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# The PUTNAM Examiner

Covering ALL of Putnam County

**Examiner  
Sports...**  
pages 27-31



July 6 - July 12, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 641

## Man Convicted of Scamming Cold Spring Woman of \$103,000+

By Rick Pezzullo

Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy announced Tuesday a Coram, NY man was convicted of scamming an 85-year-old Cold Spring woman of more than \$103,000.

"There are so many scams out there, sadly our seniors are often targeted," Tendy said. "We are doing everything we can to educate seniors about these scams and vigorously prosecute these cases when an arrest is made."

During the jury trial, it was revealed from July 2018 to December 2018, James Mcinerney, using the alias "James Bryant," claimed to be the owner of an asset recovery business. He contacted a woman in Cold Spring, alleged she was being overcharged or fraudulently charged by other companies, and offered to obtain refunds for her.

As a result of those promises, the victim gave Mcinerney \$103,050 over approximately six months. The case was turned over to the New York State Police. Investigators were given control of the victim's email account and began communicating with the person believed to be "James Bryant."

Unaware he was speaking to law enforcement officials, Mcinerney attempted to obtain an additional \$7,250 by falsely claiming he made a payment to a company on the victim's behalf that she needed to reimburse him for. He was arrested on January 11, 2019 when he drove from Long Island to the victim's residence to pick up a check from the victim.

After a plainclothes investigator in the victim's house identified himself as a member of the State Police, Mcinerney physically resisted the investigator's attempts to place

him under arrest.

Mcinerney is scheduled to be sentenced by County Court Judge Joseph J. Spofford, Jr. on August 17 on charges of grand larceny in the second degree, attempted grand larceny in the third degree and resisting arrest. He faces a maximum aggregate sentence of 9 ½ to 19 years' in state prison.

Tendy thanked the members of the jury for their careful consideration of the evidence in the case and the State Police, particularly Senior Investigator Paul Schneeloch of the Major Crimes Unit and Investigator Steven Schmoke of the Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team, for their work in the investigation of this case.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Larry Glasser and Assistant District Attorney Mackenzie Ferguson.



James Mcinerney

## Independence Day Flotilla in Mahopac



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY RICH DUNNE

On July 4, VFW Post 5491 held a boat flotilla on Lake Mahopac. The annual event included about 50 boats, both members and public boat owners. The flotilla traveled along the shoreline with many homeowners waving flags from their beaches. The Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America and Taps were played on the lead boat. A barbecue for the celebration was held at the Post.

## Examiner Wins Spot in Global Substack Local Program

Examiner Media has been picked as one of 12 winners from across the world to participate in the Substack Local program and is launching a new digital publication this week while also expanding its broader online operation. (See related column by Publisher Adam Stone on page 11.)

Substack, a California-based company, has enjoyed enormous growth since debuting in 2017. An online platform that facilitates subscription-based email newsletters, many prominent (and lesser known) authors have gravitated to Substack over the past four years to make a living, generating an income from subscription revenue.

In April, the company announced the Substack Local program, an effort to support and partner with an embattled local news industry.

"Local journalism informs and brings together communities, but, facing a business model crisis, it has never been more under threat," the company explained last month when unveiling the winning applicants. "That's why we launched Substack Local, a \$1 million initiative to help independent writers start sustainable local news enterprises."

An independent panel of judges selected a dozen winners, covering six continents, after reviewing a mass of applications from every corner of the world. Examiner Media is one of just six U.S. winners with program entrants living and reporting on foreign

homelands such as Romania, Nigeria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Taiwan and Australia. The half dozen American winners spanned the U.S. map, dwelling from states such as Kentucky and Arizona to Examiner Media's selection right here in New York's Hudson Valley.

"We're extraordinarily excited to participate in such an important effort," Examiner Publisher Adam Stone said. "It's critical for the local news industry to build a new, sustainable business model and digital reader revenue can play a key role in funding community journalism. Substack Local can help blaze a trail for media companies across the country and across the world."

Program winners receive an array of benefits, including mentorship from experienced journalists, access to special design and research services and a cash advance to help support first-year expenses.

Applicants to the program were assessed on their background in news reporting, their commitment to community and their enthusiasm over the subscription-based media model.

The Examiner News on Substack is billing itself as "the Hudson Valley's most innovative, vibrant place for in-depth local news and opinion journalism" from an award-winning team of reporters.

Wednesday, July 7 is the official launch date of the new digital initiative.

The editorial vision is being guided by Examiner Digital Editor Anna Young.

"We're very excited about this new chapter in Examiner Media's history and

See related column by Publisher  
Adam Stone on page 11.

continued on page 2



# McDonough, Baranowski Clinch Victory in Carmel GOP Primary

By Rick Pezzullo

The winners of the Republican primary for two seats on the Carmel Town Board were decided last week following the counting of 88 absentee ballots.

The top vote-getter in the four-candidate race was incumbent Councilwoman Suzi McDonough, who is seeking a fourth four-year term in November. With 53 absentee ballots added to her lead, McDonough received a total of 755 votes.

Finishing in second was McDonough's running mate, Steve Baranowski. Baranowski picked up 40 absentee ballot votes to finish with 713.

Coming in third place was Erin Lee Crowley with 692 votes, followed by Gerard Ahler with 651.

McDonough and Baranowski will next square off against Democrat candidates April Daly and James Carmody. The Carmel Conservative Party is expected to make endorsements this week.

Meanwhile, former Carmel Police Chief Mike Cazzari, who held a sizeable lead over seven-term incumbent Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt following the June 22 GOP primary, padded his advantage after the absentee ballots were tabulated.

Cazzari finished with 1,003 votes, as compared to 547 for Schmitt.

Cazzari, who was once Schmitt's superior in the Police Department, retired in July 2020 after 34 years with the force.

## Other Races

According to unofficial results in the Town of Patterson, incumbents Peter Dandrea and Mary Smith were able to maintain their leads after all the absentee ballots were revealed. Smith finished in first place with 172, while Dandrea received 169 in the race for two board seats. Challenger Joseph Capasso closed the gap a bit but still finished short with 163 votes.

In the Town of Southeast, incumbent Councilman Eric Larca, running for a second term, remained the top vote getter with



Councilwoman Suzi McDonough



Steve Baranowski

429 votes and Eric Cyprus received 380. Finishing a distant third was Carla Lucchino with 189 votes.

In the race for two seats on the Kent Town Board, Noelle Botte led the way with 178 votes, followed by Jorma Tompuri led the way with 175 votes. Robert Hyer finished third with 73 votes.

standout Fordham University graduate, to serve as the company's newest full-time, multi-media reporter.

Dean Pacchiana, the company's webmaster, is managing the new list of technical demands stemming from the expansion.

Readers can visit [theexaminernews.substack.com](http://theexaminernews.substack.com) to subscribe to the new publication. Separately, readers can purchase website membership at [theexaminernews.com](http://theexaminernews.com) to gain access to bonus content.

## Examiner Wins Spot in Global Substack Local Program

*continued from page 1*

opportunity to further expand our digital footprint beyond the Westchester and Putnam borders," Young said. "We're working diligently to produce compelling and original content while also publishing intriguing news stories from the Hudson Valley for readers to relish."

With the cash advance provided by Substack Local, Examiner Media has added a stable of additional freelance journalists to its roster, and also hired Bailey Hosfelt, a

# Police Visit Carmel Camp



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARMEL PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

Members of the Carmel PBA and Putnam County Sheriff's Department visited a summer camp last week run by the Carmel Parks and Recreation Department. The campers had the opportunity to ask questions as well as learn about the motorcycles, the special services unit, the marine unit, and meet the K-9, Flash. Carmel Police were represented by Chief Hoffmann, Sergeant Bodo, and Officers Crecco and Serio, while Deputies Hill, Kraisky, Piqueras and Pizzuto were on hand from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.

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# State Measure Paves Way for Yorktown Renewable Energy Project

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) announced last week passage of legislation he authored to allow the Town of Yorktown to lease town property for a renewable energy project.

## Butterfly Fair Scheduled for This Saturday in Hawthorne

Join the Pleasantville Garden Club for the presentation of an amazing butterfly garden at Bradhurst Park in Hawthorne this Saturday, July 10 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Mount Pleasant Recreation Department and the garden club are celebrating this joint effort to help educate families on ways to develop home gardens that will attract, feed and support butterflies.

Did you know that over 80 percent of all flowering plants need pollination to set fruit and that butterflies are major pollinators? Flower nectar is the food for adult butterflies, and by flying from flower to flower sipping nectar, pollination occurs.

Meet experts who will explain the lifecycle of butterflies including which plants are best for them to rest, lay eggs and eat as larva. Tour the garden itself and discover many yard-enhancing flowers and plants that will provide nectar for their flight.

Children will be entertained by many hands-on activities including crafts, games, the chance to pot a plant to take home and also have their face or hand painted. All these activities are there to enjoy while learning about gardening, butterflies, pollinators, healthy yards and healthy families.

Gardening is an outdoor activity that can be enjoyed by the entire family, and a butterfly garden is a beautiful addition to your property while offering nutrition for bees, birds and especially butterflies, as well as helping to support the progression of food and herbs for your family.

This event is free and registration is not mandatory. But the first 50 families who RSVP will have a chance to win a patio pollinator planter.

To register, contact Danielle at [dfairweather@mtpleasantny.com](mailto:dfairweather@mtpleasantny.com) or call 914-742-2363. Bradhurst Park is located at 63 Bradhurst Ave. in Hawthorne.

The measure will permit the town to lease a portion of land on the Granite Knolls Sports & Recreation Complex to HESP Solar for the construction of a solar canopy, energy storage system and four electric vehicle-charging stations.

"The passage of this bill is the result of a lot of hard work from our colleagues in local and state government," Byrne said. "By passing this enabling legislation, we are able to support this important project with both the town and HESP Solar, providing great potential to positively serve the town and its residents financially and environmentally for years to come."

Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater called the legislation "a milestone renewable

energy project" at the Granite Knolls complex on Stony Street in Mohegan Lake.

"This project with HESP will serve the environment by installing a solar energy canopy, battery storage and electric vehicle charges all of which will generate critical revenue for our Parks and Recreation Department without putting the burden on local taxpayers," Slater said. "We thank our partners on the state level for making this happen."

The Senate version of the bill was carried by state Sen. Peter Harcham (D-Lewisboro) and was approved earlier this year. The legislation now awaits the signature of Gov. Andrew Cuomo to become law.



Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, left, with Assemblyman Kevin Byrne at the Granite Knolls Sports & Recreation Complex in Mohegan Lake, which will be the site of a renewable energy project.

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# Idoni Staves Off Williams in Democratic Primary for County Clerk

By Martin Wilbur

County Clerk Timothy Idoni held off challenger and Yonkers Councilwoman Shanae Williams in the Democratic primary that will enable him to serve a fifth term in the seat.

After the Board of Elections finished counting about 3,400 absentee ballots, Idoni was declared the winner late Friday afternoon, expanding his 330-vote lead to win, 17,494-16,605.

"I am humbled, grateful and proud of the support from my fellow Democrats," Idoni said in a statement Friday night.

"My entire career has been based around government, from being a city manager to my serving as mayor and now as County Clerk, I have always done my best to help the people I am tasked to represent. Thank you for your confidence."

