

Mahopac Woman Sentenced to Prison for Drunk Driving Homicide

By Rick Pezzullo

A Mahopac woman was sentenced last week to six to 18 years in state prison for fatally striking a pedestrian while driving drunk last year on Route 6N in Mahopac.

Maggie Deperna, 38, pled guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide on February 2, 2022 and was sentenced on March 30 by County Court Judge Anthony Mole for causing the death of James Crecco, Sr., 61, on June 25, 2021.

"My heart goes out to the Crecco family, and everyone impacted by the tragedies brought about by drunk driving," said Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendency. "It's a stupid and senseless thing to do. There's no reason for it."

According to Treddy, on the evening of June 25, 2021, Crecco was getting into his car that was parked in front of his brother's Lake Mahopac lake house on Route 6N when Deperna struck Crecco and fled the scene.

Crecco was transported to Westchester Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

An exhaustive search throughout the night for the driver conducted by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department and Carmel Police Department led officers to Deperna's home, where drone surveillance revealed her Jeep Cherokee hidden in the brush and trees behind her home with extensive damage to the front passenger's side, including a missing right-side rearview mirror that had been recovered at the crash scene.

The Sheriff's Department's Narcotics Enforcement Unit then led an investigation to determine Deperna's whereabouts leading up to the crash. Video surveillance, license plate reader technology, and GPS location tracking data showed that Deperna purchased alcohol from a liquor store on the morning of the accident and again approximately one hour before the incident.

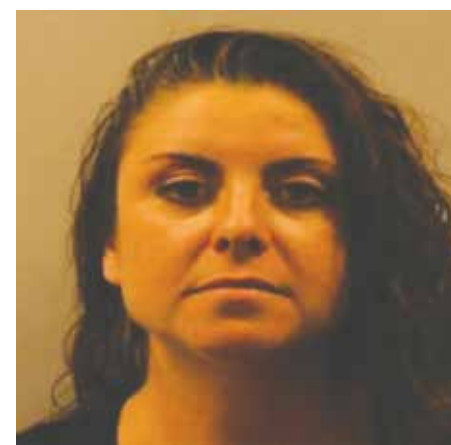
while driving to several places in between, including a nail salon and McDonald's.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on June 25, video surveillance captured Deperna consuming a margarita at a nearby restaurant before getting into her car, pulling onto 6N and swerving into oncoming traffic, almost causing a head-on collision within seconds of rounding the bend and striking Greco.

GPS data concluded that after the crash, Deperna did not stop and drove home, where the empty bottles of wine Deperna was on video having purchased that day were recovered. She was arrested the following morning, on June 26, 2021, after a member of the Narcotics Enforcement Unit conducted a traffic stop on a rental car being driven by a still intoxicated Deperna.

Tendy praised the efforts of the Narcotics Enforcement Unit, as well as the Sheriff's Department and Carmel Police.

“Everybody collaborated so professionally on this case. From the Sheriff’s office, the



Maggie Deperna

Carmel PD, Assistant District Attorneys Joseph Charbonneau and Breanne Smith, and the Crecco family---it was a tremendous effort,” Tendy said.

Tona Selected as New Superintendent of Schools in Mahopac

By Rick Pezzullo

The Mahopac Board of Education announced last week it had found the replacement for retiring Superintendent of Schools Anthony DiCarlo.

Christine A. Tona, who currently works as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Riverhead Central School District, will succeed DiCarlo on July 1. DiCarlo revealed last October he was leaving the district he has led since 2018.

Tona, a graduate of Adelphi University who holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in reading, and a professional diploma in education administration from Dowling College, said she was attracted to Mahopac by its success, initiatives and commitment to meeting the needs of all students.

"From the moment I stepped into Mahopac, I felt the warmth and respect from the community and the shared desire to do what is right for students," Tona said.

Prior to her work in Riverhead, Tona worked in the West Babylon Union Free School District for 16 years. At West Babylon, she served as executive director for curriculum and instruction for four years, was a building principal for 11 years at Forest Avenue Elementary and was coordinator of Mathematics, K-8, for a year. Before that, she was a classroom teacher for nine years.

During her nearly six-year tenure in Riverhead, Tona secured laptops for all students, provided professional development



Christine A. Tona

for teachers, promoted diversity, equity and inclusion, maintained partnerships with local organizations and launched the creation of a district strategic plan.

On the subject of diversity, equity and inclusion, Tona remarked, “DEI is not just about the color of skin or language spoken. It is about making sure that every student has access regardless of where they are on the educational spectrum or what challenges

A Display of Support



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

A banner sits on the grounds of the Episcopal Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands in Cold Spring, expressing support for the people of Ukraine.

Students Enjoy Annual Colonial Fair at CV Starr in Brewster

Dressed in colonial garb and full of excitement, CV Starr fourth graders recently took part in the Colonial Fair, one of the school's most beloved annual traditions.

"The Colonial Fair began in 2001 thanks to a Brewster Education Foundation grant," said fourth grade teacher Danielle Recine. "Through hands-on experience, students gain an appreciation for the challenges colonists faced as they settled in the New World."

This year students began the day by making colorful whirligigs. Students used markers to make colorful designs on a disc and then watched their designs dance as they spun them around and around on their strings.

Afterward, students traveled to three different "shops" where they became apprentices in different trades: candle-making, furniture graining and stenciling.

During candle making, students rolled strips of beeswax around a wick.

"You have to try to smash it down every time you roll it so that when you finish, it doesn't have any extra space," explained fourth grader Peyton Casey. "If that happens, you have to unroll it and roll it all over again."

Peyton spoke from experience, as she had to reroll her candle and try again. Still, she enjoyed the experience.

"You get to use your hands," she said. "It's really fun."

In stenciling, students practiced their stencil technique while making bookmarks before they moved to stenciling wooden frames. They used colorful paints to create unique designs and they were both surprised and delighted by what they were able to make.

In furniture graining, students first painted small wooden boxes.

"Less is more," Frank LaMorte warned his group. "The less you use, the better it will come out."

After applying a base coat, students used black paint to create intricate designs. Some students mimicked woodgrain, while others painted stars and hearts.

"What do you think you'll put in the boxes?" Pamela Clapes asked her group. The answers brought students firmly back to the twenty-first century.

"Cash!" one yelled out.

"Pokemon cards!" said another.



Students learned candle making during the Colonial Fair.

Tona Selected Superintendent of Schools in Mahopac

continued from page 1

they may face in their education to be successful."

In Riverhead, Tona said she partnered with the community, looked at data on educational outcomes and improved curriculum to meet all student needs over time. As she begins her tenure in Mahopac, Tona said she would focus the first year on getting out into the district, meeting students, parents and community members and listening to their hopes and priorities.

"I'm very excited to get to know the families and students of Mahopac as they move through the district," she said.

Board of Education President Michael

Mongon praised Tona for her leadership in Riverhead, saying, "Christine stepped into the Interim Superintendent role in Riverhead in the midst of the COVID crisis in July 2020 and never missed a beat. She led the district through the crisis, advanced programming and engaged the community throughout. We are thrilled to welcome her to Mahopac."



Man Indicted for Upstate Killing of College Student from Patterson

By Rick Pezzullo

The man charged with fatally shooting an aspiring educator and accomplished cellist, who grew up in Patterson, near the upstate SUNY Potsdam campus where she was a senior in February has been indicted.

Elizabeth Howell, 21, a 2018 graduate of Brewster High School, was found unconscious with gunshot wounds on College Park Road near the entrance to the college about 5:50 p.m. on Feb. 18. She was transported to Canton Potsdam Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Michael Snow, 31, of Massena, NY, was charged with one count of second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter in connection with the homicide. On the date of the homicide, State Police said Snow was observed operating a gray Honda Civic that had damage to the driver's side door. The shooting was seen on surveillance video.



Elizabeth Howell

Snow, who has been held in St. Lawrence County Jail with no bail since the incident, is scheduled to be arraigned April 11 in St. Lawrence County Court.

Howell, an honors student, was studying music education in the college's Crane School of Music and played in the Crane Symphony Orchestra. Reportedly, she was walking to her apartment from campus when what appears to be a random shooting occurred.

Try Examiner+ 30 Days FREE

- Take Examiner+ for a test drive today at **NO CHARGE** for a full month.
- Full membership level access.
- Premium local content delivered straight to your inbox six times a week.

FREE TRIAL!
30 Days

Examiner+

HUDSON VALLEY'S DIGITAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Examiner-Plus.com/ExaminerFree30



SUBURBAN

WINES & SPIRITS

WESTCHESTER'S FINE WINE & SPIRITS DESTINATION

Now you can take us with you wherever you go! Download our Mobile App!

Available on the iPhone
App Store

Happy Easter! A Joyous Passover!



Wolffer '21 Summer in a Bottle Rose

Tasting Note: Bright shiny copper in color. The aroma is elegant with fine clean fruit notes of pears and apples but with a luxurious ripeness. The mouth-feel is vibrant and has lovely spiciness and a rich texture with fine tannins. It is livened up by nice acidity and a classic minerality and salinity. This dry rosé is very savory and has a long finish with creamy yeast and delicate chalk notes. This may be the most food-friendly Summer in a Bottle to date and is certainly the perfect summer wine!

\$20⁹⁷



GREY GOOSE

Premium Vodka

\$39⁹⁷ 1.75 L

Reg. \$66.99

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

Dan's Wine of the Year

2014 Casa Santos Lima Reserva



The nose on this wine bursts through the seems with dark fruit notes earthy spice-tinged berries that remind you the wine is old school. The palate brings Very complex on the palate with coconut, blackberry, jam and dried fruit, prune and fig. The addition of the Syrah in this blend is what separates this wine from anything ordinary.

\$11⁹⁷

Jason's Wine of the Year

2019 Oak Farm Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon



Deep garnet in color, this Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of complex aromas of black currant, blueberry, cedar, and floral characteristics. The wine is full bodied with echoing aromas on the palate. The finish is abundant in textured tannins, yet smooth and velvety.

\$14⁹⁷

Wine of the Year

2020 Anne Pichon Grenache Noir



Take what you think you know about Grenache and throw it out the window. As this wine opens, initial dark berry flavors meld into a true jam flavor with floral notes and bitter cranberry. It has such a divine, full mouthfeel that tricks you into not initially noticing that it's more 'dry' than not.

\$21⁹⁷

Tom's Wine of the Year

2018 Laurent Combier Crozes Hermitage



Mesmerizing deep dark ruby with dark pink shimmers along the rim of the wine. This Syrah emits a nose of black cherry jam, figs, black currants, and subtle notes of bacon fat, cured meat, and violets. The palate is rich with bright and juicy blackberries, blueberries, and cranberries. Black peppercorns, dried thyme, and subtle notes of river rocks breakthrough the berry medley. A lingering finish of dried blueberries and cacao finalize this wine.

\$19⁹⁷

— EVERYDAY LOW PRICES —

 <p>Jack Daniels 1.75 L \$47.97</p>	 <p>Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5 L \$11.97</p>	 <p>Meiomi Pinot Noir 750 ml \$17.97</p>	 <p>Nue Vodka 1.75 L \$17.97</p>	 <p>Tito's Vodka 1.75 L \$31.97</p>	 <p>Dewars Scotch 1.75 L \$32.97</p>
 <p>Hess Select Cabernet 750 ml \$13.97</p>	 <p>Josh Cellars Cabernet 750 ml \$11.97</p>	 <p>Kendall Jackson Chardonnay 750 ml \$11.97</p>	 <p>Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 750 ml \$21.97</p>	 <p>Ruffino Tan Label Chianti 750 ml \$19.97</p>	

Mt. Pleasant Voters Approve \$9.7M Athletics Facilities Bond

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant School District's \$9.7 million athletics facilities referendum that promises to markedly improve the high school and middle school complex's sports fields was resoundingly approved Tuesday night.

Passed by a 3-to-1 margin with an impressive turnout of nearly 1,600 voters, the community enthusiastically supported the project that will see the Westlake High School main field get artificial turf and lights, two other fields reconfigured to become regulation-sized playing surfaces along with improved drainage and improvements to the baseball and softball diamonds on the campus.

The final tally, including absentee ballots, was 1,191 voters supporting the bond with 398 opposed.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Peter Giarrizzo said he was elated at the level of community backing, likely, at least in part, to effective communication by the district that the bond would have not cause property taxes to rise by the time money is borrowed for the work. When debt service from the bond begins to appear in the district's 2023-24 budget, other debt will have been retired, offsetting the expense.

"I'm like overwhelmed by the margin," Giarrizzo said moments after the results were announced at the Westlake High School gym. "I think this is amazing. This really shows, it proves to me and shows me that we have a really strong partnership with our community."

Mount Pleasant had scheduled an identical



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Mount Pleasant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Peter Giarrizzo, center, is all smiles while others celebrate after results were announced last Tuesday evening that the district's athletics facilities referendum was approved by a 3-to-1 margin.

proposition two years ago, also scheduled for the last Tuesday in March 2020, but the pandemic forced school officials to cancel the vote. Only the cost of the project changed, rising from \$9,085,000 to \$9,770,000 since 2020.

However, Board of Education President Michael Horan said by waiting the two years

there would be no additional taxes added to residents' property tax bills, even temporarily. For Horan, that was likely a big selling point.

"I think (with) the two-year hiatus there was a lot of pent-up demand for it," Horan said. "People were upset that we had to make the decision two years ago not to go forward with it in the pandemic, and I think a silver

lining to the pandemic is that would have cost a couple of hundred (dollars) on your taxes. This is not going to cost you anything additional."

Donna Pirro, the district's director of physical education, health and athletics, said the results has her excited for the district, its student athletes and the future of Westlake High School athletics.

She said having to find alternate sites for practices, including asking neighboring school districts for use of their facilities, and having to play home games on the road and at neutral sites had become a burden for the district and its students. The community will have facilities that will be on par with other districts throughout Section 1.

After rain, the soggy fields have also posed injury risks to athletes playing the games, Pirro said. Westlake High School is one of only seven schools in the section, out of more than 70, not to have an artificial turf field.

"(They) just deserved to have pride in their school and this facility and be afforded every opportunity that they should rightfully have," Pirro said. "We're not asking for things tremendously out of the ordinary."

Under the schedule that the district has presented, work is scheduled to begin on the main competition field following the completion of next fall's football season and be ready for the 2023 season. Work will be done on the other five fields as next year's sports seasons conclude.

The district will need to submit its plans and receive approval from the state Education Department.

Saturday April 23rd 11am-4pm
Jefferson Valley Mall

FREE ADMISSION



2022
Home Lifestyle & Family Show





- Windows
- Flooring
- Home Restoration
- Home Security
- Solar Energy
- HVAC
- Home Inspection
- Fireplaces & Wood Burning Stoves

- Painting
- Gardening / Tree Services
- Banks
- Mortgage Lenders
- Realtors
- Roofing
- Chiropractors
- Beauty & Skin Care

- Yoga
- Insurance
- Non-Profit
- Summer Camps
- Vacation Planners
- Newspapers
- Radio Stations
- Games, Train Ride and More!

Visit www.yorktownchamber.org for more information!

YOUR PRIMARY CHOICE FOR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



Charles Newman Co.
*Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber
 Business of the Year for 2021*

Phone: 914-345-1000
info@charlesnewman.com

Life, Disability, Health Insurance, Employee Benefits

Peekskill, New York
WWW.CHARLESNEWMAN.COM



CHARLES NEWMAN CO.
 INSURANCE — EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



GROUP

WE BUY
GOLD • PLATINUM • DIAMONDS
SILVER • WATCHES • SILVERWARE



Thornwood Jewelers
A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

968 Broadway Thornwood (ShopRite/CVS Shopping Center) 914 741 1920



Prominent Developers Discuss Future Growth and Challenges

By Rick Pezzullo

Several prominent developers in Westchester County discussed the state of the economy and challenges of building in a webinar last week moderated by Business Council of Westchester President and CEO Marsha Gordon.

