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April 29 - May 5, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 347

Palmer to Leave Mt. Kisco Village Manager's Post

By Neal Rentz

A chapter in Mount Kisco government will come to a close in June, when James Palmer, who has served as village manager for the past six years and has worked for the municipality for nearly two decades, will leave to become village administrator in Bronxville.

Palmer said it was a difficult decision to leave Mount Kisco, where he also lives. Bronxville is one of "a very few communities in Westchester that I would consider leaving for," he said.

"First and foremost, I think of it always as an honor and a privilege to serve the community," said Palmer, who starts his new job June 16.

Palmer said he did not actively seek a new job, but the Bronxville opening was "a unique opportunity that came up."

Bronxville is similar in many respects to Mount Kisco, with a vibrant downtown but with some challenges, such as empty storefronts that need to be filled.

He said he planned to continue living locally and take part in community activities after he moves on to his new job. Palmer currently earns a \$159,500 salary in Mount Kisco.

Donald Marra, Bronxville's interim village administrator, said Monday Palmer and village officials have not yet agreed on a salary.

He started his career in Mount Kisco government 20 years ago as an intern. He later became assistant assessor before taking over as the assessor in 1995, a post he held until he was chosen village manager in 2008.

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New Castle Super Quits Master Plan Committee After Spat With Resident

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein resigned from the Master Plan Steering Committee and a related work group last week after an argument with a resident over the appropriateness of his involvement escalated into a shouting match.

The startling public dialogue occurred just before the close of the Apr. 22 town board work session where a schedule of four Master Plan public outreach meetings was released. Betty Weitz, a member of a subcommittee on commercial development, challenged Greenstein by saying it was a conflict for a town policymaker to also be part of the steering committee.

Weitz accused Greenstein of telling the committee that the group should support

development that's good for the town, which is not the body's function. She said the role of the community volunteers is to elicit public opinion.

"The problem is you're wearing too many hats and you do not remove one hat when you assume the other, and you cannot wear two hats and at the same time not interfere with the process," Weitz pointedly told the supervisor.

Greenstein informed members last Wednesday that he resigned both the five-member steering committee and the subcommittee on commercial development. He said his decision wasn't based on Weitz's comments but was made because the process is advancing nicely. He also acknowledged he didn't need the extra aggravation.

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MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Consumer and public interest groups rallied outside Assemblyman David Buchwald's office in Mount Kisco last Wednesday in support of state legislation to require the labeling of genetically modified foods. While applauding Buchwald's support of proposed Assembly bill A.3525, the several dozen people also called on other lawmakers to support the bill and the public's right to know. The bill is expected to make it out of the Assembly's Consumer Affairs and Protection Committee but likely faces a tougher road in the Senate.

Residential Plan for Armonk Lumberyard Site Draws Praise

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Planning Board and community members issued encouraging remarks last week for a proposed 24-unit multifamily residential structure at the site of the old lumberyard on Bedford Road in Armonk.

Developer Michael Fareri and his representatives told the board at an Apr. 21 public hearing that his project would contain 10 one-bedroom units and 14 two-bedroom units. He said he plans on selling the units as condominiums, although since there is a current demand in the marketplace for rental apartments he is considering finding tenants for the first several years.

Fareri appealed to the board to act as quickly as possible since the .8-acre parcel, which is in a residential multifamily zone,

has been an eyesore for the neighborhood. The fire decimated the site more than a decade ago.

"This project has been dormant for 10 years," he said. "It's time that it gets done."

This is Fareri's third application for the parcel. In 2008 he received conditional approval for a retail and office building but abandoned the plan after the economy deteriorated. Two years later, he proposed an 18-unit residential structure.

As part of the project, Fareri has proposed that eight units be middle income housing under the Town of North Castle's MIU program. The remaining 16 units would be market rate.

However, it is unclear whether those units would be built under the town's program. The town board is currently

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New Castle Super Quits Master Plan Committee After Spat With Resident

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"We're in a really good spot right now," he said. "I wouldn't have stepped down if we weren't"

A replacement will likely be found following the four public outreach sessions, Greenstein said.

During last week's week session, Greenstein told Weitz he preferred not to serve on the steering committee or the subcommittee, but that no one else stepped up for the task. His predecessor, former supervisor Susan Carpenter, also served on the committee, he added.

"I offered it to many other people, Betty, including members of our commercial work group," Greenstein said. "You, quite honestly, it wasn't offered to you. No offense. But it has been offered to other members of the committee.

"I don't want to be head of the

commercial hamlet committee. I don't want to be on the steering committee. I am doing it because no one else wanted to and we have to move the process along."

Weitz countered that it shouldn't be difficult to find one person to serve with 12,000 adults living in New Castle, many of them quite capable.

Several requests by Greenstein for another board member to second his motion to move into a previously scheduled executive session failed.

That allowed tension levels to rise moments later when Greenstein charged that Weitz was releasing information to the public about was being discussed in the subcommittee meetings. He said her decision to do that has had a chilling effect on some members who are now hesitant to speak openly.

"So what's happened to the group is

that everybody has clammed up thanks to you," Greenstein said.

He then accused Weitz of monopolizing the town board's meeting.

"Don't attack me because now you're reaching a point of litigation," Weitz yelled at Greenstein. "So do not smear my character."

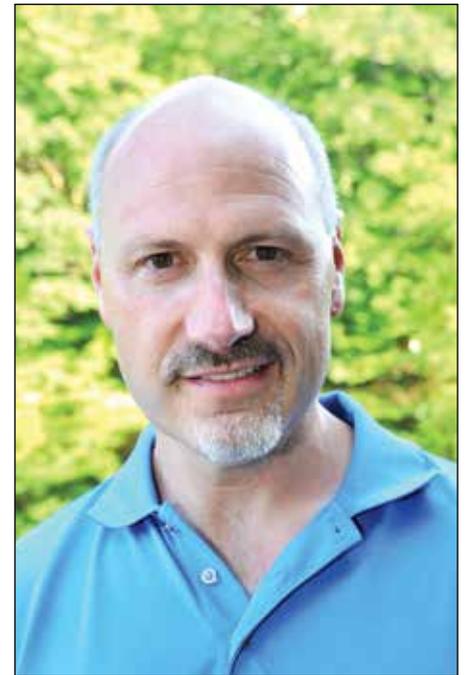
"Oh, litigation, you're going to sue me for defamation, Betty?" Greenstein shot back.

"Don't smear my character. That's all," Weitz continued. "You should know better, and then telling me to shut up and not be able to defend myself and tell you exactly what happened."

Moments later the work session, which occurred immediately after the Master Plan Steering Committee's most recent meeting, was adjourned.

The town has been moving ahead with the update process since last fall. However, tensions have frayed recently among some Master Plan update participants and residents following public statements by Greenstein that the controversial application for 120,000 square feet of retail space at Chappaqua Crossing will likely be decided by the town's legal counsel.

The former town board approved a findings statement last fall; however, there is the possibility that developer Summit/Greenfield could reactivate litigation



New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein

related to the application if the town delays making a decision on the requested rezone.

Some members of the community have urged officials to halt consideration of the application until the town's Master Plan update is complete. The update was expected to take at least one year from the start of the process.

Master Plan Public Outreach Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 7: Robert E. Bell Middle School, 50 Senter St., Chappaqua, 7 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, May 10: Horace Greeley High School, 70 Roaring Brook Rd., Chappaqua, 9 a.m. to noon.

Thursday, May 15: Westorchar Elementary School, 25 Granite Rd., Chappaqua, 7 to 10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21: Seven Bridges Middle School, 222 Seven Bridges Rd., Chappaqua, 7 to 10 p.m.

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Mount Pleasant to Fight State's Override of Group Home Opposition

By Neal Rentz

Mount Pleasant officials are planning to fight the state's recent decision to allow the conversion of a private house in an unincorporated area in town into a group home for six adults with developmental disabilities.

The town board in March had voted 3-1 against the plan from Yonkers-based Ferncliff Manor to convert the house located at 330 Bear Ridge Rd. in Pleasantville into an Individualized Residential Alternative. Since then, the state overturned the board's decision.

Supervisor Joan Maybury wrote an Apr. 23 letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Laurie Kelly, acting commissioner of the state Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), to protest the upholding of Ferncliff Manor's appeal of the town board's decision.

Maybury said officials want to have a commissioner's hearing scheduled in hopes of reversing the OPWDD ruling. While the hearings involving challenges of group homes in the area have recently been held in White Plains, Maybury said she wanted the hearing to be held in a large public space in town.

Cost and safety are the two key issues the board has cited in opposing the project.

"There are two serious matters related

to this particular situation that the town believes warrant closer examination," Maybury said Apr. 24

Maybury said the cost of buying the home and renovating it would be excessive for taxpayers. The home also does not have six bedrooms, she said. The expense to buy the home could be \$600,000 and the renovations could cost taxpayers an additional \$30,000, she said.

Regarding safety, it would be difficult for cars to back out of the driveway without extensive work because the driveway is quite steep and the property is located on a curve that poses difficult sight distance issues for motorists, Maybury said.

She also criticized the state agency for overriding a local government.

"There very much appears to be a rubberstamp approach to the allocation of significant tax dollars for purchase and a complete lack of concern for the community-involved tax base," she said.

In her letter to state officials, Maybury said the town would fight the placement of the group home. However, Maybury added that "unfortunately, we are also aware that no municipality has ever been able to prevail at such a hearing."

Messages left for Ferncliff Manor Executive Director William Saich were not returned.

Pleasantville House Fire Displaces Four Residents; No Injuries

By Martin Wilbur

Four people were displaced but uninjured after a fire early last Thursday morning at a three-family house in Pleasantville.

Firefighters were called at 1:54 a.m. to an upstairs blaze at 15 Meadow Lane, said Pleasantville Fire Chief Manny Colmenares. The fire, which was under control in about 25 minutes, was confined to an upstairs bedroom, he said, however, the house suffered water damage as well as smoke damage upstairs.

Colmenares said that all four residents who lived in the house safely exited the premises on their own or were assisted by police.

The county's Cause and Origin Team has determined that the fire was electrical, most likely started by an appliance such as a computer that was on came in contact with bedding or linens, Colmenares said.

The Red Cross has provided the four residents who were made homeless with temporary shelter and supplies,



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The house on Meadow Lane in Pleasantville that was damaged following an early morning fire last Thursday.

said Abigail Adams, director of communications for the Red Cross in Westchester.

Pleasantville firefighters were assisted through mutual aid by volunteer departments from Thornwood, Valhalla, Briarcliff, Chappaqua and Millwood.

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No. Castle Holds Hearing on Affordable Housing Model Ordinance

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board opened its public hearing last week on a proposed draft law that would set the guidelines for the construction of affordable housing units in town.

Although the 16-page draft of the model ordinance is similar to the template provided by Westchester County, town officials have made some minor changes to the draft. North Castle is one of 31 mostly white communities that were identified in the 2009 settlement between Westchester and the federal government that should add affordable units to help the county reach its requirement of 750 new units by the end of 2016.

One of the main provisions of the law would require that any new development in town consisting of eight or more units must have at least 10 percent of its residences deemed affordable, said

Director of Planning Adam Kaufman. The county's model ordinance recommended a five-unit development should trigger an affordable residence.

Eligible households for affordable rental units must have an income no greater than 60 percent of the area median income and the annual cost of rent and utilities for the unit must not exceed 30 percent of that 60 percent. The income guideline for affordable for-purchase units are 80 percent of area median income with costs not exceeding 33 percent of the 80 percent.

Kaufman said should the proposed legislation be approved, the requirement for developments to include a minimum percentage of affordable units would replace the town's middle income unit (MIU) program, which has a higher income threshold for eligibility. However, existing MIUs would remain in perpetuity and under town regulation.

Last week, the town board discussed whether it should change the draft law to also maintain affordable units in perpetuity. The current model ordinance states that the affordable designation expires after 50 years and reverts to market rate housing.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said the town should follow the county's lead on this section of the law because North Castle might appear less attractive for builders, particularly since some developers pass their assets onto their heirs.

"If you were to speak to a builder, the builder likes the exit strategy of 50 years," DiGiacinto said.

Councilman Stephen D'Angelo concurred, saying that if the county and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are satisfied with the stipulation then the town should maintain it. He said for today's decision makers 50 years is a lifetime and it would be unwise

to predict future needs.

"It may pose a problem getting the affordable housing builders to come in and do something and they'd rather go to a different town," D'Angelo said.

However, Councilman Jose Berra said he was concerned that if the affordable housing designation expires, the last property owner might be in line for a windfall. Also, there could be at least as much of a need for affordable housing 50 years from now as there is today.

"At a point where you may need more affordable housing, some are taken off the books," he said of the rationale for taking out the provision.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he was leaning toward keeping the units in perpetuity while Councilman Barry Reiter sided with DiGiacinto and D'Angelo.

Only one resident spoke during last week's hearing. Linda Trummer-Napolitano praised the board for tackling the issue.

"I just want to commend the board for takings steps to look at this model ordinance," she said. "I think it's an important step that we should undertake."

The board adjourned the public hearing until next month after Schiliro said he wanted to weigh the 50-year issue and other parts of the law. The board's next meeting is scheduled for May 14.

Mt. Pleasant Lone Area District With Contested Board Race

Three of four local districts will have uncontested board of education election races next month.

The only contested race locally will be for the Mount Pleasant Board of Education where current Vice President Eric Schulze and fellow incumbent Laurie Donato will be joined on the ballot by challenger Ed Barnes for two available seats.

Chappaqua, Pleasantville and Byram Hills will all have uncontested races. Incumbents Karen Visser and Victoria Tipp are both running for second terms in Chappaqua. Meanwhile, in Pleasantville Louis Conte is running for a second term while Andrea Vella will replace retiring 15-year Trustee Lois Winkler on the board.

In Byram Hills, current board Vice

President Ira Schulman and Vice President Brett Summers are the only candidates running for two available seats this year.

All terms in each district are for three years.