Idoni, 66, added 2,023 votes to his total from the absentee ballots while Williams picked up 1,464. He campaigned as the steady, experienced hand in the race, having phased in the groundbreaking use of technology and digital records during his tenure as county clerk which began in 2006.

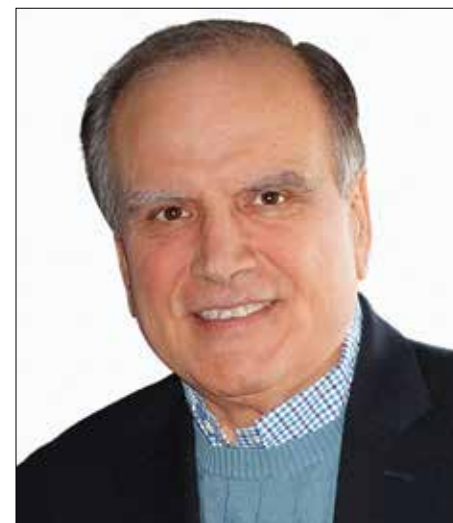
Before that he served five years as

Ardsley village manager and 12 years as New Rochelle mayor just prior to his run as county clerk.

After the election on primary day, Williams, 32, had thanked her supporters and was proud for running an honest and independent campaign. She had proposed changes to how the county clerk's office operates, including greater outreach to the immigrant and underserved communities to inform residents how the office's services can help them.

Williams said her campaign "did a whole lot across this county with very little."

"Regardless of the outcome, I am so proud of what we have accomplished throughout this campaign," Williams said in a Facebook post. "I am proud of my team (and grateful for each of you and all the new friends I made along the way) and I am proud of the work WE did."



Four-term Westchester County Clerk Timothy Idoni was declared the winner in the Democratic primary over Yonkers Councilwoman Shanae Williams last Friday.

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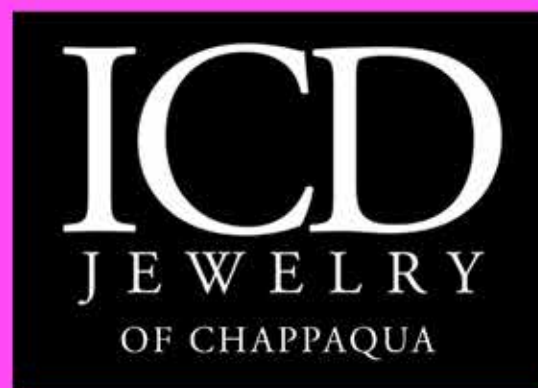
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# P'ville Board of Ed Appoints District's Next Superintendent

By Martin Wilbur

Last Wednesday, the Pleasantville Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of a Dutchess County educator to be the district's next superintendent.

Dr. Tina DeSa, who has served as assistant superintendent for pupil personnel services for the Arlington School District for the past five years, will succeed Mary Fox-Alter on Jan. 1. Fox-Alter has led Pleasantville schools for 12 years and had announced her pending retirement in January.

DeSa will start as the district's deputy

superintendent on Nov. 1 as part of a two-month transition period.

"Pleasantville has a history of excellence in education and is clearly committed to working collaboratively to support all students," DeSa said. "I look ahead with gratitude to lead and serve Pleasantville, a district focused on ensuring we set up learning experiences and nurture a culture that allows each student to be their very best self – as defined by them."

Before her service for Arlington, DeSa worked for three years as principal of Nassau Elementary School in the Spackenkill Union Free School District in Poughkeepsie. She has also served as the network team leader for Dutchess BOCES, where she supported teachers and administrators on learning standards, data-driven instruction and pedagogical practices that support teaching and learning.

DeSa started her education career as an elementary school teacher, and has worked in several districts.

Outgoing Board of Education President Larry Boes said DeSa's expertise in K-12 curriculum and instruction as well as leading the development of educators helped her stand out among the 50 candidates from across the United States who applied for the position.

DeSa impressed the board with her knowledge and assessment of the district.

"Her deep interest in Pleasantville and our schools was clear throughout the interview process in the research and astute observations she brought to our conversations, along with the insightful questions she asked," a board statement read. "We feel confident that she will lead our schools in ways that maintain all that is special while pushing us to be even better for every student."

Prior to recruiting candidates for the post, consultants hired by the district from Strategic Educational Advantage conducted a community survey and held focus groups and interviews with more than 150 stakeholders from the district and community. Their work helped board members develop a candidate profile used to advertise for the position.

The board reduced the pool to 13 candidates whom they interviewed virtually, then whittled that group down to six candidates. Four finalists were then selected and interviewed in person by the board and separately by an advisory panel of parents and teachers.

DeSa will soon begin meeting community members. The board will announce when those meetings will take place as they are scheduled.



Dr. Tina DeSa was announced as the Pleasantville School District's next superintendent last Wednesday evening. She will succeed outgoing Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter effective Jan. 1.

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# Lumberyard Condo Project Receives Site Plan Approval in Armonk

By Martin Wilbur

A revamped condominium project was granted final approval last week by the North Castle Planning Board but the developer said he is unlikely to meet a requirement that would reduce the number of affordable units.

The June 28 site plan approval enabled developer Michael Fareri to clear a major hurdle to develop the 20-unit plan at the site of the old lumberyard on Bedford Road in Armonk. During the past month Fareri has also received approvals from the town's Zoning Board of Appeals and Architectural Review Board.

He must now submit water and sewer plans to the Westchester County Department of Health and engineering and architectural plans to the Building Department and have those approved in order to receive a building permit.

However, because of the multiple layers of approvals and the anticipated waiting period to receive a permit, Fareri said he doesn't expect to be able to begin construction this year.

To comply with the town-imposed deadline to reduce his affordable housing requirement from 20 to 10 percent, Fareri would need to show the town he has completed most of the work by Dec. 31, 2022.

"I don't think that we're going to have the building permit probably until November, which means we probably won't

start the job until March and there's no way that I'm going to be able to get the 75 percent (completion) between March and December, particularly not knowing the situation with materials and getting a building permit," Fareri said.

His initial hope was to break ground three months ago in April, which would have enabled him to build the structure and put a roof on before the winter. That would have allowed crews to continue with interior construction during the cold weather months.

Fareri indicated he will return to the Town Board to seek relief.

"I objected to that condition when it was because I said rather than have a completion

date, without having a start date I can't very well get to the finish line unless I get to the starting line, but they didn't see it that way and they kept it the way it is," Fareri said.

The developer was originally approved for 36 units at the site in 2015, but was required by the town to provide six units of affordable housing because of added density. The town's ordinance requires 10 percent affordable housing for any project of at least eight units.

Shortly after the original 2015 approval, Fareri balked at constructing the project because it would be cost prohibitive.

After several more years of inactivity where he continually lobbied to have the affordable unit requirement reduced, the

Town Board and Fareri agreed last year to establish a deadline where most of the project has to be finished by a certain date for the affordable housing percentage to be cut in half. Originally that deadline was June 30, 2022, but that was amended because of delays.

Fareri then reconfigured the project, which required a new site plan that reduced the number of units to 20. As a result, there would be 18 market-rate condos and two affordable residences.

There will be two 10-unit buildings each containing four two-bedroom units and six three-bedroom residences.



## Welcome Aboard

LeChase Construction Services, LLC recently announced the addition of Timothy Grom as project executive in the Armonk office. In his role, Grom will manage large or multiple projects for core clients, with accountability for quality, value, schedule, budget and safety. Grom, a Westfield, N.J. resident, will also oversee the mentoring and recruitment of project team members. He previously served as director of construction at Nuvance Health.



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**VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Village Clerk until 11: am, local time on **Thursday, July 15, 2021** at the Office of the Village Clerk, ROOM 306, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York 10570, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the Clinton Street Center HVAC and Refrigeration Equipment Upgrades within the Village of Pleasantville.

No Bids will be received or considered after the time stated above.  
The Bid Documents may be obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at the following web address: <http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york>. There is no cost to the bidder for this service. Bid documents will be available after 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, July 1, 2021**.

If the bidder is unable to utilize the electronic version, Specifications and Bid Proposal Forms may be procured at the office of the Village Clerk, ROOM 306, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York beginning Thursday, July 1, 2021 between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

**A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8th at 11 am at the Clinton St. Center.**

The scope of work includes replacement of two (2) replacement rooftop A/C units and rooftop walk-in freezer condensing unit; work will include crane operations to remove existing and set new units.

Bids shall be made on the Proposal forms furnished with the Bid Documents. A Bid Bond, Certified Check or Bank Check in the amount of 5% of bid must accompany the bid proposal. Bidders who submit certified checks must accompany them with a Consent of Surety from a recognized Bonding Company. Checks shall be made payable to the Village of Pleasantville, New York and are to be held by Village as a guarantee for the proper execution and delivery of the Contract and bonds to secure the faithful performance thereof.

Proposals shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the Bidder, and clearly marked "Clinton Street Center HVAC and Refrigeration Equipment Upgrades, Bid #2021-02, Village of Pleasantville, New York."

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive any informalities at their discretion, and to award the contracts in a manner deemed to be in the best interests of the Village of Pleasantville even if such award is to other than the lowest bidder. It is intended that, whenever possible, positive recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees so that on awarding of the bid can be made at the next scheduled meeting.

Federal funds are utilized on this project and are subject to all the applicable requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Eric Morrissey  
Village Administrator, Village of Pleasantville

All technical questions should be directed to Jeffrey A. Econom, P.E. Superintendent of Public Works at (914) 769-1940.



# Police Blotter

## Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

**June 21:** Report of gas or sewage odor inside a home on Ackerman Court at 12:28 p.m. Patrol and Croton Fire Department responded. Patrol reported that the odor came from a skunk that had sprayed outside the home.

**June 21:** A Brook Street resident reported at 4 p.m. that her ex-husband threatened violence against her current boyfriend. She stated that her ex-husband showed a gun to her son and said, "I'll shoot your mom's boyfriend if he acts up again." The case was turned over to detectives for further investigation.

**June 22:** DPW reported at 10:25 a.m. multiple street signs were stolen in the village. An investigation is ongoing.

**June 22:** A caller reported at 8:38 p.m. that someone created a fraudulent e-mail address similar to her husband's and has been e-mailing their customers asking for money. She reported one customer in Chappaqua sent \$2,000 via Zelle to this unknown individual and subsequently filed a report with the New Castle Police Department. The caller indicated that she alerted her customers of the fraudulent

e-mails.

**June 22:** A Nordica Drive resident reported at 11:03 p.m. that their tire was slashed. Patrol to file a report.

**June 25:** A caller reported a male acting strange in the area of Grand Street at 8:35 a.m. Patrol responded and reported he was packing his car to go away.

**June 25:** Caller reported at 7:01 p.m. that a black male and a white female were having an argument on Hunter Street across from her residence. The caller stated that the male appeared to light a shirt on fire, left it in the street before leaving the scene in a vehicle while the female left on foot. Patrols were dispatched and reported using a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire in the street.

Patrol located the female on foot on Old Post Road North and reported that she was uncooperative as they attempted to ascertain information as to what happened. She only stated that she had an argument with her friend and he set the shirt on fire because it had dog feces on it. The female stated her friend isn't returning to pick her up. Patrols gave the woman a courtesy transport to the train station and interviewed witnesses on scene who did not recognize the male. Patrols canvassed

the area for his vehicle with negative results.

