



FREE

Serving Mount Kisco, Pleasantville, Chappaqua/Millwood/New Castle, Mount Pleasant, Armonk/North Castle & Briarcliff

January 20 - January 26, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 385

Appeal Granted in New Castle DPW Discrimination Case

By Martin Wilbur

A former New Castle Department of Public Works employee who claimed he was fired nearly eight years ago in retaliation for bringing a discrimination action against the town may finally get his day in court.

The Appellate Division last week overturned a May 2012 state Supreme Court decision that had granted the Town of New Castle's motion for summary judgment and a dismissal of the case brought by Jeffrey Chiara. That decision had prevented him from suing the town.

Chiara, who was hired in 1992 as a laborer and was eventually promoted to a machine equipment operator, had charged that shortly after he started working for the town, he heard repeated anti-Semitic remarks made by some of his DPW co-workers, according to arguments in papers filed with the court.

While the remarks were not initially directed toward him, Chiara, who is not Jewish, argued that he was subjected to increasingly nasty comments after he told his co-workers to stop because his wife is Jewish.

"I'm gratified with the decision and (my client) is looking forward to having his day in court," said Chiara's attorney Alan Wolin.

The lower court had ruled that Chiara was not subjected to adverse employment action by the town based upon religion because one of the alleged chief offenders, DPW employee Michael Molnar, was not in a supervisory capacity and had been reprimanded for his actions, serving a two-week suspension in 2002.

Furthermore, alleged anti-Semitic remarks made afterwards by others were not specifically directed toward Chiara,

continued on page 2

State Comptroller's Violence Report Irks P'ville School Officials

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville High School was cited last week by the state comptroller's office for failing to report cases of violence and bullying, but school officials countered that the audit failed to tell the full story.

The high school was randomly selected out of 4,500 public schools in New York State to be one of seven schools in which an audit was performed to ascertain how the state Education Department (SED) is implementing the Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting System (VADIR).

VADIR is part of the state Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act, which requires the SED and school districts to provide safe learning environments for students from pre-K through 12th grade. Under the SAVE Act, public schools must

keep records of all violent or disruptive behavior that occurs on school grounds. Incidents are given a numbered score based on the seriousness of the offense.

According to the Jan. 13 comptroller's audit, Pleasantville failed to report 20 out of 36 cases during the 2011-12 school year. The incidents should have been entered into the VADIR system but weren't, the report stated.

A published report last Tuesday carried a headline stating that the school underreported violence, but Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said the matter has been blown out of proportion.

"Sometimes some news media outlets capture the big, splashy pieces instead of the detail," she said at the Jan. 13 board of

continued on page 2

Fit for Kings



More than 100 people, including local high school students, above, gathered at Northern Westchester Hospital for the annual Three Kings' Day celebration on Jan. 11. The event, sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics, commemorates the day when the Bible says the wise men presented gifts to the baby Jesus. In the spirit of giving, local children received gifts from the Three Kings, which this year were played by James Ribaudo of North Salem High School, Michael Tavolacci of Byram Hills High School and Ben Gershman of Fox Lane High School.

Goldberg Ordered to Repay Yorktown for Unused Vacation Time

By Rick Pezzullo

North Castle Town Administrator Joan Goldberg has reimbursed the Town of Yorktown for 181 days of unused vacation time after a state Supreme Court judge ruled in the town's favor earlier this month.

Yorktown Town Attorney Jeannette Koster confirmed the municipality received \$42,957, plus a small amount of interest, last Thursday from Goldberg. She worked as Yorktown's comptroller for 16 years before leaving to become North Castle's first-ever administrator in September 2012.

Koster said the town would be filing amended 2012 tax returns to try to recover \$33,637 that was deducted in taxes from the gross payment of \$76,595

continued on page 4



North Castle Town Administrator Joan Goldberg last week repaid her former employer, the Town of Yorktown, nearly \$43,000 after a state Supreme Court justice ruled she was not entitled to payment for 181 days of unused vacation time that she paid herself upon leaving that municipality's comptroller's post in 2012.

"We are not just Diamonds"



D'Errico JEWELRY

Scarsdale | Mount Kisco 914-864-2688

DERRICOWEBSITE.com

EAR PIERCING



Stop in to our Log Cabin Jewelry Store for perfect ear piercing. We do this all the time, young and old. Our expert staff will make this a fun experience. Our piercing kit includes Sterile Hypo Allergenic 14k studs and special ear care gel. We pierce both ears at the same time. Please call for appointment.

Appeal Granted in New Castle DPW Discrimination Case

continued from page 1
court papers stated.

Last week, attorneys for the town said no decision has been made whether to go to the Court of Appeals or prepare for a trial.

One of the attorneys, John Walsh, said they agreed with the dissenting opinion that the town's disciplinary decision was for issues separate from the anti-Semitic comments and that the employee who engaged in the prejudicial speech had already been disciplined.

"The hearing officer concluded that he be terminated for reasons that had nothing

to do with Mr. Chiara's allegations" against his co-workers, he said.

In 2005, Chiara brought an action against the town, Molnar and DPW Commissioner Gerard Moerschell under the state's Human Rights Law claiming discrimination and a hostile work environment. The complaint was amended in July 2006 to also include then town administrator Jerry Faiella.

However, a month before the amended complaint was submitted, the town filed disciplinary charges against Chiara alleging seven instances of misconduct and/or insubordination.

An administrative hearing officer, who rejected Chiara's claims that the disciplinary proceedings were brought because of the discrimination action he initiated, recommended Chiara be fired after finding him guilty of five of the seven charges.

The misconduct charges included having cursed at his superior; missing a mandatory departmental meeting; using sick leave time when he admittedly was not sick; leaving work without authorization; and extending his coffee break beyond the allotted time. Chiara was terminated March 28, 2007.

As part of its defense in state Supreme Court, the town had argued that Chiara isn't protected under the state's Human Rights Law because he is not Jewish and a claim of discrimination does not cover a spouse's religious beliefs.

However, in a split vote, the Appellate Division concluded in its Jan. 14 decision that there was "no reason to construe the state statute more restrictively than the federal statute."

The majority decision noted that Chiara effectively demonstrated that he belonged to a protected class by virtue of his marriage to a Jewish person, and that his First Amendment rights were in fact infringed upon.

The dissenting judge, however, wrote that there were "legitimate, nondiscriminatory reasons for terminating the plaintiff's employment."

Reached last Friday, Chiara said he was pleased by the decision because by confronting the town and some of his co-workers he did the right thing.

"I have no regrets for standing up for my wife, my family, my in-laws," he said.

State Comptroller's Violence Report Irks P'ville School Officials

continued from page 1
education meeting.

Fox-Alter said the incidents that went unreported were minor infractions that carried a violence score of zero on the School Violence Index and, therefore, did not affect Pleasantville High School's overall score.

Among the incidents that the audit claims should have been reported are the spraying of a water bottle by a student, the use of a cell phone during class and a student failing to comply with a teacher's request during instructional time.

"Even though they said we should have reported it because it was a disruptive incident, it still had a score of zero ... so at

the end of the day the high school has the best score you can have," Fox-Alter said. "I can't picture any public high school in the state of New York that wouldn't have similar incidents to this."

"We've had unfortunate water and cell phone incidents at board meetings," added Trustee Louis Conte, citing the absurdity of classifying these incidents as violent and disruptive.

School officials said the categories listed in the VADIR reporting system are vague and lead to subjective interpretation by school districts, while SED guidelines governing the reporting system are poor.

"I think one of the key pieces ... is

that the state needs to provide more information regarding the guidelines as to what needs to be put in these reports before putting out [their own] reports," said Trustee Angela Vella.

Board President Shane McGaffey noted that the comptroller's report stated that calls to SED from school districts seeking guidance and verification of VADIR guidelines often went unanswered.

A statement released by the district said that officials agreed with a recommendation from the comptroller's office that the state should provide more assistance to schools in identifying incidents that need to be reported under VADIR.

**SMALL NEWS
IS BIG NEWS**

Quality, patient-centered care that's close to home

CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

What you need to know about Advanced Knee Replacement Surgery...



Ask the Doctor

David J. Yasgur, MD, FAAOS

Director of Quality and Outcomes
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital

www.nwhorthoandspine.org/DrYasgur

Advanced Knee Replacements

Q: Walking is a challenge and climbing stairs near impossible. My physician said total knee replacement may be an option. Are there new procedures available?

A: 3D-modeling technology is now being used to simulate the placement of knee implants and design custom-made surgical instruments to assist with accurate positioning of knee replacements weeks before surgery takes place.

This technology lets surgeons generate a three-dimensional image of the damaged knee, view it from all angles and produce a pre-operative plan that is then used to make pin placement guides to the patient's exact specifications. Until recently, the only option for customizing knee replacements was to make adjustments during the actual surgery. Once the patient was under anesthesia and incisions were made, the surgeon would fine-tune the fit of the replacement joint.

This process took extra time and often placed added stress on the patient. Now, surgeons have tremendous control in fitting the implant to meet each

patient's unique needs – how much cartilage is left in the joint, for example, or how a previous trauma like a fracture will alter wear and tear.

Q: What are the advantages to the patient?

A: Using the custom-made instruments, knee replacements have the potential to last much longer. And because the fitting is done in advance, patients spend 15 to 20 minutes less time in surgery, reducing the risk of infections, bleeding, and other complications. With a faster, less traumatic surgery, recovery time may be shorter.

Q: Would you recommend this technology?

A: I was somewhat hesitant to use this technology at first, but once I realized the benefits, I was convinced. Interestingly, I have a history with computer-aided design, having designed and developed prostheses for total joint replacement surgery in the past. Now, I've come full circle and I'm using computers again to customize knee replacements for my patients.

* American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Watch Dr. Yasgur describe surgery with 3D-computer modeling at www.nwhorthoandspine.org/DrYasgur



Did You Know?
For every pound of weight you lose, you reduce the pressure on your knees by **4 pounds**. So, if you lose 5 pounds of body weight, you will reduce the load on your joints by **20 pounds**.*



NWH NORTHERN
WESTCHESTER
HOSPITAL

400 East Main Street • Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914.666.1200 • www.nwhc.net

Let's hear it for fresh Hudson Valley produce all winter long!!!

(But please use your inside voice.)

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is now indoors for the winter.

- ★ Fresh produce, including organic
- ★ Over 40 vendors
- ★ Plentiful parking



Come see why we were voted **Best of Westchester.**

Every Saturday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave

More info at pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org



New! Go cash-free with Market Bucks.



The Pleasantville Farmers Market is owned by the Village of Pleasantville and operated under contract by Foodchester, Inc., a Pleasantville-based non-profit organization.

farmers market
A delicious good time.

Goldberg Ordered to Repay Yorktown for Unused Vacation Time

continued from page 1

and was paid to the Internal Revenue Service and New York State.

"The Supreme Court correctly held that Ms. Goldberg did not have the right to accrue and cash out 181 days of vacation time," Koster said. "We never would have pursued this lawsuit if there was any doubt that it didn't favor the town. There was no question the law was very clear."

In a Jan. 8 decision, Acting Supreme Court Justice Robert Neary pointed out it wasn't until December 2012 that the town board passed a resolution outlining the town's vacation policy for

department heads.

"The absence of a properly documented agreement or policy works against the employee and not the town as case law is clear that in the absence of preexisting contractual provision or legislative enactment, municipal employees are not entitled to recover the monetary value of accrued credits for vacation or sick time," Neary stated.

However, while Neary ruled Goldberg was not entitled to the disputed funds, he noted, "The court finds that based on the record, (Goldberg's) actions do not constitute a conversion as it appears that

there was a legitimate basis to conclude that she was authorized to disburse the funds in question. While incorrect, (Goldberg's) actions do not rise to the level of a tort."

Goldberg's lawyer, Peter Wessel, said Friday his client has no plans to appeal Neary's decision and mentioned a section of his judgment that stated, "The petitioner/plaintiff's conclusion that she had properly accumulated unused vacation and sick time was completely reasonable under the circumstances."

Wessel insisted that his comments on the matter be printed in its entirety.

"As the result of the town's failure to have a properly documented agreement or policy specifically granting department heads the right to accumulate four weeks' vacation (and even though no other department head was required to return such funds that he or she received), despite the equities, Justice Neary ruled that he was required to direct Joan Goldberg to return the disputed funds," Wessel stated in an e-mail.

"The court notes that the policies and practices with regard to certain aspects of town employment were not memorialized in an appropriate manner during the period that (Goldberg) was employed by the town," Wessel also stated. "While it appears that the town had a policy, with some exceptions, of granting department heads four weeks' vacation, that policy was never memorialized in a resolution or in any other appropriate form during the period in question. It was not until December 2012 that the Town Board passed a resolution outlining the town's vacation policy for department heads. In the absence of specific legislative authority, even if a result of an oversight, (Goldberg) cannot recover funds from the town."

Minor Injuries for No. Castle Highway Driver in Rollover

By Martin Wilbur

A North Castle Highway Department employee sustained minor injuries early last Tuesday when the truck he was operating to salt the roads slid down an icy street and rolled over.

The truck was making its way along Evergreen Row at about 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 13 when the vehicle hit an icy patch and began to slide sideways down the road, according to Town Administrator Joan Goldberg. The driver, who was not

identified but was described as one of the department's most experienced, followed standard operating procedure by dropping the plow to slow the truck down, she said.

However, during its descent, the truck then came onto a dry patch causing it to suddenly rollover, Goldberg said. The driver was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

"We are very grateful that he has minor injuries, no broken bones," Goldberg said. "He's banged up, but we are wishing him

a speedy recovery and a quick return to work."

The truck, one of the new additions to the fleet, sustained significant damage to its frame, she said. As of last week, the damage was still being assessed. The department was planning to send the truck to a shop that could determine the integrity of the frame, Goldberg said.

The cost to repair the damage or to replace the truck will be covered by insurance, she said.

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878

Thornwood Wines & Spirits

Look for more
Big Game Specials
in next week's issue
of the Examiner!

BIG GAME
SPECIAL

20% OFF!

All Wines in Store
A Case or More

Mix'N' Match Your Favorite Wines!

Except 3,4, and 5 Liters as well as sale items.
Not to be combined with any other offer.



