



Kent Councilwoman Resigns; Boyd Enters Board Race

By Rick Pezzullo

The Kent Town Board will be functioning with only four members for the next several months following the resignation earlier this month of Councilwoman Noelle Botte.

Botte, who was appointed to the board in February to fill a vacancy after Jaime McGlasson was elected supervisor last November,

announced at the start of the Sept. 6 meeting she was moving to Florida since her husband's employer was relocating.

"It is truly with deep regret that I leave this position and leave Kent, and I'm so proud to be a part of this community of caring, wonderful people," she said, fighting back tears. "It's been really a great time. It's a heartbreaker, but I'm okay."

Last November, Botte, a Republican, finished fourth in a five-way race for two available seats won by GOP Councilman Jorma Tompuri and Democrat Anne Campbell.

"I will miss my colleagues who made me feel so welcome. You guys are a great team," she said. "You guys are going to do awesome, great things and I wish I was going to be here to see it through. I leave you all with a heavy heart and I wish Kent the very best in years to come."

Botte was

named Volunteer of the Year last year by the Lake Carmel Park District Advisory Board. She was planning to run for reelection for a full term this November.

Instead, the Kent Republican and Conservative committees have endorsed Shaun Boyd to go head-to-head with Democrat Simon Carey.

Boyd, 53, is a 1987 graduate of Carmel High School and the father of two sons, Nicholas, 27, and Eric, 26. His family has lived in Kent since the early 1970s and has a family business called Boyd Artesian Well Company and H2O Services, which he started in 2004.



Shaun Boyd

Brewster Police Purchase New Vehicle with \$50K State Grant

The Brewster Police Department recently added a new vehicle to its fleet, thanks to a \$50,000 state grant secured by Senator Pete Harckham.

The new 2020 Dodge Charger Police Car was only delivered to Brewster earlier this year because of production issues and supply chain limitations created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For public safety and law enforcement professionals, it is vital for them to have updated equipment to do their jobs," said Brewster Police Chief John Del Gardo. "This new police car is, in terms of performance and technology, a big upgrade from our older vehicles, and we're grateful to Senator Harckham for providing grant funding to help us with the purchase."

The Charger Police car comes with a no-cost Officer Protection Package that includes rear vision and enhanced officer safety when parked and working inside their vehicle. When activated, the rear-facing camera and sensors detect movement behind the vehicle, automatically sending images to the vehicle's interactive touchscreen.

Safety and space improvements include



State Sen. Pete Harckham and Brewster Police Chief John Del Gardo stand next to new police vehicle.

a 12.1-inch video display on the front dash, which integrates law enforcement systems and innovative technology.

The awarded grant funding was secured within the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM), which is among the grant programs administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to support community and economic development.

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.

Mahopac Man Charged with Sexually Assaulting Female Near Trail

By Rick Pezzullo

A Mahopac man was arrested earlier this month for sexually assaulting an adult female victim near the Putnam Trailway on Weber Hill Rd.

On Sept. 10 shortly after 7 p.m., Carmel Police were notified about a possible assault and initiated an investigation. Thanks, in part, to the fast actions of witnesses, police were quickly able to locate and detain a suspect, Neftali Caal-Chocoj, 49, who was

attempting to flee the area on a bicycle. He was taken into custody without resistance.

Further investigation into the incident resulted in Caal-Chocoj being charged with second-degree rape, a Class C felony. He was arraigned in Carmel Town Court where bail was set at \$200,000. He was transported to Putnam County Jail.

Carmel Police were assisted in their investigation by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and the Putnam County District Attorney's Office.

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Schools, Families Urged to Visit Traveling Vietnam Wall in Putnam

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Service Agency Director Karl Rohde are urging schools and families to take advantage of an event that will give local meaning to national history and bring students to see the Traveling Vietnam Wall when it visits Carmel this week.

The Traveling Vietnam Wall will be on display at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park from noon on Thursday, Sept. 22 until 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25 and will be open for visits 24 hours a day.

"This is a great educational opportunity," Odell said. "Not only can students see a version of the Vietnam Wall without having to go to D.C., but they will have the chance

to meet with local veterans from Putnam County who may have served in the war. It's a good example to show the students how national history is also local history."

The Traveling Wall is an 80 percent scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. This visit will include The American Traveling Tribute, a display that features every war America has been involved in from the Revolutionary War right up to today, and a half-size replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This event is a collaboration between the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency and the Putnam County Joint Veterans Council (PCJVC). The PCJVC is a local non-

profit Veterans Service Organization.

"We believe that this is an excellent educational and community service opportunity," Rohde wrote in a letter to school officials throughout the region. "We know it's early in the school year, but it is our hope that you can present the students at your school with this gift."

A motorcycle convoy will meet at the rest area on northbound I-684 in Southeast at 3 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 21 and escort The Traveling Wall to the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park. Motorcycle riders are encouraged to join.

Buses will be available to transport visitors round trip from Putnam Plaza and

the Putnam County Office Building to the park to see the wall. The buses will run from the Tops Store at Putnam Plaza every hour on the hour from noon to 5 p.m. on Sept. 22-24. They will stop at the county office building 10 minutes after the hour. Please see the attached Traveling Wall Public Transportation schedule for details.

The closing ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. Sept. 25, which is Gold Star Mother's Day, and will feature a concert by The Hudson Valley Council Band.

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.

Putnam Sheriff Warns Residents of Financial Phone Scam

Putnam Sheriff Kevin J. McConville is warning residents about a financial phone scam occurring recently within Putnam County.

McConville said several county residents have reported receiving phone calls from a male subject impersonating a member of the Sheriff's Office. The male subject has been calling residents, stating he is "Sergeant Jason Cooke"

from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office at 3 County Center in Carmel. The caller states they are facing legal consequences for failing to comply with a prior or current criminal matter and that they are required to post monetary bail in lieu of being arrested. The caller also states that to avoid being arrested, they must pay their bail by purchasing a predetermined amount of money in gift

cards and providing the code numbers to the cards.

McConville is reminding the the public, specifically the residents of Putnam County, that the Sheriff's Office will never call and ask residents for money or to purchase gift cards to satisfy a legal matter. "Sergeant Jason Cooke" is a fictitious name used by the caller, and there is no one employed

at the Sheriff's Office with that name. Residents are warned to be cautious when getting these calls and to notify the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation at 845-225-4300 if they are contacted.

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Proposed Chappaqua School Bond Trimmed to \$45.3M, Two Propositions

By Martin Wilbur

Chappaqua school officials have reduced the size of the planned facilities and infrastructure referendum for later this fall by more than \$5 million and consolidated the proposed projects into two propositions.

The Board of Education and administration have removed a new cafeteria for Robert E. Bell Middle School from consideration, an estimated \$7.7 million expense, reducing the potential cost to \$45,325,000, if the two remaining propositions pass. The total expense includes \$787,000 in capitalized interest costs.

The previous estimate for a three-proposition bond, including the Bell school cafeteria, was \$50.7 million in hard construction costs. District officials continue to target Nov.

29 as the date to hold the vote.

"This is a bond that is very straightforward – facilities and safety-related – and is basically meat and potatoes, for the lack of a better term, and while we feel it's imperative to make many of those repairs and upgrades, we're also committed to making sure we are being fiscally responsible and doing everything we can to minimize the tax impact on our community members," said Board of Education President Jane Shepardson.

Proposition 1, which would ask district voters to borrow up to \$33,985,000, includes all of the infrastructure improvements, including \$8.5 million for roof replacement at all of the district's schools, nearly \$5 million for communications and fiber optics upgrades and more than \$5.4 million for new HVAC systems

in all buildings.

Other notable expenditures in the first proposition are air conditioning in all of the district's school cafeterias and gymnasiums, costing a combined \$4,281,000; air conditioning for the Horace Greeley High School L Building for more than \$1.2 million; outdoor bathrooms at the high school for \$1,152,000; and \$1,468,000 for paving at Greeley and Westorchard Elementary School.

Other currently listed projects that would be part of the first proposition are the replacement of the Greeley J Bridge and replacement of the fire alarm system at the high school; playground resurfacing; lights for the Greeley tennis courts; electronic locks at the elementary and middle schools; storage for the high school athletic complex; and a modified baseball field at Seven Bridges Middle School.

Proposition 2, for \$11,340,000, including interest, would pay for a single point of entry at the high school and reconfiguration of the front office space, said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman.

"This was a decision that came out of a very big process that took place before the pandemic," Ackerman said of the second proposition. "After Parkland occurred, we had a safety task force, we had a security survey that went to our parents, students and staff, we had two independent audits of Greeley, and this was a conversation that came out of that process."

Under the current timeline, the board is tentatively scheduled to approve a resolution authorizing the late November vote at its Oct. 3 meeting. If the public were to give the district

the go-ahead, construction would begin during the summer in 2024 with likely completion during the 2027-28 school year, said Assistant Superintendent for Business Andrew Lennon.

Last week, Lennon presented the revised projected tax impact for residents. If both propositions are approved, a homeowner with a median house value of \$1,250,000 in the district it would cost \$451 a year for the first six years with the STAR program and \$463 annually without the STAR program. For enhanced STAR for eligible seniors, their share would be \$436 a year.

As other district debt declines, however, the bond would cause an average annual tax impact of \$232 a year for those with the regular STAR program through the 2037-38 school year, Lennon said. There would be the slight variations for those with senior STAR and not enrolled or eligible for the program.

With district debt falling off, there would be no tax impact if only Proposition 2 passes.

Shepardson said one of the reasons the district is hoping to get the vote scheduled is because there will be a lag between the time the public might approve the propositions and when work would begin. The buildings also need the improvements, she said.

"Even though our facilities are well-maintained, we've had some emergency repairs and things that have to get done, we are trying to do this to be proactive and cost-effective, but if we wait a really long time, we won't do that," she said.

The board may discuss the proposed bond again at its meeting this week at Horace Greeley High School.

Manville Road Corridor Project Begins This Week in P'ville

The Manville Road Corridor Improvement Project was scheduled to begin on Monday, Sept. 19. The initial phase of the project will focus on fire hydrant replacements, curb and sidewalk replacements and drainage work on the south side of Manville Road between Tompkins and Wheeler avenues.

Street parking in this area will be restricted while work is ongoing. Once work in the area is completed, the contractor will shift to the north side of Manville Road between Tompkins and Washington. This is estimated to take place in October.

Pedestrian passage and access to storefronts will be maintained. Further updates will be provided as the contractor progresses with the project.

Due to long lead times with traffic signal equipment, work at the Manville Road/Memorial/Grant Street intersection is scheduled for early 2023. This includes the construction of the right-hand turn lane at Memorial Plaza and removal of the slip lane.

For an overview of the project, visit <https://www.pleasantville-nj.gov/>

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Struggling Displaced Residents Fuming Over Delays After Fire

Coachlight Square Units Still Uninhabitable 13 Months Later

By Rick Pezzullo

On Aug. 6, 2021, Judy Coppola, 63, was sound asleep in Unit 269 at Coachlight Square in Montrose when she was suddenly awakened in her bedroom shortly before 10 p.m. by a firefighter telling her to evacuate.

A massive fire that started in Unit 262 was traveling rapidly in the attic space of six attached condominiums in the complex off Kings Ferry Road before being blocked by a firewall that protected six other units in the L-shaped building from being engulfed by flames.

Sergio Castellanos, 32, also escaped physically unscathed from Unit 263 with his wife, two sons, another relative, and two pet cockatoos.

The condominium he purchased two years ago wasn't as fortunate as it was, and its contents were destroyed.

"We didn't hear anything. We only heard people screaming, 'Fire, fire!'" Castellanos recalled. "We were living a dream having the house that we wanted, and then we lost everything. You have nothing to do with a fire, and you lose everything."

