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March 31 - April 6, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 395

## Mount Pleasant Voters Reject School Bonds for Second Time

By Neal Rentz

Mount Pleasant School District voters convincingly defeated a major capital projects bond last Tuesday night that would have allowed borrowing for infrastructure projects to upgrade Westlake Middle School and Westlake High School.

Proposition 1, which would have authorized the district to borrow up to \$34.9 million for myriad upgrades, was defeated 1,292-951, the narrowest margin of defeat of the three propositions.

The remaining two propositions were defeated by nearly 2-1 margins. The second proposition, for \$4,996,000 to pay for an addition and renovations to the high school auditorium, lost 1,405-754. The final one asked for the district to build a second access road at the middle school/high school campus for as much as \$2,685,000. It was rejected 1,401-741.

"I'm exceptionally disappointed, but the community spoke and I want to say thank you to all of the residents who came out and voted today," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney at a subdued Westlake High School gymnasium moments after the results were announced.

Despite the second resounding defeat for the district in just over four months, Guiney said much of the infrastructure work would be budgeted through the capital projects portions of annual budgets in upcoming years. The district will also complete a building conditions survey and make a list of infrastructure priorities, she said.

"We will create a master facilities plan and the items that we had proposed will be handled over the next five to 10 years," she said. "There's a lot to get done."

*continued on page 4*

## Consignment Shop Owner Looked to Unload Business Last Year

By Janine Bowen

Prior to abandoning her shop, leaving patrons without their merchandise and owing thousands of dollars, it appears that the owner of Elegance II Consignment Shop was looking to sell her business.

Real estate websites loopnet.com and cityfeet.com last week listed for sale the 75 S. Greeley Ave. space in Chappaqua that formerly housed Elegance II.

Late last year, Elegance II owner Julia Faotto abruptly closed the Chappaqua shop with the intention to move to a new location in Pleasantville. However, the new shop never opened, and many who did business with her are owed money or have been unable to contact Faotto to retrieve their high-end items that they intended to sell.

John Scialdone, a commercial real estate agent who worked for Douglas Elliman when the property was listed, said while Elegance II was originally being sold as a fully operational business, the listing is in the process of being removed.

Faotto was looking for somebody to take over the lease and the consignment shop, with equipment and inventory included, he said.

Scialdone said that Faotto contacted him in early winter--at about the time she moved to Pleasantville--and stated that she had a change of heart and decided against selling. The post remained active on real estate websites because Scialdone was unable to get in contact with Faotto again to confirm her decision.

About two weeks ago, Faotto responded

*continued on page 6*

## 50,000 Reasons to Celebrate



ArtsWestchester and First Niagara Bank last week announced the winners of the arts organization's much anticipated 50 for 50 Awards and a \$50,000 corporate gift from the bank. The 50 selected artists represent an impressive mix of filmmakers, poets, visual artists, choreographers, composers and performing artists, all of whom live and/or work in Westchester. Many are known throughout the world. Locals who are part of the group are visual artists Thomas Doyle and Michael Creighton of Mount Kisco and Antoinette Wysocki of Pleasantville, choreographer David Neumann of Thornwood and Chappaqua Orchestra conductor Michael Shapiro.

## No. Castle Approves Ehrman Pool Agreement, Releases Cost Projections

By Martin Wilbur

Armonk's Anita Louise Ehrman Pool received at least a one-year reprieve when the North Castle Town Board unanimously approved a license agreement last week to operate the facility for this summer.

Key terms of the agreement, which runs from Apr. 1 through Oct. 31, includes the town paying an upfront fee of \$50,000, plus a monthly charge of \$9,525 for the next seven months, to the Anita Louise Ehrman (ALE) Recreation Center, the nonprofit organization which ran the pool through 2011 and holds the mortgage on the debt. Those costs do not include operating expenses, liability insurance and \$30,000 for repairs.

Total costs for the first year are projected to be about \$306,000 while membership

fees are anticipated to generate \$114,000 and other programming about \$43,000, officials said. Now that the town will operate the pool, it can save the \$56,000 it has been paying so children attending the town day camp have a place to swim.

If the projections are accurate, the pool would cost the town about \$93,000 for this summer, according to members of the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee, which helped the town board analyze costs and revenues.

The agreement also allows the town to exercise an option to pick up one-year extensions after each summer for up to four years. As part of the approval, there is also an option for the town to buy the pool during the course of the agreement, although it is under no obligation to do

*continued on page 10*

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Northern Westchester Hospital

[nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrWishner](http://nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrWishner)

#### 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](http://www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrWishner).

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\*Colon Cancer Alliance



# New Castle Approves Lease for Chappaqua Train Station Restaurant

By Martin Wilbur

It looks like there will finally be a new restaurant at the Chappaqua train station by early summer.

The New Castle Town Board last Tuesday approved a 10-year lease for Chappaqua residents Erin and Peter Chase to operate a food establishment at the more than century-old, town-owned train station building.

The Chases, owners of bpc, a hospitality and management company that operates restaurants and hotels in the United States and abroad, are scheduled to transform the building's old ticket booth into a morning concession for commuters by May. The main waiting room where the restaurant will operate should open in early July, Peter Chase said.

The restaurant will feature soups and salads accompanied with chicken, fish and beef for the lunch hour, while small entrees and small plates will be available for the dinner crowd.

Chase said he and his wife were pleased they will be able to open the new establishment in the community where they live.

"We've had restaurants all over the world, and to do something in our hometown is really special," he said.

Terms of the lease released by the town call for the Chases to pay \$3,300 a month in rent for the first year, with 3 percent

annual increases. While the lease begins on July 1, they will receive the first three months rent-free and begin paying Oct. 1.

They will also pay nearly \$1,500 a month to operate the morning concession stand starting May 1.

Last fall when the Chases made their presentation before the town board, they informed officials that the building's electrical capacity was inadequate for a commercial enterprise and needed to be upgraded. As part of the lease agreement, the town agreed to do the work with the Chases paying \$15,000 for materials.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he was enthusiastic about the new restaurant because it would provide commuters and area residents with a new dining option as well as helping to invigorate downtown Chappaqua, a current focus of the town board.

"We actually did it because we wanted to bring a restaurant to the train station so we can add to the vibrancy of downtown," Greenstein said.

The board approved the lease by a 4-1 vote. Councilwoman Lisa Katz, the dissenting vote, said she failed to support the resolution because she had reservations about the process and believed the Request for Proposal (RFP) should have been restarted.

Katz said the form lease issued by the town in the RFP made the conditions



The New Castle Town Board approved a 10-year lease last week for town residents Erin and Peter Chase to operate a restaurant at the Chappaqua train station.

available to all interested parties. It also included asking if there were any significant changes that any hopeful would need to do to the space. The changes were requested and permitted later on, she said.

"I am not satisfied with the process that resulted in the changes and concessions that the town ultimately agreed to make to accommodate the Chases' demands, such as the changes with the electrical improvements and the rent," Katz said.

Greenstein acknowledged that the town did its best to accommodate the restaurateurs, but that it was important for the town and the hamlet to get the restaurant up and running.

The town has struggled to get a food service operator into the space for about three years. Originally, Lesley Sutter, the former head chef of the popular Flying

Pig in Mount Kisco, pitched a proposal in 2012 but decided not to pursue it. Then Carla Gambescia, owner and operator of Mount Kisco's Via Vanti!, thought she had secured the lease with the former town board before those members left office, but the current administration believed that Gambescia balked at letting the general public have access to the bathrooms, a condition of the lease.

Last year, Lesley Lampert, owner of Cafe of Love in Mount Kisco, was granted a 10-year lease, but the Chases challenged that decision because of what they described as a flawed RFP process. They collected enough signatures to force a permissive referendum, but instead of the town incurring that expense officials reopened the RFP.

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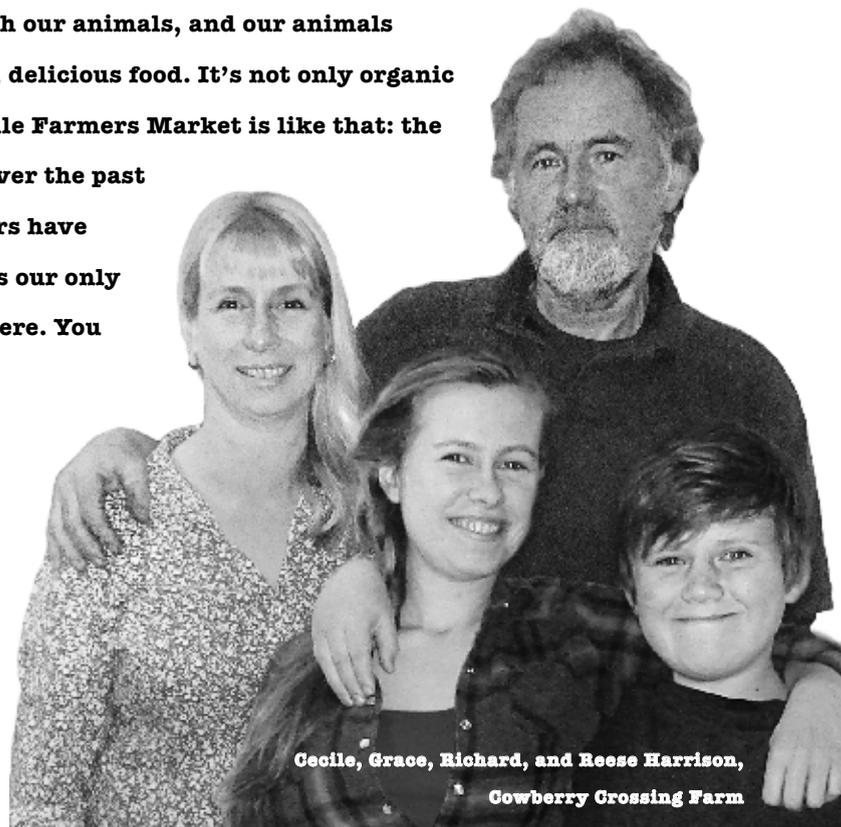
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# Mount Pleasant Voters Reject School Bonds for Second Time

continued from page 1

Guiney added that many of the items included in the first proposition eventually will be addressed.

"It will be incremental," she said. "Because if we do do something that's a very large figure, it'll spike the tax rate, which we don't want to do."

The first proposition would have cost the average homeowner \$320 a year. The second and third propositions would have increased tax bills by \$46.21 and \$23.80 annually.

Guiney said she was confused about the latest bond defeat. Voters also rejected a \$55.8 million single-proposition referendum last November.

"People came to meetings. We did a survey. We did exactly what the community said, and now the community came out and said no again," she said. "So at this point I really don't know. The community just doesn't seem to want anything. They believe it's going to raise their property taxes."

In the days leading up to the vote, signs sprouted throughout the town urging residents to vote against the propositions.

Guiney said that opponents circulated rampant rumors in the waning days before the vote, a pattern that's occurred with other districts.

"They come out with a lot of rumors and falsehoods right before the election," she said. "And I believed that the people must have believed that, because I can't understand why a community, after telling the school board and the school district that these are the things that they would support, did not come and support it."

There was also a blog that heavily criticized the district for the excessive cost of the propositions and previous issues handled by the board. Guiney said that the public is savvy enough to realize that anyone can post information, whether it's factual or not.

Board of Education President James Grieco denied accusations made on the website, mountpleasantexposed.blogspot.com, that officials tried to keep information about the vote quiet to suppress turnout and more easily enable its passage and that they advocated for an artificial turf field at the high school.

Grieco said a mailer describing the bond was sent to all households in the school district. Several meetings were held about the propositions prior to last week's vote, he said, and an artificial turf field proposal was eliminated after the



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Signs placed throughout Mount Pleasant, including this one on Broadway across from the Thornwood Town Center, urged defeat of the three-proposition school bond in the days before the vote.

November proposition.

"I'm a big proponent of getting out the vote," he said.

Grieco also expressed his disappointment but thanked those who participated. About one-quarter of the roughly 8,000 eligible voters in the district showed up.

In an effort to counter future rumors,

the district will be putting more information on its Facebook page and will encourage people to post their questions on the site, Grieco said.

The district will not begin to address how to fund infrastructure projects until after work on next year's district budget is completed.

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# North Castle to Go Out to Bid on Wampus Brook Park Gazebo

By Martin Wilbur

Bid documents for the new gazebo at Wampus Brook Park in Armonk have been prepared and will be available for prospective companies and contractors to compete for the job to help build the structure.

North Castle Town Administrator Joan Goldberg said last week she expects the town board to be able to award the bid at its second April meeting, which is scheduled for Apr. 22. It is anticipated

that the town could begin work on reconstructing the gazebo, which will be nearly identical to the previous structure except for updated code requirements, by May 1, she said.

Goldberg mentioned that the town also hopes to have the construction far enough along to be able to use it for the Small Town Theatre Company's summer concert series starting in July. She said she spoke with Sam Morell, co-founder of the company, and informed him that while

the work won't be completely finished by the time the series gets underway, that shouldn't affect the concerts.

In late January the town board decided on installing a horseshoe-shaped path with a gentle grade for its handicapped access. The path will lead those who use it to the back of the gazebo.

Officials shied away from the more conventional access ramp because they feared it could draw skateboarders to the site. The town board didn't want to install a gate or mechanical lift because that would have largely defeated the purpose of having handicapped access by

potentially restricting the instances when those citizens who need the ramp could utilize the gazebo.

