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April 8 - April 14, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 344

## Revised Chappaqua Crossing Plan Submitted By Developer

By Martin Wilbur

The highly anticipated revised Preliminary Development Concept Plan for Chappaqua Crossing was filed last Friday featuring the previously discussed "traditional neighborhood design" for the project.

Representatives of developer Summit/Greenfield submitted on Apr. 4 the reworked proposal to the Town of New Castle. The town board is tentatively scheduled to vote to refer the matter to the planning board at its meeting tonight (Tuesday).

One of the most significant changes is arranging the 60 fee-simple townhouses in groups of two to four units with the front doors facing the East Village access road or open spaces, according to the 55-page document filed by the developer's planning consultant Divney, Tung and Schwalbe.

Garages would be located toward the back of the units with sidewalks

connecting to the main entry drive and the remainder of the site. Street trees, common green spaces and parallel parking along the residential access road have also been added.

The remainder of the 51 residential units, of which 20 would be affordable housing, would be in a pair of two-story multifamily buildings that would be in keeping with the streetscape set up by the retail buildings to the south and west. Just over 31 acres of the 116-acre campus are devoted to the Multi-Family Planned Residential District.

Another proposed change is that the parking for the auditorium would be in the office parking area to the west. It is anticipated that use of the auditorium would occur mainly during the evening and on weekends so using the office parking lot would not conflict with typical workday hours.

According to last week's submission,  
*continued on page 2*



The New Castle Planning Board huddled earlier this year to come up with a more palatable design for the Chappaqua Crossing project.

## Pleasantville Waits for Answers From DOT on Stone Wall Dilemma

By Martin Wilbur

Pleasantville officials are still waiting to learn from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) if a 800-foot-long stone wall must be moved 10 feet, which could significantly impact Benchmark Senior Living's proposed assisted living facility.

Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer said the agency's engineer who sent out an eleventh-hour email regarding the issue shortly before the board's March 31 meeting is expected to return to his office on Apr. 9. As a result, it is unlikely the village would receive a decision before then, she said.

The board was expected to vote last Monday on Benchmark's request for a zoning change from half-acre residential to a floating zone. The zoning change is

needed to accommodate an eldercare facility at the 3.9-acre parcel on Route 117, a state thoroughfare, but the surprise correspondence arrived about two hours before the start of the meeting. The wall is in the state right of way and has been maintained by DOT for years.

Mayor Peter Scherer said there is a possibility that DOT brass may conclude that the concerns raised by its engineer, Stuart Sprague, does not require any action.

"It may very well be at management level at DOT this issue turns out not to be a problem," Scherer said last Friday. "Our sense at the moment is what happened (last) Monday is that they raised this issue that had not been raised before."

Scherer said he surmises that since  
*continued on page 2*

## Amended Site Plan for DeCicco's Triggers Talk of Armonk Parking Shortage

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Planning Board was expected to vote on a resolution last night (Monday) for an amended site plan for DeCicco Family Markets at Armonk Square that would legally allow the store's reconfigured mezzanine.

The revised plan shows the upper level at 4,413 square feet, up from 3,000 square feet in the original site plan that was approved in 2011. A March 24 public hearing was held by the planning board days after a notice of violation was issued by the North Castle Building Department because the mezzanine failed to conform to the approved floor plan.

The store's upper level was originally intended for mainly storage and offices along with a demo kitchen and a small

bar.

During the hour-long hearing, discussion centered mainly on the hamlet's downtown parking crunch, rather than the violation, which has required the owners of Armonk Square to return to the town for an amended site plan.

Armonk resident and developer Michael Fareri, who owns three properties that are contiguous to Armonk Square, contended that while the supermarket is the same total square footage as what was approved two and a half years ago, the intensity of use in the mezzanine is greater. The mezzanine now has a seating capacity of 120 for food service, which should require more parking than what was built.

*continued on page 4*



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## Revised Chappaqua Crossing Plan Submitted By Developer

*continued from page 1*

the commercial component would still feature 120,000 square feet of retail space in the proposed 19.1-acre Retail Overlay District. Plans call for a 40,000-square-foot full-service grocery to be the anchor store in a new freestanding structure flanked by 10,000 square feet of stores in the southern end.

The remaining 70,000 square feet of retail would be arranged in accordance with the traditional neighborhood design, along the north and south sides of the main entry drive.

The traditional neighborhood design was a concept that was proposed by planning board member Tom Curley.

"We've always thought of it as a master

plan for the property," Curley said at a February planning board meeting. "If the town is going to grant a zoning approval, the town ought to grant a zoning approval in a way which makes the whole thing better."

It remains to be seen whether surrounding homeowners will be more tolerant of the redesigned plan. The

previous iteration generated sharp criticisms from area residents as well as downtown Chappaqua merchants who expressed fear that 120,000 square feet of retail space would create a third business hamlet in town and jeopardize the existing commercial areas.

## Pleasantville Waits for Answers From DOT on Stone Wall Dilemma

*continued from page 1*

there is a major development project that has been proposed, DOT may be looking to have another party maintain the wall.

If DOT forces Benchmark to move the wall 10 feet back onto the property, it would likely result in the reopening of the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process and additional public hearings, the mayor said. If that is not required, the soonest the board would be able to take a vote is Apr. 28, its next regular meeting.

Trustee Colleen Griffin Wagner said if DOT requires the wall be moved back that would likely make a significant impact on the project because of the topography.

"If you have to move a wall 10 feet back--now I'm not an engineer and I can't speak to what kind of changes it makes to the grade and the drainage and

all that--but it has to have an impact," Wagner said. "So they (Benchmark) would have to go back to their drawing board and then start this process over again."

The Jan. 7 email from Sprague, forwarded to Dwyer for the first time at 5:12 p.m. last Monday, alerted DOT personnel that the stone wall could present a safety issue at the site.

"There is minimal room from the curb to the wall, thus no room for snow storage (motorist safety) and no room for the pedestrian safety of a sidewalk," part of Sprague's correspondence read.

Later on, the email stated "(t)he Residency's concern is that the existing (long time) stone wall is improperly within the State right of way and should be moved onto private property during construction of this new facility."

Sprague also noted in his email that the municipality does not want the wall removed.

Calls placed on Monday to the DOT's regional office in Poughkeepsie and to Benchmark attorney David Steinmetz to ask questions regarding the issue were not returned.

However, last week's email thread, a copy of which was obtained by The Examiner, also revealed that Steinmetz was taken by surprise.

"Neither Benchmark nor its consultants has ever received any written communication from DOT regarding the retaining wall," Steinmetz wrote on his way to the meeting.

The board granted his request for adjournment until the applicant's representatives could clarify the issue with DOT.

Scherer said all parties were aware of the wall but for the past year since the application was submitted its placement had not been an issue.

"Everybody knew the wall was on state property and we have all hoped that the state would own up to what we see as its responsibility, that it's their wall and should anything happen to it they fix it," Scherer said.

He noted that there is precedent for the state to take care of the road "curb to curb" and assign responsibility to private property owners or a municipality. However, the wall, believed to be built by the county in the 1920s and taken over by the state when Route 117 because a state road, has been maintained by those two entities since it was constructed, Scherer said.

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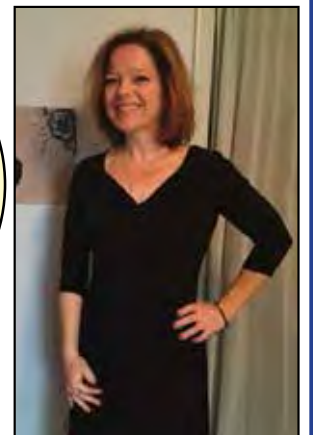
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# Lawmakers Give New State Budget High Marks for Freeze, School Aid

By Martin Wilbur

Area state legislators were generally supportive of the \$138 billion 2014-15 New York State budget approved in Albany last week giving high marks to most of the main features of the new spending plan.

Tax cuts, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo's property tax freeze proposal, and increases in school aid were lauded by most lawmakers in what was another on-time budget. All four budgets during Cuomo's administration have met the Apr. 1 deadline.

"Overall, I felt like the budget had a lot of good features for responsible fiscal planning," said Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains).

The centerpiece of Cuomo's original plan remained intact, the three-year \$1.5 billion initiative to offset property taxes for homeowners if taxing jurisdictions stay within the cap. For those property owners who live in an area where their school district adheres to the cap for the 2014-15 school budget, rebate checks will be mailed out before the end of October, Buchwald said.

Starting in 2015 and running for the remainder of the three-year period, there will be credits given on the state income tax. During the second year of the three-year agreement, municipalities will have to develop a cost-savings plan to

continue to have their constituents keep their property taxes frozen.

Other tax cutting measures included the elimination of the 5.9 percent income tax for manufacturers and eventually raising the threshold for the estate tax from \$1 million to about \$5 million.

An additional \$1.1 billion in school aid was provided statewide. In state Sen. Greg Ball's (R-Patterson) 40th District, for example, more than \$17.5 million in additional aid over the current year will be coming back.

The state also set aside more than \$1.5 billion over the next five years to pay for Universal Pre-K. Most of the money--\$300 million a year--will go to New York City. An additional \$40 million is available for districts throughout the rest of the state.

Ball said the budget passed on March 31, will help families cope with what has been a very expensive state to live in.

"In a real way, this budget delivers additional property tax relief to hardworking taxpayers, reduces costs for businesses so they can create new jobs and gives students the tools they need to receive a first-class education," Ball said in a statement.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) also was pleased with most of the main provisions of the budget, including education aid. He said while he would



Gov. Andrew Cuomo saw his tax freeze proposal win approval in the legislature last week as part of the state's 2014-15 \$138 billion budget.

have like to have seen some mandate relief as well as a full repeal of the MTA payroll tax, there was more to support than to criticize.

Meanwhile, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining), a strong supporter of the tax freeze proposal, said she was pleased that the freeze was included and to see increased school aid. However, Galef is hopeful that the legislature can build off the freeze and eventually

reverse taxes.

"That's what this tax freeze does, it goes to the next step," she said. "We're not trying to keep your taxes here, we're trying to figure out how we can start to lower them for the future."

The harshest words for the new budget came from Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville), who called it "a cruel budget" while predicting that Cuomo's consolidation and shared services plan will fail.

"The focus is on taxes, not on people and it shifts the responsibility of solving those tax problems to the local governments and school districts," Abinanti said. "The way to reduce property taxes is for the state to bear its tax burden. The governor's consolidation formula will not work. I have spoken with many mayors and supervisors and they say they can never save the necessary amount. The result is going to be drastic cuts in services and laying off of people."

