



# Putnam Officials to Ensure Motorists Get Gas Tax Break

By Rick Pezzullo

On June 1, motorists who fill up their gas tanks in Putnam County were slated to enjoy a tax savings, thanks to a reduction in the county's gasoline tax that was approved by the Putnam Legislature and signed by County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

To ensure gas station owners are passing the savings to drivers, Odell has instructed the Consumer Affairs Department to canvas all stations and track the pricing.

"We believe most gas stations will do the right thing, but we are going to take steps to ensure that every gas station does," Odell

stated. "We take price gouging seriously. The cost of gas these days is literally highway robbery, it's taking an unprecedented toll on family budgets."

In April, the Legislature unanimously agreed to limit the county's sales tax to the first \$2 per gallon of the price from June 1 through December 1, meaning motorists will save about 10 cents per gallon.

That savings is in addition to the approximately 15 cents gas tax cut New York State recently approved from June 1 to December 31. The federal government is also considering a 10 cents per gallon reduction.

"Now that it's summer and kids are home from college and families are driving more, we want to give residents a break," said Putnam County Legislature Chair Neal Sullivan, who first proposed the tax break to his colleagues. "Inflation is undermining our families' quality of life. We, in Putnam, are happy to be able to give our residents this gas sales tax holiday."

Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin expressed concern about the cut, explaining Putnam could lose \$1 to \$1.5 million in sales tax revenue.

It's unclear what action Putnam officials will take if any stations are caught price gouging.



Prices recently at a Mobil station in Mahopac.

## Wells Middle School Students Raise \$2,400 for Ukraine

By Rick Pezzullo

Henry H. Wells Middle School in the Brewster School District recently completed a month-long effort to raise money for the people of Ukraine that united clubs and classes from across the school and raised \$2,400.

"Community service is when people come together and work for a single cause," Assistant Principal Alicia Manguso said to an auditorium full of eighth graders during a recent grade-level meeting. "That's something that we did together as a school and I think it's really important to celebrate it. When you are kind to others or do good things for other people, it is contagious."

The Leadership Club spearheaded a raffle that included 60 donations from students, staff and other clubs. Raffle prizes ranged from gift cards and special lunches with teachers to student-made baked goods and

the chance to pie teacher John Gregorio in the face.

In addition to the raffles, Tom Solimine's students made chocolate-covered pretzels and sold them during lunch while the National Junior Honor Society sold Smencils. The Kindness Klub made yellow and blue ribbons for students and staff. Student Government and Irene Othmer's art classes made posters that said "Wells Stands with Ukraine." On Fridays, the entire school wore the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

"It has been a schoolwide endeavor that students are very excited about," said Marisa Gargano, co-advisor of the Leadership Club.

Students worked to secure some of the raffle prizes, creating baskets together as clubs, reaching out to local businesses and donating things on their own.

Jaylin Morales was one of the students who helped to sell raffle tickets during lunch.

*continued on page 2*



Students raised money with activities over several weeks.

## Carmel High Students Honored



At the recent Board of Education meeting, Carmel Central School District recognized this year's Seal of Biliteracy recipients from Carmel High School. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to students that have proven an intermediate high level of language proficiency in French, Italian or Spanish, in addition to English. Presentation topics this year ranged from music, art, and fashion to crime, environmental issues, and women's and LGBTQ+ rights. This year's Seal of Biliteracy Award recipients were: Jerry Alonzo (Spanish), Keerthi Atluri (Spanish), Leila Bahssain (French), Robert Beanland (Italian), Francesco Bojorquez (Italian), Peyton Capolino (Italian), Gabriela Carneiro (Spanish), Julia Diorio (French), Sofia Harrison (French), Adriana Mastrangelo (Italian), Jake Montana (Spanish), Kathleen O'Sullivan (Spanish), Molly Radigan (Spanish), Julie Repanti (French), Sofia Sanchez (French), and Gabrielle Santangelo (Spanish).



# Voters in Garrison District Getting Second Chance at Budget

By Rick Pezzullo

Residents in the Garrison School District will be getting a second crack at approving a budget for the 2022-23 school year.

Following the May 17 defeat of the \$12.36 spending plan when 30 percent of eligible voters finished at a standstill (314 for and 314 against), the Board of Education decided on May 25 to put up a revised budget on June 21.

The first budget exceeded the state's mandated 2.2 percent tax cap with a 9.18 tax hike. The new budget includes a 6.6 percent tax increase and must be approved by at least 60 percent of voters to pass.

Also on the ballot is a proposal for Garrison to enter into a four-year agreement with the Haldane School District for high school tuition costs that would save Garrison more than \$107,000. Garrison students have the option of either attending Haldane High School or O'Neill High School in Highland Falls.

Haldane Superintendent of Schools Phil Benante recently addressed the proposed arrangement.

"As Garrison continues to develop another budget to present to their community for vote later in June, we have been asked to reevaluate our tuition rate structure for students who currently attend Haldane and those who are scheduled to attend our high school next year. The Haldane Board of Education and I have extensively discussed this matter," Benante stated.

"First and foremost, we consider all

students who attend Haldane to be our students. We are committed to ensuring that all students who have committed to Haldane have an uninterrupted educational experience and have informed Garrison that we will honor a tuition structure that allows these students to attend Haldane High School. We also stand behind the value of the Haldane experience and our responsibility to the taxpayers of our community. We will seek to work with Garrison to establish a tuition rate structure that reflects the commitment that our residents have made to support our schools," Benante added.

On May 17, voters in Garrison okayed a similar agreement with the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery School District.

To reduce the proposed tax hike, the Garrison Board of Education eliminated a part-time music teacher (\$48,865), a Land to Learn Program (\$20,000), and a startup lunch program (\$10,000), and reduced a field trip budget by \$15,000.

If voters reject the budget again on June 21, an additional \$642,355 would have to be cut. That would result in the loss of arts programs (band, chorus and theater), bus transportation within two miles of the school, one elementary teacher, a school psychologist, the director of technology, the environmental science teacher, and a dialectical behavior therapist.

Residents will have an opportunity before the vote to comment on the revised budget at a June 14 public hearing at 7 p.m. Voting on June 21 will take place between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.

# Mahopac High Spring Festival



Mahopac High School held its First Annual Spring Festival that included a Students against Cancer Pie a Teacher Fundraiser, a parade of clubs to show visiting Middle School 8th graders what is in store for them next year and lots more. The 8th graders were escorted by 11th grade students who served as their tour guides. Art Teacher Sean Flanagan and Assistant Principal Matthew Calabro were on the receiving end of many pies.



# Carmel Spring Fair



Town officials and others participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday for Carmel's Spring Fair.

# Wells Middle School Students Raise \$2,400 for Ukraine

*continued from page 1*

"It was easy to sell the tickets," she said. "Kids would see them at lunch one day and come back the next day with money."

The schools' joint efforts helped to raise \$2,400, with \$1,200 donated to the Red Cross and \$1,200 donated to UNICEF.

"We really came together as a school community to make sure that we are helping others," Manguso said. "That's something that's really important. It's something that we want you all to leave here with."

Manguso noted the district's Strategic Coherence Plan (SCP) skills and how the school's efforts incorporated every one of them.

"All of the work that was done through this schoolwide effort for the people of Ukraine demonstrated our SCP skills," she said. "There was collaboration and communication between clubs, recognizing that there are people in need and wanting to help — that's part of civic responsibility. You used critical thinking to figure out how we were going to be able to raise money in a fun way that would motivate people to participate. You were adaptable. Some students gave up parts of their day in order to work the tables. And this took about a month from start to finish. It takes perseverance to see something through."





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# Mt. Pleasant Honors Late Legislator Swanson With Street Renaming

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of Mount Pleasant paid tribute to former county legislator Suzanne Swanson on Sunday, one of its most beloved and dedicated public servants, by renaming a street in her honor.

Local and county officials, friends and family members gathered at the intersection of Westchester and Albany avenues in Thornwood, a short walk from where Swanson and her husband Donald lived for more than a half-century and raised their family together, to unveil a street sign that reads Suzanne Swanson Way.

Swanson, who was initially elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators in November 1991 and served as a Conservative, passed away in October 2020 at 75 years old. She served two separate stints on the board, and finished her service at the close of 2007.

"She was an amazing person," said County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant), who currently holds the District 3 seat that Swanson had occupied and whom she credits for convincing her to run for the Board of Legislators. "I mean I'm going to get all teary eyed here because I miss her. I miss her every day. There are times that I want to call her."

"This is the least that we could do. She helped everybody in the Town of Mount Pleasant; she helped everybody in Westchester County."

Donald Swanson and their grown children, son Devin and daughter Donna, said having the town recognize her contributions and



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The children and husband of former county legislator Suzanne Swanson during Sunday's unveiling of a street renaming in her honor in Thornwood. Pictured, from left, are her son, Devin, daughter Donna and husband Donald Swanson.

service was a great honor.

"It was a great thing to do for her," Devin Swanson said. "It was well-deserved, her dedication to the town and the county. It touched me; it touched me a lot, but until I got here today, I didn't really realize it."

Donald Swanson said his wife never had any intention of running for public office until there was a controversy with a local quarry. Crews began blasting, causing dust and debris to fly into homes in the area severely impacting residents' quality of life.

After being elected, she became immersed in the community and her constituents.

"Once she got involved in the town and the county more, it just went on and on, and once she got a hold of something there was no letting go," Donald Swanson said.

Other officials who either served with her or in local government while she was in office remembered Swanson as someone who would put principles over politics. Former Mount Pleasant supervisor Robert Meehan remembered that he first met her when the

United Homeowners of Mount Pleasant was looking for a local attorney to help them.

Swanson was an independent person and her community came first while always striving to do the right thing, Meehan said. But it was her friendship that he valued the most.

"I miss her as a friend more than anything else," Meehan said. "So I'll drive by here every once in a while and remind (myself) what a great person she was."

