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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 432

Rosenthal JCC Set to Close Doors in Pleasantville Next June

By Arthur Cusano

After 36 years, the Rosenthal Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Northern Westchester plans to close the doors of its two locations next June 30, its leaders announced last week.

Rosenthal JCC President Jessica Morgenthal and Executive Director Ellie Aronowitz cited "changing demographics, increased competition and rising economic challenges" as reasons for the pending closure in a Dec. 10 letter sent to parents.

"These growing realities have left us unable to remain viable for the long term," the letter stated. "While heart wrenching, closing our doors is the most responsible path of action."

Aronowitz said over time the organization had accomplished more than its founders could have imagined when it began as a "Y on wheels" in 1979.

"Lots of amazing, beautiful, incredible people and unbelievable leadership and extraordinary boards," she recalled. "Just

a lot of great work. A lot of miracles happened here, and great people made them happen, so we've been very blessed."

The main branch of the organization is located on a 15-acre property in Pleasantville, with a second location in Yorktown Heights. The JCC also operates camps in Croton-on-Hudson and Pearl River. The current Pleasantville building on Bear Ridge Road was built in 1991 after years of operating as a mobile service. The Yorktown branch was established a few years later.

"With care and compassion, we have provided financial assistance; guided and supported those with special needs; and embraced those suffering through illness and family crisis," the letter to the community also stated. "We are proud to have instilled Jewish values and a love of learning; fostered meaningful connections with Israel; and cultivated volunteerism both within and beyond Northern Westchester."



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

The Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester in Pleasantville will close next June, its leaders suddenly announced last week.

Aronowitz said she was unable to provide additional details on why the organization was shutting its doors, but that the leadership had determined it

was the right time to do so and that they wanted to let the public know in advance. The Pleasantville and Yorktown buildings
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Chappaqua Vigil Calls for End to Gun Violence Three Years After Newtown

By Arthur Cusano

It was three years ago Monday that Americans learned of the massacre of children and adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

The gunman entered the nearby school and killed 20 first-graders and six school staff members before turning the gun on himself.

The elementary school has since been demolished, but the memory of the massacre remains vividly in the minds of many as new shootings at schools and many other public spaces make news headlines across the country on a regular basis.

On Sunday, dozens of Westchester residents packed the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua for a candlelight



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

The First Congregational Church of Chappaqua was the site of an interfaith vigil to end gun violence on Sunday. Monday marked the third anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Connecticut.

vigil for victims of gun violence.

The event, sponsored by Chappaqua Cares and Inside Chappaqua Magazine, featured several local speakers and

prayers by religious leaders of various faiths.

"The statistics given say that since
continued on page 6

Future of Town Pool Debated at North Castle Budget Hearing

By Neal Rentz

A public hearing on the proposed 2016 North Castle town budget last week turned into a discussion on the future of the town pool.

The town board voted unanimously to approve the \$31.6 million budget for next year, which includes no property tax hike, after it closed the public hearing.

But most of the hearing was devoted to talk of the Greenway Road aquatic facility, which the town took over operations of earlier this year through a renewable agreement with the nonprofit Anita Louise Ehrman (ALE) Recreation Center.

About 450 household memberships were bought last summer, translating into 1,500
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Water District Expansion for Brynwood Debated in North Castle

By Neal Rentz

Concerns from nearby residents regarding usage and possible pollution of the water supply were raised last week as North Castle officials consider Brynwood Golf & Country Club's request to join a municipal water district.

Brynwood, which received approval for a rezone from the town board in June in hopes of building 73 luxury townhouses is currently seeking site plan approval from the planning board, and has petitioned the town to gain entry into North Castle Water District No. 2.

The district serves Windmill Farm, a development comprised of about 370 properties. Brynwood is asking to be included in the district to serve the 73 residences. Currently, its clubhouse and catering facility use district water.

Resident Linda Sage said she was concerned by potential pollution of the water from pesticides used on Brynwood's golf course.

Thomas Cusack, a consultant working for the applicant, said the golf course, which opened in 1959, does not use pesticides. Therefore, those are "not applicable to this site," he said.

Robert Greene, a member of the homeowners group Residents of Windmill, said that Brynwood representatives' estimates of needing 24 gallons of water per minute during peak

periods appear too low. In comparison, Windmill's peak demand for water is currently 290 gallons per minute for all of the development's homes, Greene said.

Another resident, Bob Greer, said he was strongly in favor of Brynwood's proposal. The project would reduce bills for Windmill Farm residents and the district needs another well, which Brynwood would provide, he said.

"It's kind of a no-brainer," Greer said. "I'm 100 percent for it."

If Brynwood becomes part of Water District No. 2 the developer will contribute to the cost of recent capital improvements currently being shouldered by Windmill residents. Brynwood's buy-in cost should be \$318,068 to join the water district, which would offset part of the improvement project's cost, Greene said.

If the petition is granted, the future Brynwood residents' contributions to the district would lower expenses for Windmill homeowners, including for the \$10 million water main replacement project. It has been estimated that annual payments for the project would be reduced for the average homeowner by 10 to 20 percent, or \$200 to \$400 a year.

Brynwood is proposing to develop a new well on water district property and upgrade the current water supply system that would add to the overall pumping



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Robert Greene, a member of the homeowners group Residents of Windmill, spoke about Brynwood Golf & Country Club's proposal last week to join North Castle Water District No. 2.

capacity of the district. Brynwood's cost of drilling another well would be \$1.2 million, which would pay for the entire project.

The town plans to survey Windmill Farm residents regarding Brynwood's petition. Some residents said last week the board's decision should reflect the view of a majority of residents.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the board would take the survey results into consideration; however, the results are not binding, Town Attorney Roland

Baroni added.

In September, the attorney for Brynwood Partners, Mark Weingarten, said the board's decision on whether to include his client in the district will not affect whether the project can proceed. If the petition is denied, the applicant will drill one or two wells on its property to supply the proposed 73 residences with water. District water would not be used to irrigate the redesigned golf course, which is part of the project.

Director of Water and Sewer Operations Sal Misiti has said new wells will have to eventually be drilled for Windmill Farm even if the water district is not expanded. He said the town is scheduled to make repairs to Well 5 early next year. Well 1, one of the district's five wells, is no longer operational, Misiti said.

The new well being proposed by Brynwood would use the new bedrock system, which includes digging underground for between 300 and 400 feet, said Bill Canavan, president of the Somers-based Hydro Environmental Solutions, the town's hydrology consultant. The bedrock well would last about 50 years, he said.

The town board voted unanimously to adjourn the public hearing to an undetermined date early next year.

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Jerald Wishner, MD, FACS, FASCRS

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Director, Colorectal Cancer Program
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Q: Am I at risk for colorectal cancer?

A: An estimated 90 percent of all colorectal cancers (cancer of the colon or rectum) occur in people age 50 and older. So, in a sense, everyone is at risk simply by reaching that milestone birthday. Besides age, risk factors include prior colon cancer, a family history of colon cancer or other cancers, colonic diseases or GI problems. Now consider, if everyone 50 and older had a regular screening test, 80 percent of deaths from colon cancer could be prevented.

Q: What can I do to help prevent colon cancer?

A: Get a colonoscopy. It's just that simple. A colonoscopy is considered the gold standard for colorectal cancer screening and surveillance. During the screening, we look for cancer and remove any potentially pre-cancerous growths called polyps. For people with no risk factors, current guidelines call for screening every 10 years starting at age 50. If polyps are found, you will be given a personalized screening regimen. Most cancers take six to eight years to develop from the time a polyp begins to grow. Theoretically, as long as you follow the customized regimen prescribed, you should never get colon cancer. The death rate from colorectal cancer has been declining for more than 20 years, largely due to the effectiveness of screening.

Q: Is a colonoscopy uncomfortable?

A: Not at all. During the procedure, which typically takes 20 to 30 minutes, you are placed in a state of conscious sedation under the management of an anesthesiologist. You go gently to sleep and have no pain or awareness of the procedure. There are also ways to make the day-before prep less of a trial. Talk with your doctor about such options as flavor packets for the liquid, and replacing the liquid with pills. Try refrigerating the liquid and drinking it chilled over ice, which many of my patients find easier.

Q: Can colorectal cancer be cured?

A: Thanks to colonoscopy screenings, we are finding this cancer at an earlier stage, and that is greatly improving survival. In addition, technological advances in the treatment of colorectal cancer are resulting in significantly better outcomes.

Watch Dr. Wishner describe treating colorectal cancer with the da Vinci Robot at www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrWishner.

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Rosenthal JCC Set to Close Doors in Pleasantville Next June

continued from page 1

and the properties they are built on are owned by the Jewish Federation of New York, and it was not yet known what would happen to them, Aronowitz said.

Emily Kutner, a spokeswoman for the UJA-Federation of New York, said no decision has been made what to do the property.

In addition to numerous religious and family programs, JCC also sponsors Camp Discovery in Croton-on-Hudson and Sunrise Day Camp, a day camp for children with cancer in Rockland County. The organization's nursery school and after school daycare programs are also

extremely popular with local families.

"We're all very sad about it," said Armonk resident Brook Rosner whose daughter attends the nursery school in Pleasantville. "They get a great education here, and we're sad that we now have to figure out what we're going to do with our kids next year."

It is not known at this time what the future holds for Sunrise Day Camp and Camp Discovery, although those camps are independently operated despite JCC affiliation, Kutner said.

Although the JCC's main campus is outside the Village of Pleasantville and in the Town of Mount Pleasant, the impact will be felt in the village and throughout

the area, said Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer.

Scherer said he was as surprised as anyone when word reached the larger community last Thursday that the JCC was shuttering. Many families in the village have depended on the site for their preschool choice and will now have to make other arrangements.

"It will be a significant loss, there's no question about that," Scherer said.

The closest JCC is the JCC of Mid-Westchester located in Tarrytown.

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.

Future of Town Pool Debated at North Castle Budget Hearing

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pass holders.

Though no agreement has been approved for next summer, Supervisor Michael Schiliro said funding for another year of operation was included in the 2016 budget.

Resident Ann Dantzig questioned whether the town should renew the agreement next summer because of the program's cost, including a \$70,000 contractual cost.

The contracted costs were to pay for renovations to prepare the pool for its Memorial Day weekend opening, said Matt Trainor, the town's superintendent of parks and recreation. Work was needed so the facility could receive county Department of Health approvals to open.

Trainor said the town is not looking to purchase the pool.

Schiliro said if the agreement with ALE goes forward for 2016, the goal for the town would be for the pool to break even financially. The town has no plans to raise membership costs next year.

Resident Zenaida Bongaarts said the pool was an asset to the town last summer and served as a gathering place for residents.

Vote Delayed Until This Week on Mt. Pleasant's \$48.3M Budget

By Neal Rentz

Needing more time to consider potential ramifications, the Mount Pleasant Town Board delayed a vote last week on the 2016 town budget.

The board was originally scheduled to approve next year's spending plan on Dec. 8, but unexpectedly decided to adjourn the public hearing until it holds a special meeting scheduled for tonight (Tuesday) at 8 p.m.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said this year's budget deliberations have been challenging for the board as it balances

the needs of the town while working within the constraints of the tax cap.

Fulgenzi has proposed a \$48.3 million budget for next year with a tax rate hike of 8.8 percent and a 2.4 percent tax levy increase. Despite the increases, the Mount Pleasant budget is within the state's tax cap.