The gazebo, one of the more recognizable symbols in the Town of North Castle, has been a popular location not only for various town functions and concerts but also for residents to sit in good weather.

Last June the gazebo, which was built in 1967, collapsed as crews were attempting to shore up structure. No one was hurt in the incident.

The project's architect, John Sullivan, had estimated in January that construction could last about 10 weeks.

## The Race is On



BEN ASEN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Lustgarten Foundation's "Race 4 A Cure" event, which was recently held at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco, raised more than \$140,000 to benefit the foundation, the nation's largest private funder of pancreatic cancer research. More than 400 people throughout Westchester attended the event. Pictured, left to right, are Hope Wolfe, Chef Eric Gabrynowicz and Stacey Remnitz. For more information about pancreatic cancer and The Lustgarten Foundation, visit <http://www.lustgarten.org/>.

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# Consignment Shop Owner Looked to Unload Business Last Year

*continued from page 1*

to Scialdone's e-mail confirming that the listing should be removed. He speculated that her delayed response may indicate she was not in the United States.

Scialdone explained that Faotto originally decided to sell the business last year with the intention of moving to Costa Rica once the company, which was priced just under \$425,000, sold. However, Faotto changed her mind because the business is a niche market, making it difficult to find a qualified buyer, he said.

In addition, since Faotto was looking for someone to take over the remainder

of her lease, it was difficult to find a buyer because there was no guarantee of renewal after five years.

According to some of those who left items with Faotto before she relocated to the unopened Pleasantville shop at 484 Bedford Rd., her mother, Babette Faotto, suddenly moved to Costa Rica with her boyfriend last year.

However, a woman close to the Faotto family who spoke to The Examiner last week on the condition of anonymity, said Babette Faotto broke up with her boyfriend, left Costa Rica and had been renting a room in Pleasantville since the

fall, but did not know whether she was still living there. Currently, the elder Faotto is in France but is scheduled to return the second week of April.

The woman, who said she is owed \$15,000 by Elegance II, said Faotto and her mother were not together as of last Friday. Meanwhile, she said a family friend claimed that Julia Faotto was still in the country as of this week, although police and victims have been unable to locate or contact her.

Prior to the move to Pleasantville, many victims told The Examiner that the checks they received for their sold merchandise bounced. Scialdone said that prior to listing the business he did an analysis and determined that Elegance II was "very viable" and seemed to be doing well financially. He said he found it odd that Faotto left the Chappaqua location, which is in the heart of downtown.

"She had a fantastic lease there, so the fact that they gave it up and moved is interesting," Scialdone said.

Wells Fargo, which owns the South Greeley Avenue property and rented it to Faotto, declined to confirm whether or not rent was still being paid on the space or if Faotto had been delinquent with her payments.

However, William Barish, an attorney with BGB Realty LLC in White Plains which owns the Pleasantville building

where the unopened shop sits, called Julia Faotto "an irresponsible tenant." She paid the initial month's rent from a Wells Fargo account but has now missed the last two months' payments, Barish said. He would not disclose the rent or how much is owed.

Barish said he hasn't spoken to Faotto in more than three months. The only address he has on file for her is a Stamford, Conn. residence.

While the Bedford Road shop, which is less than 1,000 square feet, was never opened, merchandise can be seen inside. Several victims interviewed by The Examiner said they don't recognize any of the items they were able to see through the storefront's window.

Pleasantville Building Inspector Robert Hughes said Faotto was granted a certificate of occupancy on Jan. 21 and could have moved in and begun operations any time after that.

Hughes said he conducted a walk-through of the space after she had set up the shop's interior. He noted that it took awhile for the move to take place, which he called odd for such a small space that only required cosmetic work. However, the Building Department doesn't get involved when new tenants move in, noting there can be a variety of personal or financial reasons that could lead to a delay or change in plans, Hughes said.

## County Golf Courses Scheduled to Open

The six Westchester County-owned golf courses are scheduled to open for the season on Wednesday, Apr. 1, weather and conditions permitting. The courses are Mohansic in Yorktown Heights; Maple Moor in White Plains; Saxon Woods in Scarsdale; Hudson Hills in Ossining; and Dunwoodie and Sprain Lake, both in Yonkers.

Westchester County Park Pass holders can make reservations seven days in advance starting at 9 a.m. Golfers without a park pass

can make reservations six days in advance prior to play. Golfers are advised to check course status on the day of play.

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# Metro-North Eyes Possible Roaring Brook Road Improvements

By Martin Wilbur

A meeting among a wide variety of agencies and the Town of New Castle to review conditions and possibly improve safety at the Roaring Brook Road railroad crossing in Chappaqua will convene next week.

Anne Kirsch, chief safety officer for Metro-North, said the town, state Department of Transportation (DOT), MTA police and the railroad will look to help alert motorists that they're approaching a grade crossing, whether that is to improve signage, markings or road conditions, assess site distances or trim vegetation.

"We're working together jointly with DOT and especially the police to make sure the advance warnings can be seen," Kirsch said.

The latest effort comes when the intersection has been under increasing scrutiny. On Monday morning, a van exited the Saw Mill River Parkway during rush hour and accelerated through the barrier as it came down, said New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein. The MTA has repaired the barricade but is investigating the incident.

Kirsch's comments at the March 24 New Castle Town Board meeting were preceded by a presentation from Operation Lifesaver New York, the state chapter of the national nonprofit organization that provides education programs to prevent accidents, injuries and deaths at railroad tracks and

grade crossings. It is partnering with Metro-North to improve safety at the commuter railroad's crossings.

Executive Director Evan Eisenhandler said the organization is able to tailor its presentations to schoolchildren, older students, community groups, police and volunteer emergency responders. It was invited by town officials to participate in a local campaign, "See Tracks? Think Train," and left education materials at Town Hall for the public.

"I'm very pleased to see progress, I'm very pleased to see buy-in and I think working together we can get a lot more done," Eisenhandler said.

Since Operation Lifesaver formed in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 1972, there has been an 82 percent reduction in grade crossing fatalities, he said. However, in the past two years, there has been a sudden uptick in crossing deaths in the U.S, a disturbing shift after about 40 years of declines.

"Whatever you attribute it to, whether you feel it's distracted driving or more people or more traffic or more trains or another factor turns out to be the cause, our concern is the trend is going the wrong way," Eisenhandler said.

Kirsch said there have been only two car-train accidents at the Roaring Brook Road intersection, which town officials have pointed to as potentially dangerous, in 1975 and 1978. About a month ago, a motorist was briefly trapped inside the crossing gates,

although she was quickly able to back up.

However, the crossing is near a highly traveled Saw Mill Parkway interchange and is in close proximity to Horace Greeley High School, where scores of students, who are largely inexperienced drivers, commute to and from school.

Greenstein said he believed the downhill curve going from the high school to the Saw Mill is especially problematic.

"It comes down to the fact that when you have this crossing so close to the highway, besides the fact that a backup is possible, which is what happened in Valhalla, we also have this traffic light where people can do silly things sometimes, where they speed up where they shouldn't be speeding up," Greenstein said.

Councilwoman Lisa Katz said she drove through the crossing last week and noticed that the gates came down very quickly after the warning lights came on, nearly trapping another car.

"So I would really recommend that the lights start flashing significantly before," Katz said.



The train crossing at Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua has caught the attention of various agencies since town officials have recently pointed out potential dangers. On Monday, a van crashed into the railroad gate as it came down.

Kirsch said all of Metro-North's grade crossings exceed the federal government's warning standards. It requires a minimum of four seconds from the time the red lights flash to when the crossing gate drops and at least another 20 seconds before the train arrives.

If there is too much time, it would likely cause some impatient drivers to try and go around the gates or to speed up before the gates lower.

Since shortly after the Feb. 3 Valhalla accident, New Castle officials have been pressing the area's state and federal representatives to make funding for a bridge over the Metro-North train tracks at Roaring Brook Road a top priority.

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# Officials Begin P'ville Village Budget Review; 1.4% Tax Hike Projected

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville village officials are projecting a 1.4 percent tax increase for the 2015-16 fiscal year in its \$14.6 million budget.

Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer said the \$14,678,433 in spending would be an increase of \$857,556, or 6.2 percent, over the current year. The largest budget increases are in the general government support (\$334,189) and community services (\$339,775).

Public safety will see a 3 percent increase, a result of new police hires and promotions. The village was scheduled to

begin contract negotiations with the Police Benevolent Association this week.

On the revenue side, Dwyer said parking fees will likely be raised by 25 cents per hour. She suggested that commercial building permit fees may also need to be hiked to generate additional revenue. Dwyer anticipates that growth in the village will generate more fees.

Outgoing Trustee Jonathan Cunningham said that supporting new development, despite some opposition, is crucial in keeping the village in strong financial shape.

"Growth is absolutely crucial now to

keeping you guys out of the frying pan," he said. "Do not play games with it. Embrace the growth and go with it. I think that's the only way to get out of this."

Cunningham, who will be leaving the board next week, voiced concern about Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposed property tax circuit breaker, which would provide a rebate to residents whose taxes exceed 6 percent of their income. He feared that local governments will struggle under its restrictions or residents will be upset should municipalities be forced to exceed the cap to make necessary improvements.

The village has already received payments in lieu of recreation in connection with several projects, including Toll Brothers' condominiums and development of the former Maher Funeral Home site, both on Washington Avenue.

Currently, developers proposing the addition of apartments to a formerly abandoned building at 98 Washington Ave. are before the planning board. If that project gains approval, the village would receive another \$17,500 in recreation fees.

During the village board's Monday night work session, Recreation Department Superintendent Linda Bellofatto discussed several improvements, including a permanent bathroom at Parkway Field for about \$30,000. An additional \$29,000 is needed for work on the recreation center on Marble Avenue.

Bellofatto said new lights may be installed at the municipal fields, which could be controlled remotely through a computer program. The new fixtures, which would be part of a 10-year agreement, would cost \$9,300.

Clinton Street Senior Center Director Joni Ehrlich said several improvements are needed during the upcoming year. An additional part-time position should be added to meet the increasing demand for new art and cultural programs, Ehrlich said.

Ehrlich said she is exploring the purchase of a seven-seat van for about \$30,000. Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner suggested that the senior center could partner with the Pleasantville School District, which is considering a vehicle to transport special education students. That would reduce costs and count toward the shared services requirement in Cuomo's tax freeze proposal. However, Trustee Steve Lord was concerned about scheduling conflicts.

"It always looks good on paper until the two people sharing [the vehicle] need it at the same time," he said.

Village trustees will continue to meet with various department heads to discuss departmental budgets. A public hearing on the proposed 2015-16 budget will take place Apr. 13 at 8 p.m. The new fiscal year begins June 1.

## Twigs Thrift Shop to Hold Spring Garage Sale Apr. 11

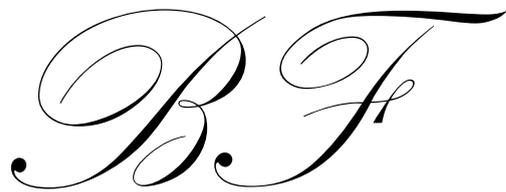
The Twigs Thrift Shop is holding its semiannual garage sale on Saturday, Apr. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its location at 449 Lexington Ave. in Mount Kisco. Featured items will include small furniture, household bric-a-brac, tools and more. The shop will also be open, featuring clothing and accessories, jewelry, books and seasonal items. Offerings are always changing, so take advantage of this sale to check out what is new and different.

In the event of rain, the sale will be

held on Saturday, Apr. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To donate items for the sale, call 914-666-6557 for an appointment. Donations of small furniture items are appreciated.

Twigs is a volunteer group dedicated to raising funds for Northern Westchester Hospital through Thrift Shop (Twigs Thriftree) sales, as well as making comfort items for patients. It has raised more than \$3 million dollars and is in its 51st year of continuous operation in Mount Kisco.



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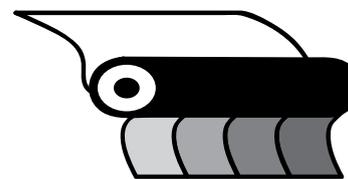
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# P'ville's Cunningham Looks Back at 12 Years on Village Board

By Janine Bowen

Jonathan Cunningham never considered himself to be a politician, despite spending the last 12 years on the Pleasantville Village Board.

Instead, he looked at himself as a resident first and used that perspective to help guide him in his decision-making to do what he felt was best for the community.

"I think it's important that people know what the basis for that judgment was," said Cunningham, who leaves the board this week. "I don't have anything to run from, I don't have anything to fear ... and I'm not afraid of criticism and I'm not afraid to throw an idea out there and ... tell it the way it is."

Cunningham, who is passing the torch to Joseph Stargiotti, said in actuality the trustees don't run the village; rather, the board guides staff and supervisors, who do most of the work required to put plans into place.

During his tenure, he said the village board did an excellent job in hiring good people and phasing in management transitions, having replaced nearly every senior management position, mainly due to retirements. He always tried to find people who are smarter and better than himself.

A former investment banker, Cunningham, 52, is proud of the financial expertise he brought to the board. He worked diligently on village finances, exploring the best investments while searching for ways to be effective while operating in a fiscally conservative manner.

"That's a 12-year legacy, that's not just a two- or three-year legacy, and that I worked really hard at," he said.