County Executive George Latimer recalled that he and Swanson were elected to the Board of Legislators the same year and also remembered her independence who would often be able to pull coalitions together. Swanson also never shied away from telling people her views.

"She would tell you what she really thought, and in the business that I'm in and some of you are in, you don't always get that," Latimer said. "Guys tell you stuff because they think that's what you want to hear. You'd go through this stuff and she'd tell you the straight dope, and you knew she was speaking for Thornwood, for Hawthorne, for Valhalla, for North Castle. She understood her communities."

Current Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said Swanson helped so many residents and officials in the town and throughout the county that it was fitting that she receives a lasting tribute.

"Her efforts will never be forgotten," Fulgenzi said. "We thank her, we thank her family for letting us honor her in this way."

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# Gashi Moving Ahead With Congressional Bid in Outside District

By Rick Pezzullo

When new congressional district lines were redrawn last month for what will be New York State's 26 seats starting next year, a lot of scrambling took place among incumbent representatives and potential challengers.

Westchester County Legislator Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown) had set his sights on Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-Yonkers) in the formerly revamped 16th Congressional District.

After state Republicans waged a successful court battle challenging what they charged was extreme gerrymandering, the new boundaries now place Gashi's home in the 17th District, currently represented by Rep. Mondaire Jones.

However, Jones has decided to relocate and run for the 10th Congressional District covering portions of Brooklyn and Manhattan, while Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who currently represents the 18th District, is being forced to run in the reconfigured 17th District, which will take in northern Westchester, Putnam County and a small piece of Dutchess County.

Instead of taking on Maloney for the Democratic nomination, Gashi is sticking to his original plan to challenge Bowman in the 16th District on Aug. 23.

Although the U.S. Constitution does not require House members to live in the district they represent, Gashi said last week he would move into the 16th Congressional District if he were elected to the seat in November.

"After reviewing the final maps with my family and team, I'm even more excited about

the campaign to win the primary election for New York's 16th Congressional District on Aug. 23," Gashi stated. "The district lines have changed, but my reason for running has not. We're focused on bringing our country together to deliver actual progress for everyday New Yorkers. During the redistricting process I've met with a wide variety of supporters, and we've picked up a number of important endorsements which will be announced soon."

Gashi, an attorney, graduated from Lakeland High School. Born in Kosovo, at the age of four he and his family fled the country for the United States. After passing the New York bar exam, Gashi joined the effort to help draft some of the newly-formed state of Kosovo's foundational legal documents and establish its Ministry of Local Government Administration.

He was elected to a second term on the Board of Legislators last November representing much of Yorktown, a portion of Somers and New Castle.

He said his congressional campaign has raised more than \$600,000 to date.

"Meanwhile, I've actively continued serving my constituents across Westchester as county legislator by lowering taxes, improving infrastructure, securing gasoline tax relief, supporting the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act, approving a measure to combat gender and race-based workplace pay inequality and combating gun violence by requiring warning labels to be posted wherever firearms are sold," Gashi said. "My campaign is about ensuring that



Despite New York's congressional districts having been redrawn that will result in an August primary, Westchester County Legislator Vedat Gashi is still targeting fellow Democrat Rep. Jamaal Bowman. Gashi has taken issue with several of Bowman's votes.

everyone has a shot at the American dream."

Gashi said he was challenging Bowman, a Yonkers resident, because he disagreed with some of his votes, one being Bowman's opposition to President Joe Biden's \$1.5 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act because he felt it didn't do enough to increase social safety net funding. The bill passed regardless.

Gashi also said he was disappointed when Bowman voted against emergency funding

for Capitol police following the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in Washington.

"My family came to the United States as refugees, and I grew up in the Bronx before moving to Westchester to raise my family," he said. "This country gave me a chance, so I will fight to protect working families and expand the middle class."

"This district deserves a representative who supports President Biden's agenda, will put progress before posturing and will work hard to get things done. I look forward to continuing my dialogue with residents of the district to learn more about their concerns and share my vision of how we can strengthen our country and create a fairer nation that works for everyone."

The Aug. 23 Democratic primary will also include Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker, who represents the Sound Shore communities of Mamaroneck, Rye and Larchmont on the Board of Legislators. Parker had entered the 2020 Democratic scramble for the 17th Congressional District that was won by Jones but exited the race before the primary.

Meanwhile, on the Republican side, Somers Councilman William Faulkner, who announced last March his bid to run in the 16th Congressional District, now finds himself having to run a GOP primary in August against three other candidates in the 17th District. Faulkner will be squaring off against Charles Falciglia, Jack Schrepel and Assemblyman Michael Lawler (R-Pearl River) who represents the 97th Assembly District in Rockland County.



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# Westchester's Warning Label Measure for Gun Buyers Signed into Law

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive George Latimer signed legislation last week that requires a warning notice be posted where firearms are sold and licenses are issued in Westchester to remind gun owners of the risks involved.

The law, which Latimer compared to a warning label on cigarette packs, would mandate that every person, firm or corporation in Westchester that sells weapons to post a notice at the entrance to the establishment and at least one other location for buyers to see.

The warning must be no smaller than 24-point type in bold and on paper that is at least eight-and-a-half by 11 inches.

"Access to a weapon or firearm increases the risk of suicide, homicide, death during domestic disputes and unintentional deaths to children, household members and others," the posted warning will read. "If you or a loved one is experiencing distress and/or depression, call the crisis prevention and response team at 914-925-5959 or the National Suicide Hotline."

The county clerk's office would also be required to furnish a written copy of the warning to anyone seeking a gun license.

The Board of Legislators had unanimously approved the measure before Latimer signed it in front of the County Center last Thursday, a location symbolically chosen because it was the site of gun shows when former county executive Rob Astorino was in office, said board Chairwoman Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining). The measure had been



Westchester County Executive George Latimer speaks last week, surrounded by Barry Graubart from Moms Demand Action, left, and Board of Legislators Chair Catherine Borgia, about the new warning that must be posted at all establishments that have retail sales of guns in the county. Latimer signed the bill moments later.

previously introduced by former legislator Ruth Walter.

Latimer dismissed any notion that the law is unnecessary or could be considered grandstanding during a time when a rash of mass shootings has plagued the nation.

"This is not radical, this is rational," Latimer said. "Westchester County is a rational, pragmatic county that does things to help people live longer lives and live better lives."

County Legislator Colin Smith

(D-Peekskill) said the law "is a basic, sensible" measure, citing a recent statistic reported in The New England Journal of Medicine that gun-related deaths are now the leading cause of death among children in the United States, surpassing car accidents.

"It's a gentle reminder to gun buyers that there are risks involved of keeping a weapon in the home that can reach beyond just the gun owner, to anyone that comes into the house hold," Smith said.

Westchester's step to include a warning

at the point of purchase and when acquiring a gun license may seem small, but since the start of the pandemic there have been many new gun owners, said Barry Graubart, a volunteer with the New York chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Graubart said guns are more dangerous in the home. For those who use a firearm in a suicide attempt, the person kills themselves roughly 90 percent of the time, a much greater percentage than with pills or by other means, he said.

"It shouldn't even be that hard to think through, that a gun in the house adds risk, right. It's intuitive," Graubart said. "But the gun industry has spent the last three of four decades trying to sell you on the opposite, that a gun makes you safer, and we know that's not true. We have the data and we see it."

County Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D-Greenburgh) said people must be fully aware of the risks and consequences of having a gun.

"If this gun warning label (prevents) one suicide death, one domestic violence gun issue or one child's death it is more than worth it," Johnson said.

Borgia said she believes the law would withstand any potential legal challenge and hopes the state legislature considers a similar measure in the near future.

"We're going to make it our mission to encourage the state to make it a statewide law," she said. "We like nothing better than when our Westchester County laws get preempted."



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# New Castle's Gun Violence Awareness Day: 'We Have Had Enough'

By Nora Lowe

On Friday, New Castle observed National Gun Violence Awareness Day at the gazebo in downtown Chappaqua.

This year's annual "Wear Orange" event was held against the backdrop of the shooting in Uvalde, Texas that claimed the lives of two teachers and 19 elementary school students, as well as other recent shootings in Buffalo and Tulsa.

The atmosphere at the gazebo oscillated between solemn moments of silence and frustrated, impassioned calls for political action. Speakers included clergy, elected officials, activists and police personnel.

"We mourn for the loss of schools and workplaces as safe harbors and peaceful environments of gathering," said Temple Beth El Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe during the opening prayer.

New Castle Town Supervisor Lisa Katz welcomed attendees but wished it was for another occasion.

"I love gathering with our community, but I'm not really happy to be gathering here today," Katz said. The event served as "a stark reminder of the horror" taking place around the country, she said.

Uvalde, Tulsa and Buffalo join a long list of other communities that have been torn apart, names of places that have become synonymous with gun violence, such as Newtown, Parkland, Aurora, El Paso, Dayton, San Bernardino, Las Vegas, Charleston and Virginia Tech and Columbine, among others.



Pleasantville resident Erin Fuller Brian speaks at the New Castle Gun Violence Awareness Day program last Friday in Chappaqua. Brian survived the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 58 people.

"When it comes to the safety of our children and fellow citizens, the toxic, hyper-partisan politics of the day must be set aside," Katz said.

Keynote speaker Erin Fuller Brian recounted her own harrowing experience as a survivor of the 2017 Las Vegas mass shooting in which 58 concert-goers were murdered.

The Pleasantville resident and mother of two described the aftermath of the experience: struggles with PTSD, nightmares, panic attacks, social isolation

and survivor's guilt. Anxiety is an ongoing battle.

She pointed to "Washington gridlock" as a root cause of the issue.

"This is unacceptable. This is negligence... We have had enough," Brian said.

She urged attendees to donate to organizations such as Brady: United Against Gun Violence, attend March for Our Lives events, vote and call representatives to "remind them that they work for us."

County Executive George Latimer emphasized that "Sandy Hook could

have easily been any suburban town in Westchester County." Despite pride over county and state progress, he said he was concerned about the ease with which firearms are illegally transported across state borders.

