.

"I'm most blessed and fortunate to have such a professional and dedicated troupe who has worked so tirelessly to advocate for mental health awareness," Cirulli said. "I'm forever

indebted to them for their great performances, dedication and friendships. A very special thank you to Michael Chiltern, founder of the Wolf and Warrior, who has been a loyal patron and supporter of the troupe and who has also

hosted a successful fundraiser for the troupe in 2019."

Chiltern said he supports the mission of the Demitasse Players to inform, educate and bring mental health awareness to their audiences. Chiltern, who previously hosted a troupe fundraiser in 2019, has much admiration for everyone's efforts and sacrifices to bring quality plays and now a movie to the public.

Board member Jerry Morano gave an impassioned pre-show talk about the playwright's excellent body of works, and for his commitment to assist a humanity in distress. He noted that Cirulli self-funded the movie.

Cirulli said he hopes such events will draw the attention of elected officials to become more active in the cause for promoting mental health awareness. The morbidity rate of mental illness far exceeds that of COVID-19, and no face mask will prevent it, nor are there any vaccines to prevent it.

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

### THERE'S A WORD FOR IT A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**Summer Fun.** Summer has arrived, and with it comes ample opportunities to have fun in the longer days filled with warm, perhaps hot, sunshine. To help get the fun rolling, the quiz this week features words that contain "fun" within them.

1. **funk (v.)**  
A) to accumulate                      B) be afraid of                      C) indulge in
2. **fungible (adj.)**  
A) inhibiting growth                      B) involving trickery                      C) interchangeable
3. **perfunctory (adj.)**  
A) done routinely                      B) becoming better                      C) very durable
4. **profundity (n.)**  
A) great intellectual insight                      B) lavish expenditure                      C) a valuable return
5. **funicular (adj.)**  
A) lacking style                      B) sloping upward                      C) moved by a cable
6. **latifundium (n.)**  
A) freedom of action                      B) a large landed estate                      C) the act of praising
7. **infundibuliform (adj.)**  
A) shaped like a funnel                      B) seldom happening                      C) having information
8. **funambulist (n.)**  
A) a counterfeiter                      B) a humorist                      C) a tightrope walker

- ANSWERS:**
1. B. To be afraid of; dread
  2. C. (of goods) exchangeable or replaceable, in kind; interchangeable
  3. A. Done routinely and with little interest or care
  4. A. Great intellectual insight or understanding
  5. C. Operated or moved by a cable
  6. B. A large landed estate, especially of the ancient Romans
  7. A. Shaped like a funnel
  8. C. One who performs on a tightrope or a slack rope. A tightrope walker

### Katonah Museum of Art Executive Director Steps Down

The Katonah Museum of Art (KMA) has announced that Michael Gitlitz has stepped down as its executive director and that Margaret Adasko, the museum's curator of education, and Registrar and Facilities Manager Nancy Hitchcock have been appointed co-interim executive directors.

During his tenure, Gitlitz spearheaded the KMA's navigation of the pandemic and its transition to a robust schedule of digital educational programs, virtual tours and Zoom events. The museum organized important exhibitions that received critical acclaim, including "Sparkling Amazons: Abstract Expressionist Women of the 9th St. Show" and "Bisa Butler: Portraits."

Gitlitz was also instrumental in the KMA's reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums.

"Working in collaboration with the museum's terrific staff and board, we have been able to achieve many important goals that have strengthened the institution and advanced the vital role it plays in northern Westchester," Gitlitz said. "It's now time for me to move on to new challenges and opportunities in my career."

"On behalf of the board and staff of the KMA and the audiences we serve, I'd like to thank Michael for the great contributions he has made to the Museum and the communities we serve," stated



Michael Gitlitz has left the Katonah Museum of Art as its executive director.

