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September 21 - September 27, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 652

Reward Offered in Shooting Death of Lake Carmel Cat

By Rick Pezzullo

A \$1,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever was responsible for the shooting death of a five-year-old male cat in Lake Carmel.

"The fact that a group of separate anonymous donors have come forward on their own shows the public outrage towards a crime like this," said Putnam County SPCA Chief Ken Ross.

According to the SPCA, on September 12 at approximately 12 p.m., the owner of an orange tabby cat named Sheldon observed



Sheldon was shot on September 12.

his pet near his home on Longfellow Drive in Lake Carmel. When the owner went outside about two hours later, he observed the cat with blood on his face, appearing to be in distress.

After rushing Sheldon to Newtown Veterinary Specialists in Newtown, CT, it was determined the cat had been shot in the mouth through to the upper palate, causing a fracture. Metal fragmented pieces were also found throughout the skull.

A larger portion of the bullet continued through the upper palate into the soft tissue of Sheldon's throat, finding its way into his stomach. Sheldon was under emergency

veterinary care for three days, but after being released his condition worsened on September 17. He was again rushed to the Newtown facility, where he died.

The Putnam County SPCA Law Enforcement Division is investigating the act as Aggravated Animal Cruelty, a felony, and is following all leads. Due to the fragmentation of the bullet, the SPCA noted identifying the type of bullet used is difficult.

Anyone with any information on the crime can contact the Putnam County SPCA at 845-520-6915. All calls will remain anonymous.

Celebrating Constitution Day



Students at Matthew Paterson Elementary School in the Carmel School District led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and a reading about Constitution Day Friday to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

Annual Shed the Meds Event in Putnam County Deemed a Success

By Rick Pezzullo

More than 250 pounds of unwanted and expired medications were collected during State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne's annual Shed the Meds event at the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department last week.

Byrne (R,C,Ref/Mahopac) was joined September 14 by local partners including Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, The Prevention Council of Putnam, Putnam Communities That Care (CTC) Coalition, NIH HEAL Initiative, and the Carmel Police Department.

continued on page 2



(L-R:) Bill Wilkins-MADD Putnam County, Michael Simone - President of The Prevention Council of Putnam, Susan Salomone - executive director and founder of Drug Crisis in our Backyard, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, Lauren Johnson - community engagement facilitator for Putnam CTC & the Prevention Council of Putnam, Marie O'Connor - coalition coordinator of Putnam CTC & Prevention Council.



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Widening of Oscawana Lake Bridge in Putnam Valley to Begin

By Rick Pezzullo

The long-awaited widening of Oscawana Lake Bridge in Putnam Valley is set to begin by the end of September.

"This is one more step in the Highway Department's overall goal of renovating of Peekskill Hollow Road between Oregon Corners and Adams Corners," Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said. "Please be patient with any delays."

The road work will widen the bridge, add northbound turning lanes and improve the intersection of Oscawana Lake Road and Peekskill Hollow Road.

There will be no detour necessary for this work. The bridge will remain open with two lanes of traffic, one in each direction.

The work is being done by Putnam County Highway Department's contractors, the Arben Group of Pleasantville.

Annual Shed the Meds Event in Putnam County Deemed a Success

continued from page 1

"The participation we can continue to receive from our community in our Shed the Meds program is absolutely remarkable. Since we started this program with former state Senator Terrence Murphy, we have helped safely dispose of over 3,000 pounds of unwanted medications," Byrne said.

"Drug take-back days help prevent the misuse of unwanted and expired medications while also protecting our water supply from contamination when medications are flushed down the toilet—which no one should do. I thank our amazing local community partners for their support in making this year's event such a success and I remain grateful to them for their continued commitment in the fight against addiction across the Hudson Valley," he added.

"Many people start to misuse these medications that were initially prescribed for pain. We know now how dangerous these pharmaceuticals can be when they are in the hands of someone who may misuse them," said Susan Salomone, Executive Director and Founder of Drug Crisis in our Backyard.

Marie O'Connor, coalition coordinator for the Putnam CTC Coalition & The Prevention Council of Putnam, said 111 people have died to opioid overdose in Putnam County since 2014.

"Through the HEALing Communities Study, the overall goal is to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 40% in a three-year period," O'Connor said. "By engaging our community in free overdose prevention trainings, distribution of Naloxone kits, and Deterra safe medication disposal bags, we can arm our community with tools to prevent opioid overdose, and to safely and effectively dispose of unwanted medications. Putnam County is a small but mighty county, and through awareness and action, we can reduce overdose deaths by protecting ourselves, each other, and the environment."

Byrne has advocated for stronger state policies like eliminating required pre-authorization for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), the passage of the "Drug Take Back Act" (Chap. 120 of 2018), and the creation of a new special opioid settlement fund to ensure settlement money is properly appropriated for treatment (A.6395-B, Chap.190, 2021).

He also continues to push for support of drug treatment courts, increasing the number of days covered for in-patient and out-patient substance use disorder treatment (A.902) and increasing penalties on profit-making drug traffickers whose sales lead to the death of people suffering from addiction (A.6314).

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Slow COVID Case Reduction Continues; W'chester Sees Vaccination Increase

By Martin Wilbur

The area continues to see a slow reduction in the number of active COVID-19 cases, down from the August highs but not nearly a significant enough reduction for officials to declare that the pandemic has been conquered.

Westchester reported 2,314 active COVID cases as of Sunday, nearly 300 cases lower from two weeks ago and a little less than 500 fewer over the past three weeks.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said the numbers represent a hopeful trend but cautioned the public against making any victory declarations over the virus.

"With all of that, the numbers are encouraging but we're not out of the woods yet," Latimer said. "So we're going to look at policies and ways we can continue to deal with this pandemic."

Currently, those strategies include continuing to try and persuade the remaining eligible county residents to get vaccinated as well as partnering with school districts on pop-up vaccination sites and procuring about 200,000 child-size masks for children under 12 years old.

Although the pace of vaccinations tailed off through most of the summer, Westchester has been seeing a noticeable uptick since the Delta variant caused a spike in cases locally and nationally and the full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine.

As of late last week, Westchester has 87.4 percent of its eligible population vaccinated, Latimer said, after that figured hovered at or just above 80 percent for an extended period. There have been 720,905 county residents 18 years old and up who have received at least one dose of one of the vaccines. With an estimated 200,000 children in the county under 12 years old and a population of just over one million people, Latimer said that is an outstanding percentage that is helping to limit the spread of the virus compared to the previous waves.

"When I look at Westchester and I see we're at this number of 87 percent, that is a very good number," he said. "That is a tribute to the people of Westchester that understand what the value of vaccination is. It's a tribute to the work that's being done by medical professionals all across this county and I think the county plays a role in making vaccinations as available to people as is

possible."

As of Saturday, there were 74 COVID-19-related hospitalizations, down a little more than 25 percent since 102 hospitalizations were reported in the county on Aug. 31. During the past week there were six additional deaths attributed to the virus, increasing the county's death toll to 2,327 since the start of the pandemic. The week before there were seven COVID deaths.

In Putnam County, the painstakingly slow reduction in cases similarly continues. As of Sept. 16, there were 107 active cases in the



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

county, down from 130 four weeks earlier. There are currently three hospitalizations and there has been one death this month, moving the death toll up to 95.

In the larger picture, the Mid Hudson region registered a 3.4 percent positivity rate on Sunday, tied for the second lowest of the state's 10 regions with Long Island and trailing only New York City, which had a 1.9 percent positivity rate. All other regions had at least a 3 percent rate on Sunday, with two regions, Finger Lakes and Western New York, at or just above 5 percent, according to

the New York State tracker.

Westchester and Putnam each registered a 2.5 percent positivity rate on Sunday, tied for the lowest in the seven-county region.

Latimer said when government and policy makers devise strategies when tackling the pandemic, it is with one goal in mind – to prevent avoidable deaths.

"All of this, everything being done by the state, being done by the county and the local governments, the school districts, by public health professionals everywhere is designed to stop people from dying, trying to make it less likely rather than more likely we would lose them," he said.

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New Castle Revises Mask Law Providing Greater Flexibility

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board approved a mask law last week that gives the supervisor the authority to call for citizens to wear a face covering in certain locations should health conditions warrant their usage.

As a result of the 4-0 vote, the legislation is designed to provide flexibility to the town if cases of COVID-19 or some other health matter rise where masks could help limit transmission.

It replaces a law that was passed last summer that required masks to be worn universally or not at all. Town Attorney Ed Phillips said the supervisor could decide to require people to wear masks at one or

more of the following locations – municipal property, places of public accommodation, such as stores, public transportation or in outdoor spaces.

“The idea of the legislation is to take what’s on the books now, which is a mask law that the supervisor can activate, but it has a mask mandate with respect to public and private property, both, and to update that and try to give the supervisor more options then to have a mask mandate everywhere or nowhere,” Phillips said.

Legislation was introduced last month by Councilwoman Lori Morton to consider enacting a mask mandate for indoor public spaces, including most businesses, when the number of active COVID-19 cases in

Westchester were reaching their summer peak of nearly 2,800.

“The CDC recommends that people wear masks in areas of substantial or high transmission,” Morton said. “That is Westchester County now.”

Although the county-wide figures have been slowly declining the past three or four weeks, the number of active cases in New Castle last week stood at about 30, nearly identical to last April.

On Saturday, the state reported that Westchester had a 2.2 percent positivity rate, slightly lower than the 2.4 percent on the seven-day rolling average.

During the public hearing last Tuesday evening, one speaker, resident Mike Schoonmaker, said while some people will applaud the law, many others might find them too restrictive and look to shop and spend time in other towns.

“I suspect that you will find many more people who are unaffected by the increase restrictions in town, especially if we enact it under the current situation, where we’re still at a pretty low level of cases in town and you have all the freedoms that we would want in a normal situation in the surrounding towns,” he said.

Acting Supervisor Jeremy Saland, who will remain in the supervisor’s post until the November election is certified sometime after Election Day, said he is hopeful the COVID-19 transmission will continue to decline and would like to avoid enacting the legislation.



Councilwoman Lori Morton

“No one is looking to throw this down for the sake of it,” said Saland. “If the numbers start to increase locally, it will certainly be considered.”

Before the law was passed, the board was considering various carve-outs to the legislation depending. Morton said that reaction among gym and fitness center operators in town was mixed.

ArtsWestchester Benefit to Star Ravi Coltrane

ArtsWestchester and Ginsburg Development Companies will host Grammy-nominated saxophonist Ravi Coltrane in downtown White Plains’ newest private art space.

The first annual Jazz’n ArtsBash Benefit Concert will feature two sets by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. in City Square Park, a new rooftop park built by Ginsburg Development Companies at 50 Main St.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and includes drinks and appetizers.

Coltrane is a critically acclaimed Grammy-nominated saxophonist, bandleader and composer who has released six albums as a leader.

Tickets cost \$100 for non-members and \$85 for ArtsWestchester members. For ticketholders, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry. Masks will be optional.