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) announced the recent approval of 10 bills in the state legislature, which he soon expects the governor to sign into law. Some changes include raising the minimum age to purchase a semi-automatic weapon from 18 to 21 and banning the purchase of body armor.

New Castle Police Chief James Carroll lamented how "gun deaths in our country are occurring at a staggering pace" and how in the U.S., "children are far more likely to die of gun violence than any other cause."

Moms Demand Action volunteer Naomi Marrow said the rash of mass shootings has altered her routine when visiting movie theaters. Previously, she would make note of where the bathrooms were located.

"Now, I make sure I know where the exits are," Marrow said. "That is obscene. It has become a dangerous world."

During the late afternoon program, a boys' baseball team played in the field adjacent to the gazebo, and children played with symbolic orange pinwheels.

"They are our future, and they're the ones we need to protect," Katz said.

At a recent meeting, the New Castle Town Board adopted a proclamation designating June 3 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the town.



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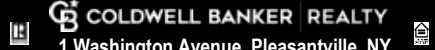
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# Police Blotter

## New Castle Police Department

**May 28:** Officers and the Mount Kisco Fire Department responded to a Seth Canyon Drive residence for a structure fire. The homeowners stated that a loud bang awoke them. Mount Kisco firefighters extinguished the blaze and discovered that a lightning strike was the likely cause.

**May 28:** A Cerf Lane resident reported that his 2021 BMW was stolen from the driveway. The vehicle was left unlocked with the keys inside. Detectives are investigating.

## North Castle Police Department

**May 27:** A Creemer Road resident reported at 3:20 a.m. that he is not home but is viewing his Ring camera and sees something unusual at his front door. He reported that he received a package earlier, but now believes there is possible "debris" flying around. The responding officer stated that the condition is caused by gnats swarming at the front door. The homeowner was advised.

**May 27:** An officer reported being out with a homeless male party on Old Orchard Street at 11:58 a.m. The party was transported to Open Arms shelter in White Plains.

**May 27:** Caller reported cement spillage at 12:15 p.m. on Creemer Road from Route 22 up to Green Valley Road. The responding officer confirmed the

material in the roadway. The North Castle Highway Department was notified.

**May 27:** A caller reported at 12:34 p.m. that his catalytic converter was stolen off his van at some point last night on Lafayette Avenue. The responding officer reported that the information and depositions were gathered; a report will follow.

**May 27:** Report of a residential burglary on Cox Avenue at 7:39 p.m. The caller reported that she was told there was a white BMW in her driveway. She immediately came home from work and observed her bathroom window broken and her house ransacked. She stated that her interior cameras have video footage of a man in her home about 20 minutes in the past. Responding officers confirmed a burglary. Security footage and depositions were subsequently secured.

**May 28:** At 9:03 p.m., report of a male party on Bates Lane sleeping in a van for about two days. The vehicle was described as a large yellow van with dark tinted windows and no plates. The responding officer reported that the party was a wedding photographer working in the area and did not want to return home. He was advised that there is a rest area on I-684.

**May 30:** Report of a very aggressive, large Copperhead snake in the roadway on Cox Avenue at 11:38 a.m. The responding officer reported the animal was dispatched with his patrol vehicle. The snake is on the side of the roadway; condition corrected.

**May 31:** A caller reported at 1:05 p.m.

that sometime on May 27 an unknown person cut the catalytic converters off of two vehicles on New King Street. The responding officers secured depositions and pictures.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**May 27:** A village resident reported at 11:19 a.m. that someone opened up a new credit card account in his and his wife's names. The matter is being investigated.

**May 29:** Report of an arrest stemming from a domestic dispute at 9:37 a.m. A 27-year-old Man was arrested for assault in connection with an incident. Police did not disclose further details.

**May 30:** A 22-year-old Pennsylvania man was arrested at 11:40 a.m. and charged with criminal mischief for breaking a car window on Willow Street.

**June 1:** A dumping complaint originated from Clinton Street at 11:45 a.m. One contractor claimed that another contractor filled their dumpster with material.

## State Police/Brewster

**May 25:** State police from the Brewster barracks arrested Alexander Backofen, 26, of Bedford, for first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree criminal sex act, all Class B felonies, and second-degree assault, a Class D felony. The investigation determined that the suspect traveled to Carmel and forcibly raped and assaulted a victim that was known to him. He was arraigned in Town of Carmel Justice Court and remanded to the Putnam County Jail in lieu of \$75,000 cash bail or \$150,000 bond.

## White Plains Police Department

**May 29:** Darius Evans, 35, was charged at 3:30 a.m. with DWI following an incident on Main and Church streets where he hit a parked car.

**June 1:** Eric Paige, 44, of Grand Street was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary at 8:50 a.m.

**June 2:** James Young, 31, of East Post Road was charged with fourth-degree grand larceny at 1:05 p.m.

## Yorktown Police Department

**May 25:** At about 9 p.m., a caller at BJ's Wholesale Club on Route 202 reported that an infant had been left alone in a car for an extended time. Following an investigation, Jose Pillco, 38, of Yorktown, was charged with endangering the welfare of a child for allegedly leaving his seven-month-old unattended in a vehicle while he shopped.

**May 30:** Jervonie Gray, 34, of Ossining, was charged at 12:10 a.m. with first-degree burglary for having allegedly entered a dwelling unlawfully and, while inside, caused physical injury to a victim and damaged property.

**May 30:** Juan Lopez, 40, of Yorktown, was charged at 3:40 a.m. with third-degree assault, second-degree menacing and criminal obstruction of breathing following a report of a domestic incident. Police allege that Lopez caused physical injury to a victim, put his forearm on her throat to intentionally impede her breathing and threatened her with a knife. He was remanded to Westchester County Jail in Valhalla.

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



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## Putnam Sheriff Warns of Scams Targeting Older Adults

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville reminds residents to be wary of phone calls from strangers asking for money.

The calls vary and can include those that try to scare a person by telling them that they are calling from a police agency, a relative has been arrested and they must send money in order to bail them out of jail. Often the callers will put someone on the phone to impersonate a child or grandchild to further convince the victim. Other times, criminals pose as government employees and threaten to arrest or prosecute victims unless they agree to provide funds or other payments.

Seniors are often targeted because they tend to be trusting and polite. They also usually have financial savings, own a home and have

good credit, all of which make them attractive to scammers.

Additionally, seniors may be less inclined to report fraud because they don't know how or they may be too ashamed of having been scammed. They might also be concerned that their relatives will lose confidence in their abilities to manage their own financial affairs. When an elderly victim does report a crime, they may be unable to supply detailed information to investigators.

It is estimated that more than 3.5 million older adults are the victims of financial crimes each year with total estimated losses over \$3 billion.

Residents who believe that they have been a victim of a scam should contact the Putnam County Sheriff's Department at 845-225-4300 or their local police department.

**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



# **IMPORTANT TO ATTEND!!**

**Your Quality of Life Could Be Changed Forever!!**

**Public Informational Hearing  
June 13, 2022, 7pm, Yorktown Town Hall**

**Regarding the Soundview/Underhill Property at  
370 Underhill Avenue**

**Unicorn Contracting Proposed Mixed - Use Development  
148 residential units  
Total 17,580 sq. ft. commercial space we don't need**

## **What's at risk?**

Scenic gateway to hamlet replaced by dense residential complex  
Historical structures and bucolic grounds destroyed  
200 years of Yorktown history gone forever  
Park like open space and hundreds of trees demolished  
Current traffic congestion compounded  
No more peace and quiet for you  
If allowed, your property values will likely fall

## **Please attend and speak out!**

**Your voice is essential to protecting our community!!**

*Protecting Yorktown's Quality of Life Foundation, Inc.*



Letters to the Editor

Cortlandt Will Participate in Bulk Energy Buying Program

Should the Town of Cortlandt join Sustainable Westchester/Westchester Power? This is the question the Town Board recently asked Cortlandt residents via a town-wide survey.

Background: Sustainable Westchester offers a program in which citizens can purchase their electricity through a

cooperative buying organization that potentially can obtain power at a reduced rate compared to Con Edison.

Traditionally, we all receive our electricity through Consolidated Edison. Each month, we receive a bill from, which includes two charges. The first is for the delivery of power via the electrical grid

infrastructure in the community, and the second charge is for the electricity itself. This is the metered rate of electrical consumption. Recently, groups have formed that can purchase this electricity and provide it directly to consumers, potentially at a lower cost. In addition, a stable flat-rate monthly billing is utilized. Westchester Power is one such company that provides this option.

Westchester Power has now been contracted to do this for 29 out of 45 communities in Westchester – two-thirds of the municipalities. Westchester Power is a non-profit and its members are the other municipalities in Westchester. Initially, the Cortlandt Town Board hesitated joining because once the board makes this decision, everyone is in (although anyone can opt out at any time). It is an all-in policy.

Before proceeding, the board, therefore, took the cautious step of asking its residents how they felt about this program. A survey was conducted on our website, through social media, via e-mail and via a returnable postcard to every household.

A second question was also asked: If the town votes to opt in, should we elect to purchase energy from “green” sources, such as wind and solar, or traditional fossil fuel-based energy. The former would be at a slightly higher cost but environmentally conscious; the latter at a somewhat lower cost.

The results: As of May 23, 80.1 percent voted to opt in, with only 19.9 percent voting no, a 4-to-1 margin.

As to the second question, whether to opt for green energy resources, 52.2 percent voted yes and 47.8 percent preferred less expensive fossil fuel.

It is clear that the option of Westchester Power is overwhelmingly popular with our residents and the Town Board will vote to move forward with this in the near future. The board will also discuss utilizing green energy, and most likely will adopt this platform as well.

Please note: The Town Board’s decision to opt into any program is actually quite temporary. At any time, for any reason, any household can opt out by simply notifying the provider, using the town website, or contacting Westchester Power or Con Ed directly.