## North Castle Police Department

**June 25:** A Jennie Clarkson school staff member reported at 5:28 p.m. that on student assaulted another. The staff member requested an ambulance and for police to respond. Valhalla Ambulance was dispatched by 60 Control.

**June 25:** Report of a lost 10-year-old girl on Maple Avenue at 5:42 p.m. The child's father was contacted and he responded from White Plains to pick her up. The child was reunited with her father.

**June 26:** A Nichols Road resident reported at 5:26 a.m. that she believes people are stealing things from her home. The caller was screaming profanities before hanging up the phone. The responding officers stated that the party checks okay at this time and no longer needs police assistance.

**June 27:** A Wrights Mill Road resident reported at 6:51 p.m. that his 62-year-old mother went missing. She was last seen at home at about 7 a.m. The caller reported that his mother left on foot and she does not drive or speak English. Officers were advised and responded to assist in locating the missing party. The caller e-mailed a picture of his mother and a hotline message was sent with a picture. County officers with a bloodhound assisted with the search. The party was located after an extended search.

**July 1:** Multiple callers stated they observed a bear walking on Upland Lane and Evergreen Row at 10:54 a.m. The responding officer canvassed the area with negative results; the animal was apparently gone upon arrival.

## White Plains Police Department

**June 30:** Luis Doce Herrera, 61, was arrested for second-degree burglary regarding an incident where he was observed on a video camera entering a home and fleeing.

**June 30:** Alexander Posner, 31, was arrested for second-degree burglary and third-degree menacing stemming from a domestic incident.

## Yorktown Police Department

**June 29:** Carlos Giron-Sola, 25, of Greenwich was arrested at 6:15 p.m. and charged with petty larceny for allegedly refusing to pay for merchandise at the ACME supermarket in Shrub Oak.

**June 30:** Bennetta Vieira, 68, of Yorktown, was arrested at 5:44 p.m. and charged with third-degree assault during a domestic incident at a residence. An investigation revealed Vieira and a victim were in a verbal argument that became physical. During the argument it is alleged Vieira punched the victim in the face with a closed fist causing injuries and pain.

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# Mt. Kisco Likely to Opt Out From Cannabis Sales in Village

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco is likely to become the latest municipality to opt out of retail marijuana sales and consumption lounges within its borders, continuing a trend among area local officials of needing more time to gauge impacts.

At a special work session last week, the four Village Board members in attendance reached consensus that with the provision in the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act allowing municipalities to legalize sales and/or facilities to consume at any time in the future, opting out was the best choice for the community.

For those local governments that decide to allow dispensaries and consumption sites, they cannot change course.

"We can always opt back in at some time in the future but opting out now gives us a good opportunity to see how things unfold for the next period of time with the relatively new legislation," said Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus. "I certainly recognize all the pros and cons on that issue, but I'd rather see this unfold over a period of time, it will give us an opportunity to see how this new law is working out before we make a decision that we can never reverse in the future."

Mayor Gina Picinich said she has no

doubt that at some point in the future retail marijuana sales will be legal in the village since there is clearly momentum in favor of the industry among many citizens, but there are too many unanswered questions for her to support it at this time.

Picinich said the state's regulatory framework, including the Cannabis Control Board and the Office of Cannabis Management, has not yet been created and it is unknown who will be appointed to fill those vacancies.

She also pointed to the issue facing police who do not yet have a breathalyzer-type test or a definitive method to gauge when someone is considered impaired by marijuana, which needs to be figured out.

"So I'm not comfortable, yet, permitting sales in our community when all the parts and pieces have not yet been determined by the state, by law enforcement and by whatever other agencies are out there," Picinich said.

Trustee David Squirrell agreed that there are currently too many unknowns for the village to allow sales at this time. However, as the chief attorney for the Putnam County Legal Aid Society, he said he's aware of the inequities that have been brought on by the state previously having criminalized marijuana.

Squirrell also urged his board colleagues to not dismiss the potential for future economic benefit for the village. He recommended the board consider assembling a village task force to study a variety of possible impacts. Members should include law enforcement, drug treatment professionals, physicians on both side of the issue, the local business community, parents and residents of the community at large.

"I agree that we should consider opting but at this time putting a time frame in to form a community committee with all the necessary stakeholders so this can be addressed thoroughly so that any future decision on this is made with full community involvement," he said.

The other board members agreed that a local committee would be beneficial.

Trustee Karen Schleimer said there was nothing to lose for the village to opt out, although she would like to get an estimate on how much revenue could be generated by opting in.

"You can opt in two days later after you opt out," Schleimer said. "There is really no great loss to waiting and seeing what other people's decisions are and what their experience is."

The board scheduled a public hearing for its next meeting on Monday and could vote to formally opt out at that time.

Other municipalities that have already opted out include Eastchester, Somers and North Castle. To allow retail marijuana sales, a municipality can choose to take no action between now and the end of the year.

## Borgia Appointed Executive Director of Clear View School

By Rick Pezzullo

Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) has been appointed executive director of the Clear View School and Day Treatment Center in Briarcliff Manor.

Borgia, who is in her 10th year serving on the Board of Legislators and chairs the Budget and Appropriations Committee, took over her leadership role at Clear View on June 21.

"As a longtime admirer of the Clear View School, I'm very pleased to join the organization to continue its transformative work," Borgia said. "I extend deepest gratitude to the board of directors for giving me the opportunity to work with them and Clear View's dedicated staff to guide the school toward future success, enhanced financial stability and expanded community collaborations."

As executive director, Borgia will work closely with staff and the board of directors to ensure that the organization remains at the forefront of delivering essential programs and services for children with emotional disabilities and their families. The Clear View School recently received the professional designation as a NASET School of Excellence by the National Association of Special Education Teachers.



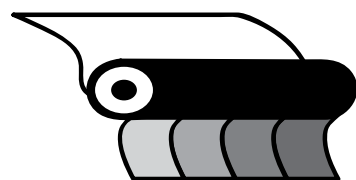
Catherine Borgia is the new executive director of the Clear View School in Briarcliff Manor.

"I speak for our entire board when I say that we are eager to work with Catherine and confident in her ability to position the Clear View School for prosperity in the years to come," said David McGorry, acting board of directors' president at Clear View.

Before being elected to the Board of Legislators in 2011, Borgia served two terms as Town of Ossining supervisor and four years as councilwoman. She was previously chief of staff to Assemblywoman Sandra Galef for seven years.

## Celebrating the Nation's Birth

The Town of Mount Pleasant held its annual Fourth of July Bell Ringing Ceremony on Sunday at the Community Center in Valhalla. Along with Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi and the Town Board, there were local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, representatives of the Hawthorne American Legion and a few Revolutionary War reenactors. Local Valhalla resident Nathan Resika sung the National Anthem and the Hawthorne American Legion changed out the American flag outside of the facility.



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



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## Guest Column

### Sheriff Should Stop Attacking Putnam County Legislature

By Neal L. Sullivan and Ginny Nacerino

Last fall, the Putnam County Legislature and County Executive MaryEllen Odell went through the county's spending plan with a fine-tooth comb, funded the services that our residents rely upon and cut redundancies.

To look out for our taxpayers, we make hard decisions like this every year at budget time.

Ultimately the budget, which included changes to the Sheriff's Department Marine Unit, was supported by the legislature in an overwhelming 8-1 vote. This was an extremely challenging budget due to the economic uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic and unknowns about future state and federal funding.

Why, you might ask, are we talking about this now, when the 2021 budget was adopted way back in November?

It's because Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr. has chosen this time, while he is running for re-election, to flog an issue that he ignored during budget season, when he could have spoken up. In promoting his own interests, he has recently attacked the legislature – in writing, in interviews, on his Facebook page – and we want to set the record straight.

When Sheriff Langley was elected, he met with a couple of legislators and spoke about making substantial changes in the Sheriff's Department to reduce overtime and improve overall efficiency in order to keep taxes low for our residents. To date, he has not instituted one of those changes but instead, increased overall costs to the taxpayer.

The 2021 budget reduced funding for the Sheriff's Department Marine Unit by removing weekend-only patrols in places where the state police, the Coast Guard, local police and many other fire, rescue and EMS agencies already serve and patrol – the Hudson River and Lake Mahopac,

which is a state-owned lake. The Marine Unit continues to patrol Lake Oscawana, which has no other coverage.

We have always supported the men and women of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department. This was a simple matter of eliminating a duplication of services. Indeed, when a swimmer in distress was reported on June 29, 19 different agencies and units responded to the scene, Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Kenneth W. Clair Jr. reported.

Nonetheless, Sheriff Langley chose to use a hot-button political slogan, claiming that we defunded the police. Don't fall for it, we would never do that. We have been working, as per Gov. Andrew Cuomo's directive, to make the department more efficient and responsive to the public. In fact, the 2021 adopted police budget was almost \$800,000 more than the 2020 budget.

Here is the real story:

County Executive Odell presents a proposed budget in October every year. For the next month, the legislature considers the requests of each department before adopting the budget in November. That would have been the appropriate time for Sheriff Langley to discuss his funding needs for rescue and recovery. Though he was welcome to meet with the legislature, Sheriff Langley couldn't be bothered.

Indeed, when we ask the sheriff to come talk to the legislature's committees, he just sends an underling to do his bidding. That is not only counterproductive, but disrespectful. When people with opposing views meet to discuss issues, compromise can sometimes be found. But Sheriff Langley chooses to duck the meetings and instead hide behind political slogans intended to inflame the public rather than inform.

The legislature doesn't play that game. We don't make important budgetary decisions based on political whims. We

make our decisions based on facts with the interests of our taxpayers in mind. Sheriff Langley turns to Facebook and social media to stoke an argument.

Sheriff Langley's use of social media to promote his false claims about the legislature shows how his real goal is just to stir up a crowd. Of course, his Facebook page violates the Putnam County social media guidelines and the Sheriff Department's own Code of Conduct in so many ways it's hard to keep count.

But even if you ignore the fact that it's a private Facebook page that's made to look like an official Sheriff's Department page, it's hard to miss that it contains untruthful, malicious posts that are knowingly false and calculated to harm the reputation of Putnam County legislators – a clear violation.

We could list all the official "standards of conduct" Langley is violating on his Facebook page, but quoting regulation 320.5.9 (f) of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual sums it up. It prohibits "Discourteous, disrespectful or discriminatory treatment of any member of the public or any member of this office or the County."

The attacks on the legislature that are posted on Langley's social media pages are unbecoming of the sheriff, make our county look bad and can only have a negative effect on the morale of his department.

Sheriff Langley should stop his public attacks on the legislature and instead start thinking about actually participating in constructive discussions with us. The next budget season will be here soon enough and we would all benefit from some cooperation.

*Legislator Neal L. Sullivan is deputy chair of the Putnam County Legislature and Legislator Ginny Nacerino is chair of the Protective Services Committee.*

## Letter to the Editor

### It's Time to Remove Trump's Name From the Taconic Parkway and Parks

Last week, the Trump Organization and its chief financial officer were indicted for tax fraud and other illegal practices. Yet Yorktown residents and all of New York's residents still must endure the embarrassment of seeing him recognized and honored for donating undeveloped land as parkland, as we commute from our community.

