Crowley Aims to Help Others with Domestic Violence Past Now Public
By Rick Pezzullo

It was a painful part of her past that only a select group of people were aware of, but Erin Lee Crowley has no regrets having been forced to go public with the details of being a domestic violence victim.

“I think it’s actually made me stronger,” Crowley said Monday. “It helps one person it’s all worth it to me.”

Crowley, who is running for a seat on the Carmel Town Board in a Republican primary on June 22, opted last week to reveal her personal experiences when she was in her 20s with two abusive men after she learned a story was being printed regarding some brushes she had with the law.

“I have held a lot of it in for many years because I was always afraid people would view me as weak,” she explained. “Many times silence is very inviting, but I choose to step forward and share my truth so others know they aren’t alone.”

Among the many types of abuse I endured, my partner threatened to kill my unborn son in utero, with a gun,” she stated. “One mid-winter day, with a one-month-old, he let the fuel oil run out in our residence and refused to refill it. I was freezing and fearful for my newborn and felt I had nowhere to turn. I had no access to anything: cars, finances, family or friends, and I was desperate to protect my child. I was afraid to leave. I was scared no one would believe me, or that it was all my fault.”

After managing to leave that situation, Crowley said she found herself in a similar predicament almost seven years later.

“I was with a man who appeared to be broken from a recent divorce. My abuser blamed me for everything, isolated me from my friends and family, and even eventually cost me my job,” she stated. “The abuse in this particular relationship was often intimidation, physical, emotional and financial abuse. For a long time, our world was defined by my boyfriend’s moods, needs, drug and alcohol abuse. On more than one occasion, both my child and my life were threatened. At one point the abuse was so bad and out of control I had to instruct my then eight-year-old child to lock himself in the bathroom, lay on the floor, and to not open it for anyone except the police, to protect him from the gunshots that were being fired.”

Kent Sets Public Hearing on Retail Marijuana Sales
By Anna Young

Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming wants to leave it up to the residents to decide whether retail marijuana dispensaries should be allowed within the community, but some Town Board members are ready to ban the decision immediately.

However, while Fleming was the only member of the board in favor of moving in that direction, Councilmen Chris Ruthven and William Huestis insisted the town immediately vote to opt-out of the legislation and prohibit the sale of the drug within its borders. With the board somewhat divided on the topic, Fleming last week suggested the town place the decision in a referendum on the topic, Fleming last week suggested the town place the decision in a referendum on the topic, Fleming last week suggested the town place the decision in a referendum on the topic, Fleming last week suggested the town place the decision in a referendum on the topic.

“I’m ready to vote to ban the dispensaries,” Ruthven said at the June 1 work session. “I’m having a hard time comprehending that our state made this legal. I don’t think it was a good idea by the state and I’m not going to do anything to help support it in anyway shape or form.”

Huestis added that a dispensary is not needed in Kent when the area needs to be revitalized in so many ways. He stressed the town has a responsibility to protect the children.

Councilwoman Jaime McGlasson, who at the May 18 meeting advocated for dispensaries for medicinal marijuana, shifted her opinion on allowing a dispensary in Kent after stating she found an individual smoking marijuana in a public park.

“I was concerned about the medical aspect of it but then I went home, and I looked at my three children who are growing up faster than I want them to, and children is a main concern,” she said. “Having a dispensary in our town is not the way to go.”

Moreover, municipalities can also regulate where and when marijuana can be sold by adopted new zoning laws. If a community decides to opt out, it may reverse that decision at any time.

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

With the establishment of the state Office of Cannabis Management, it is expected to take until at least the end of 2022 before any retail outlets will open.

A state license would be needed to grow, process, distribute, deliver, or dispense marijuana. Sales of marijuana would carry a 13 percent sales tax. If the municipality opts in, the state would receive nine cents of every dollar of marijuana sales generated within its borders, while the local government would get three cents. The county would receive one cent.

The law states that consumption would be legal anywhere that cigarette smoking is permitted, but Town Board members discussed the possibility of banning smoking in certain public areas, like parks.

Since the law was passed in March, County Executive MaryEllen Odell has urged municipal leaders to “think long and hard before allowing the sale of marijuana within their borders,” noting county government leaders’ hands are tied.

Odell has previously called the new law a “cash grab” by the state at the expense of the health and safety of local communities solely to close a budget gap.

“I understand that the state wants to generate a new source of revenue because of past mismanagement of the NYS budget, but at what price? The average person will look at the legalization of marijuana and say, ‘This does not impact me.’ But it is naïve to think that use among our young people will not increase,” Odell said in April. “Will our roads be safer? It’s like your parents always told you, ‘Just because your friends are doing it, doesn’t mean it is right.’”

Despite what was presumed to be a public hearing scheduled for the June 1 meeting, officials opted to set a formal hearing at their June 15 meeting to discuss the potential ban on dispensaries. Regardless of the outcome, Fleming urged a vote would be the ideal decision.

“A lot of people don’t come to public hearings and a lot of people don’t write letters or don’t make phone calls to let their voices be heard but one thing people pretty much do in the Town of Kent is vote and I think we have pretty bit turnouts during elections and this way the issue would be settled by the residents,” Fleming said.

“So you are upset about this, is an important issue. I think letting people vote is a good idea.”
Carmel GOP Primary Candidates Square Off at Forum

By Rick Pezzullo

Five of the six Carmel candidates that will be on the ballot in a winner-take-all Republican primary on June 22 appeared at a lightly attended forum at Dante’s Trattoria in Mahopac Thursday evening.

After admittedly having reservations about showing up, Carmel Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt, who is running for an eighth two-year term, was in attendance, along with one of his running mates, Steve Baranowski. Councilwoman Suzanne McDonough was unable to make it.

“I think I have done a great job. I’m proud of my record,” Schmitt said. “I have a passion for this community.”

Looking to unseat Schmitt is a familiar face, former Carmel Police Chief Mike Cazzari. “The position of supervisor is something I feel where I could make some changes,” Cazzari said. “Baranowski, who worked on Wall Street for 35 years, expressed extreme confidence in his chances in the primary (early voting begins on June 12).

“I am going to win this primary in a landslide by hard work and meeting people,” he remarked. “I am going to win on skills, experience and ability.”

Running on the same ticket with Cazzari, although they are campaigning separately, are Erin Lee Crowley and Gerard Ahler.

Crowley, a married mother of a teenage son and identical triplets, is the founder of the Hope Chest Sisters, a nonprofit organization that provides support and advocacy for domestic violence victims. During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, her Mask Maker’s Guild distributed more than 30,000 pieces of personal protective equipment to frontline workers, and she was recognized by State Senator Pete Harckham as a “Hometown Hero.”

“People want to feel like their voice matters,” Crowley said. “We need to focus on existing businesses and local residents.”

Ahler, a resident for more than 30 years who has been involved in a variety of businesses, said he, Crowley and Cazzari decided not to campaign as an entity because “if you run as a team that means you will be a puppet, that you will vote the same way.”

“We want people who will think differently,” he said. “I’m running because the struggles are real out here.”

Schmitt said the long-awaited Master Plan will be delivered “for public consumption” in the coming months.

“You can’t have a vibrant community that doesn’t have a blueprint for the future,” Schmitt said. “Every resident should have stake in it.”

Baranowski maintained recreation and tourism was the future of Carmel.

“I think we have a lot of opportunities in those areas. There is a lot of potential here,” he said, adding having a community college in Putnam “would be a fantastic economic engine.”

Crowley questioned where in Carmel a community college would fit. Instead, she said she would like to bring a YMCA.

“Kids who do things stay out of trouble,” she said.

Boswell, Zheng Head the Class of 2021 at Carmel High School

By Rick Pezzullo

Carmel High School has named Ariana Boswell valedictorian and Sandy Zheng salutatorian of the Class of 2021.

“I was shocked to learn that I was the valedictorian! I wasn’t expecting it at all, but I am honored to receive this distinction,” said Boswell.

Boswell will attend Vassar College as a biochemistry major later this year. She credited her AP Chemistry lab group at Carmel High School for helping her discover her love of chemistry and considers the group members some of her closest friends.

“Science has always been my favorite subject, and it fascinates me to learn about life both on the molecular level and on a larger scale,” said Boswell. “The field of biology is constantly expanding and there is always more to learn and discover, which is why I find the topic so captivating.”

While she has not chosen a career path as a physician, biomedical researcher or in some other role.

“One field that interests me in particular is rare diseases,” said Boswell. “I would like to be involved with either the research or treatment of rare autoimmune diseases and chronic illness.”

In addition to her impressive academics, Boswell has been an active member in many extracurricular activities during her time at Carmel High School. Her academic excellence earned her membership in both the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. In the community, Boswell serves as vice president of the Carmel DoSomething Chapter as well as the Patterson Library Teen Leadership Council. She spearheaded a project that provided crocheted hats for individuals battling cancer in the local community.

Boswell praised her teachers throughout her time in Carmel schools.

“So many of my teachers have had a positive influence on me, helping me to grow both as a student and as a person,” she said. “We are proud of Ariana and the remarkable academic success she has achieved during her years at Carmel High School,” remarked Carmel High School Principal Lauren Santabarbara. “This is a well-deserved honor that recognizes her talent, academic curiosity, active goal setting, hard work and dedication, and we are proud to add her to the ranks of our successful graduates. Ariana has truly exemplified each one of the Carmel 6Cs during her time in the District, and we know that she will successfully carry those into her next chapter!”

As for her advice to her peers, Boswell stressed the importance of getting involved in clubs and activities that fuel your passions.

She recommended being deeply dedicated to a few activities rather than having a surface-level involvement in many activities.

Zheng will attend Wellesley College this fall where she plans to major in both environmental and computer science.

“Sandy is an extraordinary student who has a true love and interest in learning,” said Santabarbara. “Her drive and curiosity are outstanding and immeasurable. When you meet Sandy, you are taken back by her poise and kindness. There is no doubt that she will be incredible in all of her future endeavors!”

In addition to her impressive academics, Zheng has been involved in a variety of extracurriculars including Varsity Tennis, Interact Club and French Club. She has also been a member of the Carmel Science Research program which provides students the opportunity to participate in the community of scientific research as part of their high school experience and earn college credits.

Last summer, Zheng interned with the Rochester Institute of Technology where she assisted in sponsored by National Geographic, applying imagery technology to assess stress and resilience of coastal salt marshes.

Carmel High School will hold its graduation ceremony on June 24 at The Overlook Drive-In Movie Theatre in Poughkeepsie.

Crowley Aims to Help Others with Domestic Violence Past Now Public

continued from page 2

Putnam County and Carmel’s Republican Committee and also the county’s Republican election commissioner, said he was aware of who brought in the private investigator and maintained voters had a right to know about the candidates who are vying for office.

“I just think she wasn’t honest with me. She wasn’t honest with anyone,” he said. “We’ll see what happens.”

Crowley, who is now married to a police officer and has identical triplets with special needs, is the founder of the Hope Chest Sisters, a nonprofit organization that provides support and advocacy for domestic violence victims.

“I have been transparent with a lot of people I have helped,” she said. “My abuse is unfortunately all too common. I am one of the lucky ones because I have turned my life around. I am committed to helping other victims, who feel that they have no way out.”

“I’m not a politician. I’m a resident who wants to see the future of Carmel get better,” she added. “This is telling me I’m doing something right. If I can do this, anyone can do it.”
New York Close to Fully Reopening as Vaccinations Approach 70%

By Martin Wilbur

New York State is on the verge of removing virtually all COVID-19 restrictions as the percentage of fully vaccinated adults approaches 70 percent.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday that once the percentage of all adults reaches that threshold there will only be certain institutional restrictions that will remain in place. Through Sunday, 68.6 percent of the 18-and-older population had been inoculated by being at least two weeks removed from their last shot.

“The light at the end of the tunnel is to remove the remaining COVID restrictions, right, get to a point where COVID is not inhibiting our society, not inhibiting our growth,” Cuomo said.

“When we hit 70 percent, then I feel comfortable saying to the people of this state, we can relax virtually all restrictions,” he added.