In addition, the supervisor’s office can assist. If green energy is selected by the board, any resident can switch to the lower cost standard energy resource at any time. Hence, the decision of the board to opt in can be reversed by any individual, at any time and for any reason.

As some have said, we never had an option with Con Edison. We were assigned to the utility. Now, we have a choice, and we can always opt out with a click or call.

We find it reassuring to move forward, now that the residents have “voted,” and the results revealed that the town is strongly in favor of this program. The Town Board thanks everyone for their participation.

Richard H. Becker  
Supervisor, Town of Cortlandt

Tune Out Scare Tactics Used By Opponents of Underhill Farm

I am writing in response to Stephen Brown’s outrageous May 24 letter to the editor. (“Is Underhill Farms Hiring Politicians Above Board?”)

Claims of special favors from the town to the developer are so clearly untrue. The Yorktown Town Board spent a year-and-a-half taking a good, hard look at the proposal. If Unicorn Contracting, the owner of the former Soundview property where Underhill Farm is proposed, was so influential with the town, this process would not have taken nearly as long. And it’s not even over. Underhill Farm is now starting a rigorous environmental review process that may take years, overseen by the Planning Board.

These reckless and ongoing claims of conflicts from people like Mr. Brown stand in the way of progress in Yorktown. While other neighboring towns advance housing and broaden their tax base, Yorktown has remained stagnant. We have added very little housing in recent years. Underhill Farm will bring 148 new residences, and what’s more, it will add much-needed opportunities for our seniors to live in their home town.

To my neighbors, tune out the nonsense. I think this is a wonderful opportunity for all of us.

Marianne Violante  
Yorktown Heights

Column Repeated Common Misconception About the AR-15 Being an Assault Rifle

I read Mr. Gold’s column in last week’s edition (“Who Are the Men Behind the Guns That Result in All These Deaths?”) It is one thing to take literary license, but Mr. Gold was wrong on a key matter. The fact that Mr. Gold has been published elsewhere does not give him license to tell an untruth. At the start of his column, he stated “The AR-15 military assault rifle...”

The AR-15 is NOT an assault rifle and is NOT used by the military. The AR-15 is named after the original manufacturer,

Armalite, and does not mean assault rifle. Military assault rifles are capable of firing in an automatic mode while AR-15s are not. Calling an AR-15 an assault rifle is no different than calling Bezos’ yacht a battleship since they can both float on water.

Mr. Gold is entitled to his opinions, but not his own facts.

Jay Kopstein  
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.

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## Guest Column

### Two Stories Behind the Banners Honoring Local Servicemen

By Peter Poggi

It is that time of year. Local towns are putting up banners saluting the local population that served in the armed services.

However, did you ever wonder who is it in that picture on the banner and what is the story behind their service to our country? I have two family members on those banners and here are their stories.

My father, Peter Louis Poggi, was born on July 4, 1919, to Italian immigrants Luigi and Maria Poggi on 104th Street in Manhattan. He was the third child, having two older sisters, Desolina and Letizia. The family lived in Manhattan and at the age of 13 the family moved to the Bronx.

When World War II broke out, my father worked in a ball bearing factory, which excluded him from the draft. At least, that is what I was told. Against his father's wishes, my father enlisted in the Army in 1942 and for the next three years and three months served his country.

He was part of a group of men from New York City sent down to Mississippi to complete the 133rd Division, or better known as the Dixie Division. After boot camp, they were sent to the Pacific theater, specifically the Philippines and New Guinea, where they fought until the war was over.

My father seldom spoke about the war. It was only when he reached his twilight years that he would often tell me about his experiences. The most poignant thing that he told me was that in war life is cheap. The fighting in the Philippines and New Guinea was intense, often and downright brutal. He himself killed many enemy soldiers, which always weighed heavily on him.

Once the fighting stopped, it was time to clean up. He told me bodies would be everywhere, both the enemy and American GIs, and the process of disposing them would be required. As he told me, you would be numb, thankful you were alive and as to the bodies, it was war and in war life was cheap.

My father's unit was issued new uniforms in 1945 and were being readied for the pending invasion of Japan. That never came about due to the atomic bomb and Japan's surrender.

He came home in 1945. He married in 1947 to my mom, Jean, and had three children: Michael Louis, Karen Jean and Peter Louis Jr.

My brother Michael was born in August 1948 in the Bronx. At the age of 10, my family moved to Peekskill. Mike was not a book-smart kid. His loves were fast cars and fast women. Throw in a good barroom brawl once in a while and his life was complete. He pushed up his draft in 1968 and went



into the Army.

He completed his basic training, then his advanced infantry training and was sent to Vietnam. There he led a squadron with an Armor Personnel Carrier in the 25th Infantry Division, 4th Cavalry.

It was Palm Sunday 1969, a week before my 15th birthday, we had just arrived home from the family gathering in the Bronx when there was a knock at the door. It was

an Army captain, a sergeant and a local priest. We were informed that Mike was killed in action.

We were told that Mike was part of a column that came under enemy fire, Mike's armor personnel carrier specifically. Mike and another squad member laid down a blanket of return fire giving the others a chance to run for cover. Although both lost their lives, the others were spared.

In the end, for this action and previous actions we were unaware of, Mike was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster, an Army Commendation Medal for Valor and a Purple Heart. He was given a full military funeral in the City of Peekskill.

It's been over 50 years and Vietnam is a fading memory for this country. I still think of him, I still wish he would come home. And, I disagree with my father – in war, life is not cheap. There is always a cost in war.

So this is it, the story of two banners hanging from a telephone pole. Two individuals whose service is being honored to all those who drive by. May we always remember the sacrifices of those who are looking down at us.

*Peter Poggi is a longtime Peekskill resident.*

### Ending Hatred in Yorktown Requires More Than Aspirational Statements

By Melvyn R. Tanzman

As a group of community members gathered at the First Presbyterian Church in Yorktown to commemorate the lives lost in the white supremacist murders in Buffalo on May 22, little did we know that at the very same time racist and antisemitic graffiti was discovered under an overpass at the Croton Reservoir Bridge.

Supervisor Matt Slater issued a statement that "Hate Has No Home Here." This statement, while expressing hope, does not accurately describe our current environment. Sadly, hate DOES have a foothold here in Yorktown and it has emerged from under rocks and the privacy of our homes into the public square at in-person meetings of our

local political gatherings, school boards, and most shamefully, on social media.

At last week's Town Board meeting, during public comments I challenged the Town Board to do more. Supervisor Slater responded that the town could do little to prevent an attack by somebody coming from outside our community, as was the case in Buffalo. He really did not address my point that hate crimes are a byproduct of local policies and inaction designed to maintain the status quo of a majority white community, which fears the growth of a town that is more diverse and reflective of our changing nation.

I believe that sunlight is the best disinfectant; thus, I offer the following

documented incidents that have occurred in our hometown. These incidents are numerous in the past five years, and I would argue not aberrations.

- In 2017, local politicians during a campaign sent campaign mailers that dehumanized immigrants and utilized stereotypical antisemitic imagery.
- A local elected official in the recent past posted on their Facebook page, an image of the Confederate flag stating he had no problem with it. This image was removed after negative reactions.
- In 2021, a community group dedicated to eradicating racism and other forms of systemic discrimination was characterized at public school board meetings, public events and on social media as Marxist, an ultra-left fringe group, anti-police, anti-American and as a hate group.
- A social media video posted in 2021 included a local resident naming and defaming a black educator.
- In 2021, local officials accused county officials of collaborating with the federal government in "sneaking in" undocumented immigrants through Westchester County Airport under cover of night.
- In 2021, an organized effort in local school districts decried efforts to comply with state Education Department efforts to initiate a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative to counter hate, discrimination and bullying based on intolerance. Opponents' claims of reverse discrimination and unfair targeting of white, straight students

largely went unchallenged by school board leadership. In one district, these critics claimed to have caused the dismissal of a superintendent.

- In 2021, a local community member was recorded making hateful statements at a political victory party.
- The Feb. 10, 2022, Lakeland Board of Education meeting erupted into racist and anti-Semitic taunts including "This isn't Harlem" and "How German of you."
- This year, there have been efforts to ban books in schools written by non-binary and African American authors with claims that they were "pornographic, violent, anti-American and anti-police."
- In 2022, local elected officials endorsed school board candidates publicly, who espoused "parent rights" positions.
- And now, racist, anti-Semitic graffiti.

My intent in writing this letter is not to shame individuals, make partisan attacks nor unfairly characterize Yorktown as a breeding ground for hatred. I simply want folks to recognize and acknowledge that Yorktown is not immune from hateful ideologies and to challenge leaders and community members to affirmatively do more to counter this disease.

The Examiner, as part of its participation in The Trust Project, can contribute to this effort by highlighting diverse voices and perspectives, encouraging public engagement and dispelling misinformation. To paraphrase a famous poet, "The answer my friends is here with us today."

*Melvyn R. Tanzman is a Mohegan Lake resident.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Levenberg Would Be Impressive Choice to Succeed Galef in Assembly

As I review Dana's qualifications for the position, I am struck by how superbly credentialed she has become for the job. Her experience in local government has been thorough and successful, her working directly for Sandy Galef herself – as chief of staff in the Assembly – is a tremendous asset, and her training and "on-the-job" growth will enable her to hit the ground running.

When you couple all that experience and training with a personality that is exuberant,

energetic, articulate and diligent, you will have a powerhouse in the Assembly. As beloved and effective as Sandy Galef was, I cannot imagine anyone more equipped to fill her huge shoes than Dana Levenberg.

Please join me in voting for Dana on Election Day on June 28, or during early voting from June 18 through June 26.

**Frederick Osborn III  
Garrison**



# Community Celebrates Chappaqua Library's Centennial Anniversary

By Martin Wilbur

Celebrating a major milestone doesn't come very often, but last Saturday Chappaqua turned out to recognize quite an achievement.

This month marks the 100th anniversary since the Chappaqua Library was chartered, and while not the oldest library in Westchester County, it certainly has earned its place as a focal point for the hamlet and the Town of New Castle.