Abinanti, however, was supportive of another sharp increase in education funding with significant increases on the horizon for most Westchester districts. But he criticized the lack of commitment for special needs students, people with disabilities and environmental conservation.

Pat Casey contributed to this article.

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# Amended Site Plan for DeCicco's Triggers Talk of Armonk Parking Shortage

continued from page 1

Plans were approved for 173 spaces, five more than what was required under the blended parking arrangement that was allowed by the town for the project.

Fareri said given the parking shortage in downtown Armonk and that a study completed prior to approval was based on different uses for the space, the town must come up with a plan for additional parking. Restaurants typically generate a greater need for parking than a

supermarket or most retail, he said.

"At the end of the day, we have a parking shortage in town that's exacerbated because of the study that was done, and the numbers that were in that study isn't what got built," said Fareri, who has filed three Article 78 proceedings since 2008 against Armonk Square.

Fareri, who praised DeCicco Family Markets during his comments, added that the situation involving the supermarket

isn't the only cause for concern. The shared parking arrangement in Armonk Square's parking lot also was based on a 1,425-square-foot restaurant at the site, not the 3,000-square-foot Fortina, an Italian restaurant.

Lawyers for Armonk Square developers Alan Zaretsky and Dominick and Joseph Dioguardi said that the matter before the board centered on having an amended site plan, not resolving the town's parking

shortage. While attorney Anthony Veneziano acknowledged the parking issues downtown, he reminded officials that his clients invested about \$30 million in the site, which has helped revive the center of the hamlet.

"What's going on in that lot is not about what's in that center," Veneziano said. "It's broader. There has been some snow, there's still some construction workers and it's going to get better, but it's still going to be ongoing and people will adjust their parking schedules."

Planning Board Chairman Arthur Adelman said the town board is grappling with the downtown parking issue but that was out of the planning board's purview. He said elected officials have been exploring additional parking.

"It's a global issue," Adelman said. "It's not something that's specifically and uniquely to Armonk Square. It's tight. The town has recognized that."

The town board is considering additional parking behind the Hergenhan Recreation Center, and a parcel at the end of Kent Place. It has once again initiating talks with Verizon to possibly acquire its land near the library. The possibility of a downtown parking district have also been raised.

## We Are the Champions!

The Pleasantville fourth-grade girls' travel basketball team won a thriller, 23-20, against the First Ladies of White Plains at the College of New Rochelle to capture the Fourth Grade Division Tri-County Basketball title last month. Tenacious defense and a clutch offense helped the Lady Panthers (14-0) to an undefeated season.



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# Memory Care Facility Proposed in Mount Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

A 64-unit memory care facility is being proposed for a vacant parcel located across the street from Westchester Community College in Valhalla.

John Kiely, a partner with Massachusetts-based Hawthorne Partners, a real estate development and consulting company, said the facility would be operated by Epoch Senior Living. Epoch runs several assisted living facilities in New England, he said.

Kiely said if approved it would be the first facility in Westchester County to be exclusively for memory care.

A memory care facility is a residence

for people with Alzheimer's or dementia, Kiely said.

"They need a level of care that is much greater than typical assisted living," he said.

The monthly rent would start at \$4,000, Kiely noted.

The proposed one-story structure would be built on 10 vacant acres located at 236 Grasslands Rd. Hawthorne Partners is hoping to purchase the property from current owners Ted and Joanne Ricciardella.

The land is zoned half-acre residential. For the project to move forward, a zoning change would be required from

the town board. Kiely said his company had yet to decide on what type of zone they would seek from the town board.

Supervisor Joan Maybury said one potential obstacle to the project is the water supply. Greenburgh, not Mount Pleasant, provides water to that portion of town, including the parcel being sought by Hawthorne Partners. Approval from Greenburgh officials would be needed, she said.

A date for when the proposal would return to the board for further discussion was not determined last week.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

John Kiely, a partner with Massachusetts-based Hawthorne Partners, left, with property owners Ted and Joanne Ricciardella addressed the Mount Pleasant Town Board on Apr. 1. Hawthorne Partners is proposing a memory care facility for Grasslands Road in Valhalla.

## Acting Mt. Pleasant Police Chief to Gain Permanent Appointment



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The Mount Pleasant Town Board was expected to appoint Acting Police Chief Paul Oliva Jr. as permanent chief Tuesday night.

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Pleasant Town Board is set to formally hire Acting Police Chief Paul Oliva Jr. to lead the department and officially sever ties with its former chief when it meets tonight (Tuesday).

Supervisor Joan Maybury said Friday that the board is slated to appoint Oliva as its permanent chief. Oliva, who will turn 48 later this month, will earn a \$135,518 salary.

Oliva replaced Brian Fanelli as chief on Jan. 28. Fanelli was suspended following his arrest on Jan. 23 at his Mahopac home

for allegedly downloading and possessing child pornography.

On March 25, Fanelli was officially demoted from chief to lieutenant, Maybury said. Two days later, Fanelli's resignation from the police force was accepted by the town.

At its meeting this week, the town board is expected to approve a final lump sum payment of \$30,420 for Fanelli's unused sick days, vacation and holiday pay, Maybury said. She added that the board is "glad" that the payment will end Fanelli's involvement with the police force.

The town board is gratified to be able to appoint Oliva as its permanent chief after completing the civil service process, Maybury mentioned.

"Paul has impressed us for a long time," she said, adding the town board has been particularly fond of his leadership skills.

Olivia, son of former town Police Chief Paul Olivia Sr., has been with the department for 25 years. Olivia, a Valhalla resident, said Friday it was a "great honor" to be selected as permanent chief.

He wrote to Maybury in a memo that "I thank you for your confidence."

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# P'ville Proposes \$13.8M Village Budget, But Criticizes Tax Cap

By Janine Bowen

The Village of Pleasantville's proposed \$13.8 million 2014-15 budget was unveiled last week with an estimated tax rate increase for property owners that will fall between 0.5 and 1.9 percent.

Under the draft budget, spending would increase \$327,000 over this year, but costs for general liability and workers compensation insurance are not yet fixed.

"I wouldn't consider this to be a fluid budget, but it's not static at this time," said Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer. "There are things that will be occurring in the next couple of weeks that could change this picture slightly."

Contributing factors are increases in employee benefits, which includes the hiring of a new police officer and an assistant to the court clerk. In addition, public safety, which includes police administration and crossing guards, and public works will see increases. Funding for outreach services, such as the Clinton Street Center and the senior nutrition program, will decrease by about \$31,000 due to changes in personnel, Dwyer said.

The village is likely to contribute at least \$250,000 from fund balance.

However, at least \$400,000 is needed to comply with the tax cap. Pleasantville's undesignated fund balance stands at just under \$3 million, but that number could change before the budget is adopted later this month. Currently 72 percent of the village's spending is raised through property taxes.

Dwyer and village board members expressed frustration with the cap on the tax levy, which stands at 1.48 percent, because it will hinder improvements officials would like to make.

"Our fiscal policies were designed with certain goals in mind, keeping certain fund balance levels, keeping certain reserves. We've not been able to do any of that since the tax cap came along," Dwyer said.

"We need to revisit our fiscal policies so that they're in line with fiscal realities, and vice versa," she added.

Mayor Peter Scherer said there may come a time where exceeding the tax cap will become necessary to maintain services.

"There are lots of circumstances where, for a community of our size, the kinds of costs we have to incur mean that some choices have to be made in order to stay in the tax cap, and I think

we can say with confidence that we have done pretty well with that, but there will come a point, as has already come in other communities, where ... keeping the place in the shape it needs to be in order to avoid much bigger expenses down the road will arrive to the point where they cannot be accomplished," he said.

Despite the potential struggle with the tax levy, Dwyer revealed to the board at its March 31 meeting that the village has maintained its A2 rating with Moody's. According to the financial ratings corporation, the village's fiscal outlook will continue to be positive as long as the tax base expands, something officials have already looked to do with new development projects on the table.

There were no comments from residents at last week's public hearing. Dwyer said officials will listen to constituents' comments to help create the final budget, which must be adopted by Apr. 30. The new fiscal year begins June 1.

"The good news, we're at a fund balance level that is appropriate for our size budget. We have the ability to fund this budget this year under the tax cap or at the tax cap, so we have some

choices that we need to make over the next few weeks," Dwyer said.

Although the budget did not include capital expenditures, Dwyer's presentation addressed several projects for the upcoming fiscal year. There will be road improvements, courtesy of funding from the state's CHIPS program. In addition, officials plan to complete sidewalk repairs that were slated for this year but came to a halt after the harsh winter, to buy new equipment for DPW and to enhance the downtown's appearance by installing benches and planting trees.

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# Police Blotter

## Mount Kisco Police Department

**March 29:** The grandmother of an 18-year-old Mount Kisco man reported at 3:03 a.m. that her grandson was assaulted on Maple Avenue. The victim suffered a bloody nose and swelling to both eyes and his forehead and was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital. He was uncooperative with police and declined to press charges.

**March 29:** A 27-year-old Mount Kisco woman was arrested at 3:17 a.m. and charged with obstructing governmental administration after interfering with police investigating the prior assault on Maple Avenue.

**March 31:** A 25-year-old Mount Kisco man was charged at 11:11 p.m. with urinating in public on South Moger Avenue near Green Street.

**Apr. 1:** A doctor's office on Lexington Avenue reported an incident of aggravated harassment at 3:45 p.m. The father of a child engaged in a dispute with office personnel regarding the time of an appointment. The matter was resolved and closed by investigation.

**Apr. 2:** A 46-year-old homeless man was arrested at 8:57 a.m. and charged with petty larceny for allegedly stealing a 12-pack of beer at Rite Aid on South Moger Avenue.

**Apr. 2:** Report of a suspicious incident at a business on Kisco Avenue at 1:11 p.m.

Two males entered a store and asked for change. The merchant believed that the request was out of the ordinary and called police.

**Apr. 2:** A 22-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 11:04 p.m. and charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation, following a traffic stop on Wallace Drive.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**March 29:** Report of a stolen vehicle on Manville Road at 6:32 p.m. A caller stated a 2006 Subaru Impreza was taken from the driveway.

**March 30:** Report of a larceny at Lil' Chocolate Shoppe on Washington Avenue at 12:17 p.m. The complainant stated that

an undisclosed amount of merchandise was taken from the store.

**March 31:** Report of a possible dumping incident on Campus Drive at 10:37 a.m. The complaint turned out to be that the state was taking soil samples.

**March 31:** A possible assault was reported on Garrigan Avenue at 7:11 p.m. A 55-year-old Pleasantville man was arrested in connection with the incident.