The elections are scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, the same day as the vote on the 2014-15 budget in each district.



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Kaplowitz: Affordable Housing Stalemate With HUD Will Be Resolved

By Martin Wilbur

County legislators will take a more active role in helping Westchester comply with the affordable housing settlement after officials were informed last week that the federal government could revoke \$5.2 million in grant money.

Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz pledged last Thursday that he and his colleagues would enlist the help of its congressional representatives and reach out to federal monitor James Johnson and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials to help satisfy the county's obligation. The county must build 750 units of affordable housing by the end of 2016.

Kaplowitz's announcement came a day after HUD sent the county a letter stating that it would reallocate \$5,227,328 in Community Development Block Grants from fiscal year 2012 unless Westchester resolved the remaining issues pertaining to the settlement by May 9.

The county already lost about \$7.4 million from 2011 when it failed to pass required source of income legislation in time.

Kaplowitz's message was delivered shortly after the Rev. Al Sharpton arrived outside the county building in White Plains to blast County Executive Rob Astorino for attempting to sidestep the settlement agreement, costing

Westchester's less affluent communities millions in grant money.

"We will follow you everywhere until the money flows in Westchester," Sharpton declared.

Kaplowitz, who declined to address Sharpton's comments, said the only remaining sticking point with HUD is to have the Analysis of Impediments -- a report that outlines how local zoning can prevent affordable housing from being built -- submitted and approved.

Six of the 31 mostly white communities that were required to build affordable housing under the settlement are still deemed by Johnson to have zoning that is exclusionary based on race. However, Kaplowitz said that the monitor is working actively with five of those communities to resolve that issue.

"The fact that the funds are being stopped for another year is unacceptable, untenable and requires solutions," Kaplowitz said.

"We are asking them to help us craft a legislative solution to this problem," he continued. "We are in a logjam. It's a situation where the county is not in compliance."

Kaplowitz also called on HUD to extend the deadline for a "reasonable" period of time before the \$5.2 million is reallocated while the county works on a solution.

Ned McCormack, Astorino's director of communications, said HUD's strategy of threatening to withhold millions in grant money is likely being done to force the county to go beyond the parameters of the settlement.

Westchester remains ahead of schedule with the development of the new units, with funding currently in place for 403 affordable units while 385 building permits have been issued, McCormack said.

"We just don't think it's right because we're complying with the settlement and they're holding us to a standard that doesn't exist," he said.

He also said HUD is not permitted to take away funds from one program because of alleged noncompliance with a separate program.

Kaplowitz said the most unfortunate part of the dilemma is that the communities that stand to lose the grant money, such as Yonkers, Ossining and Peekskill, need the money the most and



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz

are not required to build the affordable housing.

However, the chairman remained upbeat that a solution can be reached.

"I'm optimistic that the legislature will, through its efforts, be able to bring a solution," Kaplowitz said. "This is not an intractable problem. It's not an unsolvable problem. This is going to take leadership. That's what we're here today announcing, and this is going to take focus and resolve."

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Residential Plan for Armonk Lumberyard Site Draws Praise

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working on drafting a local law that is similar to the county's model ordinance regulating the construction of affordable housing units under the settlement with the federal government. Under the current draft of that law, the town's 34 middle income units would be maintained in perpetuity but future developments of at least eight units would be subject to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulations.

Fareri said he has proposed the middle income units because that is the law on the books today. The middle income units

have a higher income threshold and are overseen by the town.

Regardless of the outcome of that issue, Fareri said his project provides a type of housing stock that is in short supply in North Castle and would be a benefit to the community, particularly young adults who might not be able to afford a private house and older adults looking to downsize.

"This will provide an alternative...for you, myself and others where if you want to live in the community and not live in a single-family house, it would be an alternative," Fareri said.

There would be an extensive landscaping plan and parking for 51 vehicles in garages and open parking lots. It would generate about \$125,000 in tax revenue, about 70 percent of which would go to the Byram Hills School District, with the town and county splitting the remaining portion if the revenue, Fareri said.

No variances from the zoning board of appeals would be needed but Architectural Review Board approval is required.

Two speakers praised the plan and were optimistic it could move forward.

"We've been looking at that old lumberyard it seems like forever," said resident John Cooley. "I remember the night that it burned. It's time that something's done."

Robert Dean, owner of Naturescapes on MacDonald Avenue, which also contains residential units, said he receives three

to five phone calls a month from people looking for apartments in the area.

"It would lend vitality to that end of the neighborhood, it's 99 percent down here, (bring) more people to the shops that we're trying to keep vital and I think it's an outstanding project and I hope you guys approve it," Dean said.

Planning Board Chairman Arthur Adelman echoed the two speakers' sentiments.

"We think it looks good," he said. "We think, as everybody has said, it's been empty and an eyesore for 10 years and we'd like to see something done. We know you do good work. It looks beautiful and we have confidence that it's going to work out well."

The board closed the public hearing and referred the application to the ARB.



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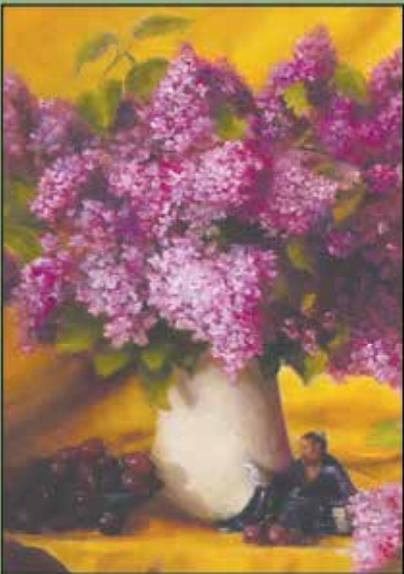
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New Armonk Eagle Proudly Soars Above North Castle

By Neal Rentz

One of the most recognizable symbols of North Castle is flying as high and as proudly as ever.

The new Armonk eagle was unveiled at its perch at the intersection of routes 22 and 128 during a special ceremony Monday afternoon. The eagle, with its 40-foot wing span welcoming residents and visitors to the hamlet, is made of aluminum, replacing the old wooden one that had deteriorated in the elements.

The Engel Burman Group, developer of The Bristol at Armonk, an assisted living facility on Business Park Drive, donated \$25,000 to pay for the project. Signs Ink of Yorktown Heights constructed the two sections of the new eagle, which won't fall apart, the fate that met its wooden predecessors.

"Armonk's a great community. We're going to be here for a long time, a lot of years, said Steven Krieger, partner of The Engel Burman Group during the ceremony. "And we want to take care of the people that live in Armonk and help build this community. So that's why we're here."

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro said Monday was "an exciting day in our history." He thanked the individuals and groups that were responsible for the project, including The Engel Burman Group, former councilwoman Diane Roth, who was instrumental in obtaining

the funding for the project, Signs Ink and the North Castle Historical Society. Other groups who contributed to its latest incarnation were the Eagle Restoration Committee, the Beautification Committee, the Landmarks Preservation Committee, the town's historical society, Skyline Electric, which donated labor, parts and material and town staff.

"The eagle has become really a symbol of North Castle," Schiliro said. "When you're coming into town a lot of times you just say make a right or left at the eagle. That's all you have to say and people know where they're going. And it's a reminder of the great pride that our residents have in this town and, in actuality, in our country."

Constance Quarrie, of the North Castle Historical Society, said the original eagle was constructed for the nation's bicentennial. It was originally meant to serve as a temporary bunting bedecked archway over the July 4, 1976, parade route from IBM headquarters onto Main Street, she said.

"Two days before the scheduled parade, the state highway department refused permission to hang this structure by wires across the roadway," Quarrie said. "A new site was quickly chosen and the wooden eagle had already been designed and constructed."

In 1992, the eagle was painted and repaired. But prior to being renovated, it



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

A ceremony to unveil the new Armonk Eagle, at the intersection of routes 22 and 128, was held on Monday. Pictured, left to right, are Steven Krieger, partner, The Engel Burman Group; North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro; Constance Quarrie, North Castle Historical Society; David Burman, partner, The Engel Burman Group; Jan Burman, president, The Engel Burman Group; and Scott Burman, partner, The Engel Burman Group.

was "torched by vandals" while it was on the ground, Quarrie noted.

"In 2002, a more permanent structure was built and installed to fly again," she

said.

"Over the years, the Armonk eagle has been a signature landmark for our town," Quarrie said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), as lead agency, has determined that the proposed modification to the NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit for the Catskill Influent Chamber (Catalum SPDES Permit No. 026 4652) to incorporate measures to control turbidity in water diverted from Ashokan Reservoir and to postpone dredging of alum floc at Kensico Reservoir until completion of certain infrastructure projects may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) must be prepared.

NYSDEC will conduct a formal scoping process to receive public comments on the scope of the DEIS. A Draft Scoping Document has been prepared by the project sponsor and is currently being circulated for public comment. It is available at NYS DEC's website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/79771.html> and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) website: <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/environmentalreviews>

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts to occur from implementation of the turbidity control measures proposed to be incorporated into the Catalum SPDES Permit (Turbidity Control Measures), as well as from the postponement of dredging in the Kensico Reservoir. Implementation of the turbidity control measures analyzed in this EIS would allow NYCDEP to continue to provide reliable, clean, and safe drinking water while reducing reliance on chemical treatment of the water supply, specifically the use of alum, during episodic turbidity events.

Two public scoping meetings will be held on:

Monday, May 12, 2014, at 3 p.m. and at 6 p.m.
Ulster County Community College Student Lounge,
491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, New York

And two public scoping meetings will be held on:

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at 3 p.m. and at 6 p.m.
Mt. Pleasant Town Hall,
1 Town Hall Plaza, Valhalla, New York.

Written comments on the draft scope will be accepted until the close of business on **July 8, 2014**. Comments can be delivered by hand, or sent by regular mail, commercial delivery service, fax transmittal or email, to the NYSDEC contact person listed below:



Contact: Stephen Tomasik,
NYSDEC - Division of Environmental Permits,
625 Broadway, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-1750, Phone: (518) 486-9955.
Email comments can be accepted at: Ashokan@gw.dec.state.ny.us



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North Castle to Launch Comprehensive Plan Update Process

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle officials are beginning the process of updating the town's Comprehensive Plan, the first time a significant overhaul is planned in nearly 20 years.

The town board last week asked Director of Planning Adam Kaufman to write a Request for Proposal (RFP) that would locate a planning consultant who would assist the town in making revisions. Once the RFP is written

and approved by the board, it can be distributed.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he and the board also want an RFP written so officials can obtain cost estimates for the work.

Plans will be made for the board to create a committee or special board of about five to seven community volunteers to help organize the information from the public outreach efforts, Schiliro said.

A special board should contain a good mix of people who are engaged and interested in the process and not necessarily community members with a planning or municipal background, Kaufman said.

Schiliro said that the update will likely be focused in scope, with special attention paid to the town's business districts.

"I'm not expecting a new plan that's going to have broad new

recommendations," Schiliro said.

Kaufman said he anticipated the most energy would be centered around the business districts in Banksville, Armonk and North White Plains. The town reviewed residential zones in 2006 and made several zoning changes, he said.

"I would not expect significant changes to come out of the Comprehensive Plan regarding the residential development of the town and we can mention in the RFP to talk about the hamlet uses as being a focus," Kaufman said.

Officials also announced that the town has been notified that it will receive a grant for the Hudson Valley River Greenway to help pay for its online public outreach efforts. Schiliro said the grant was for about \$7,000.

The town plans to use Mind Mixer, which has become a standard online planning tool for governments to engage residents, Kaufman said.

Schiliro said he expected the town to formulate the RFP in the next couple of months before moving forward with looking for residents for the special board.

Palmer to Leave Mt. Kisco Village Manager's Post

continued from page 1

Palmer said he was proud of what was accomplished in Mount Kisco during his run as manager, working with the village board and the employees. Despite the obstacles caused by the recession in 2008, the village was able to receive an upgrade to an Aa2 bond rating, the second highest it could receive from the rating agencies, he said.

One of the village's major achievements during his time was the construction of the new library, Palmer said, recalling that he watched the demolition of the former facility and construction of the new building from his office.

Another major project is the

upcoming addition to the Department of Public Works building, with the contract bidding process scheduled to begin this fall. There have also been renovations of the playing fields at the senior citizen center and the creation of the Shoppers' Park Business Improvement District.

"We offer a high quality of life that is affordable. That's unusual for Westchester," he said.

Palmer said he was grateful to have worked with "such a great board and such knowledgeable board members over the years."

Mayor Michael Cindrach declined comment on Palmer's pending departure, saying he would discuss it at a later time.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Kisco Village Manager James Palmer will leave his post in mid-June to serve as village administrator in Bronxville.

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Veteran Educator Recognized as Pleasantville's Teacher of the Year

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville Middle School literacy and extended learning coach Melissa Brown received the surprise of her career last week.

Brown was named the Pleasantville School District's 2014 Teacher of the Year in front of family and colleagues at the board of education's Apr. 22 meeting.

"Three words: honored, overwhelmed and humbled," a surprised Brown described her reaction as she accepted the honor.

Brown, a teacher in Pleasantville for 22 years, has taken on various projects and challenges throughout the district, including working on the edible garden at the high school and the extended learning symposium earlier this year.

Fellow educators referred to Brown as a teacher who not only makes a difference in the lives of her students, but inspires everybody with whom she works.

"Not only is Pleasantville Middle School a better place because of Melissa Brown, but I know that I am a better person and a better principal because I get to work [with her]," said Pleasantville Middle School Principal Vivian Ossowski.

Ossowski spoke not only as an educator but as a parent when she talked of the unique experience Brown's students have. Ossowski's youngest child was in Brown's class at Bedford Road School.



JANINE BOWEN

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer and Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter unfurl the village's recognition for Melissa Brown. Brown, at right with her son, was named the Pleasantville School District's Teacher of the Year last week.

Brown explained, however, that the enthusiasm she brings to the classroom is an extension of her personal thirst for knowledge. She said she is motivated by her own two children, believing that she could not handle the burden of being a working mother if she was not making a difference in the lives of other children.