The average homeowner faces a \$50 to \$100 higher tax bill next year depending on the special districts that are applicable to them, Fulgenzi said.

While the tax rate in the general fund will rise, savings in other areas, such as a

\$400,000 reduction in the refuse districts, will help to offset some of the increases, he said.

Responding to questions regarding town employee compensation from town resident Ken Noonan, Comptroller Maria Lanjewar said the salary increase for 2015 was 3 percent for union workers. Their contract calls for a 2.5 percent increase next year, she said.

The salaries of elected officials have not risen the past five years.

The town board meeting will take place at Mount Pleasant Town Hall in Valhalla.

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County Budget Adopted Despite Concerns Among Legislators

By Arthur Cusano

The 2016 Westchester County budget was adopted by the Board of Legislators Monday afternoon. But the split vote showed concern over the county's fiscal health, even among some who voted in favor of it.

The budget was adopted by a vote of 10-7, with Board Chairman and Democrat Michael Kaplowitz and Republican minority leader John Testa voting for the budget, while Democratic majority leader Catherine Borgia voted against it.

Also voting in favor of the budget were legislators Francis Corcoran (R-District 2), Michael Smith (R-District 3), Sheila Marcotte (R-District 10), James Maisano (R-District 11), David Gelfarb (R-District 6), Bernice Spreckman (R-District 14), Gordon Burrows (R-District 15) and Virginia Perez (D-District 17).

Voting against the budget were legislators Benjamin Boykin (D-District 5), Catherine Parker (D-District 7), Alfreda Williams (D-District 8), Maryjane Shimsky (D-District 12), Lydon Williams (D-District 13) and Ken Jenkins (D-District 16).

The budget vote follows a deal reached Friday between eight Republican

legislators and Democrats Kaplowitz and Perez. Kaplowitz said the original proposed budget put forth by Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino was wrong, and that changes made to the budget since then including restored funding to the planning department, public safety and county parks as well as various non-profits helped.

Highlights from the coalition budget include a tax levy of \$548 million, no increase from 2015; spending at \$1.8 billion, flat to 2015; Safety Net costs of \$595 million, no decrease from 2015; Unrestricted Reserves (Rainy Day Fund) at \$140 million, no decrease from 2015; and a County employee headcount at 4,160 total general fund position count with four layoffs and 64 vacancy eliminations.

"When the county executive turned that screw one too many times, when you have hundreds and hundreds of individuals giving tens of hours testifying, we all learned to a person that there were needs not being met. When you have your planning department see the evisceration from 56 to 19 individuals, and the board of elections and public safety (staffing reduced), it's fair to say we turned that screw a little too tight."

However, Kaplowitz echoed concerns of other legislators that the county may not be in a good fiscal position going forward, and that assumptions such as the sales tax estimate put into the budget may not all pan out.

"This is not a budget that any of us should feel has complete integrity," Kaplowitz said. "It has expenses put back in, investments and efficiencies, that's the good thing. We've reduced our borrowing, that's the good thing about it. But we do not have sustainable revenues going forward. If our prognosis is correct, we're going to be down 35 percent in our fund balance in the next 24 months. Next year's budget could be far worse than this year's budget."

Borgia was among several Democratic legislators who said she was concerned the budget was "structurally unbalanced" and said she too was worried about the county fund balance.

"It's the end of a long road of imbalances. I believe the revenues embedded in this budget are shaky at best, and I believe the 4 percent tax (sales) increase is a dangerous assumption to make. I wouldn't do it as a town supervisor if I was putting together a budget."

Borgia said that the legislature would have to work together in a bipartisan fashion going forward to keep a close eye on the county's finances in the coming year.

"There's no margin for error, so I hope nothing unexpected happens in the 2016 year," she said.

Testa said while he wanted a zero percent tax increase, he also wanted to make sure things were added back in before voting in favor of the budget, such as the planning department, public safety and parks staff.

"Some of the services the non-profits bring are very critical to our county and our residents, whether its domestic violence, elder abuse or legal services for residents who can't afford their own," Testa said.

Testa said the board did not put the planned sale of the Austin Avenue building in Yonkers as a planned revenue, despite the wishes of some legislators.

"Some would have put \$12 million in this budget and say, have a nice day, everything is balanced," Testa said. "Then on the other hand (they'll) say this has a very shaky outlook with other revenues, which may be true to a degree but you can't have it both ways."

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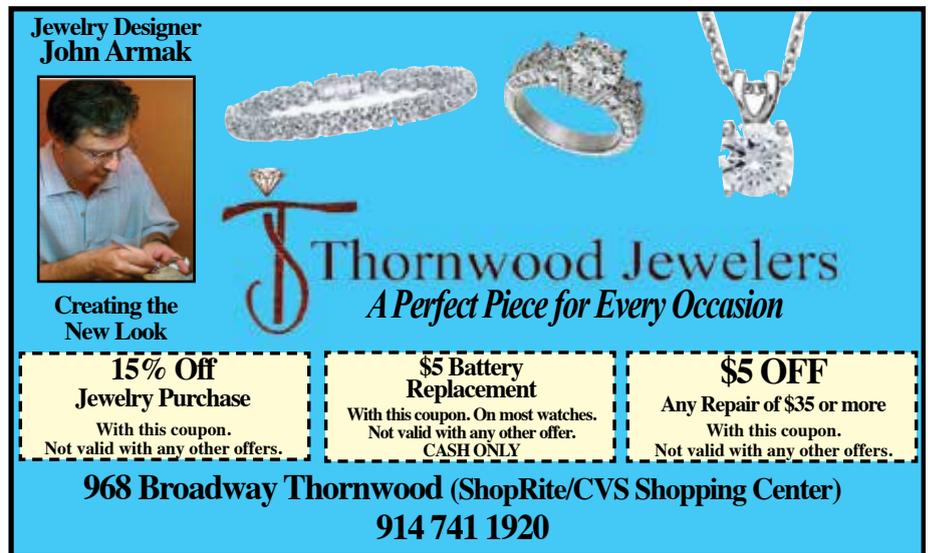
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Chappaqua Vigil Calls for End to Gun Violence Three Years After Newtown

continued from page 1

Sandy Hook massacre, 30,000 people have died in each of the past three years from gun-related violence," said First Congregational Church's Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs.

Gun violence deaths affect communities like ripples in a lake when a pebble is dropped in to it, Jacobs said, affecting everyone in the victim's life.

"It is not about the numbers, it is about the people whose lives are forever changed when someone dies," she said.

Among those who spoke was New Castle Police Chief Charles Ferry, who

recounted the recent killing of law enforcement officers, such as Colorado police officer Garrett Swasey who died responding to last month's shooting at a Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs.

"When an officer is killed, all police officers mourn," Ferry said. "Gun violence knows no boundaries, so we all know that on any given day that could be any of us. No matter what size a municipality is, they can be a subject of one of these terrible incidents."

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein told those on hand that gun

violence can happen anywhere and that it had to be tackled at the local level just as the drunk driving epidemic was in the 1980s.

"Mothers against Drunk Driving and other local groups joined forces with legislators and together they made it unacceptable and illegal to drive drunk and not buckle up," Greenstein said. "Together, the voices of small towns across America can make a loud and clear statement: we must stop gun violence."

But it was the testimonials from family and friends of gun violence victims that carried the most weight, such as Gisela Marin, who lost her only daughter, 19-year-old Jessica Santos, to a random drive-by shooting in New Haven, Conn. in 2006.

Santos was a student at the University of New Haven at the time, where she was studying criminal justice.

"She was my joy, my reason for living, for working so hard and doing everything in my power to ensure she had everything she needed and more," Marin said.

Santos was shot while standing outside a neighborhood deli with friends, just hours after being with her mother. The 17-year-old later convicted for shooting Santos had an illegal gun, Marin said.

"He robbed me of my life, my joy and seeing Jessica's dream fulfilled," Marin said. "But most of all, my identity as someone's mom. Instead of planning my daughter's return to college, I had to prepare a funeral."

The event ended with a candle lighting while bells tolled overhead, and the placement of tags with the names of gun violence victims on trees in the front of the church.

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Fridays Fun for Some, Dangerous for Others in Downtown Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

There's no better time of the week for a student than Friday afternoon and being able to unwind with friends after dismissal from school.

In downtown Chappaqua it's been a longstanding tradition for Robert E. Bell Middle School students to congregate downtown, get pizza, ice cream or some other snack and hang out when the weekend begins.

But there are those who are concerned whether the hordes of youngsters, which can number in the hundreds in good weather, have become too much for the town to handle and may be posing a safety issue.

Longtime Chappaqua resident Flora Haller said she is one of many people in town questioning whether something should be done about the large crowds of students before a serious accident occurs. Haller said she avoids the hamlet's downtown on Fridays after school because the kids sometimes take up the entire sidewalk, many with their backpacks on the ground.

She has also seen students, some as young as 10 or 11 years old because middle school in Chappaqua comprises grades 5-8, dart out into the street not paying attention to traffic.

"It's a nightmare," Haller said. "You have traffic backed up. The intersections are full of groups of kids with backpacks. I was

shocked."

To insure the safety of the children, the Town of New Castle deploys additional crossing guards and/or police officers mainly on Friday afternoons, said Police Chief Charles Ferry. Hot spots include King Street and South Greeley Avenue and the crosswalks coming off the Quaker Street Bridge at South Greeley Avenue.

Ferry acknowledges there is the potential for problems but the presence of the crossing guards or officers slows down traffic. The only close call Ferry was able to recall during his long career in New Castle occurred about two years ago when a student ran into the street and bumped into a car that was stopped.

"Anytime you have children and vehicles it's dangerous," said Ferry, who said the Friday afternoon socializing is more prevalent in good weather in the fall and spring.

Town Administrator Jill Shapiro said students spending Friday afternoons in downtown dates back to before her children, now 23 and 27 years old, went to Bell. It is unclear how the tradition started but it has become a rite of passage, she said.

With the potential for danger, the extra expense the town incurs for the officers or crossing guards has been a good investment.

"It's worth having the extra personnel," Shapiro said. "It's a small price to pay to keep everyone safe."

Shapiro said most weeks it costs the town



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Large crowds of Robert E. Bell Middle School students walking and congregating in downtown Chappaqua are welcomed by some, but New Castle uses extra crossing guards or officers to keep the area safe.

just \$21.50 for the additional coverage when the duties are covered by a civilian crossing guard whose schedule has been adjusted to avoid all but a half-hour of overtime. There are weeks when the town needs to use police officers, which would cost between \$150 and \$225.

For the first two-and-a-half months of the current school year, the additional detail has cost the town \$497 in overtime, Shapiro said.

Adam Stahl, the owner of Local, a South Greeley Avenue shop that serves lunch and ice cream, said he enjoys seeing the students come downtown and not just because they bring business. As the father of school-age

kids and a town resident, he said it's nice to see the children from many families that he knows.

Stahl acknowledges that for shopkeepers not equipped to handle the crowds it could be a problem, but he allows the students to sit and hang out in his store whether they buy something or not.

"When kids come in, they can leave their backpacks when they walk around town, use the restroom, they can buy an ice cream," he said.

But Haller said she and many others will continue to avoid the downtown on Fridays during the school year.

"Basically, it's dangerous," she said.