This year, the state Senate passed

## Correction

In last week's article on the pending demolition of the structure that housed WRNW in Briarcliff Manor, it incorrectly stated that one of its former disc jockeys, Bruce Figler, went on to work at WNEW-FM in Manhattan. He worked at WTFM and WAPP in the city. The Examiner regrets the error.

legislation which would empower the state commissioner of parks to determine whether renaming the parks is legally feasible. Although this did not mandate a renaming, it did make a first step that could enable a change. Unfortunately, the Assembly did not take similar action before it adjourned.

I urge people to contact local Assemblymembers Kevin Byrne and Sandra Galef and get them to commit to advancing and voting for similar legislation during the next legislative session. We should not honor a President who attempted to undermine the democratic process and seize power as an unelected autocrat.

A few reminders as to how all this happened. In 2006, Yorktown and Putnam Valley residents successfully defeated an attempt by the Trump Organization to build a golf course on 436 acres of undeveloped land. To cut his losses, Trump donated the

land to the state for the future development of a state park in exchange for tax benefits and having his name prominently displayed, at least at each entrance. In 2015, many state legislators began proposing that the park be renamed, to which Trump responded, "If they want, they can give me the land back."

It is time to call Trump's bluff. I believe he has other legal issues that will take precedence. The last thing he wants right now is to be saddled with property that will be difficult, if not impossible, to develop. If he takes it back, will he be responsible for the tax deductions he claimed in 2006?

The time has come for New York State to act boldly to remove this disgrace.

**Melvyn R. Tanzman**  
**Mohegan Lake**



# Column

## How We Developed Examiner 2.0 in Two Head-Spinning Months

By Adam Stone

It would have been impossible and absurd last year to forecast that Examiner Media, having just survived a life-threatening storm, would soon be picked to help pioneer the future of local news on a global stage. Nevertheless, here we stand today.

But before I get to that, let me start with a little context and background: In March 2020, with our world suffocated by the pandemic's early stranglehold, I assigned myself the unpleasant task of dismantling a company I started from scratch more than a dozen years earlier.

I let go most of the staff, on an uncertain mission to rebuild an already fractured business that was practically broken by COVID's wrath.

Long story short: our loyal audience rallied to our cause, as hundreds of readers submitted donations (and priceless notes of encouragement) totaling more than \$30,000 to inject us with new life.

Our skeleton staff worked tirelessly to deliver you the same quality community journalism you came to expect since 2007. Thanks to their efforts, your support, advertiser loyalty and a little help from funding opportunities that I applied for and received from Google, Facebook and the feds, we regained our footing by last summer.

But as work life stabilized, I felt the future tugging. It struck me that the new normal we'd created – essentially a revised, leaner way of doing what we did before – would allow us to compete in the media marathon respectably and long-term but not necessarily without gasping for the occasional breath in the process. I was (and am) immensely proud of the print and web publications we produce but wondered what else we could do to complement those efforts, from a business and a journalistic standpoint.

Reinvention seemed important yet how to evolve was unclear.

### Serendipity Delivers

Generally speaking, I've embraced the idea of Examiner Media getting back to basics, utilizing old fashioned, uncool, proven principles, largely ignoring each trendy industry pivot of the past 13-plus years. However, unlike in the past, I saw flickering flashes of light amidst the digital business darkness. For the first time, I could envision an approximate way we'd be able to build a sturdy, sustainable business in digital media to augment our still primary print publishing efforts.

The ruminating was all a bit amorphous and vague but given our successful digital fundraising efforts last spring, my gut told me opportunity existed in reader revenue that didn't exist in online advertising. Readers were beginning to understand they needed to chip in if they wanted their community to avoid becoming the latest news desert.

As attacks on journalists, science and facts persisted, people gained a heightened appreciation for the importance of professionally-reported, fact-checked

information while they also learned more about the metastasizing financial cancer killing or wounding thousands of venerable newspapers across the country and the world over the past 15 or so years.

Still, as a small business, our bandwidth was limited and developing a new online infrastructure in a fresh media space would be challenging.

Then one mid-April day, when digging through a mountain of e-mails, my eyes somehow caught a glimpse of an industry newsletter I might normally ignore.

### Substack Local

"Today, we're announcing Substack Local, a \$1,000,000 initiative to foster and develop the local news ecosystem by helping independent writers build local news publications based on the subscription model," the California-based company stated in the e-mail.

Substack has been a big story in media news in recent years, providing writers with a new way to make a living by utilizing the site. It's essentially an online platform that facilitates publishing, payment, design and analytic services for independent authors all in one tidy location.

Anyway, the newly unveiled Substack Local opportunity was clearly designed primarily for individual journalists seeking a new career path, not a company. But, on a lark, I decided to apply on behalf of Examiner Media. I spent a long evening giving the application my all, essentially as a creative exercise, and moved on, half assuming the unorthodox application would not just be rejected but also discarded as a nonstarter by the expert panel of independent judges.

Then, in late May, with the application no longer on my radar screen, I received an e-mail: "we're awarding you a position in the Substack Local program."

Wow. Now what? I later learned the 12 winners spanned six continents, dotting every corner of the world, with journalists from Romania to Nigeria to Brazil to the United Kingdom to Taiwan to Australia to Kentucky to little old us, right here in New York's Hudson Valley. We were one of just six U.S. selections among the massive worldwide application pool.

Yet it wasn't a slam dunk. I was plenty busy and happy with family and work responsibilities and I didn't know if absorbing a giant new project was prudent, even while recognizing the magnitude of the opportunity.

### All In

Making matters dicier, Substack needed an answer essentially right away. That meant I had to know whether my already overworked digital colleagues were on board for an opportunity they knew nothing about. And I was compelled to ascertain whether they were "all in" before I had even decided if I was prepared to commit myself.

After experiencing some utterly understandable and unwelcome whiplash from my seemingly out-of-left-field question, Examiner Digital Editor Anna

Young and Webmaster Dean Pacchiana expressed a desire to proceed as project leaders. I then decided to pull the trigger and the three of us were off to the races, spending the past month-plus cooking up plans for the plating of our new journalistic feast.

Thanks to the promise of a first-year cash advance from the Substack Local program, we've been busy soliciting resumes and hiring journalists.

In fact, our new Substack publication is only half of the new digital equation. With the addition of extra staff, we'll be able to enhance our daily online community coverage on our website and offer you the opportunity to purchase members-only access to all of our bonus content, including a new crossword puzzle option from world-renowned puzzle master Myles Mellor.

We're also expanding our use of digital photo galleries. Speaking of photographs, you'll soon be able to purchase our images online. And with more and more live events being scheduled, our team is developing an interactive Happenings calendar for our website to unveil in the weeks ahead. Visit theexaminernews.com to review membership options.

### Subscribe Today

As for our new Substack initiative, you can subscribe at theexaminernews.substack.com. The publication will be delivered straight to your inbox, in the form of an e-mail newsletter.

We intend to be the Hudson Valley's most innovative, vibrant place for in-depth local news and opinion journalism from our award-winning team of reporters, as our Substack one-line elevator pitch declares. While our existing publications thoroughly explore the who, the what, the where and the when, on Substack we'll go deeper into the why and the how.

Our Substack reporters will often shed the third-person masks and pen their pieces in the first-person, cultivating a more intimate relationship between reader and writer. In a richer, more modern way, we'll be reporting on Westchester and Putnam's local news, local sports, local food and local events while also showcasing the work of the best local writers.

While there's a free subscription option, only paid members receive a key to unlock all of our written word journalism, community forums and podcasting audio content.

Whether it's taking a deep dive into the local legal marijuana dispensary debate or exploring the mental health challenges facing today's social media-obsessed teens, we'll be probing further than ever into region's long list of thorny issues.

New York Times bestselling author Jeff Pearlman, a nationally acclaimed sportswriter, will be writing a piece for us this week on the bonkers youth sports culture of today compared to what he experienced growing up locally in Mahopac. With Erin Maher on life as a millennial, Ani Greenidge on diversity and pop culture, Nancy Sorbella on local events, Morris Gut on area dining, Anna

Young on mental health, Andrew Vitelli on pizza (yes, really) and his conservative politics, student journalist Sophia Spiegel on teens, Amy Oringel on the region "then and now," Rob DiAntonio on the sports photojournalism beat and our new full-time reporter Bailey Hosfelt on LGBTQ+ issues and climate change, we've assembled an all-star team of talent with plans to further deepen the bench.

And for you Shannon Becker fans out there, you're going to love the incredible profile James Schapiro prepared for our Substack subscribers next week about the mind-bogglingly dominant Notre Dame-bound, Section 1 softball hurler.

But the most exciting aspect of the project for the dozen Substack Local winners, in my view, is knowing that if we are successful, we'll have helped sketch a new blueprint for the industry to follow. In order to achieve that success, we'll need your support.

With the paid option costing you just \$6 per month, or only \$50 for the year (before early bird discounts), please consider subscribing through the following link today and being a Day One part of something special, and securing free merch (Examiner mugs, totes) in the process: theexaminernews.substack.com. (There's even a free subscription option for readers facing financial hardship as well as an Examiner Ambassador program for our fans to help fund gift subscriptions for less fortunate fellow readers.)

Our Substack contains three sections — The Examiner News, our eponymously named newsy newsletter; Voices, our columnist driven opinion-y newsletter; and Happenings, our events/recreation newsletter. You can pick one, two or all three sections to receive with the total cost remaining the same regardless.

If you want to purchase year-long access to all of our paid content on both Substack and our website, you'll receive a half-off discount code when subscribing on either platform, lowering the annual (non-early bird) total to just \$75 for both instead of \$100.

All of those granular details aside, here's the thing: when scooting around Pleasantville and Mount Kisco in my Honda Accord on Sept. 11, 2007, distributing debut print newspaper copies of The Examiner around a pair of downtowns with my ink-stained hands, today's news (and general media technology) would have been impossible for me to conjure or conceive. However, the world changes and the bottom line is we'll be working hard to ensure your paid subscription is money well spent and worthy of your precious time — a meaningful investment in not just us but in local community journalism more broadly.

Gratefully,

**Adam Stone**  
**Publisher**  
**Examiner Media**

**WILLIAM RAVEIS**  
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# Ex-Reader's Digest Employee Tells Story of Gender Discrimination Suit

By Martin Wilbur

When Elaine Auerbach entered the workforce in the 1960s, she didn't envision herself being a trailblazer. She planned on working hard and furthering her career opportunities with the chance for advancement.

But five years after being hired by Reader's Digest in Chappaqua, Auerbach was at the center of a firestorm. She was one of eight women plaintiffs to have a lawsuit filed on their behalf against the company in 1972 that alleged gender bias.

At the time, Auerbach was an associate editor, having been hired after graduating Douglas College in New Jersey in 1967. Her job was to condense articles to fit into the magazine's format.

Despite hoping to have a long career at Reader's Digest, she soon found upward mobility would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

"I went in to the managing editor to signal to him that I had career ambitions," Auerbach recalled. "Being a mother also didn't indicate that I didn't want to have a career. I asked what are the skills I needed to become a senior editor, and his responses was, 'Oh, women don't become senior editors.'"

Nearly 44 years after Reader's Digest agreed to pay a more than a \$1.5 million settlement, Auerbach has written a new book about the experience, "Dirty Linen: How Women Sued the Reader's Digest."