“I’m sure you have all noticed the changing skyline and landscape of Westchester County cities and village and towns,” Gordon said. “These leaders in Westchester County are creating new jobs, new opportunities to live and to work and to play, and adding to the vibrancy of Westchester County.”

Participants were William Balter, president of WBP Development LLC and Griffon Construction LLC; Louis Cappelli, founder of the Cappelli Organization and chairman and CEO of LRC Construction; Joe Cotter, president of National Resources; Rella Fogliano, CEO, Macquesten Development; David Garten, senior vice president of corporate affairs for RXR; and Andrew Weisz, executive vice President of the RPW Group, Inc.

Balter described the eight current affordable and workforce housing projects his company has built in Peekskill, Tarrytown, Lewisboro, Irvington, Edgemont and New Rochelle.

“It’s really a very exciting time to be working in Westchester,” Balter said. “We look as a company to work in communities that are really actively engaged in

economic development, and then planning the growth of their downtowns.”

Cappelli talked about his success in New Rochelle, where he has 2,000 units under construction, and the four-year redevelopment of the former White Plains Mall that is expected to get underway in June.

“White Plains has the potential of being a larger development situation than New Rochelle,” he said. “White Plains is just coming into its own.”

Fogliano is working with Balter on a 76-unit affordable workforce housing project in Ossining.

“It takes a few dollars out of my pocket to use special materials inside and out, but I think that the rewards are tenfold,” Fogliano said. “I don’t want anybody to look at one of my buildings and say, ‘Oh, that’s affordable housing.’ People need affordable housing that’s beautiful. It’s a quality of life.”

Cotter discussed how National Resources is building the largest film and movie studio complex in the Northeast in downtown Yonkers that will bring 1,500 new jobs over the next three years. At the former IBM site in East Fishkill, National Resources repurposed the property for food manufacturers and is building a back lot operation for film and television production.

Cotter is working on a Master Plan in the Village of Brewster in Putnam County, but said it’s difficult for developers to get

traction outside the big cities.

“Sadly, there’s no places for workforce housing or young people in any of the better suburbs,” Cotter said. “Our aging population should be something of great concern. We can’t have senior, assisted-living projects in every wealthy community because they don’t want schoolchildren. What society is anti-schoolchildren? Our main streets are in desperate shape.”

Cappelli said the rising costs of materials and lack of supplies is going to have a major impact on future development.

“I’ve never seen anything like this in my life. Everything is going up,” he said. “It is absolutely a challenge. I’m afraid things will have to slow so there isn’t this frenzy for materials. It’s the biggest problem I see in the development of Westchester County and the country.”

Science Whiz Kids

Thirty-six Byram Hills High School students won awards at the Regeneron Westchester Science and Engineering Fair. Three of them, pictured from left, Edith Bachmann, Jack Blackmar and Gabriella Colabello, captured the top prize and advanced to compete in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta in May.



BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PHOTO

Meet the Future.

@OPEN HOUSE

April 9, 10 a.m.

Niki '19, Engineer
Volvo Trucks Technology

Who is “the future you” going to be? We’ll help you find out. Our graduates, like Niki, leave with more than just degrees. They leave with exciting, in-demand careers. We call it being futureproof. And we guarantee it.*

REGISTER FOR OPEN HOUSE AT
MeetTheFutureYou.com

*For eligible full-time students. See full details at vaughn.edu.



VaughnCollege

ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY | MANAGEMENT | AVIATION

Fox Lane Students Face Disciplinary Action in 'Disturbing Incident'

By Martin Wilbur

Multiple Fox Lane High School students who engaged in "a very disturbing incident" at the school are in the process of being disciplined, Bedford school officials revealed last week.

Last Thursday afternoon Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg and Principal Dr. Brett Miller sent a joint letter to parents informing them of the incident, which they did not describe. The letter said the matter violated the privacy of some of students.

"We find what occurred reprehensible," a separate statement released by the district after The Examiner posed several questions to

the superintendent's office last Friday morning stated. "We have identified the students who are responsible and we are taking disciplinary action."

The Bedford Police Department declined comment on the matter because there is an ongoing investigation.

On Mar. 31, an image of a flyer was making the rounds on social media advertising a \$1,000 reward "for information leading to the person or persons responsible for taking inappropriate photos and videos of special needs students

on 2nd floor A WING Bathroom" in March and December. The Examiner called the phone number provided on the flyer and left a message, but did not receive a call back.

The district gave no indication whether the information contained in that reward flyer was accurate.

However, in the letter sent out by Adelberg and Miller last Thursday, it stated that the district is working with the families of the students victimized in the incident.

"We acknowledge how disturbing this is,"

the joint letter stated. "The families directly impacted by this incident have been notified so that we can work with them. However, we believe that the egregious behavior of this incident is one that our entire community needs to address."

The administrators added that the district is committed to working with the entire student community on exhibiting appropriate and respectful behavior to encourage "the inclusion and safety of EVERY member" of the school and the district.

Proposed P'ville Village Budget Raises Taxes 2.29%

By Abby Luby

Property owners in the Village of Pleasantville would see a 2.29 percent tax rate increase under the village's proposed \$17 million budget for 2022-23.

The average property owner would see their taxes increase about \$105. The budget is tax cap-compliant with a proposed tax levy increase of \$347,758, which is \$247,962 below the ceiling.

There is about a \$900,000 spending increase over the current year. There is also a projected fund balance of \$7 million.

The draft budget was presented at the Mar. 28 Village Board work session.

Inflation pressures were factored into the proposed budget that projects higher costs for village employee health insurance. That item jumped 12 percent for the current year's budget; for 2022-23, health insurance

is projected to increase a little more than 7 percent.

The residential refuse tax is estimated to increase \$1.50, bringing that annual cost to \$482.23 for single-family homes. Condo unit owners would pay \$361.67, two-family residences would be charged \$723.35 and three-family residences would be charged \$1,085.02.

Water rates is projected to increase 2 percent for all residential, business, non-district and bulk customers, adding \$1 or \$2 to the water bill. An appropriation of \$164,000 from fund balance would be applied toward maintaining affordable water rates.

The village approved a higher hourly pay rate for summer camp counselors so the jobs are more appealing and competitive with neighboring municipalities' camp programs.

Village costs routinely impacted by inflation has also added to spending,

including higher electricity rates for village facilities and gas for police cars, said Village Administrator Eric Morrissey.

"Costs (have) gone up but they will be offset by our revenue," Morrissey said. "Among those are the costs to run summer camp, which has gone up, and the higher Pleasantville Music Festival fees, which will give us more revenue coming in."

Morrissey added that village debt service has decreased to \$150,000.

"The village has continued to retire the debt over the past several years," he said.

The Village Board must adopt a budget by the end of April. The new fiscal year begins June 1.

A public hearing on the 2022-23 proposed budget is scheduled for the board's next regular meeting on Monday, Apr. 11 at 8 p.m.

Anthony's Power Equipment
Lawn Mower Service and Repair
 Repair Tech:
Tony Cinquanta 1943 Baldwin Rd
 Yorktown NY 10598
914-962-3800
 M-F 8-5, Sat 8-3
 Find us on
"Yorktown Moms" Facebook!
 Proudly serving Yorktown and surrounding communities since 1991



ARTIS
 SENIOR LIVING
 Somers
 Your Partner in Memory Care™

Dementia: What It Is and What It Is Not

Presented by Amy E. Matthews. Ms. Matthews has worked exclusively in the field of Alzheimer's and related dementia disorders for the past 30 years, holding various positions within the fields of Adult Day Care and Home Health. She was an Activity Director for the first dementia-specific assisted living community in the country, and later served as Executive Director for another Memory Care community. She worked for the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter for 14 years, providing both professional and community education and training. She currently consults with professionals and families on best practices and helping them create a plan of care for the future.



While we've come a long way in increasing awareness of dementia, there is very little understanding of what the term actually means. The term "dementia" is often used interchangeably with "Alzheimer's disease" and "vascular dementia."

However, there are conditions that can cause dementia symptoms, but with proper diagnosis and treatment, these symptoms can be managed or reversed. We'll discuss the meaning of the term "dementia" as well as the causes. We'll identify the steps to getting an accurate diagnosis, as well as things we can do to promote healthy aging.

RSVP by Monday, April 11th

Join us for this FREE Educational Event

Thursday, April 14th

9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast
 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Presentation and Q&A

Being Held at:

The Somers Pointe at Heritage Hills

1000 West Hill Drive N., Somers, NY 10589

To RSVP

TheArtisWay.com/WestchesterExaminer

914-214-7927

Your Partner
 in Memory
 Care™

Hosted by **Artis Senior Living of Somers**: 51 Clayton Blvd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
 Check out our other nearby communities in Briarcliff Manor and Chestnut Ridge.



COVID Infections on the Rise as Hospitalizations Fall in Westchester

By Martin Wilbur

COVID-19 infections are steadily increasing the past few weeks but officials are hopeful that the high regional and state vaccination rate is protecting much of the population from serious illness.

On Sunday, Westchester County's infection rate clocked in at 3.9 percent, after back-to-back days of readings of at least 4 percent on Friday and Saturday, according to the New York State COVID tracker. The positivity rate stood at an even 4 percent on Friday but had risen to 4.5 percent on Saturday in Westchester.

County Executive George Latimer said while the infection numbers have been rising, the number of hospitalized patients as a result of COVID-19 has been declining. On Sunday, the 1,736 active cases in the county were just over double the total on Mar. 3 when there were 819 cases; however, COVID hospitalizations in that same timeframe have fallen from 56 to 35.

"So we see a couple of indicators moving in opposite directions, but the most important thing is are we keeping the fatalities low and are people staying out of the hospital, and if those numbers continue to show a low level of improvement, then that is the point we believe we can manage – in quotation marks – COVID," Latimer said.

The seven-day rolling average in Westchester was a 3.9 percent infection rate.

Last week, there were two COVID-19-related deaths in the county during the past week.

In Putnam County, Sunday's positivity rate was 2.9 percent, and 3.8 percent on the seven-day average. Percentages across the seven counties in the Mid Hudson region, which both Westchester and Putnam are part of, have been relatively consistent with the seven-day regional average at 3.1 percent.

However, there are counties upstate where the percentages have risen dramatically in recent weeks. The state's COVID tracker showed on Sunday that in the five-county Central New York region, four of the five counties (Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego) had infection rates ranging from 11.8 to 16 percent.

Latimer said while the declines in hospitalizations and fatalities have been highly encouraging, it doesn't mean the pandemic has ended.

"What it may mean is that the high percentage of people that are vaccinated, while getting COVID, because being vaccinated doesn't mean you won't get COVID, it does mean you'll be less severely affected by it and it's the people who wind up being hospitalized for COVID that are the ones in the more serious situations," Latimer said.

During the weekly briefing, Latimer invited Byram Hills Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jen Lamia, who serves as president of the Council of School

Administrators for Southern Westchester. She said the county has been helpful by keeping the lines of communication open by arranging weekly virtual meetings, supplying test kits and other steps.

Despite the challenges of the past two years, Lamia said it has been uplifting for schools to have welcomed back their

students this year but districts are careful to take the necessary precautions to protect students and staff.

"Our schools are open, our schools continue to be vigilant regarding COVID and it's really due to the strength and support we received from the county," Lamia said.

Reaching the Pinnacle

Katonah resident Steve Wilson reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro last month for the second time in four years. On Mar. 4, the Westchester resident and a group of kidney donors from across the United States began their climb to raise awareness about donating an organ. Six days later, on World Kidney Day, they reached the summit. Wilson's message: "You can live a completely normal life – even climb a mountain – with one kidney." This Wednesday, Apr. 6 is Living Donor Day and April is Donate Life Month.



The Value of a Realtor®!

We Can Help You With More Than Just Selling Your Home!

The current market value of your home is important to know when selling. But it is also important for:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Eliminating Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI)
- Estate Valuation
- Tax Grievance: Towns of New Castle, Ossining and Mt. Pleasant. Applications to grieve your taxes can be filed starting June 1st. Grievance Day is Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

If you have questions pertaining to any of these items, we can help.

To help you get the best price for the sale of your home, contact us today for a
Comparative Market Analysis.

The Vision Team



Hans Weber
Associate Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-329-8601
HansWeb9@aol.com
cbmoves.com/Hans.Weber

Donna McKenna-Edlund
Associate Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-403-4237
Donna.Edlund@cbmoves.com
www.DonnaEdlund.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
1 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville, NY

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine
American Craft

Fine Art • Sculpture
• Unique Gifts • Furniture
Home Accessories • Antiques
• Exquisite Jewelry • & more...

4 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville 914-741-6294
Open 7 Days —
Friday and Saturday until 8pm

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.
Not your AAverage pet store

For all your pet needs
**Aardvark Pet Supplies
has moved!**

1016 Broadway
Thornwood, NY 10549

(914) 747-4848
E-mail: aarvarkpet@verizon.net

www.theexaminernews.com/eblast/

Visit
TheExaminerNews.com
to subscribe to our
FREE
e-mail newsletter
You'll receive the latest local
news delivered straight
to your inbox

The
Examiner
news.com

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

BUYING COMIC BOOK COLLECTIONS!

★ **Top Prices Paid!** ★

30+ Years Experience!
Reliable & Local (W'chester/Putnam)
Call/Text: 917-699-2496
email: smileLP@aol.com

Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Mar. 27: A Malden, Mass. man was charged at 10:42 p.m. with DWI, a misdemeanor, after he drove onto the sidewalk in front of the Green Street precinct. Yonathan Ramirez-Javiel, 24, was booked at the precinct and released to a friend who lives in the village. He is due in Mount Kisco Justice Court on Apr. 7.

Mar. 27: Officers responded to Stop & Shop on North Bedford Road at 8:17 a.m. on

a report that a man was wandering around the store talking to himself and acting erratically. The man, who acknowledged he was not shopping, agreed to leave the store. He was given a ride to the train station after he told officers he was from the Bronx and wanted to return home.

Mar. 29: Officers responded at 9:20 p.m. to assist an elderly man who was having difficulty breathing at his Grandview Drive home. The Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps transported the man to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Mar. 30: Report of a domestic dispute between a mother and her teenage son at a Spring Street residence at 2:45 p.m. The youth left the home prior to the officer's arrival. The boy's mother reported that her son had threatened her during an argument but the dispute did not get physical. A domestic incident report was prepared.

Mar. 31: Officers responded to a North Bedford Road gas station at 5:54 a.m. on a report that an employee at the cash register was unconscious and possibly needed assistance. It was determined that the man had fallen asleep but was otherwise fine.

Apr. 1: Report of a landlord-tenant dispute on Regent Drive at 10:51 a.m. A tenant who was moving out was refusing to leave the premises because his security deposit was not being returned. He was advised how to pursue the matter in civil court.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Mar. 24: Patrols received a complaint at 3:45 p.m. alleging a fraudulent withdrawal attempt from the Wells Fargo ATM on Maple Street.

Mar. 27: At 11:11 a.m., report of a male riding the public bus back and forth through the village asking people for money and making people feel scared and uncomfortable. Patrols attempted to locate the bus but it was not in the village. New York State police were notified.

Mount Pleasant Police Department

Mar. 29: A resident reported that their vehicle was stolen from the driveway of their Thornwood residence located on a side street off of Nannyhagen Road. Several other residents reported their unlocked vehicles being entered during the early morning hours. Residents are urged to keep their vehicles locked and to remove the key fobs.

Mar. 31: Police responded to a reported assault at about 12:30 p.m. The victim, a 17-year-old Hawthorne resident, was followed by a vehicle and operator that he recognized. The victim eventually stopped his vehicle, and when he got out of his vehicle, he was struck several times in the face by the operator. He returned to his vehicle and continued to be followed by the same vehicle. When the victim stopped a second time, two other subjects got out of the original offender's vehicle. One of the passengers struck the victim with a vehicle steering wheel anti-theft device. Based on the victim's description, the Detective Division located the suspects' vehicle and took three New Rochelle males, 16, 17 and 18 years old, into custody, charging them with second-degree assault. The 16- and

17-year-old were processed as juveniles. The investigation is ongoing.

