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September 13 - September 19, 2022

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 703

Putnam County Votes Against State Water Protections

By Abby Luby

The Putnam County Legislature passed a resolution last week asking Gov. Kathy Hochul to veto legislation that would advance greater protection of the state's "Class C" streams.

The state legislation, which passed in both the Senate and Assembly, was introduced by Senator Pete Harckham (D-Lewisboro) and Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-Setauket).

Although not yet signed into law by Hochul, it would add 40,000 miles of Class C Streams to the State Department of Environmental Conservation's Protection of Waters Program with resources to safeguard the streams at the same level of protection as Class A streams used for drinking water, and Class B streams that are suitable for swimming and fishing.

The Putnam County Legislature vote was 6-1 with the "no" vote cast by Legislator Nancy Montgomery, (D-Philipstown), the

board's only Democrat. Arguing most for Hochul to veto the bill was Legislator Amy Sayegh (R- Mahopac), who said the legislation would require more permits for projects involving Class C streams, increase the wait times for those permits therefore delaying many conservation projects such as bridge and culvert replacements.

"The legislation would add to the DEC workload and is unsustainable," Sayegh said. "How long will it take for soil and water districts to wait on DEC permitting to do the work necessary to protect our streams? It already takes several months to obtain necessary permits and this will set conservation back 50 years. This legislation may have unintended consequences that could have the opposite outcomes."

Sayegh, who stressed how Putnam's Soil and Water Conservation District already has effective procedures and engineering in place, referenced several letters from state organizations and departments she contacted known to oppose the legislation including the New York State Association

of Counties, the New York State County Highway Superintendents Association and the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District in Horseheads, NY.

Before her one dissenting vote against the resolution, Montgomery remarked that there was no back up material in the minutes from the last meeting, including some 100 letters from constituents opposing the veto resolution.

Montgomery commented on Sayegh's assertion that the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was capable of managing the county waterways.

"I spoke to former soil and water experts of Putnam County who told me the Soil and Water District of Putnam County right now was a total s-t show," she remarked. "We've got to do something about it."

Legislators also voted to appoint three SWCD committee members: Chris Ruthven, the county director of parks, and farmers Brian Bergen and Ervin Raboy. Montgomery was the only one who voted against the appointees after she and Legislator Paul

Jonke (R-Southeast) said the SWCD failed to provide material on the appointees' level of expertise that qualified them to be on the committee. Currently, Philipstown resident and the county's transportation manager Vinny Tamagna serves as SWCD's interim manager. Tamagna is also the county's Climate Smart coordinator.

Commenting publicly was former Kent Town Supervisor Maureen Fleming, who urged the board to at least be familiar with the proposed legislation. "You have to be able to dispute some of what the bill purports to do and be intimate with what is in the bill. I don't know what the rush is for the governor to veto this bill without talking about it," she said.

Carmel resident and Sustainable Putnam founder Joe Montuori criticized the board's assertions that the bill would have negative impacts, saying the board's claims were unsubstantiated, based on assumptions and not based on facts. He referred to Sayegh's referencing information from many water and

continued on page 2

Virtual Public Statement Hearings Slated on NYSEG Rate Hikes

By Rick Pezzullo

The New York State Public Service Commission will be holding a series of public statement hearings on New York State Electric & Gas Corporation's (NYSEG) proposed changes to electric and natural gas delivery rates and practices next year.

The virtual hearings are scheduled to take place Sept. 15, Sept. 28 and Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. each day. Anyone wishing to provide a comment at a hearing must pre-register by 4:30 p.m. the day before by calling 1-800-342-3330. Speakers will be called in the order in which they registered.

NYSEG is proposing to increase its electric delivery revenue by approximately \$274 million (a 31 percent increase in base delivery revenues), and its natural gas delivery revenue by approximately \$43.4

million (a 19 percent increase in base delivery revenues).

An electric or gas bill consists of two parts: a supply charge and a delivery charge. Through the supply charge, the utility recovers the cost of the electric or gas commodity. The cost of the commodity is determined by the competitive marketplace and is not set by the Commission or the utility. Through the delivery charge, the utility recovers the cost to transport electricity or gas to customers through the utility's delivery system. The delivery charge is regulated by the Commission.

The changes are slated to go into effect on May 1, 2023. Under New York State law, the Commission must consider a utility's proposal and may adopt or reject it, in whole or in part, or modify it.

Never Forgetting 9/11



The Putnam County Youth Bureau hosted the 2nd Annual 9/11 Day Flag of Honor Across America Memorial at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services in Carmel Sunday.



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Putnam Economic Development Corporation to Host Breakfast Symposium

The Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC) will be hosting a breakfast symposium focusing on the "Economic Trends Impacting Local Business" Thursday, Sept. 29, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Putnam County Golf Club in Mahopac.

Following a networking breakfast there will be presentations by two experts on the state of the regional economy and its impact on local business and residents. Adam Bosch, president and CEO with Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, will discuss "Connecting the Dots: The effects of housing, migration & childcare on the Hudson Valley workforce." E.J. McMahon, founding senior fellow with Empire Center for Public Policy, will review "New York's Fiscal & Economic Outlook."

"After a two-year, COVID-related hiatus for in-person events, the PCEDC is thrilled to host a symposium with such outstanding speakers," said Kathleen Abels, president of PCEDC. "Our goal is to raise awareness of our organization with prospective businesses interested in starting up or relocating to Putnam County, and to provide insight into economic trends and growth opportunities that will impact our local businesses, which we wholeheartedly support."

This event is sponsored through generous donations from Tompkins Community Bank; PCSB bank; NYSEG; Ace Endico; Putnam County National Bank; Houlihan Lawrence; and Marshall & Sterling.

Tickets for the event are \$40/person. To purchase tickets, visit <https://PCEDCBreakfastSymposium.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, contact Kathleen Abels, PCEDC president, at (845) 808-1021 or email Kathleen.Abels@putnamcountyny.gov.

About the featured speakers

Adam Bosch is the president and CEO of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a policy, planning and research organization that was founded in 1965. Pattern focuses its regional planning and studies on a number of topics that are important to the growth and vitality of the region, including housing, downtown revitalization, infrastructure, transportation, community planning and more.

Bosch began his career in journalism, working as a reporter and editor at a number of newspapers and magazines, including the Times Herald-Record, The New York Times, Scientific American and more. His work in journalism earned six Associated Press awards for investigative reporting, depth reporting and breaking news coverage. Bosch also served as an adjunct professor of journalism for 10 years at SUNY New Paltz.

After leaving journalism, Bosch joined Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress in 2012 as vice president of research and external affairs. He authored reports on the adaptive re-use of closed school buildings across the region, New York's tax cap and an investigation of Rockland County's budget deficit. His examination of Rockland County's fiscal crisis and recommendations to solve it, earned Pattern the President's Award from the Rockland County Business Association.

For nine years, Bosch served as director of public and intergovernmental affairs for the New York City water supply system, the largest municipal water supply in the United States. In that role, Bosch was responsible for community outreach, intergovernmental affairs, education programs and more. He served as the primary liaison between New York City and federal, state and local officials across the Hudson Valley and Catskills for issues related to the city's reservoir system and its infrastructure. His work focused on explaining the operation, maintenance and protection of the water supply system that serves nearly 10 million New Yorkers, especially as the city pursued several large capital projects to upgrade its dams, aqueducts and treatment facilities in the region.

Bosch currently serves on the Catskill Advisory Group, a state-appointed panel that is developing a strategic framework to tackle the challenges and opportunities of increased visitation to the Catskill Park. He also served on a nationwide advisory group that is developing risk communications for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water supplies.

Bosch was born and raised in Newburgh. He earned his bachelor's degree from SUNY New Paltz and his master's degree from Columbia University in the City of New York.

E.J. McMahon is founding senior fellow of the Empire Center for Public Policy, a nonpartisan think tank based in Albany. He also is an adjunct fellow of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

McMahon is a writer and policy analyst long focused on improving New York's economic competitiveness and promoting greater transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility in state and local

government. He has authored or co-authored major studies on public pension reform, collective bargaining, population migration, budget trends and tax policy in New York, and has published numerous articles and essays in publications including the New York Post, Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Barron's, Newsday and the Manhattan Institute's City Journal. His frequent radio and TV interviews have included appearances on CNBC, Fox News Channel and Bloomberg News, as well as on regional cable and broadcast outlets throughout New York State.

McMahon's professional background includes nearly 40 years as an Albany-based analyst and close observer of New York State government. As director of The Business Council's Public Policy Institute, he worked on the Institute's counter budget proposals and developed the template for New York's school report cards. As chief fiscal advisor to the Assembly Republican Conference in the early 1990s, he drafted a personal income tax reform plan that would become the basis for historic tax cuts enacted under Governor George E. Pataki. He also served as a deputy commissioner in the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

A native of Westchester County, he grew up in Cortlandt and Mahopac, graduating from what is now John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School in Somers before earning his bachelor's degree from Villanova University. McMahon began his career as a newspaper reporter covering Putnam County, initially for the Peekskill Evening Star and then in the Carmel bureau of The Reporter Dispatch.

This is a press release provided by the organization. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.

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Putnam County Votes Against State Water Protections

continued from page 1

soil departments around the state and how she neglected to talk to any environmental organizations.

"All the environmental organizations support this bill, if you recall," Montuori said. "That the Soil and Water Conservation District of Putnam County is going to protect our water and do a better job than the DEC is ludicrous. They can't even meet their

current responsibilities."

Montuori suggested the legislators write an amendment to the current bill going to Hochul.

"Send a chapter amendment to the governor to amend the law that is more to your liking rather than just oppose it. Also, hire a credentialed manager and support staff for the soil and water district," he said.

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Old Yorktown Car Dealership Site to House Electric School Bus Company

By Martin Wilbur

The state's largest electric school bus company will be moving to the abandoned site of a former Yorktown car dealership to provide new buses, maintenance and charging for districts and convert gas-powered vehicles to electric.

Bird Bus is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year at 3805 Crompond Rd., the same location that has been empty for more than five years since a Kia dealership left the property. Robert Reichenbach, president of the Plainville, N.Y.-based Bird Bus, said the service portion of the facility will likely be operational by November.

There are currently about 20 of the company's electric school buses – which it calls Blue Bird – on the road in its territory of operation, which comprises Long Island, New York City and Westchester, Reichenbach said. That number is expected to steadily rise in the coming years. New York State has mandated that all new school bus purchases by districts must be for electric vehicles by July 1, 2027. All school buses in use in the state must be electric by 2035.

Later this month, Bird Bus will deliver the Croton-Harmon School District its first full-size electric bus, the first Westchester district with one of its buses in its fleet. The district will be receiving a second vehicle by next spring, Reichenbach said.

He said the company is going to have the only facility to service school districts' electric vehicles in the county.

"Moving up to Westchester provides a

great opportunity for us to work with the towns, to work with the local school districts and convert all school buses on the road to 100 percent electric," Reichenbach said.

Taking current gas-powered buses and turning them into electric vehicles will be beneficial to districts and private bus operators who are faced with having to change over their fleets in the coming years. Reichenbach said currently a new full-size electric school bus costs about \$400,000 to \$420,000, but a conversion would be roughly half that cost with a state grant.

He expects the company's capability to convert buses from gas to electric to start by the end of 2023.

In preparation for the move, the current 16,000-square-foot former car dealership building is being rehabilitated. It will contain five bays and room to store up to 10 buses inside, Reichenbach said. Construction crews are raising the roof by 10 feet to accommodate the height of the buses.

The nearly three-acre property would also be able to hold 55 to 57 buses outside.

For Yorktown, rehabilitating the decaying structure, prominently seen on the busy Route 202 corridor, is a priority, Supervisor Matt Slater said.

"We're doing everything we can to tackle the chronic eyesores and the chronic blight that we hear about in our community," Slater said. "This is the latest example of it."

Attracting Bird Bus to town is also pro-business and pro-taxpayer, in part by initially creating about 40 jobs, he said. When the company closed on the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Above: The decaying Kia car dealership building is being repurposed to be the new home of Bird Bus, the largest electric school bus company in the state, which is re-locating from Long Island.

