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February 11 - February 17, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 336

## Developer, Town Discuss Revised Chappaqua Crossing Plans *Municipal Offices at Former Reader's Digest Property May Be Explored*

By Martin Wilbur

Discussions about a revised development plan for the former Reader's Digest property continue to evolve as New Castle officials and representatives for Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield search for a solution to move the stalemated project forward.

Last Tuesday night, the New Castle Planning Board and the Town Board discussed issues related to the 116-acre parcel during nearly simultaneous meetings at Town Hall.

Planning Board member Tom Curley, who last year suggested the town and Summit/Greenfield pursue a more traditional neighborhood plan for the proposed retail component and the already approved 111 residential units at the site, said while no new plans have officially been submitted recent meetings

with the developer have been productive.

Meanwhile, the town board during its Feb. 4 work session instructed Town Administrator Jill Simon Shapiro to send out a Request for Proposal for a survey of the downtown municipal property around Town Hall.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he would like to explore the feasibility of selling some of the municipal property to enhance the downtown's commercial district and also find a solution for the cramped quarters at Town Hall. The town board is budgeting \$10,000 for the survey.

The survey would determine the precise metes and boundaries of the roughly 10 acres of town-owned land and what restrictions and easements are on the property.

The acreage includes the recreation  
*continued on page 2*



Revisions are in the works for the Chappaqua Crossing plans in hopes of making the site more aesthetically pleasing.

## Parking, Landscaping Concerns Over New Armonk Park Proposals

By Martin Wilbur

Four variations of a plan to bring recreation space to an open town-owned parcel in downtown Armonk were unveiled to the public last week, but key decisions await on location of parking and landscape design.

The North Castle Parks & Recreation Advisory Board entertained comments from residents at its Feb. 4 meeting on the plans for what is now referred to as Wampus Park South near the intersection of Bedford Road and Maple Avenue. The area is located across the street from Wampus Brook Park. Dozens of trees were toppled at the site during Superstorm Sandy.

Several residents, including a few who live at nearby Wampus Close, voiced concern about the town's plans for the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The land where Wampus Park South in Armonk would be located.

land and appealed to the advisory board to proceed cautiously.

"I feel there's a lot of things to be done here in town and I wouldn't just mind seeing the grass put out (and) leave it at

*continued on page 4*

## Second Candidate Prepared to Run for Pleasantville Village Board

By Janine Bowen

A second candidate has stepped forward for the Pleasantville Village Board election in March.

Steven Lord, a Green Meadow Road resident since 2000, intends to run on the Village Party line in hopes of filling the open seat that will be left once veteran Trustee Brian Skarstad term expires March 31.

"I think I can help, and with the seat coming up from Brian, it just seemed like the right time," Lord said. As of Monday afternoon Lord had not yet submitted his petition. The deadline is at the close of business today (Tuesday) to be included on the ballot for the March 18 election.

He would join two-term incumbent Mindy Berard on the ballot for two open

seats. Berard announced her plans to run for another term last month.

Lord, 45, a business consultant whose office is located in the Marmaduke Forster House on Bedford Road, helps troubled companies that want to change direction. He said his business experience will make him an effective village board member.

"I have a lot of experience in business and ideas to deal with issues that condemn a lot of municipalities — not enough money and too much demand on services," Lord explained.

Lord said his goal is to represent the best interests of village residents. He said he has neither a political agenda nor will he make promises to make changes.

"My general approach to politics is that

*continued on page 4*



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# Developer, Town Discuss Revised Chappaqua Crossing Plans

*continued from page 1*

field, Town Hall land and parking lot and a portion of the commuter parking, Shapiro said. There is also a parcel on Washington Avenue that Greenstein has identified as a possible site for Conifer Realty to build its affordable housing units.

Curley, who was asked by the current town board to sit down with Summit/Greenfield to discuss a revised plan for Chappaqua Crossing, said there has been progress regarding a revised proposal, particularly with respect to the retail.

"We've always thought of it as a master plan for the property," Curley said. "If the town is going to grant a zoning approval, the town ought to grant a zoning approval in a way which makes the whole thing better."

Under the current application, Summit/Greenfield would need a zoning change from the town board to allow it to build up to 120,000 square feet of retail space. Plans call for a 40,000-square-foot supermarket in a new free-standing building with another 80,000 square feet of retail comprised of smaller stores at the site.

"With respect to the retail portion, I think we're there," Curley said. "We're

still having a conversation about the residential portion of it."

During last week's discussion, Town Planner Sabrina Charney Hull said under Curley's revised plan the development's main road would be from Route 117 with a cross street coming from Roaring Brook Road. The goal is to make the project more pedestrian-friendly and aesthetically appealing while breaking up the massive parking lots.

"Both sides are treed, there are sidewalks, a cafe," Hull said. "It would have a very quaint village-like appeal."

A spokesman for Summit/Greenfield confirmed there have been discussions with the town related to amending the plans. Geoffrey Thompson, of the public relations firm Thompson & Bender, said the goal is to devise a project that is mutually beneficial while avoiding litigation.

Late last year, comments once again surfaced about the possibility of litigation. A settlement to the 2011 lawsuits brought by Summit/Greenfield against the town spelled out a schedule of milestones regarding the review process.

Last year Summit/Greenfield had also announced that Whole Foods was



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The planning board and town staff discussed revised plans for Chappaqua Crossing last week.

the supermarket chain interested in Chappaqua Crossing but had a mid 2015 deadline to move into the site.

"The discussions have been very productive, very positive and I think all parties are trying to come together to make the project better," Thompson said.

He added that Summit/Greenfield is still looking to include 120,000 square feet of retail at the property.

Curley said talks are continuing regarding a "traditional neighborhood street" for the condominium units with a three-story building on one side and two-

or two-and-a-half-story buildings on the other to create a courtyard effect. It would feature on-street parking, front doors that face the street, a park or playground and an area for passive recreation.

Hull said that the applicant has agreed to work on the residential plan in hopes of reaching the town's goals.

She also mentioned that while there have been discussions about moving town hall operations to the property's signature cupola building, there are issues regarding parking and access.

Councilman Jason Chapin said it has been known for at least a decade, since he last served on the town board, that Town Hall does not have enough space. Previous studies have concluded that expanding the current building at 200 S. Greeley Ave. would not be fiscally or structurally feasible, he said.

However, Chapin said that he continues to back the idea of commercial development at Chappaqua Crossing.

"You can't continue to do nothing there," Chapin said. "I've said for a long time that I supported the idea of having commercial development to benefit the town and be a benefit for the property taxpayers."

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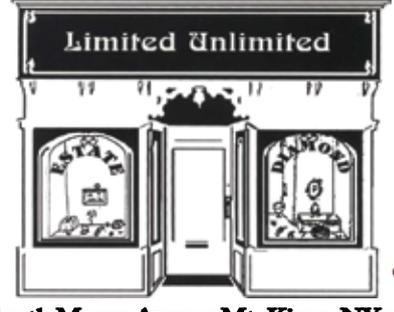



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# Board of Regents Makes Changes to Common Core Implementation

By Janine Bowen

Following a torrent of criticism, the state Board of Regents announced Monday that it will adopt a series of measures to adjust the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

The changes passed two committees and are scheduled to be voted on by the full board today (Tuesday).

"We are absolutely committed to a successful implementation and are truly committed to moving forward in a way that balances the concerns we've heard with a sense of urgency about the needs of our students," said state Education Commissioner John B. King Jr.

Under the new changes, the requirement for students to pass Common Core-based Regents exams will be extended, so that the class of 2022 will be the first to face the tougher graduation requirements. In addition, the graduating class of 2017 will be the first to take the Common Core Regents exams. For now, students will have the option to take Regents with the Common Core standards as well as the old standards, and take the higher grade.

The board hopes that the changes will reduce the high-stakes nature of the standards for students. In order to help pupils adjust to the higher standards, the requirements for Academic Intervention Services will be revised. Also, the state Education Department (SED) won't require or encourage schools to make student placement decisions based on state test performance. The use of local traditional standardized tests for K-2 students will be eliminated.

Along with announcing changes to the Common Core, the Board of Regents also revealed that they will be placing a delay on the sharing of student data with third parties until higher security is put in place. This is a change that many school officials, including Pleasantville Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter and Chappaqua Trustee Victoria Tipp, had previously hoped to see in a potential delay.

Fox-Alter said she was delighted to hear that the board would now delay this measure, but was concerned over what the next step would be. She expressed a desire for the board to eliminate student data sharing altogether.

In a previous interview, Tipp said that she was hopeful the current testing and teacher assessment models will be suspended until the validity of the tests are examined. The board appears to be taking this concern into account.

Changes to the Common Core Standards will now allow for a reduction in local testing that was meant to help evaluate teachers. Under the changes, a cap of 1 percent of instructional time will be allowed for local assessments to influence teacher evaluation. The new standards also aim to prevent teacher termination based on unfair teacher evaluation. Under the new systems, teachers who face termination based on evaluations may offer

their districts' untimely implementation of the Common Core as a defense.

The board has requested \$8.4 million in state money to change the way state exams are printed. Currently, the state allows only four forms of a test to be printed, compared to more than 20 in other states.

King explained that the money would allow the board to eliminate standalone multiple choice testing in order to reduce testing time for students, as well as release a larger percentage of the test items for educators.

Fox-Alter, a vocal Common Core critic since its implementation, was unimpressed with the revisions.

"The changes they're making are just slight tweaks. There's nothing of substance in here," she said of the information.

She also said the Pleasantville School District had already made many of the changes, such as discounting state test results for student promotion.

The move to adjust the Common Core comes just days after legislators across the state, including several in Westchester, requested a two-year delay in using Common Core testing to evaluate students and teachers.

The Board of Regents acknowledged that the rollout of the standards have been problematic, but maintain that they are

making these changes in the best interests of students.

"We think there is urgency to get the common core right in every district but we acknowledge that it has been uneven across districts and any time you implement a change across...tens of thousands of schools, you're going to need to make adjustments along the way and we're making those adjustments," King said.

In response to the recent opposition, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office released a statement acknowledging that it is aware of the issues surrounding the Common Core. Cuomo has also assembled a panel to review and correct the flaws.



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# Parking, Landscaping Concerns Over New Armonk Park Proposals

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that for now," said Armonk resident Ann Dantzig. "See how many people really come and use it, and if there's any need to embellish it, then embellish it. But I don't think there's any need to go all out."

During a brief presentation, Planning Director Adam Kaufman provided highlights of the plans. The layout for three of the designs features a large open space with grass and various types of tree plantings, including the use of shade trees or evergreens to provide buffer with the adjacent commercial property, Elide Plaza. Another design, Scheme B, splits the open area into two smaller activity spaces. Schemes A, B and C call for the existing maple grove to remain, while the fourth plan, Scheme D, would remove the grove for parking and evergreen screening.

A major point of concern is parking.

Scheme A features 14 on-street parking spaces along Bedford Road that would necessitate expansion of the street, Kaufman said. Scheme B calls for a new parking area adjacent to Bedford Road, while Scheme C proposes the new parking area adjacent to Elide Plaza. Access for both could be gained via Bedford Road or Elide Plaza.

The remaining proposal is for the parking area to be adjacent to Route 22 on the south side of the property. Each proposed parking lot would contain between 20 and 30 spaces, Kaufman said. Any use of the privately owned Elide Plaza for access would have to include an agreement between the landowner and the town in perpetuity, he said.