This Saturday she will participate in a book signing at Scattered Books, located at

29 King St. in Chappaqua, from 12 to 2 p.m. that coincides with its release.

Auerbach remembered that the jarring response that she received forced her to come to the realization that there were no women senior editors or women department heads, except for the excepts and research departments, which were entirely comprised of women. Her female co-workers never seemed to rise above associate editor.

"We figured maybe management didn't realize that women wanted to have more of an opportunity, that maybe they don't realize that many women are self-supporting or supporting families," Auerbach said. "Maybe they didn't realize they're discriminating."

She and another worker visited personnel and with the company's permission developed a questionnaire to distribute to the company's female workers. The results, outlined in a report that they called "the white paper," revealed many more of the company's women felt they had limited opportunities.

When their findings were ignored, that's when they took legal action. Even though Reader's Digest was a great place to work and DeWitt and Lila Wallace were wonderful people, Auerbach said they needed to take that step because the Wallaces, in their view, were breaking the law.

"It was extremely difficult," she said of the decision to pursue the suit. "People were loyal to the Wallaces, they were loyal to Reader's Digest and so were the women



Elaine Auerbach, one of the eight plaintiffs in a 1970s gender bias suit against Reader's Digest, holds The New York Times article about the case after the settlement. Auerbach has written a new book about the experience.

who took action."

Columbia University, which had recently developed its urban affairs and clinical legal education programs, took on the case led by attorney Harriet Rabb. Rabb had just been named the first women dean in Columbia Law School history.

More than 100 women were interested in being part of the suit. However, it was easier to move ahead with fewer plaintiffs. Plus, many women who initially supported

the litigation turned against the eight for causing trouble, Auerbach said.

The action was settled in November 1977, with the plaintiffs sharing the settlement money with all women in the company. It had far-reaching impact in the publishing and media industry, Auerbach said. While Newsweek also had staffers sue the company, they were looked upon as radical feminists from New York City.

"Reader's Digest, however, was middle America, it was believed by everyone, it was family," she said. "It was in everyone's homes. It was such a big magazine. It was everywhere and it was about as popular as the Bible, and read just about as much."

Auerbach had always intended to write the book when she had the time. Her plan was to team up with one of her colleagues at Reader's Digest and co-complainants in the case, Patricia Nell Warren, who went on to become a noted novelist. In 2019, she learned of Warren's death.

Nearly a half-century later, women are still earning less than men and have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, another motivation for Auerbach.

"I thought between the two of us, Patricia and I would tell the story," said Auerbach, who would have a long career at Pepsico. "But now she was gone and I was left to tell the story, and I figured I owed it to history. I feel that strongly that people today need to know what went into whatever progress had been made and whatever progress we hadn't made. There's more to be made."



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# Student Highlights Uplifting Stories of Pandemic Through Podcasts

By Martin Wilbur

Since March 2020, everyone has been affected by the pandemic. Many of us have focused on what has been lost, which is understandable if a person or their family battled COVID-19, lost a loved one from the virus or a job or business.

Anika Bobra, who will be entering eighth grade at H.C. Crittenden Middle School in Armonk in September, has taken a different route. With immense challenges facing so many, she has spotlighted those who have assisted others.

"Both my parents are doctors and they'd come home and tell me uplifting stories about

people helping people in all sorts of ways and I needed to come up with a way to share these stories with more people and highlight the members of our community," Bobra said.

After brainstorming for several months about how she could do that, Bobra launched a podcast called "Today I Am Grateful" in December featuring weekly interviews of people in a wide assortment of fields. They include elected officials, educators, health care workers and many others relating their stories of how they helped others and have overcome adversity. The final question is always what each person is grateful for.

Bobra has interviewed Dr. Jen Lamia, the Byram Hills School District superintendent

on how the district adapted, doctors in various specialties, particularly as the COVID-19 vaccines began to roll out, people in the performing arts and an assortment of public officials, including County Executive George Latimer and state Sen. Shelley Mayer.

The theme of each interview focuses on the pandemic while spreading gratitude. The typical podcast is about eight to 10 minutes.

"Everyone has been going through a difficult time, and so by taking these inspiring stories we wanted people to create their own inspiring stories," she said.

Getting a fresh person to interview on a regular basis hasn't been a problem. Bobra said she reaches out to her subjects, usually by e-mail, and explains what she's doing. Thus far, they have been enthusiastic and helpful, Bobra said. To date, she has uploaded 27 podcasts.

"I've gotten to learn about people's strengths and compassion during this difficult time, and the pandemic, as I said before, has affected everyone," Bobra said. "But hearing the stories of courage, resilience and even innovation has been very inspiring to me and hopefully my listeners as well."

It's helped that Bobra has a background in youth theater, which has helped to not only project her voice but comes up with creative ways to make each interview a bit unique, she said.

She interviews most subjects virtually, usually over Zoom, then uploads the audio. It can be accessed on a variety of platforms, including Spotify and Apple.



H.C. Crittenden Middle School student Anika Bobra launched a podcast in December where she speaks to a variety of people in different fields on how they overcame challenges and helped others during the pandemic.

Even as the pandemic has receded in recent months, Bobra said she plans on continuing the podcasts.

"I think everybody will always remember this pandemic, we'll always be impacted by it," she said. "By using how they kind of adapted during the pandemic, there are still so many stories to tell."

You can listen to Bobra's podcasts at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/today-i-am-grateful/id1543732392?i=1000524893343> or [https://open.spotify.com/show/6FTEWJiutV4J3nuipPJCK?si=UkwtX1fJReu7Sq4nEeL2uw&dl\\_branch=1](https://open.spotify.com/show/6FTEWJiutV4J3nuipPJCK?si=UkwtX1fJReu7Sq4nEeL2uw&dl_branch=1).

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# P'ville's Masonic Lodge Resumes Community Summer Movie Nights

By Martin Wilbur

Pleasantville's Masonic Lodge #434 certainly is familiar with overcoming adversity – at least when it comes to scheduling its free outdoor summer movie nights.

One year, rain washed out the scheduled dates. Last year, of course, the screenings were never scheduled because of the pandemic.

Undaunted, the Masons have returned this summer with four popular family or summer flicks to be screened outside on the lodge's grounds in the village.

"As we're coming out of COVID, people are certainly longing for community connectivity and events, so this was just a way to say let's bring the movie nights back," said lodge member Tony Burton.

For the next four Thursday nights, starting this week and extending through July 29, there will be a different movie that starts after 8:30 p.m. or whenever it's dark enough for viewers to comfortably watch the movie. The grounds open at 8 p.m. for anyone who would like to attend.

This Thursday, the series kicks off with the original "Toy Story," followed on July 15 by "Field of Dreams." The next week, on July 22, "Princess Bride" will be shown before concluding with "Grease" for the final screening.

The film nights have been set for Thursdays in July rather than Saturdays in June. Burton said families had too many obligations in June for it to attract as many people as they had hoped. As a result of that change, the lodge needed to find move the screening rather than having them at Bedford Road School, which is closed during the summer.

What hasn't changed is keeping fingers crossed that Mother Nature cooperates. If any screening has to be called off it won't be rescheduled this year, but will be added to the movie list for 2022.

## Fireworks to Return to Playland This Friday Evening

Get ready to ooh and aah when spectacular fireworks illuminate the sky over Playland Park this summer.

After being closed for the 2020 season due to COVID-19, fireworks over Long Island Sound will take place every Friday through Labor Day weekend starting this week, July 9. There will also be a final fireworks show on Sunday, Sept. 5. All fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m.

"Whether you come for the rides at the park or a dip at the beach and stay for the fireworks, you get a lot of bang for your buck," said Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor.

For the season's full schedule and admission prices, visit [www.PlaylandPark.org](http://www.PlaylandPark.org) or call the park at 914-813-7010. Parking is \$10.

Playland is located in Rye and can be reached via Playland Parkway, Exit 19 off of I-95.

Burton said the lodge reached out to the public via social media to receive suggestion on what residents would like to see. "Toy Story" has become a family classic while "Field of Dreams" is a great summer movie because it deals with baseball and father-and-son relationships, he said. That was a common request from the public.

"Princess Bride" is Burton's personal favorite for 2021, and while "Grease" is more of a PG-13 selection, it's still a summer favorite and a great sing-a-long picture.

"We picked four movies that have different audiences and different things, but there's really something for everyone," he said.

There will also be some concessions and snacks available for people to buy in case they have the munchies and the lodge's doors will be open in case anyone needs to use the restrooms.

Burton said the free movie nights belong to the community.

"We're not passing the hat. It's not a money-making venture," Burton said. "It's a movie night and we'll have some concessions because who doesn't like some snacks during a movie."

Masonic Lodge #434 is located at 283 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville.



Masonic Lodge #434 in Pleasantville will once again hold its summer evening screenings starting this Thursday.

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## The Most Common Sexually Transmitted Disease: HPV

What you need to know about keeping yourself and your children safe

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#### Q: What is the human papilloma virus (HPV)?

**A:** HPV is a sexually transmitted virus. There are approximately 150 strains of the virus and nearly 40 affect the genital area. Most HPV infections are asymptomatic, which means that you may never know you were exposed. The majority of HPV strains do not cause any issues and will eventually go away on their own. Some strains, however, can cause genital warts, cervical cancer, anal cancer and other cancers, including head and neck cancers.

#### Q: Who is at risk?

**A:** Studies have shown that almost everyone gets exposed to HPV at some point in their lives. Some studies have shown that up to 90% of college-aged men women have been exposed to HPV. If you're dating someone and they say they've been "tested," please know that men cannot be tested for HPV. The virus hides from our immune systems, so it will not show up on a blood test. Women can be tested for HPV by getting a pap smear, but there's no test for men.

#### Q: What's the best defense against HPV?

**A:** Condoms are the best defense against HPV, but even with condom use, the virus can still be transmitted to others. There is no cure for HPV, only prevention.

That's why it's so important for both boys and girls

to get vaccinated. Vaccines against HPV have sharply reduced infections in men and women and will likely cause major drops in HPV-related cancers. Parents should discuss the optimal time for the vaccine with their pediatrician. Some may decide to delay the vaccine until the middle teen years.

#### Men and women, up to age 45, can get the HPV vaccine.

The CDC recommendation now includes men and women up to age 45 – especially if they are dating, widowed or have a new partner. If you're interested in a vaccine, speak with your doctor.

#### Q: Does my child really need this?

**A:** The answer is yes. You're providing your children with something that will prevent cancer down the road. So, if anybody has any concerns that they're not doing right by their child, think again. We have to assume that our children will become sexually active as they get older, therefore they need to be vaccinated. The HPV vaccine has already been shown to markedly reduce the incidence of HPV infections in young adults.

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# He: 'I'm Freezing!' She: 'I'm Boiling!' What To Do?

We had a heat wave in recent days, but not venturing outside during that period I was totally unaware of it. I was sitting in my home office rubbing my hands together to warm them up, as though living at the North Pole.

My wife and I have different preferences about a comfortable temperature to maintain at home, and the thermostat setting is a matter of some discussion. Because we both work from home, it's an all-day, all-night issue.

As we all know from reports in the media or from our own experience, office workers many times clash about a temperature in which to work. But what happens when people share the same household and can't agree on a comfortable temperature either in the hottest or coldest seasons?

And what is the accepted ideal temperature for a home anyway? That can vary as much as the individual households involved.

For instance, I will never forget an occasion some years ago when my wife and I endured a frozen dinner in a master chef's home. No, the dinner wasn't frozen. We were. I had been forewarned by the host along with the invitation that "we keep our household at a low temperature."