In addition to receiving the Teacher of the Year Award, Brown also received

several accolades from local elected officials. Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer presented Brown with a proclamation that declared Apr. 23, 2014, as "Melissa Brown Day" in the village.

"I am happy to come on this day every year and I don't think I've ever been happier than to come this year because you, and who you are, and how you're knit into the families that have gone through

this school district...and the thousands of ways that you have helped the village with our senior programs and with everything we have asked," Scherer said to Brown. "You have to be one of the strongest links in the chain that connects us all."

Brown also received recognition for her dedication and accomplishments from Iris Pagan, executive director of the Youth Bureau of Westchester County, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office.

County Legislator Michael Smith also recognized Brown's service and dedication to Pleasantville schools. He presented Brown with a proclamation declaring Apr. 22 "Melissa Brown Day" in Westchester.

"There's not many of us who don't think that our children are the most important, special things in our lives and when we entrust our children to people like you, you make them better people and we thank you for that," Smith said while presenting Brown with the county's proclamation.

Despite being showered with praise and awards, Brown remained humble. Brown said she wouldn't be successful without the support of her colleagues and family.

"I can't take all these accolades because each and every day I am surrounded by amazing people; the people I work with, my family, my children and I am only as good as they are," she said. "I offer all of this to you, the people I spend my days with."

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Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

Apr. 19: A report of an unoccupied campsite, possibly set up by squatters, in the woods off of Lexington Avenue at 9:20 a.m. The highway department was notified to clean up the area.

Apr. 19: Report of a past domestic harassment incident at 7:56 p.m. A 49-year-old Pleasantville woman stated that her ex-boyfriend, a 53-year-old Pleasantville man, allegedly threatened her while they were on Lexington Avenue near Main Street. The dispute was related

to the woman's son who is in Ecuador.

Apr. 22: Report of squatters in the woods off of Carpenter Avenue at 10:47 a.m. Three males were found and one of them, a 37-year-old, was arrested on a local law violation for drinking in a public place.

Apr. 23: A 66-year-old man was arrested at 1:25 p.m. and charged with petty larceny for allegedly stealing a black leather jacket at the Mount Kisco Public Library on Main Street.

Apr. 24: Report of a violation of an order of protection at 10:08 a.m. A

51-year-old Yorktown man, estranged from his wife, was arrested for violating an order by using a vehicle without authorization on Main Street.

Apr. 24: An employee of Tommie Copper on South Moger Avenue reported at 4:16 p.m. that a male was causing a disturbance in front of the store. The subject left the area.

Apr. 25: Report of a past incident of criminal mischief at 9:32 a.m. Four tires had been slashed on a 2012 Jeep Suburban parked in the lot behind O'Connor's Public House on Main Street.

North Castle Police Department

Apr. 18: A Nichols Road resident reported at headquarters at 6:05 p.m. that someone tried to cash a fraudulent check to his bank account.

Apr. 19: Report of an intoxicated 20-year-old woman on Cooney Hill Road at 12:46 a.m.

Apr. 19: Report of a residential burglary on Clove Road at 4:45 a.m. The resident stated that he arrived home to find his house broken into. It appears someone had gone through his belongings.

Apr. 20: Caller reported at 6:30 p.m. there is a brush fire in her backyard on Nash Place. The Armonk Fire Department was responding to the scene.

Apr. 21: A complainant called headquarters at 9:17 a.m. stating that she has a restraining order which dictates that her ex-husband is supposed to exchange custody of their daughter at the Moderne Barn Restaurant on Bedford Road. Instead, he took the child to Coman Hill Elementary School and the girl just called "crying hysterically." The woman stated she's en route to the school. Police advised her not to go inside but to park near the playground and wait for responding officers to arrive.

Obituaries

Alison Bankes

Alison VanIngen Bankes died on Apr. 20, Easter Sunday.

She was 65.

Bankes was born on Apr. 8, Easter Sunday, 1949, to the late Schuyler and Elizabeth VanIngen, of Manhasset, N.Y. She graduated from Briarcliff College in Briarcliff Manor.

Bankes was predeceased by her husband, Ralph A. Bankes Jr., of Garden City, N.Y. She is survived by her dear friend, Gregory Molesworth; three sisters, Judith, Kristine and Marion; a niece, Lindsey; and a nephew, Blake.

Bankes was a teacher at The Todd School for 38 years in Briarcliff Manor. She was a member of the Dobbs Ferry Garden Club, an avid gardener and a member of the Ardsley Curling Club. She was the winner of the 2011 Jessie Wang Volunteer Award.

The celebration of her life was held on Apr. 26 at noon at the Emanuel Lutheran Church, located at 197 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville followed by a reception at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SPARC Inc. (Special Program and Resources Connection), 3045 Gomer St. Yorktown Heights, N.Y. 10598.

Pleasantville Police Department

Apr. 18: Report of a larceny on Castleton Street at 11:51 a.m. There are no suspects at this time. No further information was available.

Apr. 22: Report of a car damaged by riding over a pothole on Broadway at 12:54 p.m.

Apr. 23: Graffiti was spotted on the field house at Parkway Field on Hopper Street at 8:01 a.m. There are no suspects at this time.

Apr. 23: Report of an I.D. theft at 6:51 p.m. There are no suspects. No further information is available because the matter is an open case.

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Pleasantville Likely to Exceed Tax Cap in Village Budget

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville village officials were prepared to exceed the state tax cap when the board voted on the municipality's \$13.8 million 2014-15 budget last night (Monday).

The preferred spending plan would carry a tax levy increase of 1.9 percent, exceeding this year's 1.48 percent ceiling. A majority of the five-member board must vote in favor of overriding the cap in order for the increase to be approved. To adhere to the cap, the village may

only raise the amount generated through property taxes by about \$106,000.

"We're coming to the circumstance that we all knew would come, which is that the cap squeezes even tighter and at some point you can't do what you need to do," Mayor Peter Scherer said last week.

Scherer and the board noted that exceeding the cap would put the village in a better financial position for next year, when the state's tax freeze proposal takes effect. Under the proposal, residents will receive a rebate on any increase in

taxes from the state if the village budget remains under the cap for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The current budget proposal uses \$250,000 of the village's \$2.8 million fund balance but would require an additional \$150,000 of fund balance to get in under the cap. Village trustees said they were uncomfortable with taking more money from fund balance because it would put the account below the recommended threshold of 20 percent of the operating budget.

"We'll still be in a healthy position compared to lots of other places, but I don't think Moody's would look as favorably if our fund balance was less than 20 percent," said Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer.

Board members were also worried that a fund balance under 20 percent would put the village in a difficult position if an unexpected event occurred, such as a weather-related disaster like Superstorm Sandy.

"I just feel like we're so tight that if one thing goes wrong, we're dead," said Trustee Mindy Berard.

The board was also considering an

alternative budget proposal, which would utilize \$150,000 from fund balance, but would create a greater tax increase for residents. Under the proposal being considered, using \$250,000 from reserves, the tax rate on the average assessed home in the village would rise by \$1.63 per thousand of assessed valuation. By using \$150,000 from fund balance, the tax rate would increase by another 87 cents.

The village is currently looking into ways to generate more revenue to balance the budget, including changes to paid parking in lots and on the street. Suggestions included changing the rate from 25 cents per half hour to 25 cents per 20 minutes. In addition, there was discussion about eliminating meters and moving to an electronic pay and display method, which would accept credit and debit cards.

Trustees also noted that projects in the village currently in the works, such as the 68-unit Toll Brothers condominium complex on Washington Avenue, will grow Pleasantville's tax base, although that project may take up to four years to be completed.

Pleasantville's fiscal year starts June 1.

P'ville's Search for New High School Principal Nearly Complete

By Janine Bowen

The search for a new principal at Pleasantville High School is nearing its conclusion.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter revealed last week the pool of candidates has been narrowed to two contenders following an Apr. 24 board of education executive session. The board, administrators and the district's Principal Search Committee are currently checking the candidates' backgrounds and references.

Fox-Alter said there will be another meeting with the committee today (Tuesday), when a selection may be made.

The search, which commenced at the beginning of the school year, began with 145 applicants, all of whom went through extensive screening and behavioral interviews before the committee, which is comprised of 15 community volunteers.

"I'm very proud of the work of the committee. I think they've done a thorough and excellent job," Fox-Alter said.

Selection of the high school principal has been a controversial issue in the Pleasantville School District over the last

several years. Last year, former Principal Dawn Bartz resigned after two years, although she claimed she was forced out by the district.

Three years earlier school officials fired Anthony Rotunno after just one day following the revelation that staff members at his previous school in the Bronx had misused about \$90,000 in student-raised funds.

Dr. Daniel McCann, a former superintendent for the Hendrick Hudson School District, has been serving as interim principal this year.

Despite public scrutiny following the two previous selections for high school principal, Fox-Alter expressed excitement at entering a new phase.

"We do many things in the public eye, but this is a wonderful high school with great kids," she said. "Dr. McCann did a fabulous job and we're ready for the next stage and to welcome a new principal."

Assuming the final stage of the principal search is completed without a hitch, there are tentative plans to announce the new principal at the board of education's next meeting May 6.

Pleasantville School Officials Complete Work on \$47.4M Budget

By Janine Bowen

The Pleasantville Board of Education voted last week to adopt a \$47,416,277 budget for the 2014-15 school year.

The budget marks a spending increase of about \$1,095,000 over the current year.

Not much has changed in the document since the draft budget was presented earlier this year. However, during the board's Apr. 22 meeting, trustees decided to increase revenue projections by \$7,500, bringing the total revenue estimate to \$422,000.

The adjustment allowed the tax levy, the amount that will be raised by taxes, to come in at \$34,453,499 or 1.99 percent. That figure is under the maximum allowable tax levy of 2.05 percent and creates a tax rate increase of 1.68 percent for residents. Before the change in revenue projections, the tax levy was predicted to be 2.03 percent.

Revenue is largely based on tuition money that the district receives for out-of-district students who attend Pleasantville schools. The district has been historically conservative with its tuition income, and often brings in more than what has been projected.

"My sense of the trends out there is that there are still plenty of kids who need what we do so well," said Trustee Louis Conte.

Trustee Lois Winkler was concerned about increasing the estimated revenue because tuition amounts

can be unpredictable. But Assistant Superintendent for Business David Quattrocchi said a revenue projection of \$7,500 more for a budget the size of Pleasantville's will have minimal impact.

The biggest cost drivers for the 2014-15 budget are salaries (\$23,870,638) and employee benefits (\$11,259,749). Despite the fact that the board voted in March to put a \$3.5 million referendum, there will not be an increase in debt service. Another \$3.5 million bond will have been repaid by the 2015-16 school year.

Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter said she was proud of the district's budget. Not only did it come in under the tax cap, but new classes and programs will be offered next year.

"This budget supports our current programs and actually expands them in many cases," Fox-Alter said. "It maintains the right class size, it actually includes the stepping down off of our reserves, it includes a level of tightening up and it is below the levy."

A public hearing on the adopted budget will be held at the next board of education meeting on May 6. A public hearing on the proposed Veteran's Tax Exemption will be held that night as well.

Residents will be given the opportunity to vote on the budget, the proposed \$3.5 million bond and an advisory proposition for the Veteran's Tax Exemption on Tuesday, May 20.

Reading Can Be Fun



State Sen. George Latimer recently visited Bright Horizons in Armonk to read to the children. The youngsters were all smiles after the guest of honor finished his reading.

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Editorial

Cooler Heads Should Prevail in County's Affordable Housing Saga

Nearly five years into the housing settlement between Westchester County and the federal government, issues surrounding the agreement incredibly and unfortunately continue to surface, generating unnecessary controversy.

Last week was the latest chapter. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) informed Westchester that it would revoke \$5.2 million in Community Development Block Grant money for 2012 if the county didn't submit its Analysis of Impediments for six remaining communities by May 9.

While it appears most officials in Westchester have realized that affordable housing is an important addition, there are still some pockets of resistance that caustically refer to it as low income and find excuses why it will be the county's downfall.

Of course, County Executive Rob Astorino didn't help matters much when

he bungled the source of income legislation issue, something that was a required provision in the 2009 settlement. That cost the county more than \$7 million.

Meanwhile, the federal government--specifically HUD--has also engaged in its own brand of political rhetoric. It has seemingly refused to take into account legitimate environmental constraints, particularly in the northern reaches of the county. It has also periodically confused the public by talking about more than 10,000 units of affordable housing when 750 units is the binding number in the agreement. (The larger number refers to a Rutgers University report from 10 years ago that studied the county's needs.)

The good news, at least last week, is that cooler heads may prevail. Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz correctly took the adult-in-the-room approach last week, even as Rev. Al Sharpton was yelling downstairs, likely

only visiting White Plains because Astorino is running for governor.

Kaplowitz and his colleagues plan to reach out and work with HUD representatives to, once and for all, agree on a solution to the outstanding issues that is preventing full compliance.

Also encouraging last week was the North Castle Town Board's public hearing on overdue local legislation that would govern the construction of affordable housing in town. The current board should be commended for having its staff swiftly finish a draft local law and have it discussed in public.

Hopefully, in the weeks ahead North Castle will pass the ordinance so it can rightfully comply with the settlement. When that happens, residents will find that it won't affect the town at all--except to eventually bring a much-needed type of housing to North Castle.

Column

Willpower Alone is Not Enough to Change Bad Habits



By Dr. Jaime
Fleckner Black

Whether you are trying to change your diet, exercise routine or parenting practices, willpower is often thought to be the most important element. If willpower is all it takes then why do many of us fall into old habits so easily?

Willpower alone is not enough. If you fail to reach a goal it's not likely because you were weak-willed. There are many reasons you might not reach a goal, and understanding those factors will increase your chances of success.

A recent article in Psychology Today magazine cited 14 reasons why willpower often fails us. Below are some practical tips for avoiding willpower pitfalls.