More than 100 firefighters from 15 fire companies responded to the scene and put out the blaze in about two hours.

However, the lingering effects of the devastation loom large 13 months later as

the frustrated unit owners grapple with uncertainty over when they will be able to move back in and mounting expenses from having to pay a mortgage, property taxes, common charges and rent, along with costs associated with the damage from the fire.

"It's just a horror. It's been worse than the fire itself, and there's no reason for it," Coppola remarked. "A total nightmare."

Shannon Fulgum, who has lived in Unit 264 with her husband Bruce for 18 years, echoed Coppola's sentiments about the situation.

"It's a nightmare that's just gotten worse," she said. "We lost everything."

Six condominium units were destroyed, and two others suffered severe water and smoke damage. All eight are being rebuilt. Four others that also had smoke damage are being gutted and renovated.

The Board of Managers of the Coachlight Square Association hired Belfor Property Restoration 12 days after the fire and issued a check for \$2,282,752.84 —the total cost of the work — in November.

That decision has come under severe scrutiny from residents and Cortlandt Supervisor Dr. Richard Becker, who has set up meetings with homeowners, the Board of Managers, and Belfor representatives to encourage an open dialogue and get a realistic timeline. Residents believe Belfor has been in no hurry to complete the project since it has already been paid in full, while Becker threatened to report Belfor to the state Attorney General.

"This is a classic case of time is money,"



Construction of the Coachlight Square units that were destroyed by fire last year. Projected completion for the project is mid-December.

Becker said. "The contractor was paid in advance. That was a poor way of handling it. They [Belfor] were a little slow out of the box. There have been legitimate delays in the builder meeting with each homeowner. We're all disappointed it hasn't been done quicker."

"It's a s--- show," Coppola asserted. "This should have been done in six months. It's 12 very modest units. We're not building mansions here."

Mike Salamone, Belfor's project manager at Coachlight, was contacted by Examiner Media, but he referred all questions to the company's public relations department, which did not return a message. At a meeting with town officials and residents on Sept. 13, it was disclosed by Belfor that construction of the units was on target to be completed by

Dec. 14.

Residents are less than optimistic about being able to return to their homes for the holiday season.

"Me and my mother, who is 91, will be at Cracker Barrel again for Thanksgiving," Coppola remarked. "Thank you very much."

"Originally, they told us a year. Now they're telling us December. I don't see how that's possible," Bruce Fulgum said. "If we're in by Feb. 1, I'll be happy."

"It's been a stressful process. They're taking their sweet time," Castellanos said. "I'm hoping for the best. I'm hoping by January we will be able to move back in."

The Board of Managers at Coachlight is

continued on page 6

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Struggling Displaced Residents Fuming Over Delays After Fire

continued from page 5

standing behind Belfor.

"After considering several companies, the Board agreed that Belfor Property Restoration was the best qualified to accommodate CLS's needs," Marilou Thompson, president of the Board of Managers, stated in an e-mail after being posed questions. "The Board and Belfor Property Restoration have worked tirelessly to keep the restoration project moving forward. The timeline is realistic, and the project is progressing in a timely manner."

Financial Pain

In the meantime, residents have been forced to make other living arrangements, sometimes dipping into retirement savings to survive after insurance money ran dry.

The Fulgums were fortunate to receive private contributions from friends and a GoFundMe account totaling about \$40,000. They also were able to secure a small apartment from a friend until July 1, when they moved to the Amberlands Apartments complex in Croton.

Nonetheless, their monthly housing costs have risen from \$2,600 to about \$5,000.

Coppola is currently residing in a one-bedroom apartment in Croton. Her monthly costs have jumped from about \$2,100 to



The fire at Coachlight Square in Montrose on Aug. 6, 2021.

\$4,520. Although her unit wasn't leveled, she has had to endure hefty expenses to clean and store any salvageable furniture.

"Once you take that money out of (a) 401(k), it's gone," she said. "We're all paying for storage, and they [the Board of Managers] don't care."

Castellanos had to temporarily relocate his family to an apartment in Ossining, and his sons, ages 11 and five, had to change school districts.

"It doesn't feel like home. It's hard, especially for the kids," Castellanos said. "It will be thousands for us to go back on our feet. We can't afford it right now."

Castellanos said, like his neighbors, his housing costs have doubled since the fire. He and other residents have criticized the Board of Managers for not lending a hand by eliminating or reducing the monthly common charges of as much as \$700 that condominium owners are saddled with since none of them have been living on the premises.

"I'm angry," Coppola said. "Most bylaws don't address if you have to pay common charges if you have a catastrophic event."

A few weeks ago, Coppola stood at the entrance to Coachlight Square to collect signatures on a petition requesting the Board of

Managers call a special meeting for all unit owners to attend.

In an e-mail response, Thompson addressed the common charges, stating, "All unit owners at Coachlight Square are part of a homeowners' association and, as such, are responsible for the expenses of the Association, whether or not they are living in the condominium."

Future Fears

Another potentially sticky issue concerning residents is whether they'll be fully protected from a future fire. Town officials insist the new construction will adhere to the latest building and fire codes, not the codes in place when the units were built about 50 years ago.

However, residents are equally worried about the well-being of the elderly woman who owns Unit 262, where the fire started from a wire in a lamp, according to a report from the Westchester Cause and Origin Team. Witnesses reported the homeowner didn't call 911 to report the fire. Instead, she was seen wandering outside near the swimming pool on the property.

Residents, such as Castellanos, said the woman's behavior over time raised some eyebrows, such as her being seen wearing winter clothes in the summertime and talking to herself loudly on her

deck.

Over the years, police and firefighters have also reportedly responded to Unit 262 for several small fires, Bruce Fulgum said.

"We are terrified," Coppola said. "She's a clear and present danger to herself and others. Something has to be done."

Verplanck Fire Chief John Scheembary, whose department led the coordinated effort to combat the blaze, said last year, "It was already pouring out the back windows when we got there." When contacted last week, he maintained it was impossible to know how long the fire had been raging when firefighters first arrived.

Cortlandt Director of Code Enforcement Martin Rogers said it was likely certificates of occupancy to condominium owners would be issued in phases once all the necessary inspections are completed.

"We don't usually have many failed inspections in Cortlandt," Rogers said. "If everything is in order, we try to do things as expeditiously as we can."

Publisher's note: Examiner Media Editor-in-Chief Martin Wilbur owns one of the 12 units that were damaged and has been displaced since the fire.

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Parents Scramble for Childcare as P'ville's Panther Club Slots Fill Up

By Abby Luby

Pleasantville parents with elementary school-age children are finding themselves in a bind since the Panther Club after-school program has been unable to enroll an overflow number of registrants.

For years parents have relied on the club, an affordable program run by the village's Parks & Recreation Department and the Pleasantville School District at Bedford Road School.

This year, with more parents returning to a post-pandemic work schedule, the club had record-breaking registration applications. But when many parents tried to sign up their children, the online registration site shut down due to technical difficulties.

Listening to parents' frustration at last week's Pleasantville Village Board work session was Pleasantville Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Mike Newman and Board of Education President Jill Grossman. Three parents attended the meeting in person and a handful of parents commented via Zoom.

"My wife and I both work and we've had to cut out of work early," said Cameron Cassidy, who was unable to get his son, a third-grader, into the Panther Club. "We can't find private care and even for \$35 an hour nobody wants the work."

Village Trustee David Vinjamuri said his son has been waitlisted for the Panther Club for about a week.

Carrie Roberts, who works in the city two to three days a week, has a fourth- and fifth-

grader who have attended the Panther Club since they were in kindergarten. Currently, both children are waitlisted.

"We are relying on neighbors to help us look after my children when I am at work," Roberts said.

Newman said online registration started off slowly at the end of July, but picked up by mid-August when the club was nearing full enrollment.

"By late August we discovered an issue with the system and we closed it hoping for a quick fix," Newman said. "An internal test showed it worked right before the re-launch, but then it failed again."

With the system malfunctioning, Newman said the department decided to create a temporary wait list to get names into the system and later add them to a formal wait list.

"Just to be clear, the Wednesday slot was already filled and the other days were almost full before the system went down," Newman said.

Currently, 130 children a day are enrolled Mondays through Thursdays and 124 attend the club on Friday. About 50 children are on the wait list and many of those requested after-school care Monday through Friday. The program was originally set up to handle 100 children a day, but was increased to 130 last year.

Finding more space and hiring more staff to accommodate additional children poses problems. Any changes would have to be approved by the state Department of Education.

"Trying to find additional staff might be a heavy lift," said Newman. "I don't have a stack of applications for hiring, and if we did hire more staff, it would require background checks, the approval of the state and the village. That's not always a quick turnaround."

Accessing more space at Bedford Road School could also be problematic, especially when other groups have reserved space for meetings or programs in classrooms, the auditorium or cafeteria. Currently the Panther Club uses five classrooms, each with 20 children. If needed, the cafeteria can hold 60 children and 20 more can be in the library.

The Village Board agreed that a long-term solution will require ongoing conversation

between parents, the village and the district. Grossman said the district will work with the club.

"Once you know how many more students you want space for, you can fill out a request form and the team at the school would figure out what they can handle and what rooms would be appropriate," Grossman said.

In the near term, Vinjamuri asked if there were any parents who would volunteer and run one Panther Club group a week. He encouraged parents to help find ways for waitlisted children to attend club programs sooner rather than later.

"If you're willing to participate to be part of the solution, please let any one of us know," he said. "We will put together a group and come back with suggestions."

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Column

New Land Trust Board Member Helps Students, the Underserved Tackle Climate Change

The Westchester Land Trust (WLT) has added a new voice to the conversation about how to combat climate change, with the selection of Diana Kaye Williams to the WLT's board.

Williams, a Mount Vernon resident, joined the Land Trust's board of directors in June. She is the director of a program to educate and advise residents on installing green energy heat pumps in New Rochelle and Mount Vernon, called Adopt Clean Energy (ACE). Williams is the president and co-founder of Comrie Enterprises, which advises building owners and municipalities on installing clean energy solutions, among other services.

She is also the co-founder of Environmental Leaders of Color (ELOC), which started the Student Summer Energy and Environmental Program for Teens in 2021. This year, the program educated students in Port Chester, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle and Yonkers on the impacts of climate change, the benefits of green energy and the degrading effects of plastic, among other topics.

The program will continue into 2023 and onward, with plans to expand to other Westchester communities.

ELOC offers an annual award to a student planning to study engineering in college, with aid and job opportunities for the grant recipient, to finance their education.

"Conservation is a very important part of fighting climate change. We need to protect as much greenery in our community as possible," Williams explained. "The Westchester Land Trust is a very powerful voice. They can help us get out the message



By Michael Gold

on climate change."

Climate change "is something we have to address and make a priority," Williams said.

"I want to be able to encourage residents to learn what is going on. We are teaching kids from underserved communities about climate change. They often lack the resources to protect themselves. We want to encourage them to become environmental leaders. We're doing a bottom-up movement, to give this effort a voice. We have a chance to change more minds."

For their final projects, kids at the 2021 summer program were asked to envision life in 2050, in the form of a podcast from the future. Their fantastical nightmare scenarios included people and even cities living under giant domes, the need for people to wear gas masks to breathe, buying fashionable hazmat suits, the possibility of living under the ocean and sending people to Mars to live.

The purpose of the exercise was not to upset the students; it was to motivate them and everyone else to figure out a way to decrease their carbon emissions.

The curriculum for the summer program is designed to help the students "enjoy the process, the act of discovery," with conducting experiments, making poster art and doing other fun activities, Williams said, because many kids say they don't like science.

ACE's heat pump campaign program in Mount Vernon and New Rochelle is

part of New York State Energy Research Development Authority's (NYSERDA) clean heating and cooling campaign to decrease the use of fossil fuels. There are two types of heat pumps – air source and ground source, also called geothermal.