"This is a time to celebrate the Chappaqua Library as the center of the community, one where all people feel welcomed," said Director Andrew Farber.

Last Saturday the celebratory program featured remarks from those closest to the library along with a tree dedication on its grounds and the burying of a time capsule in the courtyard that will enable future generations to better understand what life was like locally in 2022.

The new tree will mark time moving forward and the time capsule, which contains items such as photos of the library, library cards over the past 35 years, homemade COVID masks and various library materials, will be a way to preserve the past, said its Board President Elizabeth Hamyson.

Town Historian Gray Williams said in 1922 the original library association was founded in large part by community members Robert Haviland, who served as the first library board president, and prominent architect Alfred Bissell. They played key roles in establishing the library as a key part of the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

The Chappaqua Library celebrated its 100th anniversary last Saturday. The library, which has served as a community center for the past century, was chartered in June 1922. Above: Community members spoke of the importance of the Chappaqua Library to the town over the years.

community in its earliest years.

The library's initial location was a downtown storefront, which was quickly outgrown by the end of the 1920s. Its leaders raised money and built a new structure on Senter Street, which needed to be enlarged after World War II. That building today serves as the town's community center, Williams said.

The Chappaqua Library continued to grow, and in the 1970s acquired the property on

South Greeley Avenue, its current site. In 1972, the Chappaqua Library became a school district library, which solidified the library's strong relationship with the schools since its inception, Williams said.

Since so many of the community's founders were Quakers, including Haviland, and Bissell married a Quaker, the values they brought have played a large role for

Chappaqua today.

"I believe that the community support for education and its support of intellectual pursuits can be traced in considerable measure to the Quakers who first settled here and continue to have a strong influence long after they ceased to be a majority," Williams said.

Hamyson read a letter from former President Bill Clinton praising the library and the many programs and services it offers. Clinton wrote that one of the many joys of moving to Chappaqua more than 20 years ago has been the library, which he called "a richly rewarding asset for people of all ages and incomes."

Clinton also thanked the library for its wide array of services and programs, including the many author signings. Both he and Hilary had signings scheduled when they each had their books released.

"When this time capsule is opened 25 years from now, I hope the library will still be in high hear with strong public support, a place where all who use it find something to learn and love," Clinton wrote.

New Castle Supervisor Lisa Katz said the Chappaqua Library has something for everyone, from little children coming for story time to the outstanding programming it offers all patrons.

"There is so much that our library offers our community and we are really blessed to have them here, and I am wishing this library another hundred years of success and I know you'll continue to grow," Katz said.





## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

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# Fine Jewelry Designer Takes Plunge With New Shop, Piercing Bar

By Martin Wilbur

It makes sense that if Ali Weiss would change careers, her new venture would be that of a jewelry designer.

Like many people, Weiss has been a jewelry lover for many years, but it takes more than purely a desire to switch from speech pathology to blazing a path in a new field.

But a fortuitous chance meeting with designer Helen Ficalora about 20 years ago gave Weiss the leg up to not only work in the business, but learn the ropes about what designing your own pieces is all about.

"I started to work for her (and) that's how I got into the business," Weiss said. "I started working for her for a couple of years and selling her stuff and her designs. Then I started branching out and doing some of my own things that complemented her line, not compete with her line."

Weiss has been designing her own pieces now for the past 16 years – fine jewelry that includes earrings, necklaces, charms, chains and bracelets through her Ali Weiss Jewelry brand – and selling them through trunk shows and other special events.

Last year she took the plunge and opened her own store in downtown Armonk.

The popularity of ear-piercing convinced Weiss that a jewelry store and piercing bar would be a hit in the town she and her family call home. She combines the fun aspect of shopping for edgy, eclectic pieces but still demanding quality; every piece uses at least 14-karat gold with diamonds and precious



Jewelry designer Ali Weiss, left, at her Armonk retail store and piercing bar with ear piercer Keri D'Angelo.

stones.

Weiss also likes to break the so-called rules where fine jewelry is worn only with formal wear.

"So that's really why I decided to open my store, it's because of the piercing bar," she said. "That to me is so much fun and people love it and it just makes it a little bit different. There are Willoughby stores around town,

and everywhere there are so many people in the jewelry business, and I think that's what makes our store different. The way our style is it's on the edgier side and on the more fun, wearable side."

Weiss also wanted to make sure that she entrusted someone reliable who specialized in piercing, unlike some places at the malls. The piercing at the store is performed by Keri D'Angelo. Only ears are pierced, not other body parts, she said.

As someone who has always enjoyed getting multiple ear piercings so she could be creative with her own look, Weiss's customers can try to create their own image that they feel comfortable with.

"I've always liked the look of earrings up and down my ears," Weiss said. "I love styling my ears, making it look like fun. To me, it's just such an accessory right off my face."

Weiss often gets inspired by other pieces she sees elsewhere and puts her unique twist to work. She also designs something nearly every day.

Once she has completed her work, Weiss has jewelry makers in Manhattan and abroad to craft her pieces.

"There's specialty, there's longevity to the piece, it's not going to turn colors, you can wear it in the water, it isn't like it's going to turn your ear or your finger black because it's not real gold," Weiss said. "There's no plating on it, so no plating is going to come off."

While all of her work is fine jewelry, it's also reasonably priced, relatively speaking.



One of the many fun earrings that is part of jewelry designer Ali Weiss's collection.

Single earrings start at \$125 to \$150 each and go up from there depending on the amount of gold and the number of stones in the piece.

Opening her retail space has Weiss excited about not just selling jewelry but helping customers find the piece that best suits them.

"Whatever it is, I want my client to feel so good and happy and excited and that, to me, brings me the most joy," Weiss said.

Ali Weiss Jewelry is located at 384 Main St. in Armonk. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call 914-430-3001, e-mail [hello@aliweissjewelry.com](mailto:hello@aliweissjewelry.com) or visit [www.aliweissjewelry.com](http://www.aliweissjewelry.com).

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# Faced With Extinction, Armonk Lions Hold Successful Fol-de-Rol

By Martin Wilbur

It's hard to believe that just over six months ago the Armonk Lions Club was on the verge of folding, which would have marked the end of the organization's annual fol-de-rol.

Last weekend, a reinvigorated Lions Club held one of the most successful fol-de-rols in years at Wampus Brook Park with new vendors, entertainment and food options that helped swell crowds from pre-pandemic levels.

Also fueled by sparkling weather from Friday evening through Sunday and new members who helped the dwindling ranks of longtime volunteers, the four-day country

fair-type at least met, if not exceeded, all expectations.

for charities, service organization and town projects.

"It was really on its last leg and people stepped up," said North Castle Councilman Matt Milim, who took on the task of helping to put out the call for new members after he was elected last November. "I think it shows how much this town and this community cares about events like this and we'll have more people step up next year. It's important."

Late last fall, with the Lions Club down to nine members, district leadership gave the Armonk chapter an ultimatum – get its ranks up to 20 members by the close of last year or



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Just six months after the Armonk Lions Club nearly went under, they held one of the most successful fol-de-rols in recent memory last weekend.



cease operations.

Milim said 18 new members were brought in, including five or six dynamos that helps set the tone for this year's fol-de-rol.

Phyllis Padow-Sederbaum, the Armonk Lions Club secretary and president of the Armonk Leo's, said the club was four days away from folding.

But you would never know strolling around the grounds, with large crowds and lines for the 10 food vendors, the tickets for the rides and the always popular pig races. Organizers were also able to attract 70 crafts vendors, including many new ones.

"The old members and the new members did a fantastic job working together. They really did," Padow-Sederbaum said. "We

were just so pleased. You could find a different type of energy."

Milim said it is also important for residents to know that the fol-de-rol is about more than fun, food and games. The money raised at the event is doled out to local charities, service organizations and town projects.

"I just want people to know that the money goes for," he said. "I think a lot of people don't know; they just think of going to a festival. It's important for people to know that they're spending this money and it's going right back into the town."

The goal over the next year is to get at least three or four more motivated members to bolster the ranks, he said.



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# Relay for Life Yorktown Friday June 10th, 2022

## 3-11pm

Opening Ceremony: 7:00pm

Luminaria: 10:00pm

Closing Ceremony: 10:30pm - Survivor and Caregiver Reception: 5:30pm

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## Girls and Baseball

*While helping his young daughter overcome her doubts about playing America's beloved pastime, a Mount Kisco dad learned she was not alone in her concerns*



By Jason Klein

*Jason Klein coaches youth baseball in Mount Kisco and is an advocate for girls getting a fair opportunity in the game.*

*He is also the author of YES PEPPER, an empowering new book for girls who play baseball. Follow Jason on Twitter @ByJasonKlein and @YesPepperBook. Pre-order your copy of YES PEPPER by visiting ByJasonKlein.com.*

My daughter is surrounded by boys.

This scenario could make some dads uncomfortable.

Instead, it's just another baseball Saturday in May. We're at the Leonard Park fields in Mount Kisco, and I'm coaching my eight-year-old daughter's little league team. She's the only girl on

the roster.

Aside from her hot pink batting helmet, she's really no different than any other player on the team. She's just as fast, strong, and eager to learn as anyone else.

There are a handful of other girls scattered throughout the league, but on our team, my daughter plays alongside nine boys every weekend. It's her choice.

Our town doesn't offer a little league softball program. She could play in the Katonah-Lewisboro Bedford Softball league if she wanted to, but for now, she prefers baseball. It's a difficult decision for some young girls to make.

A few years back, my older daughter questioned her place in the game. Before signing up to play in the MKLL, she asked me if baseball was a sport that girls could play, too. I did my best to reassure her but could tell she still had some doubts.

Like a resourceful, modern-day #GirlDad, I decided to tweet about it. I asked Twitter to "show my daughter she's not alone." I asked my fellow tweeters to "show her how many people agree with me," that baseball is a sport for girls, too. The response was overwhelming.