While neither Cuomo nor state Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker would be pinned down on when the lifting of the restrictions might occur, it is a near certainty that it will happen this month.

Through Sunday, 9,429,290 state residents 18 and older had been fully vaccinated, according to the state tracker. With more than 10.9 million people having received at least one dose, that means nearly 1.5 million more will be getting a second dose within the next two weeks. Tack on an extra two weeks following a second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to be considered fully vaccinated, and the state is no more than four weeks away, and most likely less, to add another 1.4 percent of the population to the fully vaccinated rolls.

Cuomo said after the restrictions are lifted masks will only be required as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Large venues, public transportation, homeless shelters, prisons, all health facilities and being inside a school will still require people to mask up, he said.

“But we hit 70 percent, we’ll be back to life as normal, or as normal as you can be,” Cuomo said.

The state’s attention, however, will be to zero in on zip codes throughout the state that have significantly lagging vaccination rates. The bottom 10 percent of the state’s 1,755 zip codes are below a 36.3 percent vaccination rate, Cuomo said.

As a result, some resources at the state vaccination sites will be redeployed into areas that have a rate that is roughly half or less of the entire state’s current rate. There are five New York zip codes that are at less than 30 percent vaccination rate, including Monsey, Rockland County, which has the lowest in the state at 17.6 percent of those 18 years old and up. There are no communities in Westchester or Putnam that were among the lowest two dozen zip codes.

Cuomo said in the remaining two weeks of the school year, secondary schools should encourage as many of their 12- to 17-year-old students to get vaccinated and try to arrange for their building to be a vaccination site. He called it a “golden opportunity” before the students head off to summer vacation, camp, travel or work.

“Get those 12- to 17-year-old vaccinated now; it will make reopening the schools much safer and much easier and I think every school should be doing that now,” Cuomo said.

For the first time since last Aug. 19, each of the state’s 10 regions recorded a positivity rate of less than 1 percent on the seven-day rolling average on Sunday. Mid Hudson, which includes Westchester and Putnam, and Long Island came in at 0.46 percent each while New York City had the lowest in the state at 0.43. The highest New York region was Finger Lakes, which recorded a 0.98 percent positivity rate.

“New York’s progress is extraordinary and exceptional,” Cuomo said. “It has one of the lowest levels of positivity of any state in the United States, so that is saying something.”

Locally, the numbers are similarly strong. Westchester recorded 18 positives on Sunday from 3,335 tests, a little less than 0.6 percent. The seven-day rolling average stands at about 0.3 percent.

County Executive George Latimer said Monday that Westchester had dropped to 328 active cases, the lowest level since shortly after the start of the pandemic in March 2020. COVID-19 hospitalizations have fallen to 30 and there were two deaths in the county from the virus over the last week.

All indicators are strong but Latimer warned the county isn’t in the clear yet.

“We’re hoping to go through the week without any fatalities and that will also be a sign of the reduction in the depth of the infection,” he said.

Putnam County had four positives results from 314 tests, a 1.3 percent rate, on Sunday. On the seven-day average, Putnam stood at 0.9 percent.
Face masks will continue to be required inside school buildings but districts may choose to let their students take them off if they are outside on school grounds for recess or other outdoor activities.

On Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo clarified confusing correspondence issued late last week involving state Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker and the state Education Department (SED) that had some parents, students and even education officials believing that face masks at school would no longer be required starting this week.

Cuomo said the state had asked the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) last Friday to modify its guidelines that would not require students to wear masks if they are outside on school grounds and to have the guidelines regarding summer camps and schools be consistent.

The governor insisted that on Friday his administration was expecting an answer from CDC by Monday, not that there would have been immediate wholesale changes through the state use public school facilities.

The disconnect had families scratching their heads just before the start of the weekend.

Last Friday, Zucker sent a letter to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that indicated that the state wanted to revise its mask requirements in public schools and have them match the state’s requirements for summer camp, which set off confusion.

It even prompted New York State United Teachers President Andrew Pallotta to send off a statement after 4 p.m. last Friday, calling the state’s sudden changes “whiplash-inducing news.”

On Sunday, SED fired off a release stating that the intent of Zucker’s June 4 letter “was to obtain a response from the Centers for Disease Control regarding differing standards for summer camps and schools; it had not changed any existing arrangements. Therefore, schools should continue to operate under their existing procedures until further notice.”

At his Monday briefing, Cuomo then announced the change for students who are outdoors, but masks would still be needed inside school buildings.

He said it was important that there be consistency in the guidance and that it makes sense.

“If people don’t think the rules are logical, then they’re not going to want to follow the rules,” he said.

Masks Still Required in Schools But Can Be Ditched By Students Outside

Harckham Bill to Advance Yorktown Park Solar Project

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) and his Senate colleagues approved special legislation on Monday that will allow the Town of Yorktown to use property at its Granite Knolls Park for the construction of a solar power facility and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

“The inclusion of a solar power plant at the proposed Granite Knolls Sports and Recreation Complex is a smart use of land that will benefit Yorktown residents financially in the years ahead,” said Harckham, who sponsored the Senate bill.

“Adding charging stations for electric vehicles also shows that town officials are looking ahead to future needs. I am pleased this legislation has passed and look forward to the project moving forward.”

The newly-approved legislation authorizes the Town of Yorktown to alienate certain parklands – in this case a portion of the property located within Granite Knolls Park – and lease it to HESP Solar LLC for the construction of a solar energy power plant and electric vehicle charging stations.

The lease of the Granite Knolls Park property, which will be at fair-market value, is for 25 years. Proceeds from the lease will go toward the acquisition of new parkland or capital improvements to existing park and recreation facilities within the Town of Yorktown.

If the parkland that is alienated ceases to be used for solar energy or EV charging stations, the lease shall be terminated and the land will revert to the Town of Yorktown.

“The inclusion of a solar power plant and electric vehicle charging, so I’m grateful to the state Senate for approving the authorization,” said County Legislator Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown). “We need to expand alternative energy sources whenever possible, and this project will also provide Yorktown with guaranteed income and lessen the tax burden for residents.”
Walter Panas Grad a Contestant on New Season of ‘The Bachelorette’

By Rick Pezzullo

A 2011 Walter Panas High School graduate is one of the 29 male contestants on the new season of “The Bachelorette,” which airs locally on Channel 7.

David Scott, 27, who grew up in Cortlandt but now lives in Nashville, will be competing for the affection of Katie Thurston, a 30-year-old bank marketing manager from Lynwood, Wash.

The new season, the program’s 17th, was filmed in New Mexico and kicked off Monday night. It will run throughout the summer.

Scott, who was prohibited by strict rules set by the show from doing media interviews, was on the varsity soccer team and debate team at Panas. He graduated from St. Bonaventure University. His favorite food is New York City pizza and ‘N Sync is his favorite boy band.

The son of Jamaican parents, Scott is “looking for a woman who is intelligent and driven to succeed,” according to his biography on the show’s website.

“He is extremely attracted to women who exude a quiet confidence! Synchronicity in life is of the utmost importance for David, and he hopes to find a partner that is as passionate about building a successful life, both professionally and romantically, as he is,” his biography stated.

“David wants a wife who will be proud to stand next to him for the rest of their lives, and he hopes to find that with the Bachelorette!”

Maloney Leads Push to Get Hesitant Putnam Residents Vaccinated

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-Cold Spring) joined Putnam County health officials and other representatives at the Philipstown Recreation Department vaccine distribution site in Garrison last week, the third stop on his vaccine awareness tour and part of his ongoing effort to combat vaccine hesitancy.

“Putnam County has done a stand-up job getting so many folks vaccinated in the last few months,” Maloney said. “Nearly 70 percent of the population ages 18 and up have at least one shot. That’s good progress, but we’ve got more work to do to reach herd immunity.”

County Executive MaryEllen Odell said that through mass vaccination PODs by county health officials, along with the efforts of local providers and pharmacies, have ensured that Putnam residents have easy access to vaccines. About half of the county has completed it vaccination series, and because of less demand for mass events, the vaccine efforts have begun to shift toward office-based health care providers, she said.

“We are proud of the tremendous efforts of our local health department, the dedicated volunteers and community partners in all they have done to help us get vaccinated and get back to life,” Odell said.

Consensus among public health experts is that the county will not reach herd immunity until at least 70 percent of the total population is immunized. COVID-19 vaccine sites continue to see a steady decline in those who are willing to be vaccinated.

As supply of the vaccine outpaces demand, it is imperative to focus outreach on under-vaccinated communities and encourage every New Yorker to get their shot.

Maloney said vaccine hesitancy is the major roadblock to New York achieving herd immunity. He is visiting communities and partnering with local leaders and organizations in his district to promote the safety and efficiency of vaccines. Previously, he has held events in Orange and Dutchess counties.
P’ville Garden Founder, Family Honored for Combatting Food Insecurity

By Abby Luby

The Pleasantville Community Garden is known as a beacon of collaborative effort to grow and give food to those in need.

Last Saturday, about 30 people gathered at the garden at St. John’s Episcopal Church to honor Devin Juros and his family for starting the garden project seven years ago. The garden was the brainchild of Juros when he was in middle school.

Devin’s father, David, recalled when his then-seventh-grade son came home from school after hearing someone speaking about food insecurity. His son told him that something had to be done.

Over four months, Devin outlined a plan to build a garden and wrote a detailed list of what would be needed.

“He had a passion about it and it was something that was bigger than ourselves,” David Juros said.

The family followed their son’s lead and reached out to the community for help and found residents ready to donate their time. St. John’s Episcopal donated the 600-square-foot plot to grow organic vegetables as well as reusing and recycling materials.

Unbeknownst to Devin and his parents, the garden’s board of directors unveiled a special plaque honoring the family for “Growing, Gathering and Giving since 2014.”

Presenting the plaque was Abi Wright, chair of the Pleasantville Community Garden Board of Directors. Wright announced that since Devin Juros launched the garden in 2014 while in seventh grade, nearly 100,000 pounds of food have been donated to various local food pantries and organizations.

“Also honoring Juros was Mayor Peter Scherer, who shared local lore about 18th century farmer Daniel Earle who owned an orchard near where the community garden is today.”

“It brought back the idea that a piece of agrarian life is one we haven’t yet lost,” Scherer said.

Devin Juros said it was great to see everyone together again after life was interrupted by COVID-19.

“The pandemic showed us how much we all rely on each other, how life is chaotic and we don’t know what will happen next,” he said.

Juros, a junior at Brown University majoring in biology and philosophy (his favorite philosopher is Immanuel Kant), said that during the past 15 months, the garden became even more essential. He noted that his experience creating and building the garden with like-minded community members heightened his interest in medical and biological research and treatment for prevalent diseases.

“This pandemic showed us how much we all rely on each other, how life is chaotic and we don’t know what will happen next,” he said.

Juros, a junior at Brown University majoring in biology and philosophy (his favorite philosopher is Immanuel Kant), said that during the past 15 months, the garden became even more essential. He noted that his experience creating and building the garden with like-minded community members heightened his interest in medical and biological research and treatment for prevalent diseases.

Before presenting the plaque, former village trustee Steve Lord recalled his surprise when his son came home from school and announced “I’m going to garden with Devin.”

“What that meant was an eighth-grader was inspired to take part in a cause that was greater than himself,” Lord said.

Pictured, from left, are David, Margot and Devin Juros in front of the Pleasantville Community Garden.

Since Devin Juros launched the garden in 2014 while in seventh grade, nearly 100,000 pounds of food have been donated to local food pantries and organizations.
Yorktown Grange Car Show Returns to the Fairgrounds June 27

Get your motor running and head out to the Yorktown Grange fairgrounds on Sunday, June 27 for the ninth annual Yorktown Grange Car Show. The Yorktown Grange is particularly excited to host this year’s show after the 2020 hiatus. As with all Yorktown Grange events, the show is organized and staffed entirely by volunteers, who are justifiably proud of its growth from an exhibit of 50 vehicles in 2012 to more than 150 in 2019. In the words of Scott Nelson, one of the show organizers, “our show has become an event that car enthusiasts mark on their calendars.”