In the summer, air source heat pumps take air from the inside of your house and send it outside. In winter, they take warm air and transfer it inside. Ground source heat pumps take heat from the ground in cold weather and pull it into your house for warmth. In the summer, ground source heat pumps take heat from your house and send it underneath the surface.

Heat pumps use no fossil fuels, so homeowners never have to worry about the price of oil or gas again, and they're obviously much better for the climate.

"It's kind to the planet," Williams said.

WLT's program resonates with Williams because of the relative lack of greenery in Westchester's cities, from New Rochelle to Yonkers.

"In upstate New York, there are acres of farms," Williams said. "New York City has Central Park. Mount Vernon, with four square miles and 77,000 people, needs to come up with creative ways to provide more green space."

Williams, who is on the front lines of the impacts of climate change on communities of color, is determined to work hard to fight its effects.

"I know that consumers can change direction, like with tobacco. People became aware that cigarettes are linked to lung cancer, illness and sickness. We need more of that awareness in our community. Let's look at what the petroleum industry is doing. Plastics are linked to many types of cancer. I wonder, are they (fossil fuel corporation



Diana Kaye Williams joined the Westchester Land Trust's board this summer.

executives) concerned about their own children, their own families? We are a community that cares about the climate."

"Diana brings a suite of experiences and expertise that we did not have in our leadership," said Kara Hartigan Whelan, WLT's vice president. "I am excited to tap into that, particularly in community engagement in our towns and cities, and what the land trust's role is in renewable energy."

Williams will conduct a lunch-and-learn session about renewable energy with WLT staff in October.

WLT recently received a \$25,000 grant from the New York State Nature Conservancy, a land preservation nonprofit, to support land protection in Westchester and eastern Putnam counties.

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has had articles published in the New York Daily News, the Albany Times Union, The Virginian-Pilot, The Palm Beach Post and The Hardy Society Journal, a British literary journal.

On the Street

Cortlandt Town Board Jeopardizes Montrose's Future

By Adam MacNeil

Why would the Cortlandt Town Board want to hurt Montrose's future?

The people of this community have worked so hard over the last several years to help the hamlet progress into a thriving community.

In January 2020, I presented an idea to then-Supervisor Linda Puglisi to help revitalize Montrose. She made every effort to help see our project become a reality. The Montrose Matters residents group worked with town officials and KG&D Architects to create a concept for the heart of Montrose. With Puglisi's help, as well as Councilman Frank Farrell, we overcame hurdle after hurdle.

It was Supervisor Puglisi who offered up the rollerblade rink property to be the new home for a state-of-the-art ambulance corps building. A perfect spot on the

same property as the state police barracks and paramedic station.

It seems Supervisor Richard Becker feels revitalizing the rollerblade rink is more important than revitalizing Montrose. Becker scrapped all that hard work and instead wants synthetic ice skating in that spot. This decision will set our project back by five years.

The Montrose Business Association, led by Dennis Malles, spent countless hours working with Puglisi to create a commercial sewer district for the businesses in Montrose, including the site of our proposed project. Working with the previous administration they secured an \$850,000 grant.

Today, \$7 million of Entergy settlement money is waiting for us to use in this project along with improvements to Buchanan's sewer infrastructure. All we need is an agreement between Buchanan and the town and the money will be

released.

Without the agreement, the commercial businesses will not get sewers and this development will not happen.

The failure of the town to work with Buchanan is not only ruining the opportunity to bring sewers into Montrose, it is destroying the longstanding trust between Buchanan and the town. The Town Board blames the mayor for the inability to come to an agreement. They say there is a lack of trust. Maybe so, but where does this lack of trust stem from?

Maybe it's because town officials have been heard saying that the village has no future and will ultimately be folded into the town. Maybe it's simply because the town has publicly misrepresented the truth. It's the Town Board that refuses to accept the terms of the agreement. The Village Board made that clear in public

statements by the mayor and three trustees at its August meeting.

I recently received an e-mail from the supervisor, informing me that I misrepresented the circumstances regarding the skating rink and that the ambulance corps could never be moved to that location because it was established parkland. "News to all of us," I said.

Through a Freedom of Information request on this, I learned that it is not as definitive as the supervisor made it out to be. First, the land was not purchased to be a park; it was purchased to build new troopers' barracks and possibly parking for the train station.

Second, when the skating rink was built, that part of the parcel was not subdivided from the remainder of the parcel.

Third, none of this property was designated parkland through a resolution.

Finally, some years after the skating rink was built a portion of this land was used to build the youth center, which isn't allowed in a designated park. If the supervisor wanted the ambulance corps to go on this site he could make as strong an argument for it as he is making against it.

The bottom line is this: If the future of Montrose was as important to Cortlandt officials as it is for Montrose residents, as it is for business owners, as it was for Supervisor Puglisi, I'm sure they would have done what was needed to bring this project home.

The Town of Cortlandt needs to show Montrose that they care about our future. Please honor former Supervisor Puglisi's commitments and respect the hard work of this community.

Adam MacNeil is a Montrose resident.

Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Sept. 12: An officer responded to a North Bedford Road parking lot at 6:22 p.m. on a report that a vehicle had been damaged by a hit-and-run driver on the Saw Mill River Parkway. A motorist reported that his vehicle was sideswiped by a white sedan and the operator drove away without stopping. The victim exited the parkway to call police.

Sept. 14: An officer responded at 8:03 a.m. to a Main Street business on a report of illegal dumping. The owner reported that several large bags of garbage had been left on her property, possibly by persons she had observed cleaning up litter and other debris in a wooded area behind her store the previous day. Mount Kisco DPW was requested to remove the bags.

Sept. 14: A 35-year-old Mount Vernon woman was charged at 11:12 a.m. with petty larceny, a misdemeanor. She was detained by store security at Target on North Bedford Road and accused of trying to leave the store without paying for \$575 worth of merchandise in her shopping cart. She was booked at the Green Street precinct and released pending a Sept. 29 appearance in

Mount Kisco Justice Court.

Sept. 14: An officer responded to Moore Avenue at 11:49 p.m. after a caller reported that a man in a reflective vest was acting "suspiciously." It was determined that the man was a Con Edison employee working in the area.

Sept. 14: An officer on patrol was flagged down by a Target employee in the store's parking lot on North Bedford Road at 9:20 p.m. due to a safety concern. The employee reported that another member of the store's staff had been threatened by a customer and asked to leave the store earlier in the evening. The officer canvassed the lot for the customer, who had threatened to wait outside the store at closing time. Store staff was advised that the customer was not present and it was safe for the employee to leave.

Sept. 16: Officers responded to Carpenter Avenue at 11:17 a.m. because a loud argument was reported between two men, one of whom was screaming obscenities at the other. An officer defused the confrontation, advised both parties to avoid each other and sent them on their way.

Croton-Harmon Police Department

Sept. 8: A caller reported at 1:44 p.m. that a vehicle operated by a male just crashed into a barrier in the parking lot of a Croton Point Avenue business. Patrols responded and provided the male a courtesy transport to his residence.

Sept. 9: Patrols responded to South Riverside Avenue at 8:19 p.m. for an 82-year-old who suffered a head injury from a fall. Croton EMS responded and transported the subject to Phelps Hospital.

Sept. 11: Patrol encountered a female subject at the intersection of Old Post Road North and Brook Street at 11:15 a.m. who stated that she was assaulted. The subject stated that she and her friend were drinking alcohol and got into a verbal dispute over a lizard. The male subject stated that at some point during the dispute, the female struck him in the head repeatedly with a stick. Patrol reported that during the altercation, the female stated that the male punched her in the face multiple times with closed fists. Patrol requested an ambulance for both subjects. The male subject was transported to Hudson Valley Hospital by ambulance and the female refused medical attention. Both were highly intoxicated, uncooperative and refused to press charges.

New Castle Police Department

Sept. 10: At 8 p.m., officers responded to the Mobil gas station on Route 100 in Millwood on a report of a domestic incident. A female reported that while driving home, her husband was physically aggressive toward her and threatened to beat her up, violating an Order of Protection. When officers arrived, the male subject had already left the area. Officers investigated and secured an arrest warrant for the husband for violating the Order of Protection, for which he was later arrested.

Sept. 12-13: Detectives were investigating two unrelated sex offenses that were reported. The cases are currently under investigation. There is no threat to public safety.

Sept. 14: Police responded to Whole Foods on Bedford Road at 4 p.m. regarding a stolen wallet and cell phone. The caller stated that while shopping, she was distracted by someone asking her a

question and believed another person had removed her wallet and cell phone from her purse, which she kept in the shopping cart. Officers reviewed security camera footage and confirmed that three individuals, two males and one female, appeared to have worked together to steal those items. An investigation is ongoing.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 10: A complainant arrived at headquarters at 5:31 p.m. to report that while leaving a parking lot on Main Street she noticed a heavyside white male parked a few spots down from her in a blue Honda with Connecticut plates engaging in what she thought appeared to be a lewd act. She stated that the man had one hand on the steering wheel and the other in the area of his genitals and appeared to be pleasuring himself. Responding officers reported locating a vehicle with the occupant matching the description, but no suspicious behavior was observed. The vehicle occupant was interviewed; a report will follow.

Sept. 13: A Washington Avenue resident responded to headquarters at 3:11 p.m. to request the department document that she has not been opening her neighbor's packages. She stated that she wanted to have this documented as she was accused of doing so by her neighbor earlier today.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 10: A 21-year-old Pleasantville man was charged with not having insurance on the vehicle following a traffic stop on Marble Avenue at 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 14: A Castleton Street business reported at 8:25 a.m. that a catalytic converter was stolen from a company vehicle.

Yorktown Police Department

Sept. 12: A 16-year-old Syracuse boy and a 13-year-old Amsterdam, N.Y. boy were charged at 11 a.m. with third-degree grand larceny and second-degree criminal mischief, both felonies, for allegedly stealing a Town of Yorktown pickup truck from the town's Sewage Treatment Plant and damaging a fence on the property when fleeing.

Sept. 13: Roland Brickhouse, 35, of Cortlandt, was charged with first-degree burglary, a Class C felony, at 6:50 p.m. for allegedly stealing a PlayStation video game unit and its components from a residence in April.

Sept. 14: Christopher Kraft, 57, of Mahopac, was charged with driving while intoxicated following an accident on Croton Lake Road at 6:21 p.m.

Sept. 14: Mivard Musaj, 39, of Yorktown, was charged at 7:36 p.m. with assault and menacing for allegedly slapping, punching and kicking a female victim during an argument, causing pain, swelling and bruising. He also is accused of menacing the victim with a butter knife and took her cell phone to prevent her from calling the police.

County Launches Muscoot Farm Main House Restoration

Restoration of the Main House at Muscoot Farm got underway last week as part of a \$1.9 million capital project.

The majority of the project will focus on the exterior of the house, including the restoration of columns, siding, windows, trip, roof, railings and terraces. Additional interior work done includes repairs to windows, doors, walls and floors.

The house will also be painted on both the interior and exterior.

"In continuing with capital projects across the county, the restoration of the Main House at Muscoot Farm is another example of keeping the history and bones of what the county has to offer and revitalizing it to

make Westchester County a popular destination for decades to come," said County Executive George Latimer.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said, "Muscot Farm is a popular destination for families and the restoration of the Main House will provide park-goers with an enhanced farm experience."

The restoration project will last for about a year and will not impact programming or events at the farm.