Discussion of a lot of that size had Wampus Close resident Norma Hill worried that the site could impact quality

of life for neighbors.

"That's a lot of parking if you're talking about 20 and 30 spaces," Hill said. "That's a parking lot, not a park."

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Joseph DiMauro said the board, after consulting with the Open Space Committee and Conservation Board, has concluded that the land should be used as a quiet location, and that the possibility of it being an athletic field, for example, was dismissed.

"The board also felt that it should be open space to be enjoyed by the community, where it's for picnics, reading," DiMauro said. "Just a mellow place, not an athletic field."

DiMauro added that the field could also be used for overflow parking for a few large events held in town each year, such as the Fol-de-Rol in June, the Armonk

Outdoor Art Show in September and Frosty Day, which kicks off the Christmas season.

Other features include a walking path that would be coordinated with Wampus Brook Park. Town officials are looking for the cost of the improvements to be paid for through a recreation fund that developers contribute to, Kaufman said.

Since Superstorm Sandy there have been two controversial episodes related to the property. A majority of the prior town board had first proposed a dog park for the location, but that was met with some intense criticism. Last fall, the town had cleared most of the remaining trees in preparation for some kind of passive recreation use at the site, which also prompted outcry among neighbors.

DiMauro said the advisory board hopes to make a recommendation within a month to the town board, which will ultimately make a decision about the site.

# Second Candidate Prepared to Run for Pleasantville Village Board

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you don't know everything going on until you're sitting there [on the board]," Lord said. "It's not realistic to make promises until you're in the seat."

While Lord has not previously held elected office, he has been active in the community over the past decade. He has served on the PCTV board, the

Pleasantville American Youth Soccer Organization and the board of the local swim team. He has also been involved with projects involving Green Meadow Road, a private street.

As a result, he has met and worked with several current board members, all of whom are supportive of his village

trustee bid, he said. Lord said he would be able to work successfully with the current members.

"Steve is a civic-minded guy who's stepping up for this very important job, and we're thankful that he is," said Dan Turner, head of the Village Party, which is currently the only party in Pleasantville.

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# Local Towns Managing Snow Removal Costs Despite Tough Winter

By Martin Wilbur

Some Westchester residents may have been unprepared for this winter's repeated snowfalls and bone-chilling cold. It's a good thing that isn't the case with most area municipalities.

Despite storm after storm sweeping through the region for most of the past two months, local towns appear on solid and not slippery footing in budgeting for overtime and supplies this year.

Even with the possibility of more snow invading the area on Thursday, municipalities are still in pretty good shape when it comes to paying for snow removal costs.

"It's like an old-fashioned winter. It's like a winter that we used to have," said veteran Mount Pleasant Highway Superintendent Peter Sciliano, who compared this season to the very long winter of 1995-96.

For the current fiscal year, which began on Jan. 1, Mount Pleasant budgeted \$133,000 for overtime expenses in the 41-employee department. As of last week there was still almost \$52,000 remaining in that line, Sciliano said.

However, the town may have to dig into some reserves if it needs to order more salt. With its most recent purchase, the entire \$105,000 is now gone in that line, Sciliano said.

Sciliano said if there isn't another

major storm the rest of the winter, his department will make it through the end of March, generally viewed as the close of the winter season, just fine. However, there still needs to be money available for December.

Other towns are in similar shape, having expended roughly half of their budgeted snow removal funds as of late last week. North Castle Town Administrator Joan Goldberg said through Feb. 6, the town has spent \$71,000 of its \$164,000 overtime budget while expending \$171,000 for salt. It started the year with \$325,000 for salt.

While it may seem difficult to try and gauge how much to budget for overtime and materials, Goldberg said she uses a five-year average to compute those numbers.

The key is to try and have a couple of mild winters sprinkled in between the difficult years, she said. Typically, any leftover money from one year would be rolled over to the following year's budget.

"Then if you have a few good years in a row, you can buy another truck," Goldberg said.

Through Jan. 31, New Castle had spent about three-quarters of its \$190,000 salt budget, although that includes a recent \$23,000 purchase for an additional 450 tons, said Town Comptroller Robert Deary.

Remaining overtime is trickier to compute since New Castle updates its numbers every other Friday to coincide with the town's pay period, Deary said. Through the end of January, there was about \$50,000 spent out of \$175,000; however, that does not include overtime for the Feb. 3 and 5 snowstorms or the town deciding to cart away snow from downtown Chappaqua last Thursday evening to make it easier for shoppers to park.

Meanwhile, Mount Kisco has spent \$71,000 of its \$120,000 snow removal overtime budget, although that also did not include the most recent storm last week. Village Manager James Palmer said that would likely push the total to about \$80,000. Almost half of the \$80,000 salt budget has been spent, Palmer said.

Similar to many other municipalities, it's better to be cautious and budget too



JONATHAN BERNZ PHOTO

Local municipalities are holding their own on snow removal and salt expenses despite constant storms.

much then to be scrambling later on. "We always budget snow overtime and salt consumption based on averages," Palmer said. "Some winters will be more mild and we will be significantly under budget, but we don't count on it." Mount Kisco also budgets \$15,000 for outside contractors to help remove snow from the downtown. Last week, a contractor was hired to keep sidewalks clear and crosswalks and parking areas unobstructed, Palmer said.

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# Pleasantville School Officials Step Up Critique of Tax Freeze Plan

By Janine Bowen

The Pleasantville Board of Education continued to chastise Gov. Andrew Cuomo's tax freeze proposal last week during a special meeting concerning the issue.

"The time to raise awareness is right now," said Trustee Louis Conte. "That's why we called this meeting for tonight."

The proposal, made last month, aims to freeze property taxes by imposing a series of conditions to which schools must comply. For 2014-15, property owners who earn less than \$500,000 a year will receive a rebate for any school tax increase if their district's budget stays below the projected cap of a 1.46 percent tax levy hike. For the following year, districts must continue to stay under the cap while developing a plan to share and consolidate services with other school systems in their BOCES region.

In order for residents to receive the rebate for 2015-16, the consolidation plan must achieve an aggregate savings of 1 percent of the participating entities' levy for the third year of the tax credit. Districts unable to achieve these savings risk losing their state aid for subsequent school years. District may opt out, but their residents would forfeit the rebates.

Pleasantville trustees pointed out that they aren't against a tax freeze but are protesting Cuomo's proposal for

achieving it.

"We don't want higher taxes. What we want is mandate relief, we want real reform as opposed to this game changer, this pretend reform where you are throwing things together in a way that couldn't possibly work," said Board President Shane McGaffey.

Mandates were a topic of contention among trustees who believe that eliminating unfunded

mandates, such as computer-based testing, the Annual Professionals Performance Review (APPR) and the Common Core, would be a better way to help schools create a more conservative budget.

In addition, they are concerned that Cuomo's plan fails to address cost drivers or changes in enrollment and staffing.

"Adjust your mandates, adjust your cost drivers, go back and adjust pension reform, and if [Cuomo] did that...it would deliver a huge savings to taxpayers," Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter said.

Officials also noted that had it not been for certain unfunded mandates, school taxes could have been reduced last year.

"If they had changed; if they had done some pension reform ... or some of these other things, we could have given, last year, a tax reduction. We can do this. We don't need some cockamamie plan to do this," McGaffey said.



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter speaks of the problems the district would face if Gov. Andrew Cuomo's tax freeze proposal is approved.

The board also addressed other components of the governor's proposal, including a possible \$2 billion technology bond. Trustees worried that not only would the bond be inadequate to fund technology needs, it would force taxpayers to provide long-term funding to materials that will quickly become obsolete.

In addition, they opposed Cuomo's plan to eliminate the inflation adjustment for the Enhanced School Tax Relief program, better known as STAR, which provides tax relief to qualifying residents over 65. For next year, seniors who make \$81,900 or less would qualify. Under Cuomo's proposal, the income threshold would remain in place indefinitely, and would no longer be adjusted for cost of living increases.

"So, over time, basically you're taking people who are on a fixed income, and throwing them off of Enhanced STAR," McGaffey said.

Trustees also said they disliked that the plan names the largest district in the BOCES region—Pleasantville is part of Southern Westchester BOCES, where New Rochelle is the largest school system—as lead agency instead of BOCES itself, which was created in 1948 for the sole purpose of helping districts share services with one another.

"This is a really complicated way. It ignores the BOCES system, it's confusing, it takes away local control and, in my opinion, it sets up to create countywide school districts," Fox-Alter said.

The proposal also does not make concessions for districts such as Pleasantville that are already sharing services through BOCES. Currently,

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# Obituary

## Sharon Sermol

Sharon B. Sermol died on Feb. 4. She was 69.

Sermol was a Pleasantville resident for the last 35 years. She was predeceased by her parents, Louise V. Smith (nee Minasi) and Thomas J. Smith, Sr. Surviving her are her sister, Colleen (Kelly) Liberati, and husband, Dan, of North White Plains; a brother, Thomas (Tee) Smith, Jr., of Thornwood; sister Robin Tamburro and husband, Dave, of West Harrison; her adoring nephews, Nicholas of North White Plains and Steven (Kristina) of White Plains; as well as cousins, friends and work associates who were a large part of her life.

Sermol enjoyed a wonderful career

with IBM as her assignments took her to different parts of Europe. She loved to garden, enjoyed cooking and baking, especially around the holidays, and spending time with her friends and family.

She was a member of the Pleasantville Garden Club. Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in November, her wish was to survive until the spring.

On her behalf, donations can be made to The Lustgarten Foundation or Rosary Hill Home, with the hope that someone else will survive to the spring.

Visiting hours were on Feb. 7 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville. A graveside service was held on Feb. 8 at Mount Calvary Cemetery in White Plains.

## Dorothy Mazzullo

Dorothy M. Mazzullo of Pleasantville died on Feb. 4.

She was 64.

Mazzullo was born on Nov. 2, 1949, to the late Frank and Josephine Libby in Mount Kisco. She was a former member of the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps and a current member of the Pleasantville Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary.

Mazzullo is survived by her devoted husband, Sam Mazzullo, of Pleasantville and by her loving children, Charles (Barbara) Chase of Phoenix, Ariz., Shea

(Ebony) Afrika of El Mirage, Ariz., Donna (David) Anderson of Putnam Valley and Barbara Grimont of Pleasantville. She is also survived by her nine cherished grandchildren.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Feb. 8 followed by funeral services at that location. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 201, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570 or the Pleasantville Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary, 75 Washington Ave., Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.

## Salvatore Rubino

Sal J. Rubino passed away on Jan. 16 at Westchester Medical Center as a result of injuries suffered in an auto accident.

He was 84.

Rubino was born on Aug. 28, 1929, to Salvatore and Rosaria Rubino and lived his entire life in Pleasantville. A graduate of Pleasantville High School and Fordham University School of Pharmacy, Rubino served his community as a charter member of the Pleasantville-Thornwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps; as Democratic Party chairman for the Town of Mount Pleasant; and as a member of the New York Air National Guard.

As owner of Rubino's Pharmacy in Thornwood, he ran a drug information center along with a long list of volunteers serving more than 150 young men and women of the community, counseling them on the dangers of drug abuse. In the 1970s, he became executive director of the

New York State Pharmaceutical Society. He was also appointed by Gov. Hugh Carey to the Council of Empire State College and continued in that role for over 20 years.