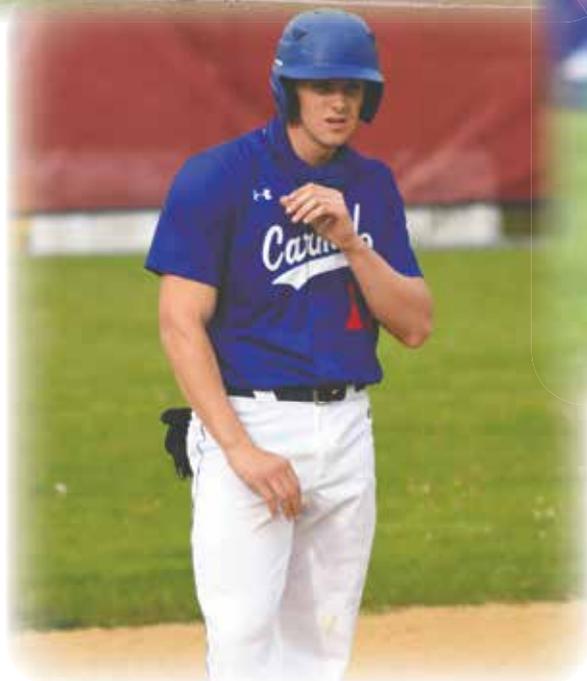
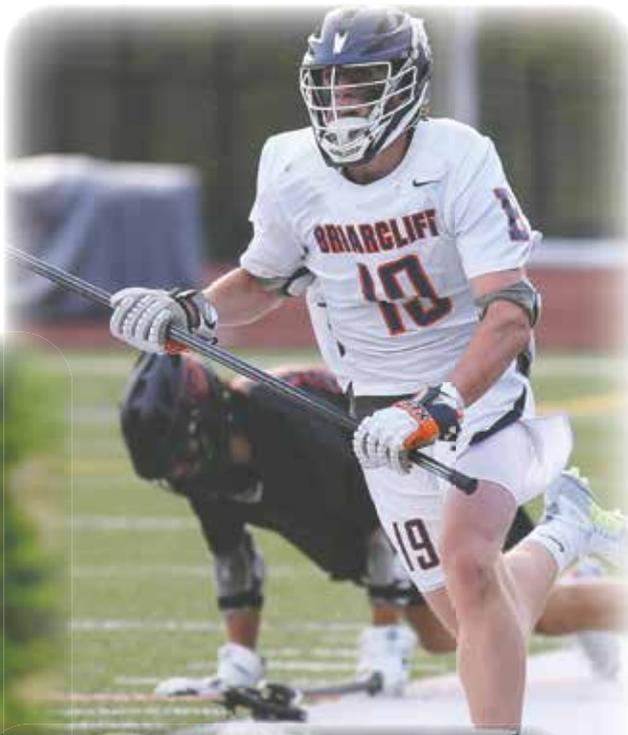
Vida Foubister, president of the Board of Trustees. "Please join me in wishing him well in his future endeavors."

The Board of Directors is forming a committee to conduct a search for the museum's next executive director.

# Examiner Sports

## Springing to Life!

### COVID-Be-Damned, Examiner-area Spring Players of the Year Honored



ALL SPORTS PHOTOS BY RAY GALLAGHER / ROB DIANTONIO / ANDY JACOBS

Masked or unmasked due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Section 1's spring season went off without a hitch in most cases, and the following standard-bearing student athletes -- Mahopac softball standout Shannon Becker, Briarcliff stud Aidan Murnane, Carmel marvel Jack Sullivan and Somers and Hen Hud lax stars Ella Kittredge and Kira Varada -- were the cream of the crop among the Examiner-area teams, thus earning spring season Player of the Year nods for the NYSPHSAA schools currently covered in this sports section (Brewster, Carmel, Mahopac, Put Valley, Haldane, Yorktown, Lakeland, Panas, Somers, Hen Hud, Peekskill, Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff, Byram Hills, Pleasantville, Westlake, Valhalla, Greeley, Fox Lane, White Plains).

## Sports

# Sully of Swat!

## Carmel Senior Slugger/Pitcher Delivered Historic Season

### Player of the Year:

### Carmel senior P, Jack Sullivan

### Player File:

- 4 Varsity Seasons (minus COVID 2020)
- All-NYS (in-waiting)
- 2X All-Section
- 2021 Season; 1.44 ERA, 5-1, 43.2 IP, 78 K's, 81 AB's, .542 BA, 5 HR's, 39 hits, 42 RBI, 27 runs (22 games)

### Coach's Quote:

Jack Sullivan has all the tools, mechanics, demeanor, desire and talent to succeed at the next level. He is coachable, humble and a team-first guy with mental toughness. We were very fortunate to have him for four terrific varsity seasons. UConn is getting something special.

-- Carmel Coach Joe Hackert

### Final Note:

The hard-throwing UConn-bound right-hander was a four-year player and the ace of the Rams' staff, and was equally strong

as a corner infielder (1B) with a booming bat in the heart of an order that produced a school record .383 BA. If they were to ever line up all the former Ram greats in this tradition-rich program, Sullivan would be near the top of that line, if not its kingpin. Unassuming and a leader by example, Jack Sullivan was thrown to the wolves as a freshman, along with battery mate Anthony Febo, and the dynamic duo did nothing but make their teammates better and send the fourth-seeded Rams (19-3) out as Section 1 Class AA champions for the first time in 31 years, knocking off perennial Dutchess County powerhouse RCK along the way. Go figure: Sully was his dominant self on the hill #RespectBro.