Left: Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, left, speaks to Bird Bus President Robert Reichenbach and CEO Rick Reichenbach at the site of the former Kia dealership on Route 202.

property, it also paid the more than \$200,000 in back taxes, Slater said. Bird Bus is receiving a 15-year Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) incentive.

Moving forward, Slater hopes to use additional PILOT programs to entice other companies to town. At last Tuesday's Town Board meeting, Slater proposed creation of a taxpayer protection fund to use the payment of back taxes from redeveloped abandoned properties toward supplying the fund with money that would pay for future PILOT programs as an impetus for companies to move to Yorktown.

"We're trying to find ways to provide incentives for them to invest here," Slater

said. "We do that in a smart way that won't negatively impact local taxpayers."

Deputy Supervisor Tom Diana said he was happy to see a business make use of the vacant building and parcel and "can't wait to see the buses out in the lot."

"It's going to be a pleasure having something finally occupy this building, number one, and number two, we're going with EV vehicles," he said.

Reichenbach said the company is also planning to make electric car charging stations available for the general public.

Bird Bus sells about 800 buses a year, he said.



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Westchester Airport Forum Draws Complaints, Accusations

By Abby Luby

Residents living under the vast web of jet flight paths near the Westchester County Airport voiced their growing frustrations at a Sept. 6 public forum held at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center.

The county's in-person meetings began last May as County Executive George Latimer has been seeking public input for an update of the airport's Master Plan.

Deafening noise from aircraft, air pollution and water contamination topped the list of complaints from speakers who were among the roughly 200 people at last week's forum. Many who attended were residents of Chappaqua or neighboring communities.

At one point, Mount Pleasant resident Jordana Silverstein held her iPad up to the microphone and said "This is what a low-flying plane sounds like all day, all night." Those in the auditorium heard a thunderous, 10-second audio of airplanes flying directly over Silverstein's home. She said the noise has become a safety issue.

"I couldn't hear my child scream when he fell and hurt himself because a plane was flying so low over my home," Silverstein said.

While some speakers pointed out that the airport supports a viable local economy by bringing businesses to the area, New Castle resident Warren Gottlieb criticized Latimer for including airport revenue in the county budget.

"The county needs to resist the temptation to use Westchester County Airport as a vehicle for an economic expansion in the county," Gottlieb said. "This is not the place to plug budgetary shortfalls."

Latimer, uncharacteristically agitated, lashed back at the accusation.

"Let me be clear," he said emphatically. "There is no profit at the airport that plugs a county budget hole. No revenue from the airport is used for balancing the county budget, and if you say that as fact you are advancing a lie. Don't misrepresent what this administration has done."

A heated exchange between Latimer and Gottlieb ensued, which later prompted county Airport Advisory Board member and New Castle resident Robert Fleisher to explain that plugging the county budget was an unfortunate remnant left by Latimer's predecessor Rob Astorino, who pursued efforts to privatize the airport.

"The airport is an economic engine... and there is a hope that we can find better economic engines than the airport, which has a lot of negative externalities," Fleisher said.

Latimer said the Master Plan will address economic impacts to businesses and major corporations moving into the county, including jobs and taxes.

Many blamed corporate and private jets for disregarding the voluntary midnight-to-6 a.m. curfew, urging the county to enforce the time limits for flights. Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford)



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Mount Pleasant resident Jordana Silverstein holds her iPad to the microphone at the Sept. 6 public forum on the Westchester County Airport Master Plan update held at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center. Silverstein played a 10-second audio of airplanes flying directly over her home.

advised Latimer a strengthened curfew should be part of the Master Plan.

"I've been hearing from residents and constituents that the curfew is simply not being observed," he said.

Briarcliff Manor resident Nancy Rogers Golodetz complained about smaller aircraft.

"I counted 15 helicopters a day flying low over my house," Golodetz said.

Latimer responded that the county has

launched a lawsuit against operators that use helicopter-based service to operate at the airport.

"We think that's not allowed," he said, adding "the county is also involved in a legal action to deny a request by a commercial airline company for an additional hangar."

Another issue raised was contaminated stormwater runoff from glycol-based aircraft de-icing fluid and PFAS, chemical

continued on page 6

Housing Market Prediction Fall 2022

Home prices have continued to surge despite higher mortgage rates and an increase in housing supply—factors that typically put downward pressure on home prices. But the numbers still show the market is quite resilient, and costly. The median home sales price has jumped every month this year, reaching a record high of \$413,800 in June before falling slightly in July to \$403,800, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Some housing experts say that slight drop is seasonal as the housing market tends to slow down in the fall. Still, the existing-home sales price in July was nearly 11% higher than a year ago. Such higher housing costs have taken a toll on home shoppers as mortgage applications are at their lowest level in 22 years, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA). * *Forbes Advisor* 08/30/2022

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Westchester Airport Forum Draws Complaints, Accusations

continued from page 5

substances in firefighting foams used at the airport decades ago, jeopardizing the drinking water supply. The airport borders the Kensico Reservoir, which provides drinking water to New York City and parts of Westchester and is adjacent to the Rye Lake drinking watershed.

Henry Skelsey of Mount Pleasant claimed contamination from PFAS was already in his neighborhood. In 2017, PFAS was found in groundwater close to the airport in concentrations that were 14 times the limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), he said. PFAS have been linked to cancer, kidney disease and birth defects.

"In my neighborhood, wells have already tested positive for PFAS," Skelsey said. "The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the county health board did not want to say (the contamination) came from the airport that is three miles away, however, there is no other credible source. We have had to all invest in several-thousand-dollar filtration systems just to make our drinking water safe for our children."

Latimer said the county was spending millions of dollars to prevent PFAS from entering the drinking watershed.

"It has not yet gotten into the drinking watershed," Latimer said. "We are doing



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Close to 200 residents attended last Tuesday's public forum regarding an update to the Westchester County Airport Master Plan. Many protested deafening noise from airplanes landing and taking off in addition to air pollution and potential water contamination.

everything we can under the aegis of the DEC."

He said County Attorney John Nonna, who attended the meeting, has been working with the DEC on the PFAS issue for the last four years.

New Castle Supervisor Lisa Katz

reminded Latimer that in 2018 he held three separate community meetings in the town and heard residents vehemently complain about the airport's negative environmental impacts.

"The message has not changed," said Katz. "On behalf of the close to 18,000

residents I'm representing, we need to lower the environmental impact and use the airport as a hub for generating renewable energy, find ways to radically lower emissions and eliminate the use of lead-based fuel in airport operations. We need to update the Master Plan."

Latimer said a first draft of the Master Plan could likely be done by late October and, after some tweaking, the county could go public with it in November.

"The bottom line is the Master Plan will be officially done when we all think it's done and then there will be public comment over it," Latimer said.

Many speakers voiced frustration at the process and being unable to directly address the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which ultimately approves the updated airport Master Plan.

"What we're looking to do with our Master Plan is find out what are the best practices (at airports) in other parts of the country," Latimer said. "These public forums are to make sure that we know exactly what people's concerns are and make the best possible case to the FAA."

This was the fifth public forum since May to collect public input, including a virtual session in July. Another meeting will be held this Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. at Harvest Time Church, located at 1338 King St. in Greenwich, Conn.

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Board of Legislators Reopens Meetings to the Public

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is resuming in-person meetings at the Michaelian Office Building, located at 148 Martine Ave. in White Plains, beginning this week.

In an effort to maintain compliance with the state's Open Meetings Law, an executive order was issued in March 2020 authorizing virtual access to public meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic. The order has been extended multiple times so public bodies may continue to run and function. Virtual access has permitted the bodies to meet the stipulations of providing viewing access to

the public, as well as providing reasonable notice of meetings.

The board will officially institute a hybrid model requiring participants to register via Webex, an online teleconferencing system, in order to participate remotely and attend via livestream, as well as permitting physical attendance to all of its meetings. Aside from its bi-weekly board meetings, all county legislative committee meetings are subject to the new model.

"We feel now is the best time to reopen our chamber to the public because the worst of the pandemic is behind us," said

board Chair Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining). "COVID helped us evolve as an institution, marrying traditional procedures with modern technology. By making our rules more flexible, we will be more inclusive and transparent and that is a great thing for democracy."

The county legislature has provided various methods of access for participation to continue to promote equitable civic involvement throughout the pandemic. Among the aforementioned teleconferencing services, constituents can use telephone devices and can send written comments

to the clerk at BOLPublicComments@westchesterlegislators.com or by mail to Clerk of the Board of Legislators, 148 Martine Ave., 8th floor, White Plains, N.Y. 10601.

Information on how to participate for public comment and public hearings via video conferencing, telephone or in person can be found on the board's website at westchesterlegislators.com/meetings.

This is a press release provided by Westchester County. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.

Drop Off Expired or Unwanted Medication This Week in Valhalla

On Sept. 14 and 15, Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) will provide residents with the opportunity to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications at the Household Hazardous-Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) at 15 Woods Rd. in Valhalla.

Residents can bring the medications to the facility from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. but must have an appointment.

The drive is being held in conjunction with New York State's second annual Overdose Awareness Day (OAD). The two-day event honors the lives of individuals lost to overdose and recognizes those working to reduce stigma and overdose deaths in New York.

Residents can drive through and drop off their medications, which should be in their original containers or placed inside sealed plastic bags.

To protect drinking water sources, rivers, streams and aquatic life, never flush unwanted medications.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year, that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from an at-home medicine cabinet.

In 2021, DEF collected and safely disposed of 6,479 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter medications through collection events at the H-MRF, and 2,200 pounds of medication across four Household Recycling Day events at various locations throughout the county.

Residents who cannot make it to the DEF events on either day can safely dispose of their unwanted medications at many convenient police department drop-off locations throughout the year. Additionally, DEF accepts medications by appointment on the first Tuesday of each month at the H-MRF. Contact the Recycling HelpLine at 914-813-5425 or 211 for an appointment.

The county also has installed locked and secured collection boxes at 38 police department headquarters throughout Westchester, where medications can be dropped off. Most are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is a press release provided by Westchester County. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.


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Letters to the Editor

State Senate Candidate Would Fight for Critical Issues Facing Families

We have all seen the increase in housing costs in recent years. Home ownership is out of reach for many who have grown up here. Rents are sky high, taking a large chunk of people's paychecks. This situation has driven some people into homelessness.

Many young people who grew up in the Hudson Valley can barely afford to stay here to raise their own families with housing getting more expensive, every day. Affordable daycare is very rare, and consequently, large chunks of incomes are taken by childcare and housing costs. Then there are the expenses of elder care carried by many who care for aging parents.

Many things can and need to be done

to alleviate these problems. But they can only be done with the help of creative thinking by our state legislature. We must create affordable educational pathways starting in middle school so kids in all our communities can see their way to a future with a good-paying job – whether or not they want to go to college.

We need to provide affordable childcare and senior care programs – as is the case in other industrialized nations – that will allow parents and caretakers (mostly women) to work, thereby allowing women to fully participate in our local economy. We need to provide training and retraining opportunities for our existing workforce as well.

The high cost of housing, childcare,

senior care, workforce training and retraining, paid leave for mothers with newborns are all interconnected and affect one another. For working class and middle-class people to find affordable education, decent paying jobs and to be able to pay their bills without being driven into poverty, we need the creative help of government.

We can't just work on one of these issues; we must address all of them since they are so interconnected. Fortunately, we have the opportunity this November to vote for someone who understands these issues and has pledged to make them her top priority when elected to the 39th state Senate District. Her name is Julie Shiroishi.

I have met and spoken with Julie and I can tell you this work is her life's calling. It's as though she has been shot out of a cannon. She is chomping at the bit to do this work!

Julie has worked in the state legislature and knows how state government operates, but her experience in the private sector and as a working mom taught her how to get things done. She is primed and ready to make Albany work for the residents of the 39th Senate District. Shiroishi deserves all of our votes this November. We would be lucky to have her as our state senator.

Nicholas Kuvach
Putnam Valley

Office of Assemblyman Burdick is a Model for Constituent Services

I interned for Assemblyman Chris Burdick's office through my time as an upperclassman in high school. He gave me the opportunity to work for my very first political office, something I had dreamed of for years. What I gained through the experience was invaluable.