Rubino was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, June Woods Rubino. He is survived by his sister, Grace Baer; nephew Alan Baer; nieces Deborah Doenias and Theresa Baer; and grandnephews and grandnieces Dominic Baer, Sean Doenias, Kane Kavanagh Baer, Jessica Sundeen and Christine Baer.

Visitation was at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Jan. 18 and 19. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Pleasantville on Jan. 21 followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that memorial gifts be sent to the American Lung Association of Hudson Valley, Inc., 35 Orchard St., White Plains, N.Y. or the Pleasantville-Thornwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Gramercy Place, Thornwood, N.Y.

## John Popaduke

John J. Popaduke of Hawthorne died on Feb. 2 at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

He was 63.

Popaduke was born on March 31, 1950, to the late John and Josephine Popaduke in New York City. He was a retired truck driver for GAF Seelig Dairy Products in Queens and the local HELP Truck in Westchester on the Saw Mill Parkway. He was co-founder of Kindred Spirit Shiloh

Shepherds in Hawthorne.

Popaduke is survived by his devoted wife, Monica (nee Lean) Popaduke, of Hawthorne; loving sons Gene Popaduke of Florida and Timothy Irvin of Medford, N.Y.; and his brother, Richard Popaduke, of White Plains.

Visitation was held at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Tuesday, Feb. 4, followed by a funeral service. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations to [www.shilohs.org](http://www.shilohs.org) would be appreciated.

## John Spoor

John A. Spoor, most recently of South Salem and formerly of Hawthorne, died on Feb. 6 at his residence.

He was 88.

Spoor was born on April 18, 1925, to the late Joseph and Emma Spoor in Albany. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a retired commercial artist with Higham Press in Pleasantville.

Spoor was predeceased by his devoted wife, Marie (nee Gerace) Spoor, in 2000, his son, Jak, in 2006 and two deceased brothers.

He is survived by his loving children,

Kurt (Cynthia) Spoor, of South Salem and Kathy (John) Tyrrell of Chapel Hill, N.C.; daughter-in-law Jeanette Spoor of Thornwood; son Jason Spoor; two brothers, Walter (Elaine) Spoor and Carl Spoor, both of Albany; and six cherished grandchildren.

A memorial service and burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Croton Falls Community Church, P.O. Box 25, Croton Falls, N.Y. 10519 would be appreciated.

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# Pace Receives \$98M in LDC Funding for Consolidation Project

By Janine Bowen

The Board of Local Development Corporation (LDC) voted unanimously Thursday to grant Pace University \$98 million in tax-exempt bonds to pay for the bulk of the renovations at the Pleasantville campus.

Most of the money will go toward construction of student residences and athletic facilities as part of a consolidation project approved last summer by the Mount Pleasant Planning board. A small portion will be used to fund capital projects on the Pleasantville and White Plains campuses.

In addition to the LDC funding, Pace University is borrowing another \$12 million for the work. University representatives also hope to take some of the money from the sale of the 35-acre Briarcliff campus, which is currently appraised for \$34 million, to pay for the project.

“Based on all of the analysis we have done, we’re confident that we’re going to be able to achieve the construction project, but more importantly, the growth and strength that it will provide for campus enrollment, our retention and graduation rates and our ability to attract students,” said Bill McGrath,



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

County Executive Rob Astorino and Pace University Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Bill McGrath, third from right, were all smiles after the county’s Board of Local Development Corporation approved \$98 million in tax-exempt bonds to help pay for Pace’s campus consolidation project.

senior vice president and chief operating officer for Pace Westchester.

The project is expected to create more than 600 jobs. A Hudson Valley-based company, Kirchhoff Consigli Construction Management, will manage construction. In addition, builders hope to use construction materials and products that have been manufactured within 500 miles of the Pleasantville campus.

“This is another great day for the

LDC,” said County Executive Rob Astorino, who was excited to help fund the project in his hometown of Mount Pleasant.

“This is exactly why the LDC was created, to give these kinds of opportunities to nonprofits. A lot of jobs will be created and a lot of smart people who come in and out of your dorms are going to be living here and working here in the future,” he added.

The county approved creation of the LDC last year to help nonprofit organizations make improvements to facilities that will help the public and spur the local economy.

Phase one of the Pace project is already underway and is slated for completion by fall 2016. There will be two new four-story residence halls that will include suite-style living, faculty apartments and group study rooms. In addition, the money granted to Pace by the LDC will help build a two-story addition on the Kessel Student Center, relocate the Environmental Center, upgrade the athletic fields to turf and build a 23,000-square-foot field house.

“We are going to be building a much more pedestrian-friendly campus, with good internal circulation, that is going to enable us to provide a much

more vibrant student life experience,” McGrath said.

Renovation came from a desire to create a unified campus, McGrath said. He noted the Briarcliff campus, which opened in the 1970s to create extra student housing, has since become an inconvenience, with the students who live on the Briarcliff side forced to commute to the Pleasantville campus. In a recent survey conducted by the university, applicants who chose another school over Pace cited lack of campus quality and student life as the main reasons for their decision.

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## Police Blotter

### Mount Kisco Police Department

**Feb. 1:** A 50-year-old homeless man was arrested at 5:37 p.m. and charged with petty larceny for attempting to steal a 30-pack of 12-ounce beer cans from Rite Aid on South Moger Avenue.

**Feb. 1:** Report of a domestic assault at the T.J. Maxx on Main Street at 6:40 p.m. The matter is still being investigated; no other information is available at this time.

**Feb. 2:** Report of an injured homeless

man near the American Legion Hall on Legion Way at 11:04 a.m. A member of the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance who was passing by the location assisted the individual. A search of the area uncovered a cooking pot that was used to strike the man. The party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital for treatment.

**Feb. 2:** A 37-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 1:57 p.m. and charged with petty larceny for attempting to steal two 24-ounce beer cans from Rite Aid on

South Moger Avenue.

**Feb. 3:** Report of a burglary on Lexington Avenue at 2:54 p.m. The incident is still being investigated; no further information is available at this time.

**Feb. 6:** A 53-year-old Pound Ridge woman was arrested at 6:10 p.m. on a warrant for failing to appear in village court on Jan. 30. She had been charged with operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and no insurance.

**Feb. 6:** A 37-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 7:17 p.m. and charged with assault in connection with an incident with a homeless man on Feb. 2 on Legion Way near the American Legion Hall.

**Feb. 7:** At 7:38 p.m., a 24-year-old Corona, Queens man reported that he was the victim of a strong-arm robbery on West Street. The man was discovered with multiple lacerations, contusions to both arms and right ankle and swelling near his right eye. He also reported that he had various possessions taken. The matter is under investigation.

### Pleasantville Police Department

**Feb. 3:** Report of a disturbance at 7:41 p.m. in the parking lot of Greenwood Condos on Bedford Road. The dispute

was between neighboring residents who got into an argument over limited parking because of the snow. The matter was referred to the complex's management association.

**Feb. 6:** Report of a larceny on Memorial Plaza at 1:34 p.m. A magnetic sign was removed from a commercial van sometime between 5 p.m. on Feb. 4 and 9 a.m. on Feb. 6.

**Feb. 7:** A 35-year-old Ossining man was arrested on Manville Road at 12:43 p.m. and charged with vehicle and traffic offenses following a traffic stop. The suspect had been cited three previous times for operating a vehicle with a suspended license in other jurisdictions. He is due back in village court on March 4.

### North Castle Police Department

**Jan. 31:** A subject was arrested at 8:25 p.m. and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance on North Broadway.

**Feb. 1:** A Caller reported at 11:29 a.m. that two vehicles, a silver Mercedes sedan and a black Tesla, are being handled erratically on northbound Route 22 near Route 120 and may be drag racing. An officer was dispatched to check the area.

## Pleasantville School Officials Step Up Critique of Tax Freeze Plan

*continued from page 7*

Pleasantville allocates more than \$2 million of its budget to BOCES and shares a variety of other services through organizations like NYBEST and the New York State Insurance Reciprocal.

"Why is it considered that the largest district is the most competent to be the leader when there might be smaller districts who are effective and competent in keeping their taxes in control and having enriched programs?" asked Trustee Emily Persons.

Persons wrote a letter to Cuomo

expressing her concerns not only about the tax freeze proposal but other issues, including Common Core and the APPR.

Trustees are encouraging residents to contact their state legislators, some of whom have already voiced support for the proposal, to let them know why it's a bad idea.

"If anybody didn't think there was an attack on public education, I would ask them where they have been, because this is clearly an attack," said Fox-Alter.



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# New Castle Eyes Redirecting State Grant for Rt. 100 Pedestrian Safety

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials plan to reach out to state Sen. Greg Ball in hopes of having \$500,000 in state grant money originally earmarked for Route 117 sidewalks redirected toward pedestrian safety improvements in Millwood.

The matching Multi-Modal Capital Project Grant Award, obtained for the town in 2009 by former senator Suzi Oppenheimer, was never used because cost estimates for the Route 117 sidewalk project were higher than anticipated, said Town Administrator Jill Simon Shapiro.

The cost of the Route 117 work, which would have installed 2,800 linear feet of sidewalk from King Street to Apple Hill Lane, escalated to \$1.685 million when the town learned from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) that it needed to add a five-foot “snow

shelf”, according to a Jan. 30 memo from Town Planner Sabrina Charney Hull. In today’s dollars the project would cost just over \$2 million.

Under the terms of the grant, the town must match the total of the grant.

Officials are now planning to enhance safety for pedestrians along Route 100. One area of concern is the lack of pedestrian access between the end of the existing sidewalk on Station Road near the southerly entrance of the A&P Shopping Center and the sidewalk on the south side of the Millwood Town Plaza.

In 2012, Town Deputy Engineer Robert Cioli also reached out to then Administrator Penny Paderewski and the town board to lower the speed limit on Route 100 in the vicinity of the town recreation field, Rocky’s Deli and St. Mary’s Church from 45 to 30 miles per hour.

Cioli also appealed for the town to lobby the DOT to move an existing crosswalk at routes 100 and 133 about 30 feet south. There would also be a new crosswalk near the Millwood Town Plaza.

New estimates for the work, including engineering costs and contingency, are pegged at \$514,320.

Shapiro said fund reallocation would need Ball’s support for the DOT to approve redirecting the money.

## Temple Beth El in Chappaqua Announces New Senior Rabbi

The Board of Trustees of Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester in Chappaqua has announced on Sunday the hiring of Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe as its new senior rabbi effective July 1.

Jaffe will succeed Rabbi Joshua Davidson, who left Temple Beth El last summer to become the senior rabbi at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York. Interim Senior Rabbi Alan Fuchs will continue to lead the congregation until June.

Jaffe will assume responsibility for a congregation of over 520 member families, with a growing nursery school, a vibrant religious school and a commitment to innovative worship, lifelong learning and social justice.

He has served Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco as rabbi since 2006. In 2010, he took on the oversight of the synagogue’s educational programming, from preschool through adult education.