Shoprite/CVS Center, 1004 Broadway Thornwood
 Store Hrs: Monday-Saturday 9:30am-9:00pm • Sunday 12-5
 Tel: 914 747 8071 • Fax: 914 747 8072

D
DIAMOND
PROPERTIES

PREMIUM SPACE. OUTSTANDING VALUE.



MTKISCO | BEDFORD | PLEASANTVILLE | OSSINING | HAWTHORNE | ELMSFORD | TARRYTOWN


OFFICE


RETAIL


MEDICAL


WAREHOUSE

333 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549 | 914-773-6249 | DIAMONDPROPERTIES.COM

New Mt. Pleasant School Bond Vote Likely for March

By Neal Rentz

Four months after its previously proposed capital projects bond was resoundingly defeated by voters, it appears all but certain that the Mount Pleasant School District will put forward another proposition in late March.

Last week school officials said they are planning to go ahead with a second bond, but will not finalize the list of items that will be included or its price tag until the board of education's Feb. 4 meeting. The board may also opt to offer more than one proposition.

"There is going to be a bond," Trustee Christopher Pinchiaroli said. "The question is how much."

Board President James Grieco said the vote would be held either March 24 or March 28. The board does not want to hold the vote in April because it would conflict with the 2015-16 budget review, he said.

Grieco said a decision on which date to choose will be influenced by district residents' opinion on whether to hold the referendum on a weekday or a Saturday.

Some residents have told school officials they objected to projects included in November's \$55.8 million bond that was defeated by more than a 2-1 margin. The decision to include lights for the athletic field, an artificial turf surface and a second access road for the middle school and



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Pleasant School District officials are moving forward with a new capital projects bond that will probably go to the voters in late March.

high school campus has been criticized.

However, nearly 70 percent of the projects would have been devoted to infrastructure and renovations, including work to replace and repair ceilings, classroom floors, lighting, and heating and ventilation systems at the middle school and high school.

Though district officials said last week that the items in the November bond were needed, they are considering a cost reduction. No specific amount was discussed at the meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney said a survey has been posted

on the district's website and printed copies have been mailed to residents. The deadline for survey replies is next Monday, Jan. 26.

The board is scheduled to hold a special work session on Jan. 28 to discuss the bond, including the survey results. The district is also expected to meet with KG&D Architects & Engineers at that meeting.

Once the board has decided on the final list of items, the district will hold informational meetings at Columbus and Hawthorne elementary schools, Guiney said.

If the capital projects are not approved in a bond they would have to be funded through the annual budget, Grieco said.

A resident, who declined to be identified after the discussion, said while she supported the November bond, many residents who opposed said they could not afford the higher property taxes. Grieco said he understood the opposition, but if improvements are made to the district's facilities and programs, property values would rise and those selling their homes would get a higher sale price, he said.

Grieco and other trustees said that instead of trying to convince most of the residents who opposed the first bond to support a new one, officials must convince parents who failed to vote in the fall to turn out in March. School officials legally cannot campaign for support of a bond or budget.

According to the district, 62 percent of eligible voters with children enrolled in the district did not vote in November.

Pinchiaroli said the district needed to learn why residents voted against the first bond. But Trustee Theresa Fowler said most of the opponents would not have voted for any bond with higher taxes regardless of what projects it included.

The key to passing a new bond would be to convince those who did not vote in November to go to the polls, Fowler said.

WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE
The Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company in the Northeast

CONGRATULATIONS!

to the #1 Sales Agent in Mt. Kisco for 2014*

Dee Roider has been providing exceptional service to the Mt. Kisco community and all of Northern Westchester for nearly three decades. A consistent top producer, Dee has outpaced her nearest competitor in total sales volume - closing over \$2M and growing in Mt. Kisco & more than 5.5M total volume. Experience exceptional service: 914-393-3458.

Trust. Experience. Dee Roider.

Dee Roider
driving you to your dream home

Dorothea 'Dee' Roider
Associate Real Estate Broker
95 Katonah Avenue
Katonah NY 10536

cell: 914.393.3458 • dee.roider@raveis.com



raveis.com

*Based on HGAR MLS total volume in closed sales from 1/1/14 to 12/31/14 in Mt. Kisco

SERVICIOS DISPONIBLES EN ESPAÑOL

Smart Child Care

QUALITY MATTERS

Are you sure your child is in good hands?
Do you know what "quality child care" really looks like?
How can you tell if your child is well taken care of when you're not there?

TO MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS:
Safe • Learning • Healthy • Happy

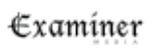
CHOOSE CHILD CARE THAT IS:
Regulated • Reliable • Quality

FREE SERVICES
Call the Child Care Council of Westchester today!
Get child care and after school referrals
Learn what to look for and what questions to ask
Explore financial resources

914.761.3456 x140 @CCCWNY
www.childcarewestchester.org
#GetSmartChildCare



Supported by





Jewelry Designer John Armak





Thornwood Jewelers
A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

15% Off
Jewelry Purchase
With this coupon.
Not valid with any other offers.

\$5 Battery
Replacement
with this coupon. On most watches.
Not valid with any other offer.
CASH ONLY

\$5 OFF
Any Repair of \$35 or more
With this coupon.
Not valid with any other offers.

968 Broadway Thornwood (ShopRite/CVS Shopping Center)
914 741 1920

NIGHT OWL BONUS

**MONDAY - THURSDAY
12AM - 6AM**

Earn 10 Empire Points
playing any slot machine
to receive **\$10 Free Play.**

EMPIRE CITY[®]
CASINO

Must be 18 years of age or older to play New York Lottery Games or wager on horses. Please play responsibly. Excludes electronic table games. Visit a Promotions Booth for complete rules and details. One Free Play offer per Empire Club Member per promotional day. Promotion ends 6am Thursday morning.

North Castle Mulls Accessibility Options for New Gazebo

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle officials must soon decide which type of handicapped accessible option be installed for the town's new gazebo at Wampus Brook Park if the structure is going to be built by summer.

Architect John Sullivan, who provided the town board last week with an update on the project, presented plans for either a ramp or a mechanical lift to be attached to the back of the gazebo.

However, Sullivan told the board that both options have a significant drawback for the town. Ramps are often used by skateboarders while a lift would require a key or password, effectively eliminating spontaneous access to the gazebo for someone with a disability.

"(A ramp) can be an attraction for skateboarding kids, and it's kind of tough to keep (them) off even if you put gates or chains across them," Sullivan said. "So I'd be a bit concerned, and I forewarn you about some level of liability on putting... either one of them, for that matter, on here."

Both options would have similar costs of roughly \$20,000, he said. Estimates released by the town for the entire project have been pegged at about \$200,000.

Sullivan cautioned that in order for the gazebo to be finished by June, the town would have to make a decision on final

design no later than mid-February. That would allow for a three-week bid process, another two to three weeks for contracts to be written and about 10 weeks of construction starting on or about Apr. 1, he said.

The original gazebo, which became structurally unsound, collapsed last June while crews were working to shore up the structure. Last summer, the town rented a mobile stage from Greenburgh to hold the Small Town Theatre Company's summer concert series and Frosty Day in the park.

Board members postponed making a decision at their Jan. 14 meeting, preferring to take time to consider their choices.

Councilman Stephen D'Angelo said the gazebo doesn't have to be finished by June, but doesn't want to see an active construction site in the park during the annual four-day Armonk Lions Fol de Rol in early June.

Sullivan responded that the contractor would be able to shut down the site to eliminate any type of hazard. Another suggestion would be to make sure the platform and overhead covering is in place and to complete the more intricate decorative work after the summer.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he wants all citizens to have the same ability

to use the gazebo. If town employees or the police department have to be contacted to operate a lift or open the ramp, that doesn't qualify as equal access, he said.

"The key to it, at least for me, the accessibility needs to be equal," Schiliro said. "If somebody is there and it's six o'clock in the morning and they want a cup of coffee and they want to sit up there, they should have access equal to everybody else."

In good weather, Schiliro said he had often seen residents sitting in the original gazebo in the early morning and enjoying the outdoors.

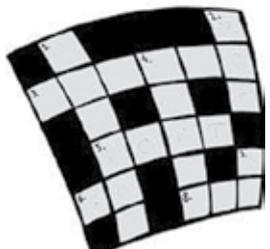
One Armonk resident, Geri Mariano, said she hoped that the town could make the gazebo equally accessible for everyone. Mariano, who wrote a letter that was read at last week's meeting, said a lift might comply with state and federal codes but they are prone to breakdowns and she questioned who would operate the device.

"I simply ask here tonight that more options are looked at and feedback from residents is welcome as there are numerous committees made up of town residents offering guideline policies on town matters," Mariano said.

Another possibility, Sullivan said, would be to build a walking path made of a natural material or pavement that

would gradually rise up to the structure. However, he cautioned officials the expense for that option would be greater than the ramp or lift. Sullivan was unable to provide an estimate for the path last week.

Officials could also choose to lower the height of the platform from four feet above the ground to two-and-half or three feet. Sullivan explained that since one linear foot of ramp is needed for every inch of elevation, a shorter ramp might be less attractive to skateboarders.



Visit
TheExaminerNews.com
and click on Puzzles
at the top of the
homepage to play
today's crossword!

Providing the Highest Quality Medical Care For You and Your Family Throughout Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess County



BRIARCLIFF MANOR: INTERNAL MEDICINE: 914-940-2500 PEDIATRICS: 914-941-2129	PATTERSON: INTERNAL MEDICINE: 845-278-6625 PEDIATRICS: 845-279-2323
CARMEL: 845-278-7000	PAWLING: DERMATOLOGY: 845-855-5536 PODIATRY: 845-855-1853
CORTLANDT MANOR: GENERAL SURGERY: 914-739-2315 OB/GYN: 914-739-1697	PEEKSKILL: GASTROENTEROLOGY / INTERNAL MEDICINE: 914-739-4800
CROTON ON HUDSON: INTERNAL MEDICINE / UROLOGY: 914-271-8700	POUGHKEEPSIE: 845-471-3111
FISHKILL: 845-765-4990	PUTNAM HOSPITAL CENTER OFFICE: 845-279-2000
HUDSON VALLEY HOSPITAL CENTER OFFICE: ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY: 914-739-2121 UROLOGY: 914-737-8675	RYE: 914-967-5539
JEFFERSON VALLEY: 914-245-7700	SOMERS: 914-277-4448
KATONAH: 914-232-3135	YORKTOWN HEIGHTS OFFICES: 1825 COMMERCE STREET: 914-962-5060 1940 COMMERCE STREET INTERNAL MEDICINE: 914-962-5577 225 VETERANS ROAD SPECIALTIES: 914-302-8059
MAHOPAC: 914-248-5556	URGENT CARE:
NORTHERN WESTCHESTER HOSPITAL OFFICE: CANCER TREATMENT & WELLNESS CENTER 914-242-2991	YORKTOWN: 914-302-8060
OSSINING: INTERNAL MEDICINE: 914-762-4141 ALLERGY / IMMUNOLOGY: 914-468-2590	CARMEL: 845-278-7000

MOUNT KISCO CAMPUS:
90 & 110 South Bedford Road = 34 South Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, NY 10549-3412
MAIN: 914-241-1050
PEDIATRICS: 914-242-1580

MIKMG
MOUNT KISCO MEDICAL GROUP PC

a clinical affiliate of
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

www.mkmg.com

A Lifetime of Quality Care That's Convenient & CompleteSM

VINE & CO.
wime • spirits

drink happy.

741 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914.666.7272
vineandcompany.com

craft beer

BREW & CO.
artisanal snacks

drink hoppy.

532 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914.666.3600
brewandcompany.com

NOW OPEN!

Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

Jan. 10: A 22-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 3:20 a.m. and charged with DWI following a traffic stop on Green Street. The suspect was released on his own recognizance.

Jan. 11: An Amuso Drive resident reported at 12:05 a.m. that during the last two days her front door had been damaged. The matter is under investigation.

Jan. 11: Report of an assault on Main Street at 4:23 a.m. A 25-year-old Mount Kisco man reported that he was involved in a fight with another male subject whom he knew. The other male left the scene prior to officers' arrival. Both men involved in the fight, which was over a female, were intoxicated, police reported.

Jan. 11: A St. Marks Place resident

reported at 7:31 a.m. that there are items missing from his house and he suspects that someone who was a guest at the house took them. The resident stated that a pendant and earrings were stolen, each with an estimated value of \$550.

Jan. 11: Report of an assault on Lexington Avenue at 9:45 p.m. A 32-year-old Mount Kisco man stated that he was assaulted walking home from the train station by three men.

Jan. 12: Three Mount Kisco men, two brothers, 24 and 26 years old, and a 21-year-old, were arrested at 1:15 a.m. and charged with third-degree assault, a Class A misdemeanor, for assaulting a Mount Kisco man on Lexington Avenue the previous evening. They were arrested after encountering the man again in the lobby of his Lexington Avenue residence and assaulting him

again after he told them the police were after them. The victim sustained minor injuries to his face. The suspects were arraigned and released on \$200 bail. They are due back in village court on Jan. 22.

Jan. 12: Two parties who were involved in a car accident on Moore Avenue reported the incident at headquarters at 5:38 p.m. One of the drivers, a 19-year-old Mount Kisco man, was found to have had six suspensions on his license. He was charged with driving with a suspended license and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Jan. 15: A St. Marks Place resident reported at 10:59 p.m. that his front door was damaged.

Pleasantville Police Department

Jan. 9: Report of a possible suspicious person at 8:19 p.m. A Lisa Place resident stated that he believed he saw a subject inside his neighbor's house. The responding officer determined no one was inside the house; everything was in order.

Jan. 10: A village resident reported at headquarters at 2:54 p.m. that he was the victim of identity theft. No further information was available.

Jan. 12: A state police investigator from the Brewster barracks reported

to village police at 2:02 p.m. that fraudulent checks have been cashed at several Mahopac National Bank branches in the area, including the one on Wheeler Avenue. The matter is under investigation.

North Castle Police Department

Jan. 10: A Wrights Mill Road resident arrived at police headquarters at 10:18 a.m. requesting that a report be created in reference to fraudulent charges made on her American Express card.