On a blustery cold night, we entered the house and, once inside, we could still see our breath in the frigid air. Surely the



By Bill Primavera

temperature was just high enough to prevent the water pipes from freezing. After the appetizer, my wife and I both asked for our coats back. We put them on and sat like Eskimos at the dinner table for the rest of the meal.

The experience actually changed the nature of our relationship with the hosts. Couldn't they have been sports and raised the temperature for just a couple of hours to prevent extreme discomfort for their guests? It's a good thing that the husband, wife and children all seemed happy and healthy enough living in a meat locker.

On the opposite extreme, one of my first listing presentations was for a dear elderly woman who wanted to sell her condo to move in with one of her children. When I entered her unit, I was hit with a blast of air so hot that I could have shed my clothes for a Bikram yoga session. I understood the homeowner's desire for a warm environment because of her frailty and refrained from making a comment about it.

To survive, my jacket came off immediately, followed soon by my sweater vest. Then I loosened my tie and opened the collar of my starched shirt, which had gone limp. At each step of the process, I kept apologizing for my informality. I felt like the Chippendale realtor.

The biggest problem with temperature

preferences occurs when two or more people share the same space on a day-to-day basis. With the extreme variances in weather we have endured recently, my own thermostat has never gotten such a workout with changed settings.

The ideal room temperature has been a matter of debate for some time because people and their bodies vary so much, and the very function of the room would add to the equation. There would be a difference between the temperature of a family room or game room during the day where the ideal setting might be 71 or 72 degrees Fahrenheit and a bedroom temperature at night, which might be 64 or 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Those are the temperatures recommended by various public health agencies and they do not take into account individual preferences for comfort.

For those of us who live in houses that were built in the 1960s or '70s or long before, we might have one-zone heat where the only option is to set the thermostat for either day or night temperature. For many years, I lived in an historic home with steam heat, which I happen to love even though it's more difficult to control room to room and my original thermostat had just day and night settings. But soon I upgraded to

a more sophisticated thermostat, which could modify the temperature any number of times within a 24-hour window.

Today there is an answer to the problem of varying temperature preferences with the newer hydro-air systems for heating and air conditioning where a homeowner, if so inclined, can have varying temperatures in every room in the house. And that would seem ideal to have the baby and grandma in warmer rooms and the star athlete in a cooler room where he or she also studies.

Of course, that still doesn't solve the challenge of a man and woman sharing the same bedroom where he likes it cold and she likes it warmer, or vice versa, as is the case with my wife and me.

Overall, our very harmonious relationship has depended on compromise, whether for a preferred room temperature or much weightier matters.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



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# Mt. Kisco Recognized for Planning Excellence By State Federation

The New York Planning Federation recently awarded the Village of Mount Kisco with a special honor for its new Downtown Overlay District that was part of the municipality's Comprehensive Plan.

The federation recognized the village with the Heissenbittel Award for Planning Excellence on June 16, which is given each year to an individual, municipality or agency for outstanding accomplishment in planning. It is named in honor of Henry Heissenbittel, an innovative director of the Dutchess County Planning Department.

The village updated and adopted its new Comprehensive Plan in 2019. A major recommendation of the new plan was to

create the Downtown Overlay District, which was designed to provide opportunities for transit-oriented development near the Metro-North train station, encouraging a mix of residential, commercial and civic space in a walkable setting near public transit in keeping with the character, scale and design of existing downtown buildings.

Development incentives for replacement of existing public parking spaces on the South and North Moger lots and creation of mixed uses are a key feature of the overlay district. Design standards regulate the design of new civic spaces, streetscapes and walkways, landscaping, architectural design of buildings and parking structures.

BFJ Planning assisted the village in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

"We are honored to accept the Heissenbittel Award on behalf of a community who was so actively engaged in the process of developing our Comprehensive Plan," said Mayor Gina Picinich. "As we continue to move forward with plan implementation, this award reaffirms that development in Mount Kisco is a smart investment in a municipality with a well-planned and sustainable future."

The adopted Downtown Overlay District has stimulated interest from the development community as demonstrated by a proposal to add mixed-use, transit-oriented development on the underutilized

commuter parking lots. Consultations with the Building Department and applications for re-development of existing buildings are also in progress.

The New York Planning Federation, a non-profit membership organization established in 1937. Our mission is to promote sound planning and zoning practice throughout New York State, congratulated the village on its accomplishment and contribution to planning and zoning.

While it is adopted into the zoning code, it's a much broader planning tool based in the Comprehensive Plan with a strong planning and smart-growth orientation.

## Mt. Kisco Chamber Introduces Third Thursdays Promotion

By Martin Wilbur

The Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce has devised a new way to try and entice more shoppers to visit stores throughout the village.

The Merchant Committee, along with a variety of Mount Kisco merchants, have begun a Third Thursdays program. Each third Thursday of the month participating shops can stay open until 9 p.m. while offering various promotions, snacks and beverages or small gifts, said Beth Vetare Civitello, the chamber's co-executive director.

In some cases, the store might even have entertainment, she said.

"It started downtown with a couple of the merchants," Civitello said. "This is the perfect time in the summertime, people are strolling, going to dinner, after dinner wanting to stay outside, so why not give them something to not just window shop but come on in."

The program, which launched in June, is voluntary and merchants do not have to be a chamber member to participate. It is anticipated that it will continue through the end of the year, Civitello said.

While most of the businesses are along South Moger Avenue and East Main Street in the heart of the village's downtown, there are participating stores off the beaten path, she said. Most notably, Beehive Designer Collective, which is on East Main near the Boys & Girls Club, and Pins and Needles, which features sewing equipment, is located on Radio Circle.

Civitello said the goal is to slowly grow the program and entice additional merchants and shoppers.

"So we're hoping to create a whole atmosphere of community shopping," she said.

For more information, check the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page.

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# A Box of Sunshine for CrossFit Enthusiasts in Bedford Hills

By Erin Maher

Bedford Hills has a new “box” of sunshine.

Sunshine CrossFit and Athletics, a new gym, (or box, as it's called in the CrossFit community) brings physical fitness mixed with fun and inclusiveness to Bedford Hills.

Sunshine CrossFit, owned by Catherine Brodsky and Ana Montoya, is a supportive, welcoming oasis to all. CrossFit is a strength and conditioning workout comprised of functional movement performed at a high-intensity level.

CrossFit can often seem intimidating to those who may not work out regularly. Brodsky and Montoya wanted the name of their business to signal that anyone of any fitness level can stop in.

“We wanted something that sounded powerful and welcoming and inviting and not always about chasing that top, top intensity involved,” Brodsky said. “We wanted a name like the sun, where it rises every day; you come every day and feel a little bit better about yourself.”

Sunshine CrossFit inhabits the space formerly occupied by CrossFit Bedford Hills. They have transformed the site, painting it bright white with a vibrant sun splashed across the gym's walls.

Brodsky and Montoya haven't always been CrossFit enthusiasts. They opportunity occurred by chance.

Montoya, 31, was a fitness advocate her entire life, having worked at multiple gyms. But she wouldn't call herself an athlete.

“I got into CrossFit literally here [CrossFit Bedford Hills],” Montoya said. “I was working across the street at the time and stumbled in. I did the first intro session with a friend because I was terrified. I had no athletic background; I wasn't a sports person. I had been around fitness a long time, worked at gyms before, and I knew I wanted to be a fitness person. I came here and just got hooked.”

Montoya loved CrossFit so much, she became a certified coach and worked full-time at CrossFit Bedford Hills.

Brodsky, 42, became a CrossFit advocate after her brother took it up and lost 70 pounds. Looking to become active, Brodsky joined CrossFit Bedford Hills.

More than three years later, Brodsky dropped 80 pounds and fell in love with working out, so much so that she earned her Pilates teaching certification.

“It opened me up to what fitness can do for you,” she said. “The physical transformation is easy to see, but it was the mental transformation that kept me



Ana Montoya, left, and Catherine Brodsky, founders of Sunshine CrossFit and Athletics. They also coach at their facility.

held us together,” Brodsky said.

“Through the Zoom workouts, I felt like I could really connect to people.”

Brodsky and Montoya first started talking about opening their own studio during the pandemic. When gyms reopened in New York late last summer, there was a new opportunity to take over the space and rebrand.

“We were ready for our next step,” Brodsky said.

The pair moved into the studio in April, and opened the doors last month.

Besides CrossFit, their business offers Pilates, TRX classes, barbell clubs, children's classes and more. On any given week, Sunshine CrossFit offers more than 35 different classes for people of any activity level. Brodsky and Montoya coach many of the classes themselves.

They are looking to expand membership and attract new people from all walks of life to further share their love of fitness.

“We want to build membership. We want to build a community,” Montoya said.

Sunshine CrossFit and Athletics is located at 56/52A Babbitt Rd. in Bedford Hills. For more information, visit [www.sunshinecrossfit.com](http://www.sunshinecrossfit.com). Also, follow Sunshine on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sunshinecrossfit](http://www.facebook.com/sunshinecrossfit) and on Instagram at [@sunshinecrossfit](https://www.instagram.com/sunshinecrossfit).

coming back and engaged.”

Montoya and Brodsky connected in the gym, but when COVID-19 hit, the pair leaned into Zoom workouts to continue the momentum.

“Throughout COVID, the box was what

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# The Continuing History of Champagne's Rise to Prominence



By Nick Antonaccio

Last week I discussed the history and development of the Champagne region of France. From the early plantings of the Romans in pre-Christian times through its evolution into a favored sparkling wine in the

17th century, Champagne was subjected to political and winemaking upheaval.

We left the region in the heady experimental days of Dom Pérignon, as he refined the still wines, looked upon with low regard, into sparkling wines sought by enthusiasts around the civilized world.

This week we'll track the refinements to those rudimentary sparkling wines into the popular wines of today.

At the dawn of the 18th century, French sparkling wine was becoming the rage in high society centers. From royalty to wealthy wine enthusiasts, sparkling wine was sought out as the king of wines.

But the quality of these sparkling wines was still inferior. The root cause was the wine itself. Primary and secondary fermentation could not mask the rather poor quality of the wines themselves.

As producers sought to enhance the flavor

and aromas of Champagne, they battled the forces of nature in the forms of fermentation, sediment, residual sugar and yeast – even the strength of the glass bottle itself.

Early progress was painstakingly slow. Even as the reputation and demand for sparkling wines grew in the upper echelons of the European market, these sales accounted for a small percentage of the wines produced. By the end of the 18th century, the overwhelming majority of production in the Champagne region continued to be still wine.

As much as the 17th century French and the British merchants each played a role in refining the secondary fermentation of Champagne wines (in which the fine bubbles of carbon dioxide are produced), so did their successors influence the continual improvements over the next three centuries.

It wasn't until the early 19th century that several large producers achieved success in mass-producing high quality sparkling wines.

A short summary of several of these problems and the improvements achieved deserve consideration.

**1. The wine.** To overcome the inherent poor quality of Champagne wines, the largest producers devised standards for blending grapes to achieve a style of still wine that would produce a high-quality sparkling wine. A 21st century Champagne is typically



a blend (cuvée) of multiple grapes from multiple vineyards and multiple vintages.