Jaffe was born in Hawaii where he



TOM RIVIERA PHOTO

Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe was named the new senior rabbi at Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester. He will begin this summer.

was raised amid the multicultural backdrop of Honolulu. He received his BA in philosophy from Duke University

and studied at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Before his ordination from Hebrew Union College, he served as the Education Director for URJ Camp Newman in Santa Rosa. He also pursued a pre-MBA career at Gap Inc. in San Francisco before realizing his true passion lay in teaching within the Jewish community.

He looks forward to becoming part of our Chappaqua community.

“This is the optimal opportunity for me and my family – to work with the clergy and the families at Temple Beth El,” Jaffe said at Sunday’s congregational meeting.

Temple Beth El President Lisa Davis said “with his intellect, spirituality and warm, engaging personality, Rabbi Jaffe energized the (search) committee and the board in a way we only imagined possible. We are confident that he is the right person to lead Temple Beth El into a bright, exciting future.”



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## Editorial

### Chappaqua Crossing Talks an Encouraging Sign for New Castle

When Team New Castle came away with a resounding victory in the Nov. 5 election, one of the questions that quickly arose was about the immediate future of Chappaqua Crossing.

The relationship between the town and developer and property owner Summit/Greenfield during the past nine years can be described as torturous. Throw in comments by candidate Robert Greenstein, in more recent times, often breathing fire about how there shouldn't be a third hamlet in town and that the Master Plan must be completed first, and there appeared to be a very combustible situation.

However, as supervisor, and even as supervisor-elect, Greenstein has smartly and pragmatically struck a more conciliatory tone in his comments.

The efforts by both town officials and

Summit/Greenfield to make Chappaqua Crossing a better project is laudable and should be welcome. There would be nothing to gain for the town or Summit/Greenfield to rattle sabres and threaten lawsuits.

At last week's New Castle Planning Board meeting, board member Tom Curley provided an update on the status of the discussions between the applicant and town, which included a description of his idea for the site to have a neighborhood or village feel.

Certainly none of the highlights that were mentioned last Tuesday are cast in stone. Anyone who has observed this application's twists and turns for any length of time would know better than to think that.

But there is now hope that a much-needed thawing has taken place between

the two sides and that some year in the near future could see something constructive functioning at the site.

What is not yet known is how the neighbors and some other residents who have played a big role in criticizing the commercial proposal, will take to the concept of a reworked Chappaqua Crossing plan that still contains a significant amount of retail. Retail is an element that Summit/Greenfield will likely not relinquish.

However, as Councilman Jason Chapin correctly said last week, the option to do nothing and let the site sit largely empty is not an option. The land is too valuable, and as affluent as parts of New Castle may be, in the tax cap era, new revenue streams are needed.

Let the discussions continue.

## Column

### Mrs. Green's Workers Need the Public's Support to Be Reinstated

By Tony Speelman

David Ramirez and Martha Urgiles worked in the Mrs. Green's dairy department for over 10 years. Elivia Miguel worked at Mrs. Green's for over 11 years. Yesica Mendez worked at Mrs. Green's for four years.

These are just four of the nine workers who were fired from Mrs. Green's Natural Market in Mount Kisco for "poor customer service."

Like you, the workers at Mrs. Green's saw a lot of change at their store over the last year. After new management took over in December 2012, a friendly, community favorite manager was fired. This was the first of many changes employees were about to endure throughout the next year.

Through the changes, longtime employees stood up and began to demand better treatment from management. An overwhelming number of workers filed for a union election in May, losing by

just three votes. Afterwards, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) charged Mrs. Green's with violating federal labor law, performing illegal interrogation and intimidation of employees in the weeks leading up to the election.

After charges were filed, employees from the store began to meet with elected officials to discuss the difficulties they face every day at their job. Workers were thrilled to meet with and receive the support from their elected officials who took the time to speak to them about their lives.

The federal charges were settled in November, and Mrs. Green's agreed under federal order to post a notice in their store for 60 days. The notice notified the Mount Kisco employees of their basic rights that were protected under federal laws.

During the 60-day posting, Mrs. Green's abruptly fired nine pro-union workers for "poor customer service." A majority of the fired workers had over seven years on the job; some had worked for the company for over a decade. The fired workers were not only leading supporters of the union

in the election, but were the same workers who met with the politicians for help. We have since filed federal charges against Mrs. Green's and called the firings illegal retaliation and are hopeful they will all be reinstated.

Many of you may have seen the workers in front of the store on Lexington Avenue recently, notifying customers they have come to know over the last decade that they were fired for "poor customer service."

There has been an outpouring of support from former customers who have pledged not to shop at the store. On Saturday community members, community groups and former customers joined the fired workers on their picket line, calling for a boycott of the store until the employees are reinstated.

Community members, groups, unions and local elected officials will also be attending a "support day" on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the store, located at 666 Lexington Ave. in Mount Kisco at 2 p.m. Please come by and show your support for the men and women who have helped serve you at Mrs. Green's for the last decade and demand management reinstates the workers.

For more info, please visit [www.ufcw1500.org](http://www.ufcw1500.org).

*Tony Speelman is secretary-treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 1500 based in Westbury, N.Y. It represents over 23,000 grocery workers in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties. Members of Local 1500 are employed by Pathmark, Fairway, Stop & Shop, Gristedes, D'Agastino, Key Food, Shop Rite and King Kullen.*

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## Correction

In last week's article about photographer Todd Shapera, it was mistakenly stated that he was recognized for being one of the top five photographers in Wedding Wire's network. He was recognized for being in the top 5 percent. Also, Shapera's most recent visit to Africa was to Rwanda. Lastly, the correct name of one of the Westchester venues where he is a recommended photographer is the Sleepy Hollow Country Club. The Examiner regrets the errors.

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### Michael Pennacchio Musician/Massage Therapist, Pleasantville

By Martin Wilbur

Michael Pennacchio's Pleasantville roots have served as an important steppingstone in his burgeoning career as a singer/songwriter.

Ever since Pennacchio first picked up an instrument as a teenager, the village has presented him with a wealth of talent to connect with and a variety of venues to hone his skills.

"It was like everyone and their mother has a guitar," said Pennacchio, whose father is a plumber and mother is a hair stylist. "It's really nice. How often do you see communities like this so focused on the arts? I mean there are a million places around here to play and get yourself out there."

That exposure helped Pennacchio last month to release his debut CD, "Better in the Morning," an introductory five-song collection that features him on vocals and guitar and backed up by fellow musicians, including Pleasantville's Geoff Hartwell. Hartwell produced the CD and plays the banjo and mandolin on the recording while other performers that Pennacchio

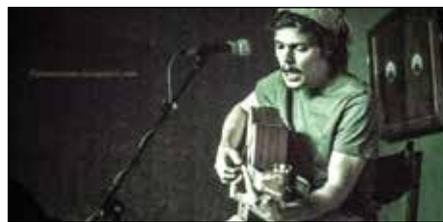
have hooked up with over the years also appear.

Pennacchio also shies away from describing his music as being from a particular genre. He calls his sound "Elliot Smith meets Lou Reed."

At 29, it's somewhat difficult for Pennacchio to believe that he's actually making part of his living as a musician, playing in clubs and coffee shops throughout the metropolitan area. He started playing the bass at 16, joining friends at jam sessions, and didn't try the guitar until he was out of college for close to two years.

When Pennacchio, a Westlake High School graduate, went off to SUNY Oneonta, he never considered a music career. Instead, he studied English and theater, piggybacking off his love for the stage.

"For awhile I thought this was a great outlet," he recalled of acting. "I wanted to make people laugh. I was more into the great comedies. I figured it was a great way to make it on the stage, to make people laugh, forget about things for a few hours



and I'd have some fun in the meantime."

After college, Pennacchio found work in various theater companies, including Axial Theatre in Pleasantville, and appeared in a few films with small outfits.

"I did not see music in the cards at all," Pennacchio said. "I mean I played for fun. I was in a jam band with some friends. We'd get together and play basically daily."

About five or six years ago, Pennacchio decided almost on a whim to try the guitar, since his brother had the instrument. Pennacchio immediately took to it.

"I picked it up and haven't stopped since," he said.

When Pennacchio wasn't working a string of odd jobs to help support himself--those jobs included stints at a Costco, a tire shop and a veterinarian's office--he found himself playing the guitar and writing his own music. There were days that he had off from work where he would start playing at 10 a.m. and found himself still practicing at midnight.

Pennacchio also discovered that music gave him a more satisfying creative outlet. As an actor he found it a bit stifling to always perform somebody else's work.

"I wanted to have a little more control about how I would bring myself to the

people," Pennacchio said. "I felt like I had something to say and I didn't always want to say what somebody else was saying, and music seemed like a great way to get out there and speak to people."

Although Pennacchio recognizes that he's made great strides in a relatively short time, he's still a work in progress. To supplement his income, he's now a licensed massage therapist after completing the seven-month course at Finger Lakes School of Massage in Mount Kisco. It provides Pennacchio with a creative outlet as well.

"I wanted something where I felt I was doing something of value for the community, the people at large, and it seems like the right thing to do," Pennacchio said. "It has a respectful wage so I'm able to create daily. At the same time when I'm away from my guitar I feel like I'm still practicing an art and I'm also still helping someone at the same time."

Having had so many different jobs and life experiences may also prove to be fertile ground for ideas for songs. Pennacchio makes sure he writes something every day, because there's usually something to inspire him.

"I mean there's always something out there to write about," he said. "There'll always be something that catches my eye. It could be anything."

To find out more about Pennacchio's music, visit [www.facebook.com/looking4michaelsmusicor](http://www.facebook.com/looking4michaelsmusicor) [www.reverbnation.com/michaelpennacchio](http://www.reverbnation.com/michaelpennacchio).

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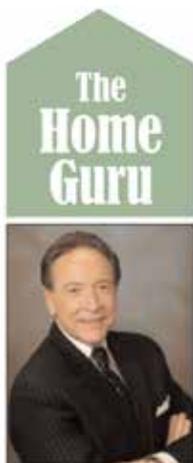
# When Homeowners Decide Who They Don't Want as Neighbors

"Don't believe anything you hear and only half of what you see," was one of my mother's favorite expressions when teaching me how to find my way in life. When I became old enough to think for myself, however, I asked myself, what kind of nonsense is that?

But after a formal education as well as attending a rigorous college of hard knocks, I find myself still relying on those pearls of wisdom doled out at my mother's knee. From time to time, however, I forget. Recently, I found myself in a situation where I believed everything I heard when I shouldn't have. And I was ashamed of myself for it.

As registered voters, we all take part shaping what our towns are and what they are to become in the future. Through zoning codes and by whom we elect as our town officials and by whom we appoint to our planning and zoning boards, we also determine who gets the privilege to live next door to us and down the street from us, even the types of houses they can live in and what kinds of businesses they can open to serve us.

Some would say that we have even more control on such situations depending on how much money we have and how much



By Bill Primavera

we pay in taxes – local, state and federal laws notwithstanding.

All of these factors became crystal clear to me little more than a week ago in my home community of Yorktown Heights when I attended a town board meeting. A group of citizens had gathered to protest the application for a special use permit that would allow a large single-family home to operate as a "sober living" residence. It would temporarily house people who had been treated for substance abuse to help them transition back into their communities.

The surrounding neighbors had organized quite effectively to block any such use. If I were to believe what I heard that evening, it would seem that my community was about to be invaded by criminals who would endanger my safety, sexual predators that would be after our children and substance abusers who would be dealing drugs on the streets. Besides all that, property values would plummet.