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 - Former Volunteer with Yorktown Athletic Club

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Mt. Kisco Urges Verizon to Screen Proposed Antennas on Downtown Roof

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco planners are calling on Verizon to arrange for more effective screening of a series of antennas it has proposed installing at a front corner of the roof at 45 E. Main St.

Verizon is seeking site plan approval and a special use permit for antennas for three sectors to enhance wireless service in downtown Mount Kisco. Two of the sectors will be mounted flush to an existing elevator penthouse on the five-story building, but another three antennas for the remaining sector will be placed on a steel frame on the southwestern corner of the roof, said attorney Michael Sheridan, representing Verizon in the matter.

"It will ensure fast and ubiquitous wireless connectivity to the downtown business district," Sheridan said.

However, Mount Kisco Planning Board members were adamant that the applicant present three options to camouflage the antennas. Painting the antennas the same color as the mostly brick building or by using stealthing methods to disguise the antennas were two possibilities that were raised.

Board member Crystal Pickard, echoing most of the board's



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The building at 45 E. Main St. where Verizon has proposed erecting antennas on the roof to improve downtown wireless service.

sentiments, said the building is one of the tallest and most visible structures in the village.

"There's no effort here at all," Pickard said of the screening attempts. "You just need the design team, for them to present some screening options for us to opine on."

However, Sheridan said that other than painting the antennas, any other screening would likely make them more noticeable to residents and passersby. He also mentioned

that the antennas would benefit the village's businesses and residents.

"Our opinion is that this is the least bulky, least intrusive means of (placing) it on the building," Sheridan said. "Again, this is a tall building, it's not low to the ground. These antennas are not going to be seen if anybody's walking down Main Street, you're not going to be able to see them."

During the public hearing last Tuesday, there was one resident who spoke, John Piazza of Carpenter

Avenue, who may be the person who lives closest to the building. Piazza said that while the board seemed to be focusing on aesthetic issues, he was concerned about potential health impacts.

"We live in a world, I know, that is greatly bereft of common sense in many, many ways," he said. "We choose comfort and convenience over safety and then we live to regret it. I hope we don't regret this."

It was revealed that the proposed antennas would account for 12 percent of emissions allowed under federal guidelines.

Cell towers and antennas has been a sensitive issue in Mount Kisco in the past couple of years, as carriers have been looking at various locations to enhance coverage throughout the village. One of the most controversial proposals is a cell tower proposed at 180 S. Bedford Rd., although part of that debate is a result of it being considered at the same site of a possible solar farm and in close proximity to a residential development.

Verizon has received its required variances from the village's Zoning Board of Appeals.

The applicant is expected to return with a few screening alternatives when it returns to the board.

Cell Tower, Solar Farm Hearings Adjourned

The Planning Board once again adjourned public hearings for the SCS Sables solar farm proposed for 180 S. Bedford Rd. and Homeland Towers' proposed cell tower for a portion of the same 25-acre parcel.

Both Homeland Towers and the village agreed last month to extend the federally mandated "shot clock" until Oct. 29. The shot clock requires a municipality to decide on a cell tower within 150 days of an application's submission unless there's mutual agreement to extend that time period.

There have been multiple extensions on the application since last February as Homeland Towers has searched for an alternative site in the area.

Acting Board Chairman Michael Bonforte said the Planning Board could move to decide on the application at its Oct. 26, three days before the shot clock expires.

Village Attorney Whitney Singleton said Homeland's escrow account is still in arrears. An applicant is required to maintain a minimum escrow account to pay for the village's professional consultants.

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FEMA Urges Applicants to Read Disaster Assistance Letters Carefully

If you have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and applied for disaster assistance after the remnants of Hurricane Ida, you might have received a FEMA letter by regular U.S. Postal Service mail or by e-mail.

If so, the agency wants the public to read that letter carefully. It may include eligibility notifications and/or request for more information. Eligibility notification letters inform the applicant of the types of assistance FEMA has determined you are eligible to receive, the amounts of assistance FEMA is providing from each eligible need, the reasons you are ineligible, an explanation of the appeals process and other key information regarding disaster assistance, including proper use of funds.

If you receive an ineligible decision, it isn't always the final word. If you disagree with a FEMA eligibility decision the decision may be appealed. FEMA reviews the applicant's written appeal and documentation received from the applicant supporting the appeal. Upon review, FEMA either provides a written decision to you or requests more information.

If FEMA upholds a decision on an appeal, FEMA's decision is considered final and will generally not be reconsidered.

It could be that more information may not to be provided. It could be that:

- You didn't prove the damaged home was your primary residence at the time of the disaster, or that you lived in the home at the time. FEMA has recently expanded the types of documentation that FEMA

will accept to support your request for assistance.

- The U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan application has not been returned. This application is used to determine if you may be eligible for other grant programs or assistance. Not returning the application will disqualify you from them and you do not have to accept a loan if one is offered.

If you disagree with a FEMA eligibility decision you may appeal the decision. FEMA reviews the applicant's written appeal and documentation received from the applicant supporting the appeal. Upon review, FEMA either provides a written decision to you or requests more information.

You may appeal your eligibility, the amount or type of help provided to you, a late application denial, a request to return money or continuing help. The appeal must be sent to FEMA and postmarked within 60 days of the date the decision letter is received. To appeal, follow these steps:

- Explain the reason(s) for appeal and must be signed by the applicant or person who the applicant authorizes to act on their behalf.
- Include your full name, date of birth, current address, disaster number and FEMA registration number.
- Be sure to date and sign the letter. Include your nine-digit FEMA registration number on each page.
- Provide the applicant's signature with one of the following: Notary stamp or seal; or

the statement "I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

- Mail the letter to the FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055 or fax the form to 800-827-8112.
- Appeal letters and supporting documentation can be uploaded to your account on DisasterAssistance.gov if you have set one up.
- For questions about the letter or the entire appeal process, you can visit DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA mobile app or by calling 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as a videophone, InnoCaption, or CapTel,

give FEMA the number for that service. Operators are on call seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time.

It is not necessary to meet with FEMA in person to start a claim. If you have suffered significant property damage from the remnants of Hurricane Ida, you can apply online for FEMA assistance here: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

For referrals to agencies that support community specific need, contact your nearest 211 counts center at <https://www.211nys.org/contact-us>.

For official information on the recovery effort, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4615. Follow on Twitter at twitter.com/femaregion2 and www.facebook.com/fema.

Helping Hands

Students at Mount Kisco Elementary School have been giving back to the community in a big way through the school's garden. Most recently, they walked a big haul of freshly picked produce to the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. The school garden not only serves as an outdoor education program, but it has also been teaching them ways to give back to those in need. So far, the school has donated more than 300 pounds of fresh produce to the community.



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Obituaries

David Parsons

David P. Parsons, a Peekskill resident, died Sept. 14. He was 68.

He was born May 19, 1953, to Robert and Anne (Anderson) Parsons in Manhattan. He grew up in Peekskill and graduated from Peekskill High School in 1972. After high school, he joined the U.S. Army in July 1974, where he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. as a proud member of the 101st Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard in 1980. During his service in the Army, he married the love of his life, Jane (Wilson), in November 1974 and had three children – Tammie, Kristy and David Jr.

After leaving the Army, he worked as a supervisor for Reader's Digest in Chappaqua and took early retirement to pursue his developing passion in the emergency medical services. He was an EMT-I and was a life member of the Peekskill Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps, where he served as ex-chief (then known as captain)



David Parsons

from 1988 to 1992. He had also served as chief of the Harrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Additionally, he taught numerous EMT-B, CPR and first aid courses throughout Westchester and Putnam counties and was a member of the Westchester County Crisis Intervention Team.

He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Anne Parsons, sister Constance (Cahill) Jessup and his niece, Kim Jessup. He is survived by his wife, Jane, of Peekskill; his children, Tammie (Rob Shurak II), Kristy and David Jr., all of Peekskill; his three grandchildren, Andrew Parsons, Jacob Shurak and Jenna Shurak, all of Peekskill; his sister, Sharon (Kenneth) Thacke, of Ossining; his brother, Robert Parsons, of Ridgefield, Conn.; his brothers-in-law, William Jessup of Yorktown Heights, Charles Wilson (Barbara) of Naples, Fla. and Edward Wilson (Barbara) of Stormville, N.Y.; his sister-in-law, Deborah Parsons-Burckhard; and nieces and nephews Kevin Jessup, Danielle Thacke-Brower, Jennifer Robinson, Michelle Parsons, Katie Wilson, Karen Thacke, Kelly Parsons, Matthew Wilson and Emily Wilson.

Oliveri, and wife Marie of South Salem. Tony will also be affectionately remembered by his six grandchildren, Michael, Rachel, Marc, Christina, Anthony and Victoria. In addition to his parents, Tony is predeceased by his sister, Maria, and his granddaughter, Mary.



Anthony Oliveri

Anthony Oliveri

It is with heartfelt sadness that the family of Anthony Oliveri announces his passing on Sept. 15 at the age of 81. He was surrounded by his wife and children at his side.

Tony was born on Oct. 13, 1939, son of Millie and Anthony Oliveri, in New York City. Tony attended the School of Visual Arts and went on to a career as a commercial artist. His first job was at Klein's Department Store in the advertising department, and he went on to work at Merling Marx Advertising Agency, Resnick Advertising and later for Woolworth & Co. in Manhattan.

Tony married his childhood sweetheart, Rita Ann Aranzullo, on Apr. 18, 1964, at the Immaculate Conception Church in the Bronx. He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Camille Geremino, and husband Michael of Katonah, and his son, Anthony

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place this Saturday, Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents Roman Catholic Church, located at 431 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be directed to the charity of one's choice.

Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Sept. 6: Patrol responded to a commercial area on South Riverside Avenue at 11:44 a.m. after a party reported being locked out of their bank accounts and more than \$40,000 had been withdrawn by unknown sources. A report was filed.

Sept. 8: Units responded to Farrington Road at 7:55 p.m. after a village resident called stating that their neighbor had dumped recyclables onto their driveway on two occasions today. Patrol mediated the situation.

Sept. 10: Patrols were dispatched to Young Avenue at 11:34 p.m. after a parent reported their child was upset about something. The child had left the scene prior to patrols' arrival. The parent was interviewed and will call police if necessary.

Sept. 11: Report of fireworks being set off at Croton Landing at 8:21 p.m. Patrols canvassed the area with negative results.

Sept. 11: State police requested assistance at 8:50 p.m. with a party in their jurisdiction attempting to hurt themselves with a weapon on Baltic Place. The individual was subdued and transported to the hospital by Croton EMS.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 10: At 9:35 p.m., report of a piece of debris hanging from the I-684 overpass over northbound Route 22 that is a hazard to the roadway. The responding officer located the debris and successfully removed it from the roadway.

Sept. 12: Report of an injured cyclist who sustained a fall on Spruce Hill Road at 9:38 a.m. The injured party sustained face lacerations and was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Sept. 12: A complainant reported at 4:01 p.m. that he contacted an escort last night and since then he has been receiving text messages from a party who claims to be her pimp and who claims to be in the MS-13 gang. He stated that the party is sending him pictures of severed heads in a cooler, among other things, and threatening harm to him if he does not send \$2,000. The

responding officer reported speaking with the complainant and gathering information.