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Local Retired Public Employees Vow to Protect Benefits

By Martin Wilbur

In the age of shrinking public resources, reaction to municipal workers receiving retirement benefits are now viewed by many as a luxury that the government should no longer have to shoulder.

On Dec. 3, the Westchester/Putnam chapter of the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) held its annual holiday luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Mount Kisco. While they celebrated the approaching holidays and many caught

up with former longtime colleagues, their sentiment was clear to elected officials: keep your hands off members' benefits.

RPEA President John McPadden, who joined state Sen. Terrence Murphy as a guest speaker at the luncheon, said in the past decade there has been growing resentment against public employees for what are perceived to be lavish benefits. Attempts have been made statewide by local governments to roll back guaranteed benefits, most notably increasing or

imposing contributions for retirees' health insurance, because of municipalities' financial pressures.

McPadden said it is a fight that the RPEA will continue to wage to protect its members by working to prevent that from happening.

"It is unfair to take someone who has been retired and hit them with an increase in their premium costs," McPadden said. "If you want to increase premium costs do so, but don't apply it retroactively. If you

do it for active employees, then people can make financial decisions."

Most of the policymakers who have been proposing those changes have little understanding of the public employees' plight, he said. For many public workers, particularly those who have been retired for a long time, they have never contributed and are now being asked to pay 6 percent in many instances. In all likelihood, many public employees took lower pay in exchange for those better benefits.

"They're retired 20 years, their pension has not kept up with the rate of inflation even with COLA (cost of living adjustments)," McPadden said. "They're pretty much in an untenable situation."

Murphy related the story of how his mother has been able to remain close to her children and grandchildren in Westchester only because of the pension that his late father, a longtime Con Edison employee, had earned.

The senator noted that the best way to improve the fiscal climate in the state so governments can continue to take care of its constituents, is to attract new business with less regulation and fewer taxes.

"Open up the doors of New York and make it a more affordable and open it open to commercial development," Murphy said.

TD Bank Mt. Kisco Raises Nearly \$2,500 for My Second Home

As part of its Bring Change campaign, TD Bank on East Main Street in Mount Kisco hosted a community coin counting event that raised \$2,491.84 for My Second Home Adult Daycare. TD Bank matched up to \$2,000 in coins counted for the final donation.

My Second Home is daycare for older adults with some level of physical and/or cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's or dementia. As a social model adult program, it fills a significant gap in services for older adults between senior centers and much more costly medical models of care. It allows impaired older adults to remain with their families and engaged in their community.

This center has a child daycare center



Left to right, TD Bank's Francine Mauro, Tariq Issa Kelly D'amato, Amy Green, Deborah Broderick and James Crecco are pictured with Amy Thomas from My Second Home, with her son Adien.

in the same building, and joint programs are often scheduled so the children are mixed with the seniors, offering a

wonderful experience. The Bring Change donation will be put toward the Joining Elders With Early Learners (JEWEL) program. These funds will go directly to make a difference in the elder's life, regardless of economic background.

The money raised will be used to pay for dance classes and teachers, supplies for more event activities and future festivities that will be centered around helping the elderly.

With 500 events planned through 2016, this program promises to raise more than \$1 million in support of local organizations.

For more information on My Second Home, visit <http://www.fsw.org/our-programs/my-second-home/mount-kisco>.

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New Castle Officials Blasted for Studying Annandale Closure

By Martin Wilbur

Lawrence Farms East residents in Chappaqua expressed dismay last week that town officials may have been secretly considering the closure of Annandale Road near Chappaqua Crossing as part of the traffic mitigation efforts needed for Route 117.

About 100 residents in that area have registered their complaints with the New Castle Town Board after at least a couple of residents learned that the option of closing the road was a scenario being evaluated by the town's traffic consultant.

The report from the consultant, Michael Galante, was scheduled to be submitted to officials last Friday and is expected to be discussed at the board's meeting tonight (Tuesday) when public hearings regarding residential units in the cupola building and changes to a portion of the Chappaqua Crossing retail plan are set to resume.

Resident Jared Rakof said he and many of his neighbors had vehemently argued to town officials their opposition to the closure of Annandale Road until about a year-and-half ago when they thought that possibility was no longer in play.

However, Rakof said he had attended a board meeting several weeks ago where that possibility was raised again.

"I'm angry about it because I feel there's something wrong," he said.

Rakof said that in discussions he had with the owner of the nearby Crabtree's

Kittle House, John Crabtree, even the restaurateur had no idea the road closure was still a possibility.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein explained that one of the conditions of last December's zoning approval to allow 120,000 square feet of retail at Chappaqua Crossing was for developer Summit/Greenfield to commission a \$15,000 study to examine the possibility of closing the road to traffic from Route 117, which is near the current main entrance of the campus.

The study has been done recently after the state Department of Transportation (DOT) started encouraging Summit/Greenfield to explore the possibility of a roundabout at the intersection of Route 117 and Roaring Brook Road, Greenstein said.

He said just because the matter is being studied doesn't mean it will happen.

"If we get the study, depending on what the study says, it could be a nonissue," Greenstein said. "It could be an issue. If it's an issue...we're going to give you an opportunity to comment."

Although last week it wasn't known whether the study will recommend the street's closure, town Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull said she has had conversations with Galante about the issue. Early indications show that a closure will not be a recommended course of action because there would be no improvement over what exists today.

"It does not appear that closing Annandale is a good thing to do from a traffic service level," Hull said.

The level of concern in the Lawrence Farms East community forced Councilwoman Lisa Katz last week to issue a statement regarding her involvement on the issue.

Residents demanded Katz, who lives in the community, to recuse herself from further discussions on the matter. Katz said she never planned to participate in the road discussion or any decision that would be made on the matter, although she has

remained involved on other aspects of the project.

Katz was the dissenting vote last December when the town board voted to rezone the property.

"I intend and I have always intended to recuse myself from anything on changes to the Annandale Road/Route 117 intersection should the town board decide that changes are warranted," Katz said.

In a separate action, the town is also planning to prohibit truck traffic from Roaring Brook Road to limit the impact for neighbors of the campus on that street.

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The Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville will screen the classic holiday film "It's a Wonderful Life" several times over the Christmas holidays. The film, perfect for the entire family, stars James Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore. For the schedule, tickets and prices, visit <https://burnsfilmcenter.org/booking/its-a-wonderful-life>.



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Obituaries

Donald Froude

Donald W. Froude of Hawthorne died on Dec. 8.

He was 83.

Froude was born on Apr. 27, 1932, to the late William and Astrid Froude in New York City. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Froude was a retired electrical engineer with New York Telephone. He served on the Mount Pleasant Board of Education (1974-86); Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America (1972-77); the Town of Mount Pleasant Board of Assessment, as an elder at Hawthorne Reformed Church; the Mount Pleasant Sportsman's Club; and the Mount Pleasant Rotary Club. He was also an avid hand radio operator.

Froude is survived by his devoted

wife, Barbara (nee Zorn) Froude, of Hawthorne; his loving children, Connie (Steve) Ruland, of Hopewell Junction and Bill (Margie Stoneman) Froude of Marietta, Ga.; and his four cherished grandchildren, Cate and Stephen Ruland and Josh and Zach Stoneman.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Dec. 9 and Dec. 10. Funeral services were held at Hawthorne Reformed Church on Dec. 11 followed by interment at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

In lieu of flowers, donations to either Family Services of Westchester, 1 Summit Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10606 (www.fsw.org) or Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, 110 E. 42nd St., 16th floor, N.Y., N.Y. 10017 would be appreciated.

Charlotte Lehmann

Charlotte (Lottie) Lehmann, a longtime Valhalla resident, died on Dec. 8.

She was 81.

Lehmann was born on July 20, 1934, to the late Karl and Henrietta Mosqua in Mount Kisco. She was a longtime member of the Valhalla Women's Club and had a love for arts and crafts and cooking.

Lehmann was predeceased by her devoted husband, Louis Lehmann, earlier

this year and her sister, Irene Stramowski, in 1987. She is survived by her loving son, Karl (Ann Marie) Lehmann, of Somers; her dear friend, Leona Meyer, of White Plains; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Dec. 11, where funeral services were held on Dec. 12. Interment followed at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Ave., Hawthorne, N.Y. 10532 would be appreciated.

Reinhold Reuter

Reinhold Reuter of Hawthorne died on Dec. 9.

He was 66.

Reuter was born on July 20, 1949, to the late Walter and Meta Reuter in Lingen Ems, Germany. He was assistant director at Eue Screen Gems in New York City. Reinhold was known for his generous spirit and sense of humor.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Joan (nee Genovese) Reuter, of Hawthorne; his loving children, Michelle Reuter,

of Danbury, Conn., Suzanne Reuter of Hawthorne and Christopher (Lindsey) Reuter of Gilbert, Ariz.; two sisters, Lilli Ritterbusch of Peekskill and Wendy (John) Westerfeld of Queens; one cherished granddaughter, Savannah; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Dec. 11, where funeral services were held on Dec. 12. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. would be appreciated.

Helen Chietro

Helen Chietro of Valhalla died on Dec. 10.

She was 90.

Chietro was born on Aug. 10, 1925, to the late Mateo and Vincenza DeCicco in Bayonne, N.J. She was a retired seamstress.

Chietro was predeceased by her devoted husband, Frank, in 2002. She is

survived by her loving children, Frank Chietro, of Hawthorne, Paul Chietro of Hopewell Junction, Linda (Stephen) Arditi of Yorktown Heights and Marguerite Sacchetti of Natick, Mass.; her two sisters; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Dec. 12. A graveside service was held at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla Dec. 13.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Dec. 4: A caller reported at 8:46 p.m. that an intoxicated driver struck a pole at the Shell gas station on North Broadway. The complainant stated that the driver of the vehicle is getting back into his vehicle and is preparing to leave.

Dec. 5: Two reports of criminal mischief on Nethermont Avenue. A pair of mailboxes were damaged on the street. The first call occurred at 8:26 a.m. and the second call came in at 9:01 a.m.

Dec. 6: A caller reported at 1:56 p.m. what sounded like gun shots on Route 22 near the Rye Lake Bridge. The dispatching officer contacted the Department of Environmental Conservation, which stated that the agency is conducting geese mitigation in that area.

Dec. 8: A complainant called headquarters in a hysterical state at 9:03 a.m. reporting that her son is destroying her North Broadway apartment. While

on the phone with the complainant, the dispatching officer could hear loud banging noises. Three officers were dispatched to the scene.

Dec. 8: This department received several phone calls from town residents who stated that they had received calls from parties alleging that they were from the IRS. In these calls, the person states that he is employed by the IRS, tells the residents that they owe money to the state, and if the past due balance is not paid, local law enforcement will arrest them. Police advise residents not to give out personal information and to come into headquarters if they wish to make a report.

Dec. 8: Report of a dispute on King Street at 10:22 p.m. The caller reported security personnel intervened on the property and assisted a female to get out of a vehicle. A male party left the scene in the vehicle. No injuries reported and the male party is no longer on the premises.