One woman in particular, a lawyer who was a lead spokesperson for the group, did a grand job of presenting her case as though she were pandering to a jury, building to a crescendo, rousing the crowd to a frenzy and milking applause from her claque. When she finished presenting the

evidence, I found myself believing every word she spewed out and went home hoping the application would be denied.

But life is strange. Besides being The Home Guru, I also happen to be the founder of the longest running public relations firm in Westchester. No sooner had I arrived home, I found an email from an unknown sender which at first I thought was spam. On an inexplicable impulse, I took a chance and opened it to find that it was from the very applicant who was seeking the special use permit, asking if he could meet with me.

I replied yes, curious to hear his side of the story. The next day, he arrived with two associates and in a clear and concise way was able to educate me about the background and professional experience of all parties associated with the organization, its methods of operation, its screening processes, the safeguards in place, and its mission and goals, all of which were solidly grounded in principle and practice.

I was actually ashamed to realize that unwittingly I had allowed myself to become part of the lynch mob, part of the Salem witch trials, part of the group that would deny fair access and fair housing to other responsible citizens and businesses who have just as much right to share my community as I do. And as for the suggestion that property values would plummet, as a realtor I know that there

is no real evidence that supports such speculation.

Bottom line: I am now involved, and not just for my own town, but for all the towns we live in. I am on board to fight this kind of bias and discrimination. To me, this issue goes beyond the application for a special use permit. It speaks to an overriding big picture of what kind of town I want to live in and what it might become in the future.

To me this application symbolizes either the best that a town can be, a progressive community of neighbor helping neighbor, one of diversity and acceptance, or the worst, an exclusionary place that erects walls to ban certain kinds of people based on rumor, discrimination and fear mongering.

I will keep you posted on what happens in my own town with this issue. If you agree with me about the kind of town we should all want to live in, please keep alert in your community. Should any hint of this kind of vigilantism ever rear its ugly head, like me, be prepared to do something about it.

*Bill Primavera is a Residential and Commercial Realtor® associated with Coldwell Banker, as well as a publicist and journalist who writes regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to engage him to help you buy or sell a home, he can be emailed at Bill@TheHomeGuru.com or called directly at 914-522-2076.*

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# Science Research Project Hits Close to Home for Byram Hills Student

By Martin Wilbur

Jessica Occhiogrosso may still be several months away from graduating high school but her work has a chance to help millions of people someday who suffer from a painful and debilitating disease.

As part of her project for the three-year authentic science research program, the Byram Hills High School senior studied how two proteins appear to play crucial roles in the onset of degenerative disc disease, which effects an estimated 80 percent of the population.

Performing her work on cow tail discs, Occhiogrosso's project explored non-surgical options for treating the disease, which would be welcome news for the millions who are hobbled by the pain.

For her efforts, Occhiogrosso was one of eight Byram Hills students who was named semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search last month, the annual nationwide competition featuring original research projects submitted by about 1,800 entrants from close to 500 different high schools. Only about 300 students across the U.S. become semifinalists, and once again Byram Hills was well represented.

Samuel Cawkwell, Jonathan Giardina,



Byram Hills High School senior Jessica Occhiogrosso has been recognized as a semifinalist in Intel's Science Talent Search and by a Westchester company for her research project.

Andrei Isichenko, Matthew Percello, Amanda Tantleff, Helena Zhang and Brian Zimmerman comprised the group of semifinalists.

Despite impressive work, the stiff competition prevented Occhiogrosso

and her classmates from thinking that their names would be included as semifinalists on Intel's list.

"I had no idea that this was going to happen," Occhiogrosso said.

However, this year, the Intel competition wasn't the only honor for Occhiogrosso. She was also one of nine students recognized throughout Westchester County by Accordia Therapeutics of Ardsley. Last year, the company, which seeks to help people suffering from central nervous system disorders through therapeutic options, launched its Scientific Excellence Award in partnership with WFAS Radio to honor students in Westchester and Putnam who participate in significant science, technology, engineering or math research.

For her Accordia award, Occhiogrosso explained that surgical treatments focus on immediate alleviation of symptoms while non-surgical treatments are geared toward restoration of the disc.

"Degenerative disc disease involves injury and inflammation of the disc, and one important question is how inflammation influences the mechanical response of disc cells," Occhiogrosso wrote in her explanation of her project to Accordia Therapeutics.

Science teacher David Keith, the director of Byram Hills' authentic science research program, said that Occhiogrosso was one of a number of students with impressive attributes. Keith said her ability to work alongside with her mentor and graduate students illustrates how advanced she is.

"It's beautiful when you have students that you have students becoming so proficient that it's the teacher who's learning from them," Keith said.

At first, Occhiogrosso was hesitant to pursue the project because may have hit a little too close to home. While still in elementary school, she was diagnosed with scoliosis, curvature of the spine.

Scoliosis may have nothing to do with degenerative disc disease, but she was forced to undergo surgery between seventh and eighth grade. Four and a half years after the surgery to correct a 50 degree spine curvature, Occhiogrosso hasn't experienced any problems.

Despite the accolades that she's earned for her science project, Occhiogrosso isn't certain what her course of study will turn out to be. While Occhiogrosso said she is likely to pursue something that is science related, she would prefer interact with people rather than the more solitary research.

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# The Modern World Has Turned into the Throwaway Society

By Michael Tully and Jacob Levenson

In the last half century we have seen an explosion of products created with a one-use life span. Counter-intuitively, these single-use products are manufactured from plastic, a material made to last thousands of years.

Replacing glass milk bottles with HDPE plastic jugs or glass soda bottles with PET plastic bottles was only the beginning. Stop and think about the plastic products you use in your daily life and how many of those products are thrown away after each use. It is estimated that Americans now discard about 33.6 million tons of plastic each year, 6.5 percent of which is recycled while 7.7 percent is combusted in waste-to-energy facilities, as in Westchester. The remainder eventually ends up in giant landfills.

Worse than landfills is when plastic waste ends up in the ocean like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Plastic in the ocean degrades into smaller and smaller pieces until it is mistaken for food and eaten by sea life.

Plastic, more than any other material, has shaped modern society and the thought of completely removing plastic from our lives is preposterous.

An equally preposterous thought is that we as humans are the only

organisms on earth to produce non-biodegradable waste. Looking back on our accomplishments as a species, this is not one to be proud of. The plastic we manufacture today will last for the next thousand years.

Each day new products flood the market often touting the ease of use for consumers. Just use and throw away.

Need that initial pick-me-up in the morning? Just throw in that disposable k-cup and within 30 seconds you'll have that piping hot cup of joe. Got a little food caught in that molar? Grab some floss where a piece of plastic holds it before it is conveniently thrown away after use.

Consumers are slowly beginning

to hold business responsible for the traceability of their waste and, in turn, companies have begun using materials that are easily recyclable. Growing up, we were taught to consider our actions and what the ultimate cost of that action is. Our society as a whole should take a long, hard look at the long-term cost of the convenience of plastic and make the determination of its worth in the end.

Businesses also need to take a closer look at the products they manufacture. What recycled products they can use in their process and how they can produce a product and its packaging so that it's easily recyclable for the consumer. With effort from both the manufacturer and the consumer, it is possible to have a responsible use of plastic for convenience.

*Michael Tully is safety and health manager and Jacob Levenson is sustainability and communications coordinator for Poly Recovery, a full-service recycling company located in Portsmouth, N.H.*

*PleasantvilleRecycles is a committee committed to helping educate residents about the many recycling opportunities in our area. It offers ideas on how to reuse items. Learn more about recycling, recycling events, composting and much more at PleasantvilleRecycles.org.*

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# Committee Proposes P'ville Ordinance to Ban Plastic Bags

By Janine Bowen

Single-use plastic bags could soon be discontinued in Pleasantville businesses.

PleasantvilleRecycles, a local committee committed to educating the public about recycling, has asked the village board to consider prohibiting plastic bags and replacing them with paper bags, as well as encouraging shoppers to bring their own reusable bags to stores.

"When you stack up the harm plastic bags create for the environment, in general, against the harm [eliminating them] creates for us, it's a no-brainer. We must restrict single-use bags," said PleasantvilleRecycles Chairman Dan Turner.

Before presenting the proposal to officials Jan. 27, committee members spoke to residents and merchants about the idea. Over 500 residents along with dozens of business owners signed pledges to show their support for the initiative, which has already been successfully implemented in other Westchester towns.

"All agree that the timing is right and that we should join other communities, such as Rye and Mamaroneck, and actually pass this initiative," Turner said.

Nationwide, only 12 percent of plastic bags, which are not biodegradable, get recycled. Most end up in landfills. Plastic bags are also leading causes of pollution, clogged drains and harm to wildlife.

Karen Chapman, a Pleasantville High

School student who works closely with PleasantvilleRecycles, recently spent two hours photographing the village's streets and found more than 60 bags littering the municipality.

Currently, stores in Pleasantville and statewide are required to have a message on plastic bags encouraging recycling, as well as provide receptacles for customers to return bags. Some village trustees worry that placing another restriction may hinder business owners.

"We just need to concern ourselves with putting another mandate on the businesses that they are not prepared (for)," said Trustee Colleen Griffin Wagner.

Andrea Garbarini and Lynda Shenkman Curtis, who made the presentation to the board on behalf of PleasantvilleRecycles, pointed out that the ordinances in Rye and Mamaroneck have had little effect on merchants. In addition, store owners could actually profit from the ban by either selling reusable bags or charging a fee to provide paper bags to those who do not bring reusable bags.

"I'm very hopeful that this will be something that they will be easily adapted to," Garbarini said.

The ban on plastic would have some exemptions. Dry cleaners would still be permitted to use them, as would grocery stores. Restaurants that provide take-out orders that could leak would also still be

allowed to use plastic.

Trustee Mindy Berard said she supports the idea of reusable bags, which are already distributed by the chamber of commerce and the farmers market. But she questioned the need to impose an ordinance. Berard pointed out that past education efforts have helped make the village the top recycling municipality in Westchester.

Wagner said that after seeing PleasantvilleRecycles' presentation of the documentary "Bag It," which shows the environmental harm plastic bags cause,

she adamantly refused to use plastic bags — for about two weeks. She then slipped back into old habits.

"Unless you're going to educate all the time, every day, it doesn't work," Wagner said.

Trustee Jonathan Cunningham concurred with Wagner's sentiment.

"When something's pointed out that's so egregiously wrong and can be fixed, seemingly with a simple solution, I don't know why we need to wait for the education process to work," he said.

## Heartwarming Sight

Tony Mazza, right, chief financial officer for Lexus Mt. Kisco, sorts through coats collected recently by the car dealership to help New York's neediest citizens stay warm this winter. The dealership joined more than 50 members of the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association to collect more than 4,000 coats for New York Cares.



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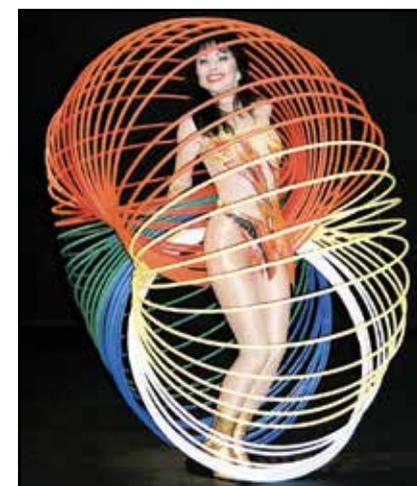
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Clown! The cast of International Circus Stars includes acrobats, Daredevils, Quick Change Artists, Motorcycle Mania and more. Plus the Rage in the Cage Tigers, Performing Bears, Clowns, Housecats, Cavorting Camels, and The famous Royal Hanneford Elephants.