Jan. 10: A caller reported at 1:42 p.m. that the driver of a yellow sedan just did four 360-degree spins on Route 22 about a half-mile south of Route 120 before continuing northbound. Officers checked the area but vehicle was gone on arrival.

Jan. 11: At 9:38 a.m., a Birdsall Farm Drive resident reported receiving threatening phone calls. An officer responded and a report was taken.

Jan. 12: Complainant reported at 7:43 p.m. hearing a loud banging noise coming from the basement of her Old Mount Kisco Road residence. She stated that the basement light was on and she didn't recall putting it on. The caller requested an officer to check the premises. The responding officer reported the residence checks okay.

Obituary

Hugo Morits van Perlstein

Hugo Morits van Perlstein passed away on Jan. 13.

He was 94.

He was born in Arnhem, The Netherlands on April 9, 1920. The only child of Philip van Perlstein and Rosa van Perlstein-Gompertz, who both died in Auschwitz in September 1943.

Hugo escaped from The Netherlands during World War II. His flight was through Belgium and France to reach Switzerland where he attended business school in Lausanne. After a year, he left to go through France, Spain and finally Gibraltar where he went by boat to England. There he joined the Dutch division of the British Royal Airforce.

When the war was over, he returned to Amsterdam and worked there for five years before deciding to go to the U.S. He landed in Brooklyn by boat where he met Mrs. de Kadt, who also was born in Arnhem. He married her daughter, Mathilde, in 1955. They lived in an apartment in Hartsdale for three years

and then moved to Pleasantville when van Perlstein got a job at Reader's Digest in computers.

He retired after 25 years to make time for his hobbies: gardening, biking, skiing, building furniture, stamp collecting, making photos and films. He was a dedicated Rotarian and served in many capacities. He also attended Columbia at night.

He was a good father for his two daughters, Monique and Michelle, and a wonderful husband for his wife Til. We and his relatives in Holland will all miss him very much. The family received friends at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Jan. 15 followed by the funeral service. Burial followed at Ferncliff Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, kindly make donations in Hugo's name to the Pleasantville Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 169, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570 or to <https://secure.yadvashem.org/donation/tribute.asp>.



Hawthorne Funeral Home

21 West Stevens Ave.
Hawthorne, NY 10532

Ernest J. Carpentieri ~ Douglas A. Daniels

Tel: 914-769-4404
Fax: 914-769-5306

www.hawthornefuneralhome.com
Serving all faiths ~ Independently owned
Conveniently located on the Taconic State Parkway

County Accepting Applications for Seasonal Park Rangers

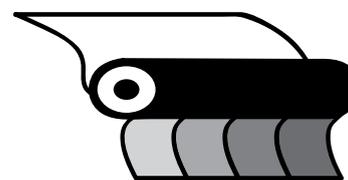
The Westchester County Department of Public Safety is accepting applications for seasonal rangers to patrol county parks this summer. Applications are due by Feb. 20 and are available online at <http://www.westchestergov.com/ps>.

Uniformed park rangers work under the supervision of county police officers to maintain a safe and enjoyable atmosphere in the county's parks. They assist the public, provide information on park rules and procedures, help to search for lost children, perform basic first aid and

make regular security checks.

First-time park rangers are paid \$14 an hour. Salaries are higher for those who have worked as a ranger for the county before.

Applicants must be a high school graduate, at least 19 years old, a U.S. citizen, a Westchester resident and possess a valid New York State driver's license by the time of appointment. Accepted candidates must attend a three-week training program at the Westchester County Police Academy.



Trumbull
PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com

Chappaqua Schools Expect Nearly 1% Spending Hike for 2015-16

By Janine Bowen

The Chappaqua School District will offer a budget increase this year of just under 1 percent, according to numbers presented at last week's budget preview.

Preliminary figures presented by Assistant Superintendent for Business John Chow showed that the tentative 2015-16 budget will be \$117,974,444, a spending increase of .96 percent over the current year.

Chow made the projection despite plenty of unknowns, which will affect the final budget. The largest unknown expenditure is the Teachers Retirement System, which is based on a little more than \$60 million in salaries. Chow said the amount the district is responsible for paying will likely decrease from 17.54 percent to 13.5 percent.

Despite the lower contribution rate, salaries are predicted to rise from \$60,455,965 to \$61,607,362, Chow said. Contracts with all staff members are currently being negotiated, he said.

"It's very misleading because the [percentage] is applied to a different number, a higher number, every year so it's not as much of a savings as it sounds," Trustee Victoria Tipp said.

Another number that will impact the budget but won't be known until later this month is the Consumer Price Index, estimated to be 1.7 percent as of



Chappaqua Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lyn McKay will formally present her budget to the community on Feb. 25

November. Under the tax cap, school districts must have a tax levy increase of no more than 2 percent or the CPI, whichever is lower. This year, the CPI is almost certainly going to be the lower percentage, Chow said.

District officials are also waiting to find out how much state aid they will receive. That is also expected to be known by the end of the month.

Among the numbers that are known, the biggest increase in expenditures is a \$650,000 increase--13.67 percent--in operations and maintenance. Chow explained that this increase is attributed to a number of projects that the school will take on, including roof repairs at one of the district's middle schools and an increase in electricity rates.

Expenditures for employee benefits will be lower next year, with a decrease of \$1,172,665 or 4.19 percent. The per pupil allocation will also decrease by 2.77 percent due to reduced enrollment. Chow said the district will have 69 fewer students for 2015-16 compared to the current school year.

On the revenue side, property taxes, which account for the majority of the district's income, will increase by 1,189,147 or 1.13 percent while the appropriation of fund balance will be reduced by \$100,000 or 4.26 percent.

Chow said the district will remain under the tax cap this year, which is crucial for residents to receive a rebate check under Gov. Cuomo's tax freeze proposal. Next year will mark the second year of the program. Eligible residents will receive a tax rebate if the district remains under the cap and presents a plan demonstrating how it will share or consolidate services or create efficiencies that result in a 1

percent savings of the overall budget. Chappaqua would need to save \$1,048,492, which Chow anticipates to be accomplished.

"We have all intentions to meet this requirement," he said.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lyn McKay will present her proposed budget at the Feb. 25 board of education meeting. Two community forums on the proposed budget will be held in the Robert E. Bell Middle School auditorium on Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**get
NOTICED!**

**Advertise in
The Examiner.
Call 864-0878 today!**

PAULETTE BELDOTTI

Newly licensed agent, Paulette Beldotti, has joined the Better Homes & Gardens Rand Realty family in Thornwood. Paulette is part of a long standing residential and commercial family-owned and operated business in Westchester. Although she first pursued a career in education it was inevitable that she enter into the real estate business. For the last ten years she has managed the family's residential and commercial income producing properties. Her educational and professional background, provide her with exceptional skills to facilitate a smooth real estate experience for her clients. Previously, having taught in the New York City Schools, her background in education allows her to identify with the needs of young families. Jo Falcone, Manager of the Thornwood office said that "Paulette is very excited about her new career in residential Real Estate and with her hands on experience these last years, will be a top producer for the company very soon. She is enthusiastic, energetic and willing to help you.

To contact Paulette, call her at 914-462-9745

**Better Homes & Gardens
RAND REALTY**

Hudson Valley
**WINE &
CHOCOLATE**
Festival

**Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Putnam County Golf Course
Mahopac, NY**

*Wine tasting and sampling *Local Distilleries *Craft Beer
*Hudson Valley & Regional Wineries *Craft Vendors
*Chocolate sampling & shopping *Valentine's Day shopping

**\$25/Advance. FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION, VISIT:
HVWineandChocolate.com ~ 845-278-7272**

**learn a skill
make friends · explore a career**

Quality Technical Programs for 12-15 Year Olds

Monday Programs • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$225
Session I - March 16 - June 1

Tuesday/Thursday Programs • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$225
Session II - April 7 - May 12

Wednesday Programs • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$225
Session III - March 18 - May 27

Saturday Programs • 9:00 am - 1:00 pm • \$185
Session IV - April 25 - May 16

Class options include: Advertising Design • Animation • Architectural Design
• Beauty • Cooking and Baking Around the World • Exploring Carpentry
• Fashion • Law Enforcement • Metal Working • Save-A-Life

tech after hours

200 BOCES Drive
Yorktown Heights, NY
914.248.2220 • 914.248.2430

Register online at pnwboces.org/tech

New Castle Authorizes RFPs to Develop Basketball Court, Path

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are prepared to go out to bid to explore the possibility of moving forward with two recreation related projects that have been proposed.

Last week the town board authorized issuing request for proposals for

engineering services to construct a basketball court in a back portion of the Town Hall parking lot as well as to evaluate the feasibility of creating a pedestrian and bike path between downtown Chappaqua and the area near Horace Greeley High School and Chappaqua Crossing.

Town Administrator Jill Simon Shapiro said no date has been set for when the RFPs will be issued or when proposals must be returned but she expects that to be done shortly. Interested parties would likely have a few weeks to return the RFP application once the process is formally

opened.

The separate projects had been in response to requests from some residents during the Master Plan update outreach sessions last year for more recreation in town and to encourage less reliance on cars.

In his report to the town, Supervisor Robert Greenstein said last week that the engineering services will include preparations for bid specifications, plans and construction estimates for both projects.

The more complicated of the two would be the path, which is being referred to by the town as the Chap Line, Shapiro said. It is not known whether the town would be able to obtain the necessary easements from several homeowners who live in the vicinity of where the path would go, she said.

About 10 years ago an outline for a path was made after a temporary dirt road was created for trucks during the construction of a new sewer line.

Meanwhile, the basketball court at Town Hall would be the first full-sized court in New Castle that is not on school district property. In order to accommodate the court, a still unknown number of parking spaces would be lost.

Armonk Camp Withdraws Zoning Change Request From Town

By Martin Wilbur

The operator of an Armonk day camp has withdrawn a request to the Town of North Castle to rezone its property that would have allowed for expansion of its facilities.

Town officials received a letter about two weeks ago from John Kirkpatrick, the attorney for Breezemont Day Camp on Cox Avenue, informing officials that the camp was no longer interested in pursuing the application. No reason for the change of heart was provided in the brief correspondence.

When reached on Monday, Breezemont owner Gordon Josey said he was looking to concentrate on operating the camp and getting it ready for the eight-week summer season without the added responsibility of having a major application to tend to. He did



The owner of Breezemont Day Camp in Armonk will no longer pursue a zoning change application.

not say whether the request would be resubmitted in the future, but indicated that at this time it was unlikely.

Josey and Kirkpatrick appeared before the board for an early December work session to gauge the town's response to the possibility of a rezone of the 15-acre

property. At the time, Kirkpatrick said that a key reason for seeking the change was that no significant expansions or upgrades are allowed because of the property's zoning status.

Under the current residential zoning, the camp is allowed to operate because it is a pre-existing, non-conforming use. Breezemont opened in 1932 before North Castle's zoning code was written.

If the rezoning application had eventually been granted, a special permit would have had to be obtained in order to do major renovations or expansion of the structures.

Kirkpatrick had also said a zoning change was needed since Breezemont was exploring the possibility hosting out-of-season functions, such as birthday parties and events for local organizations.

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878 • advertising@theexaminernews.com

Why Stepinac?

Please pre-register online at www.stepinac.org.

Let us show you at our Open House.



OPEN CAMPUS

Get a firsthand look at a day in the life of a Stepinac student by scheduling an "Open Campus" tour. To learn more, e-mail admissions@stepinac.org.



- Christian values and traditions
- Reasonable tuition
- 19 Advanced Placement Courses (begins in freshman year)
- Courses with transferable college credits
- 100% college acceptance rate
- Award-winning Drama & championship interscholastic Sports Programs
- Caring, supportive environment
- Blended learning (combining advanced digital technology with tutorial excellence to increase academic performance)
- *Complete Digital Library of Textbooks, first of its kind in the nation*



Sunday, January 25th • 1pm – 4pm | Presentations and Tours at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

Improvements Sought for Derelict Washington Ave. Properties

By Janine Bowen

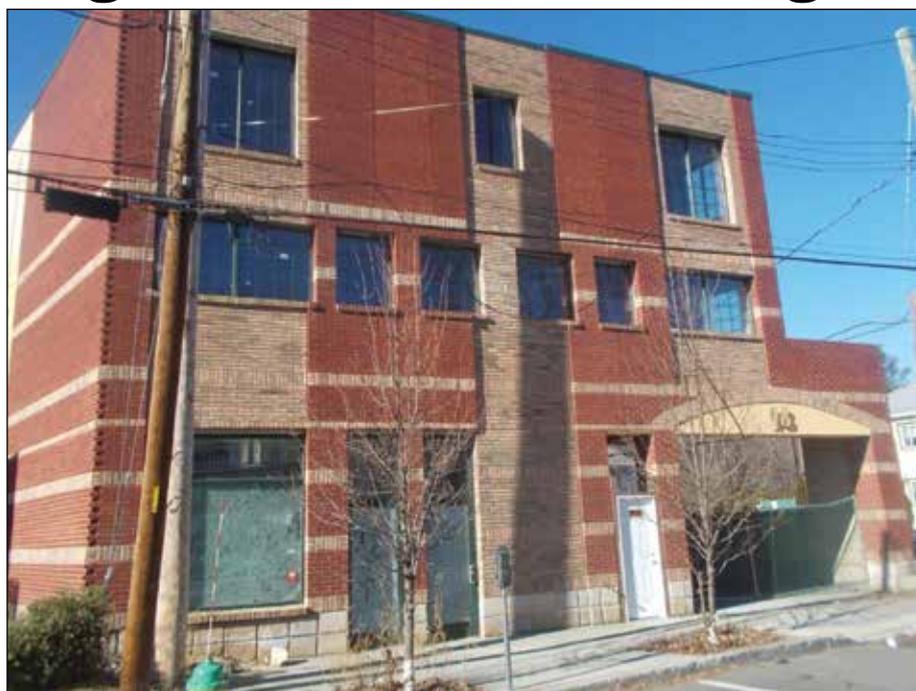
Slow progress is being made toward improving two properties on Pleasantville's Washington Avenue that have been considered an eyesore by some neighbors.

At last Monday night's village board meeting, resident Steve O'Neil raised concerns about the former Maher Funeral Home property, stating that it is beyond disrepair.