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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Hudson Valley Infrastructure Worsens as Funds Go Unspent

By Abby Luby

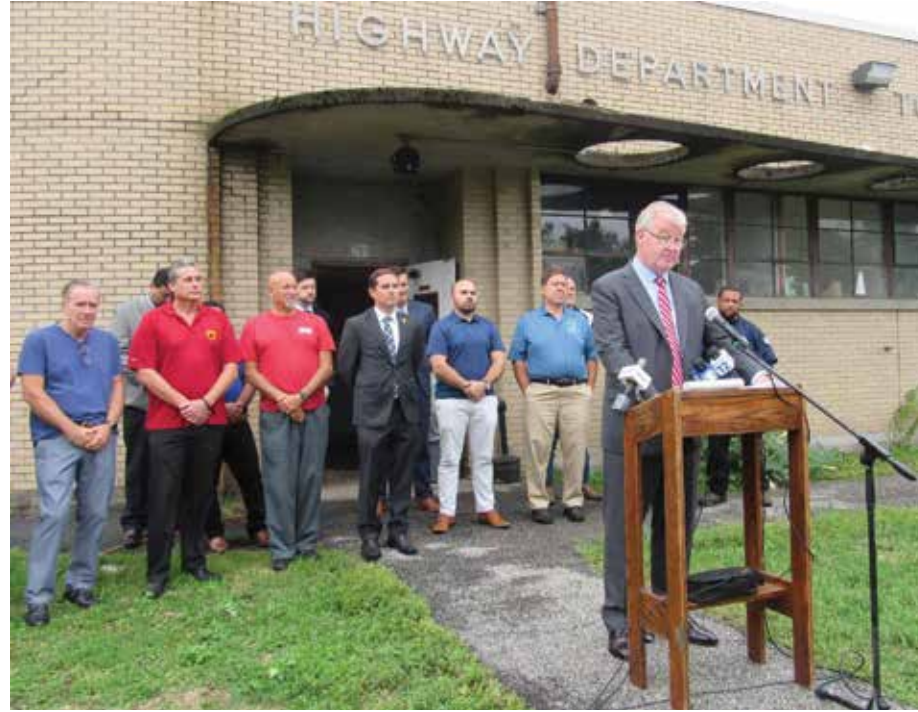
Millions of dollars in state and federal funds earmarked for Hudson Valley infrastructure projects remain unspent while local roads, bridges, water and sewer systems continue to deteriorate.

How municipalities can tap into those funds is part of an extensive report just released by the Construction Industry Council (CIC). The 25-page study, *The Hudson Valley Infrastructure Gap*, covering nine counties including Westchester and Putnam, details a scope of problems and lists strategies for municipalities to employ for greater access to federal and state money.

Gathered in front of the Yorktown Highway Department last Tuesday to announce the report's findings were CIC Executive Director John Cooney and Adam Bosch, president and CEO of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a nonprofit organization which commissioned the report with CIC.

"Seventy-three percent of the roads that you travel on are local roads and aren't eligible for federal funding," Cooney said. "This is a large burden for the majority of the infrastructure that we all take advantage of every day that falls on our municipalities."

The report includes several surveys, interviews with highway superintendents and officials in wastewater management. It reviewed more than 10 years of comptroller spending records and funding sources. It uncovered that only 11 percent of the more than \$3.9 billion appropriated statewide in



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

John Cooney, executive director of the Construction Industry Council, addressed the pressing need to spend adequately on regional infrastructure as money set aside for projects goes unused, according to a recent report. He was joined last Tuesday in Yorktown by local officials and representatives from organized labor.

2017 for water infrastructure projects was spent as of March 2020.

Eric Pierson, senior research planner with Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, said in

the early 2010s the state Department of Health estimated that \$36 billion would have to be spent to ensure the continued safety of wastewater systems and public drinking

water. But only \$272 million was allocated for water quality improvements by the state last year, he said.

Overall, infrastructure spending has been flat over the past decade.

There were 411 bridges in the Hudson Valley that were rated as "poor" on a scale of good, fair or poor, according to Pierson, and of those 411, 76 are under municipal ownership. The estimated average repair cost for the bridges in poor condition is \$2.8 million each.

"There's a disconnect between how much money is committed to a project and how much money is getting out on the street," Pierson said.

Using the money for needed work means alerting lawmakers about the dysfunction involving government.

"The government's model for getting the money from being allocated to actually working in our communities is broken," Bosch said. "It's something that our lawmakers and our policymakers really need to take a fresh look at."

The report offers several recommendations on how municipalities can access funds to support their capital projects. Bosch referenced asset management, which involves cataloging all infrastructure assets to set maintenance schedules, track life cycles to provide a schedule for funding repairs and replacements.

"That means you list all the pumps and valves, miles of guardrail to understand the maintenance schedule," Bosch said. "If a

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Hudson Valley Infrastructure Worsens as Funds Go Unspent

continued from previous page

pump is reaching the end of its life there has to be a plan for replacement. We're not doing this across the state and we need to be."

Bosch said that while there were some state funds to purchase asset management software, it was poorly advertised and the funding that was available was inadequate.

"The (CIC) report confirms what we already know," said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater. "Here in the Town of Yorktown we are making a record investment in our water infrastructure. More than \$3 million is going to cement relining and new water meters. We're not getting a dollar from the state."

Yorktown Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli said if the town receives a grant from the state it has to lay out the funds first before getting reimbursed. "Right now, the highway department repurposed

two grants for \$750,000, which comes out of my fund balance," he said. "We figure the state takes two to three months to reimburse us once the canceled checks from the contractor are submitted."

Slater said Yorktown applied for the state's water quality grant funds for cement relining and were denied.

After 30 years of waiting, the town is finally moving ahead with the Hallocks Mill Sewer Extension Project, costing \$14.3 million and impacting about 315 property owners.

"And again, no financial assistance from the state," Slater said.

However, in March, Westchester County Executive George Latimer agreed to release \$10 million from county discretionary funds from its East of Hudson program. The county reluctantly dropped a leverage agreement linking the funds to

requiring the town to promote affordable housing.

Because many municipalities don't have the staff or expertise to apply for grants and federal funding programs, they usually don't apply. Hiring specialized grant writers is another recommendation made in the report. Yorktown hired the LaBerge Group to write infrastructure grants last year.

"Our return on investment has been significant," Slater said.

Included in the long list of the report's recommendations were for towns to list specific projects requiring funds in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as part of a four-year strategy

to increase their chances at receiving federal aid.

The report also advises municipalities to initiate projects to avoid cost increases, labor shortages, higher interest rates, materials, costs and supply chain issues and to consider outsourcing work to private contractors when it is safe and advantageous.

Capturing the institutional knowledge of longtime employees before they retire is another step that can smoothly transition new staff into jobs, according to the report.

Cooney said the full report will soon be released to government entities. It can be found by visiting <https://cicba.org/>

Truck Day Returns to White Plains This Saturday

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.

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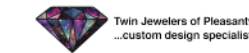
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Westchester Residents Charged in Illegal Gambling Operation

By Rick Pezzullo

Three Westchester County residents were indicted in federal court last week in connection with an illegal online gambling operation under the protection of the Luchese organized crime family.

Breon Peace, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and Michael J. Driscoll, assistant director-in-charge for the FBI's New York Field Office, announced the gambling business, known as "Rhino Sports," utilized an offshore website and dozens of bookmakers in the New York area to take millions in illegal sports bets.

"Members of the Mafia are not giving up the tried-and-true methods of criminal behavior, even in the face of the burgeoning world of legal gambling," Driscoll stated. "As we allege, a Luchese soldier and other family members ran an illegal gambling operation and offered their clientele the same twisted customer service: do what they say or face terrifying consequences. One thing these criminals can bet on – the FBI will continue our pursuit."

Four of the five defendants were arrested at their homes. They include Luchese crime family soldier Anthony Villani, 57, of Elmsford, and associates Louis Tucci Jr., 59, of Tuckahoe, Dennis Filizzola, 58, of Cortlandt and James

Coumoutsos, 59, of the Bronx. A fifth defendant, bookmaker Michael Praino, 44, of the Bronx, was arrested in West Palm Beach, Fla.

As alleged in the indictment and court filings, Villani oversaw Rhino Sports. The business was in continuous operation from at least 2004 through December 2020. During that period, the business was hosted online using offshore servers in Costa Rica and employed local bookmakers to pay and collect winnings in cash.

Records obtained from the Rhino Sports website indicated that Villani's illegal gambling operation took bets from between 400 and

1,300 bettors each week, most of whom were based in New York City and throughout the metropolitan area.

Authorities alleged that Villani's bookmakers regularly included members and associates of the Luchese crime family and other La Cosa Nostra families. As part of the scheme, Villani employed co-conspirators Tucci and Filizzola, as runners to assist in operating the business.

Villani is alleged to have received more than \$1 million annually from the business. During law enforcement searches related to the matter in December 2020, agents recovered more than \$407,000 in cash from one of Villani's residences, as well as brass knuckles and gambling ledgers.

The unsealed indictment charges Villani with racketeering in connection with participation in various criminal schemes, including illegal gambling, money laundering and attempted extortion.

As one part of the money laundering scheme, Villani and Filizzola used gambling proceeds to purchase U.S. Postal Service money orders disguised as rent payments to a property owned by Villani. In addition, between April and October 2020, Villani is alleged to have attempted to extort an individual identified as John Doe in the indictment, which included telling John Doe: "I'm telling you right now, you don't get this money – (expletive deleted) run away."

New York state police, Westchester County police and the New York City Police Department assisted in the investigation.

Two Indicted for Attempted Murder in Peekskill Car Shooting

By Rick Pezzullo

Two Peekskill residents were indicted by a Westchester County grand jury last week in connection with a car shooting in downtown Peekskill in July that injured two females.

Shayna Session, 18, and a 17-year-old unidentified male were indicted on two counts of second-degree attempted murder, first-degree assault, first-degree attempted assault, two counts of second-degree assault and two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, all violent felonies.

The adolescent offender was arraigned

before Judge Helen Blackwood in the Youth Part on Sept. 12, and Session was arraigned before Judge Robert Prisco in Westchester County Court on Sept. 16. The younger suspect is being held without bail, while bail was set for Session at \$250,000.

Peekskill police said that on July 29 at about 9:15 p.m. a Honda SUV occupied by two females was traveling east on the 800 block of Main Street. As the vehicle traveled through the traffic light at Main Street and Decatur Avenue, a male subject began shooting toward another vehicle with a semiautomatic 9-mm handgun, striking the car and its occupants multiple

times.

The driver of the other car was struck by gunfire in the abdomen, while the passenger was hit by gunfire in both legs, police said. Both victims were transported to Westchester Medical Center where they underwent emergency treatment. About 14 gunshots were fired.

On Aug. 3, the youthful offender, who was the shooter, was arrested by Stamford police on unrelated charges.

Meanwhile, on Aug. 5 at about 10:40 a.m., Session was arrested by Peekskill police. She allegedly provided the loaded gun to her male accomplice immediately prior to the shooting.



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The Vietnam Traveling Wall Comes to Putnam County This Week

The Vietnam Wall represents reflection, remembrance, honor and bravery.

Over 58,000 men and women have their names etched on the Wall. That figure exceeds the number of veterans who died in combat in Korea and the Middle East combined.

They were young, 39,996 were 22 years old or younger. The largest age group, 33,108, were 18 years old. The wounded exceeded 300,000, with many needing long-term care.

When their country called following high school or college graduation they responded.

Six of my comrades are on the Wall. They are more than a name to me.

I see their faces, hear their voices and remember their aspirations upon returning home.

They had my back!

— Jeff Ohlbaum



The Traveling Wall, an 80 percent scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., will return to Putnam County this week, the fifth time since 1995 it has visited the county and the first time since 2018.

This visit will include a half-size replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as well as The American Traveling Tribute, a display that features every war America has been involved in from the Revolutionary War until today.