It was an environment that I've seen

past interns return to even once they've graduated high school. And, most importantly, it instilled in me the kind of care and commitment to constituents that I will carry with me throughout my political career. Assemblyman Burdick personally replies to many of the individualized e-mails and phone calls he gets. This is an office

where the main focus is the needs of the constituents and what government can do to help people rather than a self-serving agenda.

As interns, we would sort through e-mails and reply to every single one that came through the office. It's incredibly rewarding to know we make sure all constituents' concerns are addressed. Whether or not you agree with his politics, Assemblyman Burdick, first and foremost, cares about people.

Despite being busy with college now, I had to write this letter because the whole

staff, especially their chief of staff, Heather Lackey, gave me this amazing opportunity and experience. Now I want to pay it forward. I wish them many productive years in the community because I know my home will thrive under their direction.

And, as I venture off to college and beyond, I will always return to my first and favorite political office, the state Assembly office of Assemblyman Chris Burdick.

Nadia Nabeel
Chappaqua

No Matter How One Spins it, Bail Reform is Letting Too Many Felons Loose

In last week's letters to the editor, a writer stated that, "according to New York State data on pretrial releases between July 2020 and June 2021 show that just 2 percent of 100,000 cases led to re-arrest for a violent felony." ("Headlines About Bail Reform Are Meant to Scare, But Lack Facts," September 6-12)

So 2,000 violent felons were re-arrested in that one-year period. "Just" 2,000 violent felons is WAY too many for me.

What about released violent felons who committed crimes and didn't get caught?

Get with it, New Yorkers. This number of violent felons let loose to prey upon law-abiding citizens is ridiculously high. One party rule is destroying our state.

Martin Annunziata
Thornwood

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 Robert Schork at happenings@theexaminernews.com.

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Letters Policy

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

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Letters to the Editor

Congestion Pricing is a Tax on Hard-Working Hudson Valley Commuters

As our state begins its economic recovery post-pandemic, lawmakers should be hyper-focused on solutions that focus on growth. Right? For common-sense Hudson Valley residents, this is an easy answer. Unfortunately, those in power are failing at this simple concept.

The MTA just unveiled its congestion pricing plan a couple of weeks ago. It's a really nice name for a tax on hard-working suburban commuters. Out-of-touch bureaucrats – empowered by Albany politicians – are planning a \$23 tax on vehicles that enter Manhattan. Yes, you read that right: \$23 dollars just to drive

into the city!

For our region, driving to New York City is vital. Hudson Valley residents drive to the city for work, school, commerce and more. On top of that, we are already dealing with surging, record-high inflation, pain at the gas pumps and an economy in shambles. Yet this is the plan from the Albany-empowered bureaucrats: A callous commuter tax on YOU.

What's the alternative? We see on the news how unsafe public transit is. With rising costs of everything and public safety completely eroded, Albany politicians have made driving a car unaffordable and riding

public transportation unsafe. What choice are New Yorkers left with?

What's most shameful is Sen. Peter Harkham voted for this plan – right in lockstep with his radical New York City colleagues. He promised to go to Albany to “represent” our values, yet he voted for a tax that directly targets the Hudson Valley. That doesn't seem very “representative” to me.

But I am not giving up on you. I am running for state Senate to stand up for the values and livelihoods of the families of the Hudson Valley. We will reject this commuter tax and promote policies

that combats inflation and improves affordability.

I am circulating a petition to have our voices heard. Please visit www.ginaarenaforsenate.com to sign our petition to reject the congestion pricing tax. Let's tell Peter Harkham and the political ruling class that we are fed up with their out-of-touch policies.

**Gina Arena
Somers**

*Gina Arena is the Republican candidate
this November in the 40th state Senate
District.*

Republican-Controlled States Have Their Share of High Crime Rates

There seems to be a great local, statewide and national debate regarding the connection between crime and politics. Each political party claims to have the greatest concern for the safety of their people, even though the Republicans are often portrayed as the “law and order” party, while Democrats are seen as soft on crime.

Personally, I believe that both parties have a firm belief and intention to do the right thing for their constituency. For the sake of this letter, I'd like to dig a little deeper into the correlation between political ideology and crime prevention.

But first, a little good news for New Yorkers. The NYPD just released statistics showing that murders and violent crimes in August 2022 were less than last year's rate, with reductions of shootings by 19 percent and murders by 13 percent. In addition, New York State ranked 41st for annual crime rate in 2020, and the FBI reports for 2022 a similar standing. That's right, New York has a lower crime rate than 82 percent of the states. So how does this fit into the partisan dialogue?

To answer this question, I looked at the states with the 25 highest crime rates in

2020 and characterized them as, Republican controlled, Democratic controlled and divided control government. This is based on which party held the governor's office and the majority of seats in both houses of the legislature. Remarkably, counter to what we are being told by many office-seekers, the findings are that 14 of these states were totally controlled by Republicans, eight were controlled by Democrats and three were under divided control.

So, I welcome different perspectives on whether the U.S. crime problem is the responsibility of any one political affiliation.

But please base your arguments on facts and statistics rather than on anecdotal evidence. Conspiracy theorists may doubt the veracity of the statistics, claiming that they are manipulated by the “liberal deep state.”

While you are at it, also try to explain why the U.S. has a higher crime rate than 59 percent of all the nations in the world. Of all the developed western nations our crime rate is only surpassed by France. Could it be the proliferation of guns in our nation?

**Melvyn R Tanzman
Mohegan Lake**

New ShopRite Traffic Plan Won't Help Mt. Kisco Residents, Motorists

I am writing about recent reporting in The Examiner indicating that the previously planned reconfiguration of Route 117, North Bedford Road, in Mount Kisco has been changed.

The initial plan reported to residents of Foxwood and Brookside Condominiums by the property owner was to reconfigure the current traffic lights and have entrance and exit points for the new ShopRite align with the condominium driveways. Nearby residents were advised that this realignment would create improved traffic patterns and movement, even with increased traffic generated by ShopRite.

We are now told that the realignment plan has either been abandoned or delayed because a current commercial tenant has

decided not to vacate before the end of their lease, thus creating a physical obstacle for the realignment. We are advised, however, that traffic issues will actually be better resolved by the planned creation of an alternate entrance/exit plan for ShopRite adjacent to Kohl's.

Below is a link to a previous Examiner article from 2017, wherein the property owner for the new ShopRite is quoted, during a traffic nightmare related to Con Edison work, saying that “traffic volume into the complex reaches about 400 cars an hour during peak periods as people head to the Saw Mill Club, Safe Haven Self Storage and other businesses.” <https://www.theexaminernews.com/con-ed-work-wreaks-havoc-on-mt-kisco-drivers-merchants/>

The problem is that even before construction begins on the new ShopRite the traffic and air quality is horrendous between car trailers from auto dealers to school buses to the cars from hundreds and hundreds of residents who live in the densely-populated northern portion of the village (a majority, or near majority, of residents).

And then, of course, add in the traffic from the “400 cars” leaving Saw Mill Club East and other businesses during “peak” hours previously reported by the property owner, with the poorly-configured traffic pattern.

This is not only an unhealthy environment for the residents, but also has at times negatively impacted businesses in the corridor.

The only thing that would help address these issues would be if ALL of the traffic from all of the current businesses at that complex would also enter, and exit, from the Kohl's adjacent site.

**Judith Sage
Mount Kisco**

Valletta Will Fight for Your Rights in Assembly District 94

Kathleen Valletta is a Democrat running for state Assembly in the 94th District. A champion for public service and with an innate drive to help people from all backgrounds, she has tirelessly volunteered her time as president of the Carmel Rotary Club, served on the boards of the Mental Health Association of Putnam County, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, the Putnam County Bar Association and Putnam County Legal Aid Society.

A family law and real estate attorney by

trade, she has often represented clients at their most vulnerable, determined to do the best for people that need it most. And as a mother and grandmother, there is no other lawmaker that will fight harder for your rights, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental rights and for women's autonomy, than Kathleen Valletta!

Vote for Kathleen Valletta for Assembly District 94 on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

**Jennie Sunshine
Yorktown**

Truck Day Returns to White Plains on September 24

The City of White Plains announces the return of the Department of Public Works Truck Day, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gedney Recycling Yard, located at 87 Gedney Way.

This interactive event is fun, free and informative. Attendees will be able to learn about, see, touch, sit in and operate some of the biggest vehicles in the city's fleet. Vehicles and equipment will be on display and staff will provide

demonstrations about its trucks from the DPW, police department and fire department.

This year's event will feature backhoes, ariel bucket trucks, snow plows, brush chippers, stump grinders, rollers, pavers, street sweepers, automated side loaders and much more.

Food trucks will be on hand during the event selling refreshments. This is a rain or shine event.

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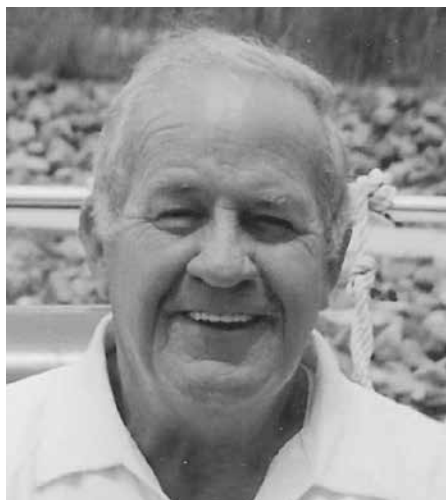
Former Yorktown Police Chief James Morgan Dies at 84

James Morgan, a former Yorktown police chief, died Aug. 30 at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady. He was 84.

He was born Feb. 16, 1938, in Peekskill to Catherine (Rynn) and Daniel Morgan. After graduating from high school, he served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960. He decided to start as a part-time police officer and took a position at Bear Mountain, then to Peekskill for a year before transferring to the Yorktown Police Department. Morgan worked as an officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain and finally attained the rank of police chief before retiring after 34 years of service.

He was a member of the Elks, the Yorktown PBA, the New York State Police Conference, the Retired Police Association of New York, a 60-year member of the Verplanck Fire Department and former member of the Garrison and associate member of the West Fulton fire departments. He truly loved serving and helping others. He managed the Yorktown Police Department, sponsored Little League for many years and donated blood to the Red Cross for more than 15 years.

Retiring to the solace of the country, Morgan enjoyed groundskeeping at Briar Creek Golf Course, served as a councilman for the Town of Fulton for 12 years and rarely missed morning coffee, local news and sharing his thoughts and breakfast with his friends at the round table at Mrs. K's Kitchen in Middleburgh. His laughter, humor, knowledge and dedicated



James Morgan

service are his legacy and will be missed by all who knew him.

Loving him forever are his wife, JoAnn Morgan of Middleburgh, whom he married in 1960; his son, James D. (Kerry) Morgan; grandchildren Amanda Morgan and Hunter Morgan; many nieces and nephews; and his faithful, rescued companion, "Murphy." He was predeceased by his sisters, Mary Ellen, Loretta, Margaret, Mildred, Kay and Jane, and his brothers, Charles, Danny, John and Joseph.

Memorial donations in his honor may be sent to the West Fulton Fire Department, P.O. Box 42, West Fulton, N.Y. 12194 or to a charity of choice.

Daniel Callahan

Daniel A. Callahan, a Yorktown resident, died Sept. 8 after a fierce battle with cancer. He was 50.

He was born Apr. 20, 1972, in Mount Kisco to Cornelius and Jean (née O'Connor) Callahan. He attended Siena College where he earned a bachelor of business administration and accounting degree. He continued his education at Pace University earning a master's degree in education and the College of New Rochelle earning a master's in education administration.

Callahan's passion was educating young minds and coaching. He started his career as a teacher in Pelham, became an assistant principal at Hendrick Hudson High School and most recently worked as an assistant superintendent in the Peekskill City School District. He loved to coach football and basketball and stayed involved with the kids at several sports programs including Yorktown High School, Mahopac High School, the Mahopac Sports Association, St. John's CYO Basketball and Stepinac High School.

He was a devoted father. He loved spending time with his children. They were the driving force in his life.