Sept. 14: A Byram Hill Road resident reported at 7:57 p.m. observing a snake in his residence. The responding officer reported that the animal, a juvenile Northern Blacksnake, was safely removed from the residence.

Sept. 15: A Leisure Farm Drive resident reported at 3:31 p.m. that there are three canines in his garage that apparently belong to his neighbor. The animal control officer responded and issued a summons to the canines' owner.

State Police/Cortlandt

Sept. 16: State police, in conjunction with the United States Postal Inspection Service, arrested Robert Curry Jr., 21, of Peekskill, for two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, a Class D felony, and petty larceny and fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, both Class A misdemeanors. An investigation into mailbox larcenies and unattended vehicles in northern Westchester and western Putnam County discovered Curry stole checks from unsecure mailboxes and fraudulently deposited them. Curry was arraigned in City of Peekskill Court and released on his own recognizance. He is scheduled to reappear on Oct. 7.

Yorktown Police Department

Sept. 14: Thomas Taylor, 42, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated at 8:25 a.m. following a report of an ATV accident on Kamhi Drive on Sept. 4. Taylor suffered injuries and was transported to the hospital. He voluntarily surrendered himself at police headquarters.

Sept. 14: Deborah Ademi, 51, of Mohegan Lake, was charged at 7:58 p.m. with driving while intoxicated and endangering the welfare of a child following the report of an accident where a vehicle struck a utility pole on Lakeshore Drive before leaving the area. An investigation determined Ademi had two open containers of alcohol in the vehicle, was an unlicensed driver and had a 16-year-old male passenger.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 3, Subchapter 3 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, a Real Property A&D Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 10:00 AM. The Public Hearing will be held via a conference call using the call in number 1-646-992-2010 with an Access Code of 717-876-299.

REAL PROPERTY PUBLIC HEARING in the matter of the acquisition by the City of New York of a Fee Simple (Fee) interest on the following real estate in the County of Westchester in connection with the New York City water supply system:

NYC ID	Municipality	Type	Tax Lot ID	Acres (+/-)
9759	City of Yonkers	Fee	6-6224-32	0.40

A copy of the Mayor's Preliminary Certificate of Adoption and a map of the real estate to be acquired are available for public inspection upon request. Please call (914) 749-5410.

In order to access the Public Hearing and testify, please call 1-646-992-2010, Access Code: 717-876-299 no later than 9:55 AM. If you need further accommodations, please let us know at least five business days in advance of the Public Hearing via e-mail at DisabilityAffairs@mocs.nyc.gov

Vincent Sapienza
Commissioner

Maryknoll Installs Westchester's Largest Solar Canopy

By Michael Gold

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers has just installed the largest solar canopy in Westchester, but the missionaries are asking for competition.

"I'm hoping to be an example," said Fr. Raymond Finch, Maryknoll's Superior General.

"This is a first step. It will take hundreds of thousands of steps to make a difference," he said.

Designed by Ecogy Energy and installed by GreenSpark Solar, Maryknoll built more than 2,100 solar panels on 12 canopies over two parking lots covering about 500 parking spots. The system, the first solar canopy and community solar project in the Town of Ossining, was formally introduced on Sept. 14 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the site.

The panels will generate about 1.2 million kilowatt hours per year, which can power anywhere from 100 to 225 households over that period, depending on the size of the home, explained Brock Gibian, director of development for Ecogy Energy. This is equivalent to planting more than 1,100 trees or saving 1.7 million miles driving a gas-powered vehicle.

The community solar project will reduce electric bills by about 10 percent for households that sign up for the energy derived from the project in Ossining. More than 75 households have enrolled so far. Maryknoll will also enjoy the same cost reduction and receive lease payments from Ecogy, which will manage the installation.



An aerial view of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' solar canopies over two parking lots at its site in Ossining. The installation will generate about 1.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year for up to 225 homes, at a 10 percent discount, as well as for Maryknoll.

Over the 25-year life of the project, the solar canopy will generate roughly the clean energy equivalent of using 4,400 gas-powered vehicles for a year, saving more than two million gallons of gasoline, or 3,700 homes burning fossil fuels to generate electricity in one year, using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calculator.

The solar panels are double-sided, which means they produce more electricity. They are designed to withstand all types of precipitation, from rain to hail to ice.

Brooklyn-based Ecogy has designed rooftop solar installations for Croton-on-

Hudson's Department of Public Works garage and Arcadia Farm's horse riding arena in Yorktown.

GreenSpark Solar, based near Rochester, has installed solar panels for businesses, universities, homes, farms and wineries.

Additionally, Ecogy is designing a rooftop solar project at the closed St. Theresa K-8 school, for the Archdiocese of New York, in Briarcliff Manor.

"Our attitude is the project could never have been realized without Maryknoll, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and

the Town of Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg," Gibian said.

"Maryknoll has always been an incredible steward of the environment," Gibian stated. "They always want to help the community and the most vulnerable."

Finch explained why Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, which conducts missionary work in 20 countries in South America, Africa and Asia, including helping farmers develop climate-smart strategies, providing food and medical aid to the poor and helping migrants and refugees, initiated the project.

"The climate crisis is becoming more urgent. To hear the cry of the Earth, and the poor, and to respond to it – that's the core of what we want to be about," he said. "The people who suffer the most are on the periphery."

Finch, who has been an ordained priest for 43 years, said his experience in countries like Peru and Bolivia helped influence his thinking about climate change.

"The indigenous campesinos (peasant farmers) in Peru experience flood and drought because of climate change," Finch said. "These people are struggling to survive."

"Here at home, we've seen a lot of storms because of climate change," he added. "But to the poorest of the poor, a drought is disastrous. A drought can mean illness and death. And flooding means they have no home."

Finch said he is optimistic that other organizations will start thinking about installing solar power as well.

"Hopefully, we can point the way."

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Governor Signs Harckham Bill Requiring Zero-Emission Vehicles

New York will now be embarking on a zero-emissions future on its roadways.

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently signed into law legislation sponsored by state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) and Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-East Setauket) requiring all in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks be zero emission by 2035. The state legislature approved the legislation in April.

A further stipulation of the bill is that all in-state sales of medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks be zero emissions by 2045. Similar sales of off-road vehicles and power equipment will

also be expected to be zero emissions by 2035.

"The best way to ramp up our fight against the climate crisis is to transition to new vehicles that are entirely free of carbon and other toxic emissions, and so I am thankful to Gov. Hochul for signing the zero emissions legislation," Harckham said.

"My partner on the bill in the state Assembly, Steve Englebright, deserves our gratitude as well," he added. "The devastation from Tropical Storm Ida proves, once again, that half-measures in dealing with climate change are of little benefit to us. We need to take decisive action right now, and enacting

this law shows how New York can lead the way to positively impact our environment."

Englebright noted that building cleaner cars will mean more new manufacturing and service jobs across the country.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said the legislation is historic action to combat climate change and recognized Harckham's environmental leadership on the issue.

"Sen. Harckham's legislation to ensure the sale of all new cars and trucks in New York are zero-emission by 2035 is an important and necessary step in our efforts," Stewart-Cousins said.

Building on the landmark New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) passed in 2019, the newly enacted law is similar to recent mandates issued in California regarding zero-emission vehicles to fight air pollution and increased production of greenhouse gases. Other states are adopting zero emission quota requirements for vehicles as well. The new laws are causing automakers to ramp up development of fully electric and hybrid-powered vehicles.

New York's CLCPA contains climate targets that are among the most stringent nationally. To reach the goal of 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, it is necessary to aggressively pursue benchmarks that will reduce emissions from motor vehicles. Personal transportation accounts for roughly 20 percent of America's greenhouse gas emissions. By eliminating this as a source of emissions, New York will be one step closer to meeting its climate change goals.



State Sen. Peter Harckham's bill that he introduced earlier this year will mandate that all vehicles sold in New York State will be electric- or hybrid-powered vehicles by 2035.

Harckham and Englebright both indicated that they hoped the changeover of in-state sales to zero-emission vehicles could take place sooner than 2035. The ambitious new law, which will amend state environmental law, targets 2045 for when total fleet transitions for zero emission trucks and buses should take place.

To encourage the meeting of the zero-emission requirement, the new law also specifies that CLCPA's Climate Action Council and various state agencies, including the Public Service Commission, accelerate the development of affordable fueling and charging options for zero emission vehicles, with a focus on ensuring access in low-income and poor communities.

National Drive Electric Week Event in Yorktown, Cortlandt on Saturday

National Drive Electric Week is being celebrated this Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at an event in Yorktown and Cortlandt.

The primary goal of this event is to support drive electric and sustainability, while enjoying our cars and discovering more great places. There is no cost to participate.

At 10:30 a.m., there will be a brief meetup at the Tesla superchargers and EV chargers at BJ's Wholesale Club and Dunkin', located at 3379 Crompond Rd. in Yorktown Heights.

That will be followed at 11 a.m. by a caravan/cruise of electric vehicles to the Cortlandt Town Hall EV chargers, located at 1 One Heady St. in Cortlandt Manor. There will be another caravan/cruise to Cortlandt/Verplanck Hudson Riverfront Park,

(Steamboat Dock, Hardie St. in Verplanck). It will finish by noon, before the Pour the Core Cider Festival, which starts at Steamboat Dock at 1:30 p.m.

All attendees and volunteers are required to wear face masks whenever they are within six feet of another person at all National Drive Electric Week 2021 events.

Please act responsibly. Attending this Drive Electric event or the Pour the Core Cider Festival is at your own risk and responsibility. Organizers of this Drive Electric event accept no responsibility for anyone's actions or inactions.

To register for the event, visit <https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=3018>. For more information, e-mail asmyth451@gmail.com.

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Nationally Acclaimed Armonk Outdoor Art Show Returns This Weekend

By Martin Wilbur

One of the most critically acclaimed art shows in the United States makes its return this weekend to a live outdoor gathering, one that has been an eagerly awaited annual event for nearly 60 years.

The 59th Armonk Outdoor Art Show featuring about 160 artists from throughout the United States and abroad who work in a wide assortment of mediums is set for Community Park on Business Park Drive this Saturday and Sunday, one year after being forced online by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of this year's artists are returning but there are always new names for patrons to see and experience.

While many local residents attend the show, it also attracts a large following from throughout the tristate area – and with good reason. In 2018 and 2019, Sunshine Artist Magazine ranked it the second-rated art show in the United States.

In years past, thousands of visitors have descended on Community Park to take in the fresh air, the delicious food, and of course, the fine crafts, mixed media, painting, printmaking, drawings and pastels, sculptures, photography and digital art and even wearable art.

“It’s such a great show,” said North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro. “We’re so lucky to have it here and it’s run for the most part by volunteers, Friends of the (North Castle) Library.”