## North Castle Police Department

**March 30:** The woman who works at the front desk at La Quinta Inn reported at 2:12 a.m. that a guest staying in Room 123 was being disruptive. The responding officer stated that he spoke to the party in question and the subject will stay in his

room for the rest of the night.

**March 31:** Complainant called to report a dog running at large on Megan Lane at 7:02 p.m. The responding officer stated that the owner was able to capture the dog.

**Apr. 1:** A caller reported at 10:28 a.m. that two females with a white jeep were going door to door on Glendale Avenue, then drove on School Street toward Cox Avenue. The complainant found this activity suspicious. The responding officer reported that the two individuals were Jehovah's Witnesses and check okay.

**Apr. 2:** A complainant reported at headquarters at 9:09 p.m. about an apparent scam regarding a personal loan application.

# D'Aria Forgery Case Moved Out of Mount Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

The forgery case involving the defeated candidate in last year's Mount Pleasant supervisor's race is being moved out of the town.

The proceedings surrounding Anthony D'Aria will be brought to county court in White Plains, said Lucien Chalfen, a spokesman for the Westchester County district's attorney.

D'Aria, an independent candidate who lost his election bid to incumbent

Republican Joan Maybury in November, was charged with five counts of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, a felony. His arrest stemmed from allegedly attesting to forged signatures on a petition carried for his running mate's campaign manager last summer.

Chalfen said it typically takes between two and four weeks to schedule a county court date. The purpose of moving the matter to county court is to decide on "a

trial or a negotiated plan" to end the case, he said.

D'Aria, the CEO of a Briarcliff Manor investment firm, verified the validity of the signatures on the opportunity to ballot petition for Frank Morgenthaler, a write-in candidate for district leader in the Sept. 10 Republican primary in the town's 28th Election District, authorities said. The signatures were filed with the Westchester County Board of Elections.

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# Regeneron Unveils Teacher STEM Training Program

By Neal Rentz

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals announced a new program last week to promote and improve science, technology, engineering and math education in the region.

During an education symposium at its Tarrytown headquarters April 3, company representatives announced the creation of the Hudson Valley STEM Teaching Fellowship program in collaboration with NASA, the Teachers College at Columbia University and the STEM Education Leadership Center of Rye.

The program, scheduled to begin this

summer, will provide training for teachers to help them integrate the teaching of the four subjects in local schools more effectively.

There are three elements to the initiative: a nine-credit online graduate course with interactive lectures granting a STEM Leadership certificate, a research project for teachers at Regeneron's campus led by the company's scientists and informal classroom training in STEM teaching methods.

"We believe it's important to raise the overall level of science and math

proficiency in our communities," said Murray Goldberg, Regeneron's senior vice president of administration in explaining the thrust behind the effort.

Ten high school teachers from the Hudson Valley will be chosen through a competitive application process to become Regeneron fellows to start the new program, Goldberg noted.

"We need to educate and graduate students today who are scientifically literate so that they can become the scientists and technicians and the Regeneron employees of tomorrow," he



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Senior Vice President of Administration Murray Goldberg announced a new science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program for teachers at the company's headquarters in Tarrytown on Apr. 3.

## Harvey International Student Wins Japanese Speech Contest

Danni Qu, one of six Chinese students enrolled this year in Harvey's new International Student Program, won the Northeast Council of Japanese Language Teachers (NECTJ) annual speech contest last week in New York City.

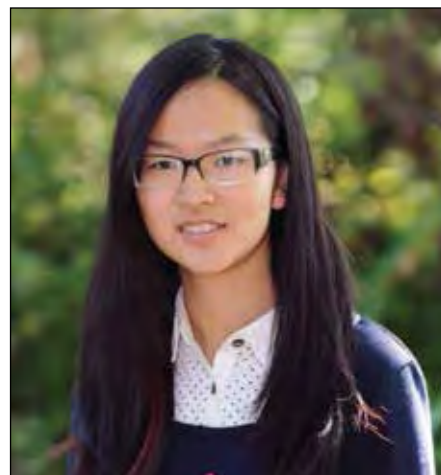
Qu, a sophomore whose native language is Mandarin, was judged the winner against seven other students from around the region. A resident of the City of Guangzhou in the province of Guangdong, China, Danni began studying Japanese in middle school. She takes an advanced independent study class in Japanese language at Harvey. Her award-winning speech was titled "Motivation

and Language."

Qu's Japanese language teacher, Tim Cornell of Amawalk, was proud of his student's accomplishment.

"She didn't just read the speech, but had to memorize it, which she did beautifully," Cornell said. "It was about four minutes long, so this was quite an accomplishment. To do this at her age is amazing. Danni is well on her way to becoming fluent in Japanese and is a real asset to Harvey."

The speech contest was held at the United Nations International School in Manhattan.



Danni Qu

said. "We also need to provide all of our young people with the strong academic foundation in math and science that increasingly is needed for career success in many fields in our global economy."

Regeneron already has in place a STEM pilot afterschool program in Mount Vernon that is funded by the company and Westchester County. Last year it was offered through the Westchester Jewish Community Services' Off the Street Program that trains and employs Mount Vernon High School students to tutor and mentor the district's elementary school pupils.

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## Obituaries

### John Papaicolaou

John Anthony Papanicolaou passed away on March 29.

Papanicolaou was born in Voutiani, Greece, a small farming village outside of the city of Sparta. As a teen, he became an "adarti," Greek for freedom fighter, combating Nazi Germany and her allies for the right of freedom and democracy during World War II.

Because of his character and integrity, Papanicolaou was taken to work in the shipping industry in Athens, which is how he eventually came to the shores of New York. With less than \$200 in his pocket and more ambition than any man, he would come to meet what he would often refer to as "the best looking girl in all of Yonkers," Mary Hanges.

They married and raised three beautiful children. He would go on to work alongside Mary's father who was rooted in the flower business since he first came to the U.S. in the early 1900s. This industry would be where Papanicolaou would find his niche and become a huge success and a pillar of his community.

There is so much to say about his

character and his love that this short space would never suffice. He was a great man who will be missed momentarily. For those who were lucky enough to get through his tough exterior, Papanicolaou was a tender man who put himself last and could never say no to anyone.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary; daughter Joanne; sons Anthony and Harry; grandchildren Niko, Yanni, John, George, Alex, Niko and Gregory; and great-grandchildren Niko, Demetra and Raffi.

May God bless him and welcome him into his kingdom. We love you and will miss you immensely Papouli. Your memory will be forever a part of us and we thank you for everything. *Panta sti kardia mas.*

Visitation was at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville on Apr. 1. The funeral service was held on Apr. 2 at The Greek Orthodox Church of Our Savior in Rye, followed by burial at Mount Hope Cemetery in Hastings-on-Hudson.

### Frances Koezly

Frances R. Koezly of Hawthorne died on March 27.

She was 96.

Koezly was born on Sept. 5, 1917, to the late Emidio and Bernadina (nee Paolucci) Scimia in Valhalla. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Kenneth Koezly, in 1985 and by her grandson, David Maki, two brothers and three sisters. She is survived by her loving daughter, Catherine Maki, of Hawthorne, N.Y.; three cherished grandchildren,

Wendy Schell of Hawthorne, Nancy (Robert) Ferrara of the Bronx and James Maki of Green Bay, Wis.; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on March 30. A funeral Mass was held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne on March 31 followed by interment.

### Fannie Zuzolo

Fannie Zuzolo of Yonkers died on March 28 at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx.

She was 71.

Zuzolo was born on Dec. 18, 1942, to the late Michael and Theresa (nee Ungaro) Colonna in the Bronx. She is survived by her devoted husband, Louis, and her loving sons, Vincent Cunzio of North White Plains and Michael (Margaret) Cunzio of Thornwood. She is also survived by her brother, Salvatore (Ardith) Colonna, of Fort Lauderdale,

Fla. and stepson John Zuzolo of Scarsdale.

Zuzolo worked as a secretary for Cunzio and Company, Inc. for many years in North White Plains.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Apr. 1. The funeral service and interment were private.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Outer Banks SPCA, 1031 Driftwood Dr., P.O. Box 2477, Manteo, N.C. 27954 would be appreciated.

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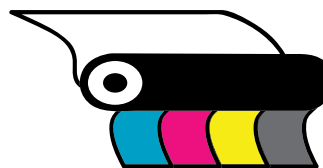
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# County Lawmakers Step Up Call to Raise Age of Legal Tobacco Purchases

By Martin Wilbur

Democratic county lawmakers intensified calls on Wednesday to raise the minimum age to legally purchase cigarettes in Westchester to 19 years old, citing evidence that smoking at early ages increases the likelihood of addiction.

Democratic Majority Leader Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) was joined by Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) and Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) outside Rocky's Deli in Millwood to gather support for the proposed legislation.

Borgia said the rationale behind increasing the minimum age by one year to buy any tobacco products was to make it more difficult for teenagers, particularly high school students, to gain access to them. Since the overwhelming majority of students finish high school by 18, there would be less of a chance for younger students to be enticed and start smoking.

"The younger a person starts with any kind of negative habit, the more powerful the addiction and the more difficult it is to stop that addiction," Borgia said.

Kaplowitz and Shimsky said they enthusiastically support the proposal. Shimsky, who is optimistic the proposal will pass, explained that scientific evidence has shown that early use of tobacco is more addictive and limits the ability of those to delay gratification and make choices of their own free will.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Legislator Catherine Borgia is leading the charge among Westchester officials in pressing for an increase in the legal age to purchase tobacco.

"I am so glad that Legislator Borgia has initiated this effort," Shimsky said. "This is so, so very important for the health of our adolescents and young adults."

The location for the press conference was selected because the deli's owner, Greg Santone, voluntarily ended cigarette sales at his store on Route 100 in 2007. He said many people questioned his judgment, but with students from the local high schools some of his most frequent customers,

he concluded that tobacco products was something he should do without.

"I just felt like I didn't want to profit from a product that hurts so many people's lives," Santone said.

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revealed that tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, said Makeda James, Westchester County coordinator for POW'R Against Tobacco.

About 480,000 Americans die of health conditions linked to tobacco use each year.

Another report from the federal agency revealed that 700 teenagers in the United States under the age of 18 will start smoking every day. Nearly one-third of them will die from health complications stemming from smoking.

If passed by the Board of Legislators, Westchester would join Nassau and Onondaga counties in raising the legal purchasing age to 19, said Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D-Ossining). New York City and Suffolk County have already increased the legal age to buy tobacco products to 21.

Galef said she is continuing to push for a statewide bill to increase the age to 19. Getting Westchester to adopt the change would be a major step in that direction.

"Having Westchester adopt 19 is so significant," Galef said. "Westchester is a very large county, it's a very influential county, and going forward with this, it's saying a lot to the rest of my colleagues on the legislature."