The post garnered 5.1 million impressions and collected over 80,000



combined likes and retweets, including support from Major League Baseball, Little League International, USA Women's Baseball, and Baseball For All, an organization that advocates for girls in the game. The Washington Post even picked up on the story and wrote a feature about us.

After the tweet went viral, thousands of parents reached out to me to encourage my daughter and to share their personal stories with me. The humbling experience gave me a better understanding of just how many young female ballplayers out

there have similar doubts.

My older daughter eventually decided to sign up for MKLL. She played three seasons before moving on to try other activities. Now, my younger daughter is giving baseball a shot.

Like a lot of girls, she might decide to switch to softball one day or stop playing altogether. However, if she wants to stick with baseball, she'll have our full support and plenty of role models to look up to.

Eight years ago, Mo'ne Davis, a 13-year-old girl from Philadelphia, dominated the boys during the Little League World Series. She became the first girl to pitch a winning LLWS game. Her efforts landed her on the cover of Sports Illustrated and helped her capture ...

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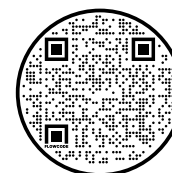
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# Finding Ways to Deal With a Neighbor's Noise at Home

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The apartment was in a brand-new building and I was one of its first tenants. The upper floor apartments hadn't been finished yet, so I took an apartment on the second floor of a five-story building. I was happy as could be in the quiet solitude of my own place – until the apartment above me was rented and I was suddenly made painfully aware that the building wasn't very well sound proofed, especially from the floor above.

A young single mother moved in with a very active five- or six-year-old daughter. Then, I was sharing my privacy with the click of high heels, combined with the patter of little but horsey feet. I realized for the first time in my life that I must be very sensitive to sound, and I was unhappy waiting in anticipation of the next clamor of footsteps across the floor above.

I found out my neighbor's name from the directory in the lobby and looked up her telephone number, all of this before the advent of cell phones. Armed with that



By Bill Primavera

information, I began to call her up whenever her child's running around became too much for me to live with. The relationship between us became so strained that at one point she sent her boyfriend down to bang on my door and threaten to punch me out.

My only alternative to going mad was to find another apartment. Rather than walk out on my lease, something I had done a couple of times without consequence, I sublet to a nice couple. When they asked if the tenants upstairs were quiet, I said, oh yes, conceding that occasionally I heard the woman's heels on her way to work.

Ever since that time, I have sought apartments and condos with no one living above me. I recognize that not everybody is as sensitive to neighbor noise as I am, but I guess we all have our own requirements for living happily.

There were other times when my quest for quiet involved conflict. At one point, my wife and I moved to Boston for a career change and we rented a penthouse floor apartment in a new building where there was only one other occupied apartment on the same floor. And wouldn't you know it, that apartment was rented to two airline stewardesses who would hold raucous



parties on the weekends that always spilled out into the hallway.

Not wanting to have direct confrontation with them, I called the police to quiet the place down. Afterwards, again, there was a knock on my door and when I looked through the peephole, it was some bouncer-type guy standing there, threatening to punch me out. Why were my attempts at peace and quiet always resulting in the threat of physical violence? I started to think it was me.

Of course, there are all sorts of noises we can't control. For instance, I always find myself in a less relaxed state when the lawn downstairs from my condo is being mowed or the carpet in the hallway is being vacuumed. But it's all tolerable, especially if I distract myself with earphones playing pleasant music.

There was another period in my life

where I found a certain outside noise intolerable, but it was quite a sensitive matter. I bought an antique home across the street from Guiding Eyes for the Blind where as many as 70 dogs would be let outside to "socialize" for most of the daylight hours. The organization called it socializing, but I called it unreasonable noise.

I was certain that something could be done to have the organization be more accommodating to its neighbors, so I formed a coalition of surrounding residents to see if we could find a solution. It wasn't the most popular of efforts considering the purpose of the organization, but after some years we managed to have the school build soundproof kennels and the problem was solved.

Speaking of barking dogs, some towns, such as Yorktown where I live, have limitations on the time that a dog can be allowed to bark outside.

As I finish this column, I am aware of the humming buzz of my air conditioning system. But let's not get neurotic about things.

*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 The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*



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# Virtual Program to Look at Impact of Alzheimer's on Black Community

According to the Alzheimer's Association's 2022 Facts & Figures Report, Black Americans are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's or another dementia as their white counterparts, but less likely to receive a diagnosis.

During Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, the Alzheimer's Association will host a virtual program on Wednesday, June 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. featuring three experts who will address this issue and explore important dementia-related topics such as risk factors, the importance of getting a diagnosis, research and more.

"We are pleased to be able to bring together these three accomplished experts to help spread awareness and understanding of Alzheimer's and dementia in the Black community, said Meg Boyce, vice president of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter, which helped organize the event. "Hopefully it will help change the disparities that exist when it comes to how this heartbreaking disease affects families."

Speakers participating in "Twice the Risk: Dementia's Impact on Communities of Color" will include Dr. Goldie Byrd, professor of public health sciences and director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at Wake Forest School of Medicine; Dr. Carl V. Hill, chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion officer for the Alzheimer's Association; and Dr. Dozene Guishard, director of health and wellness initiatives at the Carter Burden Network.

Byrd is a former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chair of biology and the Nathan F. Simms Endowed Distinguished Professor of Biology at North Carolina State University. She conducts research on the genetics of Alzheimer's disease in African Americans, to understand genetic variants that might attribute to the increased burden of Alzheimer's disease in this population.

Hill oversees initiatives to strengthen the association's outreach to all populations and providing communities with resources and support to address the Alzheimer's crisis. He is responsible for developing partnerships with organizations to advance diversity, equity and inclusion. Through his leadership, the Alzheimer's Association has broadened its reach into diverse communities.

Guishard has extensive experience in the nonprofit, government, public health,

aging services and corporate sectors. She currently serves on the National Alzheimer's Association Board and previously served as Board Chair of the Hudson Valley Chapter.

To learn more and register for the program, visit [alz.org/newyork](http://alz.org/newyork) or call the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900. The first 100 people to register for and attend this event will receive an #ENDALZ thank you package by mail, including resources for caregivers.

The Hudson Valley Chapter of the

Alzheimer's Association serves families living with dementia in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit [alz.org/hudsonvalley](http://alz.org/hudsonvalley).

Dr. Goldie Byrd, professor of public health sciences at Wake Forest School of Medicine, will be one of the speakers at the Alzheimer's Association of the Hudson Valley's June 15 program on the impact of dementia on communities of color.





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## Time To Place Your Home in a Trust

During a family day trip to Salem, Mass., we toured The House of the Seven Gables, made famous by Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1851 novel.

Built in 1668, the home's place in literary and architectural history was patiently explained by the tour guide during our visit. A secret staircase, parlors galore and tales of family intrigue were highlights to be sure.

One room in the mansion had a wall of historical images for tour-goers to absorb. A single document featured on that wall caught my eye. It was a document that was instantly familiar, a legal-sized paper that would be at home in any file currently in my office. I snapped a photo. That paper was a real property deed from 1749. The template, language, description and format of a document prepared 273 years ago matched deeds that we draft today.

If there is a lesson that can be derived from a snapshot of a Colonial Era document it is that the law operates on a timeline often unaffected

by modernity or efficiency. A home is usually among the top three most valuable assets that a person owns. Keeping your ownership of that home tethered to an ancient document with significant limitations is not ideal.

Deeds list owners – former owners, current owners and the type of ownership each owner possesses. Some deed ownership combinations allow for a surviving co-owner to inherit the deceased co-owner's or life tenant's interest directly without probate. The remaining sole owner's share would be a probate asset involving court intervention if their name remained the only name on the deed at the time of their death.

### Assistance of Counsel

In a Medicaid situation, an estate recovery action could be brought and the value of the home included in the estate. Creditors of the decedent could also file against the estate and their claim could impact the home as an estate asset.

Placing your home in a trust, whether revocable or irrevocable, is one way to

avoid probate, especially if the rest of your assets have beneficiaries or joint account holders. Trusts can include specific instructions on how you want the home to be managed, shared, rented and ultimately sold. Trust beneficiary combinations with contingency planning offer more complete instructions than a deed's language. Irrevocable trusts offer creditor and Medicaid protections for a home placed within while still allowing for STAR tax exemptions.

The use of trusts also reflects complex relationships, second marriages and blended families. A deed that automatically transfers a deceased spouse's share of a home to the surviving spouse affords the surviving spouse an opportunity to transfer the home to anyone according to their discretion.

In a blended family situation, the deceased spouse's children could conceivably be left out. Trusts mitigate that issue. A home placed in trust can



By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

allow for a surviving spouse to remain in the home for the rest of their life and then that property could be sold and the proceeds shared by all the children.

Deeds are not going away anytime soon. (A deed is still required to transfer ownership to a trust). Adaptability, though, is a major component of estate

planning.

Long-term care issues and family issues are present-day realities. Just because something was done the same way for 273 years does not mean that we cannot take advantage of other tools that will give us better results.

Contact the professionals at Sloan & Feller today for more information.

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

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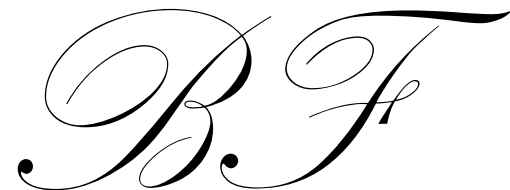
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*continued on page 26*

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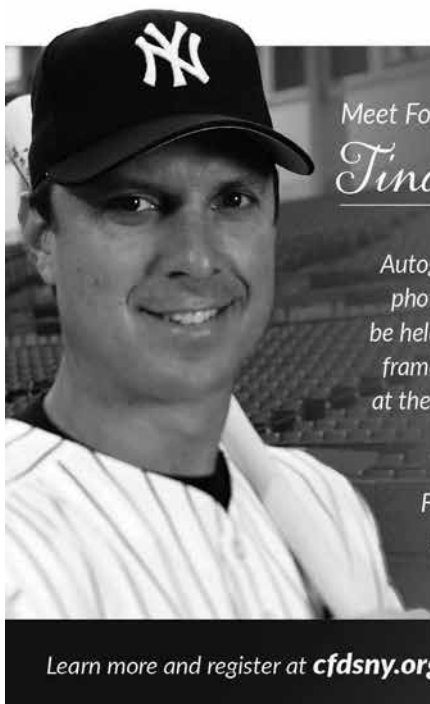
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# James Joyce: Ireland's Greatest Export, Exile, Expatriate

It has been said that the greatest victory the Irish achieved in their long journey to nationhood was not on a battlefield but rather in their conquest of a foreign language that had been forced upon them during eight centuries of English domination.