There were a couple of notable changes this year. In order to ensure safety of visitors, the artists and the volunteers, the layout of exhibitors’ booths and the sponsoring organizations will allow for added safety precautions while still affording the opportunity for patrons to comfortably browse the artists’ booths.

A key attraction this year is a new interactive booth called Create Together, a live participatory experience for visitors. They can place leaf stickers, shaped similarly to what is seen on the show’s brand icon, on the white-walled interior of the booth. As more people place their stickers, it will become a colorful three-dimensional impressionist scene.

Developed by Create & Associates and its creative director, Armonk resident Cecile Rothschild, the booth becomes true community art, paying homage to the revered Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, she said.

“It’s really an interactive, creative project for the community to celebrate art and to celebrate the return of the show,” Rothschild said.

When visitors aren’t taking in the artwork, they can choose from a great selection of food and beverages, including beer and wine. There will also be free family activities, which will include art kits, an artful scavenger, an interactive art installation, fun photo ops and visiting artists who will help guide



Art lovers can head to the Armonk Outdoor Art Show this weekend. The pandemic forced the highly regarded show into a virtual format last year, but it returns to the outdoors this Saturday and Sunday.

creative pursuits.

Of course, for art lovers, the show is an opportunity to add to their collections by purchasing work directly from the artists who engage with patrons directly and explain their work.

The show will be held rain or shine this Saturday and Sunday at Community Field, located at 205 Business Park Drive in Armonk, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$13 each for advance purchases online and for seniors. Day-of-event admission at the field is \$15. Anyone 18 and under will be admitted for free. All proceeds from the show go to fund programs at the North Castle Public Library.

For a full list of artists and their work and to buy tickets, visit <https://armonkoutdoorartshow.org/>

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Letters to the Editor

Division Over COVID-19 Vaccinations, Mask Mandates is a Tragedy

As we commemorated the 20th anniversary of the horrible 9/11 tragedy and its long-term impact on our nation and the world, I could not help but think about how our nation, left, right and center, came together to mourn those lost, recover and to serve.

What a different time we live in today and one can only long for such unity of spirit and effort as we continue to face the tragedy of COVID-19.

Let's compare these two tragedies: 2,977 people were killed on 9/11, including 412 first responders and emergency workers. As of Sunday, at least 673,000 deaths in the U.S. are the direct result of this virus including 3,600 health care workers. Worldwide, 4.6 million people have died, and the World Health Organization estimates more than 115,000 deaths of health care workers.

What about the long-term impacts? A recent article in U.S. News & World Report states that national and international studies estimate the human toll of the post-9/11 war on terrorism to be over 890,000 including more than 360,000 non-combatant civilians; the number of long-term deaths among those who have enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Program is 4,627. While it is still not possible to estimate the deaths that will be caused by the long-term effects of COVID-19, researchers estimate that 33 percent of COVID-19 survivors will have long-term health consequences including lung, heart and brain damage.

These statistics are not meant to compare all aspects of these two world-altering catastrophes, rather to look at the short- and long-term impacts. What shocks me is that 9/11 brought us together, while COVID-19 has seemed to deepen our nation's divisions. Of course, there are those who will doubt the veracity of real-life events and look for conspiracies everywhere. Even 9/11 had a very small number of cynics.

Today, however, we have public officials at the national, state and local level (you know who you are), and a vocal, but disturbingly significant minority of people who resist science by refusing to wear masks, opposing mask mandates and resisting vaccinations. They claim that public health mandates are a violation of their individual rights, even when this individualism puts the health of others at risk.

While it may seem absurd, I expect this letter will generate some negative reaction as a partisan tome. People should show their patriotism by honoring those we have lost and those who put their lives in jeopardy by caring for those impacted. Everyone should join together to defeat this horrible disease. We did it in the aftermath of 9/11 and we can and should do it today.

It's Time for Mt. Pleasant to Have a Dedicated Leader Who Puts Taxpayers First

I'm running for Mount Pleasant supervisor because it's time we had someone running this town who is focused on the taxpayers, not their own personal enrichment.

Carl Fulgenzi began his tenure as town supervisor in 2014. He almost immediately raised his own salary to \$148,703. Since then, Mr. Fulgenzi has rewarded himself even more lavishly, courtesy of the taxpayers, paying himself \$165,790 annually.

We are being fleeced. To put Fulgenzi's taxpayer windfall in perspective, he receives a higher salary than the supervisors of Eastchester, Yorktown and the mayor of Yonkers.

Sadly, taxes in Mount Pleasant have also increased every year since Mr. Fulgenzi was elected.

There are plenty of dedicated volunteers and first-responders in Mount Pleasant who provide their services for free, while in Town Hall, we have a compliant board that doles out supervisor pay increases.

It's time for a leader who works for the residents of Mount Pleasant. As supervisor, I will make this pledge:

1. I will not take a raise
2. I will donate \$10,000 of my annual salary to fund a scholarship for the children of Mount Pleasant town employees.

My pledge is an example of the community-first approach I will bring to Town Hall. I believe that authentic leadership requires dedication, problem-solving and transparency.

I have been a resident of the Town of Mount Pleasant for 40 years. My wife and I chose to raise our family here, and we have a vested interest in the longevity and healthy growth of our community. It's time for a leadership change, and I am dedicated to leading and giving back to this community that I call home.

Joe Bonanno
Mount Pleasant

Joe Bonanno is the Democratic candidate for Town of Mount Pleasant supervisor.

Name	City/Town	2021 Salary	2020 Population
Carl Fulgenzi	Mount Pleasant	\$165,790	44,436
Mike Spano	Yonkers	\$156,100	211,569
Matthew Slater	Yorktown	\$121,328	36,569
Anthony Colavita	Eastchester	\$98,093	34,641

Excessive Development is Threatening to Ruin Nearly Everyone's Quality of Life

I was so impressed with the letter from Josh Linnett you published in your September 7-13 issue ("Protection of Pocantico Lake is Urgent for Future Generations") that it's inspired me to tell you of my deep concerns about multiple development proposals for Armonk, the latest of which is the MBIA property near the airport on Route 120 south of Cooney Hill Road.

In urging for the protection of Pocantico Lake, Josh represents the younger generation, and they are smart. They know that clean air and water are precious, land is finite and that every person deserves a good quality of life.

Armonk can still offer that at the moment, but only just. Our area is running out of wiggle room. We need to protect our increasingly precious green spaces that gives us the quality of life that makes our area desirable.

So let's not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. If we allow that to happen, a few people will walk away with golden eggs. The rest of us will have to live with the consequences: more traffic, pollution, congestion, stressed infrastructure, and ultimately, degraded property values.

Melvyn Tanzman
Mohegan Lake

Kate Parker
Armonk

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Guest Columns

Don't Neglect Long-Haul COVID in the Panic Over the Delta Variant

By Dr. Jeffrey Gold

"Long COVID" is one of many scary phrases that have barged into our vocabulary since the pandemic upended global life.

Those who have it are afflicted with COVID-19 that seems never to go away. With the present panic over the Delta variant, there's a danger that we will not give this slow-burn condition the attention it deserves.

With symptoms ranging from severe fatigue and lightheadedness to anxiety and, in some extreme cases, psychosis, these long-haul patients are begging for help. Studies indicate that as many as three out of 10 people infected with COVID-19 may experience long COVID. Yet, doctors struggle to find an explanation.

Another problem is that almost all studies of long COVID focus on the unvaccinated. Little research has been done on "breakthrough infections" – contracting COVID-19 after vaccination. Preliminary research suggests that symptoms can endure for up to six weeks in breakthrough cases.

What makes long COVID so puzzling is the variety of possible symptoms, of which there are potentially hundreds. Patients report shortness of breath, fever, difficulty concentrating and skin conditions. Some patients experience hearing loss. Still others report fatigue so severe that they struggle to get out of bed. There's no diagnostic test for long COVID, and brain scans and other tests fail to yield conclusions.

But this list of symptoms also gives researchers multiple vantage points from which to study the condition.

Some scientists theorize that fighting COVID-19 leaves behind viral particles that trigger a generalized cycle of inflammation long after the body has defeated the pathogen itself. Others think the virus may burrow in human tissues, allowing it to surface sometime later when immunity weakens.

In select cases, doctors have diagnosed patients complaining of long COVID symptoms with a rare condition known as postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (PoTS). The condition often appears suddenly

following a viral infection.

Any theory or link to a known condition offers hope for patients. In guidelines released in mid-June, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended doctors focus their approach on patients' specific symptoms.

Thus, in the fight against long COVID, doctors should target the symptoms patients are experiencing with treatments already proven to address those indications.

For patients experiencing high blood pressure, for instance, doctors can prescribe beta blockers to slow their heart rate. Those patients who feel extreme fatigue can benefit from medicines used to treat chronic fatigue syndrome. Some patients with a PoTS diagnosis see positive results from a drug called ivabradine.

A number of drugs, FDA-approved for other ailments, are finding welcome additional use in the treatment of COVID. Empagliflozin, commonly used for type 2 diabetes, promises to protect against COVID-related organ failure. Baricitinib, an anti-inflammatory drug developed for rheumatoid arthritis,

has shown notable effectiveness in reducing COVID-related mortality.

Patients experiencing respiratory problems may benefit from a new drug known as Tavalisse, which has FDA approval for use in patients suffering from a rare condition known as thrombocytopenia. Meanwhile, a recent study found that low-dose naltrexone – a therapy for chronic fatigue or chronic pain – shows potential to safely and effectively disrupt COVID-19's ability to attack the body.

Curing long COVID requires dedicated research and investment. Even repurposing existing drugs requires expensive clinical trials. With tens of thousands of Americans getting infected with COVID-19 every day, the scientific community must double down on finding cures for this condition.

Dr. Jeffrey Gold is a family physician and the owner of Gold Direct Care in Marblehead, Mass. This piece originally ran in the Boston Herald.

It's Time for Developers to Step Up and Provide Leadership on Green Building

This is not the time to become complacent about green building. Occasional news about green roofs, solar panels and recycling bins are not going to bring the gains needed to maintain a healthier, more sustainable society.

Recent projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) bring a mixed message. Their experts see energy use throughout the country increasing in the coming years, but not as quickly as floorspace. That means we are becoming more efficient in our energy usage – but not quickly enough to reduce the amount we are using. Total commercial energy use is projected to increase 22 percent by 2050 compared to 2020. During that same time, commercial floorspace will increase 33 percent, the report projects.

The good news is that more of the nation's energy is coming from renewable sources such as solar and, increasingly, wind, according to the EIA. In 2020, consumption of renewable energy grew for the fifth year in a row to reach 12 percent of all energy consumed.

The benefits of a green building to the environment and the community surrounding



By David Campbell

it are obvious. More and more, businesses and other institutions are discovering that a sustainable building can create a healthy environment that also benefits the health and the happiness of the employees who work in its offices.

A survey released by the U.S. Green Building Council in 2018 showed that 85 percent of employees in buildings with the association's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification said that access to quality outdoor views and natural sunlight boosts their overall productivity and happiness. Eighty percent said the enhanced air quality improves their physical health and comfort.