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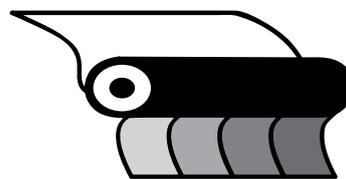
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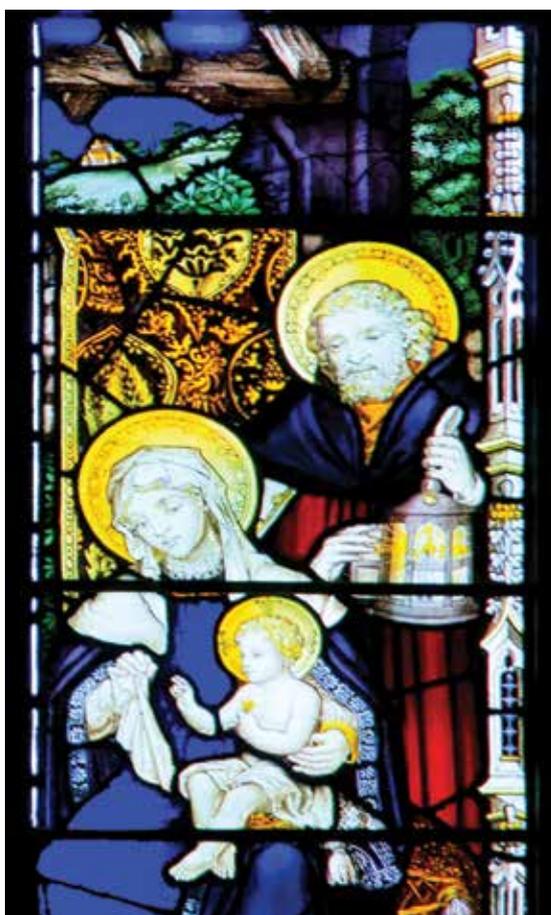
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Associate Publisher

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

Arthur Cusano
acusano@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 Cardì
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

Column

Tis the Season for Financial Self-Assessments

By Peter Chieco

Tis the season to be jolly, fiscally responsible and well-informed regarding potential adjustments to our financial portfolios.

In the midst of our holiday observations we also should take a moment to assess where we stand financially at the end of a year that saw a significant share of ups and downs. The stock market rose, it fell, it recovered, then teetered and tottered. Where are we as individual investors?

An objective review of our portfolios should be the first order of business to prepare for possible revisions to launch a new financial year.

With the recent media attention on the global warming conference in Paris, it may be a good time to consider socially responsible and/or environmental investing. There are myriad ways to combine social responsibility with good investment strategies.

For instance, you may want to investigate industries that focus on clean water options, such as filtration systems, desalination plants and all the components that go into them, or perhaps anti-pollution strategies. As the earth's population grows, clean water is becoming scarce in many locales and the means of providing water to the thirsty already is a top priority.

Socially responsible investing has long been attractive to many investors. In 1989 socially responsible companies' performance lagged behind the S&P by 1.1 percent. But since 1990, the social index (MSCI KLD 400) returned an average annual total return of 10.46



By Peter Chieco

percent compared with the S&P 500's 9.93 percent.

Many investment firms help their clients select options that mirror personal environmental and social views. For instance, investors can do in-depth analyses of a company's history of social consciousness and environmentally sound practices, including compliance with clean air and water regulations.

Investors can make sure their dollars don't go to firms that have poor reputations in environmental compliance and can consider investing in companies competing with those with poor records. Investors who want to purchase securities that have been screened for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria can even do so through so-called socially responsible mutual funds.

Perhaps you already have been investing with an eye toward social and environmental awareness and are well-represented in that area. Nonetheless there will always be an ebb and flow to certain industries and individual companies within those industries. A portfolio review should disclose those investments performing well and those that are not.

Another benefit of a year-end portfolio analysis is that it could reveal opportunities for a "tax swap," selling an under-performing stock at a loss and purchasing stocks of equal value that have a better outlook for a positive

performance in the coming year. For some, tax swaps may be a good way to rid a portfolio of an underperforming security while qualifying for a tax deduction for the loss at the same time.

While we're speaking of taxes, in this time of giving you may also want to consider donating securities that have increased significantly in value over the last year or more. The beauty of this donation is that your cost remains what it was when you purchased the securities, but the tax deduction is for the current value.

Since the calendar year is about to end, there may be a sense of urgency in ensuring that our financial houses are in order. But there still is time to get in

The Prudent Portfolio

a thorough review of our portfolios, plan out our taxes and make any necessary adjustments. We can adjust for today and even decide to open

a retirement account if the time is ripe. These are options that may require some additional help from financial experts but creating a 401(k) account in the final weeks of the year is your way of giving yourself the gift that keeps on giving.

While many business matters are put aside, albeit temporarily, during the holidays, your financial foundation is a high priority for a successful life, and a timely review should not be delayed.

There are myriad options available and, like the gifts piled under the tree, the world of finance is heaped with opportunities.

Peter Chieco is a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Greenwich, Conn. He can be reached at 203-625-4897.

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Correction

In last week's article on the Dec. 6 Chappaqua KenKen Tournament, it was incorrectly stated that winner Martin Eiger was victorious for the third consecutive year. Eiger won the tournament for the third time in its six-year history. The Examiner regrets the error.

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Pleasantville High School Camerata Singers, Pleasantville

By Arthur Cusano

For over a decade, students from the Pleasantville School District have entertained residents and shoppers as part of the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce open house.

On Saturday, two groups of Pleasantville High School Camerata Singers made their way down the streets of the village business district to sing holiday carols in stores before coming together at the village bandstand to perform with the Chamber Holiday Instrumental Ensemble made up of mostly Pleasantville Middle School students.

The annual event has been organized in part by lifelong village resident Toni Emerson, a volunteer and longtime chamber of commerce member.

"We do this every year, and every year I can't believe that they get better," Emerson said of the singers. "And shops in town really appreciate it, they look forward to it. They ask me every year, when are they coming?"

The fact that temperatures were hovering around 60 degrees this year did little to dampen the holiday mood.

"We've done this sometimes in snow up to our knees," Emerson said. "I don't wear sunglasses, but you sure can today. It's a wonderful day."

High school performing arts teacher Kathleen Donovan-Warren leads the 18 Camerata singers, and said the girls have been singing for the holidays for at least 10 years. She said the group loves giving back by performing for the community and they do various other performances throughout the community each year.

"I have 18 girls, and 17 of them are here," Donovan-Warren said. "We have to split them up because they can't all fit in the shops."

A camerata is a select choir. In Italian, it translates to chamber singers or small choir, Donovan-Warren said. Joining the Camerata singers was Santa Claus, played by none other than PHS principal Joseph Palumbo. Palumbo agreed to participate after being asked by the participating



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

The Pleasantville High School Camerata Singers, in back, singing with the Chamber of Commerce Instrumental Ensemble last Saturday.

students.

Chamber of Commerce Secretary Ed Elliott led the instrumentalists with high school performing arts chair Thomas Heintzelman.

"Years ago when we started this, my kids were instrumentalists and they joined me," Elliot said. "When we started this it was all high school students, and there were one or two really good musicians from the middle school that would join us. This year, the middle school kids were recruited because we couldn't get the high school kids."

This year the group consisted of a

high school trombone and a saxophone player. Four trumpet players are eighth graders, as was a tuba player.

Business owners and employees said they appreciated the morning helping of holiday cheer. At Heller's Shoes, manager Silvana Felippelli said she enjoyed seeing the singers even if no customers were there to enjoy it at the time that they arrived.

"I think it's so nice that they do this every year that these kids put their time into it," Felippelli said. "Teenagers today don't do things like this anymore."



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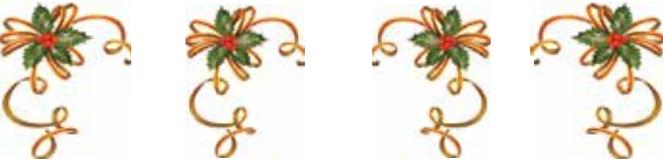
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Local Small Businesses Look to Adapt to Changing Retail Landscape

By Arthur Cusano

It's been an unusual holiday season, as warmer than average temperatures haven't made it seem like Christmas is approaching.

Then for the first time, online sales surpassed brick-and-mortar retail sales on Black Friday weekend, a trend expected to become the new normal.

But some local, independently-owned businesses say they are surviving, and in some cases thriving, by providing a specialty retail experience that can't be duplicated online and by adapting to changing tastes.

At Heller's Shoes in Pleasantville, store

manager Silvana Felippelli said business had been very brisk, probably improved compared to last year.

"I thought we wouldn't be because the weather hasn't helped us," she said. "This week it kind of leveled, but for the past three weeks we've been swamped."

Customers are not just buying gifts for others, but also shoes for themselves, she said. A 20 percent off sale and large clearance table helped lure customers into the store, who often end up making other purchases.

One product driving sales are the now-ubiquitous Ugg boots, still a hot item.

"I have a list behind the counter of

at least 20 people waiting for sizes," Felippelli said. "Even though the weather hasn't helped, the Uggs are something that isn't just (about) weather, it's more style."

Felippelli said the recent announcement of the closing of Try & Buy Toy Store in Pleasantville gave her cause for concern.

"I've been with Heller's for 26 years, and I love it when I hear a new store or a new restaurant is opening," she said. "It brings people into the town. When someone goes out of business that hurts everyone. The toy store brings people into the village and they walk around

and shop local."

Internet sales are having an impact, even at local shoe stores. Felippelli said people will come in and try something on, but if the color they want isn't available they will go online and buy it.

"They offer free shipping back, so they can return it a hundred times and not pay for it," added sales assistant Alyssa Iacovello.

However, the women said loyal long-time customers, especially older customers, helped keep the store in business.

"It's amazing sometimes certain customers will come back two or three times when they're looking for something specific," Iacovello said. "They don't go elsewhere. They want to support the local stores."

At The Village Bookstore on Washington Avenue, owners Roy Solomon and Yvonne vanCort said business so far seemed normal, with much of it coming on weekends. Weekdays are much quieter, they said.

"There are times when the staff is saying, 'Oh my God, why are you making us work,'" VanCort said. "Retail always goes in spurts."

Solomon said he too was sad to hear about Try & Buy's pending closure and concerned about the impact it may have on other village businesses.

"I don't know anything is going to go in there, so that's going to be a lot of customers who aren't coming here and may not shop at any of our stores," he said.

Over the past few decades independent bookstores were decimated by large chains like Borders and Barnes & Noble and later online retailers like Amazon and e-readers. But Solomon said there had recently been a rise in small bookstores, with new stores recently opening in Chappaqua and Katonah. He said area residents wanted the service and convenience of having a variety of independently run stores.

"People want to shop at a store like Matt's next door," Solomon said of Glass Onion, a gallery gift shop, "or a store like ours or Try & Buy because that's what keeps their neighborhood nice."

At Mount Kisco Sports, the spring-like weather has not helped sell heavy winter clothing, but manager Debbie Camino said customers have still been buying fleece sweaters and light jackets by The North Face and Patagonia.

"We got a lot of early shoppers, which was weird, even before Thanksgiving they were buying stuff for Christmas already," Camino said. "I still have a lot

continued on next page



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Local Small Businesses Look to Adapt to Changing Retail Landscape



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTOS

Silvana Felippelli and Alyssa Iacovello of Heller's Shoes said business is up from last year at their Pleasantville store.

continued from previous page
of jackets left right now, which I would normally have a lot less of. But I'm sure in another two weeks these will be gone. Right now people want to be out, they don't want to be inside shopping."