A particular combination (assemblage) is sought each year to provide consistency in a producer's style. The ultimate assemblage typically consists of one to three grape varieties (seven are permitted, but combined, they represent only 0.3 percent of plantings) from hundreds of plots of vineyards and dozens of vintages, in varying combinations – each year.

Today, a winemaker's choices for his blending palette are vast. There are 300,000 vineyards in the Champagne region, owned by 19,000 growers. The large Champagne houses purchase as much as 90 percent of their grapes from these local growers.

**2. The bottles.** Early on, 20 percent or more (up to 90 percent) of all bottles burst from the internal pressure exerted by carbon dioxide. It wasn't until the dawn of the Industrial Age in the 18th century, when coal-fired, high-temperature kilns produced stronger glass, that this problem was finally and permanently overcome.

**3. Secondary fermentation.** When still wines are bottled in Champagne, live yeast, bacteria and sediment are typically trapped from the initial fermentation process. How to remove them once secondary fermentation is complete? The solution: 19th century Champagne houses developed and perfected a system called riddling (remuage).

Closed bottles are placed in angled wooden racks, facing downwards toward the neck of the bottle. Periodically each bottle is turned to direct the sediment to the neck. How to remove this sediment and not the carbon dioxide? When secondary fermentation is completed, the bottle neck is placed in ice brine, freezing the sediment and allowing the winemaker to remove it.

Dom Pérignon, along with his contemporaries and early successors, would be amazed at the evolution of Champagne since his time. Who today can resist a fine glass of Champagne that produces up to 10 million bubbles and can be relied upon for year-to-year consistency of style? I raise my glass to the French.

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

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# Helping the Elderly Find Ways to Afford Assisted Living

We spend so much time dissecting the differences between home care and nursing homes that the merits of assisted living are rarely discussed.

Assisted living facilities offer medication support, in-house physician availability, transportation to medical appointments and all-day nutrition in a hotel-like setting. Residents tend to be mobile, though many will use walkers.

Staff and resident relationships more closely resemble hotel and guest relations rather than medical personnel and patient connections. When loved ones living independently encounter increasing difficulties handling day-to-day responsibilities, then assisted living may be a preferable option.

The two factors that hover over a resident's assisted living experience are health and cost. Assisted living facilities serve a population that is not quite well enough for independent living, but not unhealthy enough for nursing home

care. There can be an expectation that an assisted living facility is an intermediate step on a continuum leading to nursing home care. That is not necessarily true. Assisted living provides a quality of life with oversight that is sustainable. But decline is a fact of life, and if a resident's health begins to fail, then assisted living will not be able to support that resident.

Cost is also a reason why many assisted living stays are cut short. With monthly rents between \$5,000 and \$10,000, assisted living requires significant outlays depending on the type of facility and type of care needed. Residents with ample retirement benefits and pensions may have enough monthly income to cover these costs.



Others with sufficient savings and investments coupled with various income sources, including Social Security, dividends and

annuities, may also be able to afford this type of care.

Medicaid can also be utilized to pay for assisted living with the Assisted Living Program (ALP) Level Three, which has similar financial eligibility requirements to Medicaid Home Care. ALP residents must pay up to \$1,488 of their income to the assisted living facility with Medicaid picking up the rest. Finding facilities with Medicaid ALP beds can be a challenge. New York State has a web database at [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/longterm/alps.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/longterm/alps.htm).

There are other sites that can be searched as well.

Long-term care insurance will also cover assisted living costs. It is usually obtained many years before care is anticipated, but premiums can be expensive. The flexibility of this type of insurance, even with its complexity and bureaucratic red tape, is a positive, especially in the current environment



By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

where Medicaid is targeted for cuts.

Planning for assisted living is a good idea. While nursing home planning grabs more people's attention, assisted living offers an enhanced quality of life to a loved one, takes some of the burden off of a family caregiver and provides a mix of socialization and medical support. Planning may include annuitizing a pool of

resources to augment monthly income to cover assisted living rent. Selling the family home once independent living is no longer viable and using the proceeds to fund assisted living rental payments is also an option.

Keeping assisted living in mind when a loved one ages will benefit a family in many ways.

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

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## THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**Monthly Round Up.** While summer can be a more relaxed time of the year, it is still a good time to add to your vocabulary. Perhaps you will find a few words from the quiz this week that will find a place in your vocabulary, without too much exertion.

1. **Gregarious** (adj.)

A) Deeply jealous                      B) very serious                      C) highly sociable
2. **Chagrin** (n.)

A) Humiliation                      B) banter                      C) spiritual energy
3. **Cull** (v.)

A) To twist                      B) bring to a head                      C) choose
4. **Succor** (n.)

A) One that follows                      B) the near vicinity                      C) comfort
5. **Amalgamate** (v.)

A) To show astonishment                      B) mix                      C) take turns
6. **Obstreperous** (adj.)

A) Rowdy                      B) repulsive                      C) hidden
7. **Delphic** (adj.)

A) Requiring much time                      B) deliberately obscure                      C) notably elegant
8. **Freebooter** (n.)

A) A looter                      B) a borrower                      C) an overnight guest

1. C. Highly sociable

2. A. Disquietude or distress of mind caused by humiliation, disappointment, or failure

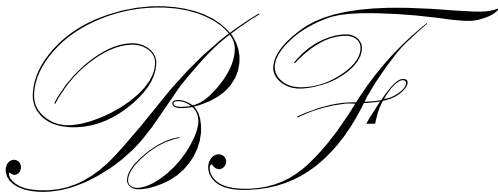
3. C. To select from a large quantity or obtain from a variety of sources; choose

4. C. Assistance and support in times of hardship and distress; aid; comfort
5. B. To combine into a unified or integrated whole; unite; mix

6. A. Rowdy, rambunctious, and noisy

7. B. (Typically of a pronouncement) deliberately obscure or ambiguous

8. A. Someone who takes spoils or plunder (as in war); looter; pillager; plunderer



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*continued on page 26*

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# A Variety of Restaurants to Choose From in the Area This Summer

Celebrity chef Michael Psilakis brought his Mediterranean culinary magic to Westchester almost a decade ago. The award-winning innovator enhanced our knowledge of modern Greek-inspired cuisine through his restaurants, cookbooks and television appearances.

I was excited to revisit his work, especially as we emerge from the pandemic. We pulled into the Bridge Street complex in Irvington on a warm sultry day. There were visitors taking in the restaurants and shops and the dramatic, breezy views of the Hudson River. You could see Manhattan to the south and the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge to the north. It was lovely and we were quite hungry.

There was outside seating, but we preferred the handsome main dining room with its contemporary lighting, giant mirrors and artwork. There was a good crowd already partaking the fare during the brunch hour inside and outdoors. Our waiter took our drink order as we contemplated the menu. Much to our surprise, out of the kitchen came Psilakis tending to tables, chatting with guests. It was great to see him.

We started by sharing a platter of his superb grilled octopus served with an herbal chickpea salad and Greek yogurt.

For our main courses we ordered an eight-ounce lamb burger, served with spicy whipped feta, and an oversized stuffed falafel souvlaki, wrapped in fresh pita with tzatziki, onion, tomato, romaine and bell pepper. Both dishes came with sides of their signature house smashed potatoes. Filling and delish! Generous portions, too. We took the leftover souvlaki and potatoes home. A couple of Industrial Arts IPAs helped wash it all down.

Complementary miniature cannolis



By Morris Gut

were brought to our table at the end of the meal as there were no fresh desserts at this seating. Nostimo fagito!

MP Taverna is located at 1 Bridge St. in Irvington next to the Metro-North station. Check website for latest hours of service. Free parking. Info: 914-231-7854 or visit [www.mptaverna.com](http://www.mptaverna.com).

## Back in The Fold

Raphael Leone has reopened the former Tauck restaurant space in Armonk and reimagined it as The Fold Taqueria & Tequila Bar. It highlights south-of-the-border food and drink with some American fusion.

One side of the place is a take-out taqueria counter with a tempting display of specialties. A big blackboard lists the daily menu items. The other section contains a bar and lounge and dining room. There is outdoor seating along the bustling public promenade throughout the season.

The opening menu lists such dishes as vegan gazpacho (tomato, cucumber, red bell pepper, garlic, celery, lemon, sweet onion, parsley and basil); a variety of nacho combinations; traditional street tacos; bowls and salads; and "famous gourmet tacos," which includes cheeseburger, Thai chili tuna and lobster. The menu has kept its popular lobster roll, too.

The Fold Taqueria & Tequila Bar is located at 402 Main St., Suite 5, in Armonk. Open Monday through Saturday. Bar and lounge and craft cocktails. Happy Hour is 3 to 6 p.m. Free parking. Info: 914-219-5911 or visit [www.thefoldtaqueria.com](http://www.thefoldtaqueria.com).

## Mughal Place Prix Fixe Meals

While the popular luncheon buffet is still not operating, proprietor Mohammed Alam of Mughal Palace in Valhalla is serving a selection of multicourse prix fixe Indian specialties at lunch and dinner. Look for regional dishes such as lasuni gobi (cauliflower florets tossed with bell peppers, onion, garlic and green herbs); chicken barbecue kabab (marinated boneless chicken cooked in the tandoor oven); and lamb bhuna (pieces of lamb cooked in a medium spiced sauce of bell peppers, tomatoes and fresh Indian herbs). A glass of lassi will help wash it all down.

Don't forget the delicious house-made Indian breads.

Mughal Palace is located at 16 Broadway in Valhalla. Info: 914-997-6090 or visit [www.mughalpalace.com](http://www.mughalpalace.com). Alam also operates Ambadi, located at 141 E. Post Rd. in White Plains. Info: 914-686-2014 or visit [www.ambadiusa.com](http://www.ambadiusa.com).

## Mama Sushi is Coming

Mama Sushi is part of a six-unit chain in New York City and New Jersey. The window sign along Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains reads "Mama Sushi, More than Sushi, coming soon..."

Their menu touts Asian-Latino fusion specialties including Latin sushi, satays, lamb lollipops, Thai coconut tacos and specialty rolls. There are bento boxes, too.



A platter of grilled octopus at MP Taverna in Irvington.



The falafel souvlaki with potatoes at MP Taverna.

The executive chef is David Nunez. More information as it becomes available.

Mama Sushi is located at 170 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains next to Sam Ash Music and Cantina Taco. Info: Visit [www.mamasushi.com](http://www.mamasushi.com).

## Hudson Valley Bounty Online

Doorstep Market is an online platform for food and drink artisans all over the Hudson Valley and across the country. It's a good source to shop for quality craft culinary products produced locally. It is sprinkled with profiles and appetizing product descriptions. A fine way to support local food service.

To browse, visit <https://doorstep.market/hudsonriver>.

## Foodie Talk With Chowhound

If you are passionate about your cooking and dining and you enjoy sharing your experiences, you may want to participate in an online discussion forum called Chowhound.com. Chowhound

was originally founded by Jim Leff and Bob Okumura in 1997, foodies with an insatiable hunger for everything culinary.

Chowhound.com now sports a new colorful format and offers quick posting and response times on many of your favorite food-related topics, along with posts from regions across the country and abroad. There is a Westchester-Connecticut board, Hudson Valley board, Manhattan board, New Jersey board and others, along with cooking forums.

Join the conversation or just look in from time to time. There is no cost to register. Visit [www.chowhound.com](http://www.chowhound.com).