Avoid All or Nothing Thinking. Many of us over-commit to goals. We decide to exercise every day, swear off all high caloric foods or vow to never ever miss our kid's sporting event. We think that because we care so much we can proceed without error. This type of thinking, often called all-or-

nothing thinking, is a cognitive distortion that leads to failure. If we expect to get it right all the time we are more likely to fail big. We tend to think it's okay to eat the whole cake just because we slipped and had a few bites.

Don't Overestimate Your Self-Control. "Our brains are prone to overestimating our willpower at the very points at which we are most liable to take a fall," said David DiSalvo in Psychology Today. Called "stimulus control," people are often advised to avoid situations that are likely to trigger old habits. Gambling addicts should avoid casinos and alcoholics should avoid bars for good reason.

Try to Manage Stress. The more stress we face the more our cognitive resources get sapped, leaving less energy for exercising self-control. Build some de-stressing moments into your schedule. Stretch, take a walk or do anything that can help you calm and refocus. We don't hesitate to tell kids to take a break when they feel frustrated, but adults have a hard time following that advice themselves. We are more likely to stick to our guns when stress doesn't have us on edge.

Don't Go it Alone. If you are trying to get healthier, enlist the support of your family or friends. Make healthy cooking and physical activity part of your routine. If you are trying to stop snapping at your kids or partner after a long day, ask them for help when you are in a good mood. Explain the change you are trying to make and accept support.

Don't Underestimate the Importance of Sleep. Like stress, lack of sleep saps us of the energy necessary for sustaining willpower. It tires our brains and causes slower

processing, less mental and physical energy and lower frustration tolerance.

Dopamine Matters. The pleasure center of our brain craves certain rewarding activities or foods. It's important to remember that it takes a while for your brain to register what it no longer needs. Recognizing that your brain has a hard time letting go can help you sustain your efforts even if you slip up.

Don't Ruminates About Failure. When we focus our energy on imagining the worst possible outcome we have less energy to focus on doing what we need to do to succeed. Spend time addressing and overcoming obstacles rather than fearing the worst.

Practice, Practice, Practice. No one becomes a star athlete or top-notch surgeon by sheer willpower. Technique, practice and plans for overcoming failure are a critical ingredient for success.

Avoid Moral Licensing. "All of us live on a seesaw. When we do something morally questionable, we feel a sense of balance restored if we then do something morally laudable," said DiSalvo. This is called "moral licensing." Giving in to this seesaw can cause you to avoid exercising your will. Recognizing it can increase your chances of success.

Dr. Jaime Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. Black works with high-functioning individuals on the autism spectrum, doing psychotherapy, conducting evaluations and facilitating socialization groups including an improv social skills group. Visit www.spectrumservicesnyc.com, e-mail JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com or call 914-712-8208.

Correction

In last week's front page article on commercial development in Mount Pleasant, it was reported that a framing gallery plans to leave its Thornwood Town Center location to make way for an expanded ShopRite. Inaccurate information was provided and the store, West Art Gallery, has no plans to leave. The Examiner regrets the error.

NWH Seeks to Alter Landscaping Plan Due to Parking Crunch

By Neal Rentz

Northern Westchester Hospital is asking the Mount Kisco Planning Board to amend its site plan to allow it to save 50 parking spaces that would have been lost due to the originally approved landscaping plan.

Under the site plan for the parking garage originally approved by the board in 2011, there was a requirement that the hospital place a berm in front of the north parking area off of Main Street to help screen the lot. A berm is a soil mound that is used for landscaping.

Joel Seligman, the hospital's president and CEO, told the planning board last week that it needed to hold on to the 50 spaces that would have been lost had the berm been created. There is "a higher

staff-to-patient ratio" at the hospital than previously projected, he said.

Currently, there are 457 spaces.

Michael Caruso, the hospital's vice president of facilities, said Northern Westchester would pursue other means of screening the north parking lot. The hospital is proposing to create a four-foot high stone wall with some breaks for pedestrian access, Caruso said.

Landscape architect Scott Blakely said the hospital also wants to maintain many of the trees on the property as a visual buffer.

Planning Board Chairman Joseph Cosentino and Doug Hertz, the only two board members to address the issue at the meeting, were split on the plan. Cosentino supported the hospital's suggestion while

Hertz was in opposition.

Cosentino said he understood that the increased services being provided at the hospital required the 50 spaces. A plan to create the berm "doesn't work anymore," Cosentino mentioned.

But Hertz countered that the hospital should meet the previously agreed to condition.

Blakely said he would return to the board after he created a landscaping plan for the north parking area. There was no date for when the hospital's representatives would meet with the board again.



An artist's rendition of Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco.

Volunteer for the 2014 Armonk Outdoor Art Show

Looking to get involved in a great community event? The nationally recognized Armonk Outdoor Art Show is seeking leaders and volunteers for all areas of the show, especially for the children's activities booth at this year's show, scheduled for Sept. 20-21. Other volunteer positions are also available. The show's net proceeds benefit the programs and facilities at the North Castle Public Library.

All the programs at this library are sponsored by the Friends of the North Castle Public Library, which produces the art show, now in its 52nd year.

To sign up to volunteer, contact Debbie Heidecorn at dheidecorn24@gmail.com or give your name and email address to one of the librarians.

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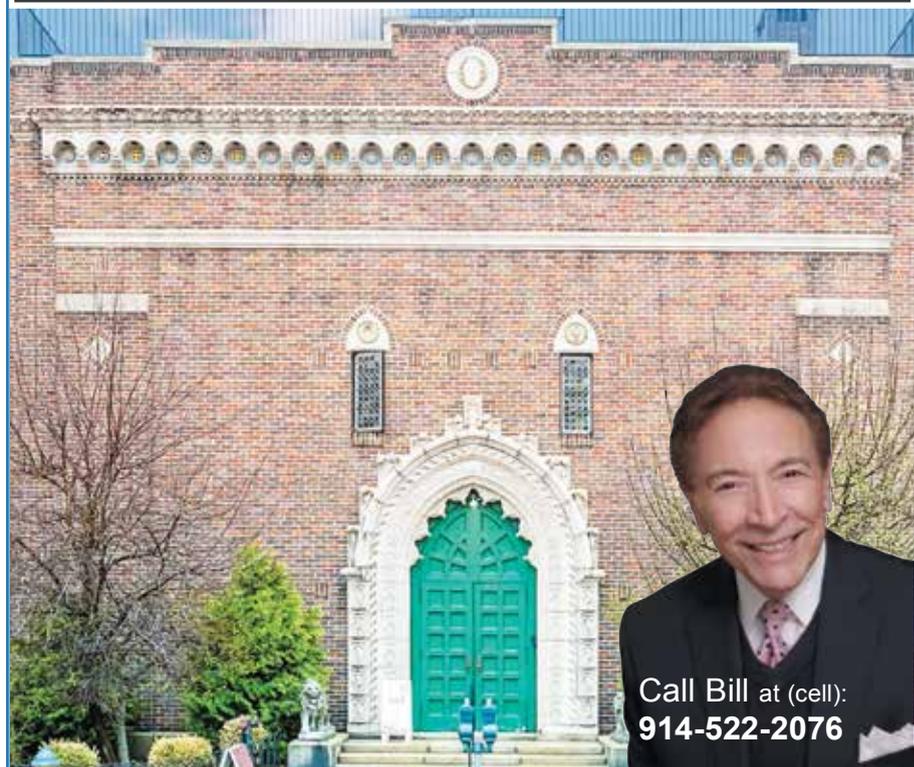


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Pace Students Join Together to Fight Cancer at Relay for Life

By Janine Bowen

Cancer will affect one-third of all women and half of all men, but students at Pace University in Pleasantville joined together last week to do their part to put a dent in those numbers.

Students gathered Friday evening for the sixth annual Relay for Life at the Kessel Student Center, an event that featured an "Around the World" theme to remember that cancer touches everybody, no matter who they are or where they're from.

"Cancer does not discriminate (against) race, location, culture, age or

gender, so we relay for our families, our friends, our loved ones near and far," said Lesley Donelan, a junior and a student event co-chair.

Donelan said Relay for Life is a small effort in the global fight against cancer, with more than 1,000 similar events held in over 20 countries.

Hundreds of students attended last week's relay. Each student organization hosted a different table or activity that was consistent with the theme. Sophomore Nick Wang helped run a booth with the Future Educators Association, which offered Italian treats and a Carnivale

theme. He expressed pride in the fact that Relay for Life excites and unites students with a common goal.

"Everybody is trying to find a cure. It's been going on for years and years and so many people in the Pace community like to make a big deal about (the) relay, and it's something that brings the whole community together, so this is our opportunity to show everybody that we're a unit," Wang said.

This year, students set \$65,000 as a goal at the overnight event for the American Cancer Society. Last year, students raised \$62,000.



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Student organizers of Pace University's annual Relay for Life kick off the event late Friday afternoon. This year's goal is to raise \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society for cancer research.

Student event co-chair Kadie Licalsi said holding Relay for Life from dusk until dawn is meant to represent the light and darkness that cancer patients experience during treatment. It's also symbolic because cancer never sleeps, she said.

Some attendees were survivors and were proud to see many others support the effort to find a cure.

"I've never connected the dots but now, since I'm a survivor, I appreciate [Relay for Life]," said Woodrina Harris, a breast cancer survivor who has worked at Pace for 15 years and who attended her first Relay for Life this year. "The research is needed; the money is needed to find a cure."

Other survivors expressed a deep appreciation for Relay for Life after battling cancer, including Pace senior Brenna Crowe. Crowe hadn't attended Relay for Life in the past because she didn't know anyone affected by cancer – but then she was diagnosed with Stage 4B Hodgkin's Lymphoma last summer. She gave the survivor's speech at Friday's event, and said she participated in Relay and shared her story because she wants to change the way people view the disease.

"I want to ... inspire people to take what they think of cancer and turn it on its head. I had cancer, cancer did not have me," Crowe said as she removed her wig to reveal her natural hair, which was growing back following chemotherapy treatments.

Crowe is graduating next month, one year to the day since her cancer diagnosis.

Dr. Melissa Cardon, the faculty adviser for College Against Cancer, which sponsors the event, said that she has seen the event change since its inception, as new students who have been affected by cancer in different ways join the fight. Cardon said regardless of the event's theme, Relay for Life's goal is to raise awareness and funds.

"It's really important to come together as a community to celebrate those who are fighting it successfully, and also honor those that are not winning the fight against cancer," she said.

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Patricia Henderson Framing Store Owner, Hawthorne

By Martin Wilbur

There are all types of family businesses. Art and framing has been the calling card for Patricia Henderson and her family for decades.

Henderson's store, The Framing Gallery on Hawthorne's Elwood Avenue, is more than a place where she earns her livelihood. It has been a place of joy to work side by side with family.

Opened by her late father, William Gilmartin in 1973, Henderson has been the store's primary manager for the past 24 years, although her parents were still quite active for many years afterward. Her sister, Judy Wilsey Gilmartin, who also worked at the shop, has owned and operated her own business, Framings, in Armonk.

Unlike the classroom, where Henderson, a Pace graduate, taught years ago at Chappaqua's Grafflin Elementary School, she finds herself looking forward to getting to work, starting her day and enhancing the photographs or whatever her customers want framed by doing what she does best.

"It's a lot of things," she said. "First of all, it was fun just working with our family. I just

loved the idea of being a father-daughter business. It was really wonderful. It's creative and it's always transformative. Someone might come in with a little piece of kid's art and it's just transformed like a Picasso."

When Henderson, 64, came aboard and helped her dad move it to its current location after years on Broadway in Thornwood, she thought it would be fun to turn part of the space into an art gallery. Her father had been an illustrator and an art director before starting the shop and he knew plenty of artists.

Since then, The Framing Gallery has hosted scores of local artists in almost every medium. Each exhibit usually runs for about three months.

For the receptions, Henderson finds a local musician to play the \$200 piano that sits in front and offers wine and cheese. Everyone who attends usually has a great time.

"It's very exciting to see just a pile of art and then say 'You know, we can have a show. This would be fantastic,'" said Henderson, who grew up in Elmsford and has spent most of her life in Westchester.



"Then to pull it all together and then the music and the wine and cheese, it's great."

However, the 2008 recession not only put an end to the exhibits but nearly put Henderson out of business. Like so many other proprietors, she didn't know if she would survive.

But as the economy has rebounded, so has Henderson, and now this Sunday the exhibits will return. True to the art-as-family-business theme, the featured artist for the art shows' reprisal will be Henderson's daughter, Mary Ercoli Walsh. Her exhibit, "Be Creative Mary 365," will feature Walsh's works from a year where she created an original piece of artwork every day and blogged about it.

For a mom, seeing her daughter's array of illustrations, paintings and colorful designs in her store has special meaning. So the exhibits were something that she had to restart.

"We were paying our bills on time and I said maybe we should get back into having

the art shows again, and what a great idea, being 40 years in business and you've completed this blog," Henderson said.

Even without the exhibits, Henderson continued to carry artists' works and even some local jewelry makers, including pieces by her daughter.

The recession, however, helped grow a side business for her. For years she would go to people's homes to hang picture frames. Henderson noticed many rooms that were cramped, cluttered or disorganized. To supplement her income, she started The Rearranged Room, where he would move furniture or make small suggestions to pump vitality into the room.

Henderson describes herself as an "interior refiner."

"I pull it all together," she said. "I make sure the room has a good focal point and then it's easy."

Henderson has also found a way to make her eclectic storefront a little more of a focal point on Elwood Avenue. On a street that gets little foot traffic, she arranged a tribute to the Beatles in the store's window on the 50th anniversary of the Fab Four's arrival in America. It has had the desired effect, she said.

Henderson said she's fortunate to be able to use her creativity and work at something she thoroughly enjoys. The family's longtime motto has been "We love what we do and you will too."

"With this, I just can wait to go to work," Henderson said. "I'm raring to go all the time."