Cunningham said he always tried to make sure information was communicated openly and honestly, which likely comes as no surprise to anyone who has attended a village board meeting. While many people become frustrated with government's slow pace, Cunningham never was afraid to be blunt and to share his opinions and ideas if he felt it might help the process. It has been his style to break the ice and get the conversation going.

For example, Cunningham, during his



Jonathan Cunningham, who served four three-year terms on the Pleasantville Village Board, completes his time in office this week.

last board meeting on March 23, took the time to advocate for greater benefits for those who serve the village. Although the board meets once a week, Cunningham said trustees devote much of their free time in the preparation and review of documents, which diminishes time spent with family. He said the Pleasantville Village Board has been just as effective as other municipal governments, where board members make more than the \$3,200 stipend received by village trustees.

Noting that the past two village elections have been uncontested, Cunningham suggested trustees be given additional perks, such as parking passes or pool passes, to make the sacrifice more appealing to a new generation of residents.

"I don't see anything wrong with recognizing the fact that they perform a valuable role for the community as stewards and they sacrifice time to do that," he said.

Now an empty nester, Cunningham said that he is looking forward to having a little more free time. An avid photographer, he hopes to continue pursuing that hobby as well as traveling and spending time at his vacation home in Vermont. He also

joked that for the first time in more than a decade he will be able to find out what is on television on Monday nights.

Cunningham said he will miss his colleagues and the ability to be a part of solutions in Pleasantville.

However, Cunningham is certain his board colleagues likely won't miss his longtime practice of having his food delivered to village work sessions. When

he initially joined the board, pizza would be delivered to trustees during meetings, a practice that was eventually discontinued for budgetary reasons, he said.

Cunningham explained that he continued the tradition of eating dinner at Village Hall because he typically came to the meetings immediately after work and often hadn't eaten since breakfast.

Although fellow trustees have often poked fun at him about his food, Cunningham jokingly suggested that the village revive the practice of pizza delivery in his honor.

The community will have the opportunity to acknowledge Cunningham for his service on the village board on May 2, when he will be the guest of honor at the second annual Pleasantville Community Television (PCTV) Gala.

Cunningham, the board's liaison to PCTV who had also served on its board, said he suspects the event will more closely resemble a roast, but he's looking forward to that. He said it feels strange to be chosen for the honor because he always viewed his service on the board as a job that needed to be done.

"I'm a resident of Pleasantville. I was helping myself by helping other people, too," Cunningham said. "I never really saw it as anything other than a job that needed to be done and one that, done correctly, helps everyone."

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# Police Blotter

## Mount Kisco Police Department

**March 21:** Report of a domestic harassment incident on Amuso Drive at 8:14 p.m. The matter was a boyfriend-girlfriend dispute. No further action was necessary.

**March 23:** Report of a disruption at 9:03 a.m. at the Karafin School on Radio Circle. School personnel stated that staff was unable to control an 18-year-old male student. The matter was handled internally; no further police action was needed.

**March 24:** An employee at Starbucks on South Moger Avenue reported at

6:30 p.m. that a customer got into a dispute with a staff member. After the responding officer arrived, the customer settled down and left the premises.

**March 25:** A violation of an order of protection was reported at the village justice court at 4:35 p.m. A male subject was in court to answer a violation when another male subject, who had an order of protection against the first individual, was also in court on another matter. The district attorney's office filed the charge.

**March 27:** A 56-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 1:30 a.m. for urinating in public, a local law violation, on South Moger Avenue.

**March 27:** Report of fraud at the Trustco Bank branch on Main Street at 1:02 p.m. A customer deposited a \$400 check but the check bounced. Bank personnel reported it to police but will handle the matter internally.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**March 23:** Report of a disturbance in a parking lot on Marble Avenue at 3:09 p.m. There was a fight in the lot outside Sal's Pizza & Pasta involving two 55-year-old men, one from Thornwood and the other from Valhalla, over a past conflict. The responding officer separated the two

combatants and sent them on their way.

**March 24:** An incident of fraud was reported by an Orbaek Lane resident at 9:21 a.m. The woman stated that an unknown person filed an income tax return using her personal information.

**March 26:** A 59-year-old Pleasantville man reported at headquarters at 9:53 a.m. stating that the federal income tax refund check sent to him and his wife was cashed by an unknown party.

**March 27:** A 22-year-old Pleasantville woman was arrested at 2:12 a.m. and charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation, following a traffic stop on Cooley Street.

## North Castle Police Department

**March 20:** Report of an incident of aggravated harassment at 11:57 a.m. A High Street resident reported receiving harassing phone calls at home. A report was filed.

**March 20:** A complainant reported at 5:26 p.m. that her son was discharged from the hospital earlier in the day and his concerned for his well-being. He had a number of medications prescribed to him and is drinking alcoholic beverages at her Washington Avenue home. While no dispute is currently occurring, he is also being obnoxious and verbally acting out.

**March 21:** A complainant called to report at 5:13 p.m. that two purses were stolen from her car while it was parked on Business Park Drive. The responding officer secured depositions.

**March 23:** Report of a suspicious male hitchhiking on Main Street at 11:18 a.m. The responding officer arrived at the location and reported that the male subject is waiting for a taxi to take him home.

## No. Castle Approves Ehrman Pool Agreement, Releases Cost Projections

*continued from page 1*  
so.

Board members said they struggled with the issue for several months.

"I don't think I can just close the door on this pool without at least trying," said Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto. "It may go down...as an expensive failure. I would rather not sit back and wonder what we could have done but didn't."

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the agreement with ALE enables the town to keep the Greenway Road pool open for now but limits its financial exposure by allowing it to opt out after the summer. Officials must inform ALE of the town's intentions for 2016 at least two weeks before Oct. 31.

Schiliro stressed that the membership and revenue projections were budgeted conservatively by design because the town hasn't operated the facility before.

"The one piece that you never know when you enter into something like this is what will the reception be by the community, what will be the revenue generated by the community," he said. "You don't know it until you do it, but in my opinion, I think the approach here, which is a short-term approach versus committing to a long-term approach, if it doesn't work the way you want it, you're (not) tied to it. This way it affords us the

opportunity to evaluate it once the season is over."

While membership fees had not been finalized as of last week, Recreation Superintendent Matt Trainor said he's estimating that for a resident family, an early bird rate would be \$450 to \$500 and \$550 to \$600 for later registration. For individuals, he's exploring a \$200 fee for early birds and \$300 for late registrants.

While supporters urged the board to save the pool at previous public meetings, the reaction at last Wednesday night's was mixed. Armonk resident Ann Dantzig quizzed the board on estimated expenses and revenues, then asked what each council member would consider an acceptable cost for the summer. Schiliro said that he was looking for an expense between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to operate the pool.

"So if you are willing to lose 50 or \$100,000 on this, I wish you would have thought about putting that money towards the roads," Dantzig said. "Because I'm living on a road that's falling apart and it's been falling apart for four or five years now."

Another resident, Neal Baumann, countered that not every resident uses every town service. He also wondered how much the town would lose in camp revenue if there was no pool for campers

to swim.

"Not everyone uses the library, but we're willing to fund the library because we think it's important, we think it's an important service," Baumann said. "Not everybody's going to use the pool but we think maybe it's an important thing as part of our community."

The last time the town camp operated without a pool it was in the red for \$102,000, a negative swing of more than \$120,000 compared to the previous year, Trainor said.

"The biggest flood of phone calls that I've been getting (from parents), and I think the board is well aware of this, is essentially no pool, no camp," he said.

North White Plains residents Ed Lobermann and Anthony Futia both criticized the board's support as unnecessarily risky. Lobermann said his property values won't rise "one iota" while Futia said there were too many unknown factors.

Councilman Stephen D'Angelo said that if it doesn't work out, the board will not expose the taxpayers to further fiscal liability.

"We're going to know that if (the public) is not coming out to this pool, it's not going to happen in the future," D'Angelo said.

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# No. Castle to Keep Town Clerk, Tax Receiver Posts as Elected

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board last week decided against considering a referendum this year asking residents whether they want to change the town clerk and tax receiver positions from elected to hired or appointed posts.

Although the board was more adamant about keeping the town's clerk's position as elected, members were receptive to the potential of one day converting the tax receiver job to an appointed position.

For this year, with the town clerk's post up for election and current officeholder Anne Curran having already announced her retirement at the end of 2015, the board wanted to make a decision early enough so interested candidates could step forward.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said while a case can be made for either position being an appointed position, he believed that the public should make the decision, particularly with clerk.

"I do put a lot of trust in our electorate in our town because I think they're well-thought out and they make well-thought out decisions, whether you agree with them or not," Schiliro said.

At a March 25 work session where the issue was discussed, former town councilman Gerald Geist, now the executive director for the state's Association of Towns, said he's a strong



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The North Castle Town Board last week bypassed a chance to offer voters the opportunity to consider whether they want the town clerk and receiver of taxes switched from elected to appointed positions.

advocate for having the town clerk elected by voters.

He said the nature of the position, which has some of the most direct contact with residents, requires an independent official not subject to the whims of changing administrations. Therefore, residents should have "a direct say in who their town clerk is, and like any other elected official, if the people feel the town clerk is not doing their job, they can vote to turn them out at this next election," said Geist, who noted that there would be no cost savings if it became an appointed job.

"If you had an appointed town clerk and the public gets dissatisfied, there's nothing that can be done except by changing the town board, which may not occur for four

years, or more, down the road," he added.

Currently, only about 5 percent of the state's 932 towns have a hired or appointed town clerk, Geist said. The only town in Westchester that does not elect its town clerk is New Castle, which combines that position with the receiver of taxes. However, several villages in the area do not have elected clerks. For example, the position no longer exists in Mount Kisco while it is an appointed post in Pleasantville.

Geist said the board could consider the receiver of taxes, which is a much more administrative post, be converted to an appointed position.

Board members did not see a pressing

need for changes this year. Councilman Guy Mezzancello said the current system has worked well for decades and saw no reason to switch.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said in the future she would like to explore whether New Castle's model of a combined clerk and tax receiver is something that could be beneficial or feasible for North Castle.

Armonk resident John Diaconis urged the board to be open to change, saying that the receiver of taxes position "clearly and unequivocally should be hired."

"It's a purely administrative position," he said. "They collect the taxes seasonally four times a year."

## Mt. Kisco Youth Baseball Registration Open

Registration for the Mount Kisco Recreation Department's Minor League Baseball program is currently being accepted. This is a coed instructional baseball program that emphasizes skill development, teamwork and knowledge of the game. The program is developmental and non-competitive to allow the players to learn and enhance their skills.

The league is open to children who will turn five to nine years old by Nov. 30, 2015. Games are played on Saturday

mornings starting Apr. 18 at Leonard Park or Fox Memorial Park, but practices may begin earlier.

The fee per child is \$70 if registered before Apr. 6 or \$85 afterward. Players must provide their own mitt. Each participant will receive a team shirt and cap.

For more information, contact Allison Eckhart at 914-666-4577 or visit the Recreation Department page at [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

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## Editorial

### Time to Recognize Roaring Brook Road a Tragedy Waiting to Happen

The elected officials who represent New Castle understand the situation. The Roaring Brook Road grade crossing over the Metro-North tracks is an immense public safety problem and requires swift changes to prevent the next major car-train tragedy.

The challenge facing the town's local, state and federal representatives is determining the realistic short- and long-term solutions that would be effective but affordable, and perhaps most important, achievable.

Since shortly after the Feb. 3 accident at the Commerce Street crossing in Valhalla that killed five Metro-North passengers and an SUV driver, New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein has been banging the drum loudly for a bridge from the Saw Mill Parkway over the railroad tracks at Roaring Brook Road. He has caught the attention of state Sen. Terrence Murphy and Rep. Nita Lowey in what is amounting to a full-court press.

Local officials have stressed the urgency because of the highly travelled intersection and its close proximity to Horace Greeley High School, with many teen-age drivers navigating the intersection daily. Should Chappaqua Crossing at the former Reader's Digest property ever receive final approval and get built, the potential for disaster would multiply.

Meanwhile, on March 7, a motorist was momentarily trapped at Roaring Brook Road when the crossing gate came down on her car. On Monday morning, a van smashed through the barrier as it was descending while the driver entered the intersection.

The town and area motorists who use Exit 33 off the Saw Mill need more than typical bureaucratic lip service from Metro-North.

At last week's New Castle Town Board meeting, Councilwoman Lisa Katz said she recently saw a driver in front of her slam on the brakes because the gates were coming

down as that car reached the intersection. It is very similar to what happened to another motorist in 2005 who used the Commerce Street crossing regularly for 20 years.

Something's badly amiss. A Metro-North representative at last week's town board meeting said with a straight face that the railroad's warnings exceed federal standards. If that's to be believed maybe the federal standards need to be changed.

It would be great if some short-term improvements could make Roaring Brook Road safer while New Castle waits for the bridge that may never be built. But there are hundreds, if not thousands, of communities across the state and the U.S. who are likely looking for the same dollars.

While most drivers likely are more vigilant now at grade crossings, others may be jittery, but the responsibility falls on Metro-North to devise short-term solutions to make Roaring Brook Road safer.

## Guest Column

### Why Emotional Literacy is So Important for Children

Social and emotional literacy develop over time and need to be nurtured just like any other skill such as math or learning how to ride a bike. Unlike math or bike riding, however, the teaching of emotional literacy is often overlooked. It has been referred to as the "missing piece" of education despite its profound impact on children's well-being.