The organizers are expecting even more entries this year – and not just cars. Trucks and motorcycles are also welcome. With exhibit space for more than 300 vehicles, the show still has room to grow. So if you have a beauty in your garage, we have the space for you to brag a bit!

The exhibit fee is only $20. Registration for entries starts at 8 a.m. and door prizes are included. All makes, models and years are eligible. The awards ceremony will be held at 3 p.m.

The car show is a great family event with music, food and activities for kids. The little ones will love Big Truck Day, the special exhibit of kid-friendly vehicles. With comfortable facilities, including air-conditioned buildings, enjoy a fun day to celebrate our return to normal.

The Yorktown Grange fairgrounds is located at 99 Roseman Rd. in Yorktown Heights. Gates open at 10 a.m. and the show closes at 4 p.m. Admission is $5 per carload and parking is free. Proceeds from the car show support charities and help those in need in our community. The rain date is July 18. For more information, visit www.yorktowngrange.org/carshow or on Facebook at facebook.com/yorktowngrangecarshow.

Hendrick Hudson Free Library Receives Major Gift

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library has received a generous gift from the estate of John B. Gedney. Gedney first reached out to the library in late 2018 to discuss his intention to name it as a beneficiary of his estate.

During numerous conversations, Gedney expressed his desire to leave a lasting legacy to organizations dedicated to making a difference in the communities which helped shape him. The board is grateful that the Hendrick Hudson Free Library met his standards and welcomes Gedney’s extraordinary generosity in joining the family of supporters.

The motivation for Gedney’s gift began right around the corner. He was raised in Buchanan and graduated from Hendrick Hudson High School in 1958. Four years later he graduated from Alfred University and went on to work for the Burroughs Corporation and Lockheed Martin as a ceramic engineer. He spent his later years in Cape Canaveral, Fla., where he passed away last May.

While Gedney directed that the library not use the gift for administrative expenses, in honoring his wishes, the library will use the funds to elevate the scope and quality of the services it offers to the community, goals toward which the Hendrick Hudson Free Library continually strives. In keeping with his directive, the library is developing a plan of action that will accomplish that.

Home Care Tips and Ideas!

If you are thinking of selling your home, we can help you make a strong first impression by sharing some quick fixes and easy to implement tips. Our simple tips can make your house pop and look well-kept.

Contact us today to get your home in top shape before selling.

- Trim shrubbery around exterior walls.
- Check exterior door hardware, lubricate squeaky hinges and tighten loose handles/locks.
- Inspect and clean window weep holes. Check drainage.
- Trim landscaping and clean around outdoor HVAC units to provide sufficient air flow.
- Maintain exterior foundation grading/slope to ensure water moves away from home.
- Check septic system drain field for flooding.
- Test smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries.

To help you get the best price for the sale of your home, call, e-mail or text us for a Comparative Market Analysis.

Call us today because YOU deserve the best!
Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

May 25: A resident reported at 8:13 p.m. that while walking on Cleveland Drive, a vehicle passed by and hit him in the face with some type of clear liquid from the passenger side of the vehicle. The vehicle did not stop, and the caller could only describe the vehicle as a gray/silver midsize SUV.

May 26: Patrol responded to an area on Lexington Drive at 2:35 p.m. on a report of a person yelling, having possibly mooned a resident. The party was warned and admonished.

May 27: Report of a person yelling and scaring residents on Lexington Drive at 8:33 a.m. The party was warned and admonished.

May 30: Patrol responded to North Riverside Avenue at 10:58 p.m. that she believed she saw what may have been a noose as she was driving on Virginia Road. She described the item as being hung from a street sign pole at eye level. The responding officer located a small rope hanging from a “Stay to the Right” sign. The officer did not perceive the rope to be intended as a noose or any other threat or type of intimidation. The rope was removed from the scene and discarded.

May 31: Report of a utility pole fire on White Plains Police Department

June 2: A 40-year-old man was arrested in connection with a burglary that occurred at 173 E. Post Rd.

Last week, the White Plains Police Department conducted an undercover sting on businesses that sell alcohol by having minors attempt to buy beer from them. All three tested establishments passed. The White Plains Mobil at 174 Westchester Ave., Andreas Food Market at 41 Lake St. and the 7-11 at 307 Central Ave. identified the minors and refused to sell to them.

Yorktown Police Department

May 28: Jahsir Doughty, 21, of Montrose, was arrested at 10:01 a.m. and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and passing a steady red signal on Route 6 in the area of Sunnyside Street in Shrub Oak. An investigation revealed Doughty’s driving privileges had been suspended for failing to answer previous summonses.

June 2: Todd Johnson, 41, of Poughkeepsie, was arrested on two arrest warrants issued by the Yorktown Justice Court for failing to appear at 2:51 p.m. Yorktown was notified by the Putnam Sheriff’s office that they had Johnson in custody. The suspect had been previously arrested for petty larceny and criminal possession of stolen property. It was also learned he had an active warrant in Orange County.

North Castle Police Department

May 29: Complainant arrived at police headquarters at 4:57 p.m. to report receiving an alarming text message on his cell phone from an unknown party who demanded money. The complainant acknowledged that it is probably a scam, but that he wanted to document the incident. He forwarded a screenshot of the message and he blocked the sender from his phone.

May 29: Multiple 911 callers reported a single vehicle rollover accident on Route 22 at 7:50 p.m. with the operator out of the vehicle. County Fire Control was notified for ambulance dispatch. The responding officer reported the subject was transported to the Westchester Medical Center emergency room by Westchester EMS. Empire Towing removed the vehicle.

May 30: A caller reported at 10:58 a.m. that she believed she saw what may have been a noose as she was driving on Virginia Road. She described the item as being hung from a street sign pole at eye level. The responding officer located a small rope hanging from a “Stay to the Right” sign. The officer did not perceive the rope to be intended as a noose or any other threat or type of intimidation. The rope was removed from the scene and discarded.

May 31: Report of a utility pole fire on King Street at 12:13 a.m. The Armonk Fire Department was dispatched by 90 Control. The responding officers stated that a utility pole was actively burning. Officers closed the roadway due to hazardous conditions.

June 2: Report of a vehicle fire on Bayberry Road at 12:02 p.m. A BMW emergency services operator reported being alerted of a vehicle fire in the area of Bayberry and Boulder Trail. The responding officer reported that the vehicle became disabled due to a possible radiator fluid leak. Armonk Garage responded and removed the vehicle.

Putnam Sheriff’s Department

May 21: While traveling eastbound on Route 6 in the Town of Southeast, Deputy Robert Weinberg observed a 2000 Chevrolet Trailblazer commit multiple traffic infractions in the area of the I-684 northbound on-ramp at 12:41 a.m. Weinberg initiated a traffic stop on Route 22 and made contact with the driver, 32-year-old William A. Madrid-Vasquez. After a subsequent investigation, the deputy determined Madrid-Vasquez was driving while intoxicated and placed him under arrest without incident. He was also issued several traffic tickets.

Frank Maliszewski

Frank Maliszewski, a loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away on May 31 surrounded by family at 93 years old.

Frank was proud of his Polish heritage. He was an avid member of the Pulaski Association and acted as treasurer for many years. He was also a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation. A devout Catholic, Frank attended daily Mass into his 90s, occasionally even standing in as an altar boy, if needed.

He is survived by his wife; three children; daughter-in-law Maria Maliszewski and son-in-law Steve Barton; six grandchildren, Megan and Madalyn Meldrim, Sarah (Barton) Lodewyk and Michaela Barton and Breanne and Kaleigh Maliszewski; as well as nieces, nephews and many friends.

Visitation will be at Beecher-Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Saturday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m., followed by a requiem mass at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville at 12:30 p.m. Interment will follow at Kensico Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Kids’ Food Basket at www.kidsfoodbasket.org.
Feeding Westchester Gears Up To Meet Summer Child Hunger Demand

At the end of a school year that looked and felt like no other, children across the country are eagerly awaiting summer recess. For millions of youths, however, summer too often means missing meals that they would have otherwise received at school.

Feeding Westchester, the county’s largest nonprofit hunger-relief organization, is gearing up for an increase in demand among families with school-aged children and challenges the community to get involved by participating in its Summer Help From Home Bags program. Hunger affects the human body in many ways, including making it hard to think clearly and increasing the risk for chronic diseases. In children, growling stomachs result in a higher risk of behavioral and cognitive issues, mental disorders, as well as long-term health threats like asthma.

“Proper nutrition is crucial for a child’s mental, emotional and physical development,” said Kelly Pearson, nutrition resource manager at Feeding Westchester. “In addition to children who don’t get enough to eat, low nutrient dense diets can also lead to poor health outcomes, such as nutrient deficiencies, malnutrition, anemia and risk for developing obesity.”

During the school year, 22 million U.S. children have access to free or reduced-cost meals at school. Surprisingly, fewer than four million children nationally receive similar meals through USDA Summer Food Service programs, leaving a gap of 18 million children.

To help meet the increased summertime need, Feeding Westchester will continue to assemble and deliver free meals and food through organizations like the United Way of Westchester & Putnam, the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon and the Ossining and Elmsford school districts.

“Last summer, Feeding Westchester provided more than 5.6 million meals to children and families facing hunger,” said Karen C. Erren, the nonprofit’s president and CEO. “This summer, we continue on our commitment to ensure that youth in every corner of Westchester have access to the meals they need to thrive during and out of school. We are looking to the community to join us in our fight against hunger.”

While in-person opportunities continue to be limited due to the pandemic, Feeding Westchester has several Meals 4 Neighbors virtual volunteering projects to help meet the increased need. To find or give help, call 914-923-1100 or visit feedingwestchester.org. For details on what to include, visit https://bit.ly/34dHmfB.

For further information or to schedule an event, please contact Jimmy at (917) 803-7893.

Feeding Westchester’s Summer Help From Home Bags can be assembled at home and dropped off at Feeding Westchester in Elmsford. For details on what to include, visit https://bit.ly/34Hm4fB.

Every $1 donated to Feeding Westchester provides up to three meals for local children, seniors and families struggling with hunger.

To find or give help, call 914-923-1100 or visit feedingwestchester.org. For the latest news and updates, follow @FeedingWestchester on Facebook and Instagram and @FeedWestchester on Twitter.
Letters to the Editor

United New Castle Slate Mischaracterizes Form Based Code

The ironically named “Unite” New Castle slate, with the silent support of the local Republican party, is trying its hardest to torpedo a zoning change that has been in the planning stages for eight years. Although their candidate for town supervisor, Lisa Katz, is now leading the charge against it, she was one of the original architects of the Form Based Code until it better suited her political ambitions to become the flag-bearer for a group of residents who, despite their protests to the contrary, appear to be mostly fearful of the threat of a more diverse community.

One hardly knows where to start. On a fundamental level, their op-ed continually characterizes it as a development plan, when in fact, it’s simply a change in the building code, and even then, only for several blocks currently filled with dilapidated and vacant buildings. The authors only finally admit the actual scale of the plan after trotting out all their original fear-mongering talking points about a hypothetical maximum build-out of the original 72-acre zoning plan which is no longer on the table.

They disingenuously characterize that change as a “fait accompli” instead of a Democratic Town Board responsive to community input. They caution that a future Town Board could unilaterally rezone the whole 72-acre area, when this is blatantly false; any rezoning requires public hearings.

In an effort to frighten voters, they threaten fictional tax consequences, but anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of math knows that additional residents and businesses would actually lighten the overall tax burden for everyone else. They reference Chappaqua Board of Education concerns about the original 72-acre proposal, hoping that no one will notice that a zoning change of that proportion no longer exists. Quite ironically, they warn of potential lawsuits, when the only ones planning to sue are the anti-Form Based Code group that makes up their core constituency.

Their opponents, Holly McCall, Lori Morton, Michael Weinberg and Jennifer Bounds, collectively known as Democrats for New Castle 2021, are endorsed by Nita Lowey, George Latimer, Ken Jenkins, Pete Harckham, Chris Burdick and Vedat Gashi – virtually every major Westchester County Democratic leader. Being that this is a Democratic primary, that’s very revealing.