Tickets are on sale now at the Westchester County Center Box Office. Show times are 10AM, 2PM and 6PM each day. Premium seats are \$32 each and Regular Reserved seats are \$25.

Westchester County Center Box Office hours are 9AM - 5PM Monday

thru Friday and 9AM - 4PM Saturday. Phone (914) 995-4050.

Royal Hanneford Circus tickets are also available from Ticketmaster and Ticketmaster.com. Discounted tickets are available for groups of 20 or more.

The Royal Hanneford Circus - Family Entertainment at Its Best! Please note: Photos and video available Interviews with performers can be arranged prior to the performances. In person interviews on February 13th at The County Center Photos and Video available at Dress Rehearsal Feb 14th.

# Teenagers Help Feed Westchester's Hungry in Interfaith Food Drive

By Martin Wilbur

Participating in projects to assist people in need is a great cause for anyone to be part of. When those participating in community service are teenagers from different backgrounds working together there are two important life lessons being taught at once.

Catholic and Jewish youngsters from Catholic Charities and UJA-Federation came together in White Plains on Sunday to sort, pack and distribute food that will be provided to needy families. The inventory will be brought to various soup kitchens, pantries and agencies that receive donations from Westchester churches and synagogues that are affiliated with the two organizations. There were also corporate and private donations made.

The effort, "Feeding Our Neighbors: An Interfaith Response," attracted about 60 teenagers at the UJA-Federation's headquarters on Westchester Avenue. Not only is the goal to help thousands of families in need but to have the youngsters make new friends with peers with whom they have plenty in common.

"We're feeding people. We're getting to know about each other's differences in our respective religions," said Luz Tavarez-Salazar, who spearheaded the effort for Catholic Charities. "How much better can that be?"

It is the first year that the two

organizations have partnered in the drive. Tavarez-Salazar said it made sense since Catholic Charities has been participating in the effort for about nine years and UJA-Federation and its congregations have long helped feed the hungry.

Catholic Charities answered the call with youths from two parishes, St. Peter's Church in Yonkers and Holy Rosary in Port Chester, for Sunday's event. Kids from synagogues throughout the county joined them. Last year, Catholic Charities helped collect enough food to donate 750,000 meals. Partnering with UJA-Federation this year the goal is one million meals, Tavarez-Salazar said.

Carlyn Orlando, who helped organize the effort for UJA-Federation, said participating in the drive reminds the teens that even in an affluent county, there are tens of thousands who need help. Winter is a specially difficult time, she said.

"We work so much within our communities with like-minded people to see that this is a universal need and the fact is that these kids have come together," said Orlando, coordinator of the project for UJA-Federation. "It's a faith-based initiative, not a Jewish or Christian initiative. It's something that we should be doing for the less fortunate in our community."

This was the second function within the past month involving the two



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Close to 60 teenagers from congregations affiliated with Catholic Charities and UJA-Federation package thousands of pounds of food on Sunday.

groups. They gathered at the Don Bosco Community Center in Port Chester on Jan. 20 to discuss issues regarding the importance of Martin Luther King.

Before the youngsters packaged the food, they shared lunch together and socialized. William Gregson, 15, of Chappaqua said he was involved in last month's Martin Luther King Day event and wanted to return.

"I know it helps people and I like helping people a lot so I thought it would be the right thing to do to continue helping," Gregson said.

Daniella Noriega said she and her sisters

regularly go out into the community on different projects for St. Peter's Church. This one has the added bonus of working alongside other kids of similar age.

"We really like these new things, especially with our church because it feels good," said Noriega, 12. "When you're doing this it kind of makes you feel good because you're helping other people who are in need."

"I've been able to meet people from other places and no matter what their religion I've made a lot of good friends," said Dillon Orlando, 16, of New Rochelle.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

### THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz  
By Edward Goralski

**Just Dessert.** This is Jell-O Week. The first Jell-O Week, celebrated annually the second full week of February, was officially declared by the Utah Legislature in 2001. To help get you in the mood, all the words this week end with the letter "O." Perhaps you'll lasso a few words to add to your vocabulary.

<p><b>1. duomo (n.)</b> A) an important person</p> <p><b>2. altiplano (n.)</b> A) tableland</p> <p><b>3. lentigo (n.)</b> A) a small brick</p> <p><b>4. forego (v.)</b> A) to relinquish</p> <p><b>5. campesino (n.)</b> A) a farmer in Latin America</p> <p><b>6. akimbo (adj.)</b> A) slightly open</p> <p><b>7. cembo (n.)</b> A) motion-picture film</p> <p><b>8. imago (n.)</b> A) an adult insect</p>	<p>B) a worthless item</p> <p>B) mountain climbing</p> <p>B) a spot on the skin</p> <p>B) precede</p> <p>B) an official in Latin America</p> <p>B) essentially similar</p> <p>B) dental filling</p> <p>B) decorative lighting</p>	<p>C) a cathedral</p> <p>C) fleecy clouds</p> <p>C) clemency</p> <p>C) rummage</p> <p>C) a school in Latin America</p> <p>C) set in a bent position</p> <p>C) a harpsichord</p> <p>C) computer language</p>
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**ANSWERS:**  
 1. C. A cathedral, especially one in Italy  
 2. A. A high plateau or plain; tableland  
 3. B. A small flat pigmented spot on the skin  
 4. B. To precede as in time or place  
 5. A. A farmer or farm worker in a Latin-American country  
 6. C. Being, or set, in a bent, bowed or arched position  
 7. C. A harpsichord  
 8. A. An adult insect

## Bedford Hills Resident Appointed to WLS Board of Trustees

At its annual organizational meeting in January, the board of trustees of the Westchester County Library System appointed Bedford Hills resident Luke Vander Linden to represent District 3 on its board. District 3 comprises the public libraries in Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah and Mount Kisco.

The 15 board members set library system policy, provide advice and direction to its professional staff and serve as a communication channel for the governing boards of Westchester's 38 member libraries and the general public.

Encouraging increased communications among the four libraries he represents and with the Westchester Library System is Vander Linden's top priority.

"Public libraries have never been more vital to the communities they serve," he said. "They are all adapting to the information and technology needs of today's library patron while at the same time struggling to provide more services with fewer resources. We are stronger when we work together and I look forward to collaborating with the four libraries I represent."

The Westchester Library System—one of 23 public library systems established by state Education Law in 1958—works with its member libraries to provide access to resources and services and to enhance and



Luke Vander Linden

support library service for the more than 960,000 residents of Westchester County.

Vander Linden has been a member of the Bedford Hills Free Library's Board of Trustees since 2012, a role in which he will continue to serve. He is also an active member of the Bedford Hills Lions Club, the Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association and is the Chairman of the Bedford Republican Town Committee. Professionally, Vander Linden is a direct response fundraising consultant with Carl Bloom Associates, a full-service agency located in White Plains.

## Art Garfunkel to Perform at Katonah's Harvey School March 14

The Harvey School will host a special evening with the iconic and incomparable Art Garfunkel as part of his highly anticipated comeback to the stage.

The show, "Harvey Presents: An Intimate Evening With Art Garfunkel" will take place in the school's Lasdon Theater of The Walker Center for the Arts on Friday, March 14 at 8 p.m. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame member and diamond-selling artist had taken time off to recover from a vocal ailment.

"The voice is back. I'm in flight again," Garfunkel said in a statement. "I believe I have grown through adversity. A new creation has emerged that is truly exciting me--my stage show."

Garfunkel began performing a series of intimate warm-up shows since late last year. In a recent interview on "CBS This Morning," the legendary performer did a reading of his "Letter to Myself," where he looked back at his younger self.

Fans can also visit the singer's website, [www.artgarfunkel.com](http://www.artgarfunkel.com), where he chroni-



Art Garfunkel will perform next month in Katonah.

cles--in order--every book he has read since 1968, his 60 favorite songs of all time, acting credits, poetry and discography.

Blessed with what The New York Times described as a "beautiful countertenor," Garfunkel has made an indelible mark on the music world as both a solo artist and half of the unrivaled Simon & Garfunkel. He has also enjoyed a successful film career, published a book of poetry and released 12 original

solo albums, including the most recent, "Some Enchanted Evening," in 2007. Since then, he has been busy as a husband and father to his two sons, 23-year-old Arthur Junior and five-year-old Beau Daniel. He is also an avid walker who has walked across Japan, the United States (celebrated in the 1997 concert DVD "Across America") and now Europe.

Tickets for Harvey Presents: An Intimate Evening With Art Garfunkel are \$65. Seating is limited. To purchase tickets, visit [www.harveyschool.org](http://www.harveyschool.org) and click on the "Harvey Presents: An Intimate Evening with Art Garfunkel" link.

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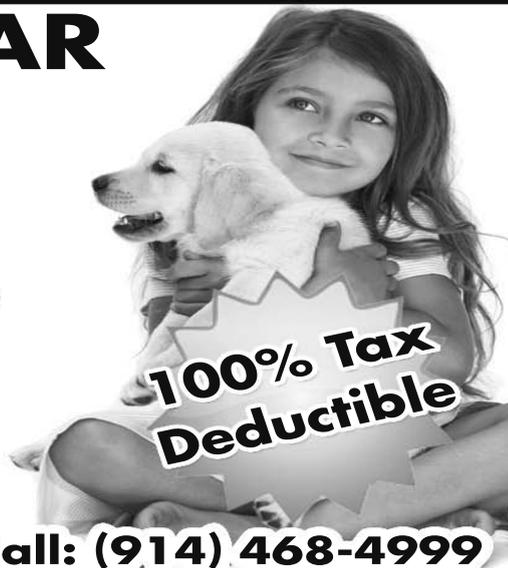
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# Life is More Enjoyable When You Can Share a Universal Language

Music is a universal language. Most people are familiar with it, but the lucky ones are fluent. In addition to foreign languages, many schools offer music classes to the students who would like to broaden their horizons.

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, some schools are restricting their music programs. Getting rid of music in schools would be extremely detrimental in multiple ways.

"[Music is] the thing I love the most, besides my family. It's simply a series of tones put together to create a beautiful and emotional effect," Paul Shaffer, David Letterman's musical director, was quoted as saying. "It is well-known that the importance of music to a kid is in all areas; it's so important in developing one's ability on all intellectual levels. It's shocking that music programs are the first to go. I am outraged."

Speaking from experience, I know that music forms strong bonds between students. Not only does it help in the frightening task of making friends, but it also strengthens your brain. By learning to play an instrument, the parts of your brain that control motor skills, memory and hearing become more active and grow.



By Andrea Reino

Music encourages perseverance and patience as you work through a challenging piece, improves your mathematical skills as you keep the rhythm intact and figure out the beat patterns and increases your responsibility as you strive to keep your instrument in good condition.

Music also relieves stress. By channeling your feelings through an instrument, musicians have the opportunity to push away stress from their daily lives in a harmless way.