Emotionally competent individuals are able to communicate effectively, empathize, problem solve and resolve conflict. Studies have shown that kids who develop these skills are more likely to do well at work as adults, have longer-lasting marriages and have lower rates of anxiety and depression. Studies also suggest that emotionally literate characteristics like self-restraint, persistence and self-awareness are better predictors of life outcomes than common academic measures. In addition, these children tend to do better in school due to their ability to work well with others, control impulses and appropriately channel emotions.

Many schools are embracing the research and implementing social-emotional learning (S.E.L.) programs. Mark Brackett, senior research scientist at Yale University and former bullying victim, developed one such program called Ruler. Ruler's goal is to develop children's capacity for self-

reflection and critical thinking.

Brackett recognizes that emotional skills require practice and persistence. Students and teachers use concepts such as "mood meters" to help gauge personal and classmates' emotions. Teachers encourage children to develop coping mechanisms, such as using self-talk or taking a walk when upset. S.E.L. has received more attention in the past few years due to concerns about bullying, violence and suicide, but these programs are certainly not the norm at this time.

Certain children, particularly those with autism, Aspergers and social phobia require more guidance and support in developing social and emotional competencies. Social skills deficits are a hallmark of these conditions and they tend to persist into adulthood due to a dearth of interpersonal experiences.

How can a child learn conversation skills, conflict negotiation, and perspective taking, for example, if she has no one to practice with? The right kind of social skills group could help a child develop these kinds of skills, but not all social skills groups are created equally. Effective groups promote skill generalization to the outside world and often take place on the playground or in other locations where real-life problems unfold. Good programs stimulate social motivation, reinforce appropriate social responding, and increase the understanding of nonverbal communication.

Programs that seem to teach manners,



By Dr. Jaime  
Fleckner Black

not emotional understanding, just don't work. They are ineffective because only basic instrumental skills, such as making eye contact and saying please and thank you, are taught. These tend to make children seem robotic and awkward, and other children notice. The best programs help children become better observers of themselves and others. They guide them in appropriate ways of expressing

themselves. Parents of children in school groups should request specific plans and ask about generalization strategies. Parents can reinforce practiced skills at home and with play-dates.

There are also groups available for adults who struggle socially and emotionally. The goal is to increase social awareness and for members to develop a better understanding of the world around them. As they age and the social world becomes even more nuanced, they struggle. Social skills groups can help adults navigate the interpersonal complexities of the workplace, establish romantic relationships and understand social norms in different situations.

*Dr. Jaime Fleckner-Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. In addition to providing general mental health services, she works with individuals of all ages on the autism spectrum, doing psychotherapy, conducting evaluations and facilitating social skills groups. Visit www.spectrumservicesnyc.com, email JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com or call 914-712-8208.*



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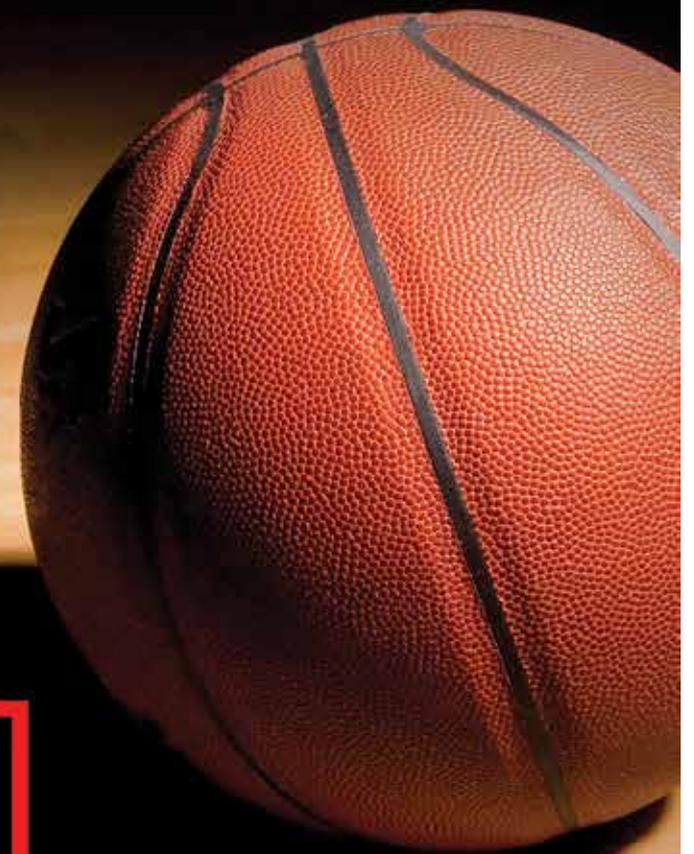
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# New Castle Coyote Discussion to Continue Next Week

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Police Chief Charles Ferry is scheduled to return before the town board next Tuesday, Apr. 7 to continue discussion with officials regarding a potential coyote policy.

Next week's item, which will take place at the board's work session, will also include members of the Coyote Awareness and Safety Advisory Committee. Supervisor Robert Greenstein mentioned at last week's board meeting that the issue will be on the next work session agenda during another verbal bout between himself and the committee's chairwoman Victoria Alzapiedi.

During the public comments portion of the March 24 meeting, Alzapiedi asked that the committee be notified in advance of any public discussions that are planned on the issue so representatives from the group can attend. She said Town Administrator Jill Simon Shapiro notified her the Friday afternoon before the March 17 work session when the Coyote Management Task Force appeared with Ferry.

"We want to be there but we need more than a couple of days notice because we do have other commitments and we'd really like to be there," Alzapiedi said.

Greenstein retorted that in all likelihood the Apr. 7 work session will be

the last public discussion on the matter before the board deliberates on the issue and makes a decision.

"I don't think you'll have to worry because probably Apr. 7 is the last meeting and then I think it'll be in our court to act on the recommendations so you won't have to worry about any other meetings," Greenstein said.

The two groups have held sharply divergent views on whether trapping and removal, and even in extreme cases a humanely destroying a menacing coyote, is warranted. Tensions reached a boiling point on Feb. 10, when each group was supposed to make a half-hour presentation containing their recommendations but the task force refused to appear after incendiary comments against them appeared on social media sites.

Greenstein said that it shouldn't have been a big deal that committee representatives couldn't attend March

17 because the meeting was taped and is available for viewing.

However, Alzapiedi stated that given the controversial nature of the task force's recommendations, including trapping and removal, it was critical for her committee to attend.

"I do think, objectively speaking, there are people who do consider that a little bit more extreme in terms of what they're recommending," Alzapiedi said.

Councilman Jason Chapin said the town ought to make sure that if representatives from either group wants to attend a work session the board shouldn't stand in their

way.

"We're one community with two coyote groups and we should do everything we can to treat them equally, and I think it's better for us to meet with them together so that nobody feels excluded" from the discussions, Chapin said.

He also asked for the board to soon have a discussion on when to disband the two groups.

An impatient Greenstein suggested that it will soon be time.

"It's past the point of ridiculousness already," the supervisor said.



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### Brian Kelly, High School Student Mount Kisco

By Martin Wilbur

Fox Lane High School junior Brian Kelly arrived home one day earlier this school year to find a letter he first thought was more junk mail for him. After he took the time to open the envelope, it was anything but junk.

Kelly learned that he had been nominated by his teachers to represent Fox Lane at the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. in July, an honor extended to high-achieving engineering students at high schools throughout the United States.

"I couldn't believe it at first," Kelly said. "At first I thought it was spam mail and then (I realized) it actually mattered."

While being selected is certainly a high honor, it's consistent with Kelly's performance in school, particularly when it comes to his engineering classes where he said he's been averaging about a 97.

For the conference, students with

at least a 3.5 Grade Point Average and a high aptitude in their engineering courses are eligible for consideration.

During the two weeks he will be away in the first half of July, Kelly will be with other similarly gifted students participating in engineering competitions and listening to and speaking with professional engineers and college students who are pursuing that career. It's an experience he's certain will be exciting.

"Later in the week we'll go to conferences and we'll talk to individuals who have majors in the field and they'll talk about what we need to do, what we need to strive for and don't be afraid to fail," said Kelly, the oldest of four children, although he's only one minute older than his twin sister.

As a further testament to his strength as a math and science student, Kelly has also been selected to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston in late



June. He was nominated by astronaut Buzz Aldrin, to represent New York based on his academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology.

Kelly said at this point in his education--and it's still early since he's barely begun the college search process and has just one SAT exam under his belt--he is leaning toward becoming an aerospace major. Someone who earns that degree would have all types of job opportunities from parts manufacturing companies, to airlines to government work.

Of course, the good part of being

only 17 years old is that there is plenty of time to change course if something unexpected arises. Since aerospace majors take many of the same courses as those studying to become mechanical engineers, Kelly said if he finds aerospace too difficult, he figures he would have something to fall back on.

But when you're as successful in school as Kelly is, at least in science, engineering and math, that backup plan may not be necessary.

Of course, there are also the classes that Kelly tolerates so he can look forward to the subjects that interest him.

"The highlight of my day is really my engineering course and my business class," said Kelly, who also takes physics and trigonometry while enjoying movies, television and reading when he has some free time. "They're my favorites. I find it a relief because it comes after my English and my Social Studies back to back, two hours of that."

While Kelly is bit anxious at taking part in the college search process because of the uncertainty, he's looking forward to the summer. After all it's just won't be two weeks of work, but he is also anticipating the trips to the Smithsonian, the Washington Monument and Capitol Hill.

"It will be the highlight of my summer," he said.



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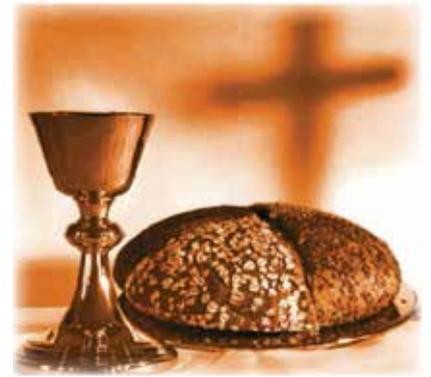
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**Good Friday, 3 April**  
10am, Children's Stations of the Cross  
12pm to 3pm, Ecumenical Service at  
Emanuel Lutheran, Manville Rd  
7pm, Prayer Service

**The Great Vigil of Easter, 4 April**  
7pm, Saturday

**Easter Sunday, 5 April**  
8am, Holy Eucharist;  
9:15am, Children's Service, Eucharist  
10:15am, Coffee, Easter egg Hunt  
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10:45am, Choral Eucharist

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**Good Friday, April 3**

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7 pm Stations of the Cross with Anthems & Hymns

Communion from the Reserve Sacrament

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

8 and 10 am Easter Mass of the Resurrection

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**Good Friday, 3 April**  
7:30pm Service & Stations of the Cross  
**Easter Sunday, 5 April**  
10am, Resurrection Celebration with Communion

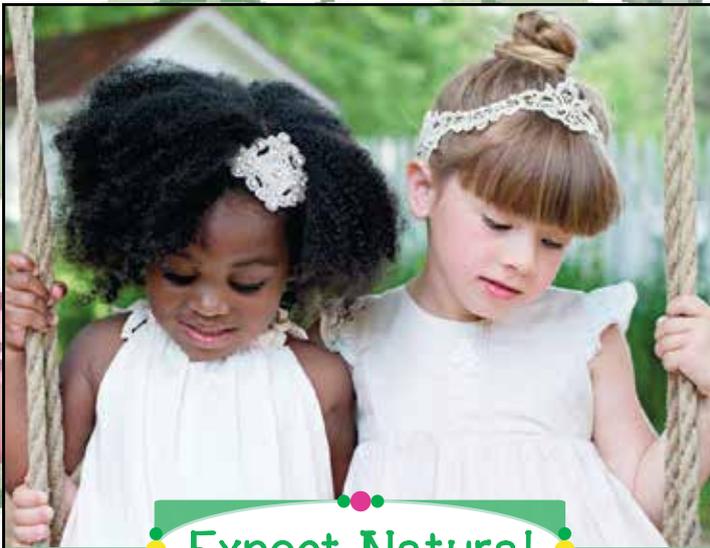
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**Maundy Thursday, 2 April**  
6:15 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. service  
**Good Friday, 3 April**  
12 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
4:30 p.m. Family Service  
7:30 Service of the Day  
**Easter Sunday, 5 April**  
8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.  
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**Good Friday, 3 April**  
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**The Great Vigil of Easter, 4 April**  
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**Easter Sunday, 5 April**  
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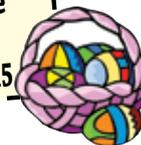
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## When Man Made Rules Over Mother Nature Underfoot

When it was time to replace the surface of our kitchen floor and we had to decide which material to choose, we found that it was as though there had been an explosion of options since the last time we had visited a flooring store more than 15 years ago.

The new varieties of materials, both natural and especially man made, were dizzying.

But from the outset we knew that we wouldn't be able to use a hard material like stone or ceramic because our kitchen was in an historic home and, with too much "give," needed the forgiveness of a soft man-made material. The floor had been further challenged twice from leaks, one from the refrigerator and the other from a burst pipe that had somehow frozen under the sink because some animal--of what species I'm not sure--had eaten away the insulation from the pipes in the crawl space.