Kaplowitz, who previously co-authored the Smoke-Free Workplace Law in Westchester, said the county should do everything in its power to promote the health and safety of its youth.

"As a legislature, if we can facilitate even a small part in preventing our young people from starting this deadly habit, it is important that we do so," Kaplowitz said.

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## Editorial

### State DOT Bungled Handling of P'ville Retaining Wall Information

When dealing with governmental agencies, there's a certain expectation of a slow-moving bureaucracy where some personnel might be unaware of what others in the same department are doing.

Or some email gets lost in cyberspace. Before email and computers, it would have been no surprise if paperwork or some file was misplaced.

During the past week the worst of governmental red tape and inefficiency has been on full display, courtesy of the state Department of Transportation (DOT) when dealing with the Village of Pleasantville and the Benchmark Senior Living proposal.

On March 31, Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer received an email from DOT a mere 108 minutes before the scheduled start of a meeting where an anticipated vote on whether to grant a rezone for Benchmark and its proposed assisted living facility was to take place.

All of a sudden, a DOT staffer had relayed a message voicing concerns about vehicle and pedestrian safety because of the placement of the 800-foot-long stone wall on Route 117 in front of the United Methodist Church property. The rationale for raising the issue, quite possibly a legitimate one, is that there would be insufficient room to move snow or build a sidewalk unless the wall was moved back about 10 feet.

That's significant because such a change could have severe implications on the project, given the grade of the property and the dimensions of the parcel.

It wasn't as though the DOT struggled to reach consensus and managed to come to a decision less than two hours before the meeting. The DOT staffer had been communicating internally with others in his department as far back as Jan. 7 on this matter. Somehow this critical piece of information never found its way to

anyone in the village or to the applicant.

This isn't to say that if it wasn't for DOT the property would have been rezoned by now. This matter has nothing to do with the debate on the controversial topic, where neighbors passionately believe the project doesn't belong, while others are equally as eager for the project to be approved and built.

The issue is about the dithering of a large and unwieldy bureaucracy that came within a whisker of supplying important information too late to be considered.

It will be intriguing to see how long DOT takes to come up with its conclusion and whether the retaining wall, which coincidentally has been the state's responsibility for decades, must be moved or can stay in place.

If past performance is any indicator, that decision won't be made anytime soon.

## Column

### Knowing What We Are, Not Knowing What That Means

**By Rabbi Echanan Poupko**

A recently released study conducted by the Pew Research Center showed that a majority of the world believes that belief in God is essential to morality. The study surveyed over 40,000 people in more than 40 counties.

Although some may consider this study to be reassuring for religious people whose acceptance of the belief in God as a guarantee for moral behavior, taking a deeper look actually reveals quite the opposite. While a majority of people in these countries do believe that God is a necessary ingredient for moral behavior, the list of what countries hold that belief gives the story a different spin.

With the United States and China being the most noteworthy exceptions, the correlation between morality and the belief in God is very much a factor of wealth. The wealthier the country, the less likely its citizens are to believe in the linkage between morality and the belief in God. Despite its wealth, in the United States there is still a strong belief in the relationship between God and morality; China is the exception in reverse despite its poverty.

Another finding is that the more educated people are the more likely they

are to find no relationship between belief in God and morality. Finally, the study found the younger the person the less likely they were to make this correlation.

As a young, educated and religious individual, this troubled me. Does one not need to believe in God to be a moral person? Is this belief, which is stated clearly in the Bible (Genesis 20:11), outdated? A relic reserved for the uneducated and impoverished in the undeveloped countries of the world?

Furthermore, why is it that Americans differ from our European counterparts who seem to follow the path that wealth and education diminishes belief in God as a necessary imperative for morality?

To understand this we must realize there is a deeply fundamental question that was not asked by the Pew researchers: What is morality? Participants in this study were presented with the question of whether or not they see a need to believe in God with the assumption that what morality means can be taken for granted. This missing detail holds the key to understanding and putting into perspective the study's findings.

There is no question that educated societies can live with each other in peace and harmony. The real question is what

is morality. Perhaps the reason so many Europeans believe that there is no need to believe in God in order to be moral may be because they are willing to accept the notion that morality is something assessed and reevaluated every decade or generation.

The fact that in ancient cultures it was okay to sacrifice one's children and burn them to death as offerings to their gods was not because all members of that culture decided to be cruel, vulgar and inhumane. It was because they came to an agreement that they believe that under the circumstances that was the right thing to do.

When we look at a generation in which moral norms are changing at a rate that was unthinkable a century ago, we must not wonder whether people will be moral but rather what will be moral? Many Westerners consider themselves to be at the cutting edge of moral behavior despite the record high rates of euthanasia, abortion, post-birth abortion and assisted suicide. That highlights the need for an objective moral standard and how much of it is adaptable, if at all.

Asking people if they are moral and if they need God to be moral does no good for the cause of morality; people ought to be asked what is it that they define as moral, what may be unchangeable and what they think will give those definitions stability, sustainability and permanence so that we can seek confidence in a bright, safe and moral future.

We all believe that we are moral people, we just may have no idea what that means.

*Rabbi Elchanan Poupko is a rabbinic intern at Park East Synagogue in Manhattan.*

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## Maxwell Levy Vocalist/Student, Pleasantville

By Martin Wilbur

There aren't many 17-year-olds who earn the opportunity to perform at Avery Fisher Hall. But then there aren't many singers as talented as Maxwell Levy.

On March 30, Levy, a Byram Hills High School senior, sang with Distinguished Concerts International New York, an entity that brings together elite talent from around the United States and abroad to perform concerts at some of the most famous venues.

A week ago Sunday, the roughly 200-member chorus, with Levy, a bass/baritone and one of only about 15 student performers in the group, was led by internationally acclaimed conductor Eric Whitacre. The experience held special meaning for Levy.

"At the concert, I think 'Sleep' was one of the best performed pieces we did," Levy said of what may be Whitacre's highest profile choral composition. "I love the piece. I actually did it with the Byram Hills choir my freshman year, so it was pretty cool to see it come full circle, starting with the high school choir and then singing it

at one of the most famous concert halls in the world."

His appearance with Distinguished Concerts International is the latest of Levy's long list of accomplishments. During high school, Levy has gone from the enjoyment singing and making appearances in several local theater productions into an accomplished talent. He was chosen for the New York State Mixed Chorus in 2012 and become one of the first two Westchester residents to be selected to the United States All-National Choir last year.

He has also been accepted into the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, the official chorus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops Orchestra.

Levy's repertoire has increasingly tilted more toward opera, in part because of his fluency in Italian and Spanish.

"I wanted to do a lot of musical theater but (my teacher) sort of had me realize that my voice is much more suited toward opera," he said.

Perhaps most astounding is that Levy's success has come with a modicum of

vocal training, at least until recently. While performing local theater, where he performed in "Shrek," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Hairspray," and several other productions, at Tarrytown Music Hall, he would work with a coach.

However, it wasn't until the former choir director at Byram Hills urged him to audition for the New York State Mixed Chorus did Levy notice his gifts.

"I sort of realized that if I actually work at this, I mean, one, it's something I really enjoy, and two, it's something that I'm kind of good at," said Levy. "I think freshman year in high school, sophomore year in high school is when I started focusing on singing."

Levy's introduction to singing started when he was five. At the time, his sister, Kristen, about three years older than him, was involved with local theater. She would soon stop performing, but Levy's mother asked whether he could become involved. By the time Levy was nine or 10 years old, he was working with Random Farms Theater and other local groups.

Despite his musical focus today, Levy doesn't have tunnel vision. He also plays piano, guitar and violin. Every year at Byram Hills he has been a member of the boys' varsity tennis team. As a senior, he's



taking six AP courses. He enjoys writing and has had two short stories published and has been involved with numerous volunteer efforts and community service projects.

Levy also has a wide range of musical tastes. In the car, his choices could range from opera to the heaviest rap, depending on his mood, he said.

Through all of his activities he's managed to maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA, but that hasn't come without hard work. The comment Levy often hears is that he's "well rounded."

"I come home, work for five hours, go to tennis, then work for another couple of hours," he said.

In the fall Levy will be attending the University of Pennsylvania, where his sister will be a senior. At this point, he plans on pursuing the dual major of English and finance, not music or voice. But it's not like he's giving up performing. Next month he has auditions with the Philadelphia Singers, the professional choir of the Philadelphia Symphony, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Despite all he's accomplished, Levy makes sure to stay level-headed.

"I almost like, not having low self-esteem, but not thinking that I'm that great because it makes me work harder," he said.

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# A Woman Toughs Her Way Through Construction to Real Estate

Women who have fought to claim their right to have jobs traditionally reserved for men have always fascinated me, and I have championed their cause.

When I was an operations officer at the Culinary Institute of America in the 1970s, I looked around and saw that only two of the 1,200 enrolled students were women. I knew that something was wrong and set out on a promotional campaign to open American kitchens to women chefs.

By the time I left the institute in 1980, one-third of the student population was female, and today when I read about remarkable achievements of women chefs, I feel that somehow I had a little something to do with that.

It was only natural that when I recently attended Author's Day at the Mahopac Public Library to talk about my book, "Musings of the Home Guru," I was delighted to find myself seated near an author named Leslie M. Jasper who had written a book called "Construction Tales: Volume I, A Woman's Journey to Become an Electrician." Involved for a dozen years in real estate and construction, I had never met a woman electrician. I couldn't stop myself from asking how she came to choose that line of work.

"It came by way of the military," Jasper responded, explaining that at 17 she tested



By Bill Primavera

for a military assignment as an airplane or construction mechanic. She chose the latter believing it would have greater application in civilian life. Soon after, she fell in love with a serviceman from New York, married and arrived in Westchester at 19 with a husband and baby in tow, quickly becoming a member of the electrician's union.

But tragedy struck when her son, Tom, was 18 months old. Her husband was killed in a motorcycle accident and suddenly it was urgent that she pursue her chosen line of work.

"I grew up with a father who told me that I was smart, strong and capable of doing whatever I set my mind to doing," Jasper said. "What others found shocking and daring, I found natural."

"Acceptance is very important when a woman steps into a man's industry and attempts to become an electrician," she continued. "In the beginning when I was given an assignment here and there, some of the guys would call me 'Monica,' a crude way to imply how I was getting my breaks, but I carried on, working as hard as I could to learn my craft. Once I showed how hard I was willing to work, guys were more willing to show me how to become an electrician. It never made sense to me that a woman could not handle a task strictly based on the fact that she is a woman. If anything, women



BILL PRIMAVERA PHOTO

Leslie M. Jasper, electrician, author and now member of The Home Guru Team of real estate agents.

typically have an eye for detail and are very thorough when doing a task."