Having a health-conscious population helps sales year-round for the sporting good store, as customers stock up on running shoes and tennis racquets, she said. The store, which will soon move to a new location in the village, also supplies athletic products for local youth sports teams.

Squires in Chappaqua has been selling clothing for men, women and children for more than 80 years. While many clothing retailers have put away their summer clothes until the spring, owner Michael Kushner said his loyal well-heeled customers know his store will always have what they need.

"People are going on vacation this time of year, a lot of people are going away to Hawaii or the Bahamas and they're looking for a bathing suit or sandals," Kushner said. "And since we carry those products year-round, we're quite busy



The staff at The Village Bookstore in Pleasantville was busy helping customers last Friday at their Wheeler Avenue store.

with that stuff but a little slower with the cold weather gear."

While most customers are local residents, Kushner said that carrying high-end specialty products like those from the outdoor gear line Arc'Teryx attract customers from elsewhere. He said customers return for the wide variety of quality brand products. Word-of-mouth business is a big factor.

Kushner said the opening of more retail stores in Chappaqua in recent years helps all businesses.

"For a while there we were mostly nail

salons, and if stores came in they would leave, but the last couple of years we have gotten some nicer stores, a more interesting mix," he said.

Online competition has made it necessary to stock what the customer wants, when they want it, he said.

"It requires having inventory, carrying things year-round so when they come in, regardless of what they ask for, when they ask for it, we try to have it in stock," Kushner said. "Not just we'll get it for you. That's the only thing we can do to combat the Internet."



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The Front Door is Front and Center for a House

As I observe holiday wreaths dotting the front doors of homes, I am reminded that I've written about how important the condition of the front door is when it comes to the sale of a home.

I thought about that recently when I opened a couple of doors for showings where the owners might have benefitted from the points I considered.

Basically my reasoning has been that the front door can be the key to a home's personality, either reflecting the condition of the space within or contradicting it. A beautiful, sturdy door with quality hardware greets the visitor with a confident hello; a weathered door, perhaps out of alignment, with old or poorly functioning hardware, conveys something quite different, something unappealing.

I suspect that some homeowners are just not as aware of a front door becoming compromised because most people drive into their attached garage and walk directly into the mud room or kitchen. However, visitors normally come only to the front door.

While the functional purposes of a front door are to withstand the elements, help energy efficiency and provide protection



By Bill Primavera

for the home, visitors view it as an aesthetic statement, even a psychological one. If the door is attractive and in good shape, that perception extends to the entire house.

Look at your front door and determine whether it needs a simple sprucing up or a total replacement. Some door problems can be repaired and others cannot. If the door is improperly hung, has trouble closing or latching, is only slightly warped or is just sticking, these problems are worth fixing. But if it has rot or is outrageously outdated

in style, consider the options for replacement.

Whether you use a contractor or a handyman for door replacement, you'll get different opinions about which kind of new door to choose. Some would suggest that the top quality material is still considered to be wood. Steel or aluminum may be recommended as the most sturdy and secure, but according to most remodeling contractors, the best choice today is the new and high quality fiberglass door. The insulation quality of the latter is better than that of a wooden door, and it will not warp or crack.

The feature I like best about a quality

fiberglass door is that the manufacturers have managed to develop an incredibly realistic grain that matches real wood. Also, there is a virtually unlimited number of door styles and beveled glass options available. Fiberglass can be stained or painted, and fancy hardware can be applied to them, just as you would a wood door.

And that brings us to the subject of the door hardware which, in aesthetic terms, can make a door "pop," but if it's worn, that pop can be a dull thud. The polished look is one factor, but a lock and handle's functionality is the primary thing to consider. Basically locksets fall into two different categories, mortise or cylindrical. While I don't fully understand the mechanical workings of these two types of locks, my trusted locksmith tells me that mortise locksets, which are installed into a rectangular dugout in the door, offer the ultimate in security, design and ruggedness.

Highly polished solid brass knobs, back plates and thumb latches are desirable but – fair warning – they can be quite expensive.

When it comes to selecting a color for the front door, it is a situation of relating to, or contrasting with, one of the other tones found in the house or the surrounding landscape. But there is one cardinal rule: a front door should never

be stark white. The theory here is that the door should relate to the landscape in some way and pure white is rarely found in nature.

For those of you with a bent toward feng shui, you know that the front door is the main source of a house's energy. But practically and simply put for both curb appeal and resale value, spruce up the front door, and in a sense, you have a new home.

As a footnote, I once wrote an article based on a feng shui point of view advising that the very best color to paint a front door to energize a house is red and even recommended a personal preference for red: Benjamin Moore Burgundy.

After that article appeared, so many friends told me they had taken that step, and it seems that I see many more red doors lately. Or is that just my imagination?

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). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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We at PCTV appreciate the long-standing support of the many communities we serve.

This year we have reached a proud milestone. 2015 marks the fifteenth anniversary of PCTV and the completion of a major upgrade project to provide a state of the art studio for public access shows and business media services.

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Please consider a tax-deductible donation to PCTV in your giving plans for this year. Go to our website at PCTV76.org or mail to 2 Jackson Street, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

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Business of the Week

**Dodd's Wine Shop
Millwood**

By Colette Connolly

Having run Dodd's Wine Shop in Millwood for 40 years, Dodd Farber knows what it takes to create a winning business.

The liquor store, located in the Millwood Shopping Center, is a popular destination for locals, but what makes Dodd's stand out from the rest of the field is the individual attention that every customer receives.

Farber was familiar with the liquor store business before purchasing the shop in 1972 because his father owned a store on Long Island where he grew up.

But Farber wasn't interested in going into the business directly out of college. Instead, he opted to earn his MBA and then spent several years working on Wall Street. He then relocated to Westchester.

Sitting behind his desk at the back of the store surrounded by ledgers and stacks of papers, Farber is proud of the business he has built.

"For me, it's all about being hands on and taking care of customers as

individuals," Farber said. "We are not a commodities type of operation."

Customers can choose from over 2,200 different items at Dodd's Wine Shop, which includes name brands as well as several boutique items. Brands that are currently popular with customers include the Veuve Clicquot Brut "Yellow Label" champagne for \$39.99; the Korbel Brut, another champagne, for \$10.99; and the 2012 B.V. Tapestry cabernet sauvignon for \$25.99.

Other popular items currently available and included in the store's holiday wine and liquor sale are Cavit Pinot Grigio for \$11.99; Grey Goose Vodka for \$49.99; Dewar's Scotch or Johnnie Walker Red for \$32.99; Johnnie Walker Blue for \$169.99; Jack Daniel's for \$45.99; Il Poggione vintage wine for \$69.99; and a range of other labels that are being sold for between \$5.99 and \$10.99 a bottle.

Before anything is put on the shelves at Dodd's Wine Shop, Farber said it is thoroughly checked out by him and his



COLETTE CONNOLLY PHOTO

Dodd's Wine Shop carries an expansive array of wine, liquor and Champagne as well as specialty items in its Millwood store.

staff.

"We will not buy anything unless we taste it first, which means that we have to be happy with it before recommending it to our customers," said Farber, who owns a nearby warehouse where large volumes of wine and liquor are stored.

Farber also said he chooses wines and other products with his customers' tastes in mind. The store's employees have also been known to track down difficult-to-find products, to purchase wines they think customers will like and also to keep

customers apprised of special orders.

"I like to think of ourselves as the 'Cheers' of the wine business," added Farber, "with everybody knowing our name and knowing that we will take care of them on an individual basis."

Dodd's Wine Shop is located at 230 Saw Mill River Rd. in Millwood. Check out its website at www.doddswineshop.com or call 914-236-5809 for more information. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m.

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Ancient Order of Hibernians Donate Over \$6G to Hospice Care

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (A.O.H.) Division 16 and Ladies A.O.H. Division 16 donated \$3,438.46 to Hospice Care of Westchester/Putnam on Dec. 2. at the annual Tree of Life ceremony at Holiday Inn in Mount Kisco.

Hospice Care, a nonprofit home health care agency, provides home health services to patients with advanced illnesses.

On Dec. 5, the A.O.H. donated \$3,318.46 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center in Hawthorne. Rosary Hill Home is run by the Dominican Sisters and provides hospice care for incurable cancer patients who are unable to afford care for themselves.

Since 1992, the A.O.H. has donated \$215,385.14 to Hospice Care of Westchester/Putnam, Rosary Hill Home and other organizations. The fundraising drive was administered by Chairman James McHugh and assisted by Grace Murphy.

The division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Mary's, Katonah; St. Patrick's, Bedford; St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco; St. Lawrence O'Toole,

Brewster; St. Patrick's, Armonk; Holy Innocence, Pleasantville; and St. John's/St. Mary's, Chappaqua.

The A.O.H. Division 16 was formed on Sept. 13, 1891, consisting of men of Irish descent and practicing Roman Catholics living in northern Westchester. The A.O.H. originated in America on May 4, 1836, in order to protect the Catholic Church from a mounting wave of religious bigotry, discrimination and mob violence. In April 1844, the A.O.H. valiantly defended the old St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City from being burned down.

The division has a long and distinguished history of supporting different community groups in the area as well as hosting northern Westchester's annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day parade since 1991. It is pleased to announce that the 26th annual parade will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, in downtown Mount Kisco and the annual dinner will take place on Saturday, March 5.

For more information, visit www.AOHDIV16.org.

Corcoran Sworn in to the Board of Legislators, Takes Seat

County Legislator Francis Corcoran was recently sworn in as the newest Westchester County lawmaker.

Corcoran, a Republican, represents District 2, which includes Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge and part of Somers. He was sworn in by County Clerk Timothy Iodoni on Nov. 30.

While new legislators are typically sworn in around the first day of the new term, Corcoran was sworn in early because his election was to fill an open seat. The county charter directs that legislators elected to an open seat begin serving following the certification of the election.

Since his election last month, Corcoran has been attending Board of Legislators and Budget Committee meetings.

"I am honored to represent the residents of District 2 and I thank them for the confidence they've shown in me by electing me as their County Legislator," he said. "I am committed to representing every resident of my district through hard work, bipartisan cooperation and responsiveness to their needs."

"I would like to thank my legislative colleagues and the Board staff for welcoming me warmly and for helping me get up to speed on the issues we are confronting, especially the 2016 county



Francis Corcoran is sworn in as Westchester County Legislator by County Clerk Timothy Iodoni.

budget," Corcoran added.

Chairman Michael Kaplowitz congratulated Corcoran on his election and welcomed him to the board. He said Corcoran's 30 years of professional experience in finance and the capital markets would be "a great asset."

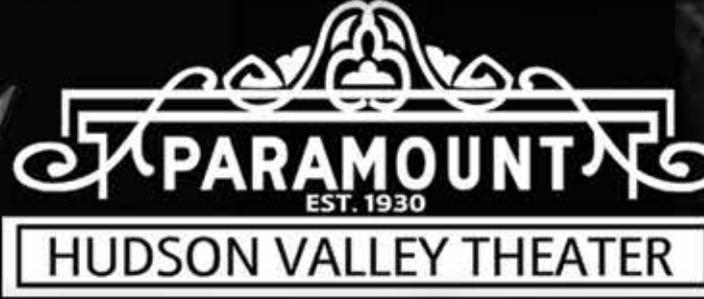
"Francis has already demonstrated that he is engaged, smart and ready to work with his colleagues," Kaplowitz said. "I look forward to a productive term working with Francis and all of our colleagues over the next two years."