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A Psychic Medium Does a 'Reading' of The Home Guru's Home

You've heard of psychic mediums doing "readings" with people, like the Long Island Medium on TV, but did you know they can be done with houses too?

I had never considered the notion, but then I never knew that Bob Buchanan was a psychic medium. I had known him only as a professional photographer I've engaged in my public relations work.

Only recently did I learn about his second career when he volunteered for a charity event I'm doing with William Raveis Real Estate. He handed me two business cards, one saying "psychic medium."

At first, I considered it amusing and smiled. But he looked at me very seriously and reported that, "Yes, I was born with a caul, a veil and I've known all my life that I've had psychic gifts, but I just kept them to myself until recently"

"What changed?" I asked.

"A friend, another psychic, told me that I had to help other people, and it was time for me to do it," Buchanan responded.

A short while later, I was speaking with him by phone and an idea popped into my head. I asked him if he ever did readings on houses. He said he never did, but he could,



By Bill Primavera

and he could do it telepathically, just as he does with people. He told me not to tell him anything about my house, but to just give him the address.

After a few moments of silence, he began speaking slowly in a monotone. "I see a two-story house and in a front room of the second story, there are noises that you can't explain, right?" Good first guess, I thought.

For more than 40 years, my wife and I have enjoyed the sitting area of our oversized main bedroom of our early 18th century home. There is

an original built-in cabinet next to the fireplace that produces a strange swooshing noise, and we have never figured out what causes it.

Then he said that on the north side of the house, he sees a one-story structure where a past owner had cut into people's bodies. Without my having told him anything about the house, that far northwest corner is where the original saltbox wing of the house becomes one story, and while pure speculation, it might well have been the place that Ebenezer White, a physician and surgeon, had used as his operating room.

I have always been a skeptic about psychic mediums, but judging from these

two projections, I thought it warranted an invitation to Buchanan to come to the premises to experience the house in person. A couple of days later he arrived, and I invited my videographer to come along.

When the video was rolling, Buchanan introduced himself and explained how he worked, saying that his visions were revealed to him much like a black and white movie. Then he closed his eyes and started speaking again in a measured voice revealing many presences and their experiences in the house through the centuries that would require several columns to report.

At one point, suddenly, his eyes popped wide open and he proclaimed, questioning at the same time, "George Washington has been here? Yes, I see it in color! I am always certain when I see it in color!" Indeed, a descendent had told me that Washington had visited Dr. White in this house. Then, the skeptic in me thought, yes, but that might have been seen someplace online, because I have written about it several times.

But Buchanan shared something unreported that might make any skeptic wonder. More than 40 years ago when I had first moved into this house, I was visited by a 90-year-old woman named Elsie Curry, a descendent of Ebenezer White, who shared with me many

memories of having visited my home as a child.

She brought photographs with her and one of them was of her sitting on the front porch at the turn of the last century with three other little girls. She pointed to one, a cousin who lived here, who she said was a tomboy and was killed when she was only seven by falling from a tall tree on the property.

Buchanan's last revelation was that we were in the presence of a mischievous little girl who lost her life on the property by falling from a tall tree. I don't recall ever having shared Elsie Curry's story with anyone.

If you would like a psychic reading for yourself or your house - or a really great photographic session--call Bob Buchanan at 914-879-1115. His website is www.Bobbypsychicmedium.com.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Consortium for Immigrant Education at WCC Receives \$125G Grant

The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education (CCCIE), a national network of community colleges based at Westchester Community College, has been awarded a highly coveted \$125,000 grant from The Kresge Foundation.

This general operating grant will allow the organization to engage in an 18-month strategic planning process to help build CCCIE capacity, determine its core organizational priorities, integrate CCCIE's expertise and work on immigrant education issues into broader national reform initiatives supporting the national college completion agenda. The grant period will culminate in a five-year strategic plan to guide CCCIE's future growth and progress toward advancing college success for immigrant students.

CCCIE is focused on increasing educational opportunities for immigrant students. As part of its planning process under the grant, it will engage in various activities such as strengthening its infrastructure through exploration of diversified funding and revenue streams, solidifying its collaboration with existing partners and aligning its work with other national network organizations focused on college success and workforce development initiatives.

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3 billion private, national foundation that works

to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environmental work, health, human services and community development efforts in Detroit. Fostering greater access to and success in postsecondary education for low-income, minority and first-generation college students is its focus.

This grant will be administered through the Westchester Community College Foundation.

Across the country, college completion rates for the immigrant student

population are lower than for the general population.

"The Kresge Foundation grant offers CCCIE a major opportunity to strengthen its capacity to help community colleges serve a fast-growing immigrant population as well as engage with other national reform networks focused on college completion and skills enhancement. With this grant, the impact of CCCIE's work will be far reaching," said Teresita B. Wisell, executive director of CCCIE and associate dean of continuing education and workforce development at

Westchester Community College.

Westchester Community College, CCCIE's host college, offers integrated programs and services for immigrant and U.S. born students, such as a welcome center to help new students navigate the campus; the English Language Institute, serving 5,000 ESL students annually; comprehensive student support services; and community-based and employer partnerships that support workforce advancement.

For more information on CCCIE, visit www.cccie.org.

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FACT: Most colorectal cancers occur in people with no family history.

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FACT: There are several kinds of screening tests for colorectal cancer.

Raise the Age Meeting to Address Minors Tried as Adults

In its ongoing effort to raise awareness about the issue of 16- and 17-year-old offenders in New York being treated as adults, the Westchester Children's Association will hold its second Raise the Age Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, May 8 at the Mount Kisco Public Library at 6 p.m.

New York and North Carolina are the only two states in the country that still treat youth offenders as adults. Research has shown that when young people are treated as juveniles re-arrest rates are lower than those of a similar age who are

processed through an adult system.

"Treating children as children is the right thing to do," said Allison Lake, deputy director of the Westchester Children's Association, who will be one of the speakers at the event. "The science tells us that the human brain is not fully formed until the age of 25. The fact that their brains are continuing to grow means adolescents can respond well to interventions, learn to make responsible choices and are likely to grow out of negative or delinquent behavior. All young people deserve a second chance."

The meeting is part of a statewide campaign that includes national and local advocates, youth, parents, law enforcement and legal representative groups, faith leaders, and unions that have come together to increase public awareness of the need to implement a comprehensive approach to raise the age of criminal responsibility in New York so that the legal process responds to all children as children and services and placement options better meet the rehabilitative needs of all children and youth.

Among those who will offer comments about the issue at meeting are Daniel Berger, New York Civil Liberties Union; Cathy Johansen, retired Peekskill police officer; and a young adult who has been impacted by the current criminal justice system. Funding for this Raise the Age Town Hall Meeting has been generously provided by The Tow Foundation.

The event is free and open to the public but registration is required. For information and to register, call 914-946-7676 ext. 308 or visit www.conta.cc/1n6H93w.



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Wed, April 30, 9:30am-2pm & 6pm - 8pm

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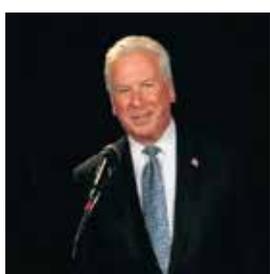
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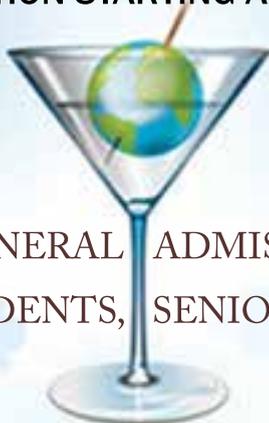


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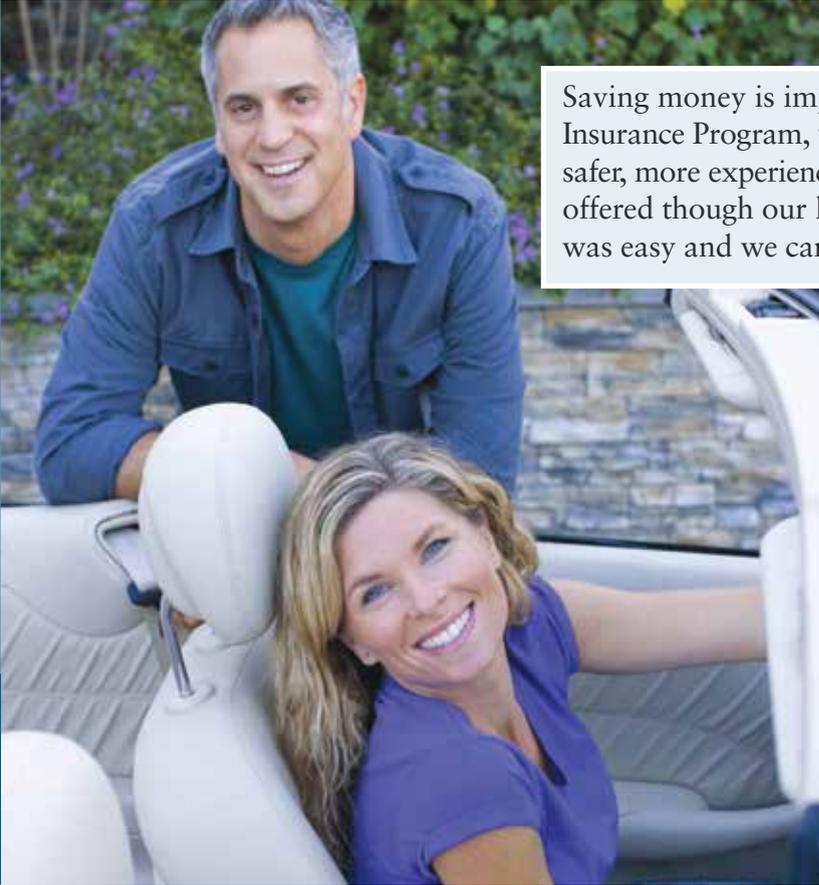
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Is Fine Wine Produced in the Vineyard or in the Winery?



By Nick Antonaccio

“Ninety percent of wine is made in the vineyard.”

“The winemaker’s role is to let the wine make itself.”

I am frequently reminded of these words from wine merchant and author Neil

Rosenthal. As an agricultural product, the essence of a given wine is steeped in its origins. It stands to reason that the more suitable an environment is for a grapevine, the more likely it is that the grapes will produce a wine of great expression and high quality.

Rosenthal’s maxims are widely accepted in the wine world today. Whether the winemaker be from the prestigious and highly acclaimed vineyards of France or is a small producer in the foothills of the Napa Valley, most will state some form of these quotes when asked to describe the secret of their success.

These precepts imply that the quality of the finished product is largely out of the hands of the winemaker. Which it is--except when the hands of the winemaker are skilled, experienced hands able to reasonably deal with whatever obstacles nature may place before him or her.

‘exceptional wine from a mediocre vintage?’

Certainly an outstanding wine is the product of outstanding grapes, and outstanding grapes are the product of a combination of outstanding soil, climate, sun exposure and elevation.

But what of vineyards that don’t sport an elite pedigree? Are the resulting wines doomed to second class status? Can the skilled and experienced winemaker coax a fine wine from the matrix of factors influencing grapes? Is it possible to produce exceptional wine from a mediocre vintage?

What happens if a particular vintage suffers from adverse conditions in the vineyard? What happens if the same factors that produce a great wine one year are not present--or worse, are adversarial--in another vintage? What if the forces of nature produce frost in the springtime, thus diminishing the number of grape clusters; or torrential downpours in the spring and summer, thus diluting the concentration of grape juice; or hail in the summer, thus destroying ripening grape clusters; or an infestation of

insects, thus threatening the very life of a grapevine; or a prolonged period of rain in late summer, thus causing mildew and fungus growth, threatening the vitality of the entire harvest?

In these circumstances, the 90 percent axiom would intimate a “lost vintage,” one that would either be abandoned or perhaps sold in bulk to be made into a lesser wine by a mass producer.

However, there are steps that can be taken in the winery if a lost vintage is harvested.

The mass producers resort to investments in the latest technology available for processing grapes with finite precision: exacting fermentation techniques, precise temperature controls and highly sophisticated monitoring instrumentation in the aging process.

The small producers don’t possess the same financial wherewithal to invest in technology. However, they typically have a legacy of family practices that may salvage a lost vintage. Organic vineyard practices provide vigor to grapevines to withstand adverse conditions better than the non-organic practices of mass

producers. Hand selection of each cluster of grapes at harvest--crushing the best and discarding the lesser ones--assures the best harvest possible. Watching over each developing barrel, as one would a child, aids in shaping the wines to a winemaker’s exacting standards.

Whether employing the latest technology or the oldest family practices, masterful winemakers are able to salvage a lost vintage, producing acceptable wines.

Nature will continue to influence the production of wine. Whether through the quality of historic vineyard sites or the fickle finger of weather patterns, man must be ready to adapt and persevere. And man has indeed been successful in making wine in the winery as well as in the vineyard. Simply stroll through the wine racks in your local wine shop. Never have so many exceptional wines been consistently produced than in the last 10 years, come rain or shine.

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 or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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<p>Kashmir May 10th, 8pm</p>  <p>Kashmir, the nation’s #1 Led Zeppelin tribute show, it is the most authentic representation of Led Zeppelin on the modern national touring scene. Each of the 4 band members assumes their individual role with pinpoint accuracy. Kashmir possesses the live stage show, sound, and likeness to bring audiences and fans back to the days when the mighty Led Zeppelin ruled the musical landscape.</p>	<p>Art Garfunkel June 14th, 8pm</p>  <p>The iconic and incomparable ART GARFUNKEL is making his highly anticipated comeback to the stage in 2014 with a select number of live performances. Be a part of “An intimate Evening with Art Garfunkel” as you join an acoustic performance with songs, anecdotes and prose.</p>	<p>The Marshall Tucker Band June 27th, 8pm</p>  <p>The iconic multi-platinum selling Marshall Tucker Band brings all their hits to Peekskill. “Heard It In A Love Song”, “Can’t You See”, “Fire On The Mountain” and “Take The Highway” and a dozen more favorites will all be featured. Their distinctive sound is instantly recognizable and you’ll be singing along from beginning to end.</p>	<p>Eaglemania July 18th, 8pm</p>  <p>The music of the Eagles, with the combination of heartfelt ballads, rock anthems and the unmistakable sound of vocal harmonies as only the Eagles can do, has propelled the band for the past four decades, positioning them as one of the most successful and popular bands in music history. And now EagleMania performs all of their hits replicating the Eagles’ sound leaving fans with an experience that they do not soon forget.</p>
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MOVIES

May Sunday, May 4th, 3pm : Doctor Zhivago
June Sunday, June 1st, 3pm : Lawrence of Araiba






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Happenings

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Tuesday, Apr. 29

WCC Film Series: "Paper Clips." This documentary reveals how students from a small town school start working on a history assignment that snowballs into a touching Holocaust memorial, gaining worldwide attention. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-5616.