The Traveling Wall will arrive with a convoy on Wednesday, Sept. 21 and will be at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park, where veterans, soldiers, families, officials and others can come and pay their respects to the men and women who died in the Vietnam War. The opening ceremony will be on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

The closing ceremony will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m., which is Gold Star Mother's Day. There will be a concert by the Hudson Valley Council Band.

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Household Scents, Good and Bad, From Hmmm to Pee-You!

When it comes time to sell a house, there are many issues to be addressed to make it attractive to prospective buyers, from curb appeal to functionality of all systems, and realtors are eager to provide advice to guide sellers through the process of "getting ready."

But as a realtor, I can assure you that probably the most sensitive issue to address with sellers is unpleasant odor in the house.

Every home has a particular smell. Sometimes it's good and sometimes not. When it's good, we might want to savor it and remember it, but when it's bad, both we and a prospective buyer want to escape it.

I can still recall that sweet smell of the home I grew up in. Maybe it was a combination of my mother's cooking, largely tomato- and olive oil-based, with her perfume, which was My Sin. Many times, people would compliment her on that perfume, which today I remember as smelling like a mixture of all my favorite blossoms in the garden – rose, jasmine, lilac and Lily of the valley. I remember that our house smelled particularly sweet when she would can tomatoes in the basement.

When I rented my first apartment, the air quality was very different. I lived in the basement of a private home, which was



By Bill Primavera

only slightly above grade and faced the north side of the house. It had a musty smell caused by the moisture in the air that was so thick that the walls would sometimes weep from it. Being a proactive tenant, even as an 18-year-old college student, I petitioned the landlady to buy a dehumidifier for me, and I kept it running day and night to make the air quality acceptable.

The next time I was keenly aware of objectionable house smells was in the apartment of a very old woman who had invited me, as an antiques dealer at the time, to buy some of her things.

When I entered her apartment, located in an old former hotel in Brooklyn Heights, I was hit with a smell that was very unpleasant and difficult to describe.

The windows were all shrouded in heavy curtains and shades, and the furniture was all deeply tufted. When she showed me her things, some quite beautiful, I would ask her how much she wanted for them, and she would give me a particularly low price, which she must have pulled from her value of things in the 1920s. It would have been unconscionable of me to not give her more. Whenever I would offer her two and three times the amount she requested, which was still a bargain for me, she would say, "Oh," with delight. She was lovely and I was getting tremendous deals, but I couldn't

wait to leave the terrible smell of her living environment.

I'm embarrassed to admit that I thought the smell was what I had heard called "old people smell," but that was a wrong assumption.

"There is no such thing as an old people smell," I was told by an air quality control expert I consulted. It's the circumstances of the old person's environment, he said. There may be closed windows and no air flow; it could be their personal habits, how often they bathe and clean their clothes, and the odors just don't have an opportunity to dissipate with circulation.

"The three most common causes of house odor are smoking, pets and mold," he continued. "Usually no one does anything about the first two – smoking and pets – because people are not aware of those odors when they live with them. They are very aware of mold, however, either because of the smell or allergic reaction, and that is something they want to do something about. Toxic mold produces a chemical called mycotoxins, which can cause serious illnesses that can be fatal."

While pet smells and smoking may be offensive to those not used to it, they are not harmful to household members and can be corrected by household remedies. However, toxic mold, should best be handled by a professional remediation service. There is just too much at stake to approach on one's own.

If a house is being readied for sale and



the owner is advised to eliminate the smell of smoking or pets, the best cure is good ventilation. The process can be expedited with baking soda, that old standby that we know from our mothers placing a box in the refrigerator. Baking soda can be sprinkled on furniture and carpeting that has absorbed smoking or pet odors, and after it sits for several hours, is vacuumed.

The worst thing to do about household odors, in my opinion, is to try to mask them with candles, incense or other odor-combating products. The layered smells can be worse than the original offending odor.

Bill Primavera is a residential and commercial realtor associated with William Raveis Realty, as well as a publicist and journalist writing regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to buy or sell a home, he can be e-mailed at williamjprimavera@gmail.com or called directly at 914-522-2076.

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Local Novelist Delves into the World of Matchmaking in Latest Book

By Martin Wilbur

Shortly after the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, a compilation of circumstances helped spawn the idea for Lynda Cohen Loigman's latest novel.

Loigman's college-age daughter had been sent home from school, and her son was also taking his high school classes virtually. With nowhere to go, her family had lots of opportunities to talk about a variety of topics, especially around the dinner table.

One of the discussions, she recalled, focused on the issues women face today in school and at work. Loigman then learned that the grandmother of her daughter's college roommate was a matchmaker in the Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn.

For a historical fiction writer, Loigman couldn't resist thinking about the possibilities of exploring a character, whose livelihood was far more common a century ago, juxtaposed with that character's granddaughter, who she cast as a divorce attorney.

Loigman's imagination led to the creation of her third novel, "The Matchmaker's Gift," in six years. It's scheduled released by St. Martin's Press is this week.

"I talked to my agent about it. I had been writing another book at the time, but my agent and my editor both wanted me to put that aside for a little bit and see what I could do for this matchmaker story," said Loigman. "The main thing that I was thinking about at that time was well, I'm a writer of historical fiction, that's what I write, so I have to come



Author Lynda Cohen Loigman's new book "The Matchmaker's Gift," her third novel, is being released this week. Loigman got the idea for the book when she learned that her daughter's college roommate's grandmother is a matchmaker.

at this from a historical point of view."

Before writing the book, Loigman, a Chappaqua resident who used to work as attorney, immersed herself into studying about the history of New York City matchmakers. She read old New York Times articles and found more valuable information on the website of the Museum at Eldridge Street on the Lower East Side.



"They have an exhibit called "Love on the Lower East Side," and that was sort of a really interesting piece, and in that piece, it mentioned the weddings that happened on the Lower East Side in the early 1900s," Loigman said.

She chose the 1910s and 1920s to cast her character, Sara Glikman. It was at a time when there were about 5,000 matchmakers doing business in the city. Of course, most of them were men in the Jewish community, who would not take kindly to having a young

woman encroach on their turf.

Loigman's novel also brings in Sara's granddaughter, Abby, who is a young working attorney. Although Loigman wasn't a divorce attorney like the character she created – she actually handled trusts and estates – she was able to develop Abby's character through some of her own experiences.

Aside from research, Loigman spoke with her daughter's roommate's grandmother and found her a fascinating subject.

"She would keep records of all the eligible people, and she would try and match them up," Loigman said. "So on the one hand, you would have all this busy work, keeping these records, keeping these organized files on people, and then on the other hand, it all comes down to something that's a little bit magical. This idea of a love match versus a sort of mercenary match is sort of interesting, too."

"The Matchmaker's Gift" follows Loigman's first two novels, "Two-Story House" in 2016 and "The Wartime Sisters," published in 2019.

Loigman has a busy schedule promoting the book in the coming weeks with about 30 events scheduled both in the metropolitan area and around the country. This Wednesday evening, Sept. 21, she will be talking with author Allison Pataki about her book in a program at the Chappaqua Public Library at 7 p.m.

The following week, Sept. 28, she will be interviewed by author Annabel Monaghan at the Rye Free Reading Room at 7 p.m.

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North Castle Says No to Electric Vehicle Chargers With Ads

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board declined to consider a proposal from an electric vehicle charging station company to install units with digital advertising, but officials will pursue allowing the chargers in certain zoning districts.

Volta Charging LLC had proposed installing electric charging station kiosks outside the North White Plains Stop & Shop on North Broadway last week, requesting a zoning text amendment from the Town Board. North Castle's Town Code currently does not allow for chargers as an accessory use in business, industrial or office zones, although homeowners are allowed to operate one on their property.

An obstacle for Volta in its application to the town was the request to include digital advertising on their units outside the supermarket. By offering advertising, the company would be able to offer the public free charging, said Allison Fausner, an attorney from the firm Cuddy & Feder, representing Volta Charging.

"This amenity is free or subsidized because we're able to offset these costs by offering advertising content on the displays that are offered on the front and the back of the displays," Fausner said.

She said Volta was requesting the kiosks on a limited basis in commercial and retail



shopping areas that are set back from the right of way and not visible from the road.

"They're meant to target foot traffic because that's how the advertising generates worth and that's how it generates value to offset these EV costs," Fausner said.

However, the board wasn't interested in allowing for the advertising displays, fearing that it would have aesthetic

drawbacks, but that it also could lead to having chargers with audio and video, similar to what can be seen at some gas stations. Volta did not propose including audio or video on its units.

"But that could change," said Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto. "Your business model could change to where all of a sudden, I know I really find it annoying if I pulled up for gas and they have Channel

2 on, music and wanting to go in and buy coffee and so on."

"I don't see why it's in the interest of our residents to have advertising in our town," added Councilman Saleem Hussain.

Despite saying no to Volta Charging, officials indicated that they would like to discuss legislation that would allow electric vehicle chargers in commercial, office and industrial zones. Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the town would like to see more people with electric cars.

"There's something to encouraging people to buy electric vehicles, providing them the fuel for free and the tradeoff is this advertising," Schiliro said. "Maybe there's a model to that where we're getting some type of revenue."

The town's Planning Department, in its general written comments on Volta's proposal, stated that the town should give strong consideration to permitting the charging stations as a permitted accessory use; however, the board "will need to determine whether the sole purpose of charging stations should be for charging electric vehicles or whether electric charging stations should also be permitted to contain signage that would defray or eliminate the cost of electric vehicle charged to end users."

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Eight Byram Hills Seniors Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Eight seniors at Byram Hills High School have been selected as semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The students, Ethan Cherry, Alaska Fairbanks, Alex Kahn, Mihir Kumar, Remi Matza, Samantha Milewicz, Kelsey Vaquero and Clara Weil, can compete for 7,250 scholarships worth nearly \$28 million.

The students entered the scholarship competition by taking the Preliminary SAT last year as juniors. They were in their first year of high school when the coronavirus pandemic began and disrupted the educational process.

“Congratulations to our eight outstanding National Merit semifinalists,” Principal Christopher Walsh said. “Even though they had such a unique high



BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT PHOTO

Eight seniors at Byram Hills High School have been selected as semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are, pictured from left, Clara Weil, Ethan Cherry, Mihir Kumar, Alex Kahn, Remi Matza, Samantha Milewicz and Kelsey Vaquero. Missing from the photo is Alaska Fairbanks.



Sweet, Sweet Music

Pleasantville High School seniors Alice Cabral and Bruce McLane have been chosen to perform in the New York State School Music Association’s (NYSSMA) All-State Music Festival in December. Cabral, a soprano, and McLane, who sings bass, will perform with the All-State Mixed Chorus Ensemble. Pleasantville seniors Ella Moroney, who sings alto, was selected as an alternate for Mixed Chorus and Miyako Cornelius, who plays violin, was chosen as an alternate for the orchestra. The NYSSMA All-State Concerts for mixed chorus, orchestra and symphonic band will be held the first weekend of December in Rochester at the Eastman School of Music.

school experience, these dedicated and hardworking students have demonstrated great achievement and this recognition makes the entire Byram Hills community extremely proud.”

“This is a remarkable accomplishment for the semifinalists, who showed tenacity and commitment to their academics during extremely challenging high school years,” said Guidance Chair Kristina Wilson.

The more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 68th annual scholarship competition represent less than 1 percent of high school seniors in the United States, including the highest-scoring students in each state.

To become a finalist, the semifinalists must submit a detailed application that includes information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, work and honors and awards they received, according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

About 95 percent of the semifinalists are expected to become finalists, and about half of the finalists will win a scholarship and the Merit Scholar title. Merit scholars are chosen on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

The winners will be announced sometime between April and July next year.

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



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The Demitasse Players to Address Mental Health at Fundraiser

The Demitasse Players, a 501(c)(3) repertory theater, will be hosting a fundraiser for mental health at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.