At LeChase Construction Service's New York Tri-State office in Armonk, we enjoy these benefits every day. We are now celebrating 10 years of working in a building that sets an excellent example of what can be achieved in sustainability. Constructed in 2011, the building was the first building in Westchester to receive the LEED Platinum certification for commercial interiors, meeting the most stringent of the Green Building Council's criteria. At the time it was one of

only 86 projects nationally to receive this honor.

In 2015, LeChase acquired the company that occupied the building, and it has been the regional office ever since.

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Everyone in our office enjoys natural light at their workstation, either with direct views outside, or with sun tubes that direct the light to interior spaces. To those who have not had this benefit before coming to work to us, it is a pleasant surprise. The benefit is at least as important, if not more so, than the very real savings we see in energy use and cost.

For employees who prefer to commute by pedal power rather than motor vehicle, we offer a bicycle rack and shower facilities.

New innovations, and advances in sustainable elements that have been around for a while, make it possible to attack the energy problem on both fronts – reducing energy use and deriving more power from sustainable sources. At LeChase, we pursue both goals. Here are just a few of the sustainable and environmentally friendly aspects incorporated into buildings we have constructed:

- Clean energy from solar panels and fuel cells, which convert hydrogen into electricity, with heat and water as the only byproducts.
- Geothermal wells, which harness the heat under the Earth's surface to warm buildings.
- "Smart glass" windows from View, which automatically adjust their tint to reduce glare and heat, reducing energy costs and allowing employees to work in healthier natural light more of the time.
- Wind turbines that supplement energy supply.
- Green walls, or walls of vegetation, which improve air quality and decrease ambient temperature, among other benefits.
- Advanced green roof systems that retain rainwater in a shallow, 2.5-inch-thick absorbent layer, with no need for a drainage layer.

To make progress on sustainability and reduce greenhouse gases, these types of innovations will need to become more widespread. With every project, no matter the scale, builders and developers must place a core focus on protecting people and the environment, promoting local economic development and partnering with communities. Builders like LeChase have a responsibility to demonstrate leadership by delivering projects that optimize energy efficiency, provide creative use and reuse of resources and seek to protect and enhance the environment.

Our commitment to environmental stewardship needs to be rooted in the belief that it is essential to help pioneer social impact that can last for decades.

David Campbell is vice president, LeChase Construction Services, LLC, New York Tri-State office. The company is among the nation's top contractors, providing general construction and construction management services in a wide range of industries and on projects of all sizes. Learn more at www.LeChase.com.

Correction

In last week's edition, an article headlined "A New Home for Westchester's Rescued Animals in Briarcliff" incorrectly stated that the new SPCA building was funded by \$6.5 million from the New York State Agriculture and Markets through the Companion Animal Capital Fund. The new center was paid for by a \$500,000 grant from New York State Agriculture and Markets and the remaining \$8 million was contributed by SPCA donors and foundations. The Examiner regrets the error.

A Note to Readers

In last week's issue, it was brought to our attention that a letter to the editor was published regarding an issue related to New Castle's proposed Form Based Code that was apparently signed by someone using a pseudonym. The Examiner has prided itself since its inception 14 years ago to not only contain accurate information in our articles but also to follow a process that helps verify the identities of writers of letters to the editor and guest editorials for

consideration. Last week, that process was not followed, and as a result, a letter that was not verified appeared in print. While this is the first time we've seemingly been deceived in this way as a result of our failing, such lapses in our systems must not occur regardless of circumstances. The Examiner will ensure our process is followed moving forward. We continue to look forward to hearing from readers on topics they are passionate about.

Armonk Ushers in Special Week With Run for Love, Festival

By Martin Wilbur

There were perfect conditions last Sunday morning for a 5K run, a cider and donut festival and even a carnival for kids.

All of that and more took place last weekend at Armonk's Wampus Brook Park, featuring Jamie's 5K Run for Love, a race held in memory of Jamie Love, the late Byram Hills High School graduate and cross country and track team member who died suddenly from cardiac arrhythmia in February 2013 while attending the University of Vermont.

A healthy crowd turned out for the race, which also included a one-mile run and a dash for children two to eight years old, the festival and the Byram Hills Pre-School Association Carnival. The day wrapped up in the early evening with a concert by North Castle resident John Krupa and his band Group Therapy at the gazebo at Wampus Brook Park.

More than 200 runners hit the pavement for the 5K, and fittingly the women's division was captured by Love's sister, Noelle. Justin Mitchell of Old Greenwich, Conn. was the men's winner.

Michelle Love, Jamie's and Noelle's mother, noted the community spirit and cooperation on display is always greatly appreciated by her family.

"We know what it means to have friends and teams supporting our community and we love that this is just done in this community," she said. "This is the type of town we want to live in."



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

The field of more than 200 runners break at the start of Jamie's 5K Run for Love last Sunday morning in downtown Armonk. It was held along with the Cider and Donut Festival and the Byram Hills Pre-School Association Carnival.

A year after the annual event was canceled due to the pandemic, Armonk Chamber of Commerce President Neal Schwartz said having people congregate in the heart of the hamlet was great for morale and business. The chamber is the sponsor of the race and the cider and donut festival, and after more than a year of concern, it was encouraging to see the crowd.

"I saw people as we were setting up yesterday in the park coming through here saying, 'Wow, this is really cool that they do

these things,'" Schwartz said.

The chamber, in conjunction with the town, also had a series of concerts through the summer in the park and at Armonk Square.

The organization double checked with the county about whether bringing in a crowd of people was the right thing to do, but officials encouraged them to do so, Schwartz mentioned. All they needed was a break from the weatherman and that certainly occurred.



"To be able to bring people in on a consistent basis is great," he added.

Town Supervisor Michael Schiliro said events such as Sunday or the upcoming Armonk Outdoor Art Show is what makes communities like North Castle special.

"I love the town, I love being a part of it," he said. "Any challenges or problems that we have as long as we listen to each other, (there's) two eyes, two ears and one mouth for a reason."

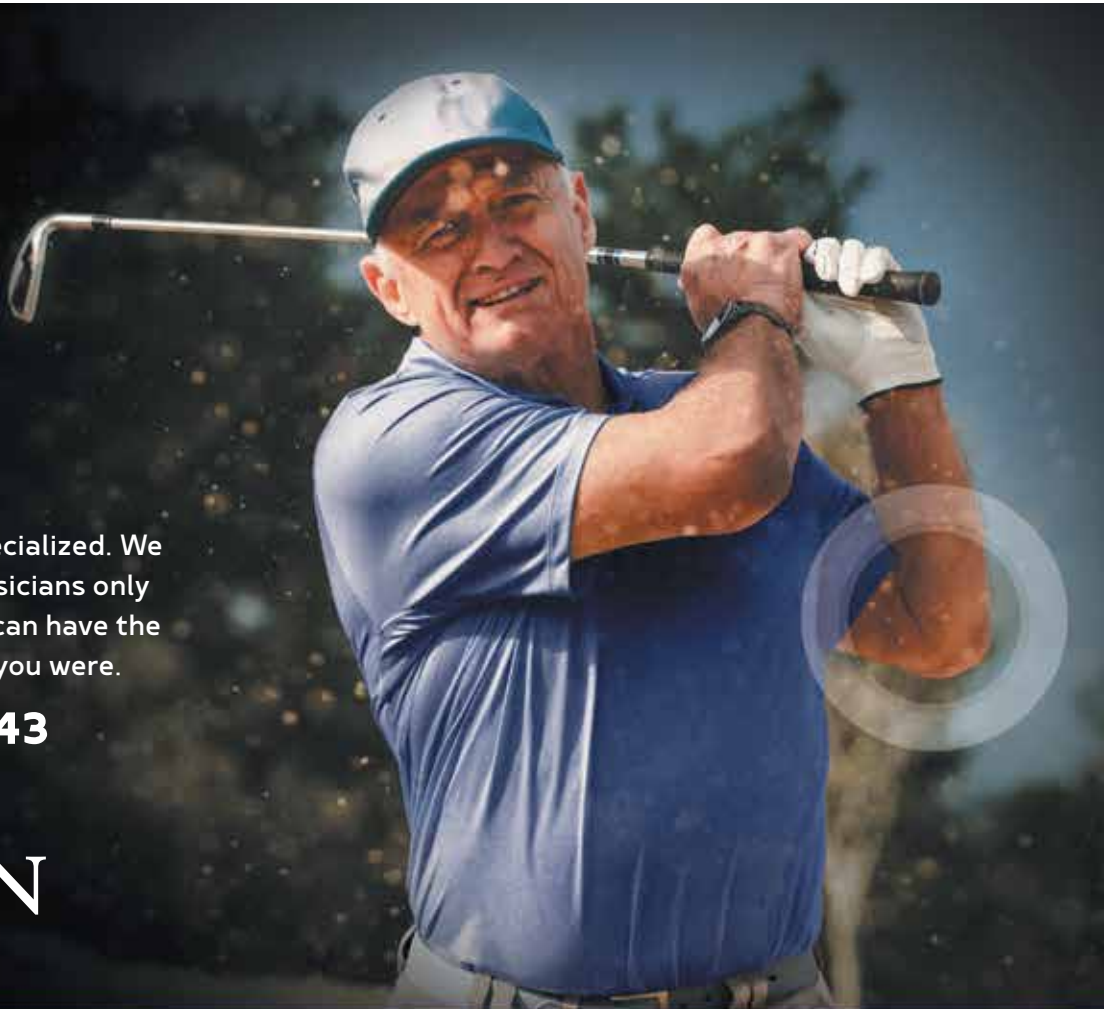
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Evolution of the Closet Met the Needs of Changing Societies

When I first moved to Westchester, my new home was an old home, a very old home, built originally in 1734, with wings added in 1797 and 1861.

It was interesting that in the original wing of the house, a saltbox structure, there were no closets, but a past owner had turned one small bedroom into a large walk-in closet. In the 1861 wing, there was one very small closet. Other than that, I was left on my own to construct closets in other bedrooms in the space between the outcropping of a fireplace and the side wall.

In America's early history, clothes were simply folded and placed in drawers, or hung on hooks.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, closets came into being and in some cases were promoted as an incentive to buy a residence, as evidenced by the first closets built and advertised for The Dakota apartment building in New York City. In the 1870s, The Dakota used closets to appeal to wealthy tenants.

When homes were built in colonial America, most individuals didn't own more than a few articles of clothing, greatly reducing the need for closet storage. Later, as people needed more space to store their clothing, they began using the freestanding pieces of furniture that we call wardrobes, armoires or chifforobes. Modern houses have large closets in every bedroom simply because contemporary



By Bill Primavera

inhabitants typically need more storage space for lots of clothing items and related accessories.

For those who might fall in love with an older house with limited or no closet space, as I did, there are several creative ways to get the storage space that is needed.

Go "old school." Decorate your home with chests of drawers, armoires and similar storage furnishings. This will retain the historic look and feel of the home, while providing the storage space needed for modern life.

Add closets. Give up a few feet of bedroom floor space to build a "reach-in" closet the full length of an interior wall, as I did.