Jasper embarked on a more than five-year apprenticeship to become a journeywoman electrician that earns her the right to compete independently for jobs without having to be under the direction of another electrician. She was doing very well, but after 2009 when the effects of the recession caught up with the construction trades, she found herself largely unemployed. Jasper returned to school to earn a master's degree in business and looked around for part-time work.

During the course of a subsequent interview for this article, she happened to

mention that she was knowledgeable about construction, having bought a foreclosed home in Carmel in 1996, gutted it and rebuilt it from scratch. Plus, she's had a real estate license since 2007, albeit inactive since 2011.

A light bulb went off in my head and I closed down the interview with my final question: "What are you doing looking for part-time jobs? You're perfect to be a real estate agent."

Just imagine those first-time buyers looking for a fixer-upper and having Jasper as their dynamo agent and adviser with her background, knowing exactly what needs to be done and how to do it.

Welcome to your new job, Leslie. Welcome to The Home Guru Team!

If you want Jasper to help you find a home, call her through our team at 914-522-2076.

To know more about this extraordinary woman, Jasper's book can be found at Barnes & Noble and on iTunes.

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](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: [www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com](http://www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com) and his blog is: [www.TheHomeGuru.com](http://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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# Armonk Woman to Be Honored for Creating NWH Caregivers Center

By Martin Wilbur

Having a loved one in the hospital is often a harrowing experience. It doesn't matter if the patient is receiving outstanding medical attention, the primary caregiver may feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of keeping a family going amid the stress, worry, and in certain situations, grief.

Marian Hamilton knows that feeling well. Her husband, Ken, died from cancer in 2004 and although he received excellent care, she realized it was the medical professionals' job to take care of the patient and not her and her family.

In 2007, Hamilton filled the gaping void felt by thousands of families by establishing the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center at Northern Westchester Hospital. A quiet room just off the main lobby of the Mount Kisco hospital, there are 29 volunteers who rotate to help counsel and console family members, provide them a cold drink or simply a space to sit quietly in comfortable surroundings to collect their thoughts or catch up on phone calls or emails.

"They need a place to cry, to talk to somebody who is non-judgmental, not a family member or a friend," said Hamilton who volunteers on a weekly basis. "We're there for them."

The center, open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, has had such an impact on those who have visited that Hamilton, a 26-year Armonk resident, will be honored later this month with the Quality of Life Award during the 34th annual Volunteer Spirit Awards held by the Volunteer Center of the United Way. The ceremony will be at the Doubletree by Hilton in Tarrytown on Thursday, Apr. 24.

Not only has the caregivers center provided thousands with a respite from their worries--an estimated 7,000 people used its services in 2013, according to Hamilton--it has spawned similar centers in at least eight other hospitals in the metropolitan area and around the country that have used the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center as its model.

Now, there are similar facilities that have been created or are in the planning stages at Montefiore Hospital, White Plains Hospital, Westchester Medical Center, Danbury Hospital, Englewood and Overlook hospitals in New Jersey, the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia and MidMichigan Health in Midland, Mich.

Hamilton said she was deeply honored to be recognized by the Volunteer Center, one of several recipients from



Armonk resident Marian Hamilton will be honored on Apr. 24 by the Volunteer Center of the United Way for creating the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center seven years ago at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco.

care of their loved ones and often neglect their own needs during their difficult time," Hamilton said.

Northern Westchester Hospital President and CEO Joel Seligman called Hamilton's dedication to helping families and caregivers "incredibly inspiring."

"Too often, family caregivers don't get the attention and support that they need in order to best help their loved ones," Seligman said. "We can't thank Marian enough for choosing Northern Westchester Hospital as the home of The Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center. The positive feedback we have received from caregivers and patients reinforces how valuable these resources are."

Focusing her energies on helping people in the community is nothing new for Hamilton. Over the years, she has participated including once serving on the Byram Hills Board of Education, and more recently, an active volunteer for the Armonk Outdoor Art Show.

Hamilton is also looking forward to meeting some of the other award winners who have served their home communities during the upcoming ceremony.

"I'm very, very proud to be part of that group," she said.

Westchester and Putnam who will receive awards. She said creating the center, which she referred to as an oasis, helped her through her healing process.

"This is also for all the family caregivers who work tirelessly to take

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# 'Suffragette to CEO' Discussion at Pace Showcases Women Leaders

Pace University hosted a women in leadership panel on Thursday, March 27 entitled "Suffragette to CEO," in celebration of both Women's History Month and Pace Pleasantville's 50th anniversary.

Panelists included Jody Fay, president, Westchester County Bar Association; Dean Harriet R. Feldman, College of Health Professions, Pace University; Marsha Gordon, president and chief executive officer, The Business Council of Westchester; and Stacey Hengsterman, associate vice chancellor for government relations, State University of New York.

The discussion was moderated by Vanessa J. Herman, assistant vice-president, government and community relations, Pace University, and Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo, associate vice president for student affairs and dean for students, Pace University Westchester Campus.

More than 80 people gathered to hear the inspirational stories from powerful women who enjoy successful careers



Left to right, Vanessa Herman, Marsha Gordon, Jody Fay, Bill McGrath, Harriet Feldman, Stacey Hengsterman and Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo gathered at Pace University's "Suffragette to CEO" discussion at the school on March 27.

in government, business and higher education. The audience included Pace faculty, students and staff as well as neighbors and community and business members.

The panelists shared insights gleaned from navigating traditionally male-dominated industries. In attendance were several students who asked panelists questions about their career paths, the consequences of their life

choices and career advice. To start the discussion, each of the panelists introduced themselves and provided a quick snapshot of their path to success. The panelists talked about their life experiences, college education and successful efforts climbing the career ladder.

Bill McGrath, senior vice president and chief operating officer for the Westchester campuses of Pace, offered

welcoming remarks. He spoke of a time during his previous career at Con Edison that a concerted effort was made to hire and promote women in an otherwise male-dominated field.

Some of the highlights of the panel discussion included:

When asked what they think the most significant barrier to female leadership is, Gordon stated "When people talk about male barriers to success, to me it's not even part of the conversation."

"The most significant barrier for women is the one we place on ourselves," added Feldman.

When asked about any discrimination or derogatory name calling throughout their career, Fay noted that organizations such as the Westchester Women's Bar Association, of which she is also president, were helpful in combating that negativity. She spoke of a time early in her career when male colleagues assumed she was there to get coffee simply because she looked young.

"What other people say about you is none of your business," Hengsterman said. She noted this was a key piece of advice she received early in her career by her grandmother. Hengsterman said she believed that one of the most important qualities women should strive for is "to be kind and true to yourself."

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**Business of the Week**

## Kensico Soap Bar Thornwood

**By Colette Connolly**

Walking into the Kensico Soap Bar is like entering a scent-filled heaven, where the smell of handmade soaps, body lotions, shower gels, scrubs and other beauty-related merchandise fill the air.

Co-owners Erin Carbone and Kirsten Nagashima can be found dreaming up creative new soaps and products for their business, located in the Rosehill Shopping Center in Thornwood. Since opening last September, it has drawn shoppers from across Westchester.

"You can feel a real difference on your skin by using these products," Carbone said.

The store has attracted customers attracted to the healthier products rather than buying soap that has the feel of detergents.

Navigating the retail business was at first a steep learning curve for the partners, who sought the help of Marla Bosworth, owner of the Massachusetts-based Back Porch Soap Company and a mentor to entrepreneurs looking to establish their own soap-making ventures.

Before opening the colorful, brightly lit

store, the partners spent several months making different types of soaps and then sharing them with friends and family to gain feedback.

Nagashima's previous experience in the pharmaceutical industry and Carbone's former job as a researcher for a women's reproductive health nonprofit helped the partners create a niche business that has been growing in popularity.

Carbone and Nagashima create the sweet-smelling soaps in small batches using what is known as the cold process method, which includes mixing the base ingredients then adding the desired scents and colors. The soap batches are cut by hand and left to cure for three to four weeks, Carbone explained.

Carbone and Nagashima pride themselves on creating soaps to suit all tastes that are free of phthalate and paraben, chemical compounds that are routinely found in a variety of healthcare products. Carbone said ideas for products are based on customer feedback and polls they conduct on Facebook.

Their lavender-scented soap has turned out to be one of Kensico Soap Bar's most



Kensico Soap Bar co-owners Kirsten Nagashima, left, and Erin Carbone.

popular brands. Customers also find an array of luxurious handmade soaps consisting of olive, coconut and rice bran oils, with ingredients such as white ginger, amber, kaolin rose clay, Himalayan pink salt, plumeria and melon. There's even some beer-inspired scents that contain an oatmeal-stout fragrance.

A range of glycerin soaps include exfoliates like seeds and oatmeal. Some of the store's best-selling glycerin soaps include lemon chiffon, Pamper Me Pedicure and water lily, a light floral fragrance that's accented with amber.

Kensico's sugar scrubs are big sellers, made from sugar, coconut oil, crushed apricot seeds, vitamin E and a hint of KSB scent. The store, a 2013 Best of Westchester winner, also sells a variety of soy candles and gift sets, in addition to making favors for a wide variety of celebratory events, such as weddings, bridal and baby showers,

graduations and birthdays.

Carbone and Nagashima have opened up the store to children's parties and happy hour get-togethers for women. Children make a soap of their choice using the melt-and-pour method, which allows them to use a variety of molds and designs. A typical 90-minute birthday party includes two soap-making projects, goody bags filled with the newly made soaps, pizza, juice and ice cream.

Happy hour, scheduled after business hours, has turned out to be quite popular, Carbone said, giving busy moms and others a chance to unwind, have fun and make a soap of their choice. The package includes two soap-making projects as well as two bottles of wine, a red and a white. Groups are encouraged to bring additional food and drink.

Despite the commitment it takes to run the business, Carbone and Nagashima are happy they took the risk.

"The idea of opening something close to home was appealing to us," said Nagashima, who also feels good about teaching children a new skill and giving women an opportunity to treat themselves.

Rosehill Shopping Center is at 600 Columbus Ave. in Thornwood. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. Call 914-579-2033 to book an event. Products can be ordered online at [www.kensicosoapbar.com](http://www.kensicosoapbar.com).

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# Searching to Make Children Grittier in School and in Life

Grit is the new buzzword in education thanks to the award-winning work done by psychologist and former seventh-grade math teacher Angela Duckworth.

Duckworth began studying grit -- defined as persistence, determination and resilience or the quality of being able to sustain and work hard at passions -- after an interesting trend emerged while teaching math. She noticed that IQ had very little to do with success in her class.