The troupe was founded in 2016 by Westchester playwright and author Richard Cirulli who writes and produces works that addresses and promotes mental health. Since it was established, The Demitasse Players has performed four original plays at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, Whippoorwill Hall and The Chapel in Cold Spring.

Cirulli said the inspiration for founding the group was hatched while sipping espresso at a café overlooking the Hudson River.

"With the mission to write and produce original plays and movies dealing with how existentialism may bring awareness to mental disorders, our performances are intended to entertain, provoke, heal and to better recognize mental disorders in a new perspective," Cirulli said. "Just a small cup of inspiration was all it took to help us brew a better humanity."

The Oct. 1 event, An Evening with The Demitasse Players, sponsored by St. Katherine Group, a Westchester real

estate developer, will showcase The Demitasse Players' first movie, "An Existential Date," a comedy that debunks some myths about professors and middle-age romance. The evening will also feature some selected works by Cirulli that are presented as psychotronic teleplays and taped performances of the Demitasse Band's performances of the playwright's original theme songs from their plays under the direction of troupe Musical Director Drew Caico.

There will be original folktales with graphics by Eric Scholz, digital director, a reading by Susan Bond, creative director, and original poems and graphics about COVID-19, written from the perspective of a person dealing with COVID and depression.

Also, part of the program will be the playwright's existential rants and stand-up comedy performed by veteran Demitasse actors – Jeff Saresky, Benna Strober and Rich Massotti.

Danielle Hoover, the newest troupe member, and Bond, who was instrumental in transitioning the troupe into a repertory theater, are excited to work with the troupe unlike any they performed with in the past.



Author and playwright Richard Cirulli, center, with the cast and crew of "An Existential Date," one of several works that will be featured on Saturday, Oct. 1 during An Evening with The Demitasse Players.

The topics and conversations Cirulli engages in are highly educational, and are the dialogues we should all be having to make us rethink how we feel about life. Susan reiterated how the playwright projected mental illness back to the 17th century, in "Bonfante the Runt." That

deals with a toxic and abusive father.

Tickets to An Evening with The Demitasse Players are \$20 and can be purchased at the door. Cash or checks will be accepted. For more information, visit www.demitasseplayers.com.

Benise 20th Anniversary Tour Comes to the Paramount This Friday



The Emmy Award winner Benise will bring his show to the Paramount this Friday evening for a performance of traditional Nuevo Flamenco/Spanish guitar.

Emmy Award winner Benise, "The Prince of Spanish Guitar," is coming to the Paramount Stage in Peekskill this Friday, Sept. 23 at 8 p.m.

Benise is an artist that has evolved the tradition of Nuevo Flamenco/Spanish guitar, while combining the elements of dance, theater and Cirque to create a new style of musical performance.

For Benise, music has always been a journey.

"I wanted to push the boundaries of traditional Nuevo Flamenco/Spanish guitar while combining the elements of dance and theater," he said. "This show is a celebration of music, love and life."

The 20th anniversary show includes

Gypsy violin, Flamenco dancers, Cirque performers, Brazilian Samba dancers, African tribal drummers and Havana horns.

"This is a great show for the whole family; I really think we have something for everyone," Benise said. "I hope people will be inspired by our story, by the music, by the production – and have the passion to follow their own dreams."

Benise's 20th Anniversary Tour is the first of its kind on the Paramount Stage and part of the Paramount Hudson Valley Art's family series.

Paramount Hudson Valley is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill. For tickets and information, call 914-739-0039 or visit paramounthudsonvalley.com.

County Car Show Returns This Weekend to Glen Island Park

Rev up your engines and visit the Westchester County Car Show this Sunday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle.

The show will feature displays of a wide variety of collectible cars, street rods and motorcycles, all carefully restored to mint condition or modified for performance.

"Bring your family and friends to picturesque Glen Island Park and see hundreds of collectable cars, motorcycles and hot rods on display," said Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor. "Imagine what it was like back in the day cruising around in one of these vintage beauties."

Registration is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry

fee is \$20 per vehicle. The Westchester Street Rod Association will present more than 100 trophies to the best vehicles at 2:30 p.m.

All specialty vehicles are welcome. Goody bags will be distributed to the first 300 vehicles and 50/50 raffles will be available for purchase.

Admission is free for spectators; the spectator parking fee is \$5 per car. In case of rain, the event will be canceled. For additional information, call 914-231-4645.

The show is sponsored by Hyatt's Garage and Towing, Hasselman Racing and Butch's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Child Care Scholarships Available Now

The Child Care Council of Westchester wants Westchester families to know that daycare scholarships are available right now, and income levels to qualify are higher than ever before.

Families may be eligible for a scholarship if they are working and earn up to \$111,000 for a family of four, \$92,120 for a family of three and \$73,240 for a family of two.

All parents in a household must live in Westchester County, be employed at least 10 hours per week and earning at least minimum wage. Those who fall below the scholarship threshold will be screened for subsidy, and families will be guided through either application process step by step. To learn more and apply, visit www.childcarewestchester.org.

To speak to someone at the council about the Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship, administered in partnership with Westchester County, or other free resources available to parents and families, call 914-761-3456 ext. 140.

Horace Greeley HS Named National Blue Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education has named Horace Greeley High School a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School.

Greeley is one of 20 New York schools and one of four in Westchester County to receive the honor this year and is recognized as an Exemplary High-Performing School. This designation is based on graduation rates and student performance on state and nationally-normed assessments.

The U.S. Department of Education characterizes the award as affirming “the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.”

“We, as a board, are so proud of the administrators, faculty, staff, students and community as a whole that work together to make Greeley the exemplary public high school that it is,” said Chappaqua Board of Education President Jane Shepardson. “We get a firsthand view of everyone’s hard work and dedication, and we are thrilled – and grateful – to receive this national recognition.”



Chappaqua’s Horace Greeley High School is one of 20 schools in New York State that was named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School last Friday.

The Horace Greeley High School Blue Ribbon Profile articulates the district’s belief “that high levels of student empowerment sets the context for becoming independent learners, change agents and community leaders.” The profile also highlights Greeley’s strong academic program with rich course offerings, as well as its wide range of extracurricular clubs and student organizations.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development, Andrew Corsilia, who was principal during this application

process, remarked, “It’s an honor for Greeley to be recognized and I’m thankful to our staff and community for their dedication and support.”

Superintendent Dr. Christine Ackerman said that “this recognition is confirmation of what we already know: Our students are amazing young people, our staff are leaders in the field of education, and our community is a true partner with us in supporting our children.”

In Westchester, Croton-Harmon and Bronxville high schools and Hillside Elementary School in Hastings-on-

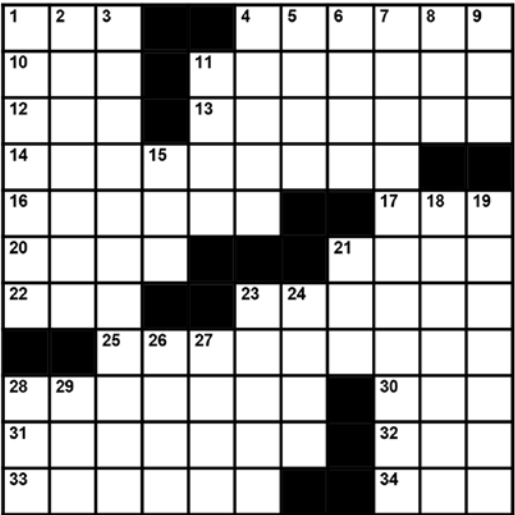
Hudson joined Horace Greeley on the exclusive list.

More details about the National Blue Ribbon recognition can be found at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-2022-national-blue-ribbon-schools>

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

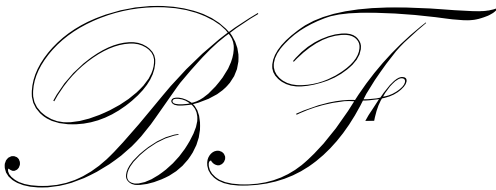
Crossword

- Across**
- 1. Colo. is on it, abbr.
 - 4. Yorktown September festival celebrating the farmstead, ____ Fair
 - 10. Credit card rate, abbr.
 - 11. Some young football players
 - 12. Grammy nominee in 2007: Corinne Bailey ____
 - 13. Difficult experiences
 - 14. Superlatively secret
 - 16. A fine point
 - 17. Dance step
 - 20. Tennis great, Arthur
 - 21. Splinter group
 - 22. Seaman’s reference
 - 23. Electronic music genre
 - 25. Rest
 - 28. This Yorktown real estate office will “point” you in the right direction
 - 30. “Lemon” suffix
 - 31. New hire
 - 32. New prefix
 - 33. Ill will
 - 34. Results of some bombs, abbr.
- Down**
- 1. Docks
 - 2. High school subject
 - 3. Guy with a huge appetite
 - 4. Full of bacteria
 - 5. Shoot again, perhaps



- 6. Inspires reverence in
- 7. Cool hanging jewelry, 2 words
- 8. Salon supply
- 9. Superman logo
- 11. Dessert wine
- 15. Wide shoe specification
- 18. Consented
- 19. Sound equipment
- 21. ____ Luis Obispo
- 23. Electric shock weapon
- 24. Greet the day
- 26. Grandiose
- 27. “Look, ____ hands!”- 2 words
- 28. Bull’s-eye location (abbr.)
- 29. Hour, in Italian

Answers on page 31



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continued on page 26



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Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation Welcomes New Rabbi

Rabbi Pinchas Fink, a talented Jewish educator, recently moved to Mount Kisco to serve as rabbi and spiritual leader of Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation (MKHC) located at 15 Stewart Place in Mount Kisco.

He and his wife, Rebbetzin Naomi Fink, and their children are excited to become part of the MKHC family.

Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation is a modern Orthodox synagogue founded

in 1906, bringing a century of Jewish tradition, spirituality and joy to northern Westchester County.

“Our small but growing congregation offers members an opportunity to impact our community while immersing in the traditions of Judaism,” said Synagogue President Steven Sokol. “We are excited to have the Finks here in our community and look forward to others getting the chance to meet them.”

Free tickets are available to new individuals or families who wish to come for Rosh Hashanah and/or Yom Kippur.

Please contact Rabbi Fink at rabbi@mkhc.org for more information about High Holiday tickets or to learn more about the Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation. You may also visit www.mkhc.org.

Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation's Rabbi Pinchas Fink and his wife Naomi.



Chabad of Putnam to Hold High Holiday Services

Chabad of Putnam invites the community to its traditional High Holiday services, where prayers are warm, the people friendly and where everyone feels at home. We offer a welcoming service to all, regardless of background or affiliation. We seek to make all our attendees as comfortable as possible.

The services are conducted with the beginner in mind. Many of the prayers are read in English and a running commentary by the rabbi accompanies the entire service, including stories, inspirational thoughts and teachings about the prayers. The service also includes festive meditative singing.

Chabad of Putnam offers an excellent

children's program during parts of the main service. The program is run by Morah Michal, who will explain the meaning of some of the prayers. Stories, songs, refreshments, contests and prizes will be included in the holiday children's program.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Monday, Sept. 26 at 12:45 p.m. on the shore of Lake Gleneida, Chabad will be holding its 30-minute outdoor service that will include Shofar blowing, Tashlich, several selected meaningful prayers and a brief holiday message delivered by Rabbi Avi Korer.

For more information, call 845-225-4770 or visit www.PutnamChabad.org.

St. Mary the Virgin Announces Arrival of New Priest

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Chappaqua is pleased to announce the Rev. Alan Christopher Lee as a new priest-in-charge for the parish, beginning in October.