Corcoran grew up in Lewisboro and served for the last 13 years as a councilman in Bedford.



NEW YEARS EVE

Dec. 31st @ 8pm



Broadway's own Rock of Ages Band comes to Peekskill to rock us all into the new year with a special concert performance by the original band members and lead singers of the acclaimed Broadway Musical!

Best 80's outfit's win Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze Loyalty Memberships for the 2016 season! So break out those acid wash jeans, poof that hair up, and come rock out to your favorites from the glory years of MTV!

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, she combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 22 and 29. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Julie Genovesi at 303-929-7203 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.

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.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.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. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

New Mommy Meet-Up. A great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For babies up to eight months old and their moms. Rompere Indoor Playground at World Cup Nursery School and Kindergarten, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday through June

24, 2016 (except holidays). Info: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Senior Benefits Information Center. Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Dec. 25). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 16. Info: 914-273-3887.

The Explorers Club. A new literacy/activity program this fall. Join Miss Debbie to explore a new theme each week (science, art and more) through literacy and hands-on activities. Come read, discover and create. For children five to seven years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Registration required. Info and registration: www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Knitting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Art Series With Professor Valerie Franco: "Giacomo Del Duca." More than just the main assistant to Michelangelo on his many projects in Rome, Giacomo Del Duca, born around 1520 in Cremona, was a master sculptor and architect in his own right. The emotions inspired by his sculptures inspired many later artists

throughout Europe. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Zumba Toning With Amy. Sculpt and tone muscle groups while dancing and shaking toning sticks to the sassy sizzling rhythms of the Zumba. Toning sticks provided. PFX Fitness, 10 Castleton Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-in fee: \$12. Every Wednesday Info: E-mail olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Advent Soup and Service. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 23. Info: 914-238-4411 or visit www.fcc-chappaqua.org.

"Looking at Christmas." A play reading of this sweet, smart and slightly twisted romantic comedy written by Steven Banks and performed by The Armonk Players. Directed by Pia Haas. Whipoorwill Hall, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. Free. (Voluntary donations accepted.) Followed by a reception with refreshments. Info: Visit www.armonkplayers.org.

World Cup U4 Parents Guest Speaker Series. A monthly presentation covering topics that will interest all parents. Topics will include mindful parenting, estate planning, family nutrition, setting limits with love, and knowing your child from "the inside out. World Cup Nursery School & Kindergarten, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 8 to 9 p.m. Free. Continues monthly through May. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20 or e-mail kim.bremer@worldcupschools.com.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Story Time With the Wolves. Youngsters with their parents or caregivers can read a fun book with Joe the Bear and then do a nature-related craft. Visitors will also get to view our wolves in their natural habitat and explore nature. For children two to five years old. Dress prepared for the weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children: \$10. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive,

Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Mahjongg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Storytime Playgroup. Come hear a story and music and join in on playtime with toys and books. Children, parents and caregivers will make new friends and share time together. For children one to four years old; with a caregiver. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Gaming Old School. Join old school gaming enthusiasts to play board games like a kid again. Open to all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.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. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

"Dreamcatcher." In this Sundance Award-winning film, director Kim Longinotto paints a vivid portrait of an extraordinary woman who uses her past as a teenage prostitute to become a powerful advocate for change and to break the cycle of sexual abuse and exploitation in her community. The screening is followed by a Q&A with Longinotto. Part of the Global Watch: Crisis, Culture & Human Rights series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Info and tickets: www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"The Gift of the Magi." A stage production of O. Henry's classic holiday story with a fresh new adaptation by artistic director Bram Lewis. The Schoolhouse Theater, 3 Owens Rd., Croton Falls. 8 p.m. Adults: \$38. Seniors: \$35. Students: \$15. Also Dec. 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.org.

Friday, Dec. 18

Zumba With Amy. Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginners. Ladimax Sports & Fitness, 1 Commerce St., Valhalla. (The Cliffs complex). 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Drop-in rate: \$10. Every Friday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-643-6162 or e-mail olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Zumba With Amy. Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginner. Addie-tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial
continued on page 28

Bedford 2020 Announces Student Finalists for Special Award

Fox Lane High School and Fox Lane Middle School students are competing this year for a chance to fight greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural resources.

The Round 1 Greenlight Award Event on Thursday, Dec. 3 included seven middle school teams and 12 high school teams presenting their "big green idea" project ideas before an expert panel of judges who listened and responded with challenging questions.

"The challenging job was actually for the judges. After hearing such wide variety of interesting, innovative and potentially impactful proposals, the judges had the difficult task of selecting which student teams move on as finalists," said Olivia Farr, co-founder of Bedford 2020.

The judges included Francis Corcoran, newly elected Westchester County Legislator and one of three outside directors on the Board for the New York State Environmental Facilities corporation; Jim Diamond, CEO of Diamond Properties, which has won numerous awards in recognition for its environmental efforts;

Anthony Patierno, Sleepy Hollow Middle School science teacher and project coordinator for the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation's Student Ambassador Program; Andrew Revkin, Pace University Sr. Fellow for Environmental Understanding, blogger, author and former New York Times



BEDFORD 2020 PHOTO

Jaeger Dochtermann, a sophomore at Fox Lane High School, presents his proposal before the judges on Dec. 3 at Round 1 of the Greenlight Awards competition presented by Bedford 2020.

journalist; and Laura Rossi, executive director of the Westchester Community Foundation which funds activities that improve the quality of life in Westchester and address the County's most compelling needs.

Master of ceremonies was Andrew Patrick, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for Bedford Central School District.

This was a "totally inspiring batch of kids," said Revkin after judging the contest.

The student teams will be developing these projects in Round 2 of the Greenlight Award Competition.

Middle School Finalists

- Aquaponic Farming by Harrison Konopka, Rahul Menon and Ian Delannes-Molka (Grade 7): Demonstration of a closed-loop system

and food production at Fox Lane Middle School.

- Campsite Cleanings by Eugenia Kaltsas (Grade 6): Change behavior of visitors to reduce litter at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation.
- Fox Lane Ride Share Bank by Jackson Lawrence (Grade 6): Encourage carpooling among Fox Lane Middle School families.
- Here Comes the Sun by Asa Friedrich (Grade 8): Design and pilot solar paneled bus shelter at Fox Lane Middle School.

High School Finalists

Energy Efficient Lighting by Maya Koneval, Jesse Hoogland and Sajay Srivastava (Grade 12): Make recommendations to improve energy efficiency at Fox Lane High School.

Fox Lane Food Fair by Megan Bartley (Grade 12): Hold pilot event to educate community about local food choices.

Labeling & Greater Diversity in Waste Disposal Choices in Schools by George Quinn (Grade 9): Pilot labeling program at Fox Lane High School to increase recycling.

Making Electronic Benefits Transfer Available for Use at a Local Farmers Market by Michelle Paolicelli and Kathryn Tortorella (Grade 10): Pilot food justice program at Mount Kisco Farmers Market.

School Composting by Jessica Smith (Grade 12): Pilot composting program at

Fox Lane High School.

Finalists will receive seed funding from Bedford 2020, access to guidance from community experts and now have the green light to develop their projects, measure the results and compete for the Greenlight Award on May 20. The entire community is encouraged to attend. The winning student or student team will receive a scholarship award of \$500 and The Greenlight Award.

"This was a fantastic event," said Patierno. "It was truly inspirational, and a clear sign that when we give our students a chance to explore real problems, what they come up with will amaze us."

"We were incredibly impressed by the creativity and strength of the ideas coming from the participating students," said Midge Iorio, Bedford 2020's executive director. "Our goal for the Greenlight Award Contest is to engage students in addressing the measures in the Town's Climate Action Plan and preserving natural resources in our community, and based on the Round 1 event, we have identified some impressive ambassadors to do just that."

Bedford 2020 plans to learn best practices from this year's pilot and roll the Greenlight Award Competition out to other schools. The organization is a volunteer led, nonprofit organization leading a grassroots effort. For more information, visit www.Bedford2020.org.

MKMG is proud to welcome Ophthalmologist **Dr. Theodore Curtis, MD**

Dr. Curtis received his MD from Pennsylvania State College of Medicine. He completed his Internship at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio and his Residency at the University of Colorado. Dr. Curtis completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus at the Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, and is Board Certified in Ophthalmology.

Dr. Curtis will be seeing patients in the Mount Kisco and Carmel Ophthalmology Departments.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WHOLESOME GROWTH LLC d/b/a Kumon of White Plains. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/27/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER county. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: **476 SHELTON RD TRUMBULL, CT, 06611. Principal business address: 600 N BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS, NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful act.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SORENSEN HC ADVISORS LLC. Articles of Incorporation filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 7/7/14. Office location:

Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **15 Petersville Road, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: General.**

Notice of Formation of Frawley Coaching, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9/4/15. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

Notice of Formation of Dovetail DB LLC Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY(SSNY) on 9/15/2015. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail process to: 55 East 76th St., 1D, NY, NY 10021. **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TTL Photography, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y.(SSNY) on 09/16/2015. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent whom process may be served and shall copy of process against LLC to principle business address: 1304 Midland Avenue, Ste. B-60, Yonkers, N.Y. 10704. **Purpose: any lawful act.**

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Science Studies the Influence of Our Senses of Taste and Smell



By Nick Antonaccio

In recent columns, I've focused on the marvels of the human senses and their influence on our perception of wine.

It seems science has undertaken numerous studies to codify and standardize how we interface with wine. Of our five senses, recent scientific efforts have been focusing primarily on our sense of taste and smell. These studies attempt to explain in objective, finite terms how our physiology and, in certain instances, our psychology, play a role in enhancing our innate enjoyment of wines.

There have been studies of our sense of taste, isolating subregions of our cerebral cortex that imprint and therefore define the sensations of our taste buds. The taste senses of bitter, sweet, sour, salty and umami occupy specific regions of the olfactory sensors on our tongues and the membrane lining in our mouths. For example, science has isolated the sense of sweetness to the tip

'the sense of smell dominates our wine experience'

of our tongue and bitterness to the rear. Understanding this process enables wine tasters to enhance their appreciation of wine.

Science has further proven that our sense of smell dominates our overall experience in wine appreciation, far outweighing the influence of taste. A recent study has shattered the long-held belief that the smell receptors in our mouths and noses are able to identify 10,000 aromas, a rather overwhelming number to manage each time we sniff a glass of wine.

The study has concluded that our sense of smell is capable of detecting over one million scents and aromas. However, therein lies the rub. There are insufficient descriptive terms to specifically identify and describe each of these aromas.

Here's an experiment you can try at home to better understand

the dominance of smell over taste. We all have tried one or more flavors of those gourmet jellybeans, the ones with laboratory-developed flavors such as buttered popcorn, pina colada and chili

mango. The tastes are amazingly accurate. But are we experiencing taste or smell? Hold your nose and then pop a jellybean in your mouth. What happens? Your sense of taste detects sweetness in your mouth, but no flavor. Release the grip on your nose. Bam, the vibrant essence of the jellybean flavor floods your brain's olfactory sensors.

So it is with wine. Taste provides the broad backdrop for your palate; aromas determine the core impressions in your perception of the wine.