"It is unattended to, it is dangerous and it is an embarrassment," he said. "I didn't think anything would look worse than the funeral home and they've managed to accomplish it."

O'Neil said the property is not only an eyesore, but is posing a hazard. He stated that the property's back gate is frequently open and kids could walk in and enter the deteriorating building at any time. While village officials have no authority to lock the gate, Administrator Patricia Dwyer said property owner John Saraceno will be informed of the problem.

Saraceno, founder of Trinity Associates LLC, bought the property at 101 Washington Ave. to construct a mixed use, three-story building featuring 14 apartments and lower level office space. Mayor Peter Scherer



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The empty, almost completed building at 98 Washington Ave. in Pleasantville, one of two structures on the street that has raised the ire of residents.

said that Saraceno was awarded all necessary building permits last year, but the process stalled when he asked for accommodations that the village could not offer. Officials did not elaborate on

what accommodations were sought.

Dwyer said she spoke to Saraceno last Monday and was promised that the current structure on the property will be demolished by the end of the month.

If Saraceno fails to act on the demolition permit, which has already been granted, a summons will be issued, Dwyer said.

O'Neil urged village officials to monitor the progress on the property, fearful that it could end up unoccupied like 98 Washington Ave., a nearly completed structure across the street from the former funeral home.

That building was purchased many years ago but wound up in foreclosure during construction and has remained unfinished. After years of dealing with the banks, Scherer said the property was finally sold to a private owner last month.

Scherer noted that although the appearance and safety of the two buildings have been a concern for residents, the village has been fortunate enough to find new owners who will improve the properties.

"We can and do enforce safety requirements... [and] that obviously is a struggle in conditions like the Maher Funeral Home or 98 Washington, but blessedly communities like ours have not had the same problem that existed in various places upstate where you end up with properties that are actually not economically developed or the property was just abandoned," Scherer said.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



WESTCHESTER TABLE TENNIS CENTER

2014 NORTH AMERICAN TABLE TENNIS TOUR GRAND FINAL • FEB. 7-8

16 TOP PLAYERS IN U.S.

SPECTATORS \$15/ONE DAY, \$25/TWO DAYS
CHILD FREE WITH PAID ADULT

175 Tompkins Ave., Pleasantville • 914-741-0738
www.westchestertabletennis.com

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR AT THE LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR

The Pleasantville Music Festival is a day of friends & family, food & drink and great music. Now's your window to get advance tickets at the lowest price they're going to be.

Go to Kickstarter.com and search Pleasantville, or use this QR code.



Get deeply discounted tickets, group packages and prime tent spaces before they run out. Help us grow our budget for world-class headliners, and help yourself to a rockin' deal. But hurry—discount quantities are limited. Once the Kickstarter campaign is up, prices go up, too.



**PLEASANTVILLE
11th ANNUAL
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**
NEW YORK'S BACKYARD JAM
SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

Great Gifts and more to come at Somers Custom Framing!



BEST
WESTCHESTER
2009

2-Time Best of Westchester Winner!

Custom Picture Framing, Printing and Gift Shop

253 Route 202 • Somers 914-276-3173 • www.somerscustomframing.com

Pleasantville to Explore Update of Village's Wetlands Map

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville officials are considering two initiatives that should help protect the environment for years to come – mapping the village's wetlands and updating its tree ordinance.

During the Jan. 12 work session, trustees met with members of the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) to discuss mapping the village's wetlands, last updated in 1984. Although officials have access to maps from the county and state, there are discrepancies.

CAC members said they would take

advantage of an offer from Westchester to overlay the 1984 village map onto the current, more detailed county map for free to help create a comprehensive guide to Pleasantville's wetlands. Once that's done, the CAC would then go out into the village to make sure the map matches the current landscape and make any necessary updates.

"Going forward, I think we all have to understand that this is important information," said CAC Chairwoman Helen Meurer. "It's not just about putting it on a map; it's about using that

information to make sensible decisions."

One of the main uses of the wetlands map would be to prevent building in wetlands or wetlands buffers. Currently, village code prevents construction in such areas, but property owners can request a variance.

CAC members and village trustees noted that in the 1950s and '60s many homes were allowed to be built on land where construction is now prohibited. Today, some of the owners of those homes encounter problems if they attempt to expand. The proposed map would prevent further development on land that should have remained untouched, Meurer said.

"We as a village are permitting people to do things when we should be thinking twice," she said.

CAC member Lisa Brown requested that when land is slated for development, the CAC should have the opportunity to do a walk-through to analyze wetlands impact before the project is approved.

Property owners do have the option to refuse access to CAC representatives attempting to verify the information on the maps, noted Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer.

Advisory council members pointed out that residents were accommodating when they were creating an open space map several years ago and believe they would be again.

"We as a group will take sections and walk around and, if necessary, we would knock on a door and say can we just follow this stream through your backyard," explained Meurer.

Brown noted that having a more accurate wetlands map would not only make the building process easier, but would help protect the environment and generate revenue for the village when some homeowners apply for permits to build in a previously uncharted wetland.

"It's not only just protecting the environment, you're also doing something (economically) valuable," she said.

Furthering the concept of environmental protection, officials are also considering the implementation of a Pleasantville tree ordinance. Based on an ordinance recently passed in the Town of Mount Pleasant, the law would create a buffer zone in which the removal of trees, with the exception of those that create a hazard, would be forbidden.

If residents elect to cut down a tree in the buffer, they would be required to replant another one elsewhere on the parcel or contribute money to the village's native tree fund.

The ordinance would also prohibit the removal of trees within 25 feet of the right of way, which would impact many private property owners' front lawns.

Legislative Speak-Out for Seniors in White Plains This Friday

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino is urging seniors to attend the annual legislative speak-out and breakfast this Friday, Jan. 23. The focus at this year's event is "Affording Aging in Place."

This year's event, which will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the County Center in White Plains, will be hosted by Department of Senior Programs and Services Commissioner Mae Carpenter, County Legislator Bernice Spreckman, chair of the Board of Legislators' Committee on

Seniors and Constituencies, the Aging Network and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services.

Issues and proposals raised at the legislative speak-out will be published in Westchester County's "White House Conference on Aging Survey," which will be submitted to the conference coordinators in Washington, D.C. The survey will also be sent to Westchester's federal, state and local elected officials.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

RACE. BOWL. EAT. PLAY.

GRAND PRIX
NEW YORK RACING

BIRTHDAY PARTIES
BAR/ BAT MITZVAHS
CORPORATE EVENTS
FUNDRAISERS

SPINS
BOWL

RACE **BOWL** **PLAY** **EAT**

GO KARTS INSIDE BOWLING CENTER MONTE CARLO ARCADE FUEL RESTAURANT & BAR

333 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK | 914.241.3131 | INFO@GPNY.COM
WWW.GPNY.COM | WWW.SPINSBOWL.COM

Safe Haven
Self Storage

GOT STUFF? WE GOT SOLUTIONS
www.safehavenselfstorage.com

WE SELL BOXES, CARTONS, LOCKS
SAFE AND SECURE
FULL INSIDE LOADING DOCK
ACCESS TO YOUR UNIT 7 DAYS A WEEK
CLIMATE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

NEW CUSTOMERS
50% OFF
FIRST 3 MONTHS

ELMSFORD 444 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD (9A) | 914-592-1000
MOUNT KISCO 333 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD | 914-666-7233

*RESTRICTIONS APPLY

P'ville Firefighters Hold Vigil to Remember Slain Colleague

By Janine Bowen

Despite cold weather and icy conditions, Pleasantville firefighters once again came together in Graham Hills Park last Monday night to remember their former comrade Thomas Dorr.

Friends and co-workers gathered for the vigil in front of a tree planted in memory of their fallen friend, marking 19 years since Dorr was found murdered in the park on Jan. 7, 1996.

"It's 19 years and we're hoping that we can bring this to some type of conclusion, find some kind of closure, but it is a tribute to him that both the Pleasantville Fire Department and the White Plains Department of Public Works every year, there's quite a significant turnout, even if people now haven't even met him," said Joseph Nicoletti, who worked with Dorr for 10 years at the White Plains DPW.

Dorr was near his Pollywoggle Road home feeding the wild turkeys on the day of the murder. Following the outing, the 50-year-old intended to walk to the Washington Avenue firehouse to join other volunteers on standby during a blizzard, but never made it. When firefighters learned Dorr was missing, they began a search. His body, beaten and stabbed, was found the next morning.

Dorr's murder remains unsolved almost two decades later, and is one of two homicides in the village that are

open cases. In October, Linda Falkoff was stabbed to death in her Grandview Avenue home and police have yet to make an arrest in that case.

Despite two unsolved murders in a village that has been considered one of the safest municipalities in the state, residents are not concerned.

"I don't think people are very much afraid, it's still a very safe community," said resident and firefighter Brian McGowan.

Although many of the firefighters at the Jan. 12 vigil joined the department after Dorr's murder, those who remember the incident say that it is common knowledge that Dorr's wife and stepson have long been suspected in the murder.

"I think the police know very well who did this, they just can't get the information to put them behind bars," said Pleasantville Fire Department Commissioner John Brooks.

Captain Chris Calabrese of the Westchester County Police Department confirmed that Dorr's wife and stepson are still suspects in the case, but there is little evidence to pursue the lead. He noted that the two moved to Connecticut shortly after Dorr's death and requested a lawyer and became uncooperative when questioned about the crime.

"We are continually looking at this case," Calabrese said. "It's very frustrating having very good leads on who actually



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Pleasantville firefighters and members of the White Plains DPW hold candles during last week's vigil for former colleague Tom Dorr, who was murdered 19 years ago last week.

anybody with a lead to come forward and leave an anonymous tip at WCPDtips.com. The \$2,500 reward for information, which was announced last year, remains in place.

"Sooner or later somebody will say something. Somebody knows; it's no secret who did it," said Brooks. "Somebody had to talk to somebody else and sooner or later they'll give those guys the right word and we'll catch the person."

While everyone in attendance hoped they will not have to meet again next year, they shared fond memories of Dorr Monday night.

"I was with the department less than a year when this happened and I remember being with him," said firefighter John Thys. "He took me under his wing, showed me the ropes and he took a special interest in me and I thought that was fantastic."

Many remembered Dorr, standing at 6-foot-6, as a "gentle giant" who was soft spoken but always eager to share his opinion or knowledge on a subject when asked.

"He was the kind of guy who would take an interest from day one and would share whatever information he could, would give you his opinion on things, but [he was] just out to do the best thing, not just for the public, but for everybody that he worked with," McGowan said.

did this and who was involved but still not having any evidence to go forward."

Calabrese said information from the public is crucial to the case, and urged

BRING IT ON!
GAME DAY SUNDAY XLIX
50¢ WINGS + 2-FOR-1 BEER
 Come into Fat Sal's Sunday, February 1 to see every play from every angle on our 7 giant TV's!
SPECIAL HALFTIME PERFORMANCE BY FAT SAL!
 Delivery Now Available

FAT SAL'S BAR & GRILL
 265 Tate Ave, Buchanan, NY
 914.930.1770 • fatsalsbarandgrill.com

GREAT FOOD! GREAT MUSIC!
 "Come for the music & enjoy fine dining."
DARYL'S HOUSE
 RESTAURANT BAR LIVE MUSIC CLUB
 "Incredible experience!"

SUPER SUNDAY PARTY
FEBRUARY 1, 2015
STARTING AT 5:30PM
 VIEW THE BIG GAME ON OUR 9 FOOT PROJECTION SCREEN WITH SURROUND SOUND

SOUTHWESTERN BUFFET \$25 PER PERSON
 BEEF & CHICKEN FAJITAS
 NACHO BAR
 CHILI CON CARNE
 WINGS A LA JOHN RZEZNIK
 JALEPENO POPPERS
 HOMEMADE FLAN

\$12 PITCHERS YUENGLING LAGER

Wed-Thu-Sun 3:30pm - Midnight
 Fri-Sat 3:30pm - 2am
www.darylshousedub.com
845-289-0185 130 Route 22, Pawling, NY

To advertise in The Examiner,
call 914-864-0878

or e-mail
advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

Laura Markowski
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com
Associate Publisher

Peter Stone
pstone@theexaminernews.com
Chief Financial Officer

Martin Wilbur
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com
Editor-in-Chief

Neal Rentz
nrentz@theexaminernews.com
Assistant Editor

Amy Borrelli
Copy Editor

Janine Bowen
jbowen@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

Annette van Ommeren
annette@theexaminernews.com
Page Designer

Dina Spalvieri
dspalvieri@theexaminernews.com
Advertising Designer

Andy Jacobs
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com
Sports Editor

Nick Antonaccio
nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com
Contributing Columnist

Paul Cardi
pcardi@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Jeff Ohlbaum
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Nina Harrison
nharrison@theexaminernews.com
Account Executive

Corinne Stanton
cstanton@theexaminernews.com
Media Consultant

Examiner
MEDIA
also publishes The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner
The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner
The PUTNAM
Examiner

To inquire about paid subscriptions, email
subscriptions@theexaminernews.com
for pricing and other details.

PO Box 611, Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878

www.TheExaminerNews.com

Member of

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

CIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL

Editorial

Incident Reporting System Audit Makes Mockery of School Safety

It is with good reason Pleasantville School District officials were upset last week by another unnecessary body blow from Albany bureaucrats.

Seemingly out of nowhere, the state comptroller's office issues an audit of the state Education Department's Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting System. Pleasantville High School had the misfortune of being one of seven public schools throughout the state to be randomly selected to evaluate how SED was implementing that system.

Maybe if school officials knew beforehand precisely what they needed and didn't need to report, the information that was made public last

week could have been of at least minimal value. Better yet, since this was a random audit designed to evaluate a system, how about keeping that information for internal use only?

In Pleasantville, some personnel reasonably thought that if an "offense" carried a score of zero--the best score--it didn't need to be recorded. According to the audit, 20 out of 36 incidents in 2011-12 should have been reported, all of them a zero.

Apparently, a student using a cell phone in class or not listening to a teacher should be included in a violent and disruptive incident report. If that's the case, the entire reporting system is

a waste of time and should be scrapped immediately. Any system should be about maintaining and improving real student safety concerns, not another time-wasting, money-burning exercise to give overpaid bureaucrats something to do.