Japanese and Origami 101. Learn Japanese paper folding and language. For children in grades 4-6. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Also May 6 and 13. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

"Prescriptions and Heroin: The Face of the New User." Join a town hall meeting to address the epidemic of heroin and prescription drug abuse in Westchester and Putnam counties and to discuss how community members can be protected. The panel of speakers will include prevention and treatment professionals, law enforcement, community coalitions and news media. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Pre-event meet and greet at 6:15 p.m. Panel discussion from 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-0191.

Wednesday, Apr. 30

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.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap sit story time. Includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories to give babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:20 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday through May (except May 26). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Time. Uses finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening skills, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two and a half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd.,

Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through May (except May 26). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time. An interactive story time using picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two and a half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through May (except May 26). Info: 914-769-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.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.

Cinderella Everywhere! Celebrate Dia! By sharing Cinderella stories from many lands. For children in grades K and up. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

Knitting Club. Come learn to knit, or if you already know how, bring your current project and enjoy a visit with other knitters and crocheters. Beginners should bring a pair off size 8 or 10 straight knitting needles and skein or worsted weight yarn. Open to knitters and crocheters 10 years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Meets every Wednesday. Info: 914-666-8041.

Thursday, May 1

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.

Mother Goose Story Time. Children will enjoy stories and songs that focus on colors, shapes, numbers, letters, animals and more. Fun interaction between children two to four years old and parents and caregivers. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. Also May 15 and 29. Info: 914-273-3887.

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.

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.

Thursday Night Book Discussion Group. "So Big" by Edna Ferber will be discussed. Led by Susan Zangler. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

"Life on Earth: The Sacred and Profane." Axial Theatre's spring production, a compilation of 13 monologues and short plays mixing comedy, drama and something in-between brought to life by 18 actors and six directors offering glimpses into a timeless theme. St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Seniors and students: \$15. Also May 2-3, 8-10 and 15-17 at 8 p.m. and May 4, 11 and 18 at 4 p.m. Info and tickets: 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.lifeonearth.brownpapertickets.com.

Friday, May 2

First Congregational Church of Chappaqua Barn Sale. Shoppers will find men's, women's and children's apparel and accessories, sporting goods and linens, small appliances and furniture, fine jewelry, antiques and collectibles. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Also May 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Any remaining merchandise will be on sale for 50 percent off on May 7 from 4 to 8 p.m. and May 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 914-238-4411 or visit www.fcc-chappaqua.org.

Play and Learn. After 30 minutes of structured play, children and adults have an opportunity to play freely together with building blocks, instruments, beanbags and more. For children one to three years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. Also May 12, 16 and 30. Info: 914-273-3887.

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.

Rubik's Cube With Michael. Learn to

solve a 3x3 Rubik's cube. 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.

Magic: The Gathering With Lucas. Drop-in and play. Beginners and experienced players welcome. For students in grades 7-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Meets every Friday in May and June (except May 23). Info: 914-238-4779.

LEGO Club for Children. An hour of unstructured play for children seven to 12 years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Also May 16 and 30. Info: 914-273-3887.

Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude 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.

"Big, Fat and Juicy" Opening Reception and Workshop. A group show of large-scale abstraction that pushes the boundaries of the physicality of paint. Featuring paintings and sculptures by four New York-based artists. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through June 28. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit pelhamartcenter.org.

Friday Night Cinema and Conversation: "The Tiger and the Snow." How far will you go for love? That's the question posed in this romantic comedy. With LIU Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East., Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

WCC Friday Night Film Series: "Dirty Pretty Things." The fourth of six films in this series. Okwe, a kind-hearted Nigerian doctor, and Senay, a Turkish chambermaid, work at the same West London hotel. This establishment, where dirty business like drug dealing and prostitution takes place, is run by Senor Sneaky. The plot thickens when Okwe uncovers something far more sinister than a common crime. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla (Use Parking Lot 1). Doors open at 7:10 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Movie at 8 p.m. \$11. Seniors \$10. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-723-3186.

Movie Night Under the Stars. The Wolf Conservation Center will present "The Rise of Black Wolf" by Emmy Award-winning wildlife cinematographer and WCC friend Bob Landis. Guests will enjoy the screening alongside resident black wolf Zephyr and his sister Alawa. Bleacher

continued on page 28

The Art of Selection in Teatown Photography Show

The process of seeing may be analyzed into three subsidiary processes: sensing, selecting, and perceiving.

---Aldous Huxley

By Brian Kluepfel

Ossining resident Aysha Venjara has traversed the Hudson Valley and the world in search of photographic images. The odyssey began at age 14 with a Pentax camera, a remnant of her father's university days.

"The leather casing was all worn, but the red punch labels he put 'Venjara' on were as bright and shiny as ever," she recalled.

What Venjara, a medical illustrator by profession, has come to learn about nature photography is that it's a matter of taking what is offered.

"As an illustrator you have more control about what to include in a composition," said Venjara, an Ossining resident. "Not so with photography. You have to work with what's there and (hone in on) the most interesting bit. I actually find it more challenging."

Her father, too, had a technical background (as an engineer) and tried to impart this sort of wisdom—f-stops and ISOs, etc.—to his daughter. But to

Aysha, composing pictures, and not the mechanical minutia, was her foremost interest.

Her philosophy, she said, was reflected in a statement attributed to Vincent Van Gogh: "I exaggerate, I sometimes change a motif, but in the end I don't invent the whole painting. Instead I find it ready-made in nature, although I still have to extract it."

This process of extraction is what's showcased in Venjara's "Seeing Connections: Ready-Made Art in Nature," on display at Teatown Lake Reservation through May 31. In the series of nine photographs and one video, she's taken artistic concepts from her days as an illustrator and found similar shapes in the wild places of the world—from a George's Island caterpillar called "Spike" who represents the motif of a line, to a Purple Tongue flower captured in Cold Spring, which represents the idea of a pattern.

Spike, she said, is her favorite current photo and has become a kind of personal

mascot.

"My training has refined my eye and my brain, allowing me to see what's most important," Venjara said.

The photos in the show include images from far-flung locales such as Key West and Amsterdam, in addition to her Hudson Valley stomping grounds. Her insight into the natural world is further informed by another avocation--gardening. Venjara volunteers at the Stone Barns Centers for Food and Agriculture.

The young photographer has also found inspiration in the work of others. Her favorite is Japanese nature photographer Michio Hoshino, whose Alaskan wildlife images caught her eye at the Museum of the North in Fairbanks in 2013.

"His photography captures the sublime in nature," Venjara said, "the very essence of what it means to be wild and free. He has this amazing connection with his subject matter, and his use of light is unmatched."

She also attributes her interest in nature



Aysha Venjara, a medical illustrator, has had a longtime passion for photography.

What: "Seeing Connections: Ready-Made Art in Nature, a nature photography show by Aysha Venjara.

When: May 1-31; opening reception Saturday, May 3, 3 to 5 p.m.

Where: Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining.

Info: Visit www.teatown.org.

The photos and smaller prints will be for sale, and 20 percent of each sale goes to benefit Teatown.

photography to a workshop with award-winning camera man Bruce Colin at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison in 2010.

Venjara said the workshop was the "beginning of a transcendent journey," and that her photography is a way of "translating the profound joy in experiencing nature's gifts, (and) celebrating our relationship to the universe."

First French Film Festival Kicks Off at Jacob Burns Film Center

By Neal Rentz

The 1950s was a rich period for French filmmakers and stars. The postwar period saw French films directed by such respected masters as Henri-Georges Clouzot, Robert Bresson, Max Ophüls and Jean-Pierre Melville.

The decade also featured works by such acclaimed performers as Simone Signoret, Jean Gabin and Jean Marais.

French films of the era will be screened at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville in the inaugural Classic French Cinema series, which begins this Friday, May 2 and runs through May 22.

Though the Burns has presented classic French movies in the past, this is the first time it has devoted a series exclusively to the country's contributors to film, series programmer Kathryn Bonomi said. A key reason for scheduling the festival was the availability of several recently restored classics such as "The Wages of Fear," "A Pig Across Paris" and "Lola Montes," she said.

The 1950s was such a fertile decade for French filmmaking because the country had emerged from World War II and Nazi occupation and filmmakers were no longer restrained by censorship, Bonomi said.

The series opens this week with

"Diabolique," directed by Clouzot and starring Signoret. Following the screening there will be a wine tasting made possible by Wine Enthusiast, which is also sponsoring the film festival, and a food tasting catered by Jean-Jacques' Culinary Creations in Pleasantville. The movie will also be shown on May 4, 5, 8 and 21.

Bonomi said she has seen "Diabolique" several times and is a big fan of the film.

"It still scares me every time," she said.

Gabin is featured in "Voici le Temps des Assassins" (Deadlier Than the Male) in a free screening on May 7 at 7:30 p.m. and in "Touchez Pas au Grisbi" on May 10, 14 and 15. Bonomi said Gabin was a star of the 1930s, but his career faltered after serving in the military in the World War II. The 1950s was a comeback decade for him, she said.

The series will feature several Q&A sessions following film screenings. The May 7 screening of "Voici le Temps des Assassins" will be introduced in French by Delphine Selles-Alvarez, co-curator of the Cinéma Tuesdays program at FIAF, the Alliance Française, in New York City. The event is also part of French Language Night.

Bonomi said she hoped French Language Night would attract French



JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER PHOTO

Jeanne Moreau and Lino Ventura star in "Touchez Pas au Grisbi," which will be presented on May 10, 14 and 15 as part of the Classic French Cinema series at the Jacob Burns Film Center.

speaking audience members to meet and converse with each other following the movie.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located

at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, including ticket prices and movies times, call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Happenings

continued from page 26

seating available but guests should bring beach or camping chairs. After the one-hour film, guests may visit Atka and the center's critically endangered wolves. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 8 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Also May 30. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Saturday, May 3

Bird Banding. See live wild songbirds in the hand as birds are safely captured, banded and released. Banding helps our knowledge of bird biology and contribute to habitat conservation. See how this important science project works. All ages. Will be canceled in the event of rain or wind. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 8 to 10 a.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Info: 914-666-8448 or visit www.westmorelandsanctuary.org.

Teddy Bear Clinic and Interactive Health Fair. Children are invited to bring their stuffed animals for medical checkups as staff provide demonstrations on casting, suturing, IV therapy and X-rays. Other activities include an ambulance tour, police providing bike safety information, a Da Vinci demo and games and healthy snacks. Northern Westchester Hospital, 400 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 8 to 11 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.nwheer.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Church of St. Mary the Virgin, 191 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 8:30 to 1 p.m. Every Saturday until May. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Multifamily Tag Sale. Large and varied selection of items. Something for everyone. Rain or shine. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 85 E. Main St, Mount Kisco. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Foxwood Condominium Annual Community Tag Sale. Foxwood Condominium, 17 Foxwood Drive, Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parking available. Rain date: May 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: 914-769-2571.

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. Every Saturday until mid May. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Briarcliff Congregational Church Rummage Sale. Includes clothes, jewelry, books, china, housewares, toys, appliances, furniture, sporting goods and more. There were also be a bake sale and lunch served. Briarcliff Congregational Church, 30 S. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations accepted Tuesday, Apr. 29 until

9 p.m., Wednesday, Apr. 30 and Thursday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 914-941-4368 or visit www.briarcliffchurch.org.

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. Also May 10, 17 and 24. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

"Sensory Sprint" 2.5K Obstacle Fun Run. An outdoor event featuring Westchester's first 2.5K obstacle run, plus field games, group workouts for children and adults, yoga, music and local food vendors. For adults and children of all ages. To support children with learning disabilities and sensory processing disorders. WeeZee the Science of Play, 480 Bedford Rd. (Chappaqua Crossing), Chappaqua. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With an established team: Adults--\$25. Children (under 16)--\$15 Solo participant: Adults--\$30. Children (under 16)--\$20. Registration suggested. Info and registration: 914-752-4992, visit www.conquerspd.eventbrite.com or email prowe@conquerspd.org.

Learn Chair Yoga. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. No previous yoga or fitness experience exercise necessary. Led by Alka Tewani, registered yoga therapist and certified chair yoga instructor. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday through June 7 (except for May 24). Info: 914-273-3887.

Gan Shabbat. Children's Sabbath services for nursery school age students and their families. This interactive introduction to Shabbat songs, stories and prayers is for toddlers to children in second grade. Followed by a kid-friendly Kiddush of refreshments. Once a month through June. Bet Torah, 60 Smith Ave., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Info: 914-666-7595.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a special time for packs in North America. Guests can visit Ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa and Zephyr as well as the critically endangered Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also May 10, 17, 24, 25 and 26. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Defensive Driving Class. Do you have a few points on your license you want to get rid of? Looking for a discount on auto

insurance? Melissa Feinberg AAI of Safe Harbor Risk and Management Consulting, Creative Pension Plans and the New York Safety Program will lead this two-part class. Continues on May 10. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East., Armonk, 1 to 4 p.m. \$49 (cash or check at first class). Info and registration: Contact Melissa Feinberg at 914-274-7844 (cell) or 914-740-1622 (office).