North Castle Police Department

Mar. 27: A Maple Way resident reported a possible intruder attempting to enter her residence at 10:57 p.m. The alarm was activated and the resident believes that she heard a door open. Police remained on the line with the caller until units arrived. The responding officers reported that the wind possibly caused the alarm system to activate; no emergency observed at the location.

Mar. 28: A complainant responded to headquarters at 3:06 p.m. to report that his recently purchased iPad Pro had been stolen from its delivery box either in UPS transit or at the U.S. Postal Service location where he attempted to pick it up. A report was taken at the dispatch desk.

Mar. 29: Report of an apparently stolen vehicle from a location on Hillandale Avenue at 5:56 a.m. The caller stated that they believe an unknown vehicle was left at their residence as well.

Mar. 29: New Haven, Conn. police notified North Castle police confirming that they located the stolen vehicle that was reported from Hillandale Avenue earlier this date. The vehicle was requested to be held for prints. It was successfully taken out of the e-justice system.

Pleasantville Police Department

Mar. 29: Report of an irate patron refusing to leave Pub Street on Wheeler Avenue at 8:51 p.m. The situation was corrected without incident.

Apr. 1: Report of a suspicious vehicle parked on Manville Road at 7:57 a.m. A white unmarked box truck has been parked for multiple days without moving. The vehicle was determined to have parked illegally.

Apr. 2: A female was observed walking in the middle of Manville Road at 9:41 a.m. and appeared to be disheveled. The woman was described as aggressive and yelling obscenities. Officers reported the subject was gone upon arrival.

Yorktown Police Department

Mar. 25: Linda Travis, 56, of Greenwich, Conn., was charged with driving with a revoked license and other traffic infractions after being pulled over on Route 6 at 7:20 p.m.

Mar. 28: Robert Yeager, 25, of Yorktown, was charged with driving with a suspended license and failing to register his vehicle following a traffic stop on Gomer Street at 4:43 p.m. for having excessively tinted windows.

Mar. 29: Nicholas Giardina, 51, of South Salem, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief at 5 p.m. after being involved in a road rage incident and punching the hood of a vehicle. The vehicle's hood sustained two dents.

Editor's note: The policy of providing names for people who have been arrested varies between each department.

Obituaries

Margaret Gallagher

Margaret Gallagher (née Naughton) Cartron, of Collooney Co. Sligo and formerly of Pleasantville and Rabane, Castleblakeney, Co. Galway, Ireland, died peacefully Mar. 16 at her home after a short illness bravely borne. She was 93.

Beloved wife of the late Michael Francis (Frank) and loving mother to her predeceased children Maureen and Gary; she is sadly missed by her sons, Michael and Brendan of Texas and Shawn of Florida; daughter Dawn (Delaney) of Caltra, Co. Galway; sister Delia and brother-in-law Gerry of England; and daughters-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and many friends.

Following a visitation and funeral Mass in Ireland, Margaret is returning to Pleasantville to rest with Maureen and Gary. The family will receive family and friends for memorial visitation on Friday, Apr. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, located at 418 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. Burial will



Margaret Gallagher

take place on Saturday, Apr. 9 at 10 a.m. at All Souls Cemetery in Pleasantville.

Jean Secor

Jean Secor, a resident of Yorktown Heights, died Apr. 1. She was 91.

She was born Dec. 6, 1930, in Peekskill. She was general manager and comptroller at the Yorktown PennySaver for 45 years.

Jean is survived by her daughter, Susan, and grandson Nicholas; daughter Cindy and son-in-law Tim; five grandchildren; and eight

great-grandchildren.

The family will honor her memory at a reception on Apr. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1836 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church.



Locally Owned & Operated
Serving all Faiths





Hawthorne Funeral Home

**21 West Stevens Ave.
Hawthorne, NY 10532**

Ernest J. Carpentieri ~ Douglas A. Daniels

**Tel: 914-769-4404
Fax: 914-769-5306**

www.hawthornefuneralhome.com
Serving all faiths ~ Independently owned
Conveniently located on the Taconic State Parkway

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

W'chester Offers Tuition Program to Increase Volunteer Fire, EMS Ranks

By Martin Wilbur

It's no secret that volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps face significant challenges in attracting new members to bolster their ranks.

Now, Westchester County has introduced a new incentive to entice community members, particularly young adults, to serve their communities and address a shortage of volunteers that has reached crisis proportions.

County Executive George Latimer announced last Thursday the Higher Education Recruitment and Retention Opportunity (HERRO) program, which would provide up to \$6,000 a year in higher education tuition or student loan payments for active members of a volunteer fire department or EMS service.

"Our initiative today is we're trying to show that we're thinking outside of the box and to see if we can come up with ways that will attract young people to become part of this lifesaving mission where people's lives do hang in the balance with the kind of emergency services that can respond when these crises hit," Latimer said during a trip to the Armonk Fire Department stationhouse to

publicize the new effort.

The program requires eligible candidates to have been active for at least a year, maintain acceptable volunteer and training levels and have their participation verified by a leader of the department they serve. Recipients would be required to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Late last year, Westchester County approved \$500,000 in the 2022 budget to fund the pilot program.

County Department of Emergency Services Commissioner Richard Wishnie credited Susan Spear, his department's deputy commissioner, with proposing the program after they brainstormed ideas with Latimer to address the volunteer emergency service shortage.

"(It) is really going to make a difference in the number of volunteers that step up to the plate and stay with the services," Wishnie said. "That's the key, sign them up and retain them. We need desperately to have these volunteers serve their communities."

Money awarded could go toward tuition or student loan payments for undergraduate or graduate

school, trade school and certain types of training programs, Spear added.

In recent years it has been increasingly difficult to recruit and retain members, which threatens to dramatically escalate taxes for homeowners if departments are ever forced to consider professional firefighters or EMTs.

Chappaqua Volunteer Ambulance Corps Captain Kate Clough said the pandemic has hastened departures as many existing members cut back service for health reasons. As a result, there have been increasing mutual aid calls where departments respond to emergencies in other communities because there aren't enough volunteers locally to respond.

"We have a healthy youth corps program (in Chappaqua) with about 20 high school students who ride with us," Clough said. "Some come back to ride with us after school but they generally have to move away for work. Some of these corps (members) are in EMT schools and this will help encourage them to stay on through college."

Armonk Fire Chief Carlos Cano, whose department has about 60 members, said high school students initially join but there is



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced a new program that officials hope will entice younger community members to volunteer for their local fire department or ambulance corps by providing tuition or student loan payments of up to \$6,000 a year.

little incentive once they begin college. This program could help encourage them to continue their service when they return from school.

"A program like this will definitely help them to be able to stay longer and help out in the community," Cano said.

One member of Mount Kisco's Independent Fire Company, Madelyn Contreras, said she joined while attending Fox Lane High School. Currently in her sophomore year at St. John's

where she is studying homeland security and cybersecurity, Contreras was motivated to join after a boiler accident about eight years ago in her family's home knocked her, her cousin and her grandmother unconscious from carbon monoxide fumes.

For nearly four years, Contreras has been volunteering for the company that saved their lives and continues to serve while attending school full-time and holding two part-time jobs.

continued on page 12

Show your Front Door some love.

Text Lovemydoor to 914-416-5353. To find the top trending 2022 colors for exterior front doors. Benjamin Moore's Aura® Grand Entrance® is specially formulated for a rich, lustrious door finish in any Benjamin Moore color.



Shop.Wallauer.com

Shop online. Pick up in store.

15 Locations in Westchester, Putnam & Rockland counties

The right paint and the right color can transform your home.

Our color specialists use Benjamin Moore premium paint and color to help you find your inspiration.

Call to make your appointment for an in-store consultation today: (914) 368-0970.

Buy One, Get One FREE BENJAMIN MOORE® COLOR SAMPLE



Scan the QR code for this amazing offer!



Offer valid for one (1) free Benjamin Moore® Color Sample with purchase of one (1) Benjamin Moore® Color Sample of equal or greater value from participating retailer. Excludes ARBORCOAT®. Products may vary from store to store. Subject to availability. Offer cannot be combined with other offers, discounts or promotions, or applied toward prior purchases. Retailer reserves the right to terminate, cancel or modify this offer at any time without notice. Coupon expires 12/31/2022. ©2022 Benjamin Moore & Co. ARBORCOAT, AURA, Benjamin Moore, Genex, Grand Entrance, and the triangle "M" symbol are registered trademarks licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co. All other marks are the property of their respective owner. 3/22

Say it with color.

Letters to the Editor

There Are No Good Solutions in Siting a Cell Tower in Mount Kisco

The proposal to build a cell tower in Mount Kisco to address a coverage gap that affects Route 172 has come full circle. Several years ago, this tower was proposed for Leonard Park along with an alternative site on a hill in the nearby Chase residential neighborhood. Following balloon tests to assess the visibility of the tower from various locations and a public hearing, both sites were rejected.

After a period of time, the proposal for the cell tower popped up again, this time on a 25-acre property in Mount Kisco on Route 172 at the Bedford border. Also, a solar farm for community solar was proposed for the same property. This solar farm proposal has been intensively reviewed by the Planning Board for more than two years. Both proposals have evoked very strong opposition from the public. And now, after a search for a better site for the cell tower, once again there is a proposal to site the tower in Leonard Park, although in a different location than the original proposal.

Because of federal laws, Mount Kisco cannot reject the proposed tower nor can it consider any possible adverse health effects from the radiofrequency waves. Whether such electromagnetic radiation involving cell towers can produce any significant health effects has not been definitively proven but is still being investigated. So there are limits on what Mount Kisco can do about this proposed tower and what type of information can be used in making decisions.

With regard to the latest proposal to locate the tower in Leonard Park, there have been mixed opinions. Some residents are opposed to placing a commercial structure within the park but some are supportive because the Village Board is contemplating taking the 25-acre property through eminent domain and turning it into a park to compensate for the loss of parkland in Leonard Park if the tower is built there.

Because Mount Kisco cannot by law reject the tower, many village residents like myself are likely to be, to some extent, unhappy about the final result no matter what is decided. And for those living closest to the tower, they will be left to wonder whether or not the tower can affect their health. Cell phones are extremely popular but the cell towers that are needed for them to operate continue to plague communities.

Robert Liebman
Mount Kisco

Yorktown Councilman Was Wrong to Impugn Resident During Hearing

Why did the Mar. 22 public hearing in Yorktown about solar farms morph into a false accusation of “prejudice” against a community member?

Ask Councilman Tom Diana for the answer because he chose to fabricate this slanderous allegation against a respected citizen without factual basis.

The issues being discussed were tree removal and the adequacy of mitigation proposals for future solar projects. A speaker commented about the history of tree removal problems at a local gas station to illustrate the dangers of improper mitigation and lack of enforcement by the town.

Instead of acknowledging and providing future solutions to these valid tree mitigation issues, Councilman Diana chose to make a false accusation of prejudice by this citizen against the gas station owner. Mr. Diana then went on a vigorous diatribe in defense of the gas station owner. The citizen categorically denied knowing anything about the background of the gas station owner, but Mr. Diana never apologized for the disgusting accusation.

There is no evidence, whatsoever, in the public record, going back to October 2015 of any speaker exhibiting prejudice against the background of the gas station owner, including the person whom Mr. Diana accused. Mr. Diana created an issue of prejudice where none existed.

Councilman Diana’s accusations of prejudice are especially disingenuous and hypocritical given his past silence regarding the distribution of racist flyers against fellow councilmembers in 2017, Holocaust/ Nazi trivialization under former supervisor Michael Grace’s tenure and racist comments against two former councilmembers. That doesn’t include Mr. Diana’s personal online posts that have since been deleted.

Councilman Diana should provide evidence for his accusations or publicly apologize to the community member that was defamed by his irresponsible accusation. The Town Board represents all the citizens of Yorktown and should not be acting as cheerleaders for businesses, at the expense of slandering citizens.

Miriam D. Messing Curtin
Yorktown

Yorktown Deserves Answers Related to the Former Soundview Parcel

People want to know why so many backroom deals were made and corners cut to expedite approval for the former Soundview property on Underhill Avenue. Complicit, not cozy, better describes the relationships among current and former elected officials and Unicorn Contracting.

After being voted in and out of office, these politicians have either lobbied on behalf, worked for, provided services or directly profited from their collaboration alongside Unicorn Contracting. Revolving-door politicians have seamlessly transitioned from the public dole to a private pay day. It sure smells unethical.

Were official votes cast for any other reason than the public’s best interest? A long overdue investigation into this tangled web between Town Hall and Unicorn Contracting regarding the Soundview property is warranted. Yorktown deserves to know if laws were broken and if the public trust has been betrayed and by whom.

Stephen Brown
Yorktown Heights

Calendar Submissions

We’re happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words “Calendar Submission” in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Abby Luby at aluby@theexaminernews.com.

To advertise in The Examiner, call 914-864-0878 or e-mail advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The PUTNAM
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

THE
Examiner
NEWS
www.theexaminernews.com

Examiner+
www.examiner-plus.com

Letters Policy

Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

Peter Stone
C.F.O.
pstone@theexaminernews.com

To inquire about paid subscriptions, email subscriptions@theexaminernews.com for pricing and other details

**PO Box 611
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878
www.TheExaminerNews.com**

Print Team:

Martin Wilbur
Editor-in-Chief
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs
Sports Editor
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardi
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
Real estate columnist

Morris Gut
Food Writer

Gus Amador
Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt
Reporter
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com



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

Columns

Reconnect With Nature, the Cosmos and Each Other at Linwood Spiritual Center

Westchester and Putnam residents, harried to the edge of exasperation in their professional lives and consumed with their telephones, computers and TVs 24/7, may find release and reconnection with what's truly important at the Linwood Spiritual Center.

The center in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, offers its 50-acre site as a place for people to unplug and commune with nature and the divine cosmos. Owned by the Sisters of St. Ursula, a 400-year-old Roman Catholic order, the center provides weekday or weekend retreats for people to interact with the natural world on the hills jutting over the Hudson River, with a view of the Esopus Lighthouse and the Catskill and Shawangunk mountain ranges in the distance.

"We recommend a lot of silence, to quiet the mind," explained Terrence McCorry, executive director of the center. "No TV, no electronics."

Instead, the property invites visitors to sit, walk and look at the natural world, by appointment.

"Electronics are not all that good for you," McCorry pointed out. "Turn your phone off. Take a walk with nature. Give quiet a chance."

"Watch the light dance off the river,



By Michael Gold

rather than looking at a screen," he added. "Your body and mind start to naturally unpack. You walk around the grounds of this beautiful landscape and a lot of things you tend to worry about go away. Before you know it, you're exhaling."

"This place is needed more than ever. All we have as Americans, all the things we consume and collect, it never fills us up. There is a growing sense of a lack of something, a lack of connection to one another – a committed path to peace,

love, compassion and consideration," McCorry explained. "Our message is inclusion, peace, love, acceptance and God in all people. Everyone is welcome to the table."

The center's theme for 2022 is "Stewards of Creation," emphasizing the connection between the human and the divine.

"Our intention is to deepen your experience of the sacred land," McCorry said.

Stewards of Creation, as called for by Pope Francis, emphasizes prayer and action for the benefit of humanity's common home, the Earth. Humans are to be stewards of creation, not dominate it, McCorry stated in an e-mail.

"The Sisters of St. Ursula naturally incorporate this awareness as an aspect of Catholic social teachings," he wrote. "We

increased our recycling efforts on site, minimize waste and open windows rather than use AC. We purchase green cleaning products and recycled paper products."

As part of the theme of stewardship, the center is planning in late September a retreat focused on planting seeds. Diane Wilson, author of "The Seed Keeper," a novel which emphasizes our relationship to seeds and our ancestors, will connect with retreat-goers via Zoom during the weekend.