Convert a room. If there is a master bedroom (or any other bedroom) near a smaller room, the smaller room can be converted into a huge walk-in closet.

At its simplest, a closet is a room, cabinet or recess designed to hold clothing, china and other possessions. It should come as no surprise that such a fundamental and helpful space would have been around for some time.

In France during the 16th century, the armoire came to popularity among the upper class to store weapons, tools and clothing. There were closets in England as early as the 1550s. However, these early closets had more in common with walk-in closets than the reach-in closet we have today.



It turns out that some of the earliest people to use a closet were Roman soldiers. The soldiers needed a more practical way to store and transport weapons and armor, especially on long journeys. These storage units were called "armoriums." As one might guess, the Latin word armorium became what we know today as an armoire.

As industrialization spread around the world and goods were more affordable and easier to produce, people had more possessions to store. This led to a change in how people viewed and used the closet, but it wasn't until much later that the modern closet started to take shape.

The idea of the closet, as a dedicated space built into the home for storage, happened in the United States around 1840. It was Americans who established the closet as its own space built directly into the wall during the 19th century.

The convenience of the closet built into the home rapidly became a standard feature in many American homes. It wasn't until the 1950s, after World War II, that we started to really see what we think of as the modern closet.

The economic boom following the war led to an even larger consumer culture in America and increased the need for a place to keep everything. More people began moving to the suburbs and buying larger homes. These larger homes came with closets, and by this time, Americans had plenty of new clothes and accessories to fill them with.

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). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Pleasantville Farmers Market to Fight Hunger on Saturday

Shoppers visiting the Pleasantville Farmers Market can help Hillside Food Outreach and the Pleasantville Community Garden provide healthy food to local people who need it.

"Hillside Food Outreach is working to end hunger among our most vulnerable neighbors," said Kathy Purdy, executive

director and founder of Hillside Food Outreach. "Our volunteers home-deliver healthy and nutritious foods to over 1,600 men, women and children in Westchester who are unable to access local pantries for a variety of reasons."

This Saturday, Sept. 25, the market's shoppers are asked to purchase extra

vegetables, fruits and bread to donate to this effort. Prepared foods, eggs and jarred products can also be contributed. Donated items from farmers and bakers may be left in the collection bins at those vendors' checkout stations.

Donations from any vendor can also be brought to a tent staffed by representatives from the Pleasantville Community Garden and Hillside Food Outreach. Cash donations may be made at their tent, which are used to purchase food for donations. Shoppers may choose to conveniently contribute a cash donation when placing weekly pre-orders through the Pleasantville Farmers Market online (from Tuesday at 7 p.m. through Thursday at 7 p.m.) at <https://pleasantvillefarmersmarket.localfoodmarketplace.com/Index>.

"The first 2021 Food Donation Day, in July, was an enormous success with donations of 992 pounds of fresh produce, 69 loaves of bread and 12 dozen eggs," said Steven Bates, executive director of market operations for the Pleasantville Farmers Market. "Shoppers also donated shelf-stable items such as honey, peanut butter and apple sauce. We truly appreciate how our community responds to Food Donation Days, and we're looking forward to building on the success of our July event."

While Food Donation Days are held twice a year at the market, farmers and other vendors also make weekly food donations.

"The Pleasantville Farmers Market program has been an essential part of our



organization and the amazing generosity of the farmers every weekend has allowed us to greatly expand and donate thousands of pounds of incredibly fresh vegetables," said Ashly Juskus, the farmers market Manager for the Pleasantville Community Garden. "We're thrilled to participate."

Check out the video the farmers market made about this year's first Food Donation Day at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90lwvm29bHo>.

Dates Added for Mount Kisco's Farmers Market This Fall

By Martin Wilbur

The Village of Mount Kisco announced last week that three more Sundays have been confirmed for its monthly farmers market in the South Moger Avenue municipal parking lot.

The market, which debuted on Aug. 29, will continue this Sunday, Sept. 26, followed by Oct. 31 and Nov. 21. Its hours have also been adjusted and will run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 90 minutes later than for its kickoff last month, said Mayor Gina Picinich.

Efforts to rekindle a farmers market for Mount Kisco were sparked after village residents Nicole Sturomski and Marisa De Zego along with Mimi's Coffeehouse owner Mimi Tesfaye formed a committee following a sustainability event earlier this year to measure whether there would be

interest.

The first market featured between 20 and 30 vendors in addition to artisans, kids' activities and local organizations and businesses. The arrangement seemed to work well, Picinich said.

Village Trustee Peter Grunthal suggested that because the farmers market is currently being held monthly the village along with the organizers should do what they can do help publicize the dates that it is scheduled.

"The reason I say that is because when a farmers market is held weekly, people know that in their town (there) is a weekly farmers market," Grunthal said.

Last month, Sturomski said that organizers would hope the market is successful to allow it to transition to a weekly schedule by next year.

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The Harrison Players Return With Fierstein's 'Casa Valentina' Next Month

The Harrison Players in Harrison make their triumphant return to the stage next month with Harvey Fierstein's clever and poignant story "Casa Valentina" from Oct. 15-17.

Inspired by real events, the play revolves around a group of transvestites who gather annually for support, camaraderie at a very discreet bungalow in the Catskill Mountains, circa 1962. As the men adorn women's clothing, they explore their true identities.

"Casa Valentina" is full of Fierstein's trademark wit and clever banter. Under the direction of Anthony J. Valbiro, the Harrison Players furnish an amazing set to host its wonderful cast of talented actors, especially Daniel Charest who plays George Vaccaro a.k.a. Valentina.

As the plot thickens, it is revealed that George is heterosexual and married to the big-hearted Rita played by Donna Scheer. Rita is living with the heartache that her husband is most alive when he is a she.

A young newcomer, Miranda, played by Bill Halliburton, lights up the stage. The wide-eyed Charlotte who wants to enlist all to form the first East Coast chapter of an organization called the Sorority is played by Jeff Zitofsky. Then there is the bubbly, Oscar Wilde-quoting Bessie who is played by Rachel Aries. The glamorous, but confident Gloria is played by Zoey Zero. The somber Terry is played by Paul Favara.

The cantankerous judge is played by



The cast of "Casa Valentina" getting ready to give Miranda (Bill Halliburton) a makeover during a recent rehearsal by the Harrison Players. The local theater company will perform the Harvey Fierstein play over a weekend engagement from Oct. 15-17.

Gary Skidmore, who plays Amy and certainly gets himself in hot water. This scene boils over as Eleanor, the judge's daughter (Leslie Messina), creates a bubbling caldron of vernacular.

The play starts to shift and Act II becomes a showdown with the final image created by George.

"Casa Valentina" premiered on Broadway in 2014 and is heightened by Fierstein's empathy and sheer knowledge for men who wear women's clothing and is caught between worlds of contradiction. The setting, more than a half-century ago, certainly rings true today as gender

identity is at the forefront.

For the writer and performer, Fierstein is slightly familiar with cross-dressing ("Torch Song Trilogy," "Hairspray," "La Cage Au Folles" and "Kinky Boots") "Casa Valentina" may be the by-product of his epic determination to bring stories of marginalized people to audiences.

The music is bubbly and speaks without saying a word, including "Sugartime" by the Maguire Sisters.

The Harrison Players certainly have

come home again with this full production, which previously premiered as a stage reading in 2018.

Show dates and times are Friday, Oct. 15 and Saturday Oct. 16 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 16 and Sunday, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Building in Harrison. Tickets are \$25. For tickets and more information, visit www.harrisonplayers.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. All New York State COVID-19 protocols will be in place.

Taghkanic Chorale Welcomes New Singers for its 55th Season

The Taghkanic Chorale invites singers to kick off the 2021-22 concert season with the Bach "Magnificat" and Vivaldi's "Gloria." (RV 588)

Rehearsals began Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, located at 2880 Crompond Rd. (Route 202) in Yorktown Heights.

Rehearsals are open during the month of September with no obligation to join the chorale.

Concert performances will be held on Dec. 11 and 12.

With the recent rise of COVID cases, singers' health is of supreme concern.

Our plans include:

- Wearing masks in our rehearsals. While we all enjoy singing without masks, this will comply with the suggestions from the Centers for Disease Control and New York State for indoor activities such as ours. Once guidelines change, we can revisit this.
- Live-streaming rehearsals for those uncomfortable with an in-person experience, or who are not feeling well.

For more information, call Deborah J. May at 917-848-3764 or visit www.taghkanicchorale.org.

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Alzheimer's Association to Hold Two Events on Saturday Ahead of Walk

Two Alzheimer's awareness events are planned on Saturday, Sept. 25, in advance of the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Westchester and Rockland counties in October.

From 6 to 8 p.m. at Horan's Landing in Sleepy Hollow, there will be a Bridge Lighting Watch Party featuring food trucks and a DJ and culminating in the lighting of the Mario Cuomo Bridge in purple for Alzheimer's Awareness.

At 8 p.m. that night, the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill will also host an Alzheimer's Awareness Evening during its "Gypsy" concert celebrating the music of Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac. The Alzheimer's Association will have a table at the event with staff on hand to talk about the organization's programs, services and fundraisers. Tickets to "Gypsy" can be purchased 24/7 at <https://paramounthudsonvalley.com>.

paramounthudsonvalley.com.

The Paramount's manager said the theater was happy to help raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease.

"Paramount Hudson Valley Arts is proud to partner with organizations that make a difference in the welfare of our community," said George De Feis, general manager at Paramount Hudson Valley Arts. "The Alzheimer's Association brings awareness and resources to those impacted by this horrible disease. We are happy to shine a spotlight on them during one of our live music performances."

"The Alzheimer's Association is thrilled to partner with the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater to spread awareness of the disease," said David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "We want families affected

by dementia to know we're there for them as research continues to find a cure. We are looking forward to a fun and informative night at Paramount Hudson Valley Theater."

The Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Westchester Community College, with check-in starting at 1 p.m. and the opening ceremony at 2 p.m. followed by the walk.

The Rockland Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct. 10, at Boulder Stadium in Pomona with check-in starting at 9 a.m. and the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. followed by the walk.

The walks will be held in person, observing safety protocols, but participants can also

choose to participate remotely at the locations of their choice. More information about all five Hudson Valley walks is available at HudsonValleyWalks.org

The Hudson Valley chapter serves families living with dementia in seven counties in New York, including Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit alz.org/hudsonvalley.

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection and maximizing quality care and support. Its vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all dementia.

\$170G Secured for 40th Senate District Libraries

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) announced last week that five public libraries in his district will receive more than \$170,000 in aid that is part of the \$14 million designated statewide for library capital construction and technology improvements.

The libraries are Brewster, Pawling, Hendrick Hudson and Somers, as well as the Field Library in Peekskill. The libraries will receive a total of \$170,681 for a variety of key projects including library expansion, new furniture, audiovisual equipment, window replacements and much more.

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Orchestra 914 Presents Trio Concert Oct. 17 in Pleasantville

Orchestra 914 is pleased to present a flute, clarinet and cello trio concert on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 3 p.m. at St John's Episcopal Church, located at 8 Sunnyside Ave. in Pleasantville.