The Democrats for New Castle have a vision for our town and the skills to address the many challenges we face. Voters shouldn’t be fooled into casting their ballots for a one-issue reactionary slate, and a disingenuous one at that.

Andrew Dorfman
Chappaqua

Levenberg Merits Public Support Because of Record of Accomplishments

Not long ago, a neighbor introduced my wife and me to Dana Levenberg as her friend who serves Ossining. I innocently asked what do you do? My neighbor answered for her. She is the town supervisor. Embarrassed by our ignorance, we resolved to check her out.

We noted that she held the line on tax increases in her six years in office. But any conservative can do that by simply voting no.

What really impressed us was her initiatives, which garnered $1.2 million in grants for 13 local projects, ranging from benefiting nutrition for senior citizens, improving utilities for users of our local parks and benefiting all of us with clean energy endeavors. Her work has been rewarded by honors from organizations working to plan for the future as well as those helping our disadvantaged citizens left behind.

We write not to extol her but simply to ask all those voters who, like us, did not know Supervisor Dana Levenberg, to make the effort, before the June 22 Democratic primary, to review the record of what she has already accomplished as a prediction of continued efforts to improve life in our community. We think you will agree that she merits our vote.

Frank Maurovich
Ossining

Fossil Fuel Interests Using Scare Tactic Sink Important State Bill

A recent letter to this newspaper claimed that the Climate and Community Investment Act (S4264A/A6967) is nothing more than a disguise for a gas tax to be levied on our region (“Proposed Carbon Tax Would Be Harsh for New York’s Drivers,” May 25-31). Kudos to the fossil fuel companies and their allies for once again misrepresenting the facts in order to confuse the issue.

What the CCIA will do is charge these companies for the damage they have caused for decades (pollution and severe health impacts on disadvantaged communities, for example) and use that money for positive changes throughout our region. More green jobs supporting New York’s changeover to a 100 percent renewable energy platform and a just transition for our frontline communities.

The claim is that the fossil fuel industry will simply pass these new costs to the end consumers, hence a new tax. However, this is where the old-school fear-mongering tactic occurs. Built into the CCIA Act are provisions to counteract such a move. One-third of the money raised would be used to provide direct assistance to low- and moderate-income families via transit vouchers, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program credits or direct cash benefits. Even if energy companies try to raise costs, the rebate program would ensure the lowest-earning 60 percent of New Yorkers will come out the same or ahead.

The fossil fuel companies just want to protect their profits to the very end. As the reality of climate change impacts our everyday lives, isn’t it time to start working toward a better future for all?

Ira Rosh
Mount Kisco

Let the Voters Decide Whether Cuomo Deserves a Fourth Term

The governor of New York was not elected to meet or exceed a political party’s moral standard. Andrew Cuomo was elected three times by the people of New York. He did so based on his performance and character.

If we are a democracy then the people should have the final say next year when he runs for a fourth term. If the Democrats control the legislature and want to get rid of him sooner, then they should go on record and impeach him. He should not be forced to resign because he doesn’t meet the party’s “moral standard.”

We are a country of law, not of men or women. Let’s follow the law, not the standards of the Me Too movement, which assumes a person is guilty until proven innocent. That is not the way our system works.

Mario Falsi
White Plains
Byrne Calls for Reimbursement of Fire Depts. for EMS Calls

By Martin Wilbur

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) is sounding the alarm to get a proposed bill passed in Albany that would allow volunteer fire departments that operate ambulance services to recover costs from insurance companies.

Last Friday, Byrne stood with emergency responders throughout the Hudson Valley outside the Brewster Fire Department, pressing his Assembly colleagues to pass a measure that would treat fire department ambulance services the same. Currently, volunteer ambulance corps are allowed to bill for the costs of transporting a patient but not if the service is part of a volunteer fire department.

New York’s current policy, which affects about 400 departments statewide, is the only one like it in the United States, he said.

“I just want again to say that for all these men and women behind me that have been doing their job selflessly because they care about our community; they don’t ask who you are, they don’t care where you came from when you call 911, they’re there to help,” said Byrne, a co-sponsor of the Assembly bill that was introduced by Assemblyman Billy Jones (D-Plattsburgh). “They need resources and support. This bill will do that but it needs to pass.”

Byrne said the legislation has wide-ranging bipartisan support after similar measures have passed in Albany that would allow volunteer fire departments to be reimbursed by insurance.

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, along with representatives from an assortment of emergency services, last week urged passage of a bill that would allow an ambulance service run by a volunteer fire department to be reimbursed by insurance.

The financial ramifications of the current regulation are significant not only for volunteer fire departments but for property taxpayers, according to fire officials. Michael Karashay, the legislative chairman of the Fireman Association of the State of New York (FASNY), said the departments have no choice but to make a profit on this, Karashay said. “They want to be able to be on a level playing field.”

Byrne said the inability for fire departments to bill for their ambulance runs is forcing some departments to split the service, something that Lake Mohegan in Westchester did years ago. However, when that occurs other efficiencies are lost, he said.

However, some opponents of the bill have argued that volunteer responders might be competing with professional departments for funds, Byrne said.

“The existing policy is counterintuitive to the whole idea of sharing services,” Byrne said. “When you have someone doing it already, you’re incentivizing duplicate layers of government, which will probably cost more. This makes no sense.”

---

Summer Special

UNLIMITED DROP INS $400 / month JULY & AUGUST

M-F (1-6) Sa (10-1)

914.920.9898 mountkiscony@codeninjas.com

---

FATHER’S DAY SPECIALS!

BIG BEN BURGER $19.99

Includes choice of French fries, potato knish or deli side salad & a Dr. Brown’s soda

With a cold beer .... $21.99

CATERING FOR SIX $99.99

2 lbs. of Plattered Meats or 6 Plattered Sandwiches (cut in thirds)
1-1/4 lbs. of Potato Salad
1-1/4 lbs. of Cole Slaw
9 Assorted Pickles
16 Slices of Rye with Meat Platter
1 doz. Mini Franks
1 doz. Mini Potato Knishes
Russian Dressing & Ben’s Very Own Old Style Deli Mustard

EGIFT CARDS

Great for Dad!
Purchase online at BensDeli.net.

BensDeli.net • 914-468-BENS (2367) • We Are Kosher

Brewster, Mahopac and Mahopac Falls, accounted for nearly 3,200 ambulance services, Brewster, Mahopac and Mahopac Falls, accounted for nearly 3,200 ambulance calls in 2020, said Ken Clair, the county’s deputy health commissioner. “We’re just buying our fourth ambulance to help us answer all those calls.”

In Putnam County there were 7,779 EMS calls in 2020, said Ken Clair, the county’s deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services. “The Putnam fire departments within the 94th Assembly District that have ambulance services, Brewster, Mahopac and Mahopac Falls, accounted for nearly 3,200 of those calls,” said Ken Clair. “The hardship is really on the taxpayers of government, which will probably cost more. This makes no sense.”
Stream, Wetlands Restoration Completed at Old Armonk Bowling Alley Site

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) last Friday announced the completion of a $5.5 million project to rebuild a stream and wetlands on the site of a former bowling alley in Armonk. The work expands a natural area that protects a vital source of unfiltered drinking water for the metropolitan region.

The project restored the 3.13-acre parcel where Armonk Bowl stood before it closed in 1999. The DEP purchased the land in 2008 through its land acquisition program, which seeks to preserve sensitive lands around the unfiltered portions of its reservoir system.

The facility was demolished in 2011, setting the stage for a multi-year project that would restore the neighboring creek and establish wetlands to protect water quality and support native wildlife.

“Our project at the former Armonk bowling alley is a great example of our programs at work,” said DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza. “Our experts harnessed sound science and careful engineering to transform a vast swath of pavement into a preserved area of streams, wetlands and trees that will protect a critical source of drinking water for more than nine million New Yorkers.”

The former Armonk Bowl off Route 22 was located about two miles north of Kensico Reservoir, a vital source of unfiltered drinking water for New York City and roughly half of Westchester County. When the bowling alley was built in the 1960s, the neighboring Bear Gutter Creek was pushed aside and confined to a ditch, making room for a large parking lot. Aerial photos suggested the parking lot and building were likely constructed on a former wetland.

Demolition of the parking lot and restoration work began at the site in 2019 and finished earlier this year. Experts rerouted Bear Gutter Creek and gave it a more natural design with meanders and grade controls, taking it out of the ditch that confined it for more than 50 years. Wetland habitat was constructed in the creek’s floodplain.

The wetland complex includes small pools that, in their first spring season, have already become a home for American toads, spring peepers and other native species.

Hundreds of native trees and bushes were also planted in the area, including willow and red maple trees and chokeberry bushes. DEP scientists will monitor the site for the next five years to ensure the native plantings grow well and remain healthy.

As part of the project, the DEP also constructed a small parking lot that will be turned over to the Town of North Castle and used to support local businesses along Old Route 22.

The newly restored area adjoins a four-acre wetland complex that DEP previously constructed in the 2010s. Engineers on the latest project studied elevation maps and carefully designed the new wetlands to ensure they matched the hydrology of the previously restored site. These restored streams and wetlands, along with the Town of New Castle’s 169-acre Whippoorwill Park, establish a natural buffer upstream of Kensico Reservoir that will continue to protect the region’s drinking water for decades to come.
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TUESDAY, JUNE 22
EARLY VOTING STARTS JUNE 12

DEMOCRATS 4 NEW CASTLE

DOING THE WORK

MCCALL
Town Supervisor

MORTON
Town Council

WEINBERG
Town Council

BOUNDS
Town Council

4 EQUITY & INCLUSION 4 CONNECTING PEOPLE 4 SUSTAINABILITY 4 THRIVING HAMLETS

ENDORSED

CONGRESSWOMAN NITA LOWEY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATTIMORE
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE KEN JENKINS
STATE SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM

ASSEMBLY MEMBER CHRIS BURDICK
COUNTY BOARD CHAIR MIKE KAPLOWITZ
COUNTY LEGISLATOR VEDAT GASHI
TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER JEREMY SALAND

NEW CASTLE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
CHAIRS RANDEE GLAZER & JANE SILVERMAN
STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF HUDSON VALLEY
HISPANIC DEMOCRATS OF WESTCHESTER

WWW.DEMS4NEWCASTLE2021.COM
Kennedy Seniors Are Going Places!
Notable 2021 Acceptances to Top Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th># of Our Students Accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucknell University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerson College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Air Force Academy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Naval Academy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vassar College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanova University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You Can Too! Apply Today & Invest in Tomorrow!

Contact Brian Bruder – Director of Admissions
bbruder@kennedycatholic.org | 914-232-5061 Ext. 137

KennedyCatholic.org | (914) 232-5061 | 54 Rt. 138, Somers, NY 10589
Trailblazing Female Scout Soars to New Heights in Pursuit of Eagle

By Alexa Jindal

For more than a century since its 1910 inception, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was exclusively for boys 10 to 18 years old. In February 2019 that changed, following a policy announcement the previous year that girls would be able to join in separate groups based on gender.

Now Rebecca Glider, an 18-year-old White Plains resident, is poised to do something that no other young woman in Westchester has likely achieved. It is believed that Glider would be the first female in the county to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. She needs requirements for two remaining merit badges, which she expects to complete this summer before heading off to college.

Glider, however, is seemingly taking it all in stride. “I know it’s a great deal and it’s a great accomplishment, but for me, I’ve been surrounded by scouting even before I was in Boy Scouts,” she said. “I’ve been involved in scouting since my brother joined when I was in second grade, so it kind of just feels like the next step. It doesn’t feel that major, it’s just feels like the next step.”

Like many girls, Glider started in Girl Scouts when she was young and was a member until she turned 14. Seeking greater rigor, she left to join the Venturing Program, a co-ed Boy Scouts initiative for 14- to 20-year-olds.

About two years later, at 16, BSA officially adopted the policy allowing girls to join. Glider was told at first that she would be unable to reach Eagle Scout status because of the tight timeline to complete all of the requirements.