We visited Absolute Flooring in Yorktown Heights where store manager Diane Darby helped us narrow our choices over a period of some weeks, showing infinite patience as we veered wildly from one possibility to another among the endless choices in its expansive showroom.

"Yes, you'd be looking at either a vinyl or a linoleum," she told us.



By Bill Primavera

"Linoleum?" I asked naively and in surprise, as though I had heard a naughty word from the past. "Isn't that the stuff that has all the asbestos that we always have to worry about when we see old flooring tiles that have to be removed from homes?"

"Asbestos was removed from linoleum a long time ago," Darby assured us. "Now it's a 100 percent natural product, totally green, made of flax and linseed oil, so there's no off-gassing. All the colors are plant pigments and go all the way through the product."

So, what's the difference between linoleum and vinyl, I inquired, knowing that I was totally uninformed.

"While linoleum is all natural and what you see is the product itself, vinyl is a plastic that utilizes a photo process to achieve the look of the material you want," Darby said. "There's a base layer, and above that, an image layer or what we call a 'view,' and above that is the 'wear' layer or clear plastic that covers and protects the image. It's amazing how realistic the photo images can be of either wood, stone or marble. The difference, however, is that with vinyl or linoleum, the material is softer and warmer than the natural material.

"Also, there is a far greater variety in

terms of quality and price," Darby continued. "The more 'wear' layers you have, the more longevity and the better quality you'll have and, along with that, the higher the price."

After much consideration, my wife and I had decided we wanted a white and black checkerboard effect and that dictated that we go with vinyl rather than linoleum because we could get a whiter white in that product.

There are other reasons and situations for choosing "fake" over "real" in flooring. For instance, if you want the look of wood flooring in your kitchen or bath, Darby told us that "water and wood don't mix, and a 'view' vinyl is definitely more durable for such locations."

And here's something that was a revelation to me: there are now ceramics in both wood and stone patterns that can be used for flooring in wet areas as well as for porches and decks.

Another instance where vinyl flooring is more durable is in high traffic areas such as entranceways.

Price is another factor where man-



BILL PRIMAVERA PHOTO  
Diane Darby of Absolute Flooring in Yorktown Heights.

made product is more favorable. Oak flooring would cost about \$6 to \$7 per square foot while a vinyl product would cost between \$4 and \$5 per square foot and about the same price to install.

Personally, I find myself walking around more in my bare feet inside the house, much like I did as a child, simply because I find the flooring so comfortable, so warm and soft.

If it's time to replace flooring in your home and you're looking for expert advice, you can't go wrong by talking to Diane Darby at Absolute Flooring, located at 1735 Front St. in Yorktown Heights. Call 914-245-0225 or visit [www.absoluteflooring.com](http://www.absoluteflooring.com).

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

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Business of the Week

# Bedford Lighting & Home Bedford Hills

By Colette Connolly

There's a dizzying array of choices available at Bedford Lighting & Home, but don't let that put you off if you're searching for anything that is lighting related.

The store, owned by Chris and Drew Nichols, carries an array of elegant options that are primarily made in the U.S. and are superior to the imported lighting products that many other stores may sell, according to the couple.

Before opening in 1992, Drew Nichols had already worked in the lighting business for many years. Chris Nichols, a former IBM employee, dived into their enterprise alongside her husband, but not before taking an interior design course at Parsons The New School for Design.

The knowledge she gained has made her an invaluable asset to the business, which is more boutique designer showroom than lighting store.

Chris Nichols said customers often walk into the showroom looking to buy a specific light fixture without taking into

account the size of a room, the height of its ceiling and other factors.

"It's very easy to come in here, pick something and say I like it," she said.

To prevent customers from getting carried away by aesthetics alone and to ensure they achieve the desired look, she said it's important they know what styles best suit their lifestyle and living space.

The store, which draws customers from throughout Westchester as well as parts of Connecticut and New York City, carries an array of products that fall into the traditional, modern and transitional styles of lighting. That includes floor and table lamps, including a variety of Tiffany lamps, ceiling fixtures, outdoor lighting décor such as craftsman lanterns, mirrors, ceiling fans, lampshades and more.

The couple relies on a reliable group of U.S. manufacturers to supply them with their inventory. Some examples include American Brass & Crystal, which is known for its customization of chandeliers, sconces and semi-flush lighting; Brass Traditions, the makers of early American



COLETTE CONNOLLY PHOTO

Drew Nichols, one half of the husband-and-wife team that owns and operates Bedford Lighting & Home, which carries a wide variety of fixtures and lighting-related products.

lantern designs handmade in solid brass and copper; Dale Tiffany; and Hubbardton Forge, the country's oldest contemporary commercial forge that creates distinctive, high-quality wrought-iron lighting.

To remain ahead of the home lighting trends, the couple visits the Dallas Market Center twice a year. The center is known as the international home for lighting, among other products, where thousands of retail businesses have the opportunity to discover the latest in fixed, portable and trend lighting for commercial and residential spaces.

Nichols said there's been a big shift in lighting design in recent years, with

metals, different types of glass and generally a more retro look becoming more popular with manufacturers.

"It's not your grandmother's chandelier anymore," she said, referring to the transition in styles from the formal to the more casual.

While her husband remains busy with lamp and fixture repairs and other aspects of the business, Chris Nichols said that in addition to offering customers in-store advice, she's often called in to help the remodeling of a home or to enhance individual rooms.

"It's important that I see the décor and the style so that I can help marry both and create something that will complement the home," explained Nichols, who frequently works with architects on new home builds and other construction projects.

"It's not just about the sale," she added. "It's also about creating beautiful spaces with lighting."

Bedford Lighting & Home is located at 748 N. Bedford Rd. in Bedford Hills. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment during the evening and on Sundays. For more information, call 914-666-0680 or visit [www.bedfordlighting.com](http://www.bedfordlighting.com).

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## Camps, Kids and Fun

# County Parks Summer Camps Registration Now Available

Whether your youngster is a nature enthusiast, a budding musician or a sports hound, Westchester County Park's popular summer camps offer something for kids of all ages and interests.

### Sports

**Perfect Pitch and Swing Baseball Camp.** Provides children ages 8 to 12 with training that uses unique and innovative methods, combining traditional baseball skills with disciplines from other sports at V.E. Macy Park in Ardsley. The daily schedule runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes drills, hitting, throwing/pitching and fielding instruction and games. Camp runs in five, one-week sessions beginning June 29. The fee is \$200 per week before May 29, \$275 afterward. For information, call 914-231-4673 for brochure and application.

**Slam Dunk Basketball Camp.** Boys and girls in grades 3-9 can hit the boards at the air-conditioned Westchester County Center for this camp, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch is provided daily. A \$325-per-session fee is due before June 27, \$350 afterward. Four one-week sessions begin Monday, June 29. A special discount team rate of \$250 per camper per week is also offered for 10 or more members from a basketball team who sign up for the same week. For more information and for

a special group registration form, call 914-231-4673.

**Girls Volleyball Camp.** For grades 6-12 at the Westchester County Center. The camp runs for two one-week sessions beginning July 27 and Aug. 3. Hours are 3 to 5 p.m. for middle school students (grades 6-8) and 6 to 9 p.m. for high school players (grades 9-12). The fee is \$150 per session for middle school students and \$200 per session for high school students. For more information, call 914-231-4673.

**Challenger Sports Soccer Camp.** For boys and girls in grades 1-9; offered at V.E. Macy Park in Ardsley. Operated by the prestigious Westchester Soccer Academy, top-notch coaching is offered in half- and full-day programs. Fees range from \$135 to \$249. Camp runs in seven one-week sessions beginning June 22. For more information, call 914-714-8601 or visit [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com).

**Hole-in-One Junior Golf Camp.** Youngsters 10 to 17 years old can hit the greens for this camp that is offered at the six county golf courses--Dunwoodie and Sprain Lake in Yonkers; Hudson Hills in Ossining; Maple Moor in White Plains; Mohansic in Yorktown Heights; and Saxon Woods in Scarsdale. Taught by top Professional Golf Association pros, the camp meets four

days a week for two hours. The fee for each session is \$50. Times and days vary at each course. For more information, call 914-231-4673.

### Nature

**Children's Summer Ecology Program.** Introduces children in grades 1-9 to the natural world and is conducted at three nature centers--Cranberry Lake Preserve in North White Plains, Marshlands Conservancy in Rye and Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River. Camp runs weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning July 6. The fee is \$275 per week. For information, call 914-864-7273.

**Conservationists in Training Program.** Youngsters entering grades 7-9 can learn outdoor skills that run the gamut from radio-tracking wood turtles to map reading. The program is offered at Cranberry Lake Preserve in North White Plains and the Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River and is held Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The three two-week sessions begin July 6. The fee is \$725 for each session. For information, call 914-864-7273.

**Nature Week.** Two sessions are offered

at Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers, offering fun-filled adventure and discovery in the fresh air. Children in grades 1-5 will explore the butterfly garden, meadow and forest habitats, learn about local flora and fauna, participate in science experiments and learn to use a solar cooker. Sessions run Monday through Friday beginning July 20 and July 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is \$275 per week. For information and to register, call the preserve at 914-968-5851.

### Music

**Summer Music Center.** This six-week music instruction program at the Westchester County Center in White Plains is for students in grades 3-12. It provides daily class instruction in band and orchestral instruments as well as keyboard, guitar and recorder. The program runs daily from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from June 29 through Aug. 7. Tuition is \$575 for Westchester resident participants registering before May 29 and \$625 after that date. Keyboard students pay \$625 before May 29 and \$675 after. Non-residents add \$75 to each fee. For information, call 914-231-4673.

For more information and applications for all summer camps, call 914-231-4500 or visit [parks.westchestergov.com/activities/childrens-camps](http://parks.westchestergov.com/activities/childrens-camps).



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# Camps, Kids and Fun

## Camp Iroquois a Popular Summer Place for Mt. Kisco's Kids

The Examiner is taking a look at some of the municipal camps in the immediate area that provide one option for families for their children to spend summer. This week the Village of Mount Kisco's summer camp programs are featured.

By Neal Rentz

Though the weather has still been cold and not all of the snow has melted, time is running out for children in Mount Kisco to register for the village's popular summer camp programs.

Village Recreation Supervisor Allison Eckhart said there are limited openings remaining for the two full-day Camp Iroquois sessions and the two Teen Travel Camp sessions. Both extended day Camp Iroquois sessions are already full and those hoping for a vacancy can sign up for the waiting list.

The camps have been a fixture in the village for decades. Camp Iroquois was established by the recreation department in 1959; Eckhart helped create the Teen Travel Camp in 1998.

Eckhart said Camp Iroquois, where the children are divided into groups bearing Native American tribe names, is for campers entering grades K-6 in September. It offers half-day (9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.) and full-day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)



MOUNT KISCO REC DEPARTMENT PHOTOS

Above: Last year's Camp Iroquois staff. Right: Camp Iroquois' pool party in Mount Kisco last summer, one of many fun activities that awaits campers.



sessions and the extended day program (3 to 6 p.m.) for working parents. Parents can enroll their children for either the first or second four-week sessions or for the full eight weeks.

The program is mainly conducted in Leonard Park with activities that include swimming, arts and crafts, drama, sports such as basketball and tennis and games. There are special programs including puppet and magic shows and band performances.

Trips are offered throughout the summer while overnights are offered for the older children. A pizza party is

provided for younger campers.

On rainy days, Camp Iroquois holds indoor programs at the American Legion post, Eckhart said.

There is swimming every camp day, weather permitting. A unique feature is the regular, age-appropriate swimming lessons provided at Memorial Pool, Eckhart said. All campers have their abilities assessed on the first day and those who aren't as strong in the water work with the camp's swim instructors.

A major reason for Camp Iroquois' success has been the roughly 75-member staff, Eckhart said. The camper-to-staff

member ratio is about four to one, a very favorable number for children, she said. Also, about 80 percent of last year's staff were former Iroquois campers.

Camp Iroquois' half-day sessions for village residents are \$350 for four weeks for the first child. For a full eight weeks, the resident rate is \$550 for one child. A full-day session for half the summer costs \$615 and \$1,100 for eight weeks. There are discounts for a second and third child.

The extended day program is \$490 for eight weeks and \$250 for one of the four-

continued on page 24

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# The Restaurant Examiner

## W'chester Broadway Theatre Chef Follows in Family's Footsteps

By Jerry Eimbinder

When "West Side Story" opens at the Westchester Broadway Theatre on Apr. 9, Chef Alexandra "Alex" Sampaio's kitchen will prepare two "show specials" -- a traditional Puerto Rican dish called "pernil" for adults and chicken parmesan with French fries for children. (Adults can order the latter as well.)

For each attraction at the theater, Sampaio chooses a special related to the production's theme or plot.

"West Side Story" will run at the Elmsford dinner theater until July 5, to be followed by the opening of "Godspell" on July 9 and "Backwards in High Heels," a musical based on the life of Ginger Rogers, starting on Aug. 26.

"West Side Story" was a collaborative effort by greats Leonard Bernstein (mu-sic), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), Jerome Robbins (choreography) and Arthur Laurents (book). Its songs include "Something's Coming," "Maria," "America," "Somewhere," "Tonight" and "I Feel Pretty." It opened on Broadway in 1957 and a 1961 film version won 10 Academy Awards.