He is survived by his beautiful children, Michael, Hope, Keira, Abigail and Kaitlyn; his mother, Jean; his sister, Cathy DeCoster, and her husband, Bryan; his brother, Neil; niece Jamie; and nephews Kevin, Matthew and Liam. He was predeceased by his father,



Daniel Callahan

Cornelius, and his son, Sean.

All are welcome to attend a visitation on Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home in Mahopac. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist church, also in Mahopac. Interment will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Dan's name to the Mahopac Sports Association Football or by mail to c/o Alice Reilly, 16 Wooded Way, Mahopac, N.Y. 10541.

Edward Hardy Jr.

Edward ("Ed") P. Hardy Jr., a Pleasantville resident for 53 years, passed away peacefully on Aug. 24 at the age of 92.

Ed was born in Hudson, N.Y. on Feb. 8, 1930, to Edward P. Hardy Sr. and Helen S. Hardy. He was raised in Hudson, and as the oldest son, was dubbed the "skipper" of the family. He graduated from Hudson Senior High School in 1948, then attended Columbia University, where he completed an undergraduate degree in chemistry. While at Columbia, Ed was varsity coxswain on Columbia's competitive, esteemed rowing crew.

Upon graduation from Columbia University in 1951, Ed embarked on a nearly 40-year career in New York City, first with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a federal agency created only a few years earlier by President Harry S. Truman to manage the development, use and control of atomic (nuclear) energy for military and civilian applications.

While at the AEC, he continued his education at night, earning a master's degree in chemistry from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1958. He continued his career when the AEC became the Department of Energy (DOE) in the 1970s, continuing his work in radionuclide measurement, and became director of the Environmental Measurements Laboratory within the DOE.

It was at the AEC that he met the love of his life, Elisa Peralles Pinto, whom he married in 1959. They remained married for 55 years until her death in 2014.

Ed was a loving, honest and generous man who made everyone who had the good fortune of knowing him feel cared for and valued. He exemplified kindness and compassion, with his unselfish and steady disposition, always attentive to the needs of others, especially



Edward Hardy Jr.

his children and grandchildren. His friendly, enthusiastic demeanor endeared him to the generations of families who lived in his neighborhood and most everyone who came into his orbit. He always delighted in interacting and conversing with children at the United Methodist Church in Tarrytown, as well as those who lived in his Pleasantville neighborhood over the many years.

In addition to his wife Elisa, Ed was predeceased by two brothers, Robert and Richard. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Lydia Prost (Philippe), of Geneva, Switzerland, daughter Carolyn Hardy of Lincoln, Mass., son Jim Hardy (Ann) of Bedford Hills; six grandchildren, Guillaume Prost (Jeremy), Adrien Prost, Benjamin Haney, Allison Haney, Chelsea Hardy and Kaitlyn Hardy; and niece Jessica Hardy of Colorado and nieces and nephews in the Houston area.

A memorial gathering celebrating Ed's life will be held on Nov. 5.

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Expires: 10/13/22. For BJ's Membership Center use only. Enter market code: GRNNPP.

White Plains FD Vets Reveal, Remember ‘Historic’ Photo From 9/12

By Adam Stone

It was Sept. 12, 2001, the day after the towers fell, and White Plains Fire Department Lt. John Donahoe, then 49, was standing along with his fellow first responders on a brief break at the scene of the unspeakable slaughter.

He was leading nine of his men in the search effort at the World Trade Center site, meticulously seeking human remains.

But when a foghorn blew, it meant an FDNY firefighter, one of an eventual 343, had been found. And the whistling sound would trigger a break among the responders. It was a signal of respect for the department when they'd find a comrade amidst the rubble as they unearthed another lifeless body or body part.

Donahoe was on one of these brief breaks from searching “the pile,” as it was called, when he started a conversation with a slightly older gentleman, a task force coordinator from Pennsylvania. This was before the days of omnipresent smartphones, but the man brought a disposable camera.

He asked to snap a photo of the White Plains crew, then traded contact information with Donahoe.

Months later, near Thanksgiving, an envelope arrived in Donahoe's home mailbox from the man. It was the picture you're seeing today, seen publicly for the first time.

A grandfather nine times over now and pushing 70, Donahoe retired a dozen years ago from the department. Today, more than two decades removed from that punishing time, the ranks of the White Plains Fire Department include members who weren't even yet born when the planes struck and changed our world.

Nowadays, those young members learn about the horrors of 9/11 in tragic fashion. They've seen retired White Plains firefighters die of related rescue work cancer. Other department vets are currently battling the cruel disease, and the younger members watch as some fill out paperwork to seek 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund financial support.

The importance of ensuring 9/11 history remains a potent force in the country's consciousness recently resonated with Donahoe. That's why he contacted The Examiner,



The never-before-publicly-seen photo of the White Plains Fire Department contingent on Sept. 12, 2001, at the site of the terror attacks, on a brief break.

asking that we publish the never-before-publicly-seen photo to commemorate this year's solemn anniversary.

After all, he noted, his father fought in World War II, spurred on by Pearl Harbor. He wants to play his role in his local community, to keep the gritty, unifying, inspiring spirit of 9/11 responders in our collective hearts.

“I would like this to be part of history books, too,” said the married father of four adult children, harkening back to his father's experience after Pearl Harbor.

“For my grandchildren to be able to realize what happened,” explained Donahoe, who has lived in White Plains since he was 12 years old.

Of the 10 White Plains firefighters working together that day – nine are in the photo – only one, 57-year-old Vinny Wadden, remains in the department. (On 9/11 and the brutal days that followed, Wadden estimates as many as 100 or so department members worked at the site.)

The lifelong White Plains resident, who was 36 on 9/11, remembers those horrifying days all too well. The 9/12 image of the crew was captured late that

afternoon, as Wadden recalls. Hours later, after the evening sky cast darkness, the White Plains unit achieved their day's most meaningful discovery.

The gruesomeness of the events can't and shouldn't be ignored or whitewashed. Most discoveries were of body parts, not full bodies, Wadden noted.

But that night, the White Plains group found a middle-aged woman and spent three grueling hours excavating the intact body.

“The last thing we did on the 12th was recover that body,” recalled Wadden, a father of four adult children, who is three years away from retirement. “It was the White Plains guys. We took our time and got her out of the rubble. That was the first fully intact body I'd come across that day. We felt like we accomplished such a huge thing. To be able to send her home complete. I even still remember the jewelry she was wearing.”

Amazingly, fellow White Plains firefighter (and ex-Marine) Kevin Lasher soon located the woman's gravestone, where he left a note. The Long Island family subsequently contacted the now-retired lieutenant, and they were able to coordinate a visit,

delivering helpful closure, or at least a semblance of it. (It was Lasher's brother, firefighter Pete Lasher, now a South Carolina resident, who first spotted the body in the pile on 9/12, aided by his training as an undertaker.)

“Even though the majority of victims were not found intact, that one woman we did find, and we were very fortunate to return her body to her family for burial,” Pete Lasher shared in a brief telephone interview. “With the help of the other firefighters, it was an honor to bring closure to that one family.”

Wadden, whose father and grandfather served in the military (a retired colonel, his grandad is buried at Arlington National Cemetery) emphasized the sense of national cohesion that briefly enveloped the country following the tragedy. He took the terror attacks personally, fueled by a sense of mission as he did his job on those harrowing days, surrounded by death, breathing in poison.

“Being a New Yorker, they did this to us,” he said. “It was so much a part of New York. The towers, part of that New York skyline. It felt personal. You relive all those feelings. As an



A separate photo taken of the group by a different photographer was also provided by retired White Plains Fire Department Lt. John Donahoe.

American, you felt like you had an obligation.”

“What probably bothers me the most is what's happened over the years,” Wadden also said. “We had unity, everyone had their American flags and now all that has seemed to be forgotten, and now there's so much division in the country. When you go back to 9/11, it was the most unified I would ever see the country.”

As for Donahoe, when reflecting on the magnitude of the event, he considers the broader historic context and its influence on the world, his community and his family.

“Two dates in American history have had a profound impact on my family,” Donahoe elaborated in a text message following a phone interview. “The first being 12/7/1941, which spurred my father to enter the (United States Naval Academy) and serve his country in two wars. 9/11/2001 is the other when nine of my fellow firefighters were able to help one family receive closure from their daughter's death that day.”

While the spirit of the “never forget” mantra stirs emotions for most Americans, Donahoe and his local firefighting compatriots, who saw what they saw, and endured what they endured, need no reminders.

The nightmarish images might scar the mind, but they also advise the heart and the soul to remain true to certain values held dear by Donahoe and his band of brothers.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Remembering the Losses, Vowing to Never Forget



Communities throughout Westchester and Putnam counties held their 9/11 ceremonies last weekend, recalling the horror of the day, mourning those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and in the 21 years since then from 9/11-related illnesses. At Westchester County's ceremony at Kensico Dam Plaza, the names of the 111 Westchester residents who died that day were read, their names enshrined on The Rising. Another 66 names of mostly first responders who have perished after falling ill from working at Ground Zero were also read, including 25 people who died within the past year.



Mount Pleasant Unveils Monument at Town's 9/11 Ceremony

By Martin Wilbur

It may have taken longer than planned, but the Town of Mount Pleasant finally has its 9/11 monument.

During the annual ceremony outside Town Hall on Sunday, officials unveiled a Cambrian black granite piece with two five-foot by 14-inch blocks to signify the World Trade Center towers that were attacked and destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001. The monument's towers, each weighing about 1,225 pounds, are affixed to a concrete base and are separated by a centerpiece with an eagle sitting on top.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi and Councilwoman Danielle Zaino worked with Mark Saracino of Saracino Monuments in Mahopac on its design. It's been placed near the flagpole in the circular island in front of Town Hall.

Fulgenzi said he had hoped to have the monument created by last year's 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, but supply chain issues caused by the pandemic delayed its debut until this year.

"It's just our way of showing respect for those that were lost," Fulgenzi said of having the town recognize the nearly 3,000 people who died that day including town resident Michael Lyons. "I think everybody feels loss. This is our way of showing respect for all the lives that have been lost."

Saracino said once the design was complete, it took about five months to finish the monument. Before the pandemic, it would have taken closer to eight weeks, he said.

Its importance is for future generations to never forget the lives lost, Saracino said, especially those who were too young to remember the day or who weren't born yet, like his own children.

"I came up on Saturday, and seeing it from the road the most beautiful part of it is knowing that it will be here forever," said Saracino, a lifelong Mount Pleasant resident. "Hopefully, my children remember this moment and explain to their kids what it meant."

The commanders of each of the town three American Legion posts – Peter Fiumefreddo of Post 112 in Hawthorne, Drew McFadden of Post 1574 in Thornwood and John Creskey of Post 1038 in Valhalla removed the monument's covering.

The recurring theme in remarks throughout the area over the weekend was to never forget.

During the Mount Pleasant ceremony, County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant) said she was at the Westchester County ceremony at Kensico Dam Plaza earlier in the day and was talking to a fire commissioner who was part of the vast eight-month recovery effort at Ground Zero. Cunzio remarked that the commissioner was certain that his name would one day be added to the county's monument recognizing those who have died from 9/11-related illnesses.

However, in the days, weeks and months following the tragedy, he felt a duty to keep helping others.

"I think the most important thing we can



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, left, takes in the Town of Mount Pleasant's new 9/11 monument that was displayed for the first time at Sunday's annual ceremony at Town Hall. On hand to take the covering off were the town's three American Legion commanders, from left, Drew McFadden, John Creskey and Peter Fiumefreddo.

take away from this is we never forget the past, we respect the present and we look forward to the future," Cunzio said.

Town Councilman Thomas Sialiano, a retired FDNY lieutenant, counts himself among the lucky ones who survived that day. His firehouse was 10 blocks from the Trade Center and his survival was nothing more than being "at the right place at the right

time."

It is why Sialiano continues to devote himself to public service.

"I was always thankful to the Lord that I'm here and I'm trying to help as many people as possible and that's my give-back to the community and to society," he said. "I think about my fellow brothers and sisters every day."

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Westchester to Have Garden to Remember Those Lost to Suicide

By Martin Wilbur

Mental health professionals and advocates typically make an even stronger push during September to educate the public during National Suicide Prevention Month.