However, a few months later, Glider was on a family camping trip, something she does often, and she and her parents spoke to a woman who is a scout leader of a female Boy Scout troop. “The four of us sat down and talked and she said I could make it,” Glider said. “We took out a calendar and we mapped it out just to show that I could do it, and then I joined.”

Glider’s family has encouraged her to pursue her goal. Although it may be an unusual path, she has been familiar with the Boy Scouts for years. Her brother earned his Eagle Scout ranking, although she didn’t want to follow in his footsteps simply to be like him. Her father, Evan, had also started a troop, so Rebecca was well-acquainted with the Boy Scouts.

“It was more like because of [my brother] I was exposed to scouting and I knew what the program was like and I was interested in the activities,” Glider said.

For her service project, Glider built four little libraries around her White Plains neighborhood, boxes where local residents can take a book and read it before returning it. She enlisted the help of local fifth-graders to decorate the boxes.

The project also allowed her to explore her personal interests. A self-described bookworm and someone who enjoys undertaking projects, her endeavor suited her perfectly, and allowed her to give back to her community during a time when many libraries were closed due to COVID-19. It enabled people in her area to read as well as donate books.

As she nears the finish line on her Eagle Scout project, Glider is preparing to attend Binghamton University in the fall. She is currently working on the communications merit badge and the personal management merit badge, two of the 21 badges needed for Eagle Scout. She has two and three requirements remaining on the badges, respectively.

She will likely be done before she heads off to college, an impressive accomplishment that she can take with her throughout her life.

Glider said many of the badges earned in her quest for Eagle Scout are “relevant to real life and helpful in the real world,” such as high-elevation hikes, becoming proficient in first aid, cooking and personal fitness.

While there are about eight female Boy Scout troops in the area, ranging from 10 to 25 members each, Glider’s trailblazing accomplishment is uncommon regardless of gender. Roughly 4 percent of Boy Scouts reach the coveted rank.

“Aside from time, nothing was all that difficult, and if you’re motivated to do it, it’s not that hard to do,” Glider said.

Greeley Senior Reaches Scouting’s Pinnacle Through a Pandemic

By Martin Wilbur

Rafe Coffino recently joined the small slice of all Boy Scouts who reach the pinnacle – becoming an Eagle Scout.

Despite being a swimmer, preoccupied with college applications and maintaining a challenging schedule of classes into his senior year at Chappaqua’s Horace Greeley High School, Coffino was determined to continue in Boy Scouts because that was his mindset when he made the commitment. “I really wanted to finish this off strong,” Coffino said of his mindset when he made the commitment. “I’ve completed like nine-tenths of the scouting trek...obviously that’s the hard part, the last part, but why would I not complete it? I would have been so disappointed in myself and I would have regretted it for a long time.”

One of the lessons that his scoutmaster at Chappaqua’s Troop 2, Tom Keane, regularly stressed, was to make sure he had no regrets. It’s a lesson that Coffino took to heart. As it turned out, the additional incentive came in handy.

“He was a huge inspiration who stayed on top of me and (I) couldn’t be where I am today without him,” Coffino said.

Before the pandemic, Coffino decided on his project to focus on educating community members on the importance of keeping one’s blood pressure in check and how best to achieve that.

The problem is that once the shutdown began, there were no more in-person scout meetings and little to no chance to interact with the public.

Coffino said he continually tweaked the project until he received the go-ahead to pursue it. He created the Blood Pressure Counts Facebook page, which contains a variety of health and blood pressure-related topics.

He also published and distributed informational pamphlets, both in English and in Spanish, to connect with both the general population and members of the immigrant community who are often more difficult to reach. Coffino worked with Neighbors Link in Mount Kisco and Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford to distribute the pamphlets containing tips such as healthy diets, the need to exercise and lower stress and how to regularly track blood pressure.

He added information on what the consequences of high blood pressure could be. It’s dubbed the silent killer because there are typically no symptoms until it causes other health problems, Coffino said.

Considering that one in three adults have high blood pressure and roughly half of all seniors, the information is relevant to a significant swath of the population, he said.

“This project is, obviously, to help people understand their blood pressure and help lower it or control it and why this is so important is because we want to help younger people understand their blood pressure and understand what will affect it in the future,” said Coffino, who will attend the University of South Carolina in the fall and is considering a major in exercise science with a possible pre-med track.

Coffino said he stayed with scouting because of the adventures that captured his imagination as a young man. Camping upstate, canoeing, hiking and meeting new kids was a big draw, as well as learning about teamwork and cooperation.

“I fell so in love with it, I fell in love with the activities that we did, and the adventures and just the friendships that I made,” Coffino recalled. “I wanted to continue in Boy Scouts because that was going to take me to new heights.”

His mother, Deborah, said seeing her son work as hard as he did to earn the 21 required merit badges to become an Eagle Scout – and many more beyond that – was inspiring.

“I was overwhelmed by what it is to reach this, and it’s not about a project,” she said. “It’s a great project, but do you have any idea – and I didn’t – what it takes to get there?

“I went with him to complete some of these (merit badges), I was awestruck by how much work goes into this little badge.”

Following graduation this month and before heading to college in August, Coffino will serve as a dive coach at Willowbrook Swim & Tennis Club, work on an e-book he is developing related to health issues and hopes to visit Camp Read in the Adirondacks, knowing he finished the job at hand.

“I think what kept me at it were the opportunities I found in Scouts,” Coffino said. “I couldn’t replace that anywhere else.”
DO YOU BELIEVE IN TERM LIMITS?

If you vote for these two FAMILY members, their total combined time governing the Town of Carmel will be 32 YEARS

Is 32 years of status quo beneficial to our community?

Scan the QR code above to read the N.Y.S Comptrollers Report, or go to: www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/audits/pdf/carmel-2019-179.pdf
Under Their Leadership

Town Wide Housing Reval Disaster
Cell Towers - Dixon, Croton Falls, Maple Woods
PULTE
NYS Comptroller Investigation & Report shows MILLIONS of $$ wasted

$233,000 Wasted on Witch Hunt
Union Place to Fairhaven! What's Next?!
More low income multi family?!

DeFunded Police Special Drug Unit
Attempted To Get Rid of Carmel Police and Replace With Sheriffs

6 Million Fire Dept Theft of Taxpayer $$
Carmel Water District 2

Beware of Career Politicians, those engaging in every photo opp on social media and in the newspaper. Those who are in favor of everything they once stood against.

All Registered Republicans Please Vote On

June 22, 2021

Paid for by LL2 LLC
Feeling safe and being safe can be different, although they are intertwined. Though safety can never be fully guaranteed, there are ways to lower the possibility of crime. Here are some critical ways to feel safer at home.

1. Brighten your surroundings. Yes, we may associate fear of the dark with childhood, but it is probably the number one reason we feel unsafe. Brightening our surroundings can help us feel less vulnerable. This may mean installing outside lights and keeping them on whenever it’s dark. Outdoor lights with sensors are also very useful because they help you know if something outside is moving.

Inside, you can keep low lights on even in the lesser-used parts of the house. At night, turn on nightlights, especially near windows, so your house doesn’t appear completely dark.

2. Shut out the night. Before it gets dark outside, close your blinds and curtains. Even though you can’t see outside, people outside can see you very clearly at night if your windows are exposed.

3. Avoid dark, overgrown corners in your landscaping. My first home in the suburbs was fronted by an overgrown hedge, which blocked the view of the rest of my property. Your own yard could be a source of fear if you see dark shadows outside. I first trimmed back those hedges which obscured the rest of my property and eventually removed them.

4. Fix the creaks and groans. On an unusually windy day, you may hear a few extra sounds from your home and yard. You might have a back door that thumps with the wind or tree branches that scrape your siding or windows. Find the sources of these noises and take care of them so you can ease your nerves on those blustery days.

5. Play music or turn on the television at night. Blocking out the normal outside noises may help you feel less worried about your safety. However, this should be done only if you have a security system in place that will clearly notify you and the authorities when there really is a danger.

6. Know your neighbors. It’s a good way to build community, make friends and get help when you feel unsafe. Exchange phone numbers so you can text or call to check in or ask for help.

7. Use a security system. Definitely your best aid to feeling safe. A properly installed and functioning security system helps improve your actual safety, which then helps you feel safer. It can also help satisfy you both visually and aurally because you can have security cameras that allow you to see what is happening around your house, and you can have alarms that sound to alert you of intruders. I happen to live in a condo building where security is taken very seriously. There is a 24-hour doorman/security person and all hallways and public spaces are monitored electronically.

The best way to feel safe varies from person to person. It’s important that you identify what in your house causes you to feel insecure and frightened, and then do your best to resolve those issues.

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

✔ Transparency
Connecting the Clerk’s office to the people it serves with proactive, transparent leadership and 21st century tools to ensure our government is truly accountable to the people.

✔ Equity
Ensuring that government services are accessible to every community and every family in Westchester, no matter their race, income or ZIP code.

✔ Accessibility
Bringing the Clerk’s office to the people, through community outreach to ensure everyone in Westchester can get the resources they need, regardless of immigration status.

✔ Progressive Leadership
Moving Westchester County forward through progressive leadership, using the County Clerk’s office as a force for lasting social change.

Meet Shanae Williams
A qualified leader and dedicated to public service, Shanae is a progressive Yonkers City Councilmember and Democratic District Leader.

On the Yonkers City Council, Shanae has advocated for the health and safety of our community by chairing the Community & Mental Health Services Committee and the Women & Children Committee.

A first-generation American, Shanae was born in Kingston, Jamaica. She immigrated to the United States with her family when she was nine years old and grew up in a one-bedroom apartment in Yonkers. Shanae is a graduate of Yonkers Public Schools, Hastings High School, and SUNY Albany. She holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from Walden University.

Shanae4Clerk
PAID FOR BY SHANAE FOR THE PEOPLE
Students’ Project Seeks to Find Solutions to Narrow the Political Divide

By Martin Wilbur

Not even a high school cafeteria provides a respite from today’s political polarization. Byram Hills High School students Gina Schiliro and Jacob Levy have decided to take on the task of trying to bridge the political divide after each had their own experiences of being confronted by classmates or friends or hearing how conversations deteriorated between those with opposing views.

The two juniors partnered on a project for their Global Scholars Program that sought to keep people from differing political views may differ on issues to listen to one another.

“Just watching the news is enough to make us want to take action,” Schiliro said. “More recently, with the past election, there’s a lot more tension between the parties, so it just kind of seemed right to want to take action on this topic.”

The three-year elective, which started in their sophomore year, requires students to choose a topic, map out an action plan and try to make a difference. They first interviewed stakeholders, conducted research, identified the problem area and designed a plan to address the problem.

It resulted this year in Schiliro and Levy completing a two-and-a-half-hour public service announcement that is being distributed to students, various media outlets and organizations.

They also created an Instagram post called Fight the Divide, which is distributing the PSA to many other Instagram accounts. For next year, they will be launching a podcast that will feature participants with divergent political views engaging in conversation.

Levy said the increasing isolation among those with differing opinions has sometimes led to sad consequences. It is one of the things that has affected him the most but has also inspired him to continue with the project.

“The most surprising thing that I’ve found is how this political divide has affected people, like families are breaking up, friends are breaking up over this political divide,” Levy said. “That was something that pulled me in when I researched this initially. I said to myself that shouldn’t be happening, it’s crazy.”

Through their research Schiliro and Levy learned what has led to where society is today, with various media platforms having changed how people obtain their information, the differences between the various media outlets and the elimination of the Federal Communications Commission’s Fairness Doctrine in the 1980s, which no longer required media companies to provide opposing views when reporting news.

“These factors present daunting challenges, ones that aren’t easily solvable. “The biggest and most challenging part of this project is how do we get these people to become more open-minded to see things from two perspectives instead of one perspective,” Levy said.

Schiliro said there are going to be people with opposing views and strong opinions, so it’s an issue that can be rectified quickly. She hopes that next year’s podcast will provide a forum where people can discuss various issues passionately but civilly.

“The best outcome of this is just making people listen, really, before they just talk, and we can provide that through our podcast, just trying to give people the skills that they need to have a conversation with someone or to be more mindful of where they’re getting their news from,” Schiliro said.