Furthermore, the fact that the information in Pleasantville's report is nearly four years old makes it worthless.

Just when you think that SED officials and their enablers can't appear more laughable, they manage to top themselves.

At this rate, the state's schools are going to need a lot more change than just a new education commissioner in 2015.

Column

Eight Real Parenting Tips to Take to Heart From Real Parents

When you ask parents for parenting advice, certain tips come up time and time again. It is useful to remind ourselves what works and what is important. Here are eight real parenting tips from real parents.

Don't compare your kids to others. They all learn at their own pace and in their own way. Of course parents need to be attentive to developmental milestones, but don't freak out if your child is a little behind. Very early walkers may walk as early as nine months, for example, but some children won't walk until 14 months. In the long run, it really doesn't matter when they learn as long as they learn.

Take care of yourself. "Do what you need to do to stay sane," said one mom of two. "If you are tired and need to do something for yourselves, like going out as a couple, do it and don't feel guilty."

Commit to the process. "Don't just parent for the future, parent for this evening," Pamela Druckerman, journalist, author and mother writes. "Your child probably won't get into the Ivy League or win a sports scholarship. At age 24, he might be back in his childhood bedroom, in debt, after a mediocre college career. Raise him so that, if that happens, it will

still have been worth it." A Dutch father of three told her about his Buddhist-inspired approach: total commitment to the process, total equanimity about the outcome.

Be in the moment. Enjoy them while you can because it goes by fast, just like everyone says.

Get connected. Make mommy and daddy friends if you don't have them already. Join local groups to meet people, get support and to learn sage parenting tips from parents in the trenches. Also, if you are a parent of multiples or of children with unique conditions, parent groups are excellent for connecting you to resources and support services.

Laugh it off. A lot of what feels extremely stressful in the moment is actually comical when you step back and think about it. Try to get more efficient when it comes to having a sense of humor. The day to day is more fun when you can appreciate the funny things your kids do. Extending the same courtesy to your co-parent could go a long way toward increasing your happiness



By Dr. Jaime
Fleckner Black

as well.

Be who you are with them and be a parent at the same time. Be genuine with your kids but reason with them at a developmentally appropriate level. "Talk to them like you would a friend sometimes. It helps them develop and feel okay around people other than their parents," said one mom.

Remember that your children are individuals. Your

children may not be better, little versions of yourselves. Respect and enjoy their differences, and validate their feelings even if you don't immediately understand them. Hear them out. You might even learn something.

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

Letter to the Editor

Municipalities Have No Obligation to Comply With Housing Settlement

Westchester County and the local municipalities in Westchester are created by the state of New York. Home rule authority flows from the state. Because of this, it has been expressed that Westchester has little or no authority to compel any actions by the other parties as per Rob Astorino's comments.

The actions taken by most of the municipalities have been largely voluntary as most of the municipalities recognized a need for affordable housing. My opinion is that HUD should be dealing with the

state, not Westchester, and the affordable housing agreement by the county is not binding on the local municipalities. The withholding of funds by HUD is simply a coercive action to establish precedent that HUD can use nationwide, to build housing in its image regardless of local desires. One only needs to read HUD's filings and letters of comment to recognize this is more than a Westchester issue.

On Conifer in New Castle, the developers went for funding to the state before they ever contacted the town. They then tried

to plead since they had state funding the town should accept their terms. From their filings it appears the cost will be in excess of \$700,000 per unit, which is absurd. They are asking for an extensive list of waivers of the Life Safety Building Code and a waiver of the recommendations of the New Castle Fire District about the difficulties in responding to a fire due to the nature of the site.

Erik Nicolaysen
Chappaqua

Energy brings you...

know your **Neighbor**

Doris Sharp School Crossing Guard, Thornwood

By Martin Wilbur

It's important for Doris Sharp to maintain her sense of humor.

That's one way the longtime Pleasantville school crossing guard endures the yelling from some motorists near her post at Bedford Road and Romer Avenue. Once, a woman even chided her for taking too long to cross the students at the intersection, a key corner that's a short distance from Pleasantville's three public schools.

"The woman decided she was going to stop and reprimand me and she told me I outdid myself in keeping the cars held up," Sharp recalled. "I said, 'You see these kids? They're my priority.' She stuck her tongue out at me as she was leaving."

Now in her 14th year as crossing guard, the 35-year Thornwood resident quickly learned to brush aside the verbal abuse, which happens almost daily. But the honking horns, angry comments and speeding drivers who try to beat her signals to stop don't come close to negating the appreciation she receives from the public, particularly from parents of the children who walk to school in a community that doesn't use school buses, and sometimes

from the kids themselves.

After one close call where Sharp helped to avert a serious accident, the boy returned to give her a pack of Lifesavers.

"Sometimes when all the horns are going and the parents are kind of supporting me, it's just music," Sharp said of the angry and impatient drivers. "They're playing my tune. They're just off key."

So what makes Sharp, 63, get up early every school day so she's at her post by 7:30 a.m. in single-digit temperatures or pouring rain or in summer's stifling heat to cross children headed to camp?

In 2001, Sharp was looking for work and found an ad for a crossing guard vacancy in Pleasantville after spending 28 years as an insurance agent. She left that line of work because the industry was changing and companies were starting to have their agents sell financial products, which Sharp said she was unhappy with.

A native of Pine Island, Orange County, where her parents were onion farmers, Sharp attended secretarial school in White Plains after high school. Soon after, she moved to Westchester, renting an apartment in Yorktown Heights.



She got a job as a secretary with All State after completing her course. It didn't take long for Sharp to figure out she could do more.

"I was working for 12 insurance agents in New York City on Fifth Avenue, and I'm watching them do their job and I said I could do that," said Sharp, whose husband, Richard, works for a tree service company. "So I applied for the job to be an agent and that's how I got there."

Sharp, who has two grown sons, is a gardening enthusiast and also works five days a week at Shop-Rite in Thornwood, including three weekdays between her morning and afternoon crossing guard shifts. In addition, she teaches on Wednesday evenings at Holy Innocents.

Before becoming a crossing guard, she toyed with the idea of taking up landscape architecture, but that would have required two years of study and at that point Sharp said she needed to be earning money.

During her six months of unemployment after leaving the insurance agency, Sharp also learned to cane chairs, but that wasn't a viable option.

On the coldest mornings, sometimes she questions why she's toughing out winter's icy blasts on a street corner.

"At this point in my life I should be gardening, sailing, playing tennis and baking Christmas cookies, but I'm not," she said.

In order to protect herself against winter's elements, Sharp makes sure to dress in layers. What's worse is a winter rain, that sends shivers through the body should you get wet. On rainy days she makes certain to bring her slicker.

"I always wear two socks, dress in layers," she explained. "I'm always warmer than the people walking their dogs or the kids in shorts. I'm all bundled up, breath is coming out of my mouth and here comes the kid in shorts."

She said a close friend who joins her for walks at Rockefeller State Park Preserve told her they could never walk in the village because they wouldn't be getting much exercise. Everyone would stop to talk to her.

Along with protecting children, Sharp said the interaction with people is the best part of her job.

"I think technology is taking us away from being people people. You're being connected with the people side," Sharp said. "You have quick conversations with kids. (But) sometimes they don't hear you because they have their headphones on."



It's just the way people feel about Westchester. We know. We're the 1,000 people who help run Indian Point, and we live in the area too. Indian Point generates about one quarter of the power for New York City and Westchester, with virtually no greenhouse gas emissions, and at lower cost than other sources. All across our area, we're Powering New York in ways you might not expect.

Indian Point Energy Center



POWERING NEW YORK

Learn more about the true value of Indian Point to our area, as well as the \$1 billion we've invested in the safety of our plant in recent years, at SafeSecureVital.com/PoweringNY

FAITH + KNOWLEDGE + SERVICE



OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25:
Pre-K 3&4 and Kindergarten,
11 am-2 pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 26:
Pre-K through Grade 8,
9 am-1 pm

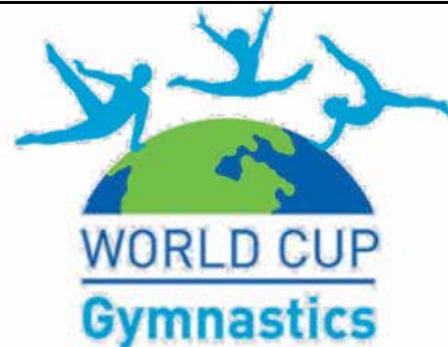
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27:
Pre-K through Grade 8,
9 am-1 pm



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL

117 Moseman Road, Yorktown Heights
914-962-2211 • www.stpatricksschoolyorktown.org

FLIP OUT! AT WORLD CUP GYMNASTICS Summer Camps



**SIGN UP by 3/1
and receive a FREE
field trip!**

- Beginner to Advanced Gymnastics
- Sports Programs
- Traditional Camp Activities
- Weekly Field Trips
- Fully air-conditioned, state-of-the art, sports complex
- Early Drop Off and Late Pick Up



Busing arranged through
motherhenshelpers.com

New York's Premier Gymnastics Facility

Call 914-238-4967 or register online at worldcupgymnastics.com



Camps, Kids and Fun

Kids Find Fashion Design Camp a Groovy Summer Place

By Janine Bowen

Every parent knows that buying new clothes for the back-to-school season is essential, but children interested in fashion have the opportunity to design and create their own clothing at Camp Groovy.

This summer will mark the seventh year that Groovy on Grand, a fashion design studio started by Andrea Kennedy Andrews, will host camp sessions as the program has continued to grow since its inception.

Last year, it proved so popular that Camp Groovy offered eight separate week-long sessions at its Croton-on-Hudson location to accommodate more students in a shorter time span. This summer the camp will move down the block to 112 Grand St. as a temporary home before finding a permanent location. The move is also part of an effort to make Groovy on Grand a mobile business to reduce overhead and allow more programs to be offered at affordable rates.

"It's a fashion design camp, so it can happen anywhere," explained Andrews. "It's wherever we can put sewing machines and carry in fabric and portfolios."

Children who attend Camp Groovy will have the opportunity to use professional design equipment and will leave the five-



Children and teens have the chance to design their own clothes at Camp Groovy in Croton-on-Hudson. It is preparing for its seventh summer camp this July.

day program with a collection of eight to 12 clothing items that they designed themselves. Girls and boys can create a collection based on whatever theme they choose and each session revolves around a different style of clothing.

For example, Beach Party week features traditional summer clothes while Uptown Chic week allows participants to create sophisticated dress items. Downtown Chic lets children design casual clothing that can be worn to class. Students will get the opportunity to sew, airbrush, silk screen and dye clothes to create whatever designs they envision.

"It's a true fashion design experience where they're actually designing, planning, creating and illustrating their designs," Andrews said.

A newer theme is Pajama Party week, which was introduced at Camp Groovy last year at the request of campers. That session is a bit more relaxed, involving less sewing but was one of the most well-received offerings because it allows children to focus on the graphic design element of fashion while creating items they can use on a regular basis.

Although most of Camp Groovy's sessions are designed for students from nine to 16 years old, Wearable Art week caters to younger students, ages six through 11. Unlike the other four sessions for older participants, that theme doesn't involve sewing or illustration but focuses more on silk screening, digital design, stencils and dyeing.

"They do a lot of beautiful techniques

and they end with a fashion show," Andrews explained.

The wearable art segment is also shorter, with four-hour sessions each day, as opposed to five hours for the older students. Each session features a half-hour lunch break, although Andrews noted that she often has to force students to step away from their work to eat.

"So many kids don't even want to eat lunch, they don't even want to stop...it's very funny," she said.

Each Camp Groovy session lasts for five days. The Wearable Art program kicks off the season on July 13. The cost is \$450 per session, a price reduction of \$50 from last year. Andrews noted that students often opt to attend more than one session, which is why each week has a separate theme.

With three new counselors this year, every session is able to accommodate 32 students but Andrews stressed that enrollment closes on April 15 and no campers will be accepted after that time. She explained that materials and clothing must be ordered in the correct sizes and colors for each attendee, a process that takes several months to complete.

To learn more about Camp Groovy, visit GroovyOnGrand.com.



GET YOUR FUN ON!

At World Cup Nursery School & Kindergarten's

Summer Camp



- Prep Camp for Mom and Me
- Traditional Camp Activities
- Kids Camp for ages 3-6
- Weekly Field Trips for Older Campers
- Mini Water Park
- Pre-school Gymnastics

Call 914-238-9267

SIGN UP for 6 wks by 2/14 for 10% OFF!

or download a registration form at worldcupnurseryschool.com

Busing available through motherhenshelpers.com

160 Hunts Lane • Chappaqua • NY





Harvey Cavalier Camp

A Summer Camp as Exceptional as Your Child!

A day camp for Pre-K–Grade 9 with over 50 courses from fine arts, theater, ice skating, science, gymnastics, sports, technology, swimming, music, and much more!



Harvey's 125 acre campus of open fields and woods provides a perfect setting for an extraordinary summer camp experience.

The Harvey School • 260 Jay Street, Katonah, NY 914-232-0581 • harveycavaliercamp.org

Join us at our Open House

Feb. 7 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (snow date Feb. 21)



Using Your Home Walls to Create an Art Gallery

As I recall the walls of my childhood home, a simple row house in Philadelphia, I see only the large obligatory parlor mirror over the sofa and one brightly colored watercolor of gladioli dated 1940 by my Aunt Helen, a self-taught artist, that I still display in an honored place.

In college, when first exposed to the world of art, I vowed one day to become a collector to the extent that I could afford. As a newcomer to New York City, while visiting the home of a cultured gentleman, I was impressed to find that all of his walls were covered from floor to ceiling with paintings, prints and other objects, much like an art gallery.

Those two experiences created in me a lifelong obsession to have my home's walls serve as the canvass for a rich visual experience where I could view, ponder and lose myself into other worlds of artistic expression.

Actually, you don't have to be as obsessive as I, and it doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg, just a trip to a store like Home Goods or T.J. Maxx. I am amazed



Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe being hung by handyman Joe Pascarelli above The Home Guru's Jacuzzi. The weight of the frame demanded the use of an anchor in the plasterboard wall.



By Bill Primavera

at the art these stores can offer for very little money. Go there and splurge on collections of stretched canvasses that don't require frames to look great in wall groupings. Such stores didn't exist when I was young and collecting art from antiques shops and, yes, junk shops.