This year, Westchester County is going one step further.

Last week the county announced it will be dedicating space at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale to create The Healing Garden, a quiet location for a memorial in the 236-acre facility. It will include flowers, trees, walkways and benches in a circular shape to give friends and relatives grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide a chance for quiet reflection and remembrance.

For the second year, the park is also being outfitted with pinwheels to commemorate the lives lost in Westchester and highlight the resources available to those in need and their families.

"Go by at any time. It's a great place," said Marie Considine, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Westchester. "It's already cut out where the garden will be and there's a sign there designating the spot so you can't miss it."

Last year County Executive George Latimer convened a planning committee consisting of mental health advocates and professionals, relatives of suicide victims and county officials to seek recommendations for how the site should be designed. Last week, the first flower was ceremonially planted at the garden's symbolic groundbreaking.

Latimer said the garden will help with



A Westchester County Parks Department worker arranges the pinwheels at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale. The county announced last week it will soon create The Healing Garden to remember those lost to suicide and help their families grieve.

public education about the issue. In the United States, there is a suicide every 11 minutes, according to Michael Orth, commissioner of the county Department of Community Mental Health. Last year there were 65 Westchester residents who committed suicide.

"The Healing Garden at Ridge Road Park is going to help with awareness for suicide prevention, it creates a quiet place for the loved ones to remember those that they've lost and it's going to be consisting of a variety of trees and pathways and benches in a circular shape so that it represents a reflection of those that we lost and those that have survived," Latimer said.

Orth said that among the other suicide prevention projects that the county continues to focus on is its programs involving faith leaders in their communities, a monthly college collaborative to meet with students at schools and various public education campaigns designed to get word out about how those who are suffering can receive the assistance they need.

A new program this year is Westchester's promotion of the 988 national suicide prevention hotline, Orth said. Calls into the system go directly to staff at St. Vincent's Hospital who are trained to help anyone in crisis.

Orth said Latimer has made mental health a top priority in the county during his administration.

"This includes prevention, early intervention treatment and, of course, suicide awareness and prevention," he said. "He has given us every resource possible, any opportunity to do this work and to reach out to our broader community and that includes our Westchester Suicide Prevention Task Force."

Tuckahoe resident David Carraturo, who lost his 18-year-old daughter Julianna to suicide more than four years ago, said it is comforting to see that Westchester County is taking the issue of mental health seriously.

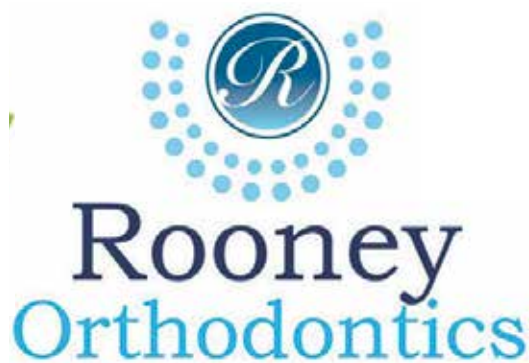
While there were some periodic improvements in Julianna's well-being throughout high school and when she started college, she had trouble navigating life. While visits to The Healing Garden will highlight the massive impact of suicide, there is also an uplifting side.

"You are going to see life, and that life is going to be in the trees and the flowers, which will continue to grow in perfect weather and catastrophic storms, just like us survivors who must continue in our lives while we keep frozen in time our memories of those we've lost, and we're going to keep them forever," Carraturo said.

When the garden is completed, it will be open from dawn until dusk. For more information about The Healing Garden, contact the county Department of Community Mental Health at 914-995-5225 or e-mail mno6@westchestergov.com.



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McIntosh Mile:	9:15am, kids all ages
5k Run/Walk:	9:30am
Donut Dash:	10:15am, ages 2-8
Carnival/Festival:	10:30am-2pm

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ON THE MEND

Sunday Afternoon 9/18 - Community Event
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Schedule of Events

FRIDAY 9/16

5pm-11pm

Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Beer, Wine and Entertainment!
Enjoy great free entertainment on the **Mount Kisco Dental Group**
Stage all Weekend! **The Consumer Energy Cooperative Incorporated /**
CECI Hospitality Tent welcomes all when visiting SeptemberFest's Eats &
Ale Food Court

5pm-8pm

Captain Lawrence Beer Sampling

5:30pm- 6:30pm

Live jazz on the Promenade by Jazz On Main

6pm

Mount Kisco Dental Group presents: Kevin Kane and the Grifters

7pm-8pm

Be a Social Media Star & Win \$100! - Meet at the Chamber Tent
on the Food Court

7pm-10pm

D'Errico Jewelry presents Friday Night Block Party with Jay Prince & Friends

SATURDAY 9/17

11am -11pm

Full Day of Fun with Carnival Rides, Street Fair, Food Trucks, Beer, Wine and
Entertainment! Browse through SeptemberFest's Street Fair (11am-6pm)
with over 60 vendors on South Moger Avenue, Main Street and Cabana Alley
near the food court.

11am-2pm

View Westchester Model T Antique Cars on So. Moger Ave. near the Gazebo
Emergency Services Community Outreach - meet 1st Responders and get a
close look at rescue vehicles and equipment that save lives – MKVFD,
MKVAC, WCPD

11am-4pm

11am

Food Court opens. Relax and dine under the **CECI** Hospitality Tent

12pm-2pm

Fidelis Care NY presents WHUD Radio Live with Kacey and the Prize Wheel
at the Food Court

12pm

Free Zumba Class by Saw Mill Club on the Promenade

1pm-5pm

Captain Lawrence Beer Sampling

2pm-4pm

McGrath Realty Inc. Open House on the Food Court

Performing on the **Mount Kisco Dental Group** Stage

The Westchester Family Church Ukulele Band

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SUNDAY 9/18

11:30am

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12pm - 8pm

Carnival Fun with Rides & Amusements all day

12pm- 4pm

Street Fair on South Moger Ave. & Cabana Alley near food court

12pm - 6pm

Sunday Fun Day under the **CECI** Tent -the Eats & Ale Food Court is open

1pm & 3pm

Free Zumba Class by Saw Mill Club on the Promenade

1pm - 4pm

On the Mend Medical Equipment & Supplies presents the Community Talent
Showcase with performances by;

1pm

Hidden Treasures Group from Community Learning Center

1:45pm

The Glorious Bedford Community Church Group

2:45

Emily Khabie

3:30pm

Sally Atari, Jazz Guitarist

Shake Things Up Occasionally to Better Enjoy Your Home

As a realtor, I am frequently asked by clients, both sellers and buyers alike, how best to complement their homes, from interior décor to outdoor paint colors.

Judging from my own experience and what I've recommended to others, I would have to say that I'm somewhat of a traditionalist. Having gone to college at one of the nation's oldest schools, the College of William & Mary in Virginia, founded in 1693, it was only natural that I should be influenced by tradition.

After all, I sat in the same classroom as did Thomas Jefferson, and I worked part-time in a restaurant that was built on the foundations of a public house from the early 18th century.

When it came time to decorate my first apartment in New York City, I purchased reproductions from the old Williamsburg Shop that was located within the wonderful B. Altman's.

Throughout my bachelorhood and then early marriage, I decorated all my homes traditionally, which took my influencing my wife, who was originally very much contemporary in her decorating preferences.

Once a theme was selected for any room, it was decorated in a way we thought we could live with for the rest of our lives.

And when we purchased our first home



By Bill Primavera

in the "country," we followed suit. Each room was decorated to stay decorated for a long time. That also applied to the outside appearance to our home. When we first purchased it, our house was painted a flat, deep brown all over, including all trim. At that time, there was a woman on our town's Advisory Board on Architecture and Community Appearance – on which I now serve – who greatly favored this color. It was as though all new developments were painted with the same palette.

When it came time to repaint, my wife Margaret and I chose to lighten things up and selected a

color somewhere between a light grey and beige, which we referred to as "greige." Over the many years that followed, we stuck with this color until it had oxidized to a pleasant pale green, which I didn't realize until people started referring to it as that large "green" house.

A few years ago, we sold that house to move to Trump Park, but every once in a while, we would drive by our old homestead just to check it out nostalgically. Well, just last week, I drove by the old homestead and was surprised to see that it had been painted a very pleasant yellow, which represents quite a visual change. It's as though it's a totally different property. In fact, I found the change to be spectacular. I took a picture of



it with my iPhone to show my wife once I got home, and I even e-mailed the current owner to tell him how much I liked the change.

It also gave me somewhat of an itch to change things around a bit in my current home. There is nothing I can do on the outside, but I'm looking to see what I can do inside.

So, let's see. The walls are all painted one shade of off-white, which is good to serve as a neutral background for all the paintings and other artwork I've collected over the years.

So maybe there's a new hue to consider to spice things up a bit. Maybe a pale salmon? Or beige? Nah.

Before she died Queen Elizabeth II stated that no one would know who she was if she chose beige over the bright colors she preferred when she dressed. But as for me,

while I don't prefer bright colors, I think I'll keep things totally neutral with off-white. However, I reserve the option to effect change going forward, just by the wall décor I should choose.

Isn't it fun at home to consider our immediate surroundings and have them cater to both our desire for tradition as well as that for change? That, as they say, is what makes for horse races.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Yorktown Launches Fall Marketing Campaign to Attract Visitors

By Rick Pezzullo

From apple picking and annual festivals to community walks and restaurant crawls, "Yorktown Has it All for Fall."

Now, town officials and merchants want everyone to know about it.

On opening day of the 98th annual Yorktown Grange Fair last Friday, a new marketing campaign was unveiled at the fair grounds to alert residents and out-of-towners about everything Yorktown has to offer in the coming months.

"Yorktown is a really special place all year round, but it's especially special in the fall," Supervisor Matt Slater said. "Yorktown has it all for fall and this is the place people from the Hudson Valley should want to be."

The multimedia campaign includes social media videos that target various consumer groups and a vanity website called www.yorktownfallfun.com that directs the public to the Destination Y site listing the businesses and events featured in the videos.

The campaign, created by the public relations firm Thompson & Bender, will focus on families with young children, food aficionados and young professionals. Local restaurants are participating in the campaign by creating special dishes, cocktails and other autumn treats.

"We're using it essentially to stretch our arms and reach out to local communities that border Yorktown so that they understand what we're doing," said



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Yorktown officials and local merchants kicked off a new town marketing campaign at the opening day of the Grange Fair last Friday.

Councilwoman Luciana Haughwout. "It's all about progress with preservation. It's how we tie it all together."

Some events scheduled in Yorktown over the next two months include the San Gennaro Festival from Sept. 14-18, Support Connection's annual Support-A-

Walk on Sunday, Oct. 2 at FDR State Park and the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce's Fall Festival and Car Show, being held this year at the Jefferson Valley Mall on Sunday, Oct. 9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In addition, a "Harry Potter Forbidden Forest Experience" is coming to FDR

State Park, starting Oct. 22, and the town is planning to have a Halloween-themed haunted house attraction in October.

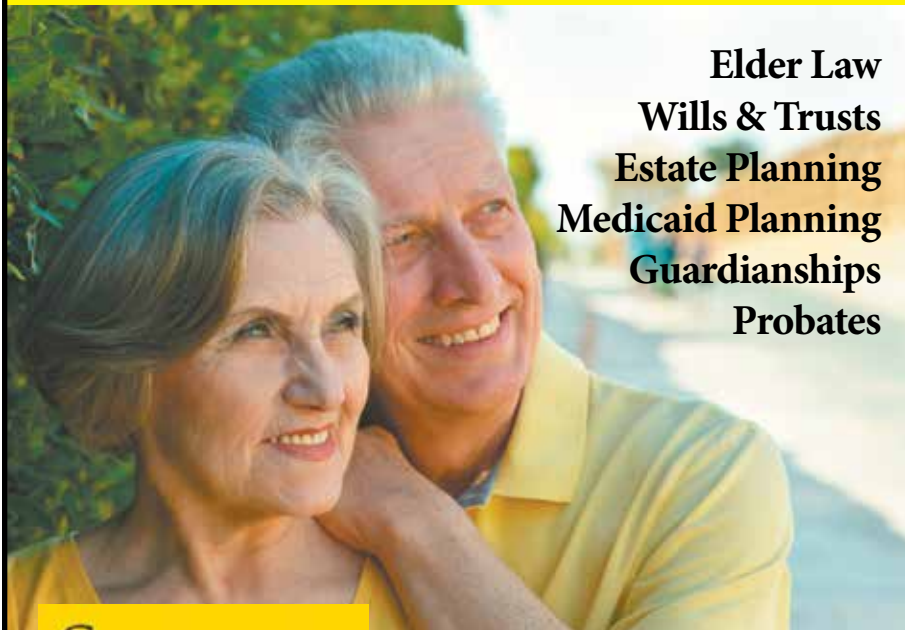
"We're looking to promote all of the events and make Yorktown a destination for the fall," Councilman Sergio Esposito said. "We're very excited about this."