The retreat will help raise awareness of the Lenape and other First Nations peoples who have lived in the area for millennia. Wilson herself is a descendant of the Mdewakanton people, and lives in Minnesota.

The Society's Sister Isaac plants seeds on the site every spring. The center grows tomatoes, eggplant and squash on the grounds and buys as much locally made food as possible, including yogurt, milk and cider.

"The Pope's Encyclical (Laudato Si, issued in 2015) was a wakeup call to help us understand how we were destroying God's creation, the environment, and people, the seen and unseen," McCorry explained.

"It's about how we affect one another," he said. "The poor are suffering by us not taking care of the environment. We're hurting one another. We're hurting our neighbors, more so those who don't have the resources."

McCorry worked for 14 years in film and

television production, before he changed his life, earning a master's degree in theology at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He served as director of ministry at the now-closed Marymount College in Tarrytown and the College of New Rochelle.

Explaining his philosophy, he said, "If you come with a small cup, only that small cup will be filled. Open up a larger space for yourself. I found my larger container. I felt I was always going upstream. As soon as I turned myself over to God, I was flowing downstream."

"Our goal is to heal and repair what's been broken, rediscovering what's been lost," McCorry continued. "We believe in the divine. We create the space to get people together with the divine."

"This is a place of privilege. You need to be able to make a difference. There's too many people hurting. There's too much suffering in the world for those of us who have plenty to not make a difference."

Linwood hosts retreats for high schools, inner city children and a variety of groups.

"Linwood can help you see the connection to one another," said McCorry, as two Bald Eagles glided on the wind, against a solid blue sky, outside his window as he spoke. "We're a house to all."

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has had articles published in the New York Daily News, the Albany Times-Union, The Virginian-Pilot, The Palm Beach Post and other newspapers.

On the Street

Revisiting 'The Wizard of Oz' as an Existential Experience

We are all familiar with the 1939 American classic film "The Wizard of Oz," based on L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel.

For the sake of honesty, Baum was not a card-carrying existentialist, since it's a term that did not come into being until the mid-20th century. However, the movie's main characters are very existential in their quests to take themselves from mere existence to essence as they attempt to bring meaning to their lives.

Existentialism is my no means a cure-all for life's problems, but rather an adjunct to traditional philosophy, religion and psychology. Regretfully, many people today erroneously believe existentialism is nihilistic. On the contrary, it is a response to our human frailty that makes many of us believe that life is meaningless. The objective of existentialism is to have people find meaning in their lives.

Existentially Speaking

If we take a look at Dorothy, the main character, she engages in freundeschaden, a neologism that means she has an empathic connection with the Tin Man, Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow and shares their pain and meaningless of life.

When Dorothy befriends the three characters along the Yellow Brick Road as they journey to the Emerald City to see the wizard, they join her in the hope the wizard will be able to help them from existing in a meaningless state to that of finding meaning and essence.

We all know the storyline, when they meet the charlatan wizard who challenges them to kill the wicked witch of the west before he can grant their wishes. It is a task he believes they are unable to achieve, as well as a promise he is unable to keep.

Dorothy and her companions take up the task and find themselves incurring the wrath of the wicked witch, who

they ultimately prevail over. Bringing back the broom of the wicked witch to the wizard, the Tin Man, Cowardly Lion and Scarecrow are given token gifts by the wizard to fulfill his promise. They achieved their essence and meaning of life by successfully challenging the adversities of life. A truly existential experience.

As we can see in this story, when our attention is not focused on a task or conversation our mind begins to wander where the majority of our thoughts are negative. That hampers us from finding our meaning and essence in life. The underlying theme of the movie is that we are all existential by nature, whether we are aware of it or not, which plays an important role in finding happiness in life.



By Richard Cirulli

I will suggest that as adults we take the time to either revisit the movie or to reread the book in light of viewing it as an existential work. Of note, the movie did take some liberty with the book.

I am now headed down the Yellow Brick Road to find the Wizard of Oz in the hope he may cure my writer's cramp and carpal tunnel.

Be well. Be safe. Be happy, Be nice! Amor fati!

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a published author, playwright and retired professor. His body of works can be viewed at www.demitasseplayers.com. He looks forward to your comments and can be reached at profcirulli@optonline.net.

Our Examiner+ digital-only publication delivers the smartest, most insightful news and lifestyle journalism in Westchester and the broader Hudson Valley so you can live your most intelligent local life. No soundbites. No clickbait. Visit www.examiner-plus.com to join our community of members.

Yorktown Preservation Chair Named to Revolutionary Route Group

The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc., (www.W3R-US.org) Executive Committee announced the appointment of Yorktown's Lynn Briggs as co-chair of the W3R-US New York State Committee at its Mar. 21 meeting.

In this role, Briggs will partner with longtime W3R-US NY state chair and former National W3R-US Chair Janet Burnet and the W3R-US NYS Committee to further the goals of W3R-US and the National Park Service in initiating, coordinating and promoting programs to educate the public about the history of the American Revolution.

There will be particular emphasis on how France and the French people provided crucial aid to the Continental Army to win independence from Britain.

"I am thrilled to welcome Lynn as co-chair," Burnet said. "She will bring specific Westchester focus to this important historic endeavor. Her strong strategic thinking, programmatic creativity and sheer ability to get things done will be valuable assets as we continue to increase awareness of the American Revolution, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail and New York State's important role during those crucial years."

The upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of America (www.america250.org) in 2026 will provide additional opportunities for research, education and commemoration, Burnet added.

New York State passed legislation in February to join the national America 250th. The legislation was championed by state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers).

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route was designated a National Historic Trail by Congress in March 2009. This was a culmination of many years of study and efforts of the national organization, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (www.W3R-US.org), and its many partners in the United States and abroad. Preeminent historian Dr. Robert A. Selig performed the vital primary research that led to Congressional designation of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail (www.war.gov) in 2009.

New York State W3R-US committee members include Jeff Canning, W3R-US national recording secretary; Col. James M. Johnson, Ph.D., (www.Thayerleadership.com); Constance M. Kehoe, president of Revolutionary Westchester 250 (www.rw250.org); Susan Seal, president of Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters (www.odellrochambeau.org); Craig Long, Rockland County historian, and Scott Keller, executive director of the New York State Greenway Commission and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Commission.

New W3R-US members are always welcome and can join via the website at www.W3R-US.org.

"New York State and Yorktown have robust Revolutionary War history,"

Briggs said following her appointment. "Revolutionary War events, including the First Rhode Island Regiment Battle at Pines Bridge and the French encampments, both to and from the victorious Battle of Yorktown, occurred right here in our own backyard. I am eager to collaborate with Janet and the local municipalities in Westchester and Rockland counties to stimulate interest in the events of the Revolution, leading to increased New York State cultural heritage tourism and economic vibrancy as we approach the 250th anniversary of our independence."

Briggs' volunteerism is spread among many organizations. She chairs

the Yorktown Heritage Preservation Commission and the Yorktown 250 Committee. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Westchester County Historical Society's Board of Directors, Friends of Miller House/Washington's Headquarters, Inc. and co-chair of "This Man's a Spy!" a Revolutionary Westchester 250 initiative.

A native Californian, Briggs holds bachelors and masters degrees in business administration from the University of California at Berkeley and has domestic and international business experience with three Fortune 200 companies.

W'chester Offers Tuition Program to Increase Volunteer Fire, EMS Ranks

continued from page 9

A \$6,000 incentive would pay for nearly half of her annual tuition, she said.

"The generosity of a program like this would allow me to continue my education at St. John's University," Contreras said. "It would also continue to positively impact my future and help alleviate educational expenses without limiting my capabilities to volunteer my service to my community. I cannot express the gratitude that a program like this will bring to Westchester County's first responder community."

County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant) said she hopes that the

county will be able to make the HERRO program permanent and increase funding for it over time. She said it will help not only those in school but others who have completed their education and are paying off loans.

"What better way to say thank you to those who are giving freely of their time to help protect the community than with this program," Cunzio said.

The deadline to submit applications is June 3. For more information about the program and to submit an application, visit www.westchestergov.com/herro.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR



DON'T LET ALLERGIES SLOW YOU DOWN

Now's the time for long days filled with sunshine and getting outdoors. Whether you have seasonal allergies or are simply feeling under the weather, we'll help you feel better fast. We keep our center clean and sanitized to ensure your safety.

We're open every day with extended hours to fit your schedule. No appointments needed.

3379 Crompond Rd (in the BJs Plaza), Yorktown Heights NY
914.930.5550 | M-F 8AM-8PM, S-S 8AM-5PM
afcurgentcare.com/yorktown-heights





Fuel Oil • Gasoline • HVAC • Service • Propane • Diesel

We Make Warm and Now "Cool" Friends Too!
www.SclafaniEnergy.com • (845) 628-1330

Spring Tune-up Time!
Spring tune up specials on all heating & cooling systems, generators too!
Your furnace has worked hard all season, now is the time to schedule your annual tune up! Increase your heating systems efficiency, book now to save later.

Budget accounts, Automatic or call us for next day delivery at C.O.D.pricing! Place an Order online
www.SclafaniEnergy.com



**Serving Northern Westchester,
Southern Dutchess & Putnam Counties!**

Full Service, 24 HR Emergency
Heating Assistance! Installs, repairs and upgrades! Over 30 years, licensed, insured and bonded! We are #1 because our customers come first!
Senior Discounts!

Happy Easter & Joyous Passover

Casa Rina Of Thornwood

Easter Brunch Family Style 4 Course

11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
\$40.95 PER PERSON

Create Your Own Omelet

- Bagels, Muffins, Croissants & Danish
- Bacon • Smoked Salmon • Sausage
- French toast • Chocolate Chip Pancakes

Cold Antipasto

Fresh Mozzarella, Roasted Peppers,
Prosciutto and Sopressata • Garden Salad

Chef Specials

- Stuffed Filet of Sole • Eggplant Rollatine
- Penne Vodka • Chicken Martini

Carving

Sliced London Broil • Sliced Leg of Lamb

Dessert

Homemade Pastries, Assorted Desserts &
Seasonal Fresh Fruit • Coffee and Tea



Children's Menu Available
Upon Request

Reservations
Recommended

Easter Dinner 5 Course Menu

Selection of Appetizers

Cold Antipasto • Fresh Mozzarella & Company • Clams Casino
• Eggplant Rollatine • Manicotti

Selection of

Potato Leek Soup • Garden Salad • Caesar Salad

Intermezzo

Lemon Sorbet

Entrees

Roasted Leg of Lamb served with spinach and scallion mashed potatoes \$45.95
Chicken House Special served with vegetable medley and potato croquette \$42.95
Grilled Filet mignon served with grilled asparagus and scallion mashed potatoes \$45.95
Veal Sorrentino served with fresh vegetable medley and potato croquette \$43.95
Filet of Sole Marichiaro tossed with clams and mussels over a bed of capellini \$44.95
Chicken Martini served over a bed of cavatelli \$42.95
Shrimp Oreganate served over a bed of linguini \$43.95
Lobster and Crab Ravioli Delafano \$40.95

Dessert

Assorted Fresh Fruit and Dessert Platters

Open 7 days a week: Mon-Sat Lunch 11:30am-4pm, Mon-Thurs Dinner 4pm-10pm,
Fri & Sat Dinner 4pm-11pm, Sunday Dinner noon-9pm

886 Commerce St. Thornwood - 914.769.4515

www.CasaRinaRestaurant.com

The staff at Casa Rina of Thornwood
would like to wish you and your
family a Happy Easter



Service
Integrity
Compassion

Some things are more important
than others. Like serving our com-
munity. With Compassion. With
Integrity. With Sincerity. We care for
the individuals and the families we
serve when they most need it. We
believe it is one of the most impor-
tant things we do. We know our
responsibility is to you.

"Where The Difference Is In The Caring"

Anthony J. Guarino
Funeral Director



Yorktown
FUNERAL HOME

Family Owned & Operated
945 East Main Street
Yorktown, NY 10588
(914) 962-0700

www.YorktownFuneralhome.com
yfh945@gmail.com



In observance
of Passover
closing early
4/15 and
closed 4/16

wishes

Find a stunning selection of jewelry,
trendy gifts for girls of all ages, beautiful
scarves, bags and home accessories, as well
as adorable baby items and so much more.

1811 Commerce Street • Yorktown Heights NY

914-962-9474

In the Heart of Yorktown

Store Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5:30

Follow us on instagram @ [wishesboutiqueyorktown](https://www.instagram.com/wishesboutiqueyorktown)



Happy Easter & Joyous Passover

Open Easter Sunday

PLACE YOUR ORDERS EARLY FOR
PALM SUNDAY & EASTER!

Artuso & Sons Pastry & Cafe
Italian American Baking

8 & 12 oz Chocolate Eggs • Egg Bread
Struffoli • Zeppole & Sfingi • Pastiere
Pizza Dolce • Pizza Rustica

Rosehill Shopping Center
640 Columbus Avenue
Thornwood, NY 10594

Robert Artuso
(914) 741-2251

MOUNT KISCO
BAGEL COMPANY

**Come in for your
Easter Bagels!**

BUY 1 DOZ. BAGELS
GET 6 FREE

- With this coupon • Limit one per customer • Not to be combined with other offers •
- Expires 5/31/22

**We Have the Finest
Hand-Sliced Nova!**

480 East Main Street Mt. Kisco • 914-241-0606

*A Joyous Passover and Happy Easter
To all my Friends and Families from*

EUGENE'S
HAIR SALON

Gift Certificates Available
Call For Appointment
(914) 245-6777

2012 Crompond Rd. Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

**Hidden Treasures and
Donation Center**

The BEST place for great prices and high quality items. Present this ad to receive 15% off ALL items. One time use, cannot be combined, and must present ad to cashier. Offer good on Thursday April 14th & Friday April 15th.

1736 Front Street Yorktown Hts.
914-743-1314
Sponsors always needed

Happy Easter

Yorktown LOVE IN ACTION INC.
OUR LOVE IS THERE FOR YOU WITH SMILES IN OTHERS!

Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home
(845) 225-2144 • 15 Church Street, Carmel, NY

Balsamo Funeral Home
(718) 597-8380 • 3188 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY

Harrison Funeral Home
(914) 835-0284 • 329 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY

JonathanBCFH@gmail.com

**- Pre-need Specialists - Cremation Packages
- 3rd Generation, 75 years established
- Large Parking Area**

WE SUPPORT:
Our Lady of the Lakes Knights of Columbus - Carmel Police Dept.
Carmel Fire Dept. - Carmel Veteran Organizations
FAMILY OWNED AND MANAGED

We Wish All Faiths a Happy Easter and Passover

Joseph J. Balsamo
Jonathan W. Garcia - Licensed Manager
John R. Balsamo
NYS Specialized Funeral Directors

Broadway North Pizzeria

Dine In • Takeout • Delivery
Catering for all Occasions
Open from 11am
Ample Parking in Rear

914-273-2231
914-273-2234

Happy Easter and Passover!

393 Main Street. Armonk, NY 10504
www.broadwaynorthpizza.com

THORNWOOD WINES & SPIRITS

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 9:30am -9:00pm
Sunday: 12-5pm

GREY GOOSE VODKA 1.75 L \$39⁹⁹	BELVEDERE VODKA 1.75 L \$46⁹⁹	KETEL ONE VODKA 1.75 L \$39⁹⁹	CHOPIN VODKA 1.75 L \$41⁹⁹	MAKER'S MARK BOURBON 1.75 L \$51⁹⁹	JACK DANIEL'S BOURBON 1.75 L \$47⁹⁹
---	--	--	---	---	--

Open Easter
Sunday 12-3pm
A Happy Easter &
Joyous Passover!