### About the Food

At all shows at the Westchester Broadway Theatre, whether it be matinees or evening performances, meals are included in the price. A three-course dinner has a lettuce, tomato, shaved carrot, and cucumber salad with a creamy house dressing, a main course and a dessert. Bakery rolls, corn muffins and coffee or tea are also provided. Appetizers can be added at extra cost such as the newly introduced beef empanada and shrimp cocktail.

Seven entrées are offered for each show. For "West Side Story," the show special "pernil" (roasted pork shoulder) is served with Spanish rice and peas. Entrées also include two choices of fish, an adult's chicken dish, a vegetarian selection and a boneless prime rib.

Peach melba with vanilla ice cream is served for dessert. At extra cost, apple crisp with vanilla ice cream, chocolate lava cake, turtle cheese cake, lemon sorbet or a brownie sundae can be substituted.

Luxury boxes, accommodating six to 20 people, have a special menu. The luxury box entrées include broiled lamb chop

loin with mint sauce, roasted potato and vegetables; seared scallops topped with a creamy dill sauce, rice pilaf and

vegetable; lamb shank; veal osso buco; and salmon Wellington. Luxury box appetizers include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres such as chicken kabob and coconut shrimp, fresh fruit and cheese.

### About the Chef

Born and raised in Tarrytown, Sampaio attended high school at Our Lady Of Victory Academy in Dobbs Ferry. At 16, she worked as a busgirl at the Westchester Broadway Theatre where her uncle, Tony Dinis, was the executive chef. Little did Sampaio suspect that one day she would take the same job her uncle had held for more than 30 years.

While a student at Westchester Community College, Sampaio signed up for adult education BOCES courses in cooking and baking.

"After only a few classes, I began thinking seriously about a career in the

food industry or in pastry baking," she said.

"I wasn't that interested in cooking when I started working as a busgirl, although I did like to bake. My father, in fact, would have preferred for me to choose almost any other profession for a career. But when he and my uncle, Tony, realized that food was the highlight of my life, they became my mentors and influenced me tremendously."

Sampaio enrolled at the New York Restaurant School in TriBeCa (now The Art Institute of New York City) in 2003, and after graduation joined the Greens at Greenwich, an upscale assisted living facility in Greenwich, Conn., as sous chef. Two-and-a-half years later, she opened B4, a 40-seat bistro in Valhalla where she ran the kitchen and her partner handled the front of the house.

After serving as head district chef for the Bedford Central School District, Sampaio joined Westchester Broadway Theatre as executive chef on March 1, 2012. Her duties include hiring, training and managing the kitchen crew and food wait service staff (about 50 employees for sold out performances). She also determines the dishes that appear on the menu.

Ticket prices range from \$54 to \$84 per person depending on the performance. Beverage service and tax are additional. The theater can accommodate 500 people, including up to 80 in the luxury



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTO

Westchester Broadway Theatre Chef Alexandra "Alex" Sampaio. She now holds the same position that her uncle had for more than 30 years.

boxes.

Westchester Broadway Theatre is located at 1 Broadway Plaza (175 Clearbrook Rd.) in Elmsford. For more information or for reservations, call 914-592-2222 or visit [www.broadwaytheatre.com](http://www.broadwaytheatre.com).

## Apr. 11 Entertainment Fundraiser for Axial Theatre at Captain Lawrence

On Saturday, Apr. 11 from 7 to 10 p.m. Axial Theatre's annual spring fundraiser is spreading its wings beyond its Pleasantville home for a grand and fun-filled evening of musical and comedic entertainment.

There will also be delicious fare and libations at Captain Lawrence Brewing Company in Elmsford and a live auction by a professional auctioneer who'll invite bidding on such one-of-a-kind items as a chance to drive six of the world's most exotic cars, fly a fighter plane (with a pilot, of course) or be treated to an at-home dinner for eight served and prepared by a Filipina chef.

Highlights of the benefit will include a sneak preview of Axial's upcoming spring production of Sarah Ruhl's award-winning comedy "Dead Man's Cell Phone," a variety of songs, plus delicious edibles served by Taylored Menus. There will also be and seasonal and specialty beers on tap, wines by the glass and other beverages provided by

the bar team of Captain Lawrence.

Axial thanks its longtime supporter and friend, the William T. Morris Foundation, for making the new venue and added items possible.

Tickets for the benefit are \$40. The event will take place at the Captain Lawrence Brewing Company in Elmsford, New York. Please reserve online <http://axialmusicandmovement.bpt.me/> or call 1-800-838-3006.

Founded in 1999, Axial Theatre is a professional theater company that presents contemporary theatrical hits, timeless stage classics and original works in main stage spring and fall productions plus a newly launched series of book-in-hand staged readings. Howard Meyer's Acting program offers beginner through master acting classes for teens through adults. Playwriting classes are taught by award-winning playwright Gabrielle Fox. Workshops focus on such areas as voice, movement, auditions and improvisation.

## Thornwood Lions' Winemakers Challenge Set for Apr. 18

The 2015 Winemakers Challenge and Dinner Event, sponsored by The Thornwood Lions Club along with Prospero Winery, is scheduled for Saturday, Apr. 18 at 6 p.m. at Stone Manor, located at 101 Saw Mill River Rd. in Hawthorne.

The entrance fee for the challenge is \$25 per wine bottle. Tickets for the dinner are \$75. Whether you are a winemaker or just want to sample great local wines, the evening will include a beautifully prepared

five-course meal paired with an appropriate wine selection, along with a live DJ and dancing. Judges will pick and award the best white, best red and best overall wine for the competing winemakers. Guests will have a chance to sample the entrants' wines. There will also door prizes and a raffle. All profits support local community projects.

To RSVP or for more information, call Carl Fulgenzi at 914-557-2590 or e-mail [carlo4555@verizon.net](mailto:carlo4555@verizon.net).

# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, March 31

**English Conversation Mini Course.** For speakers of other languages seeking to improve their English. All welcome. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-864-0038 or visit [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**Meet the Animals: The Nature of Things.** Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-864-0130 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo.** De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

## Wednesday, Apr. 1

**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](mailto: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.

**Mother Nature's Story Time.** Enjoy spring days at the center with nature-themed stories, nature walks, live animals and crafts during this six-week session that meets on six consecutive Wednesdays. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children two to four years old; with parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Members: \$50 per child. Non-members: \$90 per child. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Info and pre-registration: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://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. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

**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.

**Story Times and Activities: April Showers.** Today's story is "Bringing the Rain to Kapita Plain" by Verna Aardema. Activities include an interactive model using water, shaving cream and food dye and wind detector craft made with wooden stick, string and paper of varying weight. For children 18 months to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-864-0130 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

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

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

**Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group.** Northern Westchester Hospital at Chappaqua Crossing, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

## Thursday, Apr. 2

**"New York State's New Invasive Plant Species Regulations: Impacts and How to Adapt."** This half-day workshop offered by Westchester County's Department of Planning and Soil and Water Conservation District will address the portion of the state's new regulations intended to help control invasive plants by reducing the introduction or spread of new and existing populations of these species. Geared toward

landscape architects and professionals but homeowners and gardeners may also attend. County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains. 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$10 (includes continental breakfast and program materials), plus \$7 for parking. Registration and payment required by March 31. Info and registration: Download the event flyer at [www.westchestergov.com/soilwater](http://www.westchestergov.com/soilwater) or contact Robert Doscher at 914-995-4423 or [rrd1@westchestergov.com](mailto:rrd1@westchestergov.com).

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

**Story Times and Activities: Colors.** Today's story is "White Rabbit's Color Book" by Alan Baker. Activities include seeing the rainbow with a flashlight and CD, mixing colors using water, plates and Skittles and volcanic colors using vinegar, food dye and baking soda. For children 18 months to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-864-0130 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**Story Time Playgroup.** Join Miss Debbie for a story, music and playtime with toys and books in this new program. Children and a parent or caregiver can spend special time together and make new friends. For children six months to four years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or visit [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

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

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

## Friday, Apr. 3

**Zumba Gold Class.** A trial class featuring Zumba's low-impact approach. Drop in anytime. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. (\$12 drop-in fee after free trial class.) Every

Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Contact Amy Olin at [olin.amyj@gmail.com](mailto:olin.amyj@gmail.com).

**Friday Night Films: "Mt. Zion."** Set in 1979 New Zealand and starring Temeura Morrison, this musical drama takes a gentle and sometimes funny look at the difficulties of breaking with tradition and striking out on one's own. Discussion led by Professor Val Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd., Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

## Saturday, Apr. 4

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

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

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

**Tai Chi With Larry Attile.** Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. A hands-on class that is geared to the level of experience of the class. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Saturdays in April. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Story Times and Activities: Marshmallow Engineering.** Today's story is "Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building" by Deborah Hopkinson and James E. Ransome. All ages. Activities include creating a structure using jumbo marshmallows and plastic straws for pre-K children and creating a structure using mini marshmallows and toothpicks for school-age children. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-864-0130 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.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 Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit [www.addie-tude.com](http://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 to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs

*continued on page 28*

# Finger Pointing at California Wines: You Get What You Pay For



By Nick Antonaccio

Which end of the wine budget spectrum do you find yourself in discussions with friends or family?

“Why do you spend so much on a bottle of wine? My \$8 bottle of wine is just as good as your

\$25 bottle – and it’s much more consistent every year than your higher-priced wine that seems to fluctuate in taste and quality each year.”

“How can anyone expect a quality wine to cost as little as \$5 to \$8 – or even Two Bucks at Trader Joe’s? Don’t you know how expensive it is to produce a quality wine?”

The debate seems endless. I often find myself dispensing advice to both sides.

This subjective issue came to the forefront of national news last week. At first glance it seemed to cross over the lines of price and quality. Rather than a debate on the merits of being frugal or a spendthrift, it touched on a topic rarely heard in wine circles.

News headlines blared “Claims of arsenic in wine cause health worries.”

A class action lawsuit claims that high levels of inorganic arsenic were found in 38 of 1,300 bottles tested by an

*‘blind acceptance or out-of-hand rejection’*

independent laboratory. Controversy over the claim immediately arose, from blind acceptance to out-of-hand rejection. Wine consumers lined up on both sides of the lawsuit to offer their opinions.

The very nature of the argument is loaded with questions. Is the lawsuit well vetted and grounded in scientific research and medical consequences?

Or is the motivation of the plaintiffs spurred by greedy attorneys, seeking quick financial gain via sensationalism and public pressure – and the deep pockets of the defendants?

I’ve decided to weigh-in with my personal thoughts.

Point: Arsenic can be a dangerous chemical. At sufficient levels of ingestion it can bring on numerous illnesses, even death.

Counterpoint: Arsenic is widely found in nature in trace amounts. It has been found in the soil and atmosphere in vineyards, absorbed through the roots and leaves of grapevines. Residual amounts exist in a number of products beyond wine, including water and apples.

Point: The levels reported by the independent laboratory were at

sufficiently high levels to conclude a health hazard exists. The plaintiffs called for an undisclosed monetary award and warning labels on bottle labels.

Counterpoint: The independent laboratory offered its testing services to any winery seeking analysis of its wines, even though its report did not conclude the arsenic levels were dangerous. The

plaintiffs/attorneys took a major leap from the test results to a self-proclaimed conclusion of a major health risk. There are no government regulations that ban or set a standard for arsenic levels in wine. However, there are

standards set in other countries, all at substantially higher levels than those found in the American testing.

Ironically, federal law permits the use in winemaking of a number of chemicals, including pesticides, herbicides, equipment cleaning chemicals and sulphite preservatives.

Point: Wine should be a natural, unadulterated product, free of any additives. Counterpoint: Such wines exist, but are typically artisanal wines that command higher prices. And this brings

me to the core of my position.

It’s not solely arsenic in wine that should cause concern to consumers. The winemaking practices of the industrial wine companies are cause for alarm. In order to sell a bottle of wine for \$8, shortcuts are typically employed to cut costs. At these mega wine factories, massive quantities of grapes are harvested by industrial-size machines that suck in rotten grapes, leaves, twigs and unlucky insects. These can cause chemical reactions in wines that may cause a number of adverse reactions, such as headaches and digestive problems, not to mention the stress placed on kidneys and livers. Additives abound in these wines, including sugar, acetaldehyde, Dimethyl dicarbonate and ethyl acetate.

Until ingredient labels are required, consumers are at the mercy of winemakers for the quality and safety of their wines. In the end, you get what you pay for.

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

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# Happenings

continued from page 26

about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday, (except Apr. 5) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://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.

**Meet the Animals.** Join the herd as a naturalist presents an informative program that allows you to get up close and hands on with some of the center's live animals. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

## Sunday, Apr. 5

**Easter Worship and Egg Hunt.** Easter worship featuring special music followed by a front lawn Easter egg hunt for children after services. All welcome. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Worship at 10 a.m. Easter egg hunt at about 11:15 a.m. Info: 914-769-0458 or visit [www.pvillepresby.org](http://www.pvillepresby.org).

## Monday, Apr. 6

**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.

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

**"Learning on the Job: Case Studies in Presenting the Arts."** Ella Baff, executive and artistic director of Jacob's Pillow, will be the speaker for the annual Jandon Business of the Arts Distinguished Lecture. Everyone welcome. Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Sheli Jeffry at 914-251-4456.