How divided society has also been a bit of a deflating experience for Schiliro. It’s a reminder how much hard work and patience is required to make a difference on the issue.

“I’ve really been humbled, I guess, about the world and how people see things, how it can be so different than mine and how to understand their views before coming to a conclusion,” she said.

To view their public service announcement, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNnxAaytiY.

Friends of Chappaqua Library Recognize Young Writers in Annual Contest

By Martin Wilbur

An ongoing pandemic couldn’t dim the enthusiasm of about 200 young writers in Chappaqua.

Last week, the Friends of the Chappaqua Library held the awards ceremony for the top contributors to its 41st annual Young Writers Contest, a vehicle for wordsmiths in middle school and high school to express themselves through fiction and non-fiction writing as well as poetry.

Richard Ma, who organizes the competition for the Friends, said so many of the students take the contest seriously despite all the other activities many of them are involved in.

“It’s really great because you see some of the kids really wait to the last minute to submit during the entry period because they want to put as much time into it to finesse it and get it kind of all the way there, which is really great to see,” Ma said. “It’s a great way to encourage and promote writing and the benefits of getting some monetary prize out of it and recognition. It’s really great to see.”

There were about 30 writers recognized in two separate award ceremonies, one for the middle school entrants and another for the high school writers. The ceremony was held late last Wednesday afternoon outdoors behind the Chappaqua Library. First-, second- and third-place winners were announced in each of the three categories for both middle school and high school students.

There were also several honorable mentions in each category.

The Friends provided prizes of $100 to each winner, $75 for second, $50 for third and $25 for each honorable mention.

Friends President Katherine Whymark said while last year’s competition suffered because of COVID-19, participation returned to pre-pandemic levels this year.

“We were pleasantly surprised that we had gotten as many as we had gotten pre-pandemic, which was really heartening to everybody,” she said.

For much of the contest’s history, the Chappaqua schools took the initiative to encourage students to participate, Whymark said. When the district stopped, the Friends decided to take on the task themselves, which they promote through the library and in the schools, she said.

Each January, they reach out to let the youngsters know about the contest, Ma said. Typically, the entry period runs through March and judging is done in April. Ma said he compiles the judges’ scores and the winners are announced at a ceremony in late May.

The originally scheduled May 26 ceremony had to be postponed because of the threat of rain for the outdoor event. In addition to the winners, Horace Greeley High School senior Erica Dunne was recognized with the Linda J. Zhang Award for Writing Achievement. The award, sponsored by the Linda Z. Zhang Foundation, created by Zhang’s parents in memory of their daughter.

The award is given to a gifted Chappaqua student that has shown a special dedication to writing as well as writing achievement consistently showcased in the Young Writers Contest over the years. Dunne has won multiple awards in all three categories.

To see a full listing of this year’s contest winners, visit the Friends page of the Chappaqua Public Library website at http://chappaquailibrary.org/friends.
Westchester to Host First 2021 Household Recycling Day at FDR Park

Westchester County’s Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) will be conducting a Household Recycling Day (HRD) event on Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at FDR State Park, located at 2957 Crotonpond Rd. (Route 202) in, Yorktown.

COVID-19 precautions are in place to allow DEF to once again host these events for county residents. Residents should place items in their trunk or backseat, remain in their vehicles, and must wear masks while in the drop-off area.

In 2020, DEF hosted two Household Recycling Day events and residents delivered nearly 275,000 pounds of household waste and about 37,000 pounds of documents for shredding.

In addition to properly labelling household chemicals, tires, scrap metal, electronics, appliances and other special wastes found in a typical household, residents can bring documents for shredding and expired or unwanted medications.

Generally, the following items are accepted for safe disposal or recycling:

- Properly labelled household chemicals, such as:
  - Household cleaning products
  - Most automotive fluids (antifreeze, brake fluid, gasoline, but not motor oil)
  - Flammable liquids (kerosene, butane, lighter fluid, turpentine)
  - Metal, jewelry, and furniture polishes and waxes; wood preservatives
  - Fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides
  - Photographic and swimming pool chemicals

- Batteries (only vehicle, rechargeable or button cell)
- Fluorescent light bulbs & CFLs
- Fire extinguishers
- Barbecue propane tanks (up to 20 pounds)
- Mercury containing devices (thermometers and thermostats)
- Electronic waste (TVs, computer monitors and towers)
- Expired or unwanted medications, both OTC and prescription
- Personal documents for shredding (limit of four file-size boxes per household)
- Tires

Items that will not be accepted and should not be brought to Household Recycling Day include paint (both latex and oil), non-rechargeable alkaline and carbon zinc batteries, which can be safely discarded in the trash. motor oil, smoke detectors, cell phones, explosives (flares, fireworks, ammunition), construction debris and hypodermic needles. Also, waste from businesses, schools, or other institutions will not be accepted.

If unable to attend Household Recycling Day, you can still dispose of your hard-to-get-rid-of household waste by making a convenient appointment for the county’s Household-Material Recycling Facility (H-MRF), located at 15 Woods Rd. in Valhalla. The H-MRF is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment. It accepts the same items that are accepted at the household recycling events.

For more information on what to bring to Household Recycling Day, call 914-813-5425 or visit www.westchestergov.com/recycling.

For more information on Westchester County environmental programs and events, follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WestchesterCountyDEF.

Films on Purpose, New Collaborative to Hold Outdoor Movie Screening

Films on Purpose will be holding an outdoor movie screening of “The Biggest Little Farm” this Thursday evening, June 10 at Co-Lab, formerly the United Methodist Church at 70 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

“The Biggest Little Farm” is an award-winning documentary about bringing a farm back to life after years of neglect. New farmers, the Chester family, work with nature – not against it – to create a living system of biodiversity where each plant, animal and insect contributes to the health of the land.

The CO-LABorative community garden is a venture of Co-Lab, a new community space in Pleasantville for connection, contemplation and collaboration. At the garden, friends and neighbors come together to grow food for themselves and for others. Local residents have been working since March, digging a terraced garden, laying wood chip paths and adding compost to the garden beds for the hundreds of seedlings that will be planted soon.

Gates open at 7:15 p.m. with introductory remarks at 7:45 p.m. The screening will start at 8 p.m. Social distancing and masks are required if you are not vaccinated. Please bring a chair if you can, but there are extras if needed.

For more information, visit www.filmonpurpose.org or https://villagecolab.org.
Indian Point will shut down by April 2021, and federal law allows for up to 60 years for it to be dismantled and removed.

But we don’t have to wait that long.

There’s a smarter plan for Indian Point currently under review. It calls for major work to be completed in just 12-15 years.

The plan will provide hundreds of local jobs. It means opportunity for redevelopment of the land decades sooner. And it results in predictable tax revenue for local schools and governments.

Indian Point will close soon after operating for nearly 60 years. We don’t have to wait another 60 years for it to be dismantled.

Learn about the smarter plan at indianpointdecommissioning.com

The illustration above is an artist’s depiction of the Indian Point property after the completion of major decommissioning work.
Garden Club Honors Longtime Member and Beautification Chair

By Martin Wilbur

The Pleasantville Garden Club honored one of its own last week, paying special tribute to a longtime member who has helped to beautify multiple areas throughout Mount Pleasant.

At its annual luncheon last Thursday in Briarcliff Manor, the club honored Senta Stich, a Valhalla resident and former school principal who has directed the planning and coordination of projects throughout the town. Stich, a master gardener, has served as chair of the club’s Beautification Committee before retiring from that role following the event.

Club President Helen Krasnow said because of Stich’s dedication in helping to lead the volunteers, Mount Pleasant is a more attractive place.

“They do the planting, they do the maintenance, they do the trimming and the town is beautiful really because of Senta’s work, plus she’s a wonderful person and knowledgeable, so knowledgeable,” Krasnow said. “But Beautification came into its own under her leadership.”

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi designated June 3 to be Senta Stich Day in the town, recognizing the volume of work she has done for the club and Mount Pleasant. He presented her with a plaque recognizing her efforts through the years.

“Your’re all special,” he said. “You’re responsible for making Mount Pleasant bloom and I really appreciate that.”

Club members work closely with Mount Pleasant Parks Superintendents Jon Petruzelli and parks foreman Scott Naylor.

Petruzelli and Naylor help them prepare garden beds, water the plantings and add mulch to the gardens.

The club, which has been meeting virtually since the start of the pandemic last year, gathers the first Thursday of the month from October through June. To learn more about the Pleasantville Garden Club, visit www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org.

Senta Stich, who led the Beautification Committee for the Pleasantville Garden Club, speaks to members after being presented with a plaque by Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, left, for her service to the club and community.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Pleasant Manor Funeral Home, Inc.

Generations of local families have placed their trust in Pleasant Manor Funeral Home. We are grateful to the families we serve and appreciate their confidence in our ability to create meaningful services that help them begin the healing process. Some people think that choosing a modest memorial means sacrificing service. Our commitment to excellent service allows us to say that no matter what kind of memorial you have in mind, we will provide you with the best service available.

Helping you Celebrate, Remember and Heal

575 Columbus Avenue, Thornwood, NY 10594

Patrick J. McNulty Jr. • Daniel J. McNulty

914 - 747 - 1821
www.pleasantmanorfh.com

Patrick J. McNulty Sr. • Patrick T. McNulty • Patrick J. McNulty Jr. • Daniel J. McNulty
ANTIOQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-235-0302

AUTO DONATIONS

Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-903-4755

BUYING/SELLING

Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com

**COMIC BOOKS WANTED! TOP PRICES PAID!**

30 years experience. Reliable and honest! Call or Text: 917-699-2496, or e-mail: smileLP@aol.com. Thanks.

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

HIGHEST PRICES PAID - Visit Westchester's Top Buyer for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins & Currency, Watches, Jewelry. Licensed, Professional, No Appointment Necessary. Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am-6pm, Mt. Kisco Gold & Silver, 139E Main Street. 914-244-9500

EDUCATION / CAREER TRAINING

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

HELP WANTED

$18.50 NYC, $17 L.I. up to $13.50 Upstate NY! If you need care from your relative, friend/neighbor and you have Medicaid, they may be eligible to start taking care of you as personal assistant under NYS

Donate Your Car & Help Grant A Child’s Wish

Help Local Children And Get Free & Easy Towing

Visit WheelsForWishes.org or call (877)-798-9474

Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. To learn more about our programs or financial information, call (213) 948-2000 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

877-516-1160

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*

A $695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Don’t Miss Out! Check Out Our Other Ads On...
Red-fronted Macaw: Straight Outta South Central (Bolivia)

By Brian Kluepfel

I began last week writing a doom-and-gloom blog about the red-fronted Macaw, which exists only in a small area of Bolivia’s Andean foothills and dry river valleys, between the cities of Cochabamba, Sucre and Santa Cruz.

Che Guevara breathed his last near here, and my fear was that the red-fronted macaw was in the same mortal danger. But unlike Che, it was not only up against guns, but pesticides, too.

The story is one of inevitable conflict borne of human settlement (or encroachment); people moved into this region and began farming. They cleared existing shrubbery and trees upon which the macaws depended. They planted corn and other crops, so instead of eating seeds of the soto (hardwood tree in the cashew family), pica pica, palo borracho (ceiba or silk floss tree) and culque, they began to supplement their diet with corn and peanuts. Farmers, hence, began to view the macaw as a pest that reduced crop yields. Bang, bang.

Although community tourism has helped reverse anti-macaw sentiment in recent years, it’s still a battle to save this little, multicolored bird. (Of the 15 extant wild species of macaw, the red-fronted is the slimmest. Maybe the Bolivian macaw corn diet will be the next fad, after Paleo.)

Another continuing setback to the macaw’s survival is the illegal pet trade. A hundred bucks in the hands of a poor farmer can be irresistible.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, which is an often-depressing listing of species in decline, last reported on the red-fronted Macaw in 2018, and the stats were alarming. At most, according to IUCN, there were about 600 remaining in the wild; realistically, perhaps closer to 300. Yikes! That means a species listed officially as CR – critically endangered.