Duckworth began to research who is successful and why in a variety of settings with a variety of age groups. She found that IQ, physical health and

emotional intelligence had less to do with success than grit. Being able to learn quickly and easily is not the most important ability. Living life like it's a marathon and not a sprint will lead to success, she said.

More and more schools are working on increasing students' grittiness. The Obama Administration is also on board and stated in the 2013 Department of Education report that children are learning to "do school" at the expense of life skills. One school in Long Beach, Calif. strives to create classroom environments where struggle and risk-taking are more important than getting the right answers.

Jason Baehr, who runs the school, sees "kids learning to be grittier all the time." Lenox Academy in Brooklyn also aims to increase grit by sending the message that failure is a normal part of learning. They point out mistakes made by successful individuals like Steve Jobs who failed at some endeavors along the way. Tom Hoerr, leader of the New City School in St. Louis said: "If our kids have graduated from here with nothing but success, then we have failed them, because they haven't learned how to

respond to frustration and failure."

Little is known about how to build grit but work is being done to find out. Carol Dweck, psychologist and motivation researcher has long touted the benefits of focusing on improvements rather than on being "smart." She talks about having a growth mindset -- the belief that the ability to learn can change with effort. Growth mindset training enhances motivation and achievement and involves teaching children about the stages of memory, how the brain works and strategies for applying growth mindset at school and at home. When children understand that the brain is a muscle that is capable of growth and change they are more likely to persevere.

Critics of grit as a goal fear that the concept will take attention away from other changes that need to be made in the schools, such as ensuring effective teaching. They also point out that students can be gritty in some things but not others.

Duckworth agreed that passion is a



By Dr. Jaime  
Fleckner Black

necessary part of the equation and that schools, teachers and parents all have to help children cultivate their passions and sustain hard work. Talent alone does not make you gritty. Sadly, many talented individuals will never see what they are truly capable of.

It's challenging to figure out exactly how to make children passionate about topics that are not inherently stimulating or to even motivate a talented individual to practice, practice, practice. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't try. As Duckworth has said, "We need to be grittier about getting our kids grittier."

Dr. Jaime Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. She 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](http://www.spectrumservicesnyc.com), e-mail [JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com](mailto:JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com) or call 914-712-8208.

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He loved to laugh and listen to a good story. One day we showed up and he had created a sign

which hung over his desk saying, "genius bar".

He had an indomitable spirit and energy when he was well.

When he was sick he rarely let us in on the horrible days he was living.

We miss him so much every day and ask after you read this you pass it along to anyone who smokes. Let them know that leukemia caused by smoking killed one of the greatest guys we ever knew and had the pleasure of working with every day.

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# Pleasantville PEO Chapter Celebrates 60 Years of Service

By Janine Bowen

The Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) Chapter AQ of Pleasantville celebrated 60 years of sisterhood at an Apr. 2 event at the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society's Clara Mead House.

PEO is where women celebrate the advancement of other women, educate women through scholarships, grants, awards and loans and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

The highlight of the afternoon's gathering was the announcement of the Pauline "Mickie" Eschweiler Star Scholarship for 2015. The \$25,000 scholarship will go to a local graduating high school student next

year for use in the 2015-16 school year.

Eschweiler, a Pleasantville resident, is a New York State past president of PEO. Chapter AQ chose to name the scholarship after her to recognize her seven years working for the organization.

"To us, she is Ms. PEO. She is just the best," said PEO Chairwoman Betsy Hunter.

The Star Scholarship, launched in 2009, is the most recent addition to PEO projects. Area resident and 2010 Pleasantville High School graduate Esther Kim received the award that year.

During the afternoon's festivities, 60-year PEO member Florence Brown and 58-year member Elsie Johnson were honored as early members Chapter AQ, which was

organized on Apr. 10, 1954. Both women exemplify the abiding friendships forged through supporting the goals of PEO Sisterhood. They now live in Southbury, Conn. where they continue to be active members in their local PEO chapter.

There was a salute to the organization's 60th anniversary with a program called "A Short History of Our Accomplishments and a Fashion Stroll Down Memory Lane." During the event, chapter members modeled vintage clothing that spanned PEO's 60-year history. Memorabilia over the years was displayed and an afternoon tea was served as a refreshing finish to the day's celebration.

For more information or to request an



Chapter AQ president Christine Campriello and PEO Past State President Mickie Eschweiler carving the chapter's 60th anniversary cake.

application for PEO, call Pleasantville Chapter AQ President Christina Campriello at 914-769-9332.

## Pre-Passover Shabbat Celebration This Weekend at P'ville Community Synagogue

On Friday, Apr. 11 and Saturday, Apr. 12, Pleasantville Community Synagogue will welcome High Holiday Cantor Abbe Lyons, who will lead the community through an uplifting, interactive Shabbat-Before-Passover experience featuring old and new melodies, meditation, "kirtan"-style chanting and a pot luck vegetarian dinner.

Don't like to sing? Cantor Lyons has something special in store. The Torah portion for Apr. 12 is the same one read every year on Yom Kippur. She will lead everyone through a close reading of that important Torah portion with English

translation. From everyone's personal gleanings will result collaborative work of spoken "performance art," which congregation members will perform at the High Holiday services this fall. Cantor Lyons calls it "Speak-Chorus."

Speak-Chorus Torah is a collaborative creative process leading to an amazing presentation that draws in all who listen, a communal sacred sound sculpture of story, poetry and melody of voices. Through meditation, experiential study, song, poetry and discussion during this weekend, those that attend will begin to unpack, explore and connect to the

original Torah text on Yom Kippur. Consider continuing this exploration and being part of the group, which will present the Speak-Chorus Torah midrash during the morning Torah service on Yom Kippur. You don't have to be a writer, scholar, singer or public speaker to be a holy midrash teller.

Here's this weekend's lineup at Pleasantville Community Synagogue:

Friday: Service at 7:15 p.m. Oneg Shabbat Refreshment Hour followed by Speak-Chorus Torah Session #1 at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning: Meditation at 9

a.m. Contemplative Chanting at 9:30 a.m. Family Education Shabbat (including Speak-Chorus discussion) at 10 a.m. Kiddush luncheon and Speak-Chorus Torah Session #2 at noon.

Saturday Evening: Vegetarian pot luck dinner followed by Kirtan, Singalong and Havdalah from 6 to 8 p.m.

To see Speak-Chorus in action, visit Cantor Abbe Lyon's website at [www.abbelyons.com/teach.html](http://www.abbelyons.com/teach.html)

The weekend is free and open to the public. Pleasantville Community Synagogue is located at 219 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

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**Rolling in the Aisles**  
April 18th, 8pm



Rolling in the Aisles featuring Joey Vega, Tommy Gooch and Michelle Balan. Joey Vega recently wowed 18,000 people at Brooklyn's Barkley Center. He is Mark Anthony's favorite comedian. He also has toured with Chris Rock. Tommy Gooch: His ranting self-deprecating, family-oriented style of comedy always makes him a loveable favorite for a feature act. Michelle Balan is a finalist in "Last Comic Standing"

**Kim Russo**  
**The Happy Medium**  
May 16th, 8pm



Kim is the host of the popular TV Show, "The Haunting of..." currently airing on A&E's Lifetime Movie Network Channel. For two astonishing hours, Kim will bridge the gap between the worlds of the living and the departed. After introducing the audience to her gift, Kim will walk the room, feeling the energy and listening to the spirits of the deceased.

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# Mt. Pleasant Teacher Honored By Knicks for Work With Autistic Students

By Neal Rentz

Last Wednesday was quite a night for Virginia Campbell.

Campbell, a Mount Pleasant School District special education teacher, was honored at Madison Square Garden by the New York Knicks for her work with autistic children during the team's Apr. 2 game against the Brooklyn Nets.

The Sweetwater Clifton City Spirit Award, recognizing Nat "Sweetwater

Clifton," the first African-American player for the Knicks, was presented to Campbell at center court by former Knicks star John Starks during a break in the game as part of the NBA's Autism Awareness Night. The award recognizes individuals who have made a significant difference in the lives of others.

Each month a winner is chosen by members of the Knicks front office staff and honored at center court during

a Knicks game. A \$2,000 donation in the honoree's name is made to a charity of their choice.

Campbell, who has been teaching in Mount Pleasant for the past 15 years, said last week she learned about the honor via an e-mail when she was on a school field trip to Washington D.C.

"My real reward is working with these students every day," said Campbell, a Tarrytown resident. "To me it's an added bonus."

Campbell started the district's first special education program for autistic students at Columbus Elementary School a decade ago. Five years ago, she was transferred to Westlake Middle School where she created the communications development class.

Though her students are contained special education classes, they are an important part of the school, Campbell said.

"There is no one who doesn't know



ANTHONY CAUSI PHOTO

Westlake Middle School special education teacher Virginia Campbell is applauded by former New York Knick star John Starks on Apr. 2 at Madison Square Garden. Campbell was honored for her work with students with autism.

their names," she said.

Helping autistic children may be her livelihood but Campbell has been assisting autistic children years before she became a teacher. At 12 years old she began volunteering at camps for youths with special needs.

Campbell has also worked with autistic youths between 18 months and 18 years old at the North East Westchester Special Recreation in Hawthorne.

## New Castle Historical Society Spring Luncheon Set for Apr. 24

The New Castle Historical Society will be holding its Annual Spring Luncheon on Thursday, Apr. 24 at 11:30 a.m. at the historic Sleepy Hollow Country Club, located at 777 Albany Post Rd. (Route 9) in Scarborough.

The guest speaker will be Ed Butowsky, an internationally recognized expert in wealth management and a frequent guest on CNN and other television channels. Butowsky is also a Horace Greeley High School graduate and an honored member of the Notable Neighbors in New Castle exhibit on view at the

Horace Greeley House in Chappaqua.

The luncheon and program fee is \$45 per person. Members and non-members of the historical society are welcome.

To attend, send a check to the New Castle Historical Society, Box 55, Chappaqua, N.Y. 10514. The registration form can be downloaded by visiting [www.newcastlehs.org](http://www.newcastlehs.org). RSVP is required by Friday, Apr. 18.

For more information about the luncheon or other events at the New Castle Historical Society, call 914-238-4666 or visit [www.newcastlehs.org](http://www.newcastlehs.org).