The Yorktown Has it All for Fall campaign builds on the holiday shop local campaign that Yorktown ran last November and December. It is the latest phase of Yorktown's Destination Y, a multimedia promotional campaign launched in the summer of 2020 to attract new investment.

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Mount Kisco's Curio Room: A Bookstore and a Whole Lot More

By Ed Perratore

Mount Kisco has had no bookshop since Borders closed its last stores in 2011. But a new business in town, Curio Room, may succeed where others failed by offering something you can't buy online: personal attention that goes beyond retail pitches.

Curio Room, at 141 E. Main St., is more than a bookstore. The brainchild of two local artists, Frog Wing and her partner, Gerry "Ray" Mak, the store offers not only new and used books but used LPs, CDs and cassettes.

Moreover, Curio Room showcases art, curios and gifts, including hand-decorated clothing that the couple and others in the local artist community have created.

"People are craving in-person exchanges because of how much time we've all been spending online," said Wing. "We want to provide space for people, more than a commercial experience, (and) give room to be themselves, too."

The idea behind Curio Room, added Mak, sprouts from "a deep part of the human mind that needs to hunt and gather, to seek things out and wants that satisfaction of discovering," he said. "It's like that feeling of discovering either something you've been looking for, for a long time, or something you didn't even know about."

Mak, from Ossining, had seen much of Mount Kisco while growing up; Wing was a California native who came east during college. The pair met in Baltimore while helping out with an experimental theater



ED PERRATORE PHOTOS

Curio Room's owners and resident artists, Gerry "Ray" Mak, left, and Frog Wing.

production. Mak later returned to the area to help his family following his father's death, and he ended up living in Mount Kisco. Wing, then based in Brooklyn, joined him. Shortly after, the pandemic struck.

The couple's living space during the lockdown soon couldn't accommodate a working art studio for two.

"I was seeing signs for spaces in Mount Kisco and thinking about the possibilities," Wing said.

Early intentions leaned toward a gallery of their own and their friends' art, primarily paintings, illustrations and graphic art.



Mount Kisco's Curio Room bookshop and gallery, as viewed by the doorway of the store. It is a recent addition to the village's downtown.

From there, it wasn't long before they considered books, too, as an entry point for shoppers. Said Mak: "We both love bookstores, so it kind of started moving in that direction."

Although much of the store is devoted to books, Curio Room does not consider itself competition for traditional bookshops, which specialize in new books. Like those stores, Curio Room can order any book. But Wing and Mak stress works from small and independent presses.

"Throughout," said Mak, "we wanted an improvisational, intuitive thing, and we wanted room to always evolve and explore different kinds of ideas and projects."

That notion of constant evolution is key to the store's future. Its owners want Curio Room to reflect the local populace as well as their own vision of what the store should be.

"We're open to opinions and ideas that are different from our own perspectives," said Wing, "and books are a way to have those conversations."

The couple are also seeking collaboration with organizations such as the Mount Kisco Arts Council, along with local art teachers.

Another departure from the traditional model of bookstores is Curio Room's invitation to local artists, authors and other crafters to meet at the store, chat with one another and with Wing and Mak and explore how the couple can advance their work. The idea for the store is as a community center – a living, breathing entity – that, in Wing's words, can be "nourishing people's values and creativity, with room for possibility."

Through SunDogs Studio, a small-scale publishing venture begun during the COVID shutdown, Wing published 'zines that initially spread the word about what artist friends were doing. Now, the couple hope to use the same vehicle, probably distributed by mail, to feature local artists' work.

Interested in donating books or music in good condition? Wing and Mak are not yet accepting donations, but they ask that you check their website, www.curioroom.org, which will soon be launched. Curio Room expects to be open to art books, children's books, literature, fiction, poetry and graphic novels. The exception is textbooks and mass-market paperbacks.

Curio Room is currently open Wednesday to Friday from 1 to 8 p.m. and 12 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 917-522-1888.



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Public Invited to Enter P’ville Farmers Market Apple Pie Contest Oct. 8

On Saturday, Oct. 8, local home bakers will bring their finest apple pies to the Pleasantville Farmers Market, the region’s largest year-round farmers market.

After a lively competition, the champions will bring home a gift basket, a medal and bragging rights for the next year. And market shoppers will have the chance to indulge in a variety of delicious apple desserts – all for a good cause.

“We are delighted to bring this annual tradition back,” said Peter Rogovin, president of Foodchester, Inc., which operates the market. “It’s a fun day for everyone, and to be deemed the best by our panel of judges means you are a very good baker.”

Participants must be amateur home bakers, and pies must be made entirely from scratch by the person entering the contest. No more than one adult and one youth submission is permitted per household. Entries are accepted until 9:45 a.m. on the day of the event. There is an entry fee of \$5 for every pie. If paid by Oct. 1, the entrant receives \$5 in Market Bucks, which can be used as cash in the market. Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org/applepie-contest for rules and entry form.



The Pleasantville Farmers Market’s Apple Pie Contest is a big hit among locals and shoppers. Each pie slice sold will go toward the market’s intern program.

pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org/applepie-contest for rules and entry form.

This year’s judges include a mix of culinary experts and local luminaries:

- Jack Bishop, chief creative officer, “America’s Test Kitchen,” the top-rated public television cooking show. He is a member of the Cook’s Magazine team and helped launch

Cook’s Illustrated in 1993. He is the author of several cookbooks.

- Lauren Chattman, author of nine cookbooks and co-author of numerous other books, including Dessert University, with former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier. She is a former pastry chef.
- Eileen Egan, executive director, Phelps Hospital.
- Rachel Hunger, principal, Bedford Road School.
- Suzy Scherr, author, personal chef, culinary instructor.
- Peter Scherer, mayor, Village of Pleasantville and friend of the market.
- John Turiano, editor, Westchester Magazine.

Entries are judged on texture, taste and appearance. Winners will be announced at about 11 a.m.

Categories are the Best Two-Crust Apple Pie; Best One-Crust Apple Tart, Crumb or Crisp; Best Entry by a Junior Chef (18 and under); and Best Entry by Family and Friends.

“Some past entries have looked very fancy but haven’t quite made the cut because of undercooked or burned crust or overcooked apples,” market

Executive Director of Operations Steven Bates said. “Our judges pay special attention to baking skills.”

Event Committee member Catherine Sabol added, “We celebrate everyone who puts their pie out there. Every slice is sold and enjoyed! Our participants should all be proud of their culinary skills.”

Money raised from entry fees and pie slices sold go to the nonprofit Pleasantville Farmers Market’s Intern Program, which offers 15 to 20 young local residents a robust volunteer experience every year.

“We couldn’t run the market without them,” Bates said.

Each winner receives a Pleasantville Farmers Market canvas tote bag stuffed with products donated by market vendors.

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is located on Memorial Plaza and is open nearly every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This is a press release provided by the Pleasantville Farmers Market. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.

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Birds and Friends Meet as Summer Wanes, Turns to Fall

By Brian Kluepfel

Last Friday, Saw Mill River Audubon (SMRA) held its annual dinner, this year at the Kittle House in Chappaqua.

During the outdoor hors d'oeuvres hour, as I approached the bar, I spotted a ruby-throated hummingbird circling the lantana bushes directly behind. I joked with friends that since this was an Audubon-sanctioned event, I had paid the tiny bird \$5 in the parking lot to convince it to attend our party. We all had a laugh while observing this awesome, tiny creature, our only species of hummingbird in the northeastern U.S.

The evening was a joyful reunion of birding friends who had been unable, for the most part, to meet in great number since the pandemic hit in 2020. We shared stories, listened to local authors Scott Craven and Caroline Ranald Curvan and honored three wonderful women who are stepping down from their roles in local conservation this year: SMRA office manager Ellen Heidelberger, Croton Point Nature Center educator and photographer Bonnie Coe and SMRA educator Patricia Mutolo.

They have been crucial to Westchester's enjoyment of birding over the past several decades; it would be hard to say enough good things about them.

We also honored Ardsley teen Adella DaPice who spent the summer working on the bountiful Bronx River. She is part of the Bronx Zoo Teen Program, learning about local wildlife under the auspices of SMRA's Larry Light Scholarship. To listen to a



BRIAN KLUPEL PHOTO

Local authors Scott Craven and Caroline Ranald Curvan spoke at last week's Saw Mill River Audubon annual dinner.

young woman so poised and positive about the future really lit up the room. Certainly, the Audubon Society can use more young people interested in the preservation of our natural spaces.

On Saturday I joined friends at Innisfree Garden in Millbrook, N.Y. Innisfree is a once-private estate that was owned by Walter and Marian Burt Beck, devotees of Chinese and Asian gardens, and it's now open to the public as a lovely place to picnic and stroll.

After some tasty Portuguese pasteis de

nata (custard tarts) and black coffee, we walked around the expansive lake. Looking up, two things caught our attention: a massive eagle's nest set into a copse of pines and a kettle of Turkey vultures riding the thermals of the hot September afternoon. We joked, as the kettle grew to a sextet, that there was a vulture for each of us, should we perish in the heat. It never came to that, thankfully.

Sunday morning began with a gaggle of geese, perhaps 20, noisily arriving, flotilla-like, beside the train tracks, then just as suddenly taking off in squadron formation. Nobody seems to know what stirs these large groups of Canada (not Canadian!) geese to take off in sonorous synchronicity, but it's pretty special to experience. Honk if you love Canadas.

Next it was time to stroll around Mariandale Center in Ossining with my favorite birding partner, my wife Paz. We saw an osprey eating a fish and pondered if it was the same one which had soared over our porch just an hour earlier.

Indeed, Croton Bay is filled with ospreys, herons and egrets these days, and it's not uncommon to have an osprey fly-by, with a wiggling fish still in its talons. To see such things is, to me, beyond cool.

We also saw a couple of hawks zipping around Mariandale. (I take this opportunity to shamelessly plug Anne Swaim's Sept. 22 Zoom call on "Raptors for Rookies.") I myself am a bit of a novice at identifying

any raptor other than a bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture or osprey. One great aspect of birding is that there's always more to learn, and birders as a rule are very generous in sharing information. Just come to a SMRA event listed in the ad below to find out.

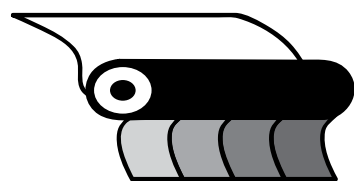
At last, collapsing into a comfy chair at the close of a rainy Sunday, my wife pointed excitedly to our porch. "Colibri!" This is the Spanish word for hummingbird, and sure enough, a pair of the enigmatic mighty mites of the avian world were circling our potted lantana. I had placed it closer to the edge of the porch after Friday's Chappaqua incident in hopes of history repeating itself.

Although nature can be unpredictable, in this case the plant placement worked like a charm, and we allowed ourselves to be gobsmacked for another moment at these thumb-sized flyers, zooming helicopter-like around the lantana's orange-red-yellow umbel and (hopefully) pollinating our nascent cucumber plant's yellow tubular flowers.

So was it a good weekend for birding? Yeah, it was a great weekend.

Brian Kluepfel of Ossining is a proud member of Saw Mill River Audubon and an author for the Lonely Planet travel book series, Westchester Magazine and Birdwatching Magazine. His article on birding Newfoundland will appear in October's Birdwatching. Check him out at birdmanwalking.com.