### Others Strongly Considered:

Carmel senior C/OF Anthony Febo; Byram Hills junior P Bobby Chicoine; Fox Lane junior SS/P Michael Lombardi; Yorktown senior P Kevin Weitman, Yorktown senior OF/IF Jon Sica; HM Panas sophomore Jackson DiLorenzo (P)

By Ray Gallagher, Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays



## Sports

# Nobody Becker!

## Mahopac Senior Goes Out on Top of World

### Player of the Year:

### *Mahopac senior P, Shannon Becker*

### Player File:

- 5 Varsity Seasons (minus COVID 2020)
- 2X NYS Gatorade Player of the Year
- 4X All-Section
- 2021 Season; 0.00 ERA, 19-1, 139 IP, 286 K's, 29 hits allowed, 19 BB, 18 shutouts, .470 BA, 17 RBI
- Career Numbers; 57-21 (16 of those losses as 8th-9th grader), 0.47 ERA, 1,041 K's, 545 IP, .433 BA, 104 hits, 51 RBI, 60 runs

### Coach's Quote:

Watching Shan grow from an eighth-grader with 101 questions and so unaware of her talent, to this dominant, iconic pitcher has been amazing... from start to finish. The entire ride has been a terrific experience. Watching her continuously break records and win award after award has me at a loss for words each time, yet every year she would light it on fire even more than before. She is everything you could want in a student athlete and a recruit, and I know her next home will appreciate her just as much as we did. The fact that she was able to close out her career as a section

one champ, something we have both been tirelessly working toward since we both came on board together, means the world. All her work, dedication, drive and love for the game has paid off tremendously. I can't wait to see that kid tear up Notre Dame next year. My next stop is South Bend.

-- Mahopac Coach Cristina Giansante

An athlete like Shannon Becker comes around once in a lifetime. She epitomizes everything we are looking for in our student athletes at Mahopac. Plus, she is the most humble and greatest teammate ever.

-- Former Mahopac AD/Coach Frank Miele

### Final Note:

With 11 career no-hitters, two 'perfect'-perfect games, 43 shutouts and 17 one-hitters, the Notre Dame-bound Becker will go down in history as Mahopac's premier talent in the circle and one of its strongest hitters after leading the Indians (19-1) to their first Section 1 Class AA championship. Even without her junior year factored in due to COVID and the subsequent cancellation of the 2020 season, Becker's career numbers could stand the test of time. If COVID hadn't hit, Becker would have landed among the top two in NYS for career strikeouts. Had she played her junior season, Becker's career numbers might be unapproachable. She did all this while playing three sports (hoops, soccer) and maintaining an A-average. Longtime Mahopac AD, coach and administrator Frank Miele called Becker "the epitome of a Mahopac student athlete", and it would be hard to find anyone in the district to disagree.

### Others Strongly Considered:

Lakeland junior P Stella Bale; Yorktown junior P Maya Servedio; White Plains junior SS Alexa Galligani

By Ray Gallagher,  
Examiner Sports Editor  
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## Sports

# Iron Man Aidan!

## Section 1 Marvels Elite Briarcliff Senior Murnane

### Player of the Year:

***Briarcliff senior D, Aidan Murnane***

### Player File:

- 2021 All-American
- 2019 All-NYS
- 2X All-Section
- 5-year varsity player
- National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society, Math Honor Society
- 2021 Season: 8 goals, 2 assists, 57 ground balls, lock-down defender

### Coach's Quote:

I've been coaching Aidan since the sixth grade. He's an all-in player, and he accepts nothing less. His mantra is that of Mark Messier (former NY Ranger icon): He quoted him at our team dinner whereby in 1994 Mess made sure everyone got a ring. Aidan's speech to our team was that everyone is important from top to bottom. Everyone has a role. He's the most selfless player I've ever coached. On and off the field he is beloved by everyone at Briarcliff. This includes classmates, staff and faculty. He was the stick that stirred our drink. He can lock down the best players in the state and then turn around and push in transition as an offensive threat. We will miss him more than he knows.

-- *Briarcliff Coach Al Meola*

This is my 22nd year serving as Briarcliff AD and Aidan is the quintessential student-athlete I've seen here, one of the best to pass through here. He has put in

countless hours of practice and is one of the best captains I've ever seen. He represents himself, his team and school, which makes me incredibly proud. It was an honor and privilege to serve as his AD.