Open Wide. Slither on over and learn all about snakes and lizards during a lively hands-on (if you dare) presentation that is sure to engage and enlighten all ages. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit to: www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Evening Howl for Pups of All Ages. Visit the wolves during their favorite hour-dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with Ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa and Zephyr and visit the critically endangered Mexican wolves. Weather appropriate treats served. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6:30 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Also May 17 at 6:30 p.m. and May 31 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Reception for "Life on Earth: The Sacred and Profane." Includes wine and hors d'oeuvres and a talk-back with writers and directors following this performance of Axial Theatre's spring production, a compilation of 13 monologues and short plays mixing comedy, drama and something in-between. St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$35. Info and tickets: 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.lifeonearth.brownpapertickets.com.

Sunday, May 4

MHA on the Move 5K Run/Walk and One-Mile Kids' Race. This Mental Health Association of Westchester's event is an inspiring, fun, family-friendly communitywide effort in support of mental health initiatives in the county. Includes healthy food and a fun morning in the park. All participants receive a t-shirt. The race will be timed by the Taconic Road Runners with medals awarded in each age category and for top male and female competitors. FDR State Park, 2957 Crompond Rd., Yorktown Heights. 8 a.m. to noon. Adults: \$25. Students and children (under 17): \$15. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-265-7511 or visit www.mhawestchester.org.

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.

Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program. Explore two private gardens in Mount Kisco and North Salem for self-guided tours to benefit the Garden Conservancy. Highlights include woodland walks, extensive cutting garden, unique foot bridges, vegetables, herbs and orchards. Rain or shine. Begin at Duck Hill, garden of Page Dickey and Francis Schell, 23 Baxter Rd., North Salem. Directions to the Mount Kisco garden will be provided. Starts at 10 a.m. \$5 per garden. Children (12 and under): Free. Info: 1-888-842-2442 weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit www.opendaysprogram.org.

Turtle Monitoring Group. Participants will learn techniques for marking turtles for identification, handling procedures, record keeping of general information such as weight, ages estimates and sex. Must be at least eight years old. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Also May 11 and 18 and June 1. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Email lricke@westmorelandsanctuary.org.

Rosenthal JCC Children's Carnival. A fun day for the entire family. Includes games, rides, entertainment, refreshments and local vendors. Proceeds will support the JCC's programs for children with special needs and their families. Followed by an Israeli Independence Day Celebration. Rosenthal JCC, 600 Bear Ridge Rd., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date May 18. Info: 914-741-0333 or visit www.rosenthaljcc.org.

Italian Expo 2014: Lectures, Films, Food and Specialty Items. Enjoy a taste of Italian culture with family and friends. A variety of Italian luxury cars and Vespas will be on display. Westchester Community College's Classroom Building, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6790.

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.

Meet the Animals. The long winter is over and everyone is enjoying the spring weather and outdoor activities. Come meet the resident animals and learn what the creatures are doing this spring. All ages. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Info: 914-666-8448 or visit www.westmorelandsanctuary.org.

Panel Provides Updates on Progress of Pace Master Plan Project

By Janine Bowen

Phase One of Master Plan construction at Pace University will be completed by Fall 2016, with portions reaching completion next fall.

At a conference last Thursday morning, Pace Senior Vice President and COO William McGrath, along with several other panelists, spoke about the goals and progress of the expansion project, which broke ground last October.

The first phase, which is currently underway, will see construction of two new residential facilities to accommodate students that currently live on the university's Briarcliff campus, plus accommodate an additional 150 students. Other work includes improvements to the Kessel Student Center, a relocated environmental center and construction of several new athletic fields.

Construction of the environmental center will be completed in June, while work on the student center, fields and one residence hall will be finished by next fall.

The goal of the project is to not only move the 600 students currently living in Briarcliff to Pleasantville to create a more centralized campus, but to allow room for expansion. When the project is finished, Pace will be able to house more than 1,600 students, compared to the roughly 1,300 students that currently live on the two campuses.

"Construction projects are never about construction. It's about what it facilitates," McGrath said.

Pace hopes to use the expansion, in addition to the rollout of new academic programs, to attract more students from outside the region. The university conducted surveys with students who were accepted to Pace but elected not to attend, and held forums with current students and community members to



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

An Apr. 24 conference at Pace provided details on the university's Master Plan project. Phase One will be completed in a little more than two years.

determine what changes would be well received.

"Programs draw people here in the first place but students and their families are interested in having an excellent campus life experience in the vicinity of a business community where internships are available," said Laurence Gottlieb, president and CEO of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corp.

Panelists explained that they entered the planning process when the Master Plan was developed in 2011, with the goal of having the \$120 million project be self-sustaining. Their goal was to be able to finance the project without increasing tuition for current or incoming students. That was made possible by a loan from the

Local Development Corporation (LDC).

In February, the LDC granted a \$100 million tax-exempt bond to Pace to help pay for the project. The work will create 600 new construction jobs in the county. County Executive Rob Astorino and other county officials who helped create the LDC, wanted the project to be able to progress quickly to send the message that Westchester is a good place to grow a business.

The balance of the project will be paid for by the money derived from selling the Briarcliff campus and through donations and fundraising efforts.

Andrew Tung, a landscape architect and lawyer at the planning consultant firm Divney Tung Schwalbe, explained

that the seemingly quick progress is due to extensive planning and preparation before the application was submitted to the Town of Mount Pleasant for review. He said past projects were studied to learn from mistakes and school officials welcomed input from various agencies and the public.

"When working on a campus of this complexity, that's been in place for 50 years, it's critical to be able to exchange ideas, look at things from a different point of view...because this is not just adding a single building or a parking lot or a new athletic field," Tung said. "This is rethinking the way the campus is used, how it operates, how you pass through it and how you feel about it."

Attendees at the Apr. 24 conference were receptive to the expansion project. Some were optimistic that the enhancements would not only draw students from a wider area but keep some of them in the county after graduation. Trends have shown that 18- to 34-year-olds are moving away from suburbs to more urban areas.

One person in the audience, Steve Hall, questioned whether Pace has considered moving toward becoming a zero energy campus and using the savings as a means of finance. McGrath said the school is looking into that possibility for new and existing structures, but has yet to find a solution that would be effective and pay for itself.

The entire project is slated to take about eight years. The next phase includes construction of a third new residence hall, renovations to existing dormitories, a new campus entryway, which will allow easier travel throughout the campus and reduce the number of cars exiting onto Route 117.

Rosenthal JCC Children's Carnival Set for This Sunday

On Sunday, May 4, the Rosenthal JCC in Pleasantville will again be hosting the Children's Carnival, a fun day for the entire family, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The carnival features games, rides, entertainment changing every hour a variety of refreshments and local vendors. Games and activities include bumper cars; a rock climbing wall; a carousel; sand art; balloon twisters; and face painting.

The entertainment includes a Pirate and Fairy show, a variety show and a sing-a-long. There will be also be activities, food and entertainment for all ages.

Proceeds from the carnival support the JCC's programs for children with special needs and their families.

Following the carnival at 4 p.m., an Israeli Independence Day celebration will take place in the JCC auditorium. The celebration will include music by international artist Koby and a sampling of Israeli food and crafts.

The rain date is May 18. The Rosenthal JCC is located at 600 Bear Ridge Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, call 914-741-0333 or visit www.rosenthaljcc.org.

Pleasantville Recycles Sports Equipment Collection & Giveaway

PleasantvilleRecycles is running its third annual Sports Equipment Collection and Giveaway. We will collect used sports equipment, such as cleats, pads, balls, bats, tennis rackets, hockey sticks and more.

Donate your items this Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DPW Recycling Center located at 1 Village Lane in Pleasantville. (Please note that we will not collect bicycles this year.)

All items collected can be picked



up for free on Pleasantville Day, Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Look for the PleasantvilleRecycles booth at Memorial Plaza. Come early as all sports equipment will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis.

In spite of the hundreds of items collected, most have found a new owner, a great way to make another child very happy.

Download a flyer at www.pleasantvillerecycles.org, sign up for the PleasantvilleRecycles newsletter or like us on Facebook.

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AUCTIONS

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Buy or sell at AARauctions.com. Contents of homes, businesses, vehicles and real estate. Bid NOW! AARauctions.com Lights, Camera, Auction. No longer the best kept secret.

LIVE AUCTION - State of VT SURPLUS Saturday, May 10th - 1744 US Rt. 302, Berlin, VT Cars- Trucks- Equipment CALL: 1-800-536-1401 Visit our web site for LOTS of ONLINE AUCTIONS! www.auctionsInternational.com

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EVENTS

ESTATE SALE by Leonard Russell. Thu-Sat, May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 9AM-4PM, Charles Coleman Blvd, Pawling. Complete contents of house: Craftsman desk, costume jewelry, art glass, wall art, craft supplies galore, 2 sewing machines, quality dishes and glassware, much Fontanini and Christopher Radko, usual household and lots more.

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HEALTH

IF YOU USED THE BLOOD THINNER PRADAXA and suffered internal bleeding, hemorrhaging, required hospitalization or a loved one died while taking Pradaxa between October 2010 and the present. You may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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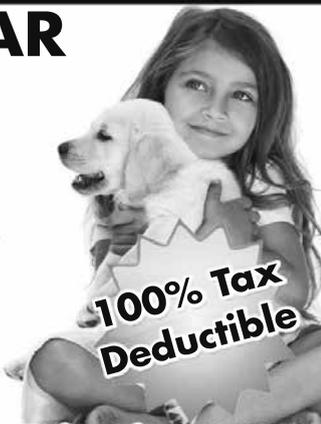
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Valhalla Rolls to a Lopsided Victory Over the Wildcats

By Andy Jacobs

Just when it seemed its week probably couldn't get much worse, the Westlake baseball team made the very short drive to Valhalla High School on Friday afternoon to face the archrival Vikings.

A couple of hours later, the error-plagued Wildcats were left to lick their wounds once more after dropping their third game in four days. Valhalla scored five runs in the third inning and seven more in the fourth en route to an 18-6 rout.

Sergio Osorio had four hits and knocked in five runs, while James Gerster added three doubles and four RBIs, as the Vikings evened their record at 4-4. For the Wildcats, the one-sided loss was their second in 24 hours and left coach Michael Paquette sullen and searching for answers.

"We're not playing very good baseball right now," he said shortly after his team's sixth loss in nine games this season. "Hopefully, with a little practice, we get back on track sooner than later."

Just a day after losing at home to Briarcliff by 13 runs, Westlake responded by getting on the scoreboard first against the Vikings. Jason Kalle singled to left with one out in the opening inning and later scored on a throwing error. But the Vikings answered with three runs in the bottom of the second and never trailed again.

Consecutive singles by Kalle, Anthony Rotunno and Michael Poggioreale to start the third inning produced Westlake's second run. But Vikings starter Ryan Cornell escaped further trouble, getting a strikeout and a ground out before a Westlake base-running mistake cost the Wildcats another run. Justin Adams was picked off first base and couldn't stay in the rundown long enough to enable Rotunno to score from third.



Westlake's Aiden Frawley pitches in the Wildcats' road game vs. the Valhalla Vikings.



Westlake third baseman Michael Poggioreale chases an infield pop-up during Friday's game at Valhalla.

Whatever suspense there was up to that point disappeared in the bottom of the inning as the Vikings took advantage of three Westlake errors and scored five runs to open up an 8-2 advantage. Gerster led off by ripping a double up the gap in left-center field and three runs later scored when Osorio's fly ball toward right field dropped in front of a diving Adams.

Just before Osorio's seeing-eye hit, Luke Sasso, who had three hits batting ninth in the Valhalla lineup, had reached safely when his pop-up in front of the plate was dropped for an error, loading the bases and setting the stage for Osorio to all but end the day's drama.

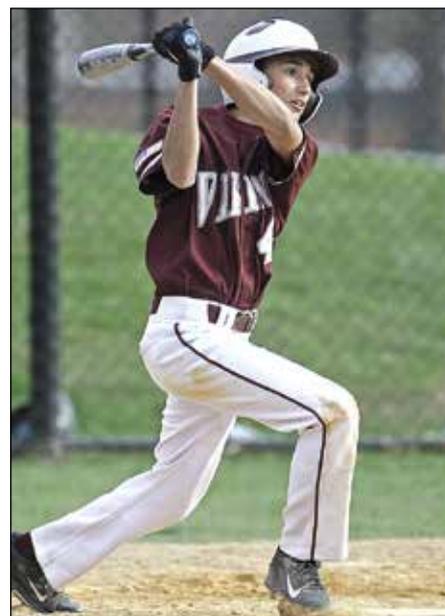
"They make that catch and they get out of the inning," said Valhalla coach Josh Wolfson about the ball hit by Sasso. "That dropped and the next guy (Osorio) gets a bases-clearing hit and it's 8-2 and, really, that was the game right there. That really opened it up."

If the Vikings' lead wasn't secure enough then, it certainly was an inning later. Westlake had scored an unearned run in the top of the fourth, but it hardly mattered as the Vikings sent 10 batters to the plate in the bottom of the frame and scored seven times. Mark Kinnally, Sasso and Gerster all had run-scoring hits in the inning and the Wildcats helped out with three more errors.

In the fifth, Osorio smacked a two-run double to the gap in right-center and Gerster soon drilled an RBI single to right as the Valhalla lead stretched to 18-4. The Wildcats scored twice in the top of the sixth inning, taking advantage of some control problems for relief pitcher Chris Strnad, who yielded an RBI single to Rotunno and then plunked Poggioreale with a pitch with the bases loaded. But the inning ended with one final indignity for Westlake as Kalle, not bothering to



Westlake second baseman Jeremy Joseph turns a double play in the second inning of Friday's game at Valhalla.



Valhalla's Luke Sasso smacks one of his three hits vs. Westlake in Friday's game.