But revenge comes in many guises, one of which is the way the conquered Irish turned tables on their conquerors and achieved absolute dominance of their language. Ireland has produced countless writers who have taken the English language to heights no others could have done – except, perhaps, the bard himself, William Shakespeare. Not surprisingly, there is a body of evidence that reveals Shakespeare may have actually been Irish!

In this category, James Joyce (1882-1941) claims top honors. His literary influence remains profound to this day. There can be no discussion of world literature without mention of this enigmatic Irishman.

He authored three novels, a collection of short stories, three books of poetry and a play. His short story collection, “Dubliners,” published in 1914, remains an absolute classic of the genre. In 1916, he followed with “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.” Largely autobiographical, this work further cemented his reputation.



James Joyce, about 1918, in Zurich

His most famous labor, “Ulysses,” arrived in 1922. It thrust Joyce into the limelight as either the single most brilliant writer in the English language, or a degenerate reprobate, depending upon one’s stance. His final work, “Finnegan’s Wake,” appeared in 1939, two years before his death.

Joyce’s acumen with the English language secured him international recognition. But did he love his native land so

much that he could tolerate the societal and cultural restrictions imposed by both church and state on Ireland in the early 20th century?

No, he could not. Joyce, born in Dublin to a successful, though flawed, middle-class family, chose to depart Ireland in 1904, soon after he met Nora Barnacle. The couple moved to Istria, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, settling first in Pula, and then Trieste, where Joyce taught English in a Berlitz school, and continued to write. With the outbreak of World War I, the family moved to Zurich, Switzerland, and in 1920 to Paris, where Joyce resided for the next

20 years, until Germany occupied France in World War II.

Joyce, one of the most widely read Irish authors, is also one of the most difficult to comprehend, especially in his later works. But for anyone who has tackled his masterwork, “Ulysses,” it is a journey well worth the effort. Joyce uses a variety of literary idioms in “Ulysses,” most famously one called “stream of consciousness.”

In a torrent of words, he reveals the inner workings of his protagonist’s mind, a Dublin Jew named Leopold Bloom, with starts and stops as vivid as a street scene on a busy day. And that day is June 16, 1904, the day on which all the events of the novel happen. For Joyce fans, the day merits near-reverential status, and is celebrated as “Bloomsday” everywhere a Joyce fan lives.

“Ulysses” was extremely controversial when it first appeared. It was considered by many to be pornographic, due to the sexual nature of much of the dialogue. It was banned in the United States and England. The U.S. ban was not lifted until 1933.



By Brian McGowan

Aside from occasional trips to Ireland, Joyce never returned there to live. In 1940, he left Paris for Zurich, where he died on Jan. 13, 1941, following surgery for a perforated ulcer, less than a month shy of his 59th birthday. He is buried in Fluntern Cemetery in Zurich, along with his wife, Nora, who died in 1951. They had ultimately married in 1930. In the 10 years following her husband’s death, she made repeated

requests to the Irish government to allow repatriation of his remains to Ireland. All were rebuffed.

And each year, on the 16th of June, Joyce’s devotees set aside whatever else they may be doing and remember the ultimate master of the English tongue – an Irishman named James Joyce.

Longtime Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx and is a second-, third-and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at [brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com](mailto:brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com). He is the author of two books, “Thunder at Noon,” about the Battle of Waterloo, and “Love, Son John,” about World War II. Both books are available at Amazon.com.

## Irish Eclectic

### THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**Lost for Words?** Ever find yourself at a loss for words? You may wish to try the “Lost for Words?” feature found on the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) website. Click on the link and four randomly selected words appear. Click on a word for the full dictionary entry. The words this week come from the OED “Lost for Words?” feature.

- |                              |                          |                      |                           |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>zinger</b> (n.)        | A) a sharp turn          | B) a humming noise   | C) a quick-witted remark  |
| 2. <b>questionous</b> (adj.) | A) inquisitive           | B) indubitable       | C) dubious                |
| 3. <b>scribblemania</b> (n.) | A) study of word puzzles | B) mania for writing | C) compulsive note taking |
| 4. <b>prolate</b> (v.)       | A) to lengthen in time   | B) set forth         | C) produce                |
| 5. <b>day-peep</b> (n.)      | A) an early riser        | B) the dawn          | C) a pleasant thought     |
| 6. <b>cromulent</b> (adj.)   | A) acceptable            | B) bulky             | C) timeless               |
| 7. <b>footle</b> (v.)        | A) to round off          | B) talk foolishly    | C) walk in step           |
| 8. <b>mafted</b> (adj.)      | A) ideally suited        | B) breathless        | C) exhausted from heat    |

- ANSWERS:**
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5. B. The first appearance of daylight; the earliest dawn                                   | 1. C. A pointed or amusing remark; a quick witted remark or observation; a wise crack |
| 6. A. Acceptable; adequate; satisfactory  | 2. A. Given to asking questions; inquisitive  |
| 7. B. To act or talk foolishly; to occupy oneself in aimless or trivial way                 | 3. B. Intense enthusiasm or mania for writing   |
| 8. C. Oppressed or stifled especially by the heat; exhausted from heat, crowds, or exertion | 4. C. To produce; to utter, pronounce; to prolong                                     |

### Peekskill, Cortlandt Rally to Replace Library's Missing LGBTQIA+ Books

The Peekskill and Cortlandt communities quickly responded with donations following The Field Library’s June 2 Facebook posting noting that about 30 children’s books with LGBTQIA+ themes were missing from the library’s shelves.

All 30 books – which were posted on an Amazon wish list – were purchased within 24 hours by local residents on behalf of the library. In addition, Peekskill Pride donated \$500 for the library to purchase additional books with LGBTQIA+ themes for the children’s and young adult’s collections.

The missing books were discovered when Rachel Mandel, a children’s librarian, began putting together the children’s Pride Month book display. The missing books were not checked out and not on the shelves. On three separate occasions one particular title has gone missing.

“The Field Library offers a wide variety of books for every person in our community,” said Jennifer Brown, The Field Library’s executive director. “We understand that some books may not be to the liking of some local residents. However, we cannot tolerate books being deliberately taken to prevent other people from taking them out. We support the LGBTQIA+ community

not only in June but also from July through May.”

In addition to the replacement books, Peekskill Pride’s donation will allow the expansion of the children’s and young adult selections.

“I asked questions when I was young. My friends asked different questions when they were young,” said Brian Fassett, president of Peekskill Pride. “Having access to the kinds of books available today in our local library would have been life-changing. Youth will continue to ask questions, and our mission as mentors is to provide accurate, supportive, and accessible guidance.

“It is essential to provide resources for anyone to explore who they are or who they may be and to allow them to pick up a story and truly feel represented. Peekskill Pride’s effort is to make sure all feel safe to be who they are and reach their full beautiful potential in a community that embraces them.”

“The support from the community has been overwhelming,” Brown said.

“Peekskill is truly a wonderful community.”

For more information, contact Jennifer Brown at [jbrown@thefieldlibrary.org](mailto:jbrown@thefieldlibrary.org).



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continued from page 24

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# The Influence of Wine Critics: The Blind Leading the Blind?



By Nick Antonaccio

At a recent tasting event I hosted, the subject arose of wine ratings, wine reviews and wine descriptions. One of the guests was unsure whether to rely on the ratings and comments of so-called wine experts. I've been ruminating

for a number of months myself over this subject.

Is evaluating wine a by-the-numbers, objective exercise or is it an opinionated sensory process? Can someone truly be a wine expert when judging the effect of wine characteristics on another's palate?

Our palates are an amalgam of the five elements of taste on our tongue and in our mouth, and the 10,000 elements of smell wafting through our olfactory senses. Is it possible for any one person to describe a wine in terms that can be applied universally to an individual wine and which can be perceived by each and every consumer who sips that wine? Or is this perceived talent simply blown out of proportion, similar to those insufferable consumer polls, surveys and focus groups we are exposed to daily?

And the ultimate question: should

any one opinion really matter when it comes to evaluating a particular wine I'm considering?

A strong case can be made for an individual who possesses a predisposed ability to discern various aromas and tastes, one who can detect subtle elements in the unique characteristics of a particular wine. We see it in professionals in other industries, most notably perfumers. This oenological expertise typically requires years of tasting wines; developing and accumulating a dictionary of descriptive terms; and a frame of reference for the numerous styles and profiles of grape varieties.

An equally strong case can be made that, since wine evaluations are extremely subjective, it is difficult for an individual to apply consistently his or her sensory abilities to the task at hand.

A number of independent firms have conducted tests to determine the ability of wine evaluators, critics and reviewers to ply their trade consistently over time. They have yielded very interesting results.

In one "blind tasting" (in which wine bottles were wrapped in brown paper bags), wine experts were presented the same wine to rate three times in succession. An easy task for an expert to succeed at, one would assume.

Not so.

Scores of each expert varied for each of the three tastings sampled. So much for the



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reliability of an expert's palate.

In another tasting, a rather ordinary Bordeaux wine was presented to wine experts in two different bottles. One bottle bore the label of a high-end wine, the other of a low-end wine. The experts' descriptions of each bottle were distinctly different. The bottle with the high-end label was "complex" and "balanced," while the bottle with the low-end label was "light" and "faulty." Ah, the power of perception over reality.