When I lived in my first small house, I achieved the gallery effect within a few short years. When I moved to a large colonial in the country with 14 rooms, it took many years to appoint each room like a gallery. My problem within the past month, however, has

been paring down my collection to an 1,800-square-foot condo with a living room/dining room combination, an office/den and two bedrooms.

In this case, my wife and I had to be very selective about which paintings and prints we selected – only our most favored pieces would come with us – and we agreed that, living in a smaller space, we didn't want to close ourselves in by filling every inch of wall space with art.

Also, the groupings themselves needed to be well hung-- literally--because for the first time in many years I was dealing with hollow, plasterboard walls. My heavier frames had to be secured in the plasterboard with anchors, expand with pressure when screws were put into them or have "toggles," which release on the inside of the wall once pushed.

I must confess I hate that chore as somewhat tedious and, this time around, I prevailed upon my friend and expert painter Joe Pascarelli, who doubles as my handyman when needed for such tasks.

For the lighter paintings and prints, I don't bother with the anchors but use small nails. Rather than nailing them straight in horizontally, I nail them in at a 45-degree angle so that the weight of the piece is less likely to pull the nail from the wall.

In my groupings, I like to create harmony and balance, either through



BILL PRIMAVERA PHOTOS

The Home Guru's dining room: a well-hung art gallery.

content or the type of frames. In my dining area, for instance, the entire wall is dedicated to landscapes, while my living room features portraiture of the 1700s and 1800s. I just love all those eyes staring back at me. Sometimes I sit on my sofa, looking into the eyes of those women, men and children, wondering why their descendants didn't hold on to their portraits and cherishing them as family heirlooms, but very glad that I was able to adopt them, welcoming them as family members.

When I arrange these paintings into groups, I first lay the frames out on the floor directly in front of the wall on which they are to be placed and arrange and rearrange them until I have a pleasing pattern. Then I take a digital photo, which I follow as I hammer them in one by one.

After I hang them, I eyeball them to make sure they're straight (some people are fanatics and use a leveler), and once I have them perfect, I roll some masking tape into a tube and stick it behind one

corner of the frame to make sure that vibrations or dusting doesn't dislodge its horizontal pitch.

I'm nearing the end of creating my new art gallery at home, ready to welcome guests to come look and learn more about me by considering how I choose to enrich my living environment.

By the way, if you want my friend Joe Pascarelli's help in hanging art or any other chores around the house that require skilled assistance, you can call him directly at 914-330-3889.

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

SEAL UP Your Home with NEW WINDOWS



MIRACLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NO \$ DOWN!!!
Under \$20,000

914 ★ 271 ★ 9119
Family Run, Owner Supervision on all Jobs...
Exceptional Quality & Service @ AFFORDABLE Prices...

ROOFING ★ WINDOWS ★ SIDING ★ DOORS
DECKS ★ LEADERS ★ SEAMLESS GUTTERS

Visit our office & showroom to see the variety of products on display, or we will bring our showroom to you.

2010 Albany Post Road • Croton-on-Hudson, NY
www.miraclehomeimprovements.com
Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners




Follow US ON  **twitter**

twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

 Find us on **Facebook** Search for **EXAMINER MEDIA**

914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews.com • www.theexaminernews.com

WCA Launches Academy to Train Workers for Healthcare Jobs

By Martin Wilbur

The Westchester County Association (WCA) announced last week a new plan to collaborate with regional healthcare providers and colleges to train workers to fill at least 2,500 unfilled jobs in the county.

Creation of the Hudson Valley Workforce Academy by the WCA will address the need to staff the vacant positions in the healthcare, technology and biotech sectors. The WCA, one of the top business leadership organizations in the area, has reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with its Hudson Valley Healthcare Consortium to work together to address the need, said William Harrington, chairman of the organization.

The academy will offer its first short-term, certificate-based course, a five-week class on healthcare analytics, starting on Feb. 24 at its offices at 1133 Westchester Ave. in White Plains to help meet demand, Harrington said. The courses are open to the general public.

The organization also plans to apply for a \$9.8 million federal grant through the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Investment Board that would pay to provide 425 long-term unemployed people and 75 currently employed individuals with intensive training so they are prepared for healthcare-related jobs.

Other courses will help prospective employees become medical coders and radiology and MRI technicians, along



Westchester County Association Chairman William Harrington, with representatives from higher education, the healthcare industry and local businesses, launched the new Hudson Valley Workforce Academy last week in White Plains.

with specific training for positions in dealing with the public in healthcare settings. The WCA plans to announce a full schedule of courses in the near future.

Harrington said leaders in business, the nonprofit world, the medical field and academia realize that it is critically important to fill these jobs to provide more efficient healthcare. The \$15 billion-a-year industry is also a key to economic development in the region, he said.

"It is one of the drivers for the future of efficient and careful providing of

healthcare and it's been used in other industries for decades," Harrington said. "Healthcare is going to catch up, and it will catch up because they're being driven to by the economies of scale."

The MOU includes 16 higher education organizations, including virtually every college in the region, plus 15 regional healthcare providers, according to the WCA. The Suburban Hospital Alliance, comprised of more than 50 hospitals on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, will also participate.

Representatives of the organizations that are participating in the joint effort said they were excited to be part of the program.

"We are acutely aware of the healthcare needs of today and how different they will be in the future," said Donna McGregor, CFO of Crystal Run Healthcare. "Critical skills such as data analytics are vitally important in managing population health and the future of health care in many, many settings."

Tony Mahler, senior vice president of strategic planning at Westchester Medical Center, said the initiative will improve healthcare and is in line with the center's mission as an advanced care organization and teaching institution.

"As the largest healthcare employer in the region, we have a vested interest in ensuring that our workforce has the skills required to get the job done today and well into the future," Mahler said.

Harrington said the initiative, which has its roots in the WCA's Blueprint for Westchester to retrain workers and upgrade job development, is about helping people.

"We're excited about our academy," he said. "We think it's a great idea."

The healthcare analytics course is \$595 per participant. For more information, including registration and a list of upcoming courses, visit www.westchester.org.

Your Castle Cab is just a click away!

Westchester's Newest Taxicab Company

Castle Cab Corp. is Westchester's newest mobile based ground transportation service offering on-demand service AND advanced reservations with a click of your mouse, a tap of your phone, or a call to our office.

Simply request a ride and a brand new hybrid Castle Cab is on the way.

- Easy to Use
- Professionals Behind the Wheel
- Advanced Reservations
- Safe for Families & Children
- On Demand & Flexible
- Transportation for Seniors

Download the app or reserve online.



Low Flat Rates to and From all Trains



914.273.2535 • www.ridecastle.com

Grand Prix New York to Host Fox Lane Booster Fundraiser

Grand Prix New York, the area's leading indoor entertainment and team-building venue, will host its second overnight fundraiser bowling event beginning this Saturday, Jan. 24 at 9 a.m. to benefit the Fox Lane Sports Booster Club.

The Bowl-a-Thon will span 24 hours, using all 19 lanes at Spins Bowl inside Grand Prix. The Bedford School District Board of Education and the booster club will organize and coordinate teams. Over 700 community members attended last year's event as participants or spectators.

The Bowl-A-Thon is sponsored by Grand Prix New York and local

entities, including Bradsell Painting and Carpentry, Bedford Hardware, Mt. Kisco Sports and Pro-Swing. The event will feature various competitions, prizes and themes. Attendees will enjoy live music and DJ entertainment.

Additional sponsorship is needed from local businesses to provide food, beverages, awards and more. Individual participants or teams can be sponsored by pledges for every hour bowled. The booster club seeks to raise over \$75,000. Proceeds will help assist the Gallagher family, whose son Emmet, a Fox Lane senior, suffered a spinal cord injury last summer, and help pay to renovate the Fox Lane Middle School Athletic



Some of the participants at the Fox Lane Sports Booster Club's inaugural bowling marathon last year. The club will reprise the fundraiser this weekend at Spins Bowl at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco.

Shelter. The booster club is calling on

the school community to participate either as a bowler or sponsor.

"If there's one way that makes sense to give back, it's by investing in our local school districts and encouraging other businesses to step up and do the same," said Grand Prix Vice President Nat Mundy.

"The Bowl-A-Thon should be a lot of fun, and it's for a great cause."

For more information about participating or sponsorship opportunities, e-mail the Fox Lane Sports Booster Club at ggeez@aol.com or foxlanesportsboosterclub@gmail.com or visit www.foxlanesbc.org.

Hudson Chorale to Hold Auditions for New Members Starting Feb. 2

Since 2010, Hudson Chorale, Westchester's largest chorus, has been performing in venues throughout Westchester, bringing the best in choral singing to the Hudson Valley.

The chorus enjoys a region-wide reputation for outstanding programming and superb artistry and the repertoire ranges from the great masterpieces of the past to engaging contemporary compositions.

The chorale is welcoming new

members in all voice parts beginning on Monday, Feb. 2 when rehearsals will begin for a May 9 concert. The program will feature American composers and their poet/writer muses: Randall Thompson's "Americana," inspired by articles in American Mercury magazine; "Four Pastorales" by Cecil Effinger, a Coloradan who set his music to the words of Colorado's most famous poet, Thomas Hornsby Ferril; "Song of the Open Road" by Norman

Dello Joio who captures the spirit of his favorite poet, Walt Whitman; and "This Bequest of Wings" by Hudson Chorale Music Director Michael Conley, based on the poetry of Emily Dickinson. It will be a star-spangled event exploring the richness and beauty of American culture.

Singer friendly auditions will begin on Feb. 2, by appointment and on subsequent Mondays prior to the group's rehearsal. Rehearsals

will take place from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, located at 400 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

To receive additional information and/or to schedule a time for an audition, contact Jeanne Wygant at JeanneWygant@optonline.net or call 914-478-0074. To learn more about the chorus or hear music samples, visit www.HudsonChorale.org.

Apple Bank **BONUS** Savings Account: Great Rate *and* a Bonus on Each 1-Year Anniversary!

BONUS Savings Account

0.75% APY*

\$25,000 minimum to earn stated rate

PLUS

BONUS**

0.25%

On each 1-year anniversary of account opening



Marianne Volpi
Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager
Rose Hill Shopping Center, Thornwood
914-769-8400

Visit us today!

Apple Bank

Established 1863 · Member FDIC

www.applebank.com

*For the Apple Bank BONUS Savings account, interest earned on daily balances of \$2,500 or more at these tiers: \$2,500-\$24,999: .10% Annual Percentage Yield (APY), \$25,000 and up: .75% APY. There is no interest paid on balances of \$0-\$2,499. APYs disclosed effective as of January 6, 2015. APYs may be changed at any time at the Bank's discretion. There is a minimum of \$2,500 required to open the Apple Bank BONUS Savings account. \$2,500 minimum daily balance is required to avoid \$10 monthly maintenance fee. Fees may reduce earnings. Funds used to open this account cannot be from an existing Apple Bank account. Maximum deposit amount is \$1,000,000 per household. **Special bonus feature: A .25% simple interest rate bonus will be paid on each anniversary date of account opening on the lowest balance for that year (anniversary date to anniversary date). No bonus is paid if the account balance is less than \$2,500 on the anniversary date. Additional deposits during a given anniversary period do not affect the bonus interest payment. Deposits made to the account on any anniversary date will be used to calculate the lowest account balance for the next anniversary period. The bonus interest is calculated on the lowest balance on deposit from one anniversary date to the next anniversary date. Simple interest rate bonus is subject to change at any time after first anniversary date of account opening. **Hypothetical example of how bonus works:** Assume an account is opened on January 12, 2015 for \$50,000. A \$10,000 withdrawal is made on July 12, 2015. No other withdrawals are made prior to the January 12, 2016 anniversary date. The low balance is now \$40,000, so \$100 in bonus interest will be paid on January 12, 2016.

St. John's Episcopal Issues Fun Challenge to Fund Church Repairs

By Janine Bowen

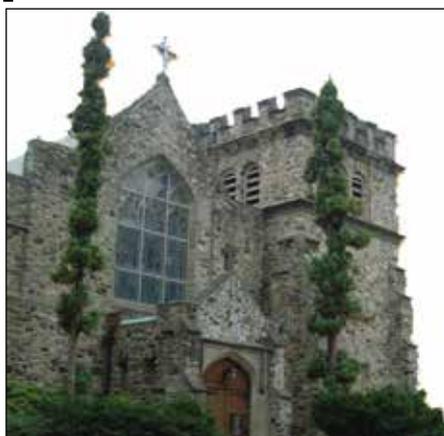
St. John's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville is hoping to raise money for restorations by allowing local residents to build a church of their own.

The St. John's Building Blocks Challenge scheduled for next Sunday, Jan. 25 is asking residents to build a model of the Pleasantville church, parish hall, rectory or all three out of Legos or any blocks of their choice. The contest was developed by Pleasantville resident and parishioner Peter Russell, who came up with the idea after watching his seven grandchildren play with Lego.

"We've tried to make it a very creative process," Russell said.

Participants can build the model at home and bring it to St. John's for the event, which takes place from 4 to 6 p.m., or they can build the structure on site with their own blocks or ones that will be provided. Although competitors are limited to a plot size of between 144 and 288 square inches, they can make the building as tall as they wish and can add any additional materials of their choice.

The contest will be judged by three architecture and design specialists with Pleasantville connections. Prizes will be awarded to the person or family that creates the best model. Children's prizes include a block set from Try & Buy Toy Stores or tickets to the Legoland Discovery Zone in Yonkers. For the adults, three



Lego enthusiasts will be making replicas of Pleasantville's St. John's Episcopal Church this Sunday at the St. John's Building Blocks Challenge. The event will raise money to match funds the church has received to pay for building repairs.

bottles of wine have been provided from Best Wines Purveyors in Pleasantville.

Russell said that the money raised from the event will be used to match donations that the church has received from the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Sacred Sites Program and Diocesan Property Support. He hopes the competition will also help spread awareness about the historical significance of the church.

St. John's, located at 8 Sunnyside Ave, was built in 1912 for \$26,000. It is now in need of significant roof repair and masonry work. Russell explained that

before work begins, church officials plan to have an architect draw up new blueprints for the request for proposal process.