-- *Briarcliff AD Chris Drosopoulos*

### Final Note:

The Colgate-bound Murnane might have led the Bears to three consecutive Section 1 titles if not for COVID, and would have had the Bears (15-1) in serious contention for a state title in 2020 and 2021 after reaching the state finals in 2019. Instead, Briarcliff went back-to-back as sectional champs for the first time ever, taking the Class C title in 2021. Defenders rarely post gaudy numbers, but his stingy defensive play led to first-time triumphs of perennial Class B powerhouse Yorktown and Class A heavyweight Mamaroneck, leading many to call Briarcliff the best team in Section 1 this season, stride for stride with Class B champ Rye. Murnane was also a two-sport specialist, excelling in hoops as well, but the standard he set upon the lax green, inside the huddle, in the classroom and in the Bears' locker room are the stuff of legend.

### Others Strongly Considered:

Briarcliff junior M Matt Waterhouse; Yorktown senior G Adam Norris; Yorktown junior A Harry Griff; Lakeland/Panas senior A Conor Hufnagel

By *Ray Gallagher,*  
*Examiner Sports Editor*  
 @Directrays



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# Sports

# Ell(a)-of-a-Year! Somers Senior Kittredge Excels on, off Field



**Co-Player of the Year:**

**Somers senior M, Ella Kittredge**

**Player File:**

- 2021 All-American
- 2X All-Section
- 2021 Season: 67 goals, 20 assists, 77 draw controls, 33 ground balls, 24 caused turnovers
- Career Numbers: 165 points, 124 goals, 41 assists, 78 caused

turnovers

**Coach's Quote:**

Ella is an exceptional student athlete who leads on the field and the classroom. Her competitive drive motivates and demands attention from her teammates and opponents. Ella is someone you want to have the ball in crucial moments. She never stops until the final whistle and she knows her way to the net. Ella is someone that I feel honored to have

coached and have as a leader on our Somers team!

-- Somers Coach Debbie Daly

**Final Note:**

The Holy Cross-bound Kittredge was all over the field for the Tuskers on their way to a berth in the Section 1 Class B championship game. Using her speed, scoring ability, smarts, quickness to draw controls and ability to gobble up ground balls, Kittredge was a big-time senior leader for the Tuskers in three sports. Kittredge, also a sniper on the soccer field and a vital cog on the track and field team, will be tough to replace next season along with D-1 bound teammate Noelle DeMarinis. Few student athletes in Somers history had a nose for the net in two sports quite like Kittredge did.

**Others Strongly Considered:**

Yorktown senior M Sophia Spallone; Yorktown senior G Sophia Altimari; White Plains senior midfielder Alexa Donahoe; Somers senior midfielder Noelle DeMarinis

By Rob DiAntonio @RJD\_Photos



# Pina Varada!

# Garnish with 1st Section 1 Title in Hen Hud History



draw controls, 88 ground balls, 27 caused turnovers

- Career Numbers: 280 career draw controls, 325 career ground balls, 227 career goals, 50 assists, 55 caused turnovers, 277 career points (all school records)

**Coach's Quote:**

Kira dominates a game in all three phases; offense, defense and the draw circle. She dominates all three phases. The bigger the moment, the better she plays. She's an unselfish player who is always willing to do what's best for the team. She's one of the best I've ever coached.

-- Hen Hud Coach Rob Molfetta

Kira Varada came to us as an eighth-grader and had an immediate impact. Watching her blossom into a dominating three sport athlete, who has the innate ability to make big plays at the biggest parts of games, with her wonderful infectious personality and smile, has been a pleasure.

-- Hen Hud AD Tom Baker

**Final Note:**

The Iona-bound Varada was all over the

field for the Sailors (13-4) en route to the first Section 1 Class C championship in school history. Using her speed, scoring ability, smarts, quickness to draw controls and ability to gobble up ground balls, Varada was a big-time senior leader for the Sailors in three sports. Varada, also a sniper on the soccer field and a fearless defender in hoops, will be almost impossible to replace next season. Hen Hud AD Tom Baker has often called her the finest three-sport female student athlete in Sailor history, and there are very few that have risen to Varada's level. She is the upper crust, the cream of the crop along the shores of the Montrose-based school.



**Co-Player of the Year:**

**Hen Hud senior M, Kira Varada**

**Player File:**

- 2021 All-American
- 3X All-Section
- 5-year varsity lax player
- 2021 Season: 62 goals, 10 assists, 95

Plains senior midfielder Alexa Donahoe; Somers senior midfielder Noelle DeMarinis

**Others Strongly Considered:**

Yorktown senior M Sophia Spallone; Yorktown senior G Sophia Altimari; White

By Ray Gallagher, Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