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



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continued from page 24

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**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



# Examiner Sports

**Grinning  
&  
Winning!**

**Briarcliff Walks  
off on Mahopac in  
10U GHVBL Action**

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO  
Briarcliff's Matt Milano (L) is grinning from ear to ear as teammate Brady Dingersen (R) joins him in celebration after Andrew Abramo (70) scored the winning run in extra innings in the Bears' 3-2 Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League win over visiting Mahopac Gold last Wednesday in 10U action at McCrum Field.



## Sports

## Baseball Notebook

# FOCUS ON GHVBL



Briarcliff's Brady Dingersen pitches in relief in Bears' 3-2 win over Mahopac Gold.



Briarcliff P Oliver Fahy fires pitch in 10U GHVBL win over Mahopac.



Briarcliff's Andrew Dicostanzo rips base hit in 3-2 extra-winning win over Mahopac Gold in 10U contest.

## 8U Northern West. Thunder Rumbles!



The first half of the 2021 summer travel season for the 8U Northern Westchester Thunder White is in the books. A group of 14 boys (ages 7-8) have made significant strides and have surpassed preseason expectations considering this is their first time playing travel baseball. Ending the first half with a 3-3 record and one of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League's top run differentials (+16), the season is off to a major success.

The right arms of Robbie Berman, Colin White, Trey Manetti, Jona Templeton and Owen Giloth have led the way on the mound, throwing heat in the heat.

Catcher DJ O'Brien has not only been great behind the plate but has led the team in hitting with 2 doubles, 2 triples and 2 home runs. Maxwell Siegler has become one of the league's premier leadoff hitters, getting on base consistently and running like wild. Luke Santoemma and Patrick Moran have made web gems in the field, deserving of a spot on SportsCenter. James Harris and James Dowling use their incredible, jaw dropping speed to shock the crowd and their opponents. Jordan Schwartz, Owen Rizzuti and Mason Bisignano are the team's heart and soul, continually playing great defense and having great at bats!. The Thunder players, coaches and fans can't wait to start the second half of the summer season. Thanks to the brand new Northern Westchester Thunder travel program (co-managed by the Bedford Hills-Katonah Little League and Mount Kisco Little League), kids from ages 8 to 13 can play in competitive Baseball games against other towns across Westchester, Rockland/Putnam and CT.

## Thunder Boomers! NW Thunder 9U off to 4-2 Start



The NW Thunder 9U team is off to a great start this summer coming into the midway point of the season with a 4-2 record putting them among the league leaders. NW Thunder is a new program co-managed by the Bedford Hills-Katonah and Mount Kisco Little Leagues, which has successfully combined the resources of both leagues to create a strong new local travel baseball program with teams from 8-to-13U. The Thunder got out to a 3-0 start with a convincing win over Armonk at home (11-0) and strong road wins over New Castle (8-6) and Somers (4-3). After dropping two tight games last weekend, the

Thunder rebounded in convincing fashion with a 12-2 win over Cortlandt on Tuesday night. The team has certainly brought the thunder at the plate this season, averaging eight runs a game with seven players hitting over .300, including Matthew Salvo, Jason Kurchak, Scott Brauning, Jack Frisbie, Nate Jerrett, Cristian Ormazabal and Jack Dawes. The defense has been consistently strong yielding only five runs per game, featuring highlight reel plays from Avery Siskind, stellar catching by Colin Curtis and play everywhere position flexibility from Sammy Citrone. Sam Matlin and Alec Smythe have led a deep staff of eight pitchers who have a team ERA of 3.61 striking out over eight opposing batters per game. The team is looking forward to a nice 4th of July break and will be back in action July 8th at Bedford Memorial Park.





Briarcliff players celebrate wild 3-2 walkoff win over Mahopac Gold in GHVBL 10U action last Wednesday.



Throw to Briarcliff's Robbie Stoiber is late at 2B as Mahopac's Douglas Mark slides in safely in Bears' 3-2 GHVBL 10U win.




Briarcliff's Chase Cavallaro races to third in Bears' 3-2 win over visiting Mahopac Gold in 10U action last Wednesday at McCrum Field.



Mahopac Gold's Jack Acocella hustles to 3B in 3-2 loss to Briarcliff in 10U GHVBL action.

# Lightning Strikes Undefeated Season



The Mahopac Lightning girls 14U travel soccer team completed an undefeated season with a 4-1 win over Shrub Oak on June 20, 2021, capping a perfect 10-0 campaign.

Team Lightning faced several difficulties going into the season with a limited roster of 14 only players and few practice facilities available over the winter due to the pandemic. Winning the division with an undefeated record is an incredible accomplishment.

The girls rallied to play and practice these past months, meeting outside for training, playing through injuries and intense temperatures, and missed other sports to play soccer. These girls really came together as a team and a club for their final season as a Mahopac Travel Team.

All players showed tremendous effort, grit, determination, and teamwork, including Ava Brady, Áine McGregor and Makaila Pikoulas. Goalie Lylla McKee and center back Madeline Kay Hanlon never gave up more than one goal a game, and striker Melania Hrács had 17 goals and 10 assists in 10 games.

Team Lightning had a goal differential of 37 goals, with a total of 43 goals for and 6 against.

Joseph Hrács has been the head coach for the past five years, since Team Lightning was formed. Mike DiVincenzo has been the assistant coach for four years.

This was a phenomenal final season for the team and the girls are looking forward to playing soccer at Mahopac High School next year.



Mahopac's Douglas Mark breaks out of the box in 3-2 loss to host Briarcliff in GHVBL 10U action last Wednesday.



photos continued from previous page

# FOCUS ON GHVBL



Mahopac Gold's Max Obijiski takes a hack and gets ready to run to first base in 10U GHVBL loss to Briarcliff.



Mahopac Gold's Peter Maccio follows through on a swing in tough 3-2 GHVBL 10U loss at Briarcliff last week.



Mahopac Gold's Aydan McPhillips sends another ball for a ride against Briarcliff in 3-2 extra-inning loss.



Red Storm's Nolan Considine rears back to fire on his way to a win on the hill as Somers improved to 7-1-1 with a 10-3 win over Patterson in 15U action last week.



Somers' Matt Cipollone makes catch in RF in 15U Red Storm's 10-3 win over Patterson last Wednesday at Reis Park.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



Somers' Eddie Baranowski of the 15U Red Storm hustles to first in GHVBL win over Patterson.



Somers' Spencer Solano used his speed to manufacture a run in Red Storm's win over Patterson in 15U GHVBL action last Wednesday.

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## Sports

# Yorktown Laxers Lead Academic All-American Parade Huskers Beck, Embury, Andrews Named, Six Other Locals Make Grade



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor @Directrays

The mythical Yorktown High boys' lacrosse program has been under some scrutiny since the Cornhuskers lost their third-straight Section 1 title game in early June; something that has never happened before to the 40-time Section 1 champs.

After losing to Rye, 11-7, in the 2021 Class B title game, there are folks in and about Yorktown lumping blame wherever they see fit for the program's recent lack of championship production. Sadly, I suppose that's human nature these days, but as we stated in a season-ending piece a few weeks back: It's not anything that seven-time NYS champion Yorktown has done wrong since winning its last title back in 2017, it's simply the fact that the rest of the country has slowly crept up while the game has grown exponentially in popularity. And that, my friends, is what we call a good thing. In fact, it was bound to happen, and could continue.

What hasn't been lost on Yorktown during this alleged "down time" in its fabled history is the importance of being top-notch

student athletes. I'm more impressed by the academic standard the Yorktown kids are setting, including the three US Lacrosse Academic All-Americans the boys' program produced this past year, including 2021 class salutatorian, Will Beck. After leading the team in goals this season, the Yorktown senior attackman led the parade of academic excellence along with fellow Academic All-Americans, senior D Ethan Andrews and Will Embury, a senior attackman, and third Embury sibling to receive such a nod (joining Hunter and Jamison). This talented trio set the standard on the field and in the classroom. To boot, Yorktown would have had a fourth Academic All-American had injured Duke-bound long pole Keith Boyer been able to take the field for what would have been a special senior campaign (Yorktown also saw junior A Harry Griff and senior G Adam Norris earn on-field All-American honors).

"It takes a lot to perform at such a high level in the classroom and play lacrosse at Yorktown with all the time commitments that come with pushing to win each year," Yorktown Coach Sean Carney said. "Each year we have been lucky to have amazing student athletes. Our kids have really been

## Direct Rays

focused on the classroom and athletics. They are truly focused young men on and off the field. It shows a dedication to excellence. You won't always win every game, but these young men will win in life because they know how

to work and how to be successful."

So, while people are banging the Huskers for not winning sectional titles, they aren't hanging their heads in the classroom; instead the program is producing its highest level of academia, and, in the end, that's what it's all about. So, cast your aspersions elsewhere since the Cornhuskers had three of the nine academic honorees in Section 1. That said, all nine awardees were Examiner-area studs, who enhanced their personal résumés (see inset box)...

I was inches away from smashing the panic button on the suddenly-slumping NY Mets midway through Saturday's 8-3 win over the host NY Yankees until the unit finally ignited. So, I can only imagine Yankee fans going code-red nuclear given the current state of affairs after the neighboring Mets, who were hard-pressed to score two runs a game, dropped 18 on the Yanks in a pair of wins while taking two of three games in the Bronx. The Mets have a ton of injury-related excuses for not meeting their

lofty pre-season expectations but have maintained a hold on first place in the NL East for over a month. The Yankees, well, let's just say we're all at a loss for words to describe the current state of ineptness. There's still time for Aaron Boone's fourth-place Yankees to turn this thing around, but they've given little indication that they are capable of doing so against a stacked AL East. It might be time to smash that panic button.

Happy 4th of July, gang #HoldTheLine.

## 9 WHO SHINE! 2021 SECTION 1 ACADEMIC BOYS' LAX ALL-AMERICANS

AIDAN MURNANE, BRIARCLIFF  
JACOB WOLLMAN, FOX LANE  
SAM ROSENBERG, HORACE GREELEY  
GARRETT LEITMAN, PUTNAM VALLEY  
COLE ZAMPAGLIONE, SOMERS  
KIERAN GILL, SOMERS  
DYLAN BECK, YORKTOWN  
ETHAN ANDREWS, YORKTOWN  
WILL EMBURY, YORKTOWN



Former and current Yorktown Academic All-Americans Jamison, Hunter and Will Embury pose with NLL All-Star John Ranagan, another two-time former Yorktown All-American (circa 2008-09).

## Westchester Elite Crowned at Ripken Independence Day Tourney



Members of the of the prestigious Westchester Elite 11U baseball club pose with their tournament champion medallions after going 6-0 to win the Independence Day Tournament at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, MD last Sunday when the locals capped off a brilliant performance by defeating Big Train Baseball Academy (Bethesda, MD) to take home tourney title honors behind an MVP performance from Putnam Valley's Matt Quinn. Other members of the championship team include Owen Biele (12 for 13 in 6 games), Nick Santelli, Jake Bruno, Vinny Labarbara, Mikey Lucia, Nick Benedetto, Roman Catalano, Alex Dilorenzo (2 HRs), Mimmo Fannelli, Lucas Goldman, Luke Penna, CJ Simone and Logan Moriarity. The team defeated the Long Island Ducks (2X, 13-3), Peters Township (10-8) and the NBNM Rebels (10-8) en route to the title.

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