"By playing in front of a group and holding your own part, it teaches self-dependence and reliance and gives confidence," said sophomore Josh Eimer, a saxophone player at Fox Lane High School.

I have played the upright double bass since third grade. Carrying it around is

no easy task, but it provides me with a unique instrument that not many people play. The bass grows as I grow and takes up room in our house, turning the dining room into the music room.

During the summer, when we go to visit my family in Spain, my sister Claudia and I participate in the local symphony in Noia, our town. The youngest member is 10 years old, the oldest is 83. It is amazing to see how, even though most of us are decades apart, we can learn a lifetime's amount of knowledge from our fellow musicians. Each of them has stories to tell, experiences to share and lessons to teach. Being included in such a broad, musical community makes us feel like we're part of something that's bigger than just us.

"I think music is something that is very meaningful to have in life," said Eric Wang, a cellist in his junior year at Fox Lane High School. "It is nice to put the homework aside for an hour a day

to just let the mind flow with music when life does not seem pleasant. Like any other hobby, you will always meet people with the same interest, and that is more than I could ever ask for."

"Music is empathy in a slur of notes and noises," said Zoe Dweck,

a sophomore and a violin player at Fox Lane. "I get stressed when I can't produce the skills that the music demands. However, I'm motivated to work harder. Hopefully, a composer is smiling that his music is still cherished, you know?"

Musicians hope to make composers proud as they pour themselves into their music. Music is a universal language. I can speak it, can you?

Andrea Reino is a sophomore at Fox Lane High School and enjoys writing, reading, traveling and meeting new people. She believes natural beauty can be found in everything, embraces diversity and likes to run, serve her community and spend time with her family.

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# Happenings

*We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Martin Wilbur at [mwilbur@theexaminernews.com](mailto:mwilbur@theexaminernews.com).*

## Tuesday, Feb. 11

**Introduction to Computer and Internet.** North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887.

**Colorful Tuesdays.** Dispel winter gloom. Today's color is red. For children three to five years old. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 25. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Valentines for Vampires.** What do you think they love? For children in grades 3-5. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo.** Beginners for the first 45 minutes; advanced lesson during the second session. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. Beginners at 6:30 p.m. Advanced class at 7:15 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Farm to Table Book Discussion Group.** "Eating Animals" by Jonathan Safran Foer will be discussed. Led by food author Carol Durst. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Open Book Discussion.** "Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson will be discussed. Led by Westchester Community College adjunct professor Christine Bobkoff. Ask at information desk for a copy of the book. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Book Club.** The Women Reading Women Book Club will discuss "Civil War Wives" by Carol Berkin. New member welcome. Books are available at the circulation desk. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

## Wednesday, Feb. 12

**Zumba Fitness.** Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

**Knitting Group.** Hats for our servicemen and women overseas and other ongoing projects for care centers and hospitals. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Meets every Monday and Wednesday.

Info: 914-769-2021.

**Bounce the Baby.** For children six months to two years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Senior Benefits Information Center.** Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

**Briarcliff Manor Garden Club: "A Valentine Message."** A design workshop will be given by seasoned garden show designers Terry Marchica and Marion Cowles. There will be a discussion of the various types of table designs, including sample designs and arrangements. Everyone will go home with a design to grace their table for Valentine's Day. A horticultural selection of show-worthy plants entitled "Winter Company" will be on exhibit as well. New members welcome. Briarcliff Manor Recreation Center, 48 Macy Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-432-8529.

**Energize North Castle Application Assistance.** Bring your electric and fuel bills for help in applying for a home energy assessment. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Appointment required. Info and appointment: 914-302-7300.

**Valentines for Birds!** Make puddings to warm their little hearts. For children in grades K-2. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Preschool Story Time and Craft.** For children three to six years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**A Thousand Monkeys and a Typewriter.** Robbin leads this group for kids and parents. For students in grades 5-7. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 6:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Korean Calligraphy, Painting and Tapestries.** For centuries these art forms expressed important events and concerns in all facets of Korean traditional life. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**"Dad's in Heaven With Nixon."** A special one-night screening of this film by Tom Murray, whose brother Chris suffered brain damage at birth and was

subsequently diagnosed as autistic. As their mother unites the family to maximize Chris' potential, his father, a charismatic entrepreneur with issues of his own, refuses to participate. Followed by a Q&A with autism experts and a reception. Presented in Partnership with Pleasantville SEPTA and New York Collaborates for Autism. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$7. Non-members: \$12. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org) or [www.pvillesepta.com](http://www.pvillesepta.com).

**Garbage to Black Gold: Food Waste Composting.** Why Not in Westchester? They're doing it in San Francisco, Portland and Seattle---families putting their kitchen food waste out with their recycling and trash for municipal pick-up. What was garbage is turned into valuable compost rather than land-filled or incinerated. Can this be done in Westchester? Plans for a municipal food waste composting pilot are waiting to be implemented. Find out how it would work and how to support this initiative. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments by Sierra Club at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Snow date: Feb. 13. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

## Thursday, Feb. 13

**The Breakfast Club.** Each session includes breakfast, a presentation on a healthy lifestyle topic and a light exercise program for seniors. This month's topic is cardiovascular disease. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center's cafeteria (G Level), 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

**Memoir Writing Class.** Sessions are devoted to sharing personal stories and are conducted in a non-critical environment. Led by Edith Glass. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Let Your Yoga Dance Classes.** The popular Kripalu noon dance class is now in Chappaqua! Combines easy dance, gentle yoga and great music. Come join this noncompetitive, heart pumping and joyful experience. Drop-ins welcome. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. \$20 per 75 min. class. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-238-8974 or email [claudiayogadance@gmail.com](mailto:claudiayogadance@gmail.com).

**Toddler Craft.** For children 18 months to four years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Osteoporosis Support.** Attendees will become more knowledgeable about osteoporosis, learn nutritional guidelines

to improve bone health, practice bone-strengthening exercise routines and develop techniques to compensate for skeletal limitations. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center's Board Room, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-269-1888.

**Book Lovers. "Transatlantic" by Colum McCann will be discussed.** Led by Barbara Bernstein. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Yiddish Vinkle.** Yiddish speakers (or dabblers) enjoy Yiddish poetry, current events, short stories, humor, songs, music and great camaraderie. Rosenthal JCC, 600 Bear Ridge Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. \$6 suggested donation. Meets every Thursday. Info: 914-741-0333 ext. 24 or visit [www.rosenthaljcc.org](http://www.rosenthaljcc.org).

**Multilingual Mother Goose.** Learn and share songs and rhymes in other languages. For children birth to five years old; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 2:30 p.m. Free. Meets every Thursday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Young Critics Book Discussion.** Good talk, good snacks. Booklist available in the Children's Room For children in grades 4-6. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 6:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

## Friday, Feb. 14

**Play and Learn.** For children one to three years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Zumba Gold.** Try this low-impact approach to Zumba for the older active adult and baby boomer with the same sassy, sweaty, fun-filled cardio workout in an easy learning environment. Ongoing classes; drop-ins welcome. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. \$12. Four- and eight-week cards available. Meets every Friday. Info: 914-747-0808 or email instructor at [olin.amyj@gmail.com](mailto:olin.amyj@gmail.com).

**Heart Fair.** Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Teen Zone with games, snacks and free stuff. For students in grades 6-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Introduction to Jewelry Making.** For children seven years old and up. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Zumba Fitness Class.** Addie-Tude

*continued on page 26*

## Critical to Discuss Finances With Your Partner to Keep the Romance Burning



By Peter Chieco

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, are you planning an intimate dinner, complete with candlelight, flowers and a bottle of vintage wine? Perhaps you have made reservations at a charming restaurant, or maybe you are eager to show off your culinary skills and serve your favorite dish.

Either way, nothing will shatter the romance faster than having the conversation turn into an argument over finances.

While arguing about money is the top predictor of divorce (a 2012 study published in Family Relations Journal in which 4,500 couples were interviewed, disagreements over money was top the reason couples

break up) there is a relatively easy way to guard against it.

Simply talk about money. Many couples don't talk much about finances before committing to each other. Nearly two-thirds of married couples who responded to a recent USA Today poll said they talked little or not at all before the wedding about how to combine their finances.

Individuals often enter marriage with divergent beliefs about life – religion, children, politics and, of course, money. Experts agree that when individuals approach a relationship with different beliefs about the best uses for wealth, they will experience more conflict.

Open and honest discussions about money before marriage can often alleviate future discord. Frank conversations about a host of financial topics can help keep couples on track if decisions are made early on.

One of the most important topics is your assets. Will you commingle or keep them separate? Many couples who marry later in life enter the relationship with more assets, including property and investments. What are your retirement assets? Do you have insurance policies, and if so, who are the beneficiaries? If the beneficiary is a former spouse, new arrangements might be in order.

Come clean about your debt, obligations and liabilities as well as your history of making payments. Are you chronically late in making payments? What is your credit history and score?

Draw up a budget that reflects your priorities, whether they are saving for college, splurging on clothes, gadgets, cars and toys or investing for the future. Then, make sure you are both willing to stick to the budget. Whoa to the couple in which one spouse is a spender and one a saver. Disputes will

be unavoidable.

Who pays the bills is a big question. Will you pay jointly from your two separate incomes? If so, you must designate responsibility for all the various payments.

Are your wills drawn up, and if so, are they updated? Is it time to add to (or change) your heirs?

You should decide which one of you will oversee investing and maintaining your combined assets. Set aside time for an in-depth discussion, and include your financial adviser, if possible, to go over where the assets are, how they are titled and who has access.

A heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentine's Day might be a lovely gesture. But an even more effective way to nurture a harmonious relationship is to fashion a sound financial plan together.

Peter Chieco is a Private Wealth Advisor with the Private Wealth Management Division of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Greenwich, Conn. He can be reached at 203-625-4897.

## The Prudent Portfolio

*The information provided in this article is not a solicitation to purchase or sell investments. Any information presented is general in nature and not intended to provide individually tailored investment advice. The strategies and/or investments referenced may not be suitable for all investors as the appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. Investing involves risks and there is always the potential of losing money when you invest. The views expressed herein are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, Member SIPC.*

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# Happenings

continued from page 24

Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$15 a class. \$29 for four classes. \$55 for eight classes. Meets every Friday. Info: 917-215-1720, email AddietudeDance@gmail.com or visit [www.Addie-tude.com](http://www.Addie-tude.com).

**Menus in the Movies: "Three Stars."** Led by food author and film buff Carol Durst. Homemade desserts and discussion to follow. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Friday Night Cinema and Conversation: "Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring"** Director Ki-Duk Kim follows the lives of an isolated Buddhist monk and his young charge as they grow old and grow up on his floating retreat. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. In Korean with English subtitles. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Folk Circle.** St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0053.

## Saturday, Feb. 15

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** The market is back indoors and even better than last year, with more winter-grown produce, meats, breads, cheeses, prepared foods and all the goodies you know and love. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

**Chappaqua Library Bridge and Scrabble Club Guided Play and Instruction.** Match wits with former library board trustee Stan Kurzban. Bridge is not for beginners; singles, pairs and small groups welcome. All levels welcome for Scrabble. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Free. Every Saturday in February. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Raptors for Rookies.** Erin Baker, Teatown's raptor expert, will show a few raptors and talk about their conservation status in the region. Be prepared to walk outdoors. Adults only. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 10 a.m. to noon. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

**Preschool Music.** Ages six months to four year old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Saturday Specials.** A program for special needs kids and their families. Stories, songs, sensory activities and schmoozing. For all ages. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Opening Reception for "On and Off**

**the Wall."** Featuring an eclectic mix of affordable two-dimensional works in pastel, watermedia, drawing as well as small-scale sculptures created by members of the Mamaroneck Artists Guild. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Gallery open Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through March 1. Info: Visit [www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org](http://www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org).