The science of the role of taste and smell is most evident when we engage in the most basic of dining rituals – pairing food and wine. The combination of compatible tastes and aromas is critical to the enjoyment of a meal. There is certainly an art, or at least a learned trait, in creating a new sensory state when we are at the table.

The ritual begins with a sip of the wine to be paired with a food. Our sensory receptors trigger specific elements of the wine in our mouth.

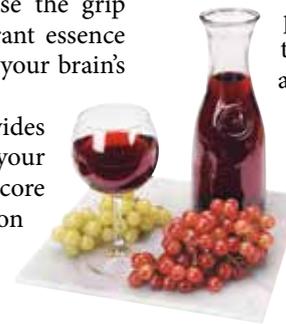
The second level is tasting the food. A new set of tastes and aromas now coats our tongues and mouth and penetrates

our olfactory receptors. Our brain now has memorized two sets of distinct profiles. After the bite of food, we sip the wine again. In the test laboratory of our mouth, we now create a third, unique taste and aroma profile. Here is where the greatest dining pleasure blossoms. A new experience is created on our palates, with a set of variables that may never be duplicated again.

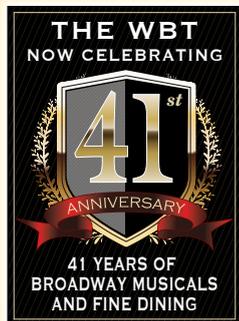
Life is a series of experiments and outcomes.

From each of them we learn and build the foundation of our interactive lives. With food and wine experiments, we bring to the table hundreds, perhaps thousands, of individual sensory experiences each time we drink and dine. Our learned sensory instincts hopefully guide us to an enjoyable outcome; science increasingly explains how we got there.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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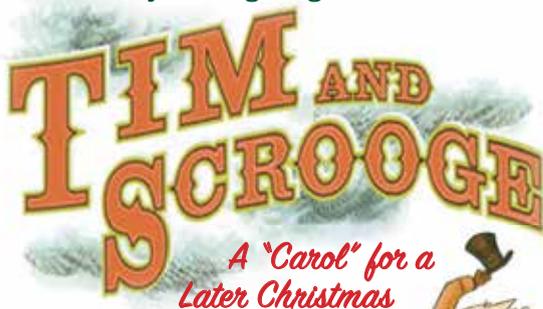
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Happenings

continued from page 24

Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Drop-in rate: \$12. Every Friday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1); also Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Info: 914-643-6162 or e-mail olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Holiday Howl. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will assemble gifts for ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Also visit the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 20 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 26 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

The North White Plains Fire Company No. 1 Christmas Tree Sale. All proceeds will benefit the fire company. Free parking; all ages welcome. North White Plains Fire Company No. 1 firehouse, 621 N. Broadway, North White Plains. 4 to 8 p.m. Trees are priced according to size and type. Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Dec. 19 (unless sold out). Info: 914-949-3575 or e-mail ncsf1@optonline.net.

Friday Night Films: "The Referee." Directed by Paolo Zucca, this 2013 Italian comedy stars heartthrob Stefano Accorsi as Cruciani, a professional soccer referee faced with the chance of a lifetime – the possibility to ref a World Cup match. In Italian, with English subtitles. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Saturday, Dec. 19

Christmas Tree Sale. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also Dec. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 914-238-4411 or visit www.fcc-chappaqua.org.

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The Pleasantville Farmers Market is the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted "Best of Westchester" in 2014 and 2015 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 40 vendors participating in the indoor market, including special seasonal vendors this month, the delicious good time continues. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday (except Dec. 26). Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Bringing locally-raised and produced food to the community in a weekly market, creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. First

Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through April (except for Dec. 26 and Jan. 2). Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Third Saturday Bird Seed Sale. The sale supports the local conservation work of the Saw Mill River Audubon. Prun Sanctuary, 275 Millwood Rd., Chappaqua. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info (including bird seed descriptions and prices): Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/seedsale.

Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Adult Coloring. If you're an adult looking for a relaxing, fresh and new activity that will help bring stress relief to your busy life, try this new coloring class. Drop in anytime. Materials provided. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the high desert of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as their pups prepare for their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 26 and 30 at 11 a.m., Dec. 26 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 28 at noon. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Adult Salsa Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. \$12. Every Saturday. Also Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit www.addie-tude.com.

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. 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.

"A Christmas Carol." Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk will offer dramatic performances of Dickens' classic. With musical accompaniment, Kruk brings to life the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Recommended for children 10 years old and up. Christ Episcopal Church, 43 S. Broadway (Route 9), Tarrytown. 3:30, 4:45 and 6 p.m. Adults: \$25. Children (under 18): \$20. Historic Hudson Valley members receive a \$5 discount. Also Dec. 20 at 6 and 7:15 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

"Faith, Food and Friends." A weekly gathering that includes prayer, song, discussion and dinner for all. Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 197 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: Visit www.emanuelc.org.

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

Sunday, Dec. 20

Snowshoeing at Cranberry. Bring your snowshoes and explore the trails, weather permitting. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

Let Your Yoga Dance® Classes for Adults. Let Your Yoga Dance combines the traditions of yoga, chakras, breath work and easy dance movements. This class is meditation in motion, sometimes energy filled, sometimes quiet and still. Dance to fun, inspiring music and exercise your body and clear your mind. Each monthly 75-minute class consists of a Let Your Yoga Dance flow followed by a gentle yoga and relaxation sequence. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: E-mail claudia.yogadance@gmail.com.

Monday, Dec. 21

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.

Knitting Circle. This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun

together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except Dec. 24 and 31). Info: 914-273-3887.

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-member: \$12 per child. Every Monday (except Dec. 28). Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Zumba Class. Open to all. Drop-ins welcome; no membership needed. PFX, 101 Castleton St., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$10 a class. Every Monday. Info: Contact Amy Olin at olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 22

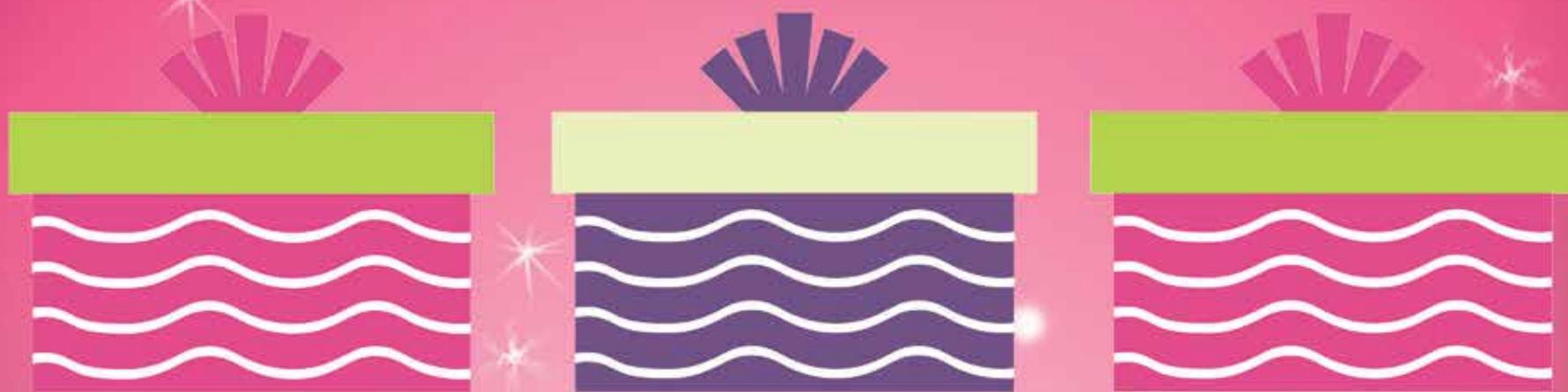
Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

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., Bedford. 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.

Art Series With Professor Valerie Franco: "Italian Creche and Semester Review." A look at the tradition of holiday crèches throughout Italy – from small scale to large, public and private, with a special look at the collection of figures, handmade in Naples, that have been a mainstay of the Christmas tree exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for decades. There will also be a review of the artists from the last

continued on page 30



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The Restaurant Examiner

Your New Year's Eve Dining and Entertainment Guide

By Jerry Eimbinder

This week, we list restaurants in the region that will be open past midnight on New Year's Eve to celebrate the arrival of 2016. If a band or DJ is mentioned, dancing is usually offered. Prices shown do not include tax or gratuity unless otherwise indicated.

Armonk: Moderne Barn. Dinner choices include filet mignon, grilled salmon, seafood risotto, chicken and pork chop – all gluten-free. Midnight champagne toast. \$98 per person. Seating time from 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Beacon: Roundhouse. Four-course dinner. Appetizers: squash soup, lobster salad, duck rilletes. Entrées: Butternut squash gnocchi, salmon a la planchi, balsamic honey glazed chicken confit, prime beef short ribs. Midnight champagne. \$95 per person. Seating at 9 p.m.

Bedford: La Crémaillère. Canapés (potato fritter, sour cream, caviar), egg Concette, foie gras terrine, sautéed Atlantic salmon. Entrée choices include poached Dover sole with artichoke hearts or roasted Scottish pheasant or roasted veal chop. Dessert, café, tea, petit fours. \$135 per person.

Briarcliff Manor: Orfino's. Surf and turf, twin lobster tails, osso bucco, pasta, veal, chicken. Midnight champagne toast, hats, noisemakers. Televised ball drop. A la carte menu with a \$20 to \$45 price range.

Chappaqua: Atrium Room at Kittle House. Venetian carnival masquerade with house supplied masks). Buffet: Northern Italian dishes, chilled seafood bar. Party favors, midnight champagne. Televised ball drop from Times Square. DJ and comedian Goumba Johnny. \$155 per person.

Chappaqua: Kittle House. Chef's tasting menu. Open bar, midnight champagne toast. Party favors. Ball drop at Times Square. Drew Bordeaux and Friends band. \$165 per person.

Cold Spring: Hudson House River Inn. Appetizers: lobster bisque, Maryland crab cakes and more. Entrées: Lump crabmeat crusted salmon, Chateaubriand, bacon wrapped loin of pork, roast duck breast, rack of lamb, surf and turf. Champagne toast, hats, noisemakers. Live jazz. \$75 per person. Seating at 8:30 and 9 p.m.

Cortlandt Manor: Cortlandt Colonial Manor. Hors d'oeuvres. Dinner choices include sliced filet mignon, lobster tail. Viennese table. Open bar, midnight champagne toast. Party favors. Buffet breakfast. DJ: Ricardo Music. \$100 per person (all-inclusive cost). 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Elmsford: Westchester Broadway

Theatre. Hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Chilled lobster, shrimp, clams casino, "pigs in blankets," antipasto, empanadas, fresh fruit. Beef, chicken or fish. Open bar. "Show Boat" on stage. Champagne toast. Tuxedo Parc Orchestra. \$370 per couple (all inclusive). 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Elmsford: Rini's. Dinner choices include roasted duck, lamb shank. Appetizers: stuffed mushrooms, shrimp bisque soup. Coffee, champagne toast. Party favors. Music of the Decades Show at 9 p.m. Singing DJ Bobby James. \$42.95 per person. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Harrison: 273 Kitchen. Shucked oysters, yellowfin tuna, sizzling Spanish octopus. Main courses: sirloin of beef, grilled branzino, organic hen, baby goat and more. Midnight champagne, noisemakers. \$65 per person. Add \$20 for wine pairing. Seating time: 9:30 p.m.