**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](mailto:olin.amyj@gmail.com).

**Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer.** This new Support Connection group offers the opportunity to share information and experiences with women across the country who are living with breast cancer. Share information and experiences. Confidentially discuss concerns and gain support from others who understand from the comfort of home. Open to women nationwide living with recurrent, advanced stage or metastatic breast cancer. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Monday of every month. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

## Tuesday, Apr. 7

**Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo.** De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Tuesdays in April. Info: 914-273-3887.

**First Tuesday Book Club.** "Lila" by Marilyn Robinson will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

## Wednesday, Apr. 8

**Mommy Meet Up.** Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this program is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For newborns birth to eight months old and their moms. Romperoo Indoor Playground at World Cup Nursery School & Kindergarten 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua, 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except holidays) through June. Info: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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

**Blood Drive.** The American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood during National Volunteer Month and make a difference in the lives of patients in need. Donors of all blood types, especially O negative, A negative and B negative, are needed. Pace University, 861 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointment recommended. Info and appointment: Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**Neu First Wednesdays: The Influence of Kuba Textiles on the Art of Europe and the United States.** A roundtable discussion exploring two important aspects of Kuba textiles: their design and production and the influence of those designs on Western art. Guests include artist Ghislaine Sabiti and textile designer Brooks Hagan (Rhode Island School of Design) who will join Purchase professors Genevieve Hyacinthe (art history) and Julian Kreimer (painting and drawing) for a lively conversation. Try your hand at techniques employed by Kuba textile designers afterward. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 p.m. \$5. Seniors (62 and up): \$3. All students, Purchase faculty and staff, museum members and children (under 12): Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or 914-251-6117 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

**New Media Lecture: Artie Vierkant.** Working across sculpture, photography and the Internet, Vierkant's conceptual practice interrogates the autonomy of the physical object in our current digital age. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6:30 p.m. \$5. Seniors (62 and up): \$3. All students, Purchase faculty and staff, museum members and children (under 12): Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or 914-251-6117 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

**Art Discussion Series: Sir Anthony van Dyck.** Known for his paintings of King Charles I and the royal family, this master artist continued to influence portrait painting in England for the next two centuries. Van Dyck was proficient with watercolors and etchings and was respected for his complex body of work interpreting various characters from the Bible as well as Greek and Roman mythology. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**A Local Family Saves By Going Solar.** Most months John Mancuso and his family pay nothing for electricity since they installed solar panels on their roof three years ago. Come hear their story and learn how you can generate energy on your own property---free from the sun. Also, Lee Streisfeld-Leitner of Sunrise Solar gives a basic primer on the technical requirements and financing of residential solar installations. Followed by a Q&A.

Presented in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Ecological Impacts of Fracking on Plant and Animal Life.** Dr. Erik Kiviat will discuss the ecological impacts of fracking and the disposal of fracking waste from other states on plant and animal life and the possible reversal of the state's fracking ban. Also to be discussed is how expansion of the Algonquin Pipeline and other gas transmission pipelines could impact the ecology. Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. (Bring your own mug) Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BedfordAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/BedfordAudubonSociety).

## Thursday, Apr. 9

**Drop-in Homework Help.** Difficult math problems? Tricky grammar questions? Drop in to the Teen Zone after school for some extra help from a high school volunteer. For students in grades 6-8. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Also Apr. 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Poetry Caravan.** Assorted poetry readings by Poetry Caravan readers Doretta Cornell, Rachel Simon, Charlotte Walsh and Ned Winterbottom followed by an open mic for community members. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Poetry Caravan readers from 7 to 7:45 p.m. Open mic from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**The Midtown Men in Concert.** This production reunites the four stars from the original cast of Broadway's "Jersey Boys." Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer star in this one-of-a-kind concert experience celebrating the music that defined the '60s. Presented by the Women's Council of REALTORS® (WCR), Empire Westchester Chapter and benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7:30 p.m. \$50, \$100, \$150 and \$250 (includes a pre-show VIP cocktail party with The Midtown Men.) Info and tickets: Contact Pat Palumbo at 917-673-0830 or e-mail [ppalumbo@houlihanlawrence.com](mailto:ppalumbo@houlihanlawrence.com).

## Friday, Apr. 10

**Magic: The Gathering With Lucas.** Drop-in and play. Beginners and experienced players welcome. For students in grades 7-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Fridays through Apr. 24. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

# Think Ahead for 2015 Taxes With Charitable Planning

By Roger R. Yergeau

Most of us are concerned about having our 2014 income taxes prepared by Apr. 15, but now might be the time to reduce your 2015 tax burden with the use of charitable planning.

Taxpayers now have had two full tax years under the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) and different groups have seen different results to their income tax burden. This change looked to add income taxation to the upper income taxpayer. ATRA has implemented higher income tax rates for the upper income taxpayers and modest changes for itemized deductions. Charitable gifts deductions have not changed for leading upper income taxpayers and their advisers should recognize the need to reduce income taxes through the use of prudent charitable planning.

**Income Taxes.** Upper income taxpayers have seen their top tax bracket raised to 39.6 percent. Should an upper income taxpayer have passive income, the Medicare tax of 3.8 percent will be added, making the top federal tax bracket 43.4 percent. This has resulted in upper income taxpayers having a renewed interest in charitable planning.

**Capital Gains Tax.** Currently there are three capital tax rates: none for low income taxpayers, 15 percent for mid-level taxpayers and 20 percent for top tier taxpayers. The Medicare tax of 3.8 percent is added to the applicable tax rate, thus raising the top capital gains rate to 23.8 percent. The taxpayer who has significant capital gains is also likely to be in the top income tax bracket. Those taxpayers who can bypass capital gains through the use of charitable planning have a compelling reason to take action in 2015.

**Appreciated Property.** Many taxpayers who have appreciated property are reluctant to sell. Last year home prices increased by 11 percent and the Dow reached 18,000. With the large tax burden, some taxpayers may feel "locked in" with the appreciated assets. Using appreciated assets for various charitable planning options provides taxpayers with relief from this burden.

**IRA Charitable Rollover.** For the past several years, Congress has extended the option for IRA owners over 70-and-a-half years old to give up to \$100,000 to a charity through an IRA custodian-to-charity transfer. The latest extension ended on Dec. 31, 2014. Congress last

year almost passed the Supporting Americas Charity Act, which would have permanently extended the IRA charitable rollover and even expanded limits for conservation gifts and gifts of wholesome foods. There was strong bipartisan support for the bill, but it failed to pass due to congressional procedural rules. Watch for possible passage of this bill in 2015 or another annual extension. Taxpayers with a substantial IRA who are required to take a minimum distribution would benefit from this charitable gift planning strategy.

**Tax Strategies for 2015.** The IRA Charitable Rollover, if extended, would give taxpayers a couple of different types of income tax relief. First, since the IRA rollover is direct from the IRA custodian to the charity, this would not be included in the taxpayer's taxable income. The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption is being phased out for higher income taxpayers. Thus, the use of an IRA rollover prevents these funds from being subject not only to income taxes but to the AMT. Not having to add the minimum required distribution to one's income through the use of the IRA Charitable Rollover

will substantially lower the tax burden for many taxpayers.

Second, gifts of appreciated property or stocks bypass capital gains and are deducted based on the asset's fair market value. The taxpayer should keep in mind the 30 percent limit of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) when making gifts of appreciated assets.

Third, once a taxpayer has used 30 percent of AGI in gifts of appreciated assets, he may want to consider using cash gifts of up to 20 percent of AGI. The combination of 20 percent of AGI (cash gifts) and 30 percent of AGI (appreciated property) will give taxpayers in the upper brackets the maximum income tax savings of 50 percent.

*Longtime Ossining resident Roger R. Yergeau worked in the life insurance industry for over 30 years. After retiring in 2008 as a principal partner of Agent Support Group, he volunteered with The New York Public Library in the Planned Giving Department from 2008 to 2014. In 2013, he was named director of planned giving for the Open Door Foundation on a volunteer basis. He can be reached at Foundation-ryergeau@odfmc.org.*

## Byram Hills Education Foundation Grants \$130G for District Programs

The Byram Hills Education Foundation announced last week it has awarded seven grants totaling \$130,176 this year. The grants, which provide state-of-the-art programs and technologies at the district's four schools, include two Signature grants and five Insta-Grants.

"The breadth and depth of the grants awarded this year are indicative of the important partnership role that the Byram Hills Education Foundation has come to play in our school district," said Byram Hills Superintendent Dr. William Donhue. "The impact is felt by every student in every one of our schools. The foundation is an outstanding example of how the independent development model can be applied to increase innovation and excellence in public schools."

Below are the foundations' two Signature grants this year.

- **MacBook Pro Laptops to Modernize the Photography Curriculum:** \$42,024. This grant provides MacBook Pro Laptops, printer and related accessories for storage and charging for the Byram Hills High School photography department to complement and enhance students' knowledge and use of basic photography. With this grant, each class of 18 students

in basic, advanced and AP Photography will have the opportunity to learn advanced digital photography skills, including Photoshop editing. These computers allow for the expansion and restructuring of the photography curriculum to include up to 50 percent of instruction in digital media, allowing students to submit a digital 2-D design portfolio at the college level.

- **1:1 Mobile Learning Pilot:** \$78,345. This grant provides 210 Chromebook laptop computers for every sixth-grader at Crittenden Middle School to use throughout the school day. The grant also funds related software and charging stations, eliminating the need for students to check out a laptop one class at a time. The 1:1 Mobile Learning initiative extends the curriculum and learning opportunities for students, as well as increases efficiency for teachers and enhances communications among parents and the district. This grant also leverages previous grants awarded by the foundation, including its Fast Path grant in 2012 and Cloud-Based Computing in 2013.

These are the five Insta-Grants:

- **Cubelets Educator Robotics Kits for**

**STEAM Integration:** \$4,792. These grants to Coman Hill and Wampus elementary schools, funds educator sets of Cubelet Robotic Block Kits that introduce STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts in the second and third grade technology curriculum. Students will combine a host of sensors and action blocks to build their own robotic creations. The Cubelets will provide play-driven learning opportunities to integrate STEAM lessons. Both grants are funded by the Debra Leipman Yale Memorial Fund.

- **Art Therapy for Flexible Support Program Students:** \$2,365. This grant funds an art therapy program at the high school to foster the social and emotional development and overall performance within the school environment. The program promotes self-awareness, confidence and self-advocacy, helping students better express themselves and flourish in the school environment. Funded by the Debra Leipman Yale Memorial Fund.

- **Mindset Pilot Materials:** \$494. This grant funds "Get Smart" Toolkits for three third-grade classes at Wampus Elementary School, which

leverage the work of Carol Dweck whose research is a growing trend in teaching children how to persevere in the face of challenge. The Toolkits provide practical applications for children to build confidence, take on challenges and persevere in the face of difficulty or failure. Funded by the Debra Leipman Yale Memorial Fund.

- **ETC Source Four PAR Cans:** \$2,156: This grant funds a bank of parabolic aluminized reflector can theatrical lights or the high school theater. When developing lighting plans, students will gel and focus this equipment to be used for district events./

- "We thank all of the parents and businesses in our community who have generously supported the Byram Hills Education Foundation," said foundation Chairman Scott R. Levy. "The foundation remains committed to helping the Byram Hills district deliver an outstanding educational experience. This year's grants exemplify our mission of funding innovative programs that enhance our local schools.

For more information, visit [www.byramhillsfoundation.org](http://www.byramhillsfoundation.org).

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## EVENTS

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A Custody case was filed against you by Suleidy Alegria. Hearing Date 4/22/15. The Court finds that all reasonable efforts to find you have failed; your last known address was 19 Main St. Apt. 3, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. The Court orders notice by this publication once a week for two weeks starting on or before 4/3/15. To respond to or be informed of this case, you or your attorney must file an Appearance with the Court. Automatic Orders are in effect as required by P.B. §25-5 and are part of the Application on file with the Court. H. Valassis, Clerk. 3/11/15

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# ExaminerSports

## Bears Open the New Lacrosse Season by Defeating Irvington

By Monica D'Ippolito

The first time the Briarcliff girls' lacrosse team stepped on the turf this season was in its home opener against Irvington last Wednesday. Despite not being able to play any preseason scrimmages, the Bears dominated possession against the Bulldogs and earned their first win.

"This is my last first home game, so it was really exciting," Bears senior captain Melanie Prinz said. "I actually knew this team was going to be talented this year. It was almost impossible (not to be) with all the amazing players that we have on this team. I think we're going to have a really great season. I'm really excited."

The 18-11 victory in a light rain against the Bulldogs was the first career win for first-year head coach Jessica McDonough, who arrives from Mahopac, where she was an assistant coach for four years with the Indians.

"I learned a lot as an assistant coach at Mahopac, so this is a big step for me," McDonough said. "The girls have been awesome, the parents have been awesome, the community has been awesome. So it has been an easy transition for me. I definitely think we're going to go further than we did last year. The girls have a great work ethic and I think the potential is there, so I think we're going to surprise a lot of people."

Her debut as a head coach was a back-and-forth battle to start the first half. Irvington scored the game's first goal at the 22:01 mark, but Prinz responded with a Briarcliff goal almost 30 seconds later to tie the score.

Bears freshman Jill Reiner later evened the game again at 3-3 and soon goals by Jordan Ricciardi, Reiner and Ashley Hudzik gave the Bears a 6-3 lead with 13 minutes left in the first half. But Irvington climbed back after a timeout following the Hudzik goal, scoring three consecutive goals.