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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Apr. 8

**Poems as Stories.** Whether you're beginning to discover the joys of poetry or have been writing for years, this three-part series will help you tap into your feelings, memories and the essence of things. Working from the musical sound and rhythm of language, discover words that make poems "speak" to us in meaningful ways. For all levels. Led by Karen Rippstein. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 p.m. Free. Another session on Apr. 22 will be devoted to reading poems created from the series. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Pysanky.** Extravagant eggs. For children in grades 4 and up. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Also Apr. 15. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**Pleasantville SEPTA Spa Night.** Enjoy delicious refreshments and fabulous spa services while relaxing with friends for this fourth annual event. Special offers for teachers and members bringing friends. Tiffany Nail Salon, 42 Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 6 to 8 p.m. Manicure and neck massage: \$30 or "Girlfriend Special" for two: \$50. Manicure and Pedicure: \$60 or "Girlfriend Special" for two: \$90. Teacher special: \$25 for manicure and neck massage or \$50 for manicure and pedicure. (Tips included in prices.) Info and tickets: Visit [www.pvillesepta.com](http://www.pvillesepta.com).

**Yaseen Lecture Series.** Noted artist and Purchase College alumnus Fred Wilson, who is well-known for his site-specific installations which demonstrate how context can alter an object's meaning, will speak. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6:30 p.m. Free. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: 914-251-6125.

**Women Reading Women Book Club.** The group will discuss "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" by Deborah Moggach. New members welcome. Books available at the circulation desk. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

**"What Counts in the College Admissions Process."** This presentation, by Options for College, covers finding the right match; how colleges admit students; what students have done in the past to get in and get the most out of college; and how to stay calm throughout the process. For students in grades 9-12. Chappaqua Public Library's theater, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

## Wednesday, Apr. 9

**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 April (except Apr. 14 and 16). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://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 April (except Apr. 14, 16 and 18). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://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 April (except Apr. 14, 16 and 18). Info: 914-769-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://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.

**Briarcliff Manor Garden Club Meeting: "Maintaining Healthy Trees."** Brad Gurr, ISA certified arborist and branch manager at SavATree, explains

the proper ways to maintain trees and shrubs. All aspects of proper pruning of ornamental trees will be discussed. Learn when to prune, why to prune, what to prune and how to prune. New members welcome. Must call before attending a meeting. 48 Macy Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-432-8529.

**Fiber/Yarn Hobby Group.** Pleasantville Loves Yarn (PLY) is a group of knitters and fiber lovers who meet to learn from each other and enjoy each other's company. Bring whatever you're working on and share your knowledge or learn from the group. All skill levels and any fiber/yarn hobby (knitters, crocheters, spinners, weavers, etc.) welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Also Apr. 23. Info: 914-769-0548.

**Junior Garden Club.** For children in grades 2-4. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

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

**Colonialization and Indian Arts.** Led by LIU Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**How to Save Money Before and After College.** Neal Schwartz, owner of Tutoring Club and College Planning of Westchester will lead this presentation. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Five Toxic Exposures in Your Home.** Find out what they are, their health impacts and how to reduce your family's exposure. Presented by Dr. Spaeth, division chief, occupational and environmental medicine, Department of Population Health, Hofstra North Shore LIJ School of Medicine. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

## Thursday, Apr. 10

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

**Toddler 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. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Tuesdays through April (except for Apr. 15 and 17). Recommended for children one to two and a half years old. Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://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. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive., Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Recommended for children two and a half to five years old. Tuesdays and Thursdays through April (except Apr. 15 and 17). info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

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

**Making Your Money Last Through Retirement.** Presenter Robert Leitner, president and certified financial planner at Financial Advisory Network, will lead this talk. Part of Money Smart Week. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

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

**Cycle Strong: A Sports Conditioning and Injury Prevention Workshop for Cycling Enthusiasts.** Learn about symptoms, common causes, treatment and prevention of cycling injuries caused by overuse; cycling biomechanics and common riding errors that can lead to injury; proper stretching, strengthening and conditioning techniques; training methods for returning to cycling after injury; safe cycling practices; and bike fit pearls. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

*continued on page 26*

# Mt. Kisco Chamber of Commerce to Honor Citizen, Non-Profit of the Year

Joe DiMauro, owner and operator of Mount Kisco Seafood, has been named the 2014 Citizen of the Year by the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to DiMauro, the chamber will honor The Mount Kisco Rotary Club as the 2014 Outstanding Non-Profit Organization of the Year.

Both will be recognized at the chamber's 47th annual dinner on Thursday, May 1 at the Holiday Inn of Mount Kisco, located at 1 Holiday Drive. More than 150 business owners, professionals and civic-minded residents are expected to attend this annual event.

DiMauro was born and raised in the Mount Kisco area and is a Fox Lane High School graduate. After receiving a business degree from SUNY Plattsburgh, he worked in advertising sales before purchasing Mount Kisco Seafood in 1980 from a friend.

In 2004, Mount Kisco Seafood moved to its current larger location at 477 Lexington Ave. DiMauro and his wife, Joni, also owned and ran the very successful Fish Cellar Restaurant on Main Street in Mount Kisco from 1997 to 2011.

DiMauro is a self-described "softie" when it comes to helping others in need. He is particularly devoted to supporting organizations that help battered women,



Joe DiMauro, owner of Mount Kisco Seafood, will be honored as the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year at the organization's 47th annual dinner on May 1. More than 150 business owners, professionals and civic-minded residents are expected to attend the event.

children who suffer terminal illness, the hungry and women fighting breast cancer. As a participant in seven Avon Walks for Breast Cancer, he and his team of friends and family have walked the equivalent of 10-and-a-half marathons, raising well over \$100,000 to support breast cancer research, treatment and prevention education.

For years, DiMauro has also generously donated and served his high quality seafood at fundraising

events supporting a wide range of local organizations including Riverkeeper, Making Headway, Food Bank for Westchester, Mount Kisco Child Care Center and the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester.

The Mount Kisco Rotary Club is celebrating its 60th year being committed to local, regional, national and international charities. Mount Kisco Rotary is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders in 34,000 clubs that provide humanitarian service, encourage high

ethical standards in all vocations and help build good will and peace in the world.

The Mount Kisco Rotary Club has provided support to numerous charities and philanthropic organizations including the Boys & Girls Club, the Food Bank for Westchester, The Community Center of Northern Westchester, Neighbors Link and Richmond Community Services, among many others. Rotary also provides scholarships to local high school students.

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## THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

### A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

**Words of the Day.** This week's quiz words come from the highly informative and very entertaining book "The Horologicon: A Day's Jaunt Through the Lost Words of the English Language" by Mark Forsyth. Perhaps you'll find a place for some of these lost words in your everyday vocabulary. For those who were wondering, horologicon is a book of hours.

1. **scuddle** (v.)

A) to give up                      B) search about                      C) run hastily

2. **bumbershoot** (n.)

A) an umbrella                      B) a baby stroller                      C) a footrest

3. **nurdle** (n.)

A) small dab of toothpaste                      B) mental activity                      C) a secluded place

4. **fudgel** (v.)

A) to move nervously                      B) pretend to work                      C) mess things up

5. **osculable** (adj.)

A) agreeable                      B) unpredictable                      C) kissable

6. **conge** (n.)

A) permission to depart                      B) meeting point                      C) a coin collector

7. **obnubilate** (v.)

A) to ask a favor                      B) darken                      C) do over

8. **spanandry** (n.)

A) a scarcity of males                      B) a flock of seagulls                      C) a control group

**ANSWERS:**

1. C. To run hastily; to hurry; to scuttle

2. A. An umbrella

3. A. A pea sized dab of toothpaste applied to a toothbrush

4. B. To pretend to work when you're not actually working

5. C. Kissable

6. A. Formal permission to depart; dismissal

7. B. To darken or obscure

8. A. Lack or extreme scarcity of males in a population

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Find out what the Indigo Girls already know about The Grifter's new album, *Dangerous World* — "Songs that stick like glue with a voice I can't get enough of." — *Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls*



# Happenings

continued from page 24

## Friday, Apr. 11

**Francophone African Cinema Conference.** Focusing on the cultural expression of racial and political tension throughout Africa, the event will include presentations on French-African cinema and literature, film screenings, and close with a final discussion session. The College of New Rochelle's Mooney Center, Room 241, 29 Castle Place, New Rochelle. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Screenings will take place in Room C, Sweeny Student Center at 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: Email Dr. Nahed Nadio Nouredine at nnouredine@cnr.edu.

**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.

**Nuts And Bolts of Financial Planning: Making Your Money Last Through Retirement.** Speaker Anthony Epps, CEO at AG Epps Advisors, a wealth and risk management consultant, assists business owners, affluent individuals and institutions realize what they want to accomplish from an investment, legacy, asset protection, estate, business succession, charitable, tax reduction and retirement planning standpoint. Part of Money Smart Week. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Cupcake Day.** Sprinkles, marshmallows and lots of frosting will be on hand. Come decorate a cupcake. 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. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

**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.

**Friday Night Cinema and Conversation.** "GreenFingers" with Clive Owen, Helen Mirren and David Kelly will be screened. With LIU Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Amphibian Night Hike.** Join staff on a hike to Bechtel Lake in search of amphibians. Wear boots and bring a flashlight. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 7 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. RSVP by Apr. 10. Info and RSVP: 914-666-8448.

**WCC Friday Night Film Series: "As It Is In Heaven."** The second of six films in this series. A successful international conductor suddenly interrupts his career and returns to his childhood village in northern Sweden. He is soon asked to listen to the local church choir, which practices weekly. He accepts, the choir grows, he makes friends and enemies and finds love. 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. Single admission: \$11 Seniors \$10. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-723-3186.

**"Into the Woods."** Arc Stages presents this production of Stephen Sondheim's musical. Directed by Ann Shenkman. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$25. Students and seniors: \$20. Also Apr. 12 at 2 and 8 p.m. and Apr. 13 at 7 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.arcstages.org.

**Danceworks Performances.** Westchester Community College's dance company, a diverse ethnic and cultural combination of college students and alumni, will present a special program. Led by Company Director Mollyann Franzblau. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$15. Children, seniors and students: \$10. Also Apr. 12 at 8 p.m. and Apr. 13 at 3 p.m. Info: Visit www.sunywcc.edu. Tickets: 914-606-6262. Tickets may also be bought at the door.

## Saturday, Apr. 12

**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.

**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.

**Nature's Amazing Engineers.** The return of a healthy beaver population to the Hudson Valley is amazing considering that beavers were almost eliminated from North America in the early 1900s. Hike with Erin Baker to view a beaver lodge and discover more about the essential services that beavers provide with their engineering skills. All welcome. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Members:

Free. Non-members: \$5. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

**Sheep-to-Shawl Festival.** From fiber to fashion, this annual Philipsburg Manor event celebrates all things woolly sheep. Rain or shine. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults: \$14. Seniors: \$12. Children (3-17): \$8. Also Apr. 13. Info: 914-631-8200 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org. Tickets: Visit www.hudsonvalley.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.