The trio features Rebecca Quigley on flute, Jarrett Hoffman on clarinet and Zachary May on cello for an afternoon of mixed wind and string trios. Works will include Francois Devienne's "Trio in Bb," "Seclusive Song" by Swedish Cellist Svante Henryson (b. 1963), and Emily Horton's "Trio" (2019).

The program will conclude with Australian composer Harry Sdraulig's "Serenade" (2019), and a complete performance of American composer Brian Raphael Nabors' work "Seven Dances for Flute, Clarinet & Cello." Nabors' "Seven Dances" is a complex piece consisting of seven contrasting miniatures representing various styles of dance and music, including tango, foxtrot and hip-hop.

Nabors is a composer whose emotionally enriching music presents exciting narratives through its vibrant themes and colorful harmonic language. With an eclectic musical palate and crafty compositional technique, Nabors' music draws from combinations of jazz funk, R&B and gospel with a modern



Rebecca Quigley (flute), Jarrett Hoffman (clarinet) and Zachary May (cello) will comprise the trio that will perform on Sunday, Oct. 17 in Pleasantville.

flair for contemporary classical music.

Nabors grew up in the South, and much of his music deals with new reflections on life, nature and the human condition. This includes how music plays a role in shaping the perception of a society and how it can be used as a tool to inspire conversations about prejudice, racism and bigotry.

He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degree

in composition at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM), and prior to graduate studies he earned a Bachelor of Music Theory and Composition degree from the School of the Arts at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Orchestra 914, formerly The Chappaqua Orchestra, seeks to expand the classical music experience for diverse audiences in the Hudson

Valley through creative, educational, and community programming with the highest level of artistic integrity. In 1958, Boris Koutzen created The Chappaqua Orchestra to bring high quality classical music to northern Westchester.

Over the years, The Chappaqua Orchestra has had many incarnations, from a mix of professions and amateurs, to what is now a fully professional orchestra.

Orchestra 914 is now officially based in Pleasantville and has recently appointed Russell Ger as its new musical director as part of its goal to widen its geographic scope and to bring an inclusive and unexpected array of live classical music to audiences throughout Westchester, helping to build a community of music lovers of all ages and backgrounds.

Cynthia Peterson, a professional pianist and performer and longtime resident of the Hudson Valley, currently serves as the artistic director of the Orchestra 914 Chamber Music Series.

The suggested donation is \$30 at the door (cash, check and PayPal are accepted). Audience members attending Orchestra 914 concerts will be required to show proof of vaccination and wear a face covering indoors in accordance with current CDC guidelines.

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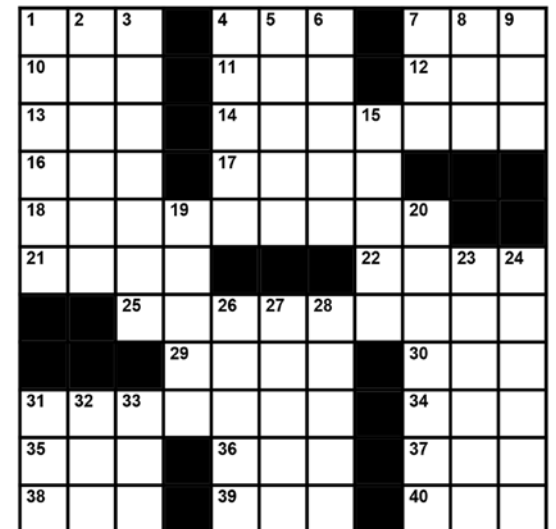
Crossword

Across

1. Alec Guinness' title
4. ___ D'Antibes
7. Rawls, soul singer
10. Helm heading, abbr.
11. The greatest boxer
12. Physicist's work unit
13. Battle of Britain grp.
14. N. Carolina capital
16. Grand Canyon tourist's reaction
17. Sharif of "Doctor Zhivago"
18. Movie studio or Somers rehab & nursing center
21. Takes a look
22. Irish Ireland
25. Starbucks orders
29. "Put ___ on it!"
30. Dip bread in gravy
31. Magic escape man
34. Brit's higher education area, abbr.
35. 2002 winner at Muirfield
36. S. Carolina hours
37. Wide spec. for shoes
38. Goes with haw
39. Start of a state capital
40. Barrett of Pink Floyd

Down

1. Colorful wrap
2. To some extent
3. Arbitrator
4. Bounce
5. Custer battle



6. Rice
7. Garland in Hawaii
8. Web site address ending
9. "Gross!"
15. Cousins of ospreys
19. Long-time Syrian dictator
20. Tear catchers
23. Andy, Mickey or Mahopac orthodontist
24. Spotted
26. Employed
27. Dentist's request
28. Blue-pencils
31. Laugh sound
32. Flamenco shout
33. Mil. branch

Answers on page 24

Why Civic Engagement Matters for Companies and Nonprofits

New research reveals that not only has America's largest generation – millennials – become more civically engaged since the pandemic began, but that the time is right for nonprofits and companies to help all Americans see how profoundly they can influence social change.

The new survey from Points of Light, a nonpartisan, global nonprofit organization that inspires, equips and mobilizes millions of people to take action that changes the world, found that almost half of millennials believe in the power of civic engagement more now than before the pandemic. Then, 69 percent are more likely to volunteer and 85 percent think people should help their community and the world. Millennials also believe companies should be actively involved in social issues and two-thirds visit corporate websites at least somewhat often to learn about their efforts.

Tapping into the report's findings can help businesses and nonprofits seeking to prioritize purpose more effectively work with customers and supporters to move the needle on critical issues facing communities today.

Here are the three key takeaways for businesses and nonprofits:

- **Get personal.** In many ways, millennials were the hardest hit by the uncertainty of the pandemic. Those with children suddenly had to teach them at home; some had parents and grandparents who were getting sick and even dying. It's no surprise that the social issues millennials care about



YACOBCHUK / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

today have gotten personal.

"What we learned from our research is that personal experience is driving the civic issues millennials care about and will act to support, as well as their own desire to make a positive difference in the world," said Natalye Paquin, president and CEO of Points of Light. "Rather than asking millennials to help you reach a goal, consider asking them what they need and how you can work alongside each other to

have the biggest impact."

- **Address what's important.** Respondents said that the top issues the country must address post-pandemic are health care (29 percent), criminal and social justice (24 percent), education (21 percent), environment and climate (21 percent) and financial recovery efforts from COVID-19 (17 percent). When it comes to issues of widespread importance, entities seeking to be drivers of change can and should meet the

public where they are.

- **Discover ways to take action.** Civic action can take on many forms, from signing a petition to participating in a rally, to reaching out to one's political representatives. Not sure where to start? Consider "the Civic Circle," which is a framework developed by Points of Light to define the many ways people and entities can lead, lend support and take action for causes.

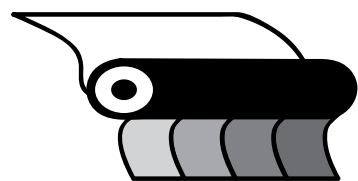
The nine activities outlined by the Civic Circle are listening and learning; using one's voice; social entrepreneurship; volunteering; public, national or military service; using one's purchasing power to express their values; working; voting; and donating.

"More than almost any other civic action, respondents today are devoting time to increasing their knowledge about social issues. In other words, they are preparing themselves to be fluent consumers of the information causes and companies intend to share," Paquin said. "This gives companies opportunities to become vital, trusted sources of information."

For additional insights and to learn more, visit pointsoflight.org.

"By partnering with them on addressing the issues that matter to them most, nonprofits and businesses can play a vital role in keeping this generation's attitudes of empathy, interest and willingness to fix society's ills thriving," Paquin said.

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continued on page 26

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The Next Great Nearby Escape: Pawling

As a travel writer I'm always looking for new places to escape to. Since the onset of COVID-19 last year and with my wings clipped, I've only been taking short sojourns. Montauk, Shelter Island and I just returned from an absolutely wonderful escape to the charming Town of Pawling, a mere hour away.

We rented an incredibly charming log cabin in a state forest for 10 days on a private lake. The cabin was beautifully furnished and equipped with everything you might need. There's even a classic wood-burning stove for cool nights. There's a fully stocked kitchen a gourmet chef would rave about and a super comfy bed in the master bedroom, two baths, a small second bedroom and a huge deck facing the woods and lake. Down by the lake there are two new kayaks and a flat-bottom rubber boat in the garage.

Pawling is lovely in every possible way and totally off the vacation radar.



By Richard Levy

An unlikely escape for most folks in Westchester for a weekend or even a week, yet it's so close and devoid of annoying tourists, crowds and weekend traffic. The perfect place to turn off your engines.

This New England-like country town has an exceptional restaurant, McKinney & Doyle, with its inventive menu that features astoundingly delicious dishes. Start with the grilled Spanish octopus or New Zealand baby lamb chops, then try their huge honey

crisp shrimp or fresh diver scallops. Every mouth-watering entree rests artfully on a delectable bed of delicious, puréed veggies. There's an affordable wine list and a selection of decadent desserts from their bakery next door. The Sunday brunch is the uncontested best in Dutchess County. Order their Maine lobster crafted with chilaquiles corn tortillas, salsa verde lobster meat, avocado, poached eggs and chipotle hollandaise. Their corned beef hash

and eggs is the best you've ever had and served in an iron pan. They unequivocally deserve a Michelin star.

Pawling has lovely shops including an old-fashioned bookstore you can get lost in. The Blue Olive has a large selection of gourmet olive oils and specialty vinegars. You can do an endless tasting until you find the ones you love.

There's Vinny's Deli with his outrageous homemade mozzarella and incredible selection of Italian meats and cheeses. Vinny has magically turned his delectable sandwiches into edible masterpieces. More delicious than in Naples, Florence or Rome. The Food Network featured Vinny's steak margherita hero sandwich with mozzarella and thinly grilled steak on its program "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

The Sunflour Bakery has amazing sourdough bread and gluten-free cakes. Just out of town there's Dykeman Farm for the freshest produce and eggs laid that morning.

Nearby take a hike on the Appalachian Trail that goes all the way to Canada. You've heard of the musical duo Hall & Oates. Well, Daryl Hall chose Pawling

to open Daryl's House Club restaurant with delicious food and free live music on weekends. Visit the nearby colorful towns of Rhinebeck or Millbrook and their wineries.

If I've enticed you with the off-the-radar Town of Pawling, check out Airbnb or Home Away. Or better yet, let me know if you'd like to rent the log cabin on a lake I escaped to and I'll connect you to Candace, it's delightful, vivacious owner. She might consider letting you rent her precious log cabin her father built with tender-loving care 25 years ago.

After spending 10 absolutely lovely days in Pawling, I find it appalling that most folks have never considered escaping there. (Sorry, I had to use that line, my girlfriend said my columns must contain more fun.)

Hastings-on-Hudson resident Richard Levy is a former advertising "Mad Man" creative director and now a travel writer. He's also an inventor of innovative new products and is writing and illustrating a new children's book. You can contact him at RichardLevyTravelWriter@gmail.com.