The Krasnoyarsk National Dance Company of Siberia will be performing this Saturday night at Westchester Community College.

**Krasnoyarsk National Dance Company of Siberia.** Under the direction of Vladimir Moiseyev, this internationally acclaimed dance troupe reveals the spiritual heritage of Siberian culture through innovative and spiritual folk choreography, glorified by balletic beauty and athletic prowess. Folk dances are mixed with modern choreography. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$26. Students and seniors: \$24. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit [www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts](http://www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts).

**Coffee House and Open Mic.** St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0053.

**Argentine Tango Dances.** Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$16. Also the first Sunday of each month from 3 to 6 p.m. \$12. Info: 914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail [sampelayo@optonline.net](mailto:sampelayo@optonline.net).

## Sunday, Feb. 16

**Church Service.** St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. Rite I Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. Rite III, a service geared toward families with young children at 9:15 a.m. Rite II Choral Service Holy Eucharist at 10:45 a.m. Every Sunday. Info: 914-769-0053.

**Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education.** Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Meets

every Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**"Forrest Bess: Seeing Things Invisible."** A critically-acclaimed exhibition of the work of Bess now on national tour featuring a selection of over 40 paintings, along with rare works on paper and selected letters and will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue. The Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. Tuesday through Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. \$5. Seniors: \$3. Children (12 and under): Free. Exhibit runs through May 18. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

**Meditation & Acupuncture: A Restorative Workshop for Couples.** Experience a relaxing guided meditation before and after your acupuncture treatment. Opening and relaxing the mind and body with meditation will optimize your healing acupuncture treatment. You will feel very calm, peaceful and restored. No meditation experience needed. The Center for Health and Healing Holistic Studies Center @ Quest Yoga Arts, 11 E. Main St., second floor, Mount Kisco. 1:30 to 3 p.m. \$140 per couple. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-260-1696 or visit [www.thecenterforhealthandhealing.net](http://www.thecenterforhealthandhealing.net).

**Maple Sugaring at Home.** Come learn the simple steps of how to make your own maple syrup. Dress for outdoors. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

## Monday, Feb. 17

**February Vacation Nature Camp.** Naturalists will involve, amuse, stimulate and inform your children with different activities, including animal study, nature crafts, nature exploration and nature games over four days. Morning snack included. Lunch should be sent each day. For children in grades K-3. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Members: \$160. Non-members: \$210. Pre-payment and pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Marijuana Anonymous Meeting.** St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Meets every Monday. Info: Contact Erica Itzkowitz at [EricaItzkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:EricaItzkowitz@gmail.com).

## Tuesday, Feb. 18

**Senior Steps.** This program includes health screenings and special events for seniors. Medical Services Building at Phelps, Room 225, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

**Art All Day.** Our materials + your imagination=ART. Children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Short Films for Short People.** Picture books come alive on our big screen. For children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

## Wednesday, Feb. 19

**Blood Pressure Screening.** Phelps Memorial Hospital Center's Walkway Conference Room, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Appointment required. Info and appointment: 914-366-3220.

**Sarah's Studio.** Learn art history and make your own. For children in grades 1-3. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

## Friday, Feb. 21

**Family Film.** Kermit and friends. For all ages. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Westchester Community College Music Faculty Benefit Recital.** To raise funds for a music scholarship to enable a student to perform in Italy with an international group of composers. The program will range from opera to electronic music. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10. Info: 914-606-6262.

## Saturday, Feb. 22

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** The market is back indoors and even better than last year, with more winter-grown produce, meats, breads, cheeses, prepared foods and all the goodies you know and love. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

**Wildlife in Winter.** Come for an hour of fun as a naturalist shows off some of our favorite animals. This entertaining and informative program allows visitors to hear, see and touch many of our fascinating furry, feathered and scaly friends. Best for children five years old and up. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**The Tortoise and the Hare.** Animals have always figured in stories and folk tales but are they depicted accurately? Meet some of these animals and find out for yourself. All welcome. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 2 to 3 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

# Has Wine Sparked '60s-Style Student Protests on British Campuses?



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember the student college campus protests that were held across the United States and Western Europe in the late '60s and early '70s? They arose over the ongoing war in Vietnam, perceived

intrusive government policies and a myriad of social issues. For the most part they were peaceful, representing idealistic statements from students whose view of the world evolved from their isolation on college campuses. Many were founded on high moral principles others on socio-political issues.

Many of us remember campus sit-ins and marches, perhaps even as participants. Others remember these protests as polarizing events between left and right student populations, disrupting their daily collegiate lives rather than inspiring them to participate.

It's been over 40 years since the height of those demonstrations. That generation of students now constitutes the aging Baby Boomer population, many with different political and social viewpoints. It's amazing how post-college economic and financial needs can sometimes change

*'And of course it revolves around my favorite interest'*

our ideological activism.

Today's college generation doesn't seem as inclined to voice their discontent. Certainly there are numerous protests occurring across the globe, but many are carried on outside of college campuses. Many are based on governmental oppression of citizens and changing political ideologies.

I read with interest of a protest that erupted in the United Kingdom recently. It proved that the spirit of dissension and activism is alive and well – even if the underlying cause hardly has the same universal appeal and impact as those in the '60s and '70s.

And, of course, it revolves around my favorite interest: wine.

Protestors on United Kingdom campuses have taken to the commons, with placards protesting the economic and financial policies of universities over social issues that have curried favor with today's British youth. Their issues: campus life and the plight of the downtrodden.

The genesis was a report in The Guardian newspaper that disclosed information

concerning the amount of money spent to purchase and hold wines at prestigious Cambridge University (18,000 students) for the consumption of administrators, faculty, staff and fellows (8,000 in total).

Students seized on this perceived abuse of academic power to lever against two other current student causes: university budget cuts to reduce and outsource campus dining services and raising awareness of the low minimum wages of university workers (about \$12.50).

The correlation was simple to make: cut back on wine budgets and allocate funds to dining halls and the wages of workers. Their mantra? "Wages Not Wine."

They may have a point concerning excessive expenditures on wine. According to The Guardian

report, total wine purchases by the university's 31 colleges last year aggregated \$5 million, the equivalent of \$13,000 per day. Over the last three years the total was \$13 million, an amount asserted by the students as more than ample to offer higher wages to university workers. The wine cellar of one of the constituent campuses, Trinity College, contains 25,000 bottles, valued at over \$2.6 million. As one might expect, the cellars have a long legacy,

originally endowed by King Henry VI in 1446.

The university response to the sit-in protests? Call in the police. The students' response to the police incursions? Clashes with the police, which resulted in violence and 41 student arrests. Not a good outcome for any of the parties. These confrontations on campus grounds evoked additional demonstrations by students over police brutality and the English equivalent of America's First Amendment rights.

The ultimate outcome is still uncertain.

Are these demonstrations the fomenting of youthful exuberance and idealism? Will they achieve the desired results? Will they result in a coalescence of British youth as they did with American students in the '60s and '70s? Or are

they merely a tempest in an English teapot? Perhaps only the light of history will tell.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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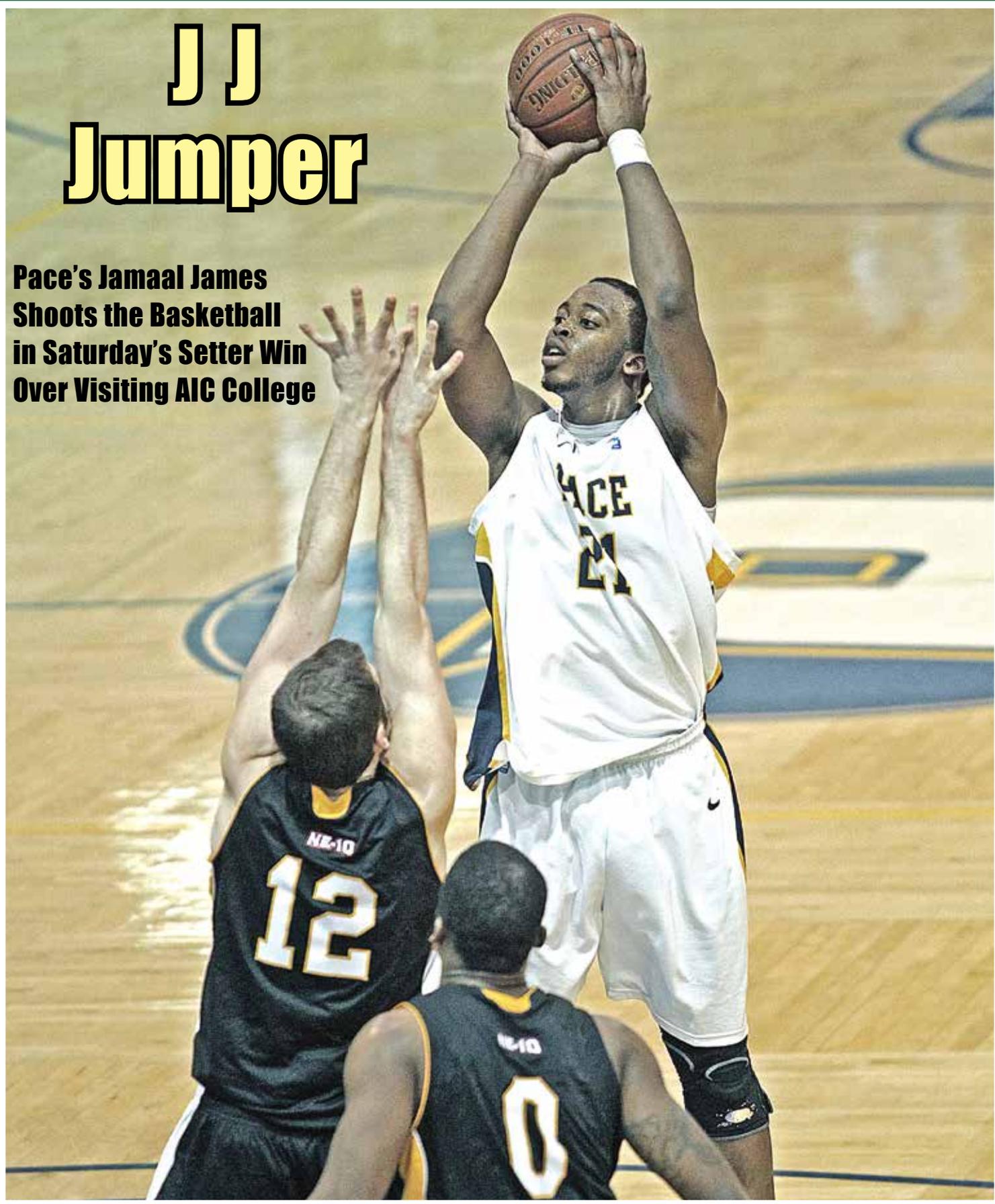
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