**31st Annual Easter Candy Hunt.** Come for an afternoon of fun and excitement. Participate in this annual event followed by games for the children. Bring your own bag or basket. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Rain date: Apr. 13. Info: 914-666-8448 or visit www.westmorelandsanctuary.org.

**Alexander Technique Demonstration.** Carol MacCallum Strozier will demonstrate the technique, which helps those identify and prevent the harmful postural habits that can cause or aggravate, stress, pain or lack of effectiveness. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Registration required at the library. Info: 914-769-0548.

**SPARC's 25th Anniversary Gala Benefit.** "A Night at Cirque Du Soliel" will include aerialist performances, live music, cocktail buffet, wine and vodka tastings, silent auction and more. The gala benefits SPARC (Special Program and Resource Connection), a nonprofit agency providing social, recreation and therapeutic services for youth and adults with developmental disabilities in Westchester County. Sleepy Hollow Country Club, 777 Albany Post Rd., Scarborough. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. \$125. Info and tickets: 914-243-0583 or visit www.sparcinc.org.

**Violinist Paul Huang in Concert.** Joined by piano collaborator Jessica Osborne, Huang, a 22-year-old virtuoso, will play Vivaldi's Sonata in D Major, RV 10; Respighi's Sonata in B minor for Violin and Piano, Stravinsky's Duo Concertante, Glazunov's Grand Adagio and Szymanowski's Nocturne and Tarantella. Sleepy Hollow High School, 210 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 8 p.m. Adults: \$30. Students: \$15. Info

and tickets: 914-861-5080 or visit www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org.

## Sunday, Apr. 13

**Palm Sunday Services.** St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. Services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Info: 914-769-0053.

**Spring Celebration and Egg Hunts.** Celebrate the emergence of spring. Visit our barnyard, join a naturalist to discover signs of spring, make seasonal crafts, play games and search for eggs in a nature-inspired egg hunt. Egg hunt and other fun activities run continuously throughout the day. Refreshments available for purchase. Pre-registration available through Apr. 12. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration prices: Members--\$5. Non-members: \$10. Same-day prices: Members--\$8. Non-members: \$15. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

**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 (except Apr. 20). Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

**Adaptable Hawks.** Meet a few of Teatown's hawks and learn about the adaptations that make hawks successful hunters even in urban areas. Not suitable for children under six years old. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Arts and crafts, face painting, DJ, egg dying and the Easter bunny. Refreshments will be served. All welcome. Rain or shine. Briarcliff Manor Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care, 620 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 2 to 4 p.m. Free.

## Monday, Apr. 14

**Spring Week Mini-Camp.** The slugs, bugs and other critters are waking from their winter slumber. Play games, make crafts and hike to see what spring has to offer. Full-day campers should pack lunch. Snack is provided. Meets through Friday. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. Four- and five-year-olds: 9 a.m. to noon. Eight- to 12-year-olds 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Four- and five-year-olds: Members--\$160. Non-members: \$185. Eight- to 12-year-olds: Members--\$300. Non-members--\$335. Info and registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

# Understanding the Nuances of Our Sense of Smell



By Nick Antonaccio

As humans we tend to think of ourselves as interacting with our surroundings through our five senses. But do we rely on certain senses more than on others?

Scientists have long known that humans can discern millions of different colors and half a million different sounds. To a much lesser extent, we perceive the world around us through our five senses of taste and our 10,000 senses of smell.

Last week I discussed the experiences of these latter two senses as we encounter a glass of wine.

Then I read the results of a new study just released by Rockefeller University's Laboratory of Neurogenetics. I must say it was startling. Part scientific chemical analysis and part mathematical extrapolations, the study concluded that our sense of smell is far greater than we imagined. They were able to determine that our sense of smell, through our 400 olfactory receptors, is capable of detecting

over one trillion fragrances and odors. The number boggles my mind.

Even accepting the results as scientific proof, how would I be able to discern one trillion separate, distinct, unique aromas? And trying to define each one? Seemingly impossible. And the study would seem to agree.

My conclusion from this study is that there are almost limitless numbers of scents that abound around us; it is our lack of interest, or lack of effort, in seeking them out that limits our sensory perception of the natural order.

The lesson to be learned here is for all of us to "wake up and smell the coffee" or "stop and smell the roses."

Walk into your local coffee bar. As soon as you walk in the door, your olfactory senses detect "coffee." But the coffee experience is just beginning. Along with my morning coffee, once a

week I purchase coffee beans for my home brewing machine. As I stand before the wall of containers of fresh beans at The Black Cow in Pleasantville, I can sample the individual aromas of each fresh coffee. It is here where the sensitivity of our

*'Stop and smell the roses'*

DNA-generated sense of smell comes into play. One container of beans hits you in the face with aromas of pungent earthiness; the next may be milder, with just a hint of earthiness. The next set of aromas may be rather neutral with a passing hint of chocolate or a barely perceptible fragrance of exotic spices. And so on up and down the rows of containers.

This is also the experience I have with side-by-side tastings of wines. One person's sense of citrus fruits in a Sauvignon Blanc may be another's sense of individual and distinct aromas of Meyer lemon or Kaffir lime or Ruby Red grapefruit. My perception of ripe black fruit aromas in a Cabernet Sauvignon may be another's distinct sense of blackberry, black raspberry, black cherry or Italian black plum.

Our sense of smell influences our subjective likes and dislikes. Our DNA creates a database of aromas that allow us to instinctively recognize complex objects, be they a Costa Rican coffee, a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon or a Tuscan morning redolent of Mediterranean sea mist.

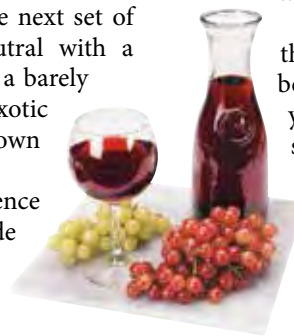
Ten thousand components of smell?

One million? One trillion? More? And does it really matter? I'm not sure my sensory receptors are that refined, but I'm sure it takes voluminous olfactory senses to create my internal database of distinctive impressions as I encounter the world each day.

So what do you perceive in that glass of Pinot Noir sitting before you? How refined are your DNA-specific olfactory senses? Do you discern the cardamom, the cumin spices? Does it matter?

This week, open your back door and take a (really) deep breath of nature. Pour yourself a glass of wine and immerse your nose deep into the glass, inhaling the perfumes emanating from the wine. Let your senses guide you through the subtle pleasures of life.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at [nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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## Pleasantville Community TV Fundraiser Gala

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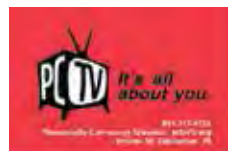
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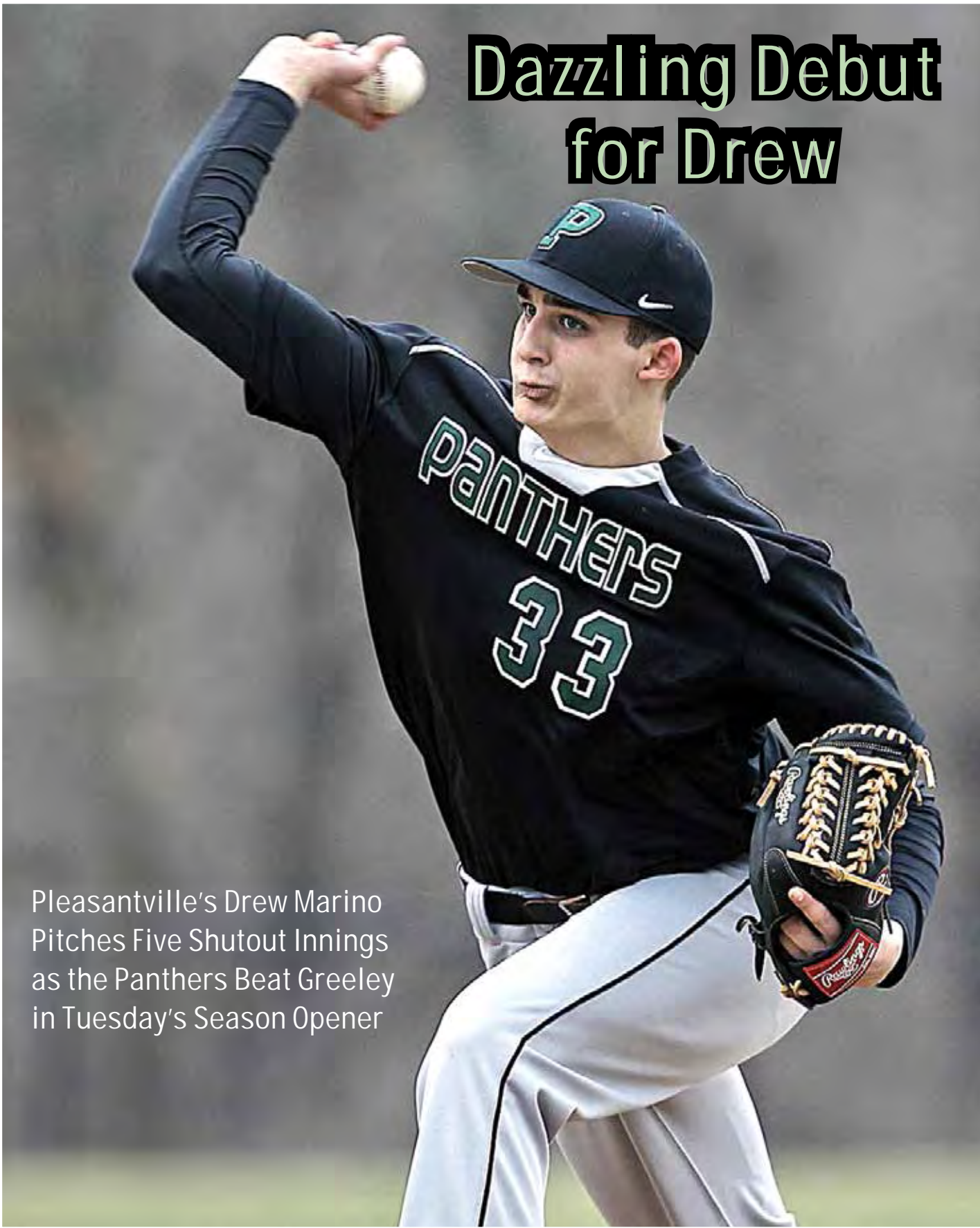
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# Dazzling Debut for Drew

Pleasantville's Drew Marino  
Pitches Five Shutout Innings  
as the Panthers Beat Greeley  
in Tuesday's Season Opener

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



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