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Ex-Nixon Adviser Recalls Serving ‘The Last Liberal Republican’

By Martin Wilbur

After President Richard Nixon left office in disgrace in 1974, he lamented that he would likely only be remembered for Watergate and his trip to China to restore relations with the Communist power.

Now, in his new book, “The Last Liberal Republican,” John Roy Price is opening eyes about how groundbreaking the Nixon presidency was – or tried to be – regarding many domestic issues as well.

Price had a front-row seat to the the 37th President’s first three years in office. After working for New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and holding a key role in Rockefeller’s 1968 campaign for the Republican nomination for president, he was asked to work on the Nixon general election campaign and then the administration, serving as executive secretary for urban affairs.

Price recently was interviewed by John Vorperian, host of “Beyond the Game” for the public access White Plains Community Media, and The Examiner about his book and the factors that led Nixon to push for reforms that would probably seem foreign to many Republicans today. (Nixon was a congressman and senator before becoming Dwight Eisenhower’s vice president.)

“He was all for and helped Eisenhower push programs in healthcare, on expansion of Social Security, and a large thing in healthcare was the Employer Sponsored Insurance, which he did through the tax code in 1954, which all of a sudden made healthcare accessible to millions and millions of families, for which the unions



John Roy Price, an adviser to President Richard Nixon, discusses his new book “The Last Liberal Republican,” which traces aspects of Nixon’s domestic agenda, which would be considered progressive by today’s standards.

and the employers supported,” Price said.

Nixon wanted a national health insurance program and fought for coverage for prescription medication and pre-existing conditions 40 years before the Affordable Care Act became law, Price said. His views on healthcare were probably informed by his family’s struggles, he said.

“He watched two brothers die of tuberculosis with no insurance,” Price said.

“His mother had to go (for) over a year each time to a sanitarium in Arizona with each of them and work with others there in order to pay for her sons’ care. This just buried itself into Nixon’s psyche. He really, gut-wise, believed in people having proper healthcare.”

Working with Democratic senators Edward Kennedy and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a national program came within a whisker of passage in mid-1974, Price said. However, the effort was derailed by the increasing calls for Nixon to resign amid looming impeachment hearings stemming from the Watergate scandal.

But with Nixon, it wasn’t just healthcare. During his presidency there was a strident national debate about welfare. Price said Nixon supported the ill-fated universal basic income legislation against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of his own cabinet. The proposal would have guaranteed income for the working poor – families at or below the federal poverty line – in hopes of improving the lives of the most vulnerable Americans, he said.

Other reforms during his administration were the expansion of the food stamp program, establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and championing the 26th Amendment, which lowered the legal voting age from 21 to 18 years old.

Enabling Nixon to push his domestic agenda

were very different political dynamics. Price said after Herbert Hoover’s failed presidency and the wildly popular programs introduced by FDR through the New Deal to help extricate the country from the grips of the Great Depression, Republicans largely nominated moderates for the presidency.

In fact, socially liberal Republicans, such as Rockefeller or New York Sen. Jacob Javits, were not particularly unusual.

Then there were the old “Dixiecrats,” the southern Democratic segregationists, so there was more compromise between other Democrats and Republicans.

Working with the president on domestic issues, Price never saw Nixon’s darker side. One adviser described to Price that Nixon “moves from rage to generosity, from eloquence to something other; it’s just who he is.”

“I didn’t see that,” Price said. “I saw policy and intellectual engagement and some humor.”

Despite now just over a half-century since working in the administration, Price, who went on to a nearly 30-year career in the financial industry, looks back fondly on his days in the White House.

“(Nixon) was a serious man, a serious policymaker and I am grateful for the time that I had and to have been able to interest a president in what I thought were tremendously important efforts in social policy,” Price said.

To view the interview on White Plains Community Media, visit www.wpcommunitymedia.org.

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V.

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Grace O'Malley: A Woman of Her Time, and of Ireland

This month we begin profiling several "Women of Ireland." Some are known, some not, but all deserve to be celebrated.

We begin with Grace O'Malley, often referred to as "The Pirate Queen." Daughter of an Irish chieftain, she was born in County Mayo about the year 1530. Clan O'Malley was a major seafaring family, and not above piracy when the opportunity arose. They controlled the waters off Mayo, and their ships plied the oceans between Ireland, France and Spain.

Well educated, Grace was fluent in Latin, a skill that would serve her well in later years when she went toe to toe with a mighty English monarch, Queen Elizabeth I. A spirited girl, she always made her own mark at whatever she attempted. At an early age she convinced her father to allow her to accompany him on a dangerous sea voyage to Spain. To counter his objection that her long hair might get caught in the ship's rigging, she cropped her locks so short that she earned the nickname Gráinne Mhaol ("Bald Grace").

Her father relented, and Grace earned her place aboard his ships, which she would



Grace O'Malley (1530 - 1603)

come to master as well, if not better, than any man.

At 16, she married Dónal O'Flaherty, uniting O'Malley fortunes with a powerful neighboring clan. She bore Dónal two sons and a daughter. She mourned him fiercely when he was slain two decades later by rival clans. When the time for mourning was over, Grace, now the head of her own clan, set about avenging Dónal's death. She quickly sent the chief offenders to their graves.

A widow with a fleet, lands and wealth, Grace soon married again, this time to Richard Bourke, member of a powerful Connacht clan. Connacht was the western-most, and wildest, of Ireland's four provinces. Grace did her best to keep it that way, ruling her lands and seas from her castle on Clare Island. She played the political game well, appeasing the English, while she covertly supported the efforts of two major Irish clans, the O'Neills and the O'Donnells, to fend off complete English dominion over Ireland.

In 1593, Sir Richard Bingham, one of Queen Elizabeth's henchmen, captured two of Grace's sons and one of her brothers.

Bingham considered Grace as little more than a rebel, complicit in the rebellion begun that year by the O'Neills and O'Donnells. To seek their release, Grace demanded an audience with the English sovereign.

In September of that year Grace journeyed to London. There she met with the Queen at Greenwich Palace. Grace, herself dressed in finery befitting a queen, would not bow to the English monarch. Nor would she apologize for the concealed dagger a cursory search of her body revealed. She explained that it was customary in Ireland for women to be so armed.

Grace spoke little English, and Elizabeth had no knowledge of Gaelic. So, the two carried on their conversation in Latin, a feat that greatly impressed the English queen.

In the end, Grace secured freedom for her kin, but at a price. She agreed to withdraw her support, however secret it might have been, from O'Neill and O'Donnell. In return, Elizabeth agreed to several of Grace's demands. It was an agreement quickly broken by Elizabeth, though it was honored by O'Malley until



By Brian McGowan

her death.

She drew her last breath in 1603, age 73, a remarkable lifespan for that time. She was laid to rest in Clare Island Abbey, within the walls of which she had been baptized and married. While her concessions to the English remain a topic of debate to this day, there is no doubt that over the course of her long life she selflessly defended her clan.

Grace is remembered to this day in Ireland as a tenacious and politically astute woman of her time. Over the years she has been the subject of numerous literary works, musical suites, plays and poems, including one by Padraic Pearse, leader of the 1916 Easter Rising. This "Pirate Queen" continues to retain a fascinating hold on the Irish spirit.

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. He is the author of two books, "Thunder at Noon," about the Battle of Waterloo, and "Love, Son John," about World War II. Both are available at Amazon.com.

Irish Eclectic

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Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Aug. 30: A civilian reported at 5:43 p.m. that an unknown person made multiple fraudulent charges to her Fresh Direct account totaling \$7,000.

Aug. 31: Patrols responded to the Croton

Metro-North station at 8:57 p.m. on a report that a male was cutting seats with a knife. Patrols detained the subject and turned the scene over to the MTA police.

Sept. 2: A caller reported at 9:33 a.m. that a male made inappropriate comments to her and her child in front of her husband in the parking lot of a South Riverside

Avenue business. The male then left the area in a vehicle. Patrols responded and located the male and advised him to cease all contact with the caller.

Sept. 3: A caller reported at 10:38 a.m. that a vehicle parked in front of her home on Farrington Road had inappropriate words formed in electrical tape displayed on its exterior. Patrols made contact with the vehicle owner, who refused to remove the tape from the car.

Kent Police Department

Sept. 5: A 40-year-old Carmel man was arrested and charged with DWI after a report of a disabled vehicle at Farmers Mills Road and Ressique Street at 4:10 a.m. After officers located the vehicle, the driver stated that he left his home to get cigarettes and ran out of gas. Upon interviewing the vehicle operator, patrol noticed the odor of alcohol emanating from his breath as well as slurred speech. An open six pack of Corona was also observed in the back floorboard. After conducting field sobriety tests, it was determined the man was intoxicated and was placed under arrest. The suspect was processed at police headquarters and issued an appearance ticket in town justice court.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 2: A Cooney Hill Road resident reported at 5:37 p.m. that she is locked

out of the house and two locksmiths are on the scene requesting \$600 and she feels intimidated. An officer was dispatched and reported that the homeowner was assisted without incident and gained entry into the residence.

Sept. 3: A Hillandale Avenue resident reported at 5:50 a.m. hearing strange noises in front of his residence early this morning. He stated that when he went outside to investigate, he observed a white SUV and male parties in hoodies carrying what looked like a saw. He believes this may be related to recent catalytic converter thefts. He said his neighbor has surveillance cameras and may have gotten video of the incident. The neighbor, who contacted police, stated he would be home within the hour and would contact the department.

Sept. 4: Report of a party still apparently going on at a Jackson Road residence at 2:12 a.m. The responding officer reported speaking to the parties who were advised of the noise ordinance and the music was lowered.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 3: An officer conducting a routine building check at Village Hall on Wheeler Avenue reported at 9:59 p.m. that a mirror was damaged in the second-floor bathroom.

Sept. 6: An employee at Henckels on Marble Avenue reported at 6:25 a.m. the larceny of a catalytic converter from a company vehicle.

Attorney Sentenced for Stealing \$3.7M From Clients

A 51-year-old attorney was sentenced last week to one to three years in state prison for stealing more than \$3.7 million from clients she represented in real estate transactions, the Westchester County District Attorney's office announced.

During the Sept. 6 sentencing, Briarcliff Manor resident Laurieanne DeLitta was also ordered to pay full restitution to the eight victims for her actions.

In May, the defendant pleaded guilty to eight counts of second-degree grand larceny, a felony, for stealing \$3,711,499 from eight individuals and estates while working as a real estate lawyer in Armonk between January 2017 and March 2021. During that time, the defendant diverted the proceeds

generated from the sale of her clients' assets into her personal bank accounts.

"Attorneys should be held to the highest standards of ethics and integrity," District Attorney Mimi Rocah said. "Ms. DeLitta violated her oath and professional duties in every way when she broke the law and stole from her clients. My office has no tolerance for such conduct."

District attorney criminal investigators arrested the defendant last Nov. 10, following an investigation conducted by the Economic Crimes Bureau.

The case was before Judge Barry Warhit. The sentence was imposed by Judge Anne Minihan in Westchester County Court.

--Martin Wilbur



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Anniversary Happy Hours and A Bronx Tail at Palminteri's Restaurant

Marking their first year, Tony Sinanaj, operating partner at Chazz Palminteri Italian Restaurant in White Plains, is inviting all comers to their Anniversary Happy Hours from 4 to 7 p.m. daily, featuring a variety of specially priced cocktails and kitchen specialties including good old-fashioned meatballs and fresh oysters.

Former Bronx boy, actor, writer, producer and restaurateur, Palminteri and his partnership took over the former Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza on Main Street in White Plains last year. Palminteri is best known for his hit 1993 film "A Bronx Tale," which was filmed in and around Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, and his roles in "Bullets Over Broadway" and "The Usual Suspects."

Palminteri, a Bedford resident, has already added his name to a restaurant in midtown Manhattan in partnership with Jack Sinanaj, who also owns Ben & Jack's Steakhouse and Empire Steak House in the city.

The menu combines upscale classic Italian specialties along with dishes for the whole family to enjoy. During one recent visit I tasted a delicious Gamberi Romano appetizer – giant sauteed shrimp with spicy peppers in a creamy gorgonzola sauce over garlic bread. There are specialty wood-fired pizzas including a traditional margarita; decadent tartufo pizza, with truffle oil, mushrooms, fresh mozzarella and mixed herbs; the Bianca (fresh mozzarella, ricotta, olive oil and black pepper); and short rib pizza (arugula, sweet peppers and mozzarella).