Father Chris comes to St. Mary's from Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights, where he served for the last two years as assistant to the rector for youth, young adult and family ministries. He is originally from Charlotte, N.C., an alumnus of UNC-Chapel Hill, and received his master's in divinity from

the General Theological Seminary.

He has lived in Brooklyn since 1995, and worked as a musician and as a journalist before answering the call to ordained ministry.

Father Chris is married to Julie Bleha, an arts and education consultant, and they are the parents of two teenage boys.

Father Chris will celebrate his first Mass at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to attend.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC.,

V.

JOHANNA PURVIS, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 21, 2019, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, wherein REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. is the Plaintiff and JOHANNA PURVIS, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the LOBBY OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on October 4, 2022 at 9:30AM, premises known as 89 CHAUNCEY AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801: Section 5, Block 1442, Lot 13:

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continued from page 24

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The Effect of Weather Changes on the Wine Industry



By Nick Antonaccio

The end of weather as we know it is on the horizon and we're all slowly going to drown or starve or move to Mars.

Or maybe not.

There are varying, diametrically opposed viewpoints on our purported

demise. Several are science-based, others seemingly ideological-based.

Regardless of one's viewpoint, documented changes are underfoot in the wine industry.

In the vineyard, climate is one of the most influential factors affecting grape production, characteristics and quality. The early Romans understood this and planting patterns did not materially change in the ensuing millennia. Cabernet Sauvignon fares best in warmer climates; this is where you will generally find them planted. Pinot Noir thrives in cooler climates; look to the Burgundy region of France for the best expressions.

If there are major changes in these conditions, the characteristics of the end product – the glass of wine you and I consume – will likely change, upsetting centuries of local traditions and economics.

Much is riding on the potential long-term effects of climate change. But how does one determine the veracity of climate change claims?

There are two primary means: scientific studies and anecdotal experiences.

Scientific studies have shown that the planet is warming. Not analogous to a slow, constantly rising curve on a chart or graph, but more so in protracted periods of high and low swings, more of a saw-tooth graph whose extreme points reach new highs and lows with each changing pattern.

Is this a permanent trend or a multiple-century weather cycle? Science informs us there have previously been multi-century weather patterns of polarized heat and cold temperatures. Which is the current trend we are experiencing? Should we wait for time to tell? Should we defer action to future generations?

Anecdotal experiences provide first-hand evidence. Vineyard owners across the globe have been reporting the need to harvest their crops earlier than ever before in their lifetimes. Not every year,

but a trend is clear. And not in significant numbers of days or weeks, but rather a few days or weeks each year.

One study analyzed centuries-old vineyard records kept by winemaking monks in France. The very detailed records showed stable harvest dates from the 14th century onward for several centuries.

**You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine**



Over the most recent quarter-century, however, harvest dates have been trending earlier, in increasing frequency, as recorded temperatures rise.

Enterprising British winemakers analyzed warming patterns several years ago, decided to take advantage of this new phenomenon, and successfully planted Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vines in previously unsustainable geographic areas. Today, British sparkling wines produced from these grapes are receiving worldwide accolades.

What does the future hold for the wine industry and the agriculture industry in general?

Overall, we must not lose sight of what has enabled man to overcome past calamities and natural disasters throughout history: resistance and ingenuity.

Battling climate change in the vineyards will test man's adaptability. Short of succumbing, man's determination will seek viable options. Here are several:

Different grape varieties may be planted that thrive in a locale's changed climate. The Bordeaux region has recently been permitted to grow grapes other than those

strictly regulated for centuries. The newly-introduced grapes are considered more viable in the changing climate of the region.

But what of the supplanted grapes? Will grapes formerly grown in cooler climates head toward more extreme latitudes – or perhaps extinction?

As man invents and develops advanced technology, the threat of climate change will become a top priority in the wine producing arena. Scientists working in genomics at the University of California, Davis are researching the genetic makeup of individual grape varieties to unlock the attributes of genes associated with climate resistance, flavor, aroma and hardiness. First up: Cabernet Sauvignon's 19 chromosomes. The ultimate goal is to enhance DNA traits to better adapt to changes in future growing conditions.

Some might say if we can't rely on the accuracy of a meteorologist's short-term prognostications, why should we rely on the long-term accuracy of a climatologist – or a winemaker? In the face of long-term evidence and the potential consequences, do we have a choice during our lifetimes?

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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10/01	ROYAL SCAM: The Steely Dan Celebration
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Recreational Class 5-7 yo	5:15-6:15 PM	4:00-5:00 PM 5:00-6:00 PM	5:15-6:15 PM	4:00-5:00 PM CO-ED	5:15-6:15 PM	11:00-12:00 PM	
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As Ukraine Braces for Winter, Yorktown Man Helps Get Coats to Kids

By Adam Stone

It was late winter in Kyiv when Putin's military began to upend Ukraine and the world.

As a second winter of war now looms, Yorktown's Max Bukhover reflects on watching the horrifying news late that evening, on Feb. 24, as his native land was besieged by airstrikes – missiles raining down on the capital city – while a land invasion pounded the nation and shook the planet.

This was no distant abstraction for Bukhover.

Moments after the invasion, Bukhover successfully called his cousin in Kyiv, critically imploring him to take his mother, Bukhover's aunt, to the western portion of the beleaguered country for safety.

The world watched in horror, so many beset with a soul-crushing feeling of powerlessness as the population endured the unprompted assault.

But by the next morning, Bukhover had already taken action to play his part.

He and his friends quickly realized the best way to help was by getting supplies and tools to the Ukraine defense forces.

"I think the invasion started about 10 p.m. our time, and the next day I took off work to go to (New York City) and protest with friends," Bukhover recounted. "We started raising money and donating/buying supplies at the end of February and sent our initial aid by the middle of March."

Soon after, Bukhover and three friends started AidUkraineNow Inc., a nonprofit



The boxes of coats for Ukrainian children were packed at Max Bukhover's Yorktown home.

organization.

With the February invasion feeling like a lifetime ago, and as Ukraine braces for its second bloody winter – this time from the outset of the bruising season – the small handful of volunteers at AidUkraineNow Inc. are focused on a newer initiative: coats for kids.

"The scale of destruction, especially in the east, and the fact that millions of people were displaced guarantees a rough winter for many people there," said Bukhover, who was born in Kyiv, grew up in the Bronx and has lived in Westchester for the past two decades. "We hope to have a few more drives and help out where we can."



Piles of coats and other clothing for the approaching winter that have been collected for the children of Ukraine through AidUkraineNow Inc., a nonprofit organization co-founded by Max Bukhover.

Bukhover had the perfect connection to help facilitate the local coat drive idea. His wife, Anna, a native of Poland who also moved to the Bronx as a child, has worked at the Country Children's Center (CCC) in northern Westchester, a nonprofit daycare organization for about 20 years.

Max and Anna's daughter, Sophia, now a sixth-grader, started at CCC when she was just a few months old, so the family connection to the center runs deep.

Bukhover asked the center's executive director, Polly Peace, if she wanted to help. She was all in.

"Polly loved the idea, and we ended up shipping out 13 boxes of very nice – in many cases brand new – kids' winter clothes," said Bukhover, a tax manager who previously worked as a certified public accountant and personal trainer.

The drive took place at the half-dozen CCC locations around the area while the packing and shipping were conducted at Bukhover's house in Yorktown Heights.

"Efforts like this help not only those in need, (like) the Ukrainian children, but everyone involved," Peace said. "We all feel a little warmer when we do good things for children. We are grateful to Max for the opportunity."

It's important to understand the grassroots nature of Bukhover's small nonprofit.

Bukhover and his three friends – the friends are Ukraine-born and live in the New York City area – are all working professionals, and the nonprofit relies entirely on volunteer efforts.

"Even our in-person meetings we just pay for out of pocket, without reimbursement," Bukhover said. "We all have our careers, so this project is only to help out, and we consistently make personal donations as well."

One friend's first-grade classmate's husband was killed in the Donbas area in March. He was a professional soldier that spent many years fighting in the region.

"So he wanted to do something for families of kids who lost parents as the result of the war," Bukhover explained. "Another guy's dad is retired military, and he is in touch with his contacts, and we wanted to help them too, so our mission was shaped that way. At that time,

literally, any help would be good."

The durability of the world's interest in Ukraine has also been a relief to supporters. In fact, Bukhover pointed to how Yorktown has repainted red fire hydrants blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

For the Ukrainian soldiers battling Russian forces, it's a morale boost to hear about various efforts – coats for kids and otherwise – to support their work.

"Knowing about the global worldwide support...eases their concerns and makes them even happier and gives them the idea they are not fighting on their own and have a big support system behind them," Bukhover said.

Now that the focus has shifted from supplies to coats (governments have tools for the defense forces covered), AidUkraineNow directs precious time and resources on its "Kids of Ukraine" initiative.

In terms of logistics and ensuring the donated coats reach the right hands, AidUkraineNow's contact at an unaffiliated Kyiv-based nonprofit fills that role.

The shipment of coats is expected to arrive in Ukraine within about four weeks, by mid-October, well ahead of the Dec. 21 start of winter and the most frigid Eastern Europe temperatures.


Young children from Mariupol and other eastern Ukrainian regions have been particularly devastated by Russia's vicious invasion. With children brutally impacted by the war, the Ukrainian nonprofit is designed to help take care of about 2,000 displaced kids displaced by Putin's savagery.

As for Bukhover, he concluded it's critical for advocates to prepare for the long game.

"Military-wise, we can't help efficiently anymore, but there will be economic issues and families and kids in need for many years after the war ends, so we intend to keep the Kids of Ukraine project going forward," he said.

If anyone is interested in supporting the work of AidUkraineNow Inc., visit www.aidukrainenow.org.

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George Latimer
Westchester County Executive



Fun Time for All at Mount Kisco's SeptemberFest



It was quite a weekend in downtown Mount Kisco for the 2022 renewal of SeptemberFest. Village residents and area visitors had a fun time listening to music, trying some food and treats, going on rides or shopping for bargains at the vendors on South Moger Avenue. The weekend also featured the Mount Kisco Fire Department 5K, which attracted runners from around the region. The late summer weather helped make this year's SeptemberFest a weekend to remember.



ART NELSON PHOTOS



The Mental Health Crisis of Moms: What You Need to Know

A new survey reveals that the mental health of American moms is going largely unattended, with many living under a near-constant state of stress and few seeking support to ease the burden.

The research, commissioned by MDLIVE, an Evernorth company and leading provider of virtual care services in the United States, finds that 33 percent of mothers feel stressed or overwhelmed by their responsibilities as a mom at least five days a week. Drivers of their stress and anxiety may include financial concerns, ripple effects of the pandemic, including the mental health crisis among teens, work responsibilities and being a caregiver simultaneously to both children and aging parents.

Yet, for many moms, the prospect of managing their mental health has become a source of stress in and of itself. For 37 percent of moms, concerns about their own mental health are among their biggest stressors, second only to finances (40 percent).

Possibly even more concerning is that 70 percent of moms admit to holding back their feelings and not telling their partner or family when they're stressed, and 61 percent feel that they have no one to turn to or confide in for help.

"Our research shows that many moms are suffering in silence and not getting



the support they need," said Dr. Shakira Espada-Campos, who brings more than two decades of direct practice experience to her role as behavioral health medical director at MDLIVE. "I cannot stress enough how important it is for them to prioritize their own well-being."

To help moms manage their mental health, MDLIVE offers the following tips:

1. Prioritize self-care. Recognize that practicing self-care is not selfish. In addition

to things like eating well, exercising, practicing good hygiene, getting enough sleep and seeing a healthcare professional routinely for preventive screenings and other care, self-care also means taking time to pursue hobbies or personal interests that bring you pleasure or fulfillment or offer you a way to relax and unwind – activities you may have abandoned after having children because it would mean time away from family responsibilities. Practicing self-care puts one in a better position to help care for others because your own well-being is in check.