Shoprite/CVS Center • 1004 Broadway Thornwood • 914-747-8071

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH SALE 750 ML

SINGLETON 12YR \$33.99	TALISKER 10YR \$59.99
GLENMORANGIE 10YR \$39.99	DALWHINNIE 15YR \$64.99
THE DALMORE 12YR \$59.99	GLENLIVET 15YR \$69.99

JOHNNIE
WALKER BLACK
1.75 L
\$69⁹⁹

BASIL HAYDEN'S
BOURBON
750 ML
\$42⁹⁹

WIDOW JANE
BOURBON
750 ML
\$59⁹⁹

DEWAR'S
SCOTCH
1.75 L
\$32⁹⁹

JOHNNIE
WALKER RED
1.75 L
\$33⁹⁹

ABSOLUT
VODKA
1.75 L
\$29⁹⁹

SMIRNOFF
VODKA
1.75 L
\$20⁹⁹

SVEDKA
VODKA
1.75 L
\$20⁹⁹

BACARDI
SILVER
1.75 L
\$22⁹⁹

WESTERN
SON VODKA
1.75 L
\$21⁹⁹

SOBIESKI
VODKA
1.75 L
\$19⁹⁹

JIM BEAM
BOURBON
1.75 L
\$29⁹⁹

MIONETTO
PROSECCO
750 ML
\$12⁹⁹

CAKEBREAD
CABERNET \$74⁹⁹
NAPA VALLEY
750 ML

SILVER OAK
ALEXANDER \$69⁹⁹
VALLEY CAB.
750 ML

CAYMUS
NAPA \$79⁹⁹
CAB
750 ML

SMITH &
HOOK \$16⁹⁹
CAB
750 ML

E. GUIGAL
COTES \$13⁹⁹
DU RHONE
750 ML

JUGGERNAUT
CAB. OR \$16⁹⁹
PINOT NOIR
750 ML

HENNESSEY
COGNAC \$39⁹⁹
750 ML

JOEL GOTT/J. LOHR
CAB. \$15⁹⁹

MEZZA
CORONA \$11⁹⁹
PINOT GRIGIO 1.5L

BOGLE
MERLOT \$8⁹⁹

BOGLE
CHARDONNAY \$8⁹⁹

SIMI
CABERNET \$18⁹⁹

WOODFORD
RESERVE \$61⁹⁹
BOURBON
1.75 L

STAGS LEAP
ARTEMIS \$64⁹⁹
CABERNET

RUFFINO
CHIANTI \$20⁹⁹
TAN

KIM
CRAWFORD \$13⁹⁹
SAUV. BLANC

KENDALL
JACKSON \$12⁹⁹
CHARDONNAY

STAG LEAP
WINERY \$44⁹⁹
NAPA CAB. 750 ML

CLASE AZUL
REPOSADO
TEQUILA
750 ML
\$139⁹⁹

BOMBAY
SAPPHIRE GIN 1.75L
OR TANQUERAY GIN
1.75L
\$39⁹⁹

DON JULIO
1942 TEQUILA
750 ML
\$149⁹⁹

CAVIT
PINOT
GRIGIO
1.5L
\$12⁹⁹

20% OFF
A CASE OF WINE
MIX & MATCH.
SALE ITEMS EXCLUDED



LOCAL DELIVERY!
CALL FOR DETAILS



Prices good through April 11, 2022
Must present ad for sale prices

CELEBRATE WITH CHAMPAGNE!

ALL 750 ML

VEUVE CLICQUOT \$49.99
TAITTINGER \$45.99
POL ROGER \$42.99
PIPER HEIDSIECK \$39.99
G.H. MUMM \$39.99

MOET & CHANDON \$39.99
ROEDERER ESTATE BRUT \$22.99
DEUTZ \$44.99
LOUIS ROEDERER \$49.99
MARTINI & ROSSI \$12.99

7% OFF
ANY SINGLE
BOTTLE
SPIRIT PURCHASE

Not valid on sale items.
May not be combined
with other offers.
with coupon only.
Expires 4/11/22

EVERYDAY
SPECIALS
ALL TYPES
BLACK BOX 3L \$19.99
WOODBIDGE 1.5L \$11.99
YELLOWTAIL 1.5L \$11.99
BAREFOOT 1.5L \$11.99
LINDEMAN'S 1.5L \$9.99

Happy Easter & Joyous Passover

Café Piccolo Bakery

Everything freshly baked on premises!

- Easter Egg Bread
- Apple, Blueberry, and Cherry Pies
- Don't forget our famous Honey Balls (struffoli)
- Cookie Trays • Pastry & Breads

Try Our:
Pizza Rustica
Pasteria
Italian
Cheesecake



Now Carrying:
Gluten Free Cookies,
Cannolis & Rainbows
St Joseph's Pastries
We have Cannoli
Chips & Dips
**Order your
Holiday Pies!**



845.628.2233

Visit us at www.cafepiccolobakery.com
2 Mahopac Plaza (next to Kwaliti Ice Cream) - Route 6N, Mahopac



Repair Work
Gift Wrapping

Our 53rd Year

We Buy Gold,
Silver & Platinum

Hop
On
Over



For
Some
Jewelry

Always Unique

8A South Moger Avenue, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 • (914) 241-2232

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10AM- 5:30 PM

**Fred's
Hair Salon**

"Bringing your Hair to Life Since 1982"

We follow all NYS COVID guidelines to make your
visit as safe and comfortable as possible!



*A Joyous Passover
& Happy Easter!*

Katonah Shopping Center • 270 Katonah Ave. Katonah.

(914) 232-5201

www.fredshairsalon.com

Tues.-Wed.- Fri. 9-6 Thurs. 9-7, Sat. 8-5

Make your
appointment
today!

Follow us on Facebook at Fred's Hair Salon



ALL FUEL CO.

The Shelley Family

Home Heating Fuel

1606 Rte 22, Brewster

Let Us Keep
You Warm!



- Burner Sales, Service & Installation
- Tank Removal & Installation
- Propane Available for Cooking & Heating



Like us on
Facebook

845-278-7312

Everything for Spring!

We Carry Local Artisan Gifts,
Balloons, Candles, Jewelry,
Picture Frames, Soaps & More!



"Where Smart Shoppers Shop"

**CARD\$MART
& GIFTS of Mahopac**

Madelaine
Chocolates &
other Fine
Candies

2 Clark Place, Mahopac

845-628-0300

**Mother's
Day Gifts!**



50% OFF
Every Card,
Bag & Bow
EVERYDAY!

**SPRING IS TIME TO
PREPARE FOR EASTER
& PASSOVER TREATS!**

Lil' Chocolate Shoppe

Since 1986

We Have
2022
Series
Baseball
Cards!

Gift Certificates
Finest Novelties for Easter: Rabbits • Chicks
Eggs Baskets • Jellybeans • Peeps
Passover: Chocolate Covered Matzos • Chocolate Wafers • Supplies

Communion & Party Favors! Party Favors Are Back For All Occasions!



CALL 914-769-0771



15 Washington Ave • Pleasantville, NY Mon-Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 12pm-3pm



**Under New Ownership
& Management!**

Join Us Thursday April 21st For Our Grand Opening

We are Yorktown Heights' Premier Copy, Print and Document Services Center.

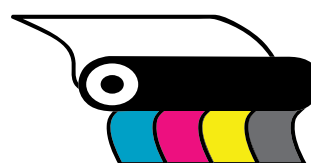
- Local, National and International Shipping
- Drop Off Location For UPS, Fed Ex, DHL & USPS
- Promotional Products • Notary Public • Office Supplies • Packing Supplies
- Private Mailboxes • Fax Services & much more

New Hours: M-F 9a-7p • Sat. 9a-5p • Closed Sunday

1998 Commerce St. Yorktown Hts, NY 10598

914-302-2998

www.themailboxstoreofwestchester.com



Trumbull
PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548

www.trumbullprinting.com

Grants Given to Support Afghan Refugee Resettlement Efforts

By Bailey Hosfelt

Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI) awarded eight microgrants to support efforts to resettle Afghan refugees throughout Westchester and Rockland counties, the Hudson Valley and the northwest Bronx.

Funded by the UJA-Federation of New York and The Shapiro Foundation, WJCI created a matching microgrants program, which will support the immediate needs of refugees as they restart their lives in the United States.

"The WJCI matching microgrants program is a substantial resource to advance refugee resettlement across and beyond the county," WJCI President Holly Rosen Fink said. "These strategic investments have so far helped to bring a significant number of Afghan refugees to Westchester, something our team is very proud of."

Guided by the Jewish teaching to "welcome the stranger," WJCI works with resettlement agencies HIAS and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) that train host group volunteers and provide case management for refugee families, the majority of whom lived on U.S. military bases after fleeing Kabul.

Neighbors for Refugees, a Larchmont-based nonprofit, acts as a consultant, providing expertise on resettlement issues.

Local volunteers from synagogues, churches, mosques, religious coalitions and other community groups have come together to form Host Groups, which have raised enough funds to support Afghan families and individuals for one year – or until they become acclimated and self-sufficient.

Within the groups, volunteers form committees to find and fund housing; furnish a new home and orient the family to their new neighborhood; help navigate and access federal and state benefits; enroll children in public school and tutor them in English; connect the family to medical services; hone interview skills and find employment; and provide transportation.

Host Groups that committed to sponsoring Afghan refugees were invited to apply for microgrants of up to \$5,000 per family.

"We started the Afghan Circle of the Hudson Valley from scratch to welcome, resettle and integrate Afghan refugees here," said Harv Hilowitz, Afghan Circle co-chair. "With the help of the community and WJCI's generous grant and guidance, we've been able to raise enough money to support a family until they can find work

and become self-supporting."

To date, WJCI awarded microgrants to the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (JCCH) Refugee Resettlement Committee; Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff Manor; ReSET Westchester; Welcome the Stranger at The Reform Temple of Rockland and Islamic Center of Rockland; Northwest Bronx Coalition for Refugees; Afghan Circle of the Hudson Valley; Ossining for Refugees; and Scarsdale White Plains Refugee Resettlement Group.

"The Jewish Community Center

of Harrison's Refugee Resettlement Committee is so grateful to the WJCI," said Andrea Platte, committee co-chair. "The microgrant award has helped us to be ready to welcome two Afghan families, without financial limitations being a barrier to our sponsorship."

Last month, JCCH took part in Refugee Shabbat 2022, a HIAS initiative. An Afghan family the Refugee Resettlement Committee helped relocate shared their story during the special service.

Since the fall of the U.S.-backed government in Afghanistan in August,

an estimated 77,000 Afghans have been resettled in the U.S. Many were granted special immigrant visa status because they had worked for the U.S. military or American contractors.

In Westchester, new grassroots efforts and organizations have stepped up to help make refugees' transition to living in the U.S. a little easier.

Families have recently been resettled in White Plains, Yonkers, Ossining, Briarcliff Manor, Mount Kisco and Goldens Bridge. More refugees are expected to arrive in the coming months.

Adults age 62 and older are welcome to join us!

DRUM HILL Senior Living Community

We are NOW offering service options such as housekeeping and lunch and dinner with restaurant style dining. We are able to customize your retirement life here at a superior Value!



Tucked into a quaint historic town of Peekskill, NY our community overlooks the Hudson River, providing breathtaking views.

At Drum Hill we provide a caring environment where each resident has the opportunity to explore new activities & discover new friendships. All while enjoying the privacy of your own spacious apartment equipped with a full kitchen!

You'll also find a secure living environment in a service-enriched way of life.

It's truly amazing!

Call NOW to take a tour, sign the lease by May 15th and get
\$750 OFF
YOUR FIRST MONTH'S RENT!

Register online or simply scan the QR code to sign up for a Tour & Complimentary Lunch >

90 RINGGOLD STREET
PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK 10566

914.788.8860
DRUMHILLSENIORLIVING.COM/EN



Find us on
Facebook

**FACEBOOK.COM/
EXAMINERMEDIA**

Follow ExaminerMedia on social media to monitor the latest breaking news and local reporting tidbits

Be Wise and Have an Inspection Before Listing Your Home for Sale

When my wife and I bought our first home in the country (well, the suburbs, actually, but after owning a home in the city, anything north of the Bronx seemed like deep country to us) we didn't call for an inspection before we made an offer.

Or after, for that matter.

We fell in love with the charming features of our historic home, built in 1734, with two additional wings added in 1791 and 1861, and blindly made an offer to buy, at full price no less. I definitely didn't qualify to be The Home Guru at that time. Boy, were we dumb, especially considering that we were buying a home that old.

During our first week there, the roof leaked into one of our bedrooms and the plumbing failed when the waste pipes in the basement, suspended by wire hangers, which should have been a red flag, fell to the floor.

In our defense for lacking basic intelligence about having a home inspection before making an offer, I would say that we had experienced a free ride when we bought our first home in New York City. It, too, was an historic home but had been excellently renovated and maintained before we bought it and we never had so much as a lick of trouble or any surprises while living there.

There is no rule that says you must have a home inspection before selling, but ordering a pre-sale home inspection is a good idea, especially if you're someone who doesn't like surprises and wants to get the best possible



By Bill Primavera

price.

As familiar as you may be with your home, there are often issues that you will be unaware of. Home inspectors are trained to identify these issues, which can give you a leg up on problems that might kill a sale.

Understanding what to inspect before selling a home will put you on the right track to a successful sale.

Selling a home can be a stressful experience, even when everything goes right. There is a lot to do and complications often pop up. While your real estate agent can help you navigate the process, there is one thing you can do to greatly simplify things – get a pre-sale home inspection.

An inspection will let you know the condition of your home. With this knowledge you can decide what to fix to avoid any surprises as well as maximize your home's value. You can also go into the sale fully aware of issues that may concern buyers. Getting rid of problems before a buyer's home inspection is just plain smart.

Many of the steps listed below are issues that could cause your sale to fall apart. By addressing these common concerns, you'll increase the odds of not losing a buyer.

A general home inspection should include a review of all the fundamental structural and mechanical features of your home. A thorough home inspection should be paramount to making sure you catch any issues. Your real



estate agent should be able to provide some excellent references.

Here are the basic issues to be addressed:

Plumbing

Buyers are going to want a functional plumbing system, one that can be relied on to work well for an extended period of time after they buy the house. The inspection should check all faucets, toilets, sinks and showers, as well as the pipes that are accessible throughout and underneath the home.

Heating

The furnace is a major concern of home buyers, and for good reason. Replacing an HVAC system is not cheap. Most systems have a lifespan of 20 to 30 years, something to consider about your own system. Buyers will be very interested in the condition of the heating system, so it makes sense to verify the status for yourself prior to listing.

Electrical

The electrical system needs to be functional and safe. If your home's electrical system is old enough, you may run into issues with buyers

who want something capable of handling the load of today's digital lifestyles.

Roof

The roof is of most importance to buyers. It seals the home and protects everything inside, so it makes sense to ensure that it is fully functional. Roofs are also expensive to replace, which is why buyers are going to want to

know its exact condition before they make an offer.

Foundation

A strong foundation is obviously necessary for the home to be livable. Foundation issues can be costly to fix and most buyers will not want to take on such problems if they can avoid it. An inspection can tell you if there are issues with your foundation and which, if any, you need to fix. If issues exist, it will be smart to take care of them quickly rather than after you get an offer.

Having a clean bill of health on all of these items is a major reassurance to any prospective home buyer.

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

SPRING IS HERE!

Don't Fall Behind on your Spring Projects

Call NOW for a FREE estimate with our Spring Savings!

MIRACLE

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

NO \$ DOWN

ON JOBS UNDER \$20,000

FINANCING OPTIONS FROM GreenSky

914.271.9119

2010 Albany Post Road
Croton-On-Hudson, NY

WC10415H99 PC - 1817

www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

We'll help you SAVE MONEY on your heating and cooling bills!

**ROOFING • WINDOWS • SIDING • DOORS • PAINTING
DECKS • SEAMLESS GUTTERS • LEADERS • REPAIRS**

Tim Beyrer, Agent
710 Route 6
Mahopac, NY 10541
Bus: 845-628-9100
tim.beyrer.mdfh@statefarm.com

Hello, neighbor!

Please stop by and say, "Hi!"