The fee to compete in the Building Blocks Challenge is \$50 per individual and \$75 per family, which can be paid in

advance or at the door. All participants must register by this Friday, Jan. 23 by calling 914-769-0053 or e-mailing eighthsunnyside@optonline.net.

Spectators are welcome to attend the event and enjoy free refreshments.

Art Show: Bedford on Tap This Weekend at St. Matthew's Church

The 42nd Annual Art Show: Bedford featuring contemporary and traditional artwork with an emphasis on affordability will be held this weekend at St. Matthew's Church in Bedford.

Works include original paintings, sculpture and photography created by talented local artists.

"We are really excited about the 42nd Art Show: Bedford because the artists participating are such a wonderful and varied group--from traditional to contemporary in both artwork and photography," said Laura Blau, the show's co-chair.

The show kicks off with a Gala Preview Party on Friday, Jan. 23 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.. The exhibit continues on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 25, from 12 to 4 p.m. The party features champagne and passed hors d'oeuvres by Happiness Is, along with small plates graciously

donated by Campagna and Happiness Is, with desserts by La Tulipe.

A special attraction this year is a study for the painting titled "Northern City Renaissance: Newcastle, England"--commissioned by the musician, Sting--which was donated by renowned artist Stephen Hannock. The show's co-curators are Susan Grissom, Gallery Director at the Lionheart Gallery in Pound Ridge, and parishioner Inness Hancock of Bedford.

Art Show: Bedford is the major annual fundraising event sponsored by the Women of St. Matthew's Church, located at 382 Cantioe St. in Bedford.

Preview Party tickets are \$125 per person; \$150 at the door. Admission on Saturday and Sunday is free. For more information, call 914-234-9636 or visit www.stmatthewsbedford.org or www.artshowbedford.com.

COMPUTER
Sales • Service • Repair
Custom Built Systems
Networking • PC & Mac

tech connect

RECYCLE YOUR COMPUTER HERE
Safe, secure data removal/transfer

Mention this ad for a 10% Discount
In our store or in your home or office

445 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570
914.495.3434
techconnectpc.com

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine American Craft

Fine Art • Sculpture
• Unique Gifts • Furniture
Home Accessories • Antiques
• Exquisite Jewelry • & more...

4 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville 914-741-6294
Open 7 Days —
Friday and Saturday until 8pm

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.

Not your AAverage pet store

For all your pet needs

Visit us at:
58 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville
(914) 747-4848
E-mail: aarvarkpet@verizon.net

Select Books
Distinctive Cards
Unique Gifts
Children's Books
Special Orders
Free Gift Wrapping
Agate Book Ends
Journals
Book Group Discounts
School Orders
Gift Certificates
Bookmarks
Out-of-Print Searches
Reference Books
Cookbooks
...and more!

The Village Bookstore

Ten Washington Ave.
Pleasantville, NY
Across from the Burns Film Center

914.769.8322
staff@pleasantvillebooks.com

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"The place to turn in your time of need!"

Personally Owned and Supervised By

William F. Flooks, Jr. & William J. Flooks
Proprietor Licensed Funeral Director

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

418 Bedford Road...Pleasantville, NY 10570...769-0001

www.beecherflooksfh.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

012015

ADOPTION

Unplanned Pregnancy? Caring licensed adoption agency provides financial and emotional support. Choose from loving pre-approved families. Call Joy toll free 1-866-922-3678 or confidential email: Adopt@ForeverFamilies-ThroughAdoption.org

A childless young married couple (she-30/he-37) seeks to adopt. Will be hands-on mom/devoted dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Call/text. Mary & Adam. 1-800-790-5260.

AUTO DONATIONS

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

AUTOS

CASH TODAY We'll Buy Any Car (Any Condition) + Free Same-Day Pick-Up. Best Cash Offer Guaranteed! Call For FREE Quote: 1-888-477-6314

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

WELDING CAREERS- Hands on training for career opportunities in aviation, automotive, manufacturing and more. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. CALL AIM 855-325-0399

DOMESTIC WORKERS

HIRE A HOUSEHOLD SERVICE PERSONNEL -Nannies, Sitters, Housekeepers, Companions, Cooks, Chefs, Drivers, Handyman, etc. for Homes, infants, adults, pets. Call 718-340-3995. www.DanielAgencyUSA.com

FARMING

NEW YORK HUNTING LAND WANTED! Earn thousands on your land by leasing the hunting rights. Free evaluation & info packet. Liability coverage included. Bringing landowners & hunters together since 1999. Email: info@basecampleasing.com Call: 866-309-1507 BaseCampLeasing.com

HELP WANTED

HAIRSTYLIST/BARBER WANTED Experienced, with a following preferred. **Katonah 914 232 5201**

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Financial aid for qualified students Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-296-7093

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HAS YOUR BUILDING SHIFTED OR SETTLED? Contact Woodford Brothers Inc, for straightening, leveling, foundation and wood frame repairs at 1-800-OLD-BARN. www.woodfordbros.com. "Not applicable in Queens county"

IN HOME PET SITTING

PLEASANT PAWS INN LLC Catering to the most discerning dog owners in West-

chester. Our home will be their home. 24/7 one on one love. Boarding, daycare, walks & transportation services available. **Book a reservation at info@pleasantpawsinn.com or 914-773-2020 or 914-906-8414. 9 Hobby St., Pleasantville.**

LOTS & ACREAGE

BANK REPOED! 10 acres- \$19,900! Awesome Mtn views, hardwoods, private bldg site, long rd frontage, utils! No liens or back taxes! Terms avail! Call 888-479-3394 NOW!

ABANDONED FARM! 25 acres Trout Stream- \$49,900. Beautiful acreage, views, woods, apple trees! Unadilla River Valley location! EZ terms! 888-905-8847 NewYorkLandandLakes.com

MUSICAL MERCHANDISE

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920's thru 1980's. Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. 1-800-401-0440

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE

MOUNT KISCO - Private office with shared waiting area. In town, near train, parking, shopping, restaurants. Rent includes A/C, heat, Wi-Fi and 24/7 access. Rents from \$695. Call **Howie at (203) 322-0909.**

SPORTING EVENTS

ALBANY GUN SHOW- Empire State Plaza Convention Center- 450 Tables. BUY, SELL, TRADE. Sponsored by NYS

Arms Collectors. Saturday, January 24th 9-5, Sunday, January 25th 9-3

VACATION RENTALS

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Best selection of affordable rentals. Full/ partial weeks. Call for FREE brochure. Open daily. Holiday Resort Services. 1-800-638-2102. Online reservations: www.holidayoc.com

WANTED

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683**

CASH for Coins! Buying Gold & Silver. Also Stamps & Paper Money, Comics, Entire Collections, Estates. Travel to your home. Call Marc in NJ: 1-800-488-4175

**To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878
or e-mail classifieds
@theexaminernews.com**

**Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for
the next week's
publication**

DONATE YOUR CAR

Wheels For Wishes benefiting

MAKE-A-WISH®

Hudson Valley

- *Free Vehicle/Boat Pickup ANYWHERE
- *We Accept All Vehicles Running or Not
- *100% Tax Deductible

WheelsForWishes.org

Share the
Power
of a Wish.

Call: (914) 468-4999



The Tumultuous World of Consumers' Wine Technology



By Nick Antonaccio

Technology dominates our lives. For better or for worse we've become slaves to our smartphones and laptops. Many of us have panic attacks if we accidentally leave our electronic devices at home.

But if we step back for a moment, we realize that this phenomenon is very recent. It wasn't so long ago that we were communicating with each other face to face, memorizing telephone numbers, printing MapQuest directions and dealing with so many other aspects of our lives that we've relinquished to the ubiquitous little device we carry in our pockets and purses.

This week I'm focusing on wine technology.

Not to bemoan how millennials reject visual and auditory interaction to obtain wine selection advice or recommendations.

Not to bemoan the lost art of removing a wine label from a bottle as a keepsake or as a reference point for a future purchase.

And certainly not to bemoan the abandonment of researching a wine topic by purchasing a wine book.

No, I espouse wine technology as a modern marvel that has enhanced our knowledge and therefore our appreciation of wine and in the process has borne a society that is more wine conversant and savvy than any generation before us. And improving each day.

Wine technology has evolved in three distinct phases: the pre-iPhone era, the revolution wrought by the introduction of the iPhone in 2007 and the brilliant marketing by Apple to open the App Store in 2008.

In the old days – seven years ago – there were few wine applications available and there were cumbersome software programs supporting them. The

advanced technologies resided with the Blackberry phone and the Palm Pilot, permitting users to keep notes electronically. Those were the days of removing wine labels from bottles and memorializing the name

of a wine with a scribble on a restaurant matchbook.

Then, in June 2007, the world changed, almost overnight. Apple crammed the capabilities of a desktop computer, and more, into a hand-held device. Wine apps began to rise, but in fits and starts;

most were merely websites that required Wi-Fi connections. The most popular was CellarTracker, a community-based repository of wine opinions and tasting notes culled from wine consumers. Its popularity persists today.

When Apple realized the universal appeal of its iPhone and the hidden profits in developing applications for it, it took a historic turn. Rather than develop its own applications to run on its proprietary software, it invited the world to write those apps -- and offered to pay developers 70 percent of any revenue generated from a downloaded app. The smartphone world was overwhelmed with apps on any subject one could imagine.

Currently, the App Store offers 1.4 million applications, which have been downloaded over 75 billion times. Amazingly, even though so many applications are free, developers earned \$10 billion in fees in 2014. The Android version of the app store is likewise wildly successful.

Today, there are dozens of wine apps available, providing access to every aspect of the world of wine, from broad and deep wine information, to purchase recommendations, to pairing advice and even one that "learns" your preferences

over time and offers suggestions for wines that it thinks you will enjoy.

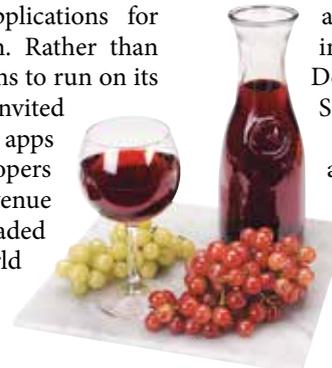
These apps influence our decision-making process by evaluating, searching and finding wines in a proverbial nano-second and with a high degree of reliability. Here are several of my favorites, all of which are free and include varying levels of interactivity: Drync, Vivino, Delectable, Hello Vino, Wine-Searcher and WineQuest.

Each app presents a unique approach to enjoying wine.

Have you downloaded one (or more) on your Apple or Android smartphone? Which do you prefer? Which do you dislike? E-mail your comments to nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com.

Next week I'll review each one and offer my personal thoughts to assist you in selecting a favorite.

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



You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine

THINK LOCAL SHOP LOCAL

In this season of sharing joy with family, friends, and neighbors, we'd like to encourage you to support your local businesses. Watch our "Shop Dine Explore – Enjoy Pleasantville" special on PCTV and pctv76.org for ideas. And as always, thank you for supporting PCTV.



It's all about you.

Kevin Kane
"Ridiculously
independent...
only music"

Visit
Kevin Kane
and the Grifters
on Spotify

Newest Single: *Disproportionate Pain*
kevinkaneandthegrifters.com

Happenings

Tuesday, Jan. 20

English Conversation Mini Course. For speakers of other languages seeking to improve their English. All welcome. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Tuesdays through March 31. Info: 914-864-0038 or visit www.mountkisco.library.org.

Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo. De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Beginners from 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 26 (makeup class) and Jan. 27. Info: 914-273-3887.

"Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorders." Gain insight from Dr. Patricia Towle, New York Medical College's assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, about pediatric autism. Towle's focus has been in the area of early intervention, early childhood assessment and early detection of autism spectrum disorders. This is the second installment of New York Medical College's three-part lecture series. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

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.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Mommy Meet Up. Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this program is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For newborns birth to eight months old and their moms. Romper Indoor Playground at World Cup Nursery School & Kindergarten 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua, 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except holidays) through

June. Info: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

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

Wednesday Night Bingo. Regular bingo tickets and specials available for sale. Includes coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Hot dogs and soda for sale. Holy Rosary School, 180 Bradhurst Ave., Hawthorne. Doors open at 6 p.m. Games start at 7:20 p.m. \$2 (for one card). Extra game cards may be purchased for \$2 or \$3 each along with a few specialty games. Every Wednesday.

Art Series Discussion: Johann August Nahl. Born in Berlin in 1710, Nahl was born into sculpting and was part of a long line of court painters, sculptors and artists who moved throughout countries, continents, styles and centuries. Great-grandfather to two of the foremost archivists of the American West, his training as sculptor and artist began under the tutelage of the court sculptor to Frederic I, his father, Johann Samuel Nahl. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Thursday, Jan. 22

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-minute class. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-238-8974 or email claudiaiyogadance@gmail.com.

Story Time Playgroup. Join Miss Debbie for a story, music and playtime with toys and books in this new program. Children and a parent or caregiver can spend special time together and make new friends. For children six months to four years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville.

1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or visit www.mountpleasnatlibrary.org.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Every Thursday. Info: 914-864-0130 or visit www.mountkisco.library.org.

Writing Workshop. Writing about your life may feel like a daunting task. The focus of this supportive ongoing workshop is to get your stories on the page using different short formats and learning from published authors as well as each other. Beginners and more experienced writers welcome. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. Info: 914-273-3887.

Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. \$15 a class. \$29 for four classes. \$55 for eight classes. Meets every Thursday. Also Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Info: 917-215-1720, e-mail AddietudeDance@gmail.com or visit www.Addie-tude.com.

Friday, Jan. 23

Nurture Through Nature. Children explore the world of nature through a hands-on learning experience incorporating science, literacy, math, art, music and movement in this eight-week session. For children two to four years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Members: \$280 per child. Non-members: \$365 per child. Meets Fridays through March 20 (except for Feb. 20). Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Info and pre-registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

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

WeePaint. Children experience new textures, learn to be creative in a group setting and socialize with other children in this eight-week session. Dress to get messy! For children two to four years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:15 a.m. to noon or 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Members: \$144 per child. Non-members: \$229 per child. Meets Fridays through March 20 (except for Feb. 20). Pre-registration and pre-payment required.