2. Make time to cultivate relationships. Connecting with people who are important to you is essential to mental health. Make it a priority to spend time with partners, family, friends, colleagues or

anyone else who may be important to you, away from the house and kids, even if it's just for a short period of time.

3. Seek help when struggling to manage stress and anxiety. If your emotional state is interfering with your daily life – if you're having difficulty controlling your mood, withdrawing from loved ones, feeling fatigued, having trouble sleeping, lacking motivation, or frequently "zoning out" – it's definitely time to seek professional help.

Acknowledging the importance of mental healthcare, many health plans and employers have expanded the resources available to their members and employers in recent years. New options include digital tools that can help with tracking mood, support meditation, help build life skills and provide self-care advice.

Additionally, telehealth visits with behavioral health professionals offer private, convenient, quality care quickly. For example, MDLIVE's platform makes it easy to search for providers and schedule appointments with one of their psychiatrists or licensed therapists. MDLIVE is a covered benefit for more than 60 million Americans through health insurers such as Cigna, Aetna, certain Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, and many regional and local plans. To learn more or to register, visit www.mdlive.com.

"Although it's natural to feel like you need to be a superhero, it takes a toll. You should never feel like you're alone in your mental health journey or that you need to suffer in silence," Dr. Espada-Campos.

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Byrne Holds Shed the Meds Event in Mahopac



Assemblyman Kevin Byrne was joined last week by Carmel Police Officer Chris Fox and Chief Anthony Hoffman along with various officials for Shed the Meds at the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department.

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) is pleased to announce the success of his annual Shed the Meds event in Putnam County on Sept. 13 at the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department.

Byrne was joined by local partners including Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, the Prevention Council of Putnam, the Carmel Police Department and the Putnam County Legislature. More than 50 pounds of unwanted and expired medications were collected to be safely disposed of by the Carmel Police Department.

"Thank you to all our terrific partners from the community who helped make this

event possible," Byrne said. "We started the Shed the Meds program years ago with former state senator Terrence Murphy, and I've been honored to continue the program since. Over the years we've had several key legislative successes to help our state combat the opioid epidemic, but events and programs like this are at the center of what we need to do to combat opioid misuse, destigmatize addiction, raise awareness and prevent overdose."

Since being in office, more than 4,000 pounds of expired or unused medications have been brought to Shed the Meds events.

Three Putnam Flu Clinics Scheduled; Appointments Required

Flu season is nearly here. While it's impossible to predict how widespread the flu will be, looking at the Southern Hemisphere and their flu case numbers can sometimes provide a clue.

That means this could be a very active one since Australia reported having its worst season in five years. The advice? Get your flu shot and get it early. It takes about two weeks to build effective immunity.

The Putnam County Department of Health has three flu clinics scheduled for residents 18 years of age and up. Two drive-thru clinics will be held at the department's main office at 1 Geneva Rd. The dates are Monday, Sept. 26 and Monday, Oct. 17. Both clinics will be open from 2 to 6:30 p.m.

Residents must remain in their vehicles. Short sleeves and face coverings are required. Consent forms must be completed before the clinic since they will not be available at the drive-thru. Get one here: www.putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization/#flu

A third clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at the Garrison Fire Department, located at

1616 Route 9. It is not a drive-thru clinic, but flu vaccines will be administered inside. Social and physical distancing, face coverings and short sleeves are required. Consent forms should be completed before the clinic. They are available here: www.putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization/#flu

Appointments are required and can be made at www.putnamcountyny.com/seasonalfluclinic. Bring proof of residency (such as a driver's license) and if applicable a Medicare card.

The cost is \$25. For those 65 years and older, or with a Medicare card, the vaccine is free. The high-dose flu vaccine, shown more effective in seniors, is available for those 65 and older. The pneumonia vaccine will not be available at clinics this year.

For questions about the clinics, call the immunization program at the Putnam County Department of Health at 845-808-1332.

This is a press release provided by the Putnam County Department of Health. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.

Historical Odd Couple Combine to Tell the Tale of Croton Point

By Brian Kluepfel

It's a tale of bootlegging, brickmaking and Benedictine betrayal. It's a legacy of mammoths, manatees, menhaden and middens.

Over six millennia, Croton Point has been a nexus of pre-colonial, colonial and American history.

Two local outdoor enthusiasts, one a retired Ossining police captain and the other a Croton-based writer and researcher, fueled with COVID-era intensity, have brought the point's legacy to light in a new book, "Croton Point Park: Westchester's Jewel on the Hudson." (History Press, 2022)

Scott Craven and Caroline Ranald Curvan compare themselves to "the original Odd Couple," or "Tony Soprano and Margaret Mead," joked Craven.

"We couldn't be more different but at the same time we share the same interests," he said.

The tall, lanky ex-cop (a kayaker and bicyclist) and petite adjunct professor (an avowed runner) do indeed make an interesting pairing. However you describe them, Craven and Curvan have combined to produce an amusing and enlightening literary time capsule.

Craven, the Ossining town historian, is a familiar figure to anyone who visits the Ossining Public Library, where his loquaciousness and wealth of knowledge is appreciated by visitors to the reference desk. Curvan (rhymes with Ervin) provides a treasure trove of local lore on the Ossininghistoryontherun.com blog and recently led research on a PBS documentary about Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Interestingly enough, both authors claim that they "hate to write." Gritting their teeth over a year's worth of rewrites, they tag-teamed a manuscript that reminds us that "history surrounds us every day," said Craven.

"We were able to keep each other's noses to the grindstone," Curvan noted.

Although both have specialties, the eight chapters spanning The Ice Age to the Environmental Movement were reviewed by each author multiple times.

Curvan and Craven also give credit to many local resources, including the Croton Historical Society and Westchester County Archives. John Philips and Bonnie Coe of the Croton Point Nature Center provided invaluable advice – and photos – as well.

"Any book like this is a group effort," Curvan



Scott Craven and Caroline Ranald Curvan, authors of the recently published book "Croton Point Park: Westchester's Jewel on the Hudson." They provide the reader with little-known facts and stories about the point.

said. "It takes a few people to push it to the finish line."

If writing is a chore to the duo, it doesn't take much to get them going verbally. In a recent interview beside the Ossining Ferry terminal, with Teller's Point as a backdrop, Curvan pointed across the river and said, "Look at that sheer rocky cliff there and you say 'Oh that's

part of the Palisades, but...that was an old quarry, all chipped off by men. Right over that little dip there is where the (Knickerbocker) Ice Company had a ramp where they slid the ice down from Rockland Lake."

The authors bring to light characters of ill repute, no repute and high standing, interspersing Craven's humorous police reports and seal sightings with lively prose. Glacial-era alluvial flooding is "yoo-hoo from a firehose" and the cannon on Old Albany Post Road is "pointing uphill like an accusing finger" at GE's plant in Crotonville, a notorious industrial polluter of the great river.

There's even a short glossary helpful to the novice geologist (or perhaps Scrabble enthusiast), introducing brain-teasers like tombolo, drumlin and varve.

Villains John André and Benedict Arnold, as well as heroes like "Rifle Jack" Peterson and "Moses" Sherwood, burst forth in Curvan and Craven's telling.

"I like writing historical stuff and bringing it to life, because I think history can be super boring," said Curvan, who is currently teaching a history class at FIT.

It may be what you don't know about Croton Point that will surprise you. There are 6,000-year-old shell middens from early indigenous communities; a brick factory once pumped out 64,000 WAU-stamped (William A. Underhill) bricks per day and ran the finished product – which still can be found all over the point – to river barges via a narrow-gauge

railroad.

Excellence in grape growing was achieved by the Underhill family in the 1860s while they lived out of a mansion on the point built of Sing Sing prisoner-quarried marble. (The wine cellars are still there.) Legendary Ossining fisherman Henry Gourdine once brought in 12,000 pounds of fish from the river in a single day. As recently as 2006, a wayward manatee briefly roamed Haverstraw Bay.

The book concludes with activities that you, the reader, can pursue yourself on or near the point; biking and kayaking on routes vetted by Craven himself – his business card notes his title simply as "River Guy" – and a list of regularly-seen bird species on the peninsula. (Another naturalist factoid: Roger Tory Peterson launched the idea for the modern field guide, changing birding forever, during a Christmas Bird Count on Croton Point; James John Audubon's engraver for the game-changing "Birds of America" folio prints, Robert Havell Jr. lived just uphill from the point.)

Current trends favor books like this.

"Schools are moving toward a model of place-based education," said Craven of curricula which use local examples to hammer history home. "There's a lot here if you just look for it."

Scott Craven and Caroline Ranald Curvan will be discussing and signing their book at the Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theater on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.

'The Legend' of Sleepy Hollow Rides Again Starting This Friday

It's the 1800s. Hear the clamoring metal horseshoes click across cobblestone roads in this dark Sleepy Hollow tale.

"The LEGEND" is a simmering adaptation of Washington Irving's iconic ghost story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Audiences will be treated to a cirque/theater noir production with narration by Washington Irving himself – in hologram form, commemorating the 200-year anniversary of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"

"The LEGEND" is a new, immersive experience with the groundbreaking use of holograms combined with live action circus performers to tell the story. Two years ago, Westchester Circus Arts began exploring the concept of holograms as part of the cirque performance with Montreal-based Neweb Labs to find out if the idea was possible.

"We invite people to come see the show as we make history Sept. 23," said Carlo Pellegrini of Westchester Circus Arts, creator, producer and writer of "The LEGEND." "This is the first time that an American Circus will use a hologram to portray an 'animal act' in a circus tent. Come out, buy tickets, grab some popcorn and tell us if our concept has come alive."

Set in Sleepy Hollow and "Tarry Town" in the early 1800s, Irving returns to present-day to tell us what he really meant by "the legend." The story follows schoolteacher Ichabod Crane (played by hand balancer and straps artist Justine Durham) who has, of late, been down on his luck but finds adventure when he accepts an invitation to teach the children of Sleepy Hollow.

Producing "The LEGEND" has been a years-long endeavor by The Village of Sleepy Hollow's Administrator Anthony



The Cirque big top tent goes up in Sleepy Hollow in time to celebrate the 200th anniversary of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" starting Sept. 23 and running through Oct. 16. "The LEGEND" is a modern adaption of Washington Irving's classic with exciting live performances. Tickets are available at sleepyhollowlegend.com.

Giaccio and the village's grant writer Fiona Matthew. The village re-engaged longtime collaborators Westchester Circus Arts to create a show that would celebrate the bicentennial publication of this story, so unique to Sleepy Hollow.

This project is supported by a Market New York grant awarded to the Village of Sleepy Hollow from I LOVE NY/New York State's Division of Tourism through the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative.

The show will run from Sept. 23 through Oct. 16 in The LEGEND Circus Tent on the east parcel at 60 Continental St. in Sleepy Hollow. Showtimes are Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Shows run for about 90 minutes and include an intermission.

Tickets are available at <https://sleepyhollowlegend.com/> and cost \$30 online and \$40 at the door. Recommended



Zoë Heywood, fourth-generation circus artist, performs as Katrina Van Tassel in "The LEGEND."

for ages 10 years old and up.

For more information, contact Westchester Circus Arts at 914-275-5711.

Crossword Answers

1	M	S	T					4	G	R	A	N	G	E
10	A	P	R					11	P	E	E	W	E	E
12	R	A	E					13	O	R	D	E	A	L
14	I	N	N	E	R	M	O	S	T					
16	N	I	C	E	T	Y							17	P
20	A	S	H	E									21	S
22	S	H	E										23	T
													24	R
													25	R
26	C	O	M	P	A	S	S						30	A
31	T	R	A	I	N	E	E						32	N
33	R	A	N	C	O	R							34	T



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