Hearty main courses include the Gamberi scampi, veal parmigiana, chateaubriand for two and A Bronx Tail, lobster tail with clams, mussels, shrimp and light spicy tomato sauce with homemade fettuccine.

The restaurant is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Weekday Happy Hours



By Morris Gut

are 4 to 7 p.m. Valet parking. Chazz stops by from time to time, too, according to the staff.

Chazz Palminteri Restaurant is located at 264 Main St. in White Plains. Municipal parking. Info: 914-600-8430 or visit www.chazzpalminterinyc.com.

Laughing Horse Opens in Harrison

Mike and Ali Nazzaro have premiered Laughing Horse Coffee and Tea Co., a casual establishment in the Harrison Playhouse Lofts, one of the newly-constructed buildings on Purdy Street. Former music industry veterans who pivoted during the pandemic, the Nazzaros' vision was to create a friendly casual space where patrons can gather, sip and be social.

The menu includes a variety of locally-produced products: coffees and teas as well as sweet and savory items, breads, gluten-free baked goods, cookies, egg bites and toasted breads with butter and/or avocado. One of their suppliers is the popular Balthazar Bakery. There's limited seating inside and an inviting outdoor patio.

Laughing Horse Coffee and Tea Co., is located at 6

Purdy St. in Harrison, a short walk from the Metro-North station. Open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: 914-488-6848 or visit www.thelaughinghorsecoffee.com.

Oktoberfest Season is Here

Oktoberfest season is upon us – it actually begins in September – and many folks enjoy the hearty flavors of Bavaria in the fall. Here are two suggestions where you can take in German-style beers and specialties. You can also check with your local pubs and taverns who often serve Oktoberfest dishes this time of the year.

Dunne's Pub

Dunne's popular Oktoberfest Menu is available daily. There are hearty versions of



Laughing Horse Coffee and Tea Co., a new casual establishment that has opened in the Harrison Playhouse Lofts.



Some of the savory baked goods at the Laughing Horse in Harrison.



The triple wurst platter with cabbage, sauerkraut and mustard at Dunne's Pub in White Plains, a great place to try for those looking for a taste of Oktoberfest.

a potato pancake appetizer; sauerbraten; a triple wurst plate with all the trimmings; veal schnitzel; calf's liver, German style; and pork cutlet schnitzel. Dunne's is a neighborhood treasure, an authentic Irish tavern with all the traditional Gaelic accoutrements intact.

Owner Declan Farrell has upgraded the premises but has been careful not to get caught up in the modernist mode. It is a friendly, home-style place with a good kitchen dishing out generous servings of traditional Irish American fare at prices that will leave some money in your wallet.

Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Also, there's Sunday brunch. Municipal parking is free in the evenings.

Dunne's Pub is located at 15 Shapham Place in White Plains. Info: 914-421-1451 or visit www.dunnespub.com.

Nadine's

Christian and Pamela Schienle, along with their son Jagger, took over the former Jennifer's Restaurant and melded many of the popular German specialties with French classics. They have a spacious beer garden and offer such hearty dishes as roasted pork shoulder with potatoes and onions; jagerschnitzel; wienerschnitzel, a trio of sausages; and sauerbraten. Apple strudel and black forest cake are among the desserts.



A Bronx Tail seafood platter at Chazz Palminteri's Italian Restaurant in White Plains.

Nadine's is located at 715 Saw Mill River Rd. in Yorktown Heights. Info: 914-962-4298 or visit www.nadinesrestaurant.com.

Establishments Expanding

Two of White Plains' most popular food and drink venues are expanding. Michael Chiltern, founder of Wolf & Warrior Brewing Company on East Post Road, has leased the space next door, a former beauty shop. According to Chiltern, he's looking to have it operational by Thanksgiving. Check out www.wolfandwarrior.com.

Meanwhile, Nick Fusco, proprietor of the bustling Freebird Kitchen and Bar on Mamaroneck Avenue, has taken the storefront next to his restaurant. Fusco said extensive renovations are planned, including another bar and banquettes. Nice to hear positive news.

For more information, visit www.freebirdkitchenandbar.com.

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been covering the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at gutreactions@optonline.net.

A Look Back at FDR in Westchester in Upcoming Program

Local followers of 20th century presidential history in the area will be treated to fascinating insight into where, why and when our longest-serving president frequented the northwestern part of Westchester in a program on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 2 p.m. at Cortlandt Town Hall.

Jointly sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, the Yorktown Historical Society, Croton Friends of History and the Town of Cortlandt, the event is free to the public. Mask wearing is optional.

Author and historian Anthony Czarnecki of Cortlandt Manor will deliver a PowerPoint presentation “Nothing to Fear...A Look Back at FDR’s 24 Public Appearances in Westchester County.”

Based on his just-published detailed article in The Westchester Historian magazine, Czarnecki will reveal that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was no stranger to the people and places of Westchester. With vintage photos he discovered in his research, Czarnecki will show FDR’s unique connections to Cortlandt, Croton, Peekskill and the hamlet of Shrub Oak in Yorktown during the years he was governor and President.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s public appearances in Westchester will be the subject of an upcoming program sponsored by three local historical societies and the Town of Cortlandt on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Cortlandt Town Hall.

“This will be a return engagement by Mr. Czarnecki in presenting programs on the visits of iconic figures to Westchester to the three historical societies at Cortlandt Town Hall,” said Bob Foley, program director of the Van

Cortlandtville Historical Society.

In May 2017, Czarnecki presented “Growing Up Kennedy in Westchester: The Bronxville Years (1929-1941).” Last October he delivered the PowerPoint presentation “What Did Winston Say? When Churchill Spoke in Westchester.”

A self-described “history detective” with published research on Abraham Lincoln’s visit to Peekskill in 1861 en route to his inauguration in Washington, and also President Lincoln’s secret 1862 visit to West Point during the Civil War, Czarnecki gave a program on the latter in April 2015 to the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society of which he is a longtime member. He is also a longtime member of the JFK Library Foundation and the Board of Trustees of the Westchester County Historical Society and is a past president of the Lincoln Society of Peekskill. In 2012, he was admitted to membership in the Society of Civil War Historians.

A graduate of Iona College, Czarnecki earned a master’s in criminal justice from John Jay College and also a master’s in public administration from Pace University. He started his career as a Westchester County probation officer, and in 1981 he was the first recipient of the American Probation &

Parole Association’s National Probation Officer of the Year Award.

For 25 years, Czarnecki worked as chief of staff of the Westchester County Department of Corrections, serving six commissioners before he retired in 2008. He is currently president of The Chartwell Group USA, a criminal justice consulting firm, has taught at Iona College and Westchester Community College and has published works on the origins of the jail and probation systems in Westchester County.

Czarnecki and his wife, Lorraine, have owned a home in Cortlandt Manor for 45 years where they raised their two children.

Cortlandt Town Hall, the venue for the Sept. 24 program, is located at 1 Heady St. in Cortlandt Manor. For directions to Town Hall, visit <https://www.townofcortlandt.com/cn/webpage.cfm?TID=20&TPID=4703>

For information about the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, visit www.vancort.net.

Also working with Foley on the upcoming program are Chuck Radke, program coordinator at the Yorktown Historical Society, and Marc Cheshire, program coordinator at Croton Friends of History.

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THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Comedy Central. Dante Alighieri, the Italian poet famous for writing “The Divine Comedy,” died on the night of Sept. 13-14, 1321. The ‘Comedy’ describes a journey through Inferno (Hell), Purgatorio (Purgatory) and Paradiso (Paradise). The quiz words this week come from this important poem of the Middle Ages.

1. engender (v.)	A) to attract and hold	B) guide	C) give rise to
2. avarice (n.)	A) an incarnation in human form	B) extreme greed	C) profits from a sale
3. smoldering (adj.)	A) highly self-satisfied	B) burning slowly	C) crumbling
4. disdain (v.)	A) to show lack of respect	B) present in detail	C) use good judgment
5. debauchery (n.)	A) excessive indulgence	B) weakness	C) a period of decline
6. countervail (v.)	A) to intrigue against	B) double check	C) offset
7. callow (adj.)	A) young and inexperienced	B) feeling no emotion	C) marked by calm
8. entreaty (n.)	A) a passageway	B) surroundings	C) a humble request

ANSWERS:

1. C. To cause or give rise to (a feeling, situation, or condition)

2. B. Extreme greed for material wealth

3. B. Burning slowly and without a flame

4. A. To reject as not good enough or showing a lack of respect

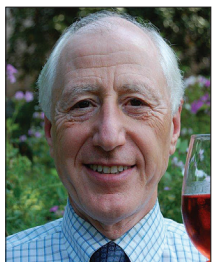
5. A. A wild gathering; excessive indulgence is

6. C. To counterbalance, neutralize, counteract, sensual pleasures

7. A. Young and inexperienced; immature or offset

8. C. An earnest or humble request; appeal

Water is the Essence of Life – and Wine – at All Levels



By Nick Antonaccio

When was the last time you stepped back from your hectic life and observed the wonder and beauty of our planet? When was the last time you untethered yourself from your electronic device and absorbed nature in all its glory

and power?

For myself, it was while on vacation this summer on a river cruise along the Douro River in northern Portugal. This glorious river courses through the famous Port vineyards and wineries, a natural wonderland of beauty and bounty.

This is where I was able to focus on the awe of nature that I take for granted every day. I began to consider the more practical elements of nature rather than the ethereal aspects.

What precipitated this as I sat on the deck of our ship, glass of wine in hand? It was the wonder of a river that begins as a small stream in western Spain and ends 200 miles downstream as the gateway to the vast Atlantic Ocean, providing natural beauty and hydroelectric power to the entire region. It is the power

and influence of Mother Nature's natural wonder of water.

Water is the essence of life, yet it is in increasingly short supply as human population explodes and agricultural production accelerates to meet its needs in the face of growing global droughts. As I considered the macro and micro aspects of water's dominance in our lives, my mind naturally (for me) came full circle to the glass of wine in my hand.

In the oceans, on land, in soil, in plants and in our bodies, water is at the very core of existence. We are taught that 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water. But do you remember that 96.5 percent of the Earth's total volume of water is undrinkable? Only 3.5 percent is fresh water, which must

sustain the millions of fresh water-dependent species that inhabit our planet, including its 7.3 billion humans.

How is it possible that humans are able to sustain themselves on such a seemingly meager proportion of fresh water?

And this fresh water is not readily available to us. Nearly 70 percent is in the form of polar ice caps and glaciers. The remainder, sourced primarily from rivers, lakes, aquifers and runoff, represents less than 1 percent of all the water on Earth that is readily available for human consumption.

Throw climate change and the years-long

drought in parts of the world into the mix and it is easy to understand the concern over the long-term implications for future water supplies. In the Douro region, even with the bounty of the nearby river, the lack of rainfall since last November is evident in the wilting, stressed grapevines all along the steep terraces cascading down to the river.

Let's move from the global view to the perspective of water and the human body, of which 60 percent is composed of water. To sustain this level of water, and optimal health, we rely on several sources. Certainly, the 1 percent of Earth's freshwater readily available to us is the major source.

But just as our physiology is comprised of a significant proportion of water, so too are other living organisms. The organisms that provide us with life-sustaining and vital nutrition. Most plants and vegetables contain significant levels of water. A balanced diet will provide much of the recommended water intake we need to sustain a healthy body. For example, a cucumber is 96 percent water by weight; watermelon is 92 percent.

And then there are water-based beverages that sustain our bodies and our lives: coffee, tea, juices – and wine.

There it is: wine. It is critical to sustaining the health of our bodies. More than 85 percent of a glass of wine is water.

Whew, that was a long way to connect the vastness of nature to a single glass of wine for a light-hearted discourse on the



importance of water in our lives.

There is much to appreciate and be in awe of in Mother Nature and, tangentially, today's wines. They provide for the continuing health of our water-based physiology and enhance our ethereal appreciation of their essence.

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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