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.

Info and pre-registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Bedford Art Show Preview Party. Includes a champagne reception, hors d'oeuvres by Happiness Is and "small plates" donated by Happiness Is and Campagna, with desserts by La Tulipe. St. Matthew's Church, 382 Cantitoe St. (Route 22), Bedford. 6:30 to 9 p.m. \$125 per person. \$150 at the door. Info and tickets: 914-234-9636 or visit www.stmatthewsbedford.org.

Friday Night Cinema: "Wings of Desire." This 1987 classic looks at the world from an angel's point of view, and it may change your perception of life forever. Director Wim Wenders' story about a war-scarred Berlin as its citizens try to find peace and beauty is full of gentle and thoughtful angels, who try to comfort us as best they can. German with English subtitles. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The market moves indoors featuring vendors with winter-grown produce along with a variety of meats, cheeses, breads and prepared foods. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through May 9. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.com.

Mount Kisco Farmers Market. St. Mark's Church, 85 Main St., Mount Kisco. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtKiscoFarmersMarket>.

Sahaja Meditation. Led by Peter Simone. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0137.

42nd Annual Art Show: Bedford. The show features a mix of contemporary and traditional art, sculpture and photography. One feature this year is a Stephen Hannock painting titled "Northern City Renaissance: Newcastle, England." Hannock is donating all of the proceeds from the sale of his study to the art show. The show's proceeds benefit local charities supported by the Women of St. Matthew's. St. Matthew's Church, 382 Cantitoe St. (Route 22), Bedford. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free admission. Also Jan. 25 from 12 to 4 p.m. Info: 914-234-9636 or visit www.stmatthewsbedford.org.

Tai Chi With Larry Attile. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. A hands-on class that is geared to the level of experience of the class. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat

continued on page 26

The Restaurant Examiner

Weekend Jazz Brunch Debuts at Irvington's MP Taverna

By Jerry Eimbinder

Where can you go for jazz brunch on weekends in Westchester County? Try MP Taverna in Irvington.

Jazz brunch is alive and well in New York City where variations of it first surfaced at clubs more than a half-century ago. But for local residents, Irvington is a lot more convenient.

Jazz groups began performing at MP Taverna last week on Saturdays and Sundays. Brunch is offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bloody Marys and Mimosas are served by the pitchers and are priced at \$20. The menu reflects "a modern interpretation of traditional Greek tavern fare," celebrity chef Michael Psilakis said.

Typical menu offerings are:

- Country "Cast Iron" Breakfast. Three baked eggs, Greek pork sausage, bacon, roasted tomato, garlic, potatoes, grilled pita (\$15).
- French Toast. Caramelized banana, walnut, maple ice cream (\$14).
- Poached Eggs Florentine à la Grecque.

- Spinach, cheese, bechamel (\$14).
- Fully Loaded Egg Souvlaki. Spicy Greek sausage, French fries, onions, feta cheese (\$13).
- Scrambled Eggs. French fries, feta cheese (\$13).
- Ricotta Pancakes. Caramelized apple, almonds, raisins, zabaglione (\$12).
- ogurt, Fruit, Nuts and Honey (\$10).

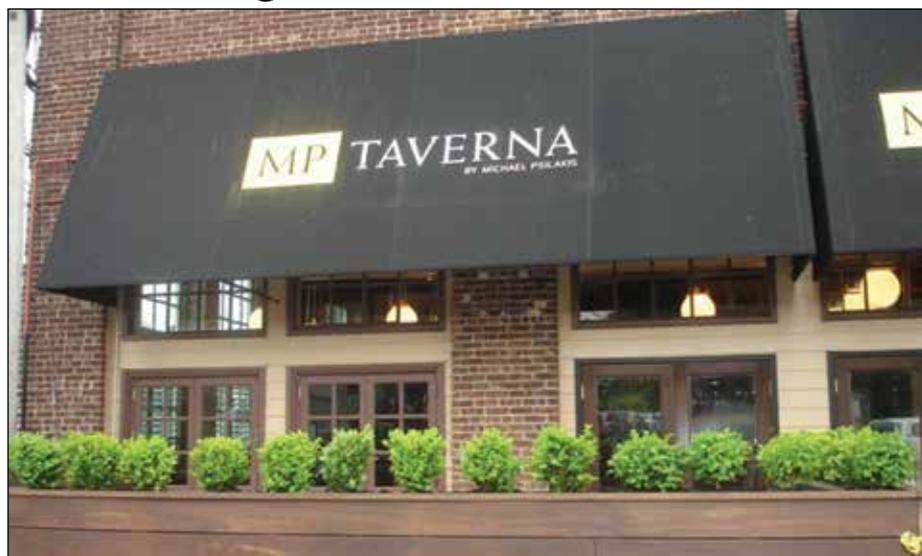
Other dishes (Many of the following are borrowed from the restaurant's regular menu.)

- Salads. Grilled chicken salad, spicy prawn salad, chopped steak and sausage salad.
- Sandwiches. Beef burger, bacon, feta and tomato, chicken, beef or pork souvlaki.

- Meze. Meatballs, octopus, crispy calamari, trio of dips with pita, beef sliders.

- Entrees. Grilled prawns, Greek paella, branzino, lamb shank, hanger steak.

Psilakis was the co-executive producer and co-star of BBC America's overseas cooking TV competition series "No Kitchen Required," which



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTO

MP Taverna in Irvington has begun a jazz brunch, a weekend tradition that has been popular for decades in Manhattan.

premiered in 2012.

He has won awards from national publications, including best new chef from Food & Wine and chef of the year from Bon Appetit and Esquire.

Psilakis opened MP Taverna in 2012. His restaurant group also owns Kefi on Manhattan's upper East Side and Fishtag

on the upper West Side. MP Taverna has other locations in Roslyn, L.I. and Astoria, Queens.

MP Taverna is located across the street from the New York City-bound side of Irvington's Metro-North train station. It is located at 1 Bridge St. For more information, call 914-231-7854.



SIR GROUT®

Expert Grout & Tile Restoration

www.SirGroutWestchester.com

Schedule Free Estimate:
Call 914-517-2909 or email tim@sirgrout.com

Fully Licensed and Insured (Lic. # WC 20004-H09)

StainProof Grout...Guaranteed!
Restoration and Protection of All Grout and Tile, Including Ceramic, Granite, Limestone, Marble, Quarry, Porcelain, Saltillo, Slate, Terra Cotta and Travertine

Colorseal and Restore Your Natural Stone.



KITCHENS • FOYERS • MUDROOMS • BATHROOMS

Colorseal Before



Colorseal Afters



\$50 OFF

any job

of \$500 or more

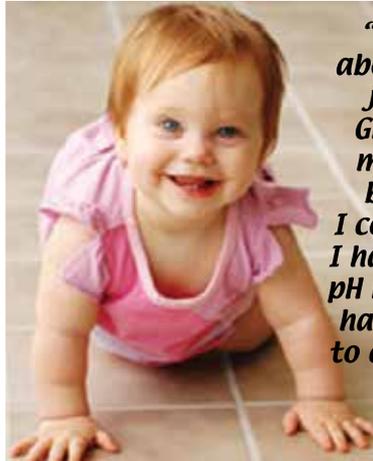
With this ad only. Cannot combine with any other offers. Exp. 2/28/15

\$100 OFF

any job

of \$1,000 or more

With this ad only. Cannot combine with any other offers. Exp. 2/28/15



"I cannot say enough good things about Sir Grout! I started out doing just my kitchen floor, but now Sir Grout has sealed every tile floor in my home. Now our grout is bright, beautiful and won't stain again -- I could have saved a lot of money if I had found them sooner! Also, their pH neutral floor cleaner is the best I have ever used. Everything is easier to clean now, and looks brand new."

Lisa M., Briarcliff Manor, NY

Happenings

continued from page 24

or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Jan. 31. Info: 914-273-3887.

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. Every Saturday and Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre And Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. \$20. Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Hike Around the Lake. A hike in the cold, crisp air to admire the beautiful lake in winter. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

Maintaining Independence as You Downsize. Join elder law attorney Neil Reig Esq., real estate agent Vicki Jimpson-Fludd of Better Homes and Gardens - Rand Realty and Community Outreach Director Douglas Thomas from Atria Senior Living for an informative discussion. Discussion includes making a financial and legal plan, preparing your house for sale and senior housing options. Refreshments and door prizes will be available. John C Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-245-5262 ext. 227.

Living With History. Elizabeth Rowe, a member of the National Storytelling Network, will share stories told to her by her father including his firsthand account of the 1914 Christmas Truce along the Western Front in Europe in World War I, how he barely escaped the war and the unfortunate fate of his war horse. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Whoo's There Owl Prowl. This fun and informative program has you meeting owls up close, learning about their unique behaviors and hiking at night through the forest while looking and listening for our nocturnal neighbors. Bring flashlights. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 6:30 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per

person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"To Kill a Mockingbird." The National Players' stage a dramatic production of Harper Lee's award-winning novel. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theater, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$22. Seniors, students and faculty/staff: \$20. Children (under 13): \$16. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/SmartArts. Tickets are also available at the box office 30 minutes before the performance.

Sunday, Jan. 25

Bare Bones. Discover how to read some "bone-a fide" animal bones. Get an up-close visit with some of our coolest predators and prey. Recommended for children five years old and up. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Hudson Chorale: Glorious Colors of Chorus and Brass. Westchester's largest chorus launches its 5th season with a concert featuring choral works composed based on the unique qualities of brass as accompaniment. Includes an eclectic collection featuring the incomparable nuance of choral singing and the human voice combined with the clear richness of a brass ensemble. Composers' works featured include Giovannelli, Gabrieli and Schütz, Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Antiphon," "Missa in Sono Tubae" by Norwegian composer Trond Kverno and "An American Medley" by American superstar Stephen Paulus. Irvington High School, 40 N. Broadway, Irvington. 3 p.m. Advanced Sales: \$25. Door: \$30. Premium reserved (advance only): \$40. Students: \$10. Premium reserved seats: Call 914-332-0133. Info and advanced sales: Call or visit www.hudsonchorale.org.

Author Talk. Marilyn Johnson will talk about her book, "Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble." There will be wine and refreshments. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or www.ruthkeelermemoriallibrary.org.

Monday, Jan. 26

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. Every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

"Relics From the Age of Carbon." Artist Stuart Vance is interested in the formal, abstract qualities of freeways, highways, interchanges, railroads bridges and other human-made mega structures. He sees these objects as nostalgic artifacts

from the golden age of carbon-based fuels, evoking bittersweet feelings of loss and regret, harkening back to a time when many did not consider how the environment and our natural inheritance were being affected. Westchester Community College's Fine Arts Gallery at the Academic Arts Building, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. Gallery hours



The National Players will present "To Kill a Mockingbird" at Westchester Community College on Saturday, Jan. 24.

are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through March 7. Info: 914-606-7867 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/gallery or phone 914-606-7867.

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Participants enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-members: \$12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Cooking Demonstration: Taste Korea. The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will present this cooking demo of four traditional Korean dishes and discussion of the health benefits of Korean cuisine. Participants will then be invited to taste Kimchi salad, rice and mixed vegetables (Bibimbap), beef marinated in soy sauce and honey (Bulgogi) and braised tofu (Dubu Jorim), plus dessert. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6 p.m. Free. Seating limited; reservations required. Info and reservation: 914-769-0548.

Square Dancing Fun Nights. The Friendly Squares Dance Club will hold the first of two evenings that provide great exercise for the body and mind. Also an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Singles, couples, families and all age groups welcome. Casual attire; no experience necessary. Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd., Katonah. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Tee Cotter at 914-433-2919.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

WCC Film Series: "Searching for Sugar Man." In the 1970s, Sixto Rodriguez, a Detroit folk singer with a

short-lived recording career, was well-received but had limited album sales. Unknown to Rodriguez, he became a pop music icon in South Africa and inspired generations. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-5616.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Support Group for Alzheimer's Caregivers. Temple Shaaray Tefila and Westchester Jewish Community Services have scheduled this forum to provide a place for caregivers to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer's Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaaray Tefila's Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin Rd., Baldwin Corners. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and 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 exercise experience necessary. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 28. Info: 914-273-3887.

Art Series Discussion: Charles Christian Nahl. Born in Germany in 1818, Nahl was a child prodigy whose talents with watercolors were developed by the age of 12. After studying with Emile Jean Horace Vernet in Paris, his family went west to participate in the California Gold Rush. Nahl's unique eye on America's west would forever change the way the world saw that region. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Thursday, Jan. 29

"The What, Where and How of Dr. Who." Travel through time with Clive Young as he presents this celebration of 50 years of the most popular Sci-Fi TV series in America. Designed for avid fans and newcomers, Young will give the audience a behind-the-scenes peek and highlight unforgettable exploits of the 11 doctors over the series' 50-year run. This multimedia program will feature surprise guests, amusing trivia and more. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

WHAT DO YOU NEVER GET TIRED OF?

SALES!!



ADDITIONAL 10% OFF!

ALREADY REDUCED MERCHANDISE 25% - 50% OFF

EXCLUDES 70% OFF MERCHANDISE. ALL SALES FINAL.

Rhododendron

AT LAST

*73 Wheeler Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570*

*29 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570*

living large?

NEW YEAR. NEW YOU!

MONTHLY
MEMBERSHIPS
STARTING AT
\$99



Awarded Westchester Magazine's "Best Health Club Of The Decade"

MORE FUN, MORE FITNESS & MORE ACTIVITIES THAN ANY OTHER CLUB IN WESTCHESTER!

The start of a new year can be the start of a new you! So join in and enjoy the unique benefits of membership at Westchester's largest complex for family fun, fitness and activities. That's because when you join Saw Mill Club you'll also get Saw Mill Club East for free! Our offerings feature multiple state-of-the-art Fitness Centers, an award-winning Tennis & Squash Center, a new Aquatics Center, and our acclaimed Children's School & Activity Center. So why wait? You'll look and feel great, have more energy and be more confident knowing you're physically fit. Make 2015 the year for a new you! Join today.



SAW MILL CLUB

77 KENSICO DRIVE • MOUNT KISCO • N.Y. 10549

914-241-0797 • 914-242-9760

SawMillClub.com

2 YOUR
HEALTH
2015