But folks doing the boots-on-the-ground research in Bolivia promised me a new survey soon, and numbers which aren’t nearly as depressing as the IUCN’s. In this day and age, one should consider multiple sources when making judgments, especially “the sky is falling” sort of proclamations involved in species extinction.

It may be that newer studies and more advanced science show a greater number of red-fronted macaws than we thought existed. Some sources, other than the IUCN, estimated between 1,000 and 2,000. Data can be used for different farming and political reasons, so it’s worthwhile to uncover accurate assessments, which are discovered through proper scientific diligence.

The red-fronted macaw is also part of the ongoing debate about bird names. Short summary: many in the birding community would like to get rid of Euro-centric honorific bird names (i.e., McCown’s Longspur, named for a Confederate soldier) altogether. Well, the red-fronted macaw has a completely logical name because its forehead, ear patches and upper legs are red.

The bird was first recorded by western science by a late 18th century or early 19th century French nobleman named Frédéric de Lafresnaye, and is sometimes, but rarely, called LaFresnaye’s Longspur. I have no evidence that LaFresnaye was either a good or bad man, but I vote for the Quechua name (Quechua is an indigenous highland language and Bolivia’s official second tongue): Qa Qa (or Q’aca).

Loro, or “parrot of the rocks,” because it lives in cliff dwellings. And Qa Qa is a pretty cool name, isn’t it?

This lovely loro is a natural redistribution center. By cracking open cacti fruits and other seeds and eating them, it disperses them now – or later. Poop is the great equalizer in nature.

Having more cacti and native plants, which require little water, is less of a drain on these fragile river valleys. The birds can be an ambassador for the region, bringing tourists (birders can see this bird in the wild only in this small corner of the world) and rebalancing the regional flora by moving the seeds around.

There are many lessons in the tale of the red-fronted macaw: Humans and birds can co-exist, if there is incentive on part of the humans (capitalism leading to eco-tourism).

• We should be careful what we call things and remember that the oldest names might be the wisest.

• Keeping birds in captivity – whether they are bred or illegally trafficked – is unnatural and it teaches the next generation that it’s okay to keep animals that are born to fly in cages.

• We should take care in forming judgments based on just one data set (or news channel), because there’s a lot of noise, and not all of its news.

Brian Kluepfel writes for the Lonely Planet travel guide series and is a proud member of Saw Mill River Audubon (SMRA). He encourages you to get involved in local birding with SMRA, and when you travel, to support community and eco-tourism wherever you can. Find him at www.birdmanwalking.com.

For The Birds

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Go Figure. Some words have hidden meanings, but the words in the quiz this week all have numbers hidden within them. The number contained within each word is underlined. Even if you find this number theme odd, you may figure out a way to add some of the quiz words to your vocabulary.

1. hone (v.)
   A) to guide
   B) intrude
   C) perfect

2. scutwork (n.)
   A) a young fish
   B) menial tasks
   C) gossip

3. threepenny (adj.)
   A) very small
   B) very rare
   C) very entertaining

4. carrefour (n.)
   A) a carrying case
   B) something retained
   C) a crossroads

5. tenet (n.)
   A) a doctrine
   B) an occupant
   C) a transcript

6. downiness (n.)
   A) a decline in activity
   B) a light softness
   C) a natural talent

7. elevenses (n.)
   A) a sudden leap
   B) overdevelopment
   C) a mid morning snack

8. sighted (n.)
   A) act of disrespect
   B) dexterity
   C) a gentle reminder

ANSWERS

1. 2. a(n)
2. 1. a(n)
3. 3. a(n)
4. 5. a(n)
5. 6. a(n)
6. 7. a(n)
7. 8. a(n)

10. Grow all of your food. Be a good farmer.
12. Make something from scratch. Be a good inventor.

To order the new edition of “Parrots of the World.”

Check out an Adventure! Local Library Explorer Bags

Contain two pairs binoculars, bird & tree ID cards, and share your bird observations or questions

Zoom Bird Chat 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm,
Learn where local birders are birding & what they are seeing and share your bird observations or questions

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

for more info and free registration for above events, for no contact bird seed purchases, and for SMRA sanctuary maps.

SMRA sanctuary maps are available free on Avenza map app.
June 8 - June 14, 2021 Examiner Media

To Place a Classified Ad Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail classifieds@theexaminernews.com

continued from page 24

Medicaid CDPA Program. No Certificates needed. 347-713-3553

Full time stock person needed for busy liquor store. Position requires building displays, stocking shelves and taking in deliveries. Professional and friendly atmosphere. Call (914) 450-3715 or (914) 224-6597.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379

The Generac PWReell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. $0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 888-871-0194

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. $200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-140-6501

MISCELLANEOUS

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! $59.95/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

TV INTERNET PHONE


PRINCIPAL

PENFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Penfield Central School District is seeking a dynamic and collaborative instructional leader with a focus on supporting the social and emotional needs of all learners. Ideal candidates will possess teaching and leadership experience, strong background in teaching & learning and a passionate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion for all learners. Interested candidates please visit www.penfield.edu, click on the Job Opportunities and follow directions to apply. EOE
Sloan & Feller Helps Families Plan for the Future

By Erin Maher

What do you do when a family member falls ill or you need to find care for an aging relative?

The team at Sloan & Feller, a Mahopac-based law firm, is there to help.

Managing partner Alan Feller has more than 20 years’ experience and insight working in elder law to assist families with legal issues they may encounter with an aging relative.

“In every family, when there is a loved one or parent, there is always the question of how you protect them, how do you pay for long-term care,” Feller said. “It’s the hardest thing to figure out. What do you do when a family member gets sick? They go into a hospital and everyone panics. There is no template for that.”

Feller, a Rockland County native, had seen firsthand the importance of elder law. In 1996, his grandfather passed away while he was attending Brooklyn Law School.

“I saw that there was a real need to help families and help people,” he said.

Three years later, Feller graduated law school and went to work with Leslie Sloan, then a Manhattan elder care attorney. In 2002, Feller became a partner, and the next year after Feller moved to Brewster, the firm moved to Mahopac, where it has been ever since.

Sloan has since retired, but Feller and the firm’s staff of six have served the tri-state area and beyond. Its services include Medicaid advisement, advance directives, guardianship, disability, wills, trusts and caregiving assistance. Taking a proactive approach ensures that family members and their assets are protected in the years to come.

“Elder law helps preserve the assets of the family so that maybe a kid can afford to go to college, or that someone can start their life and buy a house,” Feller said.

In addition to legal counsel at Sloan & Feller, the firm also has three Medicaid service coordinators on staff who understand the complexities of Medicare and Medicaid. The coordinators can leverage those services to pay for care for a client’s loved one.

It’s good to have other types of professionals who have real experience handling families, understanding health care and the logistics,” Feller said.

“So having both lawyers and Medicaid service coordinators in the firm is beneficial.”

Now for close to 20 years, Sloan & Feller has been thriving, thanks in part to the firm’s personalized approach to every client. Feller greets each client with a smile and friendly demeanor as they navigate the emotionally taxing journey of aiding a sick or aging relative.

“Let’s work through this issue together. This feel if you’re on the opposite side?” he said.

Feller and his firm have served countless families and watch as children grow into adults and become the firm’s newest clients.

“Families just keep coming back. I start with the grandparents, then we have the parents and sometimes even the siblings come in and start to plan,” Feller said. “It’s multigenerational.”

Feller’s top advice for families that are planning a loved one’s future? Make sure to have good communication with the rest of your family.

“You can’t do things alone,” he said. “Everyone needs help and support.”

Sloan & Feller Attorneys at Law has an office at 625 Route 6 in Mahopac. To learn more about the firm, call 845-621-8640 or visit www.sloanandfeller.com.
Take a Hudson River Stroll and Get a Bite at RiverMarket

A rainy Memorial Day weekend had finally cleared last Monday, so a nice drive and meal near the Hudson River seemed like a relaxing destination.

After taking in the lovely view at Hudson RiverWalk in Tarrytown, we headed up West Main Street to RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen. Looked like a lot of people had the same idea. It was bustling when we walked in, both on the patio and inside the main dining room. We took seats at the big wraparound bar with a good view of the proceedings.

To my delight, proprietor Glenn Vogt was on the premises. We go back a long way. Years ago, his father, Harold E. Vogt, was president of the Westchester County Chamber of Commerce, while his son decided to enter the restaurant and hospitality field. Glenn Vogt had been general manager at Windows on the World before the 9/11 disaster; later he brought his extensive experience with food and wine to Crabtree’s Kittle House in Chappaqua under proprietor Richard Crabtree.

Besides being managing partner and founder of RiverMarket for the past eight years, Vogt is also partnering at the Kittle House with Crabtree’s son John Crabtree.

It was a pleasure to chat with him, as he, like too many others in the restaurant industry, are finally gathering strength following more than a year surviving the COVID-19 pandemic. He is optimistic about the future.

I decided on the Hemlock Hill Farm grass-fed beef burger with smoked bacon on a brioche bun, fries and house-made butter pickles. I asked for a helping of aged cheddar on top, too. My companion went for the popular iceberg wedge, with soft-boiled egg, smoked bacon crumble, toasted croutons and cherry tomatoes bathed in a creamy blue cheese dressing. There was enough for both of us to share, and each was quite good.

I noticed that the fresh market section was now preparing pizzas, there was a RiverMarket Wine & Spirits shop next door featuring organic vintages.

RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen is located at 127 W. Main St., in Tarrytown. Open daily. Info: 914-631-3100 or visit www.rivermarketbarandkitchen.com.

Relaxing Lunch at Southern Table

Restaurants in New York State are fully re-opening and I have been taking advantage. After a scenic weekday drive through some charming Westchester towns, we were happy to get back to Southern Table Kitchen & Bar in Pleasantville. It was a lovely mid-afternoon, and right from the start the staff made us feel comfortable. The outdoor patio was active as was the dining room. We opted for seats at the bar. We lingered over a Sloop Juice Bomb IPA while perusing the menu. We had not forgotten how generous the portions were here. For lunch I decided on a fried green tomato BLT wrap, which included bacon, lettuce and chipotle aioli, with a side of sweet potato fries. My partner had crispy buffalo chicken salad featuring a small mountain of romaine lettuce, tomato, red onion, cucumber, scallion and blue cheese dressing. There was more than enough to share, and both dishes were delish.

For dessert we had to have a slice of their creamy house-made key lime pie with a dollop of whipped cream. It was exceptional! We savored every morsel.

Southern Table recently received a second coveted Bib Gourmand designation (restaurants that are high quality and represent good value) from this year’s Michelin restaurant guide for New York State. Ownership also operates Wood & Fire pizza in Pleasantville and Scarsdale and O.T.R Off The Rail in Hawthorne.

Additional specialties include cheddar biscuits, grit bowls, Cajun-style seafood boils and fried chicken. There is seasonal patio dining. Open daily. Pickup and delivery are available.

Southern Table Kitchen & Bar is located at 39 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville. Info: 914-618-3355 or visit www.southern-table.com.

 Michelin Publishes New York Restaurant Ratings

It has become an annual rite of the culinary world. The prestigious Michelin restaurant guides have been publishing their ratings internationally, nationally, for New York City, and for the second year, Westchester and the other metropolitan area suburbs.

As always with these guides, there is controversy – who made the list, who didn’t and why? It is all secretive. The Bib Gourmand designations (typically more casual eateries of merit) and stars (for high-end restaurants) can be meaningful to a restaurant’s bottom line. There is a small group of local spots that made the list. Based on my experience, these are deserving finalists.

Bib Gourmand recipients in Westchester include Southern Table Kitchen & Bar, Pleasantville; Badageon Kitchen, Mount Kisco; Shiraz Kitchen & Wine Bar, Elmsford; RaaSa, Elmsford; Maria, New Rochelle; and X20 Xaviars on the Hudson, Yonkers.

By the way, the only star recipient was Blue Hill at Stone Barns. Check out https://guide.michelin.com/en/us/new-york/state/restaurants.

Don’t Eat Cicadas if Allergic to Seafood

Are cicadas on your menu? The brood only shows up every 17 years or so, an uber-seasonal event. But beware, the Food & Drug Administration has issued a warning. Do not eat them if you are allergic to seafood. Apparently, there is a connection.