In yet another blind tasting a number of years ago, 54 wine judges were presented with two glasses of wine side by side, a white and a red. Each proceeded to describe the wines with adjectives typically assigned to white wine and to red wine. The twist: each glass was from the same bottle of

white wine; one wine had been dyed red (purple) with food coloring. None of the judges figured out the ruse.

To complicate experts' descriptions, terms used to describe a wine's characteristics and subtleties are a consternation to many consumers. In a number of polls, consumers readily admitted confusion over the meanings of terms tossed about by producers and wine experts. In a recent survey, "firm skeleton," "old bones" and "wet stone" were at the top of the list. Terms found most helpful? "Fresh" and "zesty."

Further, fully two-thirds of polled consumers stated they were unable to discern the aromas and flavors described on bottle labels or in experts' comments.

As in so many other aspects of life, the best advice for wine consumers is to rely on your own intuition and sensory faculties. Experts can provide a general reference point, but don't rely on their ratings and comments as de facto wisdom.

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

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## Kensico Cemetery Dedicates Garden Mausoleum

Kensico Cemetery dedicated the Garden Mausoleum at Montross Pond on May 24 to celebrate and commemorate the first construction for above-ground burials at the cemetery in almost 100 years.

Attended by former Kensico presidents, board members, current employees and retirees, officials from other cemeteries and special guests, the program included remarks by those involved in the planning, project management and landscaping, as well as thoughts on the Garden Mausoleum’s significance in Kensico’s history. Portions of the ceremony highlighted the work of some of the notable figures buried at Kensico.

Kensico President Mathew Parisi welcomed the audience, thanked the event organizers, previewed the program highlights and pointed out the significance of the dedication, not only as part of Kensico history, but what it will mean to the Kensico families that choose to be entombed there.

In her blessing that followed, Kensico Board Member and Pastor Elizabeth Payne led the audience in a recitation of the hymn “Haven of Blessing” composed by Hart P. Danks who is buried at Kensico Cemetery.

In his remarks about the historical significance of the new Mausoleum,

Chester Day, chairman of the Kensico Board of Directors, referred to Kensico Cemetery’s beginnings.

“As we gather here today, we start to see the whole picture come together,” Day said. “It has been quite a journey, not only with the development of the land in a park-like setting, but also the Kensico features seen throughout the grounds.”

Recounting the history of the construction project, former Kensico President Raymond M. Planell said, “The process from the discussion/analysis phase through completion covered approximately six years, but we consider this project, this building, to be a continuation of the plans developed by our predecessors over decades and designed to fit with other cemetery structures, particularly the Kensico Tower.”

Over 100 feet in length, 68 feet wide and with a roof rising 18 feet at the center, the new granite and stone Garden Mausoleum is an open-air structure with no windows or doors, allowing easy access by families and friends to the crypts and niches. The goal of the design was to create a serene atmosphere overlooking the beautiful pond and fountains while maximizing natural light and affording protection from the weather.

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**New senior housing for our community:** 148 townhouse units, condominiums and apartments, including 118 senior-friendly units, plus new retail options for the community.

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**\$1 million in restorations:** The historic Underhill House will be carefully restored to its original 19th century elegance, preserving an important piece of Yorktown's past for future generations.

**Public access, parklike setting:** The public will be welcome to stroll the walking trails around the pond, providing a park at no cost to taxpayers.

**Major funding to address long-term traffic issues:** Underhill Farm will spend \$150,000 to address any vehicular additions from its community. What's more, Underhill Farm will donate an additional \$450,000 toward design and construction improvements at the intersection of Underhill Avenue and Route 118, which is the location of long-term traffic congestion during peak travel times.

**Finally, a new senior center for Yorktown:** Underhill Farm will include an access road to the Beaveridge Senior Apartments and 30 needed parking spaces for a long-awaited senior center. Without this new parking area, the senior center will not be built. With the approval of Underhill Farm, the new Yorktown senior center will finally become a reality!

## What your neighbors are saying

“Underhill Farm will bring many great things to Yorktown, including much-needed senior housing; required parking to our senior center; and major road and traffic signal upgrades at Underhill Avenue and Route 118.”  
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- Brian Wolfson



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# Eclectic Tavern Dining at Thornwood's Morris Park Inn Kitchen

The kitchen has opened at the new Morris Park Inn in Thornwood in the Rose Hill Shopping Center. Proprietor Steve Poli and his amiable crew are serving an eclectic tavern menu to go along with their craft beer and spirits bar.

Poli, who also owns the bustling Morris Park Inn in the Bronx, has completed a renovation of the new eatery. There is seasonal seating outside.

As you enter the premises, you'll notice the long 15-tap beer bar enhanced by large screen TVs, stressed brick walls and an unusual treetop-like ceiling overhead with contemporary lighting.

The kitchen is manned by Chef Eric who had previously put his talents to work at Rye Roadhouse in Rye. His kitchen serves eclectic finger foods, small plates and large platters and desserts.

Fine starters include French onion soup, nachos supreme, beer battered cod fish bites, Baja crispy fish tacos and pulled pork, Buffalo chicken or beef sliders. There are wings galore with a choice of sauce or dry rub. The sharable big MPI Platter includes a choice of four items among the mozzarella sticks, mac and cheese bites, chicken fingers, onion rings, fried pickles, jalapeño poppers, popcorn

shrimp, rice balls or broccoli cheddar bites.

There's chopped Cobb salad, hefty burgers, wraps and sandwiches or plates such as mussels with spaghetti, baby back ribs, fried seafood combo and center cut pork chops. Big juicy burgers come with a choice of toppings. A children's menu is available.

Save room such desserts such as chocolate mousse cheesecake or ask Chef Eric if he has prepared his popular bread pudding.

If you enjoy live entertainment, MPI Thornwood has kicked off a music schedule on June 12, 19 and 26 from 4 to 7 p.m. The same reasonably priced menu is served seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

Morris Park Inn is located at 652 Columbus Ave. in Thornwood in the Rose Hill Shopping Center. Info: 914-495-3004 or visit [www.morrisparkinn.com](http://www.morrisparkinn.com).

**The Raconteur Opens in Pleasantville**

Michael Boulos opened The Raconteur Bar & Kitchen in April, a casually upscale spot to enjoy elevated cocktails and nibbles. Boulos had previously worked at the former Restaurant North in Armonk.

The handsome space is warm and



By Morris Gut

inviting, highlighted by a cozy marble-topped bar and seating, dark wood and brick walls, a candled fireplace, a portrait of Mark Twain and colorful surreal prints by Frank Moth art. There is another pleasant room in the rear.

The menu offers a seasonal selection of locally sourced global specialties. Look for small plates, appetizers, cheese and charcuterie such as devil's eggs, honey roasted carrots, crabby toasts

with jumbo lump crabmeat and truffled burrata. Sharable cheese and charcuterie platters include the Ploughman's Platter, the Italiano, Frenchy's Feast and the Spaniard's Spread.

Dropped in a couple of times in recent weeks and enjoyed cocktails and lush glasses of Rioja Crianza red wine along with a bar snack of Southern-style pimiento cheese with hot pepper jelly and saltines.

There are weekday Happy Hours featuring specially priced cocktails and beverages served Monday through Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. The Raconteur is a short walk from the Jacob Burns Film Center and the Metro-North station.

The Raconteur Bar & Kitchen is *continued on next page*



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## Eclectic Tavern Dining at Thornwood's Morris Park Inn Kitchen

*continued from previous page*

located at 10 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville. Info: 914-762-4040 or visit [www.theraconteurbar.com](http://www.theraconteurbar.com).

### Curry on Purdy Serves a Buffet

The exotic sounds, sights, scents and flavors of regional India cuisine continue to come alive at Curry on Purdy in Harrison. The popular restaurant has started serving an all-you-can-eat daily lunch buffet that includes up to a dozen selections from salads to main courses, desserts and condiments.

Curry on Purdy opened on Purdy Street in Harrison in the space formerly occupied by Risoli's Tavern during the pandemic. The restaurant has been gaining a foothold among Indian foodies in the area.

The menu at Curry on Purdy is extensive and offers dishes from all over India. On the buffet, look for changing specialties including crispy samosas; mango shrimp; crispy pakora fritters; Purdy special goat curry; the aloo gobi made with potatoes and cauliflower; mushroom mutter masala; saag with vegetables, meat, fish or shrimp; the flavorful Rogan josh with lamb or salmon; and Goan or Malabar curry. There's chicken tandoori, too.

A variety of Indian beers or a glass of mango lassi will help you wash it all down.

For dessert, try the Purdy special kheer, the Bengali rasamalai; the hot Gulab Jamun or the Gajar Halwa prepared with shredded carrots.

The buffet is \$17.99 on weekdays and



The saffron paneer tikka, one of the many delicious dishes at Curry on Purdy in Harrison. The restaurant features favorite dishes from the different regions of India.

\$19.99 on weekends.

If you like getting in front of a mic, live karaoke is held Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m.

Curry on Purdy is located at 7 Purdy St. in Harrison, down the street from the Metro-North station. Open seven days a week. Info: 914-600-8500 or visit [www.curryonpurdy.com](http://www.curryonpurdy.com).

New Menu, Hours at Wolf & Warrior  
Owner and Brewmeister Michael Chiltern brought White Plains Wolf &



Morris Park Inn owner Steve Poli and staff. Poli opened the tavern at the Rose Hill Shopping Center in Thornwood last month.

include birria tacos; the Blazin' Wings; hand-cut free range chicken tenders; a variety of burgers; and Slammin' Sandwiches such as the South Paw Philly Cheesesteak. Enjoyed my Passion Wolf IPA there recently.

Wolf & Warrior Brewing is located at 195A E. Post Rd. in White Plains. Info: 914-368-8617 or visit [www.wolfandwarrior.com](http://www.wolfandwarrior.com).

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



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