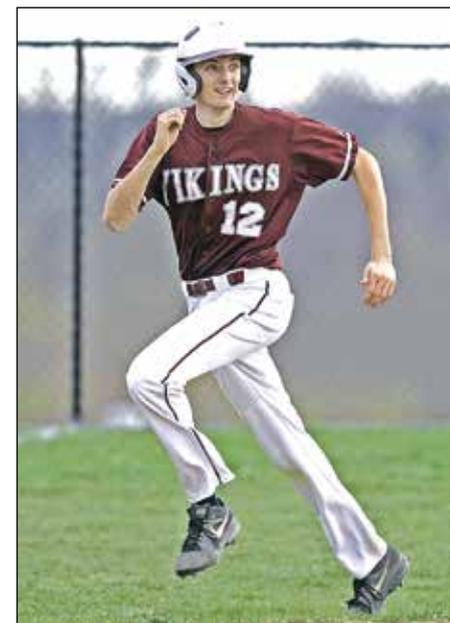
slide, was tagged out at home when a pitch bounced in front of the plate and Rotunno, the Viking catcher, threw to Strnad just in time.

"Hopefully, it doesn't get any more tough than this and we can move forward," said the disappointed Paquette. "This is pretty tough right now for us, but we'll bounce back. We don't have a choice."

Meanwhile, the Vikings are hoping their second victory in two days will be a springboard to a big second half of the season.

"We'll see if we can keep it going," said Wolfson. "The first few games, we really didn't hit the ball well at all. The last two games we put up 13 and 18 runs back to back, so hopefully we've turned the corner offensively."

The two teams had met just a week and



Mark Kinnally of Valhalla scampers down the third-base line to score another Viking run in Friday's game.



Valhalla starting pitcher Ryan Cornell delivers to the plate in Friday's victory over Westlake.



Valhalla shortstop Sergio Osorio is too late with the tag as Westlake's Jason Kalle steals second base in Friday's game.

a half earlier, with the Vikings earning a 3-0 victory at Westlake. Wolfson and his Vikings can now relish something they haven't been able to accomplish recently.

"We swept 'em this year," he said. "The last couple of years, we've split with 'em. So it's great, obviously for the win column, but any time you beat a team right down the road from you it always feels good."



Second baseman Meg McCarthy of Pleasantville tracks a pop fly in last week's game at Westlake.

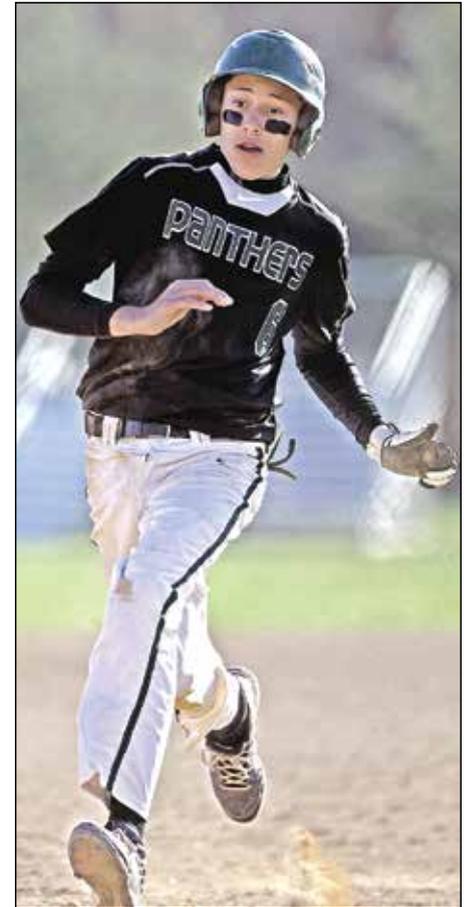
ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Pleasantville's Patrick McPhee pitches in relief during last Thursday's game at Parkway Field.



Briarcliff's Stefano Paone controls the ball in last Thursday's home game vs. Sleepy Hollow.



Jon Carlo Angiolillo of Pleasantville runs to third base in last week's Panther home game vs. Ossining.



Alexa Pichiarallo of Westlake delivers a pitch vs. visiting Pleasantville last Tuesday afternoon.

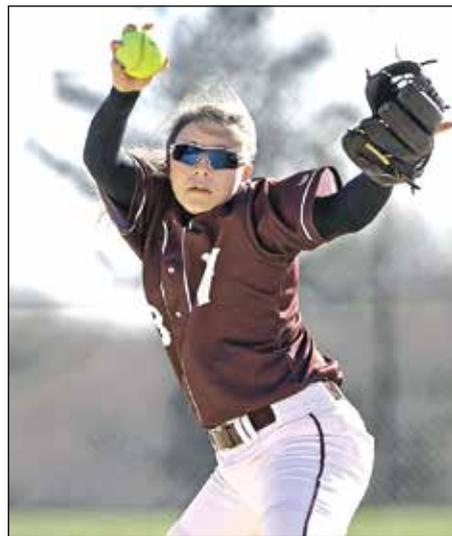
SPORTS SCENE



Lower left: Melanie Prinz of Briarcliff is about to score a goal in the Bears' 14-12 victory over Clarkstown North this past Saturday.



Fox Lane's Liam Belhumeur gets ready to fire a shot on goal as Pleasantville's Austin Tomasetti defends in Saturday's game.



Sydni Holtz of Valhalla pitches in the Vikings' victory over Rye Neck last Thursday afternoon.



Briarcliff's Jordana Cohen controls the ball in Saturday's win vs. Clarkstown North. She had five goals and two assists.



Luke Verrochi of Fox Lane controls the ball near midfield in Saturday afternoon's game vs. Pleasantville.



John Plimpton of Briarcliff takes the ball up the field in last week's game against visiting Sleepy Hollow.



Samantha Sicignano of Pleasantville pitches in the rain last Tuesday at Westlake High School.



Left: Briarcliff's Rachel Julie races toward second base on her game-winning two-run double in the seventh inning of Saturday's come-from-behind victory over visiting Rye.

Right: Pleasantville's Owen Reda runs past Ryan Luparello of Fox Lane during Saturday's game, won by the host Panthers 10-9 in overtime.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Right: Valhalla's Brandi Coon gets ready to run the bases vs. Rye Neck last week. She later hit a game-winning two-run homer for the Vikings.



Above: Oscar Mellado of Westlake races in the 200-meter dash.



Right: Westlake's George Anastasiou clears a hurdle in last week's meet.



The Panthers' Patrick Watts has the lead over teammate Eamon Coburn in the 800.



Olivia Heintzman of Pleasantville is on her way to a first-place finish in the 400 hurdles.



Pleasantville's Sarah Gellman competes in the 800 at last Wednesday's meet.



Pleasantville's Eli Waxler is on his way to an easy win in the 3200 last Wednesday.



Pleasantville's Amanda Posa turns the corner in the 4 x 100, followed closely by Westlake's Mychell White.



Danielle Murray of Pleasantville heads for the finish line last Wednesday afternoon.



Kristen Aviles competes in the 800, a race she wound up winning.

A Big Second Half Lifts the Quakers Past Byram Hills

By Skip Pearlman

Anna Waterhouse scored six goals and added three assists to lead the Horace Greeley girls' lacrosse team to a 15-10 victory over host Byram Hills in a game played last Friday afternoon.

Julia Arrese and Hannah Dunn each finished with three goals, Emma Lowrey scored twice, and Izzy Gutenplan had a goal and one assist for the Quakers, who controlled the majority of the draws and improved to 7-1-1 with the victory.

Emily Byrne delivered four goals and dished out an assist for the Bobcats. Raquel Gaudio provided three goals and an assist, Marissa Miller had two goals and a pair of assists and Noelle Love scored once.

Greeley goalie Sydney Marks had three saves in net, while Byram Hills netminder Ashley Polera – playing for regular starter Autumn Lauria – stopped 13 shots on goal.

The teams were tied at 7-7 at halftime, but it was the Quakers who came out of the break and took control, outscoring the Bobcats by five goals over the final 25 minutes.

Arrese scored, off a feed from Waterhouse, three minutes into the second half and Waterhouse added another goal 5:42 in, assisted by Olivia Statman. Waterhouse added two more goals in the half as the Quakers never



Greeley's Julia Arrese tries to gain possession in front of the Bobcats' net Friday, as BH's Taylor Verboys (12) and Emily Byrne defend.

trailed again.

Greeley coach Annamarie Marasco said her team changed a few things going into the second half.

"We made a few adjustments in the second half, because in the first half they were face guarding our best shooters - Hannah Dunn and Willa Rosenblum, as well as Anna Waterhouse, who was taking the draws," Marasco said. "The draws matter in this game, so we had control of the ball a little bit more (Greeley won 70 percent of the draws). We got our girls who were getting face guarded to stop standing still and get involved in the play and set picks. It's important to be a team member, and sometimes it's OK to let other people score, and play as a team."

Marasco said a difficult loss at home



Byram Hills' Marissa Miller (18) is checked by Greeley's Carly Stern in a Quakers win last week in Armonk.

earlier in the week resulted in the Quakers regrouping.

"We had a tough loss to Fox Lane, and we had a really hard practice yesterday. So it mattered to the girls today – they wanted to win," the coach said. "We were undefeated going in (to the Fox Lane game) and maybe were enjoying the undefeated season too much. We had to bring them back to basics yesterday."

"In today's game, Waterhouse did a nice job taking the draws, that was big," Marasco added. "Izzy Gutenplan had a great ground ball in the second half

coming from attack, and then had a good goal."

Morasco said she's pleased with the team's start to the season. "I have a great group of seniors - eight seniors who've been playing together since third grade... the most talent I've ever had to coach," she said. "A great group of girls who get it and understand what it means to win. And they want to go out and leave a legacy, so we've been trying to work hard every day on that. We're just going to take one game at a time, go after ground balls. We have a game plan, and we just want to keep doing that. It's important to keep focusing on the next opponent and not worry about anything but that next game."

Bobcats coach Gail Lozado, whose team fell to 4-4-1, said the game got away from her team in the second half.

"I have a young defense, and when we slid we weren't covering low – by the crease - so they scored two quick goals off that, and they were great on the draws tonight. That's where they won it," said Lozado. "They won it on the draws. Waterhouse was great on the draw, that was the difference. And I thought their goalie stepped up. Their goalie and the draws won them the game. Our goalie kept us in the game, she had 13 saves and that's pretty good for someone who never played goalie before... But when you don't win the draws, you don't win the game."

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A Junior Comes Through for Fox Lane on Senior Day

By Jake Elman

On a day when the Fox Lane baseball team's seniors were honored, it was a junior who came through with the biggest hit of the afternoon.

Pinch-hitter Joe Fraioli broke a 3-3 tie Saturday in the bottom of the sixth inning with a clutch double, staff ace Alec Brown persevered despite command issues and the rest of the Foxes overcame a cold rain to defeat the Rye Garnets 4-3 at the school's annual Senior Day festivities.

"I definitely didn't have my 'A'-game stuff and I had to use my sinker to get myself out of a lot of situations," Brown said after a game in which he struck out four Rye batters. At times, the UNC A&T commit seemed simply dominating, showcasing why he'll be playing his collegiate baseball in Division 1. "I'm just thankful for my teammates. They had my back the whole day against a team who could really mash the ball."

Brown was removed in the seventh inning for fellow senior Ralph Nuzzi, who was making his first pitching appearance of the season. Pulling Brown just one out away from a complete game was a decision that his coach attributed to matchups.

"Rye had back-to-back lefties coming up,



Left fielder Tyler Preizler makes a running catch in Fox Lane's win vs. Rye this past weekend.

and it made sense to bring in Ralph to face them," said Fox Lane coach Matt Hillis not long after he called on Nuzzi, normally the team's first baseman.

Inserting Nuzzi into the game worked, as the SUNY Cortland-bound southpaw was able to use an effective fastball to save the game for the Foxes and help avenge a one-run loss at Rye earlier in the week. Along with his save, Nuzzi provided two hits for Fox Lane, which improved to 7-2 this season.

Neither Brown, whose record now is 2-0, nor Nuzzi might have even factored into the



Fox Lane's Ralph Nuzzi swings for the fences in the Foxes' 4-3 victory over visiting Rye.



Fox Lane's Alec Brown pitches in Saturday's home win vs. Rye.

last-inning decision by Hillis if not for the bat of Joe Fraioli. A junior in his first year on varsity, Fraioli entered the game with just one hit so far in his seven at-bats.

With the rain starting again, Fraioli ripped his big double that gave Fox Lane the lead for good. The extra-base hit brought home fellow junior Will Wortmann, who had pinch-run for designated hitter William Peacock.

"Was it ironic that on senior homecoming, a junior gave us the lead?" asked Hillis, who quickly provided the answer, along with another question. "Yes. But surprising? No. Since day one, Joe's shown nothing but a great work ethic and a will to win. That was a big hit when it really mattered, and it ended up being the game winner."

Second baseman John Cannon and Peacock also drove in runs for the Foxes, while speedy outfielder Kenny Hayden scored on a wild pitch after hitting a triple into the gap. Hayden is now hitting. 373 on the season, an impressive, but not unexpected, average for one of the Foxes' offensive catalysts.



The Foxes' William Peacock runs to third base during Saturday's game vs. the Garnets.

After a delay caused by the junior varsity game running late, the varsity contest was preceded by a senior homecoming ceremony that honored the 20 seniors on the team. Despite a light rain, the emotional ceremony still went on as planned, much to the satisfaction of the players and the many fans who lined the hillside just beyond the third-base line.

"Great ceremony, and on top of that, we ended up winning," Hillis remarked after the game, grinning. "That's not a bad day at all."

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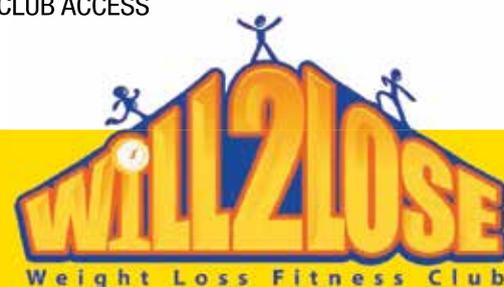
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