I have no food allergies that I am aware of. I was looking forward to at least tasting a Cicada Cookie. Check it out at https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cicadas-brood-x-seafood-allergy-fda-warning.

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 914-225-6591 or gutreactions@optonline.net.
Westchester Land Trust to Present ‘BioBlitz’ Third Weekend in June

With the help of the public, the Westchester Land Trust (WLT) and Healthy Yards are collaborating on an effort to find and identify as many species of plants and wildlife as possible through a series of events to take place from June 18 to June 20.

Nine programs will be featured in the BioBlitz to be held at Westchester Land Trust’s Tom Burke Preserve in Bedford Hills.

With family-friendly events including a nighttime moth hunt, a wetlands walk and “Wings and Stings” to introduce participants to the benefits of misunderstood insects, visitors will help discover plants and wildlife on the preserve, and document as many as possible with photographs. Pictures can be uploaded as observations to iNaturalist, a widely used app from National Geographic and the California Academy of Sciences.

iNaturalist allows users to share observations, which experts can help identify and scientists may use for research.

The varied ecosystems of meadow, forest and wetlands in the 7.5-acre preserve make it an ideal place to document biodiversity and welcome everyone to appreciate nature and support community science.

The preserve has been owned and managed by Westchester Land Trust for nearly 20 years, and scientists may use for research.

The preserve has been owned and managed by Westchester Land Trust for nearly 20 years, and scientists may use for research.

The wonders of biodiversity,” said Gentian Falstrom, conservation easement steward at WLT. “We are thrilled to be offering a wide range of events, including one in Spanish, to introduce everyone to community science, and to share the wonders of biodiversity,” said Gentian Falstrom, conservation easement steward at WLT. “Not only do we want to reinforce the joy of spending time in nature that so many have embraced over the past year, it gives us an opportunity to find out in greater detail what species are living on our land.”

Here is the full schedule of events.

**Friday, June 18**
Moth Hunt, 9 to 10 p.m.
Enjoy a rare opportunity to visit the preserve after dark. We will shine a light behind a sheet to attract and learn about the moths and other night-flying insects living there.

**Saturday, June 19**
Community Science, 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Learn how to identify and document the species you spot using common apps. iNaturalist will be the focus, but will also discuss Seek, e-Bird, Merlin and Birdnet.

“BioBlitz” en Español (Spanish language nature walk), 10:30 a.m. to noon.
Vamos a caminar entre el parque y aprender sobre las criaturas—polinizadores, aves, y otros animales—y plantas que viven en nuestra comunidad.

**Plants: Native or Invasive? 1 to 2:30 p.m.**
In recent years, you may have heard a lot more about invasive species in Westchester. Learn to identify the plants of the preserve and distinguish those native to our region.

**Wings and Stings, 3:30 to 5 p.m.**
Hymenoptera — bees, wasps, hornets and ants — are some of the most misunderstood, successful and complex animals in the world. Join us to track down and try to identify as many of these elusive and beautiful creatures as possible!
The Benefits of Chiropractic Preventative and Maintenance Care

Growing up with a grandfather, who was not only a chiropractor but lived and breathed chiropractic care, the idea of preventative medicine was always second nature to me.

In America, we encourage dental health and hygiene, blood screenings and non-stop testing, yet the idea of preventative treatment for the spine eludes us. Chiropractors may call this maintenance care, but spinal hygiene is important to ensure our backs function at their full potential.

Back pain is usually reoccurring or chronic, and most patients are symptom-guided, which means they seek care when and only when they feel pain. However, why must we wait until we feel paralyzing pain from the low back if studies show regular maintenance care can prevent us from experiencing these symptoms?

A 2018 study set out to study the benefits, if any, of maintenance care for low back pain, compared to symptom-guided therapy, essentially examining preventative care and spinal hygiene. The conclusion noted maintenance care was more effective than symptom-guided treatment in reducing the total number of days over a year’s time with bothersome non-specific low back pain. By taking care of our spines, like we do with so many aspects of our body; we can reduce pain.

Those who have had debilitating low back pain can appreciate how important that is. Furthermore, patients who respond well to the initial course of chiropractic treatment will respond even better to maintenance care.

We have heard the complaints made by some – “once you go to a chiropractor you have to keep going” is one – yet the same argument isn’t made about the dentist or optometrist or other specialists.

One of the biggest risk factors of having low back pain is a history of back pain. Considering that 90 percent of the population will at one point experience low back pain, this leaves the overwhelming majority of us at higher risk of experiencing it again.

So what are our options when we first experience back pain or any pain? Some will head to their primary care physician or orthopedic who will prescribe muscle relaxers and pain medication. This will dull our pain until the body eventually heals and the pain ultimately subsides. Some will get prescriptions for physical therapy as well, which will help the patient stabilize and strengthen the back for a number of visits. The patient will feel better and think they are cured and return to their regular day-to-day activities, usually no longer continuing the rehab exercises.

Since a history of low back pain is a leading indicator of future low back pain, most patients will have recurring discomfort. The underlying issues of the spine have not been addressed and corrected, the stabilizing rehabilitative exercises have stopped and it will be only a matter of time before the back pain returns.

Some patients will go to the chiropractor when they initially feel low back pain for the first time. They will be treated and the spine will be addressed, pain will disappear and they will be given stabilizing exercises for the low back.

At this point patients face a fork in the road, either they no longer receive treatment because the symptoms are gone or they participate in maintenance care and periodically make sure the spine is functioning at its highest capacity. Research shows the best way to reduce the amount of future low back pain would be to take the approach of maintenance care, and with the risk profile of chiropractic treatment being so low it seems like a no-brainer.

As a child, having the privilege of growing up with chiropractic care and, as an adult, having my brother as my chiropractor, I am living proof of the benefits of maintenance care. It has helped me to prevent injury, reduce pain and keep me functioning at the highest level.

Chiropractic care combined with stabilizing exercises can be a life-changer for most of the population once we escape the idea of only going to the doctor when in pain. That is the hurdle ahead of us, and that is the hurdle that we will jump over together, as the most recent research and evidence propels us.

Dr. Elan Michael is a chiropractor at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic in its Pleasantville and Ardsley locations. For more information about this article or about ProClinix, Michael can be reached at 914-202-0700 or at emichael@proclinix.com. You may also visit www.ProClinix.com.

Tips to Embrace the Healthy Habit of Bicycling

Whether rediscovering the joy of riding a bike or taking a ride for the first time, cycling saw a boom during the pandemic, and many believe this trend is here to stay.

The summer is an excellent time to recognize the many benefits of this healthy habit, as well as outfit yourself with everything you need to embrace your inner adventurer. Here are some tips and insights to celebrate cycling.

Recognize the Benefits

Bicycling is a heart-healthy cardiovascular exercise that strengthens your lower body, yet is low-impact on joints, making it a terrific workout for adults of all ages, as well as kids and families. It’s also great for the mind, and has been shown in studies to boost mood and improve cognitive function. But the benefits extend beyond the individual. Biking is a non-polluting form of driving a car is good for the planet and your local community, cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants and improving traffic congestion.

Find Time to Bike

Changing or creating a single habit can have unexpected and wide-reaching effects. Even with a jam-packed schedule, you can establish the habit of bicycling by seamlessly incorporating it into your current routine. Here are a few ideas for doing so:

- Pick one to two days a week to commute to work by bike.
- Swap out sedentary activities you do to unwind with your family, such as watching TV, with bike rides.
- Are weekends the time you spend connecting with friends? Suggest your next meet-up start with a bike ride.
- Whether you’re a runner, swimmer or love working out at home, swap at least one workout a week with cycling. Cross training emphasizes different muscle groups and helps build out a more well-rounded fitness routine.

Go Electric

Electric bikes are great alternatives for all adult riders, no matter your level of experience. An e-bike helps you get back on a bike if it’s been a while since your last ride, if you have physical limitations that make riding a standard bike difficult, or if you want to keep up on a ride with more experienced friends. The pedal-powered boost can also provide a less intense alternative to traditional hiking, especially for those looking to commute without breaking a sweat. Whether it’s to ease back into biking or you just want a cool bike, the e-bike offers the same joys as a conventional bike ride with a bit of a kick.

Get Equipped

Consider a one-stop brand, such as Huffy Bicycles to ensure each member of your family is equipped with the bike that best meets their needs. Whether you’re an adrenaline seeker in need of a tough, durable mountain or gravel bike, or a day tripper seeking a cruiser or comfort bike, Huffy offers a range of models in every style. They have tricycles, bicycles, scooters and battery-powered ride-ons, for kids of all ages, from those still experimenting with foot-to-floor and first-bike fun, to active kids seeking adventure. Finally, if you’re an RV-er or plan to regularly commute by bike, they also offer fun-to-ride electric bikes that make it easy to ride more miles and power up hills. For more information, visit www.huffy.com.

This year, pave the way for a healthy habit you and your family can enjoy together for years to come.

This article is printed by permission of statepoint.net.
I’ve written on numerous occasions that today’s wines are of the highest quality and greatest value in the history of wine. A mere 50 years ago (which is a small sip in the 6,000-year history of wine), poor growing techniques in vineyards, unclean grapes and adulterated fermented grape juice were the culprits in many off-putting wines sold in the marketplace.

Then the latest generation of winemakers took over the family reins in wineries across the globe. They were eager to learn new techniques and to employ new technology to enhance their wines in order to meet the growing sophistication of wine consumers’ palates. They were critically aware that the success of their wineries depended on expanding their brand recognition and distribution beyond their local and national borders.

In 2021, wine consumers have more choices than ever before, from more regions than ever before, at price points lower than ever before. The value and quality of wines priced at $15 – and below – has grown exponentially in the last 10 years. A parallel history of water has occurred. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans cultivated grapes and produced wine as an alternative to contaminated water. As the quality of water began to improve, it was added to wine to dilute the bitter taste and off-flavors of many wines. Medieval winemaking practices dictated a ratio of two to three portions of water to one portion of wine.

In more modern times, water continues to be added to wine to mitigate unwanted components, including high alcohol and undesirable concentrations of naturally occurring sugars. In California, regulators now permit the limited addition of water to wine.

Once water became clean and pure, it slowly became a beverage of choice over other beverages, including certain wines. I remember the first time, which seems like ages ago, I came across a bottle of still wine. I put tap water into a bottle and expect me to pay for it when I can drink my own (seemingly) free New York City Catskills spring water from my kitchen faucet? But over time, convenience won out over financial logic, and today I’m buying cases of “spring water” at my local supermarket.

These days, retail outlets are selling “spring water” for about 10 cents a bottle. So, just as quality wines have been declining in price, so has bottled water. And that sounds like markets in perfect sync with each other: higher quality and lower prices.

But there are distinct exceptions to the norm. There are still a few wines in the marketplace where economic elasticity is upside down. Now I’m seeing the same phenomenon for bottled waters.

High-end “designer water,” like Voss, retails for well over $1. Higher-end bottles, such as 10 Thousand BC, drawn from a deep, Ice Age-era Canadian glacier, retail for over $14 per bottle.

In today’s consumer market psyche of “I will spend only as much as I can” and “I need to have the most expensive product in the market,” it’s difficult to rationalize the price of wine compared to these waters.

When the vectors of wine and water prices cross in a pricing graph, the prices of select wines are greater than that of select wines.

Here’s a case in point:

For years, the price Charles Shaw wines from Trader Joe’s, dubbed “Two Buck Chuck,” have been the darlings of price-conscious consumers. At $1.99 per bottle, the multiple wines bearing this label have sold over 800 million bottles since 2002. Even when the price escalated to $2.49, then $2.99 (it’s still $1.99 in parts of California), Trader Joe’s retained the name – and sales have remained solid. However, in a strange twist of upside-down economics, the Two Buck Chuck on the shelves sells for less than select bottles of water in the marketplace.

The “elixir of life” – wine or water? You decide. Is it composition or economics?

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@thexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
Informed Voters Trust Newspapers*

Community Newspapers are the top information source.

* National Newspaper Association Survey