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The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze Kicks Off 17th Season in Croton

By Rick Pezzullo

The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze kicked off the first of a record 59 nights last Friday at historic Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson.

Back for a 17th year, the Blaze runs until Nov. 21 with reduced capacity and safety measures in place. While the attractions are outdoors and touch-free, visitors who are not vaccinated from COVID-19 will be required to wear masks at all times. Vaccinated visitors will only have to mask when entering the gift shops or restrooms.

More than 7,000 Jack O'Lanterns and elaborate pumpkin sculptures, hand-carved by a small team of artists led by Creative Director Michael Natiello, will once again be situated along wooded pathways, orchards and gardens.

Fan favorite installations, such as the Statue of Liberty, Pumpkin Planetarium, giant spider web and mammoth sea serpent, have returned, along with some new creations, notably a New York City streetscape featuring iconic buildings in the city's skyline and an immersive Hudson River scene.

Professional musician, radio personality and Halloween fanatic Richard Christy created the soundtrack accompanying the experience. Blaze: The Soundtrack Volume I & II play throughout the event, making it a multisensory experience. Both soundtracks are available as digital downloads and streams from iTunes and Amazon. The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze



Shop offers a selection of Blaze-specific merchandise.

Admission is by advance purchase and is a timed ticket. To further reduce staff and visitor touchpoints, no tickets are sold on site even if not sold out.

Blaze Hudson Valley dates are Sept. 17 through Oct. 31 and Nov. 3-7, 10-14 and 18-21. Online tickets start at \$32 for adults and \$24 for children 3 to 17 years old. Children two years old and under are free. Historic Hudson Valley members can attend Blaze Hudson Valley for free.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.hudsonvalley.org or by calling 914-366-6900 (\$2 per ticket surcharge for phone orders). More information about The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze is available at wpumpkinblaze.org.

Historic Hudson Valley is Westchester County's largest cultural organization, educating and entertaining more than 325,000 visitors a year through school programs, tours of five National Historic Landmarks, and Halloween themed experiences, which have earned a national reputation as among the best in the country.



The spooky house, left, and the giant spider web are two of the fan favorite illuminations that have returned for the 17th season of the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze at historic Van Cortlandt Manor now through Nov. 21.

Crossword Answers

S	I	R		C	A	P		L	O	U
E	N	E		A	L	I		E	R	G
R	A	F		R	A	L	E	I	G	H
A	W	E		O	M	A	R			
P	A	R	A	M	O	U	N	T		
E	Y	E	S					E	I	R
			E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O
			A	L	I	D		S	O	P
H	O	U	D	I	N	I		U	N	I
E	L	S		E	S	T		E	E	E
H	E	M		D	E	S		S	Y	D

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AG James' Westchester Gun Buyback Event Secures 57 Firearms

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced last Friday that 57 firearms were turned in to law enforcement at a gun buyback event hosted by her office, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, District Attorney Mimi Rocah and the New Rochelle Police Department.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) accepts — with no questions asked — working and non-working, unloaded firearms in exchange for compensation on site. To date, James has taken more than 2,100 firearms out of communities through gun buyback events and other efforts since taking office in 2019.

“The threat of gun violence continues to loom over our neighborhoods and endanger our families and children,” James said. “From taking down violent groups responsible for causing harm to hosting gun buybacks and working with organizations addressing this crisis, we are doing everything we can to eradicate gun violence and protect our communities in Westchester and throughout the state. My office is fully committed to preserving public safety, and we thank our partners for their invaluable support and shared commitment in this effort.”

The firearms that were turned in, including 25 handguns, 29 shotguns and rifles, two assault rifles and a non-working gun. Since 2013, the state attorney general's office has hosted gun buyback events throughout New York and has successfully collected nearly 4,100 firearms.

In exchange for the firearms, monetary compensation was offered in the form of prepaid gift cards and Apple iPads when an unloaded gun was received and secured by an officer on site.

“Too many families have experienced the grief of losing a loved one due to gun violence,” said state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers). “New York state has enacted some of the strongest gun violence prevention measures, and one important piece of that is providing people who have guns in their homes a safe way to dispose of them.”

“We want these guns off the streets. My mother used to always say, a bullet doesn't have a name on it,” said Paul Hood, president, Westchester Rockland Guardians Association. “Unfortunately, there was one with my niece Sabrina's name on it. I can't help but think that she and thousands of others would still be here if there were fewer guns on the streets. So for me, it's personal. We must use every tool possible to get guns off the streets!”

Gun violence is a public health crisis that is plaguing communities throughout

New York, and last week's buyback was the latest step to combat the crisis and protect New Yorkers from harm. This year alone, James has held 12 gun buybacks across the state, and has also secured dozens of dangerous firearms through takedowns of violent groups terrorizing New York.

“Attorney General James and District Attorney Rocah have been dedicated champions of the gun safety movement in New York, including in Westchester County where gun violence continues to threaten our communities,” said Barry Graubart of Moms Demand Action. “We are pleased to continue supporting their commendable work to provide proactive support and resources to deeply affected communities in our state.”



Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Action to Foreclose a Mortgage INDEX #: 70410/2019 WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO CITIBANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE TO LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-17 Plaintiff, vs FRANK O'CONNOR IF LIVING, AND IF HE/SHE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; SUCH UNKNOWN PERSONS BEING HEREIN GENERALLY DESCRIBED AND INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED IN WIFE, WIDOW, HUSBAND, WIDOWER, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF SUCH DECEASED, ANY AND ALL PERSONS DERIVING INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON, OR TITLE TO SAID REAL PROPERTY BY, THROUGH OR UNDER THEM, OR EITHER OF THEM, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE WIVES, WIDOWS, HUSBANDS, WIDOWERS, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNS, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES, EXCEPT AS STATED, ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE IRS JOHN DOE (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). MORTGAGED PREMISES: 157 6TH STREET VERPLANCK, NY 10596 SBL #: 54.5 - 2 - 9 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Frank O'Connor Defendant In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Lawrence H. Ecker of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Twenty-Sixth day of August, 2021 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by Frank O'Connor dated the August 10, 2006, to secure the sum of \$384,000.00 and recorded at Instrument No. 462490790 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk, on the September 26, 2006. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed December 19, 2011 and recorded on March 26, 2012, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 520813583. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed December 4, 2013 and recorded on February 6, 2014, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 540133360. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed February 26, 2016 and recorded on March 8, 2016, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 560683020. The mortgage was subsequently modified on March 6, 2017; The property in question is described as follows: 157 6TH STREET, VERPLANCK, NY 10596 HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or the Foreclosure Relief Hotline 1-800-269-0990 or visit the department's website at WWW.DFS.NY.GOV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN YOUR HOME DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLESS AND UNTIL YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD AT AUCTION PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOME, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND PAY PROPERTY TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. § 1303 NOTICE NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: August 31, 2021 Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy, LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 69930

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Rationalizing My Ever-Changing Dietary Habits



By Nick Antonaccio

If the last quarter century has taught us anything it is that we are no longer “creatures of habit,” the well-turned phrase of older generations.

Growing up in my Italian household, I knew exactly what meal we were having on each night of the week – every week. I knew that every Sunday afternoon, after the traditional Sunday dinner, my parents would shepherd my siblings and me into the family car for our Sunday drive.

My, how I’ve evolved. Now I am a creature of ever-changing habits. Technology, social media and mega consumer marketing companies have become agents of constant change. Today, change is considered the norm, not the exception.

For many in my Baby Boomer generation, change has been creeping up on us. Over the last quarter century, I’ve been weaned off public pay phones, hand-written checks, Rand McNally travel maps and DVDs/CDs. I’ve read that in the last 25 years science has impacted our lives more than in all human history. Today a creature of habit is at risk of extinction.

This brings me to the change that has

affected me most in the last 25 years: my lifestyle and eating habits.

Over time, I’ve learned that eating red meat three to four times a week – and processed foods on a few of the other nights – is a sure formula for compromising my health. At first I resisted change. The mantra of my early adult life was “it must be good for me if my parents cooked it, especially if it tasted so good.” Unfortunately, too many in my parents’ generation died in the prime of their lives from clogged arteries and mutant cells.

I had rationalized my unhealthy diet by developing a compensating habit for consuming a glass of red wine with evening meals. Resveratrol in red wine has been shown to be one of the factors behind the healthy Mediterranean Diet. Surely this insurance policy would allow me to continue my dietary habits. Wrong. I happened upon an article that described the ideal diet for modern man: the Stone Age diet.

The theory: human genetics have evolved very little over the last 10,000 years. Therefore, our bodies thrive best with a diet suitable to our inherited genetic profile. This diet consisted of root vegetables, fruits, nuts and an occasional Mastodon steak. It contained no significant amount of saturated fats, refined sugars or highly processed (or genetically modified) foods.



What about red wine? Early traces have been discovered and dated to 6,000 years ago. Not quite cave man times, but well before the life-changing innovations of the Industrial Age. I’ve rationalized that natural red wines are a direct product of nature and contain healthy compounds that are complementary to a healthy diet.

In the late ‘90s, studies were emerging that urged consumers to change their lifelong, deleterious diets by reducing the consumption of red meat and processed foods. So I began to change my diet. (I still miss Italian bread and sandwich meats.)

When a niece adopted a vegetarian diet, I changed again and inched a bit closer to the cave man diet. I now understand the plant-based food preferences and the growing influence of the millennial and Generation Z population.

Today, I’m eating more fish, plant protein and organic foods and wines. Coupled with

outdoor running and visits to the gym, I now schedule my annual physicals with confidence rather than anxiety (and my physician endorses my moderate wine consumption regimen).

My choices are made easier by the changing food selections offered in restaurants and food markets. I now seek out menu legends and symbols that didn’t exist a few years ago at restaurants, including V, VG, GF, DF, SF and NF. (Did you decode them all?)

I now consider myself an educated omnivore – a balance between childhood upbringing and 21st century sensibility. I haven’t progressed to strict vegetarianism; I enjoy the occasional steak or dairy product. But, my diet continues to evolve for the better. I raise my glass of organic (vegan?) red wine to my (and perhaps your) health and longevity.

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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- The festival requires ALL attendees to be fully vaccinated. No exceptions.
- All attendees MUST show the New York Excelsior Pass OR vaccination card & ID upon entry.
- No one under 21 will be admitted to any event. No infants, strollers or pets.

TUE | SEP 21
Italian Wine Experience with Kevin Zraly

5:30PM-7:30PM | Kanopi, White Plains

WED | SEP 22

Party on the Pier at Playland

6:00PM-9:00PM | Rye Playland, Rye

NEW EVENT!

THU | SEP 23

Burger & Beer Blast

6:00PM-10:00PM | Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

FRI | SEP 24

Wine Collectors' Dinner

6:30PM-9:30PM | X20 Xaviars on the Hudson, Yonkers

NEW EVENT!

SAT | SEP 25

Grand Tasting Village

12:00PM-4:00PM | Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

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