I'm looking forward to serving your needs for insurance and financial services.

Here to help life go right.®

CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm®

1801132

State Farm, Bloomington, IL

Spa Celebrates 10 Years of Helping People Look Their Best

By Martin Wilbur

When Kerry Scardino decided to open her spa Skinchanted in Peekskill, she hoped that she could perform about 10 facials a month, a good foundation that would pay the monthly bills and stay in business.

On Monday, the 10th anniversary since Scardino's leap of faith, has yielded so much more than that. In the decade she's been in business, Skinchanted has seen about 3,800 clients.

"So business is good, and right now, the challenge is finding good estheticians that are like-minded and want to work hard and to educate people on skin health," Scardino said.

Many people are aware of the importance of skin health, but properly achieving that goal can sometimes be a bit more elusive. That's where Scardino and Tara Bartelini, Skinchanted's two full-time state-licensed estheticians, come in.

For Scardino, it's much more than just what treatment might be best for someone's skin to look their best. There are factors that come into play that go far beyond the surface.

"It's kind of like a puzzle," she said. "Someone comes in and they've got these issues and we like to see the body as a whole. So it's not like, okay, use this stuff, it's probably good for someone with your skin type. It's okay, let's talk about your diet, your water intake, about your hormones, what's your sugar intake like, things like that. What's your stress level like? Your



Kerry Scardino, the founder and owner of Skinchanted, a Peekskill spa that helps its customers maintain healthy skin. Scardino is also an esthetician.

sleep. So all of these things make the skin react."

Both Scardino and Bartelini have their areas of concentration, as do part-timers that also help out. Scardino specializes in facials, is an oncology-certified esthetician and is trained in oncology facials, lymphatic drainage massage, reflexology and corrective airbrush makeup.

Meanwhile, Bartelini helps educate clients on full-body wellness with organic and natural ingredients and to minimize inflammation. She is a reiki healer and an Ayurvedic practitioner.

Growing up, Scardino was one of those young ladies who would help her friends, and even some guys, trim their eyebrows

after school. After going to college for communications and public relations, she started off in that role for Estee Lauder before getting into the field of esthetics.

After her formal training was complete, Scardino performed laser liposuction in a Hartsdale physician's office. By the time she opened Skinchanted in 2012, she became an oncology-trained esthetician, helping people undergoing cancer treatments to cope with changes in their skin or hair. There are also clients that come to Scardino's spa for Botox and, of course, waxing.

There are also plenty of clients that seek help for sun-damaged skin, the number one reason for prematurely aging skin. Scardino urges anyone who spends any time outdoors to use sunscreen, even in winter, on their face. Some of the worst sun damage also occurs on overcast days, she said.

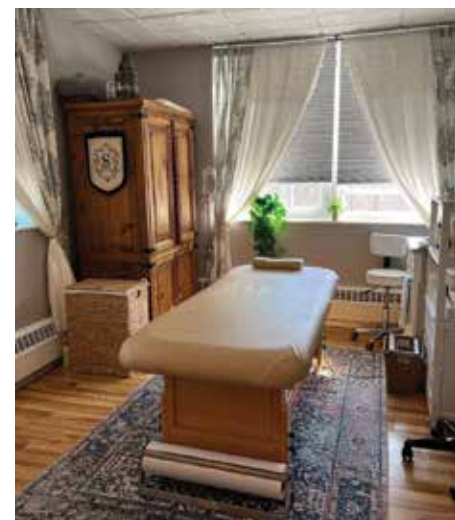
Furthermore, if someone is driving a lot, they should put on sunscreen on their face, particularly the left side, because of the glare.

"All of these things have an effect on our body and our skin, the biggest organ on our body," Scardino said.

Blemishes and various skin conditions are often indicators of other problems in a person's life. For example, a patch of eczema on the eyelids can be a response to stress while a breakout of acne on the jawline can be a hormonal reaction.

Perhaps a bit surprising to some, is that as much as 30 percent of Skinchanted's clientele are men.

"I tell people that skin is gender neutral,"



One of three treatment rooms that clients visit when they come to Skinchanted in Peekskill.

Scardino said. "Everyone's got skin, so everyone has skin issues. Men, especially, don't wear makeup to cover up skin issues, so it's even more important for them to have good, healthy skin."

About five years after Skinchanted opened, Scardino was forced to move into a larger space, a more than 1,000-square foot location on the fifth floor at 2 Stowe Rd. in Peekskill. It has two treatment rooms, one of which Scardino is currently renting.

For more information on Skinchanted, call 914-930-1421 or visit www.skinchantedspa.com.

SUMMER CAMP

For more information on our camps and to register, visit www.pnwbores.org/summercamp or call 914-248-2220. Discount of \$10 per camp for payments received before May 5, 2022. Register early to guarantee camp choice and discount.

C.O.D. OIL
HEATING OIL ON DEMAND

CALL US TODAY AND SAVE!
914.737.7769

The Consumer's Choice for Discount Heating Oil!
SAVE WITH OUR LOW C.O.D. PRICES!

- No Contracts or Commitments
- Oil Burner Service/Tune-ups
- Quality Heating Oil
- Senior Citizen & Volume Discounts
- Expert Burner Service
- A/C Tune-ups
- Price Matching (Restrictions apply)

Order online at: www.codoil.com

Pawling
CONCERT SERIES
48TH Season

John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band
Friday, April 22, 2022 8pm - Gardiner Theater

The four members of J2B2 combine on acoustic guitar, mandolin, banjo, bass, and vocals to deliver what one reviewer described as bluegrass with the "high lonesome sound" of American roots music at its finest. As a reviewer in Greensboro, NC noted, "Expect fireworks and amazing playing from some of the best string players in the world."

Tickets & Information: www.pawlingconcertseries.org

Phelps Hospital Opens \$8.4M Cancer Imaging Suite

Phelps Hospital announced last week the opening of a new high-tech imaging suite equipped with a PET/CT scanner built by Siemens Healthineers.

The \$8.4 million, 3,746-square-foot space realizes the hospital's commitment to provide patients of the Northwell Health Cancer Institute at Phelps Hospital everything they need – from diagnosis through treatment – under one roof.

The suite includes several rooms designed to optimize patient comfort and safety – from private registration and scheduling stations to comfortable waiting areas, private patient rooms, a radiopharmaceutical hot lab, PET/CT scan room and other features. Until now, Phelps' patients in need of PET scans had to travel further and have long wait times.

"The PET/CT suite is one of the most exciting projects that I've gotten to work on in my career at Phelps," said Eileen Egan, executive director of Phelps Hospital. "It's the missing link in the circle of care for radiology patients, who can now eliminate unnecessary travel and get the services they need right in their own backyard. As we were designing this space, the most

important concept for us was the patient experience – their privacy, safety and comfort."

PET/CT imaging is the use of simultaneous PET and CT scans to create a singular advanced and comprehensive image. PET scans utilize radiopharmaceuticals (tracers) that are injected intravenously and absorbed into the body. The rate of metabolic breakdown of the tracers within the body reveals one's cellular activity. Combined with CT imaging, this enables an accurate evaluation of organs and tissues and early detection and diagnosis of diseases and/or other conditions.

"We opened the doors of the Northwell Health Cancer Institute at Phelps Hospital five years ago," said Dr. Anna Komorowski, Phelps' medical director of hematology and medical oncology. "As our services continued to expand, we knew that this was a crucial step for us. PET/CT is a powerful diagnostic tool in oncology with multiple applications. It helps us detect cancer, identify where it resides in the body and which area is best to biopsy. We can also better understand the prognosis of the patient, assess the effectiveness of the treatment and determine if the cancer has returned."



NORTHWELL HEALTH PHOTO

Phelps Hospital held a ribbon-cutting event last week to unveil its \$8.4 million cancer imaging suite. Pictured, left to right, are Dr. Anna Komorowski, medical director, hematology and medical oncology at Phelps Hospital; hospital Executive Director Eileen Egan; Mary L. Melvin, donor and cancer survivor patient; Michael Glennon, assistant vice president, Phelps Hospital; Kevin Beiner, senior vice president and regional executive director, Northwell Health; and Dr. Anthony Febles, chief of radiology, Northwell Health.

PET/CT scans are used for patients with lung cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, neuroendocrine tumors as well as certain pancreatic, colon and metastatic prostate cancers. They can also be extremely beneficial for the diagnosis and treatment

of dementia and other cognitive disorders as well as for seizure and cardiac patients.

"While many people who've heard of PET/CT associate it with oncologic conditions, another very impactful use is for patients with cognitive disorders," said Dr. Anthony Febles, chief of

radiology at Phelps. "Having these capabilities here at Phelps is going to be instrumental in our geriatric practice. It's often extremely difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of a patient's dementia; PET/CT gives us an effective modality to do just that."

The new suite was funded, in part, by capital investments from Northwell Health, New York State's largest health system, as well as through philanthropic contributions. One of those generous supporters is Mary L. Melvin, a lung cancer survivor who was diagnosed and treated at Phelps.

"Phelps has something to fill every bill," Melvin said. "One is inclined to think that only at a big-city hospital do you get top-notch doctors. I would say you cannot beat Phelps. I can't believe the care in a big-city hospital could be any better than at Phelps. And here you get the love, attention and nurturing from the nurses and everyone. Phelps is a very special place in my eyes. Words cannot describe how blessed I feel – and I want to say thank you by giving back."

For more information, visit <https://phelps.northwell.edu/cancer-institute>.



HUDSON VALLEY THEATER

www.paramounthudsonvalley.com

COMING SOON!

DATE	EVENT
03/26	CENTURY OF THE BLUES
04/01	VIC DIBITETTO
04/02	TUPELO HONEY: A Van Morrison Celebration
04/03	QUEENSRÿCHE
04/08	ALMOST QUEEN
04/09	LEZ ZEPPELIN: The She-Incarnation of Led Zeppelin
04/22	DRY BAR COMEDY LIVE!
04/23	An Evening with JAMES VAN PRAAGH
04/29	VANILLA FUDGE: Spirit of '67 Tour
04/30	THE JERSEY TENORS
05/05	LEONID AND FRIENDS: The Greatest Chicago Tribute!
05/06	THE SELENA EXPERIENCE

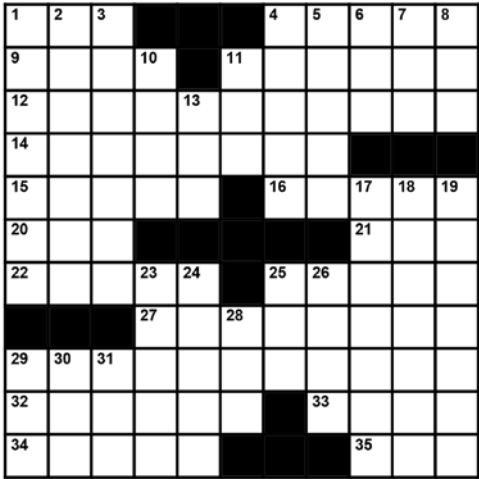
Crossword

Across

- Biological pocket
- Sufficient
- "The ____ that bind" or where to go for your lumber needs in Putnam, Mahopac Railroad ____
- Takes the gun away
- Musical score, for example
- Huge city in China
- Prefix before -pathic
- Apply anew
- The NY Manning
- Judge's highest rating, on "Dancing with the Stars"
- Coffee order
- Submersible warship
- Italian for "Joseph" or Yorktown Gourmet supermarket, Uncle ____
- French to Chinese, perhaps
- Look for again
- Male deer
- More than "you" in slang
- Jeanne d'Arc's title, briefly

Down

- Put away
- Opening in the ice
- Made from clay
- "Keep ____ to the ground"
- Mrs. Eisenhower
- It means before



- K-O connection
- Abbr. on a cornerstone
- Not crazy
- Yuck!
- Doctors Without Borders, e.g.
- Promised lands
- Harbor town
- Understanding between governments
- Patron saint of girls
- Red signal flare
- Canadian neighbor
- Alcott heroine
- Class
- Essay
- Classic car
- Tempe inst., abbr.

Answers on page 26

Join our email list for exclusive offers and chances to win prizes!

Get your tickets!
914-739.0039 EXT. 2
boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com



Does Medicare Cover Nursing Home Care?

Most people receive very little practical education during their formative years. Subjects like investing, home purchasing, relationship management, college planning, career planning and estate planning are usually learned – or not learned – the hard way, through trial and error.

Medicare is one such subject. Medicare is a fundamental benefit available to adults 65 and over as well as disabled individuals. Its purpose is to provide payment to healthcare providers for services, equipment and prescription drugs. Medicare also covers limited stays in nursing rehabilitation facilities. However, long-term nursing home care is not covered under Medicare.

When a person develops a serious illness or sustains an injury that requires hospitalization, a process begins that maps out the plan and timing of treatment. Hospitals are designed to address acute health issues with a short duration. Once a patient is stabilized, then the hospital will seek to discharge that patient.

The nature of the discharged patient's rehabilitation should be apparent. Short hospital stays with limited interventions may allow for a patient to return home with a manageable care plan, some outpatient therapy or even some visiting nurse services.

Often with older patients, longer hospital stays impact mobility. Rehabilitation in a facility with dedicated physical and occupational therapy staffs may be necessary to build strength. Medicare covers sub-acute rehabilitation stays in a facility. The first 20 days are usually

covered 100 percent with the next 80 days covered at 80 percent. Supplemental insurance plans offered through AARP or Blue Cross/Blue Shield do pick up the remaining 20

percent not covered by Medicare for these rehabilitative stays.

A 100-day stay in a rehabilitation facility as regulated by Medicare is not guaranteed. If a patient's progress plateaus prior to the end of the 100 days, then Medicare may not pay for the remaining days. The patient

and their authorized representatives should receive documentation informing them that Medicare will no longer cover their stay in the rehabilitation facility.

Appeals for more rehabilitation are allowed under Medicare. Successful appeals allow the care to continue. Unsuccessful appeals will still provide an extra day or two before Medicare is cut off.

Once rehabilitation ends after 100 days or Medicare cuts off, a patient can be transitioned to long-term nursing care or discharged from the facility. Medicare will not cover long-term nursing home care. Payment options include private payment, long-term care insurance and Medicaid.

Private pay means care is funded from a patient's funds or by their family. Long-term care insurance policies pay for long-term care at home, assisted living or nursing homes. There is usually a lifetime maximum amount that the policy will pay. Set daily rates are also delineated



By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

in the policy. Ninety-day exclusionary periods are common.

New York Partnership Plans are insurance plans that cover three years of long-term care and then allow the covered individual to receive Nursing Home Medicaid without requiring asset transfers for eligibility. Medicaid has financial eligibility requirements and a five-year lookback

on all financial transactions. Medicaid Nursing Home recipients have their income used to pay the nursing home with Medicaid picking up the balance of costs.

It is important that we educate ourselves on the systems that govern our health, finances and legal rights. Understanding how Medicare works and what services are covered should be required on everyone's syllabus.

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

Assistance of Counsel

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"The place to turn in your time of need!"

Personally Owned and Supervised By

William F Flooks, Jr. & William J Flooks
Proprietor Licensed Funeral Director

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

418 Bedford Road...Pleasantville, NY 10570...769-0001

www.beecherflooksfh.com

Westchester Library System

VISIONLABS
READING FOR A LIFETIME

**People with
vision loss can stay
active, engaged,
and connected!**



seniors.westchesterlibraries.org

Paid for in part by the Field Hall Foundation

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

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

040522

Classified Ad Deadline
is **Thursdays at 5pm** for the
next week's publication

ANTIQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

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

****COMIC BOOKS WANTED!**
TOP PRICES PAID!** 30 years experience. Reliable and honest! **Call or Text: 917-699-2496, or e-mail: smileLP@aol.com.**

ATTORNEY

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable.

Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. **518-274-0380**

AUTO DONATIONS

Wheels For Wishes benefiting **Make-A-Wish®** Northeast New York. Your Car Donations Matter NOW More Than Ever! Free Vehicle Pick Up ANYWHERE. We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not. 100% Tax Deductible. Minimal To No Human Contact. Call: (877) 798-9474. Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. www.wheelsforwishes.org.

BUYING/SELLING

Buying diamonds, gold, silver,

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

provides relief for dogs & cats from hot spots, flea bites, and food allergies without steroids. At Tractor Supply® (www.fleabeacon.com)

Happy Jack® Skin Balm

ELEVATORS • STAIR LIFTS • WHEELCHAIR LIFTS • RAMPS

• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks
New and Reconditioned Lifts

Stay in the home you Love!
Locally Owned & Operated

The ALBANY Lift Company

Stairlifts * Elevators * Wheelchair Lifts * Ramps
747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park NY 12065
(518) 393-2274 * (888) 558-LIFT
www.thealbanyliftcompany.com
Visit Our Display Center: 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065



EDUCATION/CAREER TRAINING

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

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

FINANCE

ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 888-869-5361 (Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm PST)

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

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

HEALTH

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! **1-855-579-8907**

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS - Monticello Central School Living Environment/General Science Teacher (MS) GRANT FUNDED POSITIONS Special Educations Social Studies Teacher (7-12) Social Studies Teacher (7-12) Special Education ELA Teacher (7-12) NYS Certification Required Please apply online by Apr 8th at <https://monticelloschools.tedk12.com/hire> EOE

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: **866-393-3636**

continued on page 24



Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.



Help at Home



Help On-the-Go

Life Alert®

Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:

1-800-404-9776

ESTATE SALE LOG HOMES

PAY ONLY THE BALANCE OWED!

JUST RELEASED: AMERICAN LOG HOMES is assisting estate and account settlement on houses

LOG HOME KITS

selling for BALANCE OWED with FREE DELIVERY

Model #101, Carolina, \$40,840

Model #203, Georgia, \$49,500

Model #305, Biloxi, \$36,825

Model #403, Augusta, \$42,450

BALANCE OWED \$17,000

BALANCE OWED \$19,950

BALANCE OWED \$14,500

BALANCE OWED \$16,500

NEW HOMES:

Serious Inquiries only **Call: 704 368-4528**

- Never been manufactured
- **NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY**
- Comes with complete building blueprints and Construction Manual

* Windows, Doors and Roofing not included



Before Calling View House Plans at
www.americanloghomesandcabins.com

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:

Do you need a **New Roof** and **Help** paying for it?

*Any leaking, visible damage, or roof age, may *qualify you!*

Do you need **Energy Efficient Windows** & **Help** paying for it?

*Drafty windows, energy cost too high, you may *qualify!*

HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH

YOU MAY *QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS

Qualify Today: (800) 944-9393

or visit **NYProgramFunding.org** to see if you *qualify

**Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are on a first come, first serve basis in your area.*

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.



Brownie Points

How one Westchester bakery hires people “no questions asked,” proving that with the right opportunity, training, and support, anyone can thrive regardless of their background



By Bailey Hosfelt

You are reading this week's excerpt of an article from our Examiner+ digital newsmagazine. To read the entire article and others like it, visit www.examiner-plus.com and join our community as a member.

Greyston Bakery founder and Zen Buddhist Bernie Glassman created the company's open hiring business model back in 1982 by asking a simple question: How do you give people, especially those who face barriers to meaningful employment, hope?

“He believed you start by just giving them a job,” Joseph Kenner, President and CEO of Greyston Bakery, says, explaining the company's hiring approach that's been

Visit examiner-plus.com and join our digital newsmagazine community as a member to read the full version of this article and others like it! Examiner+ is delivering the smartest, most insightful news and lifestyle journalism in Westchester and the broader Hudson Valley so you can live your most intelligent local life.



A selection of brownies from Greyston bakery (Facebook/Greyston)

in place for four decades.

Unlike other companies' application processes, Greyston doesn't require any resumes, interviews, or background checks. Instead, individuals seeking employment simply fill out a brief form to get on the waitlist, no questions asked.

Open hire positions are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and after someone's name is on the list, they wait to receive the phone call that they're hired.

After being hired, new employees go through a two-day orientation followed by a six-month training process, which gives them an introduction to both the hard and soft skills they'll need to succeed in their new roles at Greyston.

“The open hiring is an opportunity to give a lot of individuals the chance to prove to themselves that they can come back to the workplace,” Director of Human Resources Abigail Saunders, who has been overseeing the company's onboarding process for six years, says.

Where many HR professionals are trained to look narrowly at relevant prior work experience or a specific educational background, Saunders and the leadership team instead see potential in each and every person, regardless of their past.

But Greyston's inclusive processes don't end after hiring. By meeting individuals where they are and providing them with the support they need to successfully navigate life circumstances through an onsite social worker, Greyston works to help its employees achieve self-sufficiency and stability.

“[Open hiring] is how we bring people in,” Kenner says. “But once they get here and get their training, do they feel safe? Do they feel supported? Do they really feel like they're a part of a team?”

For Kenner, taking a holistic approach to

sourcing and nurturing employees is an important part of Greyston's business model. “That's what inclusive employment is, and open hiring is the appetizer to that,” he says.

“One of the best things that we do here is trust that you have the potential,” Saunders explains, highlighting that not only are Greyston's employees eager to work but they're also like sponges, working hard to absorb and hone new skills.

At Greyston, being formerly incarcerated, overcoming a substance abuse problem, recently immigrating to the country, or returning to the workforce after a gap in employment doesn't diminish the company's trust in an individual's ability to thrive moving forward. “They might come here thinking this is just your average job, but it's much more ...

To read the rest of this article, and others like it, visit examiner-plus.com and click subscribe. We hope you've enjoyed this week's excerpt from Examiner+. We love honest feedback. Tell us what you think: examinerplus@theexaminernews.com



Try Examiner+ for 30-days FREE!!

Patterson Auto Body



COLLISION REPAIR – We Handle your Entire Claim

Using Only Factory Authorized Parts

- NYS Inspection • Air Conditioning
- Wheel Alignment & Balancing
- Preventive Maintenance
- Towing & TIRE CENTER

LIGHT DUTY VEHICLE SPECIALISTS



Your Complete Automotive Service Center

DON'T MISS THESE SPECIAL PROMOTIONS!!!

PURCHASE A SET OF ALL SEASON TIRES

AND GET A FOUR WHEEL ALIGNMENT AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE

+ FREE TIRE ROTATION EVERY 6,000 MILES FOR THE LIFE OF THE TIRES.

+ WE OFFER A NATIONWIDE TIRE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION PROGRAM

CALL FOR DETAILS, RESTRICTIONS APPLY. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPONS. MUST MENTION SPECIAL WHEN BOOKING APPOINTMENT OR DROPPING OFF VEHICLE FOR SERVICE.

OFFER EXPIRES 4/15/22

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR WEEKLY & MONTHLY SPECIALS!

SCAN CODE **For a Convenient Way to Set Up Service**



THIS IS BiG!

**15% OFF Any
BG Fuel Savings
Services**

Call for details, Restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with any other coupons. Must Mention special when booking appointment or dropping off vehicle for service. EXPIRES 4/15/22

2597 Rt. 22 Patterson

PattersonAutoBody.com

845.878.3456

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

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the
next week's publication

continued from page 22

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

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power

outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 888-871-0194

MISCELLANEOUS

A nonprofit organization in Westchester, NY is seeking sealed bids for sales and installation of security related enhancements. This is a New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services grant funded project. The project includes (i) installation of one or more: technology (such as CCTV, access control, alarms, sensors, X-ray machines, magnetometer), security film, doors, locks, windows, bollards, booth, planters,

barriers, lighting, fencing, privacy fencing, gates, (ii) training programs, and (iii) security personnel. Bids will be accepted until 5:00 PM on April 24, 2022. Work is expected to commence by the week of May 2, 2022 and be

completed by August 31, 2022. All interested vendors will be required to demonstrate preliminary qualifications and licensing for this work, acknowledge receipt of the proposal documents, and provide company name, business address,

telephone, fax and email address, and primary contact name. Selection criteria will be based on knowledge of surveillance and security, adherence to projected work schedule, prior experience, references, and cost. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by **contacting us at Westchestergrants@gmail.com**

DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-534-6918

PUBLIC HEARING

2022-23 TENTATIVE VILLAGE BUDGET. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 8:00pm in the second floor meeting room of Village Hall, located at 80 Wheeler Ave. Pleasantville, NY 10570 and via teleconference for the purpose of hearing comments as it pertains to the 2022-2023 Tentative Village Budget. All persons interested in speaking on this subject will be heard. A copy of the Tentative Budget is available online at www.pleasantville-ny.gov.

Eric Morrissey
Village Administrator/Clerk

REAL ESTATE

Wooded lot, 0.2 acres, one block from beautiful North Twin Lake, Elizaville, in the Town of Livingston, Columbia County, NY. Just over one hour from Northern Westchester. See Aimee Strunk Real Estate listing #139461.

TV INTERNET PHONE

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/22. 1-888-609-9405

WANTED TO BUY

Antiques, collectibles, oddities - for cash. Currently looking for farm tables, work benches and mid-century furniture. (914) 263-2917

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Friendly
Certified Computer
Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon
code 42513 and get
\$20 OFF
any service you need!

Geeks on Site
Call Now for a FREE Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

One time use only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or offer. Coupon offer good until December 31, 2022. Valid for any new service except subscription fees. Must mention coupon at time of sale.

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company
Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
Dental50Plus.com/nypress

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-0721

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND
CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
+ **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

CALL US TODAY FOR
A FREE ESTIMATE
1-855-478-9473
Mon-Thurs: 9am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. *The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." CSLB# 1035792, DOP# 10783658-5501, License# 7656, License# 50145, License# 41354, License# 99338, License# 128364, License# 218294, WAUB# 603 233 977, License# 2102212869, License# 2106212846, License# 2705132153A, License# LEAF784W222, License# W4256912, License# WC-2998-417, Nassau HIC License# H01067000, Registration# 176447, Registration# HIC064905, Registration# C127229, Registration# C12230, Registration# 366920918, Registration# PC6475, Registration# H0731804, Registration# 13VH09953900, Registration# PA069383, Suffolk HIC, License# 52239-H, License# 2705169445, License# 262000022, License# 262000403, License# 0086990, Registration# H-19114

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME
STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

**REQUEST A
FREE QUOTE**

CALL NOW BEFORE THE
NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(877) 516-1160

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
- A \$695 Value!

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

GENERAC®

GENERAC

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system, stores solar energy that can power your whole home during utility power outages and save you money on your electric bill.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

**ACT NOW
TO RECEIVE
A \$300 SPECIAL
OFFER!***
| (888) 871-0194

\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!*

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
**Financing available through authorized Generac partners.
Solar panels sold separately.

GENERAC®
PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM



Upgrade Your Home with a NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER

60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% off
Install for Military, Health
Workers and First Responders

ERIE
Metal Roofs
Limited time offer
Expires 4/30/22

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-492-6084

ERIE
Metal Roofs



New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires June 30, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

Wine Lists Are Evolving Into Broader Beverage Lists



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember the wine lists of the 20th century? It was as if an invisible hand created the lists of every Italian neighborhood restaurant, every French bistro and every American steakhouse.

This monotonous uniformity fit the moment in Americans' wine education: offer them that with which they are comfortable. Don't undermine their selections with wines contrary to their preconceptions and fixed mindset.

I am pleased to report this is no longer the landscape for many restaurant lists, whether presented on a printed sheet or a QR coded card. The focus of the lists has changed dramatically in this first quarter of the 21st century. More and more frequently, restaurant patrons are presented with a "beverage" list that is far-ranging. I am seeing lists expanded to include wines from far-flung lands and wines with stratospheric prices, including escalating markups.

More revolutionary is the expansion into other alcoholic beverages. Today's beverage list increasingly includes cocktails, craft beers and global whiskeys.

'Today's beverage list increasingly includes cocktails, craft beers and global whiskeys.'

Many patrons find it difficult to navigate these new lists. Understanding the nuances of the choices presents an additional dilemma. In this evolving era, restaurants are employing a new strategy. More than ever, they are hiring certified, deeply knowledgeable sommeliers.

This new generation of "somm" is infusing new life into restaurants. By personally crafting and curating beverage lists, this new breed offers diners the opportunity to experiment and seek out their next favorite wine.

Baby boomers, Gen Xers and millennials alike are becoming more wine savvy, resulting in more sophisticated wine and food palates. They are willing to spend more for the right wine to accompany a special meal, and they are not hesitant to seek guidance. Why

fumble through a list of unrecognizable and unpronounceable names when your friendly somm can be your personal guide through the maze of today's restaurant fare?

A wine and spirits bar is also an excellent venue to expand your epicurean palate. Look for the grand opening in the next few weeks of Westchester's newest, Raconteur Bar &

Kitchen in Pleasantville.

A new wave of expanded beverage lists is creating quite a buzz for many restaurant-goers.

1. Pre-dinner cocktails, both traditional and those concocted by the new wave of highly inventive mixologists. Combining exotic ingredients (herbs, spices, fruit nectars), they can set up one's palate for the dinner course or be enjoyed as an after-dinner digestif. If you've brushed past this section of a beverage list, take a moment to pause and peruse the offerings.
2. Artisanal beer selections were generally non-existent on past lists. Today, with the proliferation of highly crafted beers, somms are pairing them with food menus. My personal experiences have validated the compatibility of a number of dishes with finely crafted beers. My current favorite: Platinum Dragon on tap at Soul Brewing in Pleasantville, paired with Ma Betts Old Clothes shredded brisket tacos from Falafel Taco across the street.
3. Whiskeys are gaining a foothold on restaurants' beverage lists. Scotch offerings are increasing, while small-batch American bourbons are growing in popularity for pre-dinner imbibing. In a surprising move toward throwback

spirits, small-batch Tennessee whiskeys are gaining traction. (I recently enjoyed George Dickel Barrel Select – with one ice cube.)

Along with expanded and upgraded lists come higher-priced wines. Curated lists may focus on European fine wines not available in wine shops, with prices in the three-digit stratosphere. For those seeking a higher level of dining, wine prices may not be a constricting factor. However, there are far more consumers who can't (or won't) open their wallets for more than three or four Andrew Jacksons. And relief is not on the way.

Over the years, I've learned to budget my disposable income for restaurant dining toward higher priced wines without sacrificing my family's nutritional needs or wardrobe expansion. However, I do object to the high markups on many of the wines I see on today's wine lists.

The goal of every restaurant should be to find the perfect fit for your palate and your wallet. After all, a contented customer is a returning customer.

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

**You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine**

WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE

Bill Primavera "The Home Guru" Realtor

**Specializing in both Residential and Commercial
Sales in Upper Westchester and Putnam Counties**

Offering:

- ✓ Expertise in his local market
- ✓ Longterm real estate experience
- ✓ Solid background in marketing
- ✓ Reliable, mature in judgment

**Call Bill directly for a free
comparative market analysis
at:**

914-522-2076 (cell)



William "Bill" Primavera is a NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson, William Raveis Real Estate, 1820 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY. Office: 914-245-0460. Visit: www.raveis.com



RAVEIS.COM



1820 COMMERCE ST | YORKTOWN HEIGHTS | NY 10598 | 914.245.0460

**ELDER LAW, ESTATE PLANNING
&
SPECIAL NEEDS ATTORNEY**

PLAN TODAY FOR TOMORROW
SALVATORE M. DI COSTANZO, ESQ.
a partner with the firm Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP.