Hastings on Hudson: Chutney Masala at Riverview. Buffet. Open bar. Champagne toast, party favors, DJ, belly dancer, raffle, kid's crafts. \$75 per person, \$140 per couple, \$200 per family of four (includes tax and gratuity). From 8 p.m.

Hastings on Hudson: Riverview's Palisade Room. Adults only. Cocktail hour reception. Open bar, dessert table, ice cream sundae bar. \$100 per person (all inclusive). 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Hastings on Hudson: Harvest-on-Hudson. Cocktail reception from 8:45 to 9:30 p.m. Four-course dinner. Open bar, Champagne toast. Party favors. Televised ball drop from Times Square. The Nines band and 500-balloon drop. Continental breakfast to go. \$195 per person. 8:45 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Irvington: MP Taverna. Regular a la carte dinner menu plus specials. Midnight toast, noisemakers, hats. Televised ball drop. Last seating at 10 p.m.

Jefferson Valley: Sinapi's Ceola Manor. Cocktail hour from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hot and cold stations. Surf and turf dinner. Open bar. Champagne toast, party favors. DJ from Pozzitiv Music Productions. \$120 per person. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Larchmont: Plates. Canapés and dinner. Midnight champagne toast, party favors. Televised ball drop. Dinner at bar at 9:30 p.m. beginning at \$30. New Year's Eve dinner at bar or take-home at half price. Last seating: 9:30 p.m. \$100 per person.

Mahopac: Arturo's Tavern. Chicken a la brie, crabmeat-stuffed salmon, seafood combination with sole, shrimp, scallops, baked clams, surf and turf and filet mignon and lobster tail. Champagne toast, party favors. DJ. No cover charge. Last seating at midnight.

Mahopac: Putnam County Golf Course. Cocktail hour. Lobster tail, filet mignon or rosemary chicken breast.

Viennese hour. Champagne toast. Party favors. Televised ball drop. Sugar Rush band; vocalist Lina Valenti. \$99 per person. 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Mohegan Lake: The Winery at Saint George. Passed hors d'oeuvres and tapas. Open bar, midnight champagne toast. Party favors. Band: Over the Top. Bagel breakfast. \$135 per person (including tax). 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.



Mount Kisco: 251 LEX. Shucked oysters, yellowfin tuna, sizzling Spanish octopus. Main courses: sirloin of beef, grilled branzino, organic hen, baby goat and more. Midnight champagne, noisemakers. \$65 per person. Add \$20 for wine pairing. Seating time: 9:30 p.m.

Mount Kisco: Winston. Oysters, crab cakes, corn and butternut soup. Options: sliced kobe steak and pan-seared halibut with lobster hash; sliced kobe steak with lobster hash; or pan-seared halibut with lobster hash. Alternate: mushroom pasta. Champagne toast. "Dirty Winston" bar, live band, vocalist. \$110 per person. Seating at 9 p.m.

New Rochelle: Alvin & Friends. Southern and Caribbean food. Appetizers, carving station. Open bar. Midnight toast, noisemakers, hats. Live music by Jazmyn. James Farley on keyboard, Inez Wilson, vocalist. \$150 per person. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

New Rochelle: Dubrovnik. Five-course dinner. Appetizers include calamari shrimp and smoked salmon with caviar. Entrées include osso bucco. Party favors, champagne toast, live music. \$200 per person. Starts at 8 p.m.

New Rochelle: NoMa Social. Passed tapas (9 to 11 p.m.), including shrimp and lobster salad. Stations: filet mignon and seafood, including mussels, clams, calamari and shrimp, antipasto. Party favors, open bar. Music. 3 a.m. breakfast. \$95 per person. Begins at 9 p.m.

Ossining: Travelers Rest. Hors d'oeuvres. Cocktail hour. Four-course

dinner. Open bar. Midnight champagne toast, party favors. DJ Wilson. Televised ball drop. \$110 per person. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Peekskill: 12 Grapes. Three-course dinner. R&B band with Julius Dilligard, Jr. lead vocalist. Three hours of live music. Hats, noisemakers, midnight Prosecco toast. \$110 per person. (Music only: \$35) Band plays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Seating at 8:30 p.m.

Port Chester: Appetit Bistro. Dinner choices include lobster ravioli and seared striped bass with lobster emulsion. Champagne toast at beginning of dinner.

Port Chester: Sonora. Champagne toast. DJ. \$78 per person. Seating from 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Pound Ridge: The Inn at Pound Ridge by Jean-Georges. Tuna tartare or foie gras brûlée; black sea bass or Maine lobster; beef tenderloin or prosciutto wrapped pork loin. Champagne toast. \$248 per person.

Rye: La Panetière. Beet/crayfish salad, foie gras, scallops, filet of beef with Perigold black truffles, dessert, petit fours, coffee/tea. Midnight champagne toast. Ezio Pellitteri's band strolls at 9 p.m. Dance music at 11 p.m. \$160 per person (\$195 with wine). Seating at 9 p.m.

Tarrytown: Jazz Forum Arts. Buffet catered by Tarry Tavern. Unlimited beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, tea, no cocktails. Party favors. Music by Jazz Forum All-Stars. Vocalist Kate Baker. Admission by \$150, \$250 or \$500 tax-deductible donation per person. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

White Plains: Coliseum Night Club. Host: Tia Maria Montemurro. Tapas, desserts, cash bar. "Glitter & Gold Extravaganza." Dancin' Machine 11-piece band. DJ David Michael. Noisemakers, midnight champagne toast, showgirl dancers. \$40. 8 p.m.

White Plains: Sofrito. Masquerade ball. Open bar, 9 a.m. to midnight. DJ Ninto and DJ Blay. Live ball drop, fireworks. \$75 per person.

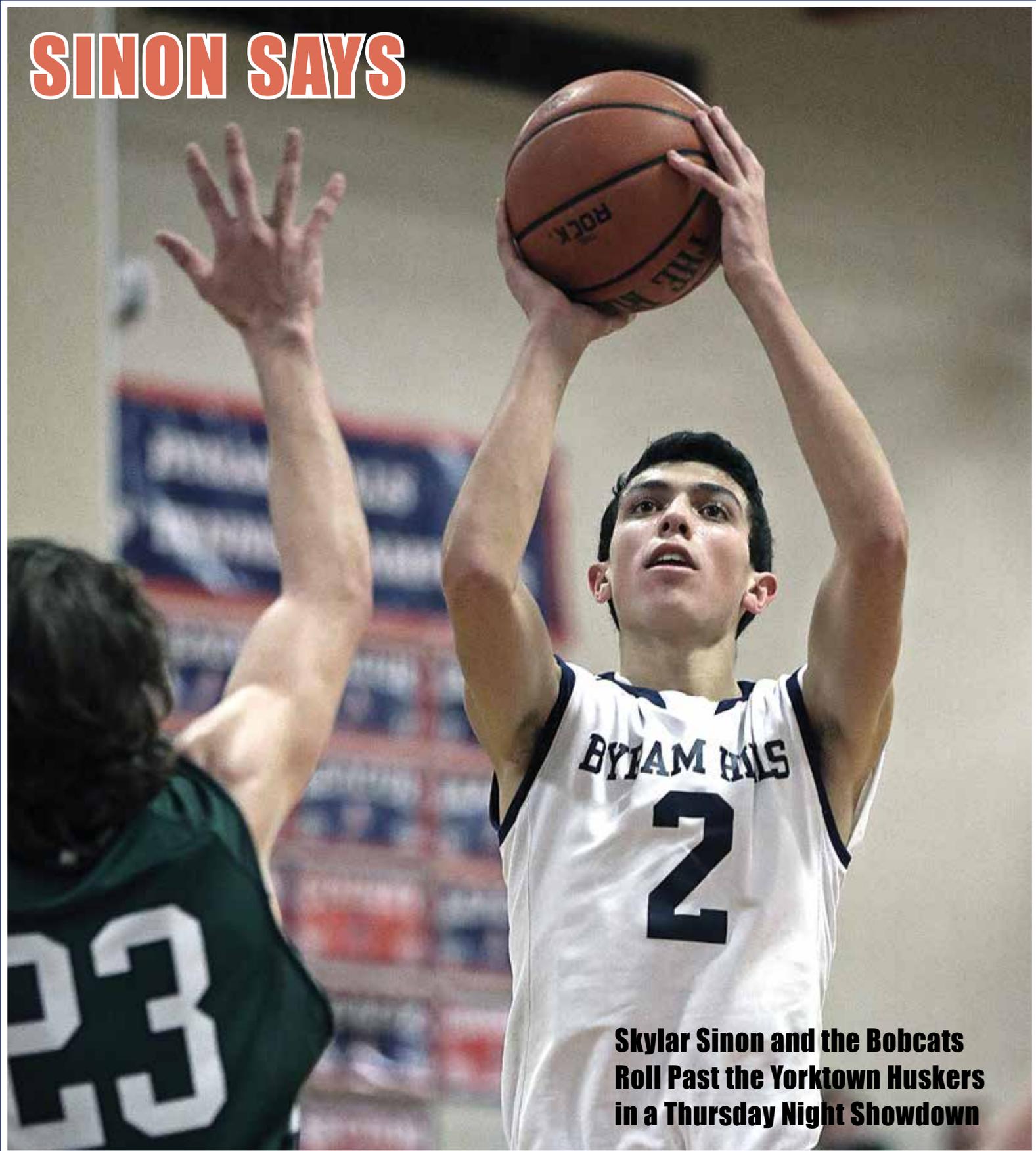
White Plains: The Melting Pot. Sirloin crostini, cheese fondue, lobster, filet mignon, chocolate fondue. Midnight champagne, hats, noisemakers. White Plains ball drop televised. \$89.95 per person. Seating at 8:30 p.m. or later.

Yonkers: Empire Terrace's Good Time Room. Dinner buffet. Music by Bobby Lynch Orchestra. Midnight champagne toast. \$150 per person. Begins at 9 p.m.

Yonkers: Zuppa. Raw bar, passed antipasto. Four-course dinner. Open bar. DJ. \$140 per person. Begins at 8 p.m.

Yorktown Heights: Don Tommaso's Bistro Italiano. Three-course dinner. DJ and dancing to 2 a.m. \$79 per person. Seating begins at 9 p.m.

SINON SAYS



**Skylar Sinon and the Bobcats
Roll Past the Yorktown Huskers
in a Thursday Night Showdown**

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



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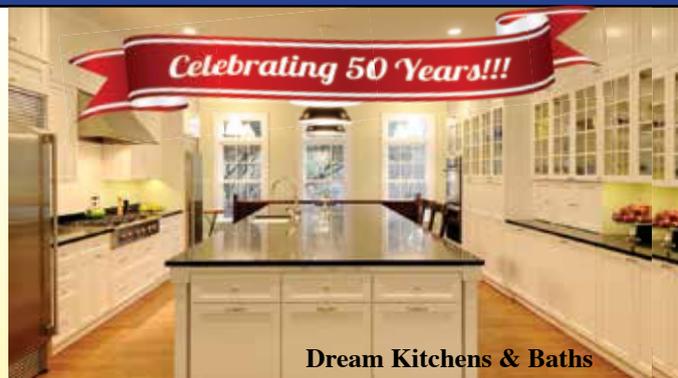
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