Practice areas primarily focused on:

Medicaid Trusts
Revocable Trusts
Planning for Home Care
Planning for Nursing Home
Special Needs Trusts
Wills, Powers of Attorney
Medicaid Applications
Guardianships
Asset-Protection Planning
Estate Probate and Estate Administration

Recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers

Selected since 2019 for inclusion of "The Best Lawyers of America" in the area of Elder Law

Selected since 2013 as a New York Metro Area Super Lawyer in the area of Elder Law

Past Chair of the Westchester County Bar Elder Law Committee

Member, New York State Bar Association

New York State Bar Association Elder Law Section Executive Committee

Member, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

2074 Crompond Road
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598
Tel: 914-245-2440
Fax: 914-245-7403

350 Theodore Fremd Avenue
Rye, New York 10580
Tel: 914-925-1010
Fax: 914-925-1011

WWW.PLANTODAYFORTOMORROW.COM
SM@MFD-LAW.COM
[FACEBOOK.COM/
PLANTODAYFORTOMORROW/](https://FACEBOOK.COM/PLANTODAYFORTOMORROW/)

CALL FOR A CONSULTATION TODAY AT 914-925-1010

Rockefeller Preserve Gallery Resumes Art Exhibits With Focus on Nature

By Martin Wilbur

Over the past two years, hundreds of thousands of visitors took advantage of the open space at Rockefeller Park Preserve, the opportunity to safely spend time outside after being cooped up at home.

What had been missing at the park, however, was the schedule of art exhibits in the park's popular gallery that have often featured local or emerging artists, many of them focused on aspects of nature.

Last month the wait for its return ended. The gallery is hosting "Symbolic Images of Nature," featuring five artists – Mimi Kim Gutschmit, Michael Garber, Elaine Dalto, Alain Diot and Dorothy Gillespie – each expressing their interpretations of the natural elements.

"We're all, in one way or another, trying to find some peace of mind, some peace within ourselves and bring it into our gallery because we have a lot of individuals trying to get away from everything that's going on, and just to be able to come to a place where we can find some relief, just relief, and I think we've done that," said gallery curator Audrey Leeds.

Last Saturday, Gutschmit, who had more than a dozen sculptural paintings in the gallery for the exhibit, and Garber, a photographer whose current works features birds, were on hand for the reception for the exhibit.

Gutschmit's and Garber's artistic endeavors come as a later-in-life career, both having retired. Gutschmit, who has always

loved art, spent many years in international marketing while Garber was the director of The New York Foundling Hospital, a New York City child welfare agency.

The move to Tarrytown two years ago, where Gutschmit's husband was raised, helped inspire her artwork with the daily view of the Hudson River. The life of the river is always changing, Gutschmit said, which has inspired her to create so much artwork that not only has she needed to rent storage space locally, but she has rented a studio in Tribeca where she now commutes to do her painting.

Before Gutschmidt retired from the corporate world, she could never imagine waking up at 4:30 or 5 o'clock each morning. Now she can't wait for the sun to rise to start painting.

Her Riverwood collection is being shown at the gallery's current exhibit.

"The Hudson is just amazing," Gutschmit said. "The way it changes every day, looking at the water, the lighting. It's just so magnificent, and of course, my husband wanted to live by the Hudson because he wanted to fish and kayak, but I'm not really an outdoorsy person. It's, for me, just looking out my window, that's just good enough of an inspiration."

Garber had always been an amateur photographer, snapping images of people, nature and landscapes. But after his retirement, he enrolled in the International Center of Photography, which offers photography education programs.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Photographer Michael Garber, left, and structural painter Mimi Kim Gutschmit at last Saturday's reception for the Rockefeller Park Preserve gallery exhibit "Symbolic Images of Nature."

For the Rockefeller gallery exhibit, Garber focused on close up images of birds. He was inspired by his wife, Stephanie, a Rockland Audubon Society member. The couple lives in Blauvelt.

"She was on the (Audubon Society) board and so she loves birds, and I always loved them, too," he said. "But it was more her interest and that was something I could do with her."

Garber said he looks for shots that capture

the personality or the character of each bird, because similar to humans, they're all different. Then the right lighting and a healthy dose of luck also comes into play.

Two of Garber's photographs in the exhibit were taken at Rockefeller Park Preserve. His wife helps identify the species.

Since the pandemic, the Rockefeller State Park Preserve has become one of the most popular state parks in New York, said Peter Iskenderian, the park's manager. In each of the past two years, annual attendance has swelled by an eye-popping 50 percent, from 400,000 to about 600,000 visitors, he said. The park has 1,800 acres and 55 miles of carriage roads.

Last Saturday, the parking lots were overflowing and a long line of cars were parked on the shoulder of Route 117.

"Our trails are 16 feet wide, they're all carriage roads," Iskenderian said. "People can social distance on our fields, so that's what made it an ideal location, plus we have Phelps Hospital right next door and we have all the doctors and nurses coming here after their work, during their lunch break just coming in walking."

"Symbolic Images of Nature" will be on display through May 1. The gallery is located at 125 Phelps Way (Route 177) and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free; parking for the preserve is \$6. For more information, call 914-631-1470 ext. 0 or visit <https://www.friendsrock.org/art-gallery>.

Westchester Nonprofit Helps Match Owners With the Right Pets

By Martin Wilbur

Juli Cialone saw firsthand the therapeutic benefits pets could have on people in a rather unexpected scenario.

Cialone had previously worked as a rock n' roll photographer, capturing images of bands in concert. As she followed the musical artists, she noticed that there seemed to be a steady supply of pets as part of their entourage.

"I noticed they had a lot of animals with them as therapy and as buddies on the road and we were working helping out a lot of rescues in our community just by being active volunteers and we wanted to figure out a way to help out in a different way," she said.

In 2002, Cialone founded Rock n' Rescue, an organization that rescues animals and finds families to adopt them.

By 2017, Cialone decided to devote most of her time to the much-needed rescue and adoption work and registered the South Salem-based organization as a nonprofit. There are massive numbers of animals, particularly in the South, where spaying and neutering remains uncommon, shelters are overrun and operators must put down animals.

While most adoptable dogs are often able to have homes found for them, the same hasn't been true of felines. That is why Rock n' Rescue's matching service predominantly involves cats, although it also finds homes for dogs, guinea pigs and other small animals when needed, Cialone said.

"The numbers of euthanasia down South were so significant when it comes to cats, the sweetest of the sweet were being destroyed alongside ones that were unadoptable," Cialone said.



Not only does Rock n' Rescue, a South Salem-based animal rescue and adoption nonprofit organization, help find happy and safe homes for more than 2,000 animals a year, it also focuses on matching pets to help owners improve their physical, psychological and emotional health.

At least 90 percent of Rock n' Rescue's animals come from the South, said James Scova, the organizations director of communications.

What helps set Rock n' Rescue apart from other pet adoption services is its matchmaking abilities, that its rescued animals don't live in shelter cages but get acclimated to homes by going to volunteers' residences until an owner is found and the organization's emphasis on

how animals can help their owners' health.

The temporary foster homes helps Cialone judge which pets may be compatible with young children, seniors or other dogs or cats.

Several years ago, Cialone met and brought aboard Marla Valentine, who has helped promote the benefits of pet therapy. Valentine, a longtime social worker, said the pandemic exacerbated depression, anxiety, eating disorders and suicide indicators, particularly among young adults, and the presence of a loving pet can help someone psychologically, physically or emotionally.

"I was a director of social services in nursing homes; 30 years in social work and I left that to join forces with Juli so we can bring animal-assisted therapy into our program here," Valentine said.

Rock n' Rescue has partnered with Ann's Place in Danbury, which provides, comfort, support and resources to people with cancer and their families. It also has various other therapeutic programs involving animals.

"We will go to their center and do kitten therapy with their clientele who either have cancer or have lost someone to cancer or are dealing with it in the family," Valentine said.

After Rock n' Rescue became a nonprofit, its reach expanded. But demand for pets has soared during the pandemic, increasing from about 1,400 adoptions a year to more than 2,000 annually, Scova said. It has found homes for pets throughout the Northeast, but Westchester, Putnam and Fairfield counties is its base.

One outgrowth of the pandemic has been curbside adoptions over the past two years. Cialone said prospective pet owners can visit Rock n' Rescue's website to look at photos of

the cats, dogs and other animals available for adoption.

If someone has found a pet they are interested in, a meet-and-greet will be arranged. Cialone said by the time it reaches that stage, the chances of adoption are overwhelming. To a cat or a dog, someone's car gives them a good sense of what their potential adopter is like.

"I know it sounds weird, but it actually ended up being a COVID policy that we've been doing and now it's so popular that we're keeping it," she said.

Any adopted pet will be up to date with its shots to the extent that their age allows.

Rock n' Rescue also is eyeing an expansion, looking for a suitable location for a welcome and wellness center, where the meet-and-greets and therapy sessions can be done.

For more information on Rock n' Rescue, visit www.rnrpets.org.

Crossword Answers

1	S	A	C			4	A	M	P	L	E			
9	T	I	E	10	S	11	U	N	A	R	M	S		
12	A	R	R	A	13	N	G	E	M	E	N	T		
14	S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I						
15	H	O	M	E	O	16	R	E	17	U	S	E		
20	E	L	I						21	T	E	N		
22	D	E	C	23	A	24	F	25	U	26	B	O	A	T
				27	G	28	U	I	S	E	P	P	E	
29	T	30	R	A	N	S	L	A	T	I	O	N		
32	R	E	S	E	E	K	33	H	A	R	T			
34	Y	O	U	S	E				35	S	T	E		

Girls High School Flag Football Ready to Kick Off Inaugural Season

By Abby Luby

A cold wind and rain didn't deter about 200 high school girls from suiting up and practicing on the Somers High School football field last Friday.

It was the Section 1 jamboree to celebrate the arrival of flag football at the high school level in New York State. Playing tips were shared by a pair of New York Giants – quarterback Daniel Jones and linebacker Blake Martinez.

Flag football, a popular alternative to traditional American tackle football, could become a varsity sport for girls in New York within the next two years. The game is attractive since it is a non-contact version of the sport and players are less likely to sustain serious injuries compared to tackle football.

There is no diving, blocking, screening or fumbles, in addition to the prohibition on tackling, making it safer while reducing the chance of head injuries.

"This is fun for everyone and we're all very excited," said Lina Brown, a Somers High School junior. "I grew up watching football and to actually play is a real rush. It's empowering that we can do what the guys have been doing for so long."

For some, practicing at Somers High School was their first chance to play on a football field. Unencumbered by the traditional protective gear, players wore belts with two flags hanging from their sides, and many used eye black. Instead of tackling the ball carrier, the defensive player tries to take one of the flags off of the player's belt to stop their forward progress.

For a few exhilarating hours, players scrimmaged and practiced passing and receiving.

This year the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's (NYSPHSAA) flag football pilot program was launched within six of the state's 11 sections. The NYSPHSAA is partnering with Nike, the Buffalo Bills, New York Giants and New York Jets. Section 1 flag football is sponsored by the Giants.

There are nine teams that will be competing in the section when the season opens later this month for a six-game



ABBY LUBY PHOTOS

New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones and linebacker Blake Martinez, with his young daughter, speak during last Friday's Section 1 kickoff jamboree for high school girls' flag football at Somers High School.

schedule. The participating teams are Brewster, Greenburgh-North Castle, Hastings, Lakeland, Mahopac, Walter Panas, Peekskill, Scarsdale and Somers. All nine schools were represented at last Friday's jamboree.

The enthusiasm was infectious as girls encouraged one another.

"There is an awesome collaborative environment here on the field," said Devon DiMichelle, a Somers High School senior. "This is an amazing sport and I love how different it is from (tackle) football. It's new, revolutionary."

Coaches also provided instruction, support and encouragement.

"This is a chance for our girls who never had the opportunity to now play football," said Lakeland flag football Coach P.J. Nyberg, who was accompanied by Panas High School flag football coach Brandon Thomas.

"The energy for us is great," Thomas said. "We have girls that quit other sports to play flag football."

In January, the New York Giants



Girls from Brewster and Scarsdale high schools' flag football teams scrimmage last week at the Section 1 kickoff jamboree to introduce the sport.



Girls from Peekskill and Somers high schools' flag football teams scrimmage last Friday during the Section 1 kickoff jamboree for high school girls' flag football at Somers High School last Friday.

announced a \$60,000 donation to the NYSPHSAA to support the inaugural flag football season in Sections 1 and 4. Nike will provide a \$100,000 stipend split between all participating teams in the state for equipment and uniforms.

Somers flag football Coach Katie DiChiaro initially laid the groundwork for the sport to take root. Along with Jennifer Kisslinger, DiChiaro co-founded the Somers Youth Sports Organization (YSO) and started an all-girls flag football league in 2018, which has become a wildly popular town recreational program. The program has grown to a 22-team, 188-player all-girl league, for girls five years old and up, and is a part of the NFL FLAG program, the official flag football league of the NFL and the largest youth flag football organization in the U.S.

Under the NFL FLAG rules, there are generally five players per team on the field for each play, although there can be up to 10 on each side. The field is 30 yards wide and 70 yards long between the goal lines with two 10-yard end zones.

In the three-year period ending in 2018, the number of six- to-12-year-olds playing

had increased 38 percent nationwide, to more than 1.5 million, according to a New York Times report. That's 100,000 more than the number of youths playing tackle football, the Sports & Fitness Industry Association reported.

An impressive number of girls have signed up to be on their school's flag football roster in Section 1. In February, about 45 Lakeland High School girls and 52 at Panas attended a flag football meeting. Other schools attracted 40 to 50 hopefuls to try out for their teams.

The Lower Hudson Valley high school league is planning for each team to play six games starting in mid-April, with a final tournament to be held before the end of May.

From the sidelines, Denise Galgano watched her daughter Grace scrimmage with her Brewster teammates.

"Grace plays varsity basketball for Brewster High School and will be playing next year at college," Galgano said. "She was excited to accept the coach's invitation to play flag football. She is a big Giants fan."

Free Parkinson's Dance Classes Available

Enjoy a dynamic and fun hour of dance and artistic exploration with congenial groups.

Join Steffi Nossen School of Dance for its free movement class based on the internationally acclaimed Mark Morris Group Dance for Parkinson's program with Wendy Morsberger, professionally trained in the Dance for PD Method, dancer and physical therapist. Come alone or bring a partner, friend or caregiver. No dance

experience is necessary. Stand up or sit down as you like.

The classes will be held on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at Steffi Nossen School of Dance, located at 216 Central Ave. in White Plains, and on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Bethany Arts Center, 40 Somerstown Rd. in Ossining. Proof of vaccination and masks are required.

For more information or to attend one of the classes, call 914-328-1900 or e-mail judyross@steffinossen.org.



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

Discover the Houlihan Lawrence *Difference.*

Put the power of the **TOP BROKERAGE IN PUTNAM COUNTY** *to*
work for you, and get TOP DOLLAR for your home.

Here, North of NYC, Houlihan Lawrence is the market leader – and for good reason. With proprietary market data, hyper-local insights, and our powerful network of trusted connections, we’re uniquely positioned to provide buyers and sellers with everything they need to make important decisions with confidence.

Consult with the Brewster Office experts to discuss your options.



1 North Road
3 BEDS • 2 BATHS • 1,851 SF • .50 ACRE
Brewster | WEB# PE2998102 | \$395,000



31 Princeton Road
2 BEDS • 1 BATH • 864 SF • .18 ACRE
Carmel | WEB# PE2997552 | \$220,000



205 Shenandoah Road
3 BEDS • 3 BATHS • 1,950 SF • 7.10 ACRES
Hopewell Junction | WEB# PE2995492 | \$630,000



72 Meadowbrook Court
3 BEDS • 3 BATHS • 1,879 SF • .24 ACRE
Patterson | WEB# PE2996142 | \$445,000



25 Deer Run Court
3 BEDS • 2 BATHS • 1,386 SF • .41 ACRE
Carmel | WEB# PE2993312 | \$399,000



3 Maloney Lane
4 BEDS • 2 BATHS • 2,016 SF • .31 ACRE
New Milford | WEB# PE2994652 | \$325,000

BREWSTER BROKERAGE • 1515 ROUTE 22 UNIT D3, BREWSTER, NY 10509 • 845.279.6800

Source: OKMLS, 1/1/21-12/31/21, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by company, Putnam County