With 2:37 remaining in the half, Prinz fed a cutting Lexi Grasso, who beat the Bulldogs' goalie for the score, which was followed by another Bears goal less than a minute later. With time expiring,



Briarcliff's Lexi Grasso races past Irvington's Emma DeRose in last Wednesday's season-opening game, won by the Bears.



Briarcliff's Jordana Cohen moves toward the goal during the Bears' season-opening win vs. Irvington.

Briarcliff goalie Allison Greenberg made two nice saves, first on a point-blank shot by Elizabeth Segreti and then on a free-position opportunity by Emma DeRose, preserving the 9-6 Bears' lead entering the half.

The following 25 minutes were dominated by Briarcliff. To start the second half, the Bears maintained possession and capitalized by going on another 4-0 run that was finally ended when Irvington's Katie McMahon scored at the 17:20 mark.

"In the past, I think our team has definitely gotten up in the first half and then just let it all fall in the second," Prinz said. "So (coach McDonough) did a really good job of just motivating us and making sure the intensity was up when we came out so we can just keep on going with the scoring."

After Taloon added another goal for the Bulldogs, the Bears once again responded. Jordana Cohen first assisted on the Reiner goal, then on the ensuing draw won possession and took the ball down the field and netted Briarcliff's 17th goal of the afternoon.

"I think they did awesome," McDonough said of her players after the game. "I asked them to score a certain amount of goals and they surpassed that, so I was very happy with them. We won the draw controls, I think the majority of them, so that was another one of our goals. Draw controls are huge in girls' lacrosse and our girls took care of it today. So I was happy."

Cohen dominated Taloon on the draw, helping Briarcliff win possession of the ball almost every time.

"I was actually playing against one of my friends (Taloon), who's a really great player," said Cohen. "She's committed to High Point (University). It was all about possession and placement more so than trying to self-draw it, and that's why I needed my teammates there and it really helped, I think, to have them there for



Briarcliff senior Melanie Prinz gets set to fire a shot on goal in the Bears' win vs. the Irvington Bulldogs last Wednesday afternoon.



Jayne Levy of Briarcliff passes the ball in the first half of the Bears' opening game of the 2015 season.



The Bears' Jordan Ricciardi, who finished with five goals, gets set for a free-position shot in the 18-11 win over the Bulldogs.

me."

Ricciardi finished with five goals and one assist, while Prinz added three goals and three assists. Reiner and Grasso recorded three goals and one assist each and Cohen ended up with two goals and two assists. Greenberg had 14 saves for the Bears in goal.

"Honestly, I think she's really transforming this team," Cohen said of McDonough. "Last year, we didn't have the best season... but this year, I mean, from conditioning, even though it's hard, it's really difficult, she's pushing us and it's really making a difference. I think it's showing on the field."

With the grueling winter, McDonough faced the tough task of conducting her practices indoors, which is difficult enough for a seasoned coach, let alone a brand new one.

"It was very hard, a lot of indoor, and then it snowed when we were supposed to have a scrimmage, so we were back indoors," McDonough said. "So it's hard because you don't really get to see what you really need to improve on because all you're really doing is small-spaced, stick-skills stuff and that sometimes doesn't



Jill Reiner of Briarcliff controls the ball in last Wednesday's home win.



Nicole Nero of Briarcliff takes the ball across the field in the Bears' victory over visiting Irvington last week.

really translate too well when you're on the big field. But the girls worked really hard when we were outside, so I'll take it."

McDonough said her first career win was "very exciting and very humbling."

Briarcliff concluded its opening week by defeating Westlake 13-12 on Saturday behind four goals apiece from Cohen and Prinz. But despite the quick 2-0 start, McDonough is well aware a lot of work remains in the days and weeks ahead.

"Jelling as a team, working together, our transition defense and really just the fundamentals," she said about the things the Bears need to concentrate on throughout the season in order to be successful. "Just really honing in on the fundamentals and making sure that we understand where we should be, our timing, our cuts, when to slide, when to double. Just really across the board. Our fundamentals are really what's going to bring us to the next level."

# Fox Lane Hockey Team Made Progress This Year

By Cutler Klein

Our final hockey season recap looks at the Fox Lane Foxes, who missed the playoffs on the final day of the season, but still finished better than they did last year -- when they had just two wins in head coach Scott Miele's first season at the helm. Despite missing out on postseason play, Miele thought his squad played a solid season.

"I always hope for a little bit better, but it was our second year, and a building year," he said. "So I'm very happy with the direction that the program is going."

This was the second Foxes' season under Miele, and the team seemed to settle into the system that he tried to implement. Players looked more comfortable out on the ice, and the team showed flashes of what could come next year.

"They believed in themselves, and they were comfortable with me," he said. "They had to buy into the system, and it's a lot for a team to buy in automatically. They definitely bought in to the system that I brought to Fox Lane. Everything was more comfortable."

Even though they lost big rivalry games to Byram Hills and Horace Greeley, the Foxes did manage to pull off some big-time victories against tough teams. They were able to take down mighty Brewster by a score of 3-2. They were heavy underdogs heading into the game, having lost badly to that same Brewster team earlier in the season. But, according to Miele, his players believed in themselves and the system, and were able to pull out a victory.

The biggest story for Fox Lane this season was junior goaltender, and Division One hockey recruit, Abbie Ives, who caught the eye of many with her seemingly effortless, unbelievable saves. She consistently faced a heavy shot load, occasionally stopping over 60 shots in a single contest. Miele said that Ives is a rare talent, and should progress even more in her senior year.



Fox Lane's Eric Maiorano skates with the puck in a game vs. Byram Hills.



Fox Lane's Matthew Leader moves the puck up the ice at Brewster Ice Arena.



Fox Lane's Jacob Rauch gets ready to pass the puck to a teammate.



Angus Ferguson of Fox Lane prepares to shoot the puck from the right point.



Joseph Ramirez controls the puck for the Fox Lane hockey team.



Fox Lane standout goalie Abbie Ives stays ready in between the pipes.



The Foxes' Tanner More celebrates after scoring a goal.

"Abbie is every coach's dream," he said. "You don't get that type of player every year. I can't even explain how happy I am to have her for another season."

Headed into their third season under Miele, the Foxes will be losing some of their leaders and seasoned players. Defenseman and captain Angus Ferguson will be graduating, as well as Jacob Rauch, who Miele described as a "workhorse." There will be some other holes at forward, with Niles Munsch, Corey Albright, Michael Salera and the

hard-hitting Kirk Atkinson all leaving.

However, the Foxes will still retain some of their great talent, including A.J. Crawford, Nolan Vernon, Ryder Beitzel, Thomas Tenney, Joseph Fetter, and Matthew Leader. There will also be a few talented freshmen coming through the pipeline. With plenty of returning players, a handful of young talent, and another year under their belt, the potential is there for a special 2015-16 Fox Lane season.

Miele said that he wants to tweak a few things, such as his team's forecheck and offensive pressure, but he truly believes that his team can take it to the next level in 2015-16.

"Without a doubt in my mind, I think we can make the playoffs," he said. "If I could put money on it, I would definitely do it. I think we can get there, and do pretty well, too."

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# Panther Girls' Lacrosse Team Starts With a Loss to North Rockland

By Monica D'Ippolito

In its home opener Friday afternoon, Pleasantville was pitted against one of the toughest girls' lacrosse programs in all of Section One in Class A's North Rockland.

"It was actually supposed to be our second game," Panthers coach Allison Steinberg said after the 16-5 loss. "Our first game got canceled. But it does show us a team that is well respected in Section One that we can look up to for how we like to play lacrosse."

The Raiders controlled possession for most of the first 25 minutes and capitalized on it, scoring 10 goals by halftime. Meanwhile, Pleasantville had trouble running its offense and only managed to take two shots before intermission.

But the Panthers showed some resiliency in the second half, scoring their first goal three minutes in, as junior Nicole DiFabio took advantage of a free position to finally get Pleasantville on the scoreboard.

"Definitely for our first game, I think we started out a little rocky," DiFabio said after the game. "But we definitely picked it up in the second half. Our transitions started looking better and overall our shot selections were really good and our defense was really falling into place. We were really communicating a lot."

DiFabio scored two more times in the game. Her second goal came at the 18:30 mark on another free-position shot from the center hash and the other one came at the 6:46 mark, this time after beating a Raider double-team and finishing with her right.



The Panthers' Peyton Long tries to get to the goal in Friday afternoon's game vs. the Raiders.



Pleasantville's Lauren Schmidt controls the ball near the goal in the Panthers' season-opening game.

"I tried my best in attracting defenders and splitting the double teams," DiFabio said. "I waited until they got off balance so I could take advantage of that."

The Panthers' next goal came shortly after DiFabio's final one, when senior Nancy Howe beat North Rockland's Aleya Corretjer on the face-off with a self-draw and took the ball down the field for the score.

Despite the lopsided outcome, both Howe and junior midfielder Karina Roye did well on the draws, winning half the possessions throughout the game.

"I think the best part is how we never gave up," Steinberg said. "This is our first game of the season and we had a setback in the beginning losing our senior captain (Katie McAllister) to an injury. It really put a damper on the team because we all love her and we look to her leadership, but I think we stepped up and we fought the entire game. And I think North Rockland played a nice game and we did the best we could."

Regrettably for the Panthers, McAllister tore her ACL in the preseason during the team's first scrimmage and her absence will be difficult to overcome.

"It's big because not only is she so impactful on the field, but just with the whole team morale," Steinberg said

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Nicole DiFabio of Pleasantville goes on the attack in the Panthers' home loss to North Rockland.



Kathryn Finnegan of Pleasantville searches for a teammate to pass the ball to against visiting North Rockland on Friday.



Pleasantville's Nancy Howe rushes the ball up the field in Friday's season opener vs. visiting North Rockland.



Riley Kennedy moves the ball for the Panthers in Friday's game vs. North Rockland.



Karina Roye of Pleasantville chases after a groundball during the second half of the game vs. North Rockland on Friday.

of McAllister. "She's always picking everybody up, but she's still with us and she's still being a leader and a captain even though she's sidelined, and that's great."

Along with DiFabio, Steinberg also had high praise for seniors Howe, defenseman Alyssa Rufino – who had a strong second half – and goalie Tess McFadden, who finished with five saves.

"I think our other senior captain, Nancy Howe, came up really big today," Steinberg said. "She's going to be a big part of our offensive transition, same with Nicole DiFabio, who scored the three goals. I think Tess McFadden in goal stayed positive the whole game, which is hard when you're getting shot on that frequently, and Alyssa Rufino on defense also came out pretty

strong. We have a young team. We have three freshmen on our team and two sophomores that are new, so we just need to keep working together and staying positive and good things will come to this team."

The Panthers left the cold behind and headed to Disneyland Sunday, where they will face some competition from local Florida teams, as well as some Section One competition throughout the week.

"Going forward, I think we're going to play really good teams, but I definitely think we can hang in with them," DiFabio added. "I think that going forward our defense is going to be really great and I think we're going to have a great season."

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

# Pace Softball Team Sweeps Doubleheader Against Le Moyne

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Pace's Tara Bernstein starts to celebrate as she scores on teammate Natalie Gellos' homer in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader.



Pace freshman Jaclyn Flores delivers a pitch in Sunday's first game vs. Le Moyne.

The Pace University softball team improved its record to 11-4 this season by sweeping a doubleheader on Sunday afternoon against visiting Le Moyne College. Winning by scores of 10-5 in the first game and 9-4 in the nightcap, the Setters smacked five home runs and finished the day with 26 hits.

The Setters, now 3-1 in the Northeast-10 Conference, erupted for five runs in the third inning of the opener to build a 7-2 lead. Catcher Nikole Larm and freshman outfielder Tara Bernstein both homered in the big inning to help break open the game. Larm and senior shortstop Jeane Drury, who was just named the NE-10 player of the week, both had three hits in the first game.

In the second game, the Setters took the lead for good in the fourth inning on a grand slam off the bat of Drury that wiped out a 2-1 Dolphin lead. Pace also got another home run from Bernstein, who wound up the afternoon with four hits. Natalie Gellos added the final Setter homer in the sixth inning. Gellos and Bernstein, along with Surina Sandhu and Amanda Limon, contributed two hits each to the Setters' 12-hit attack.

Freshman Jaclyn Flores, now 3-0 on the mound, went the distance in the first game, while sophomore Kaitlynn Nelson pitched into the fifth inning of the second game to even her record at 3-3 for the Setters, who host doubleheaders this week against Adelphi (Wednesday, 3 pm) and the College of Saint Rose (Friday, 1 pm).



The Setters' Nikole Larm heads toward third base vs. Le Moyne College.



Kaitlynn Nelson of Pace pitches in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader vs. Le Moyne.



Pace University coach Claudia Stabile and freshman Jordan Chillinsky share a laugh during Sunday's doubleheader sweep of Le Moyne.



Second baseman Ashley Lew scurries to her right for a grounder up the middle during Pace University's Sunday's doubleheader.



Pace shortstop Jeane Drury tries to backhand a grounder in the hole during Sunday's doubleheader.



Above: Surina Sandhu of Pace asks for time from the umpire after reaching second base in Sunday's doubleheader sweep of Le Moyne.

Right: Pace freshman third baseman Amanda Limon swings the bat vs. the visiting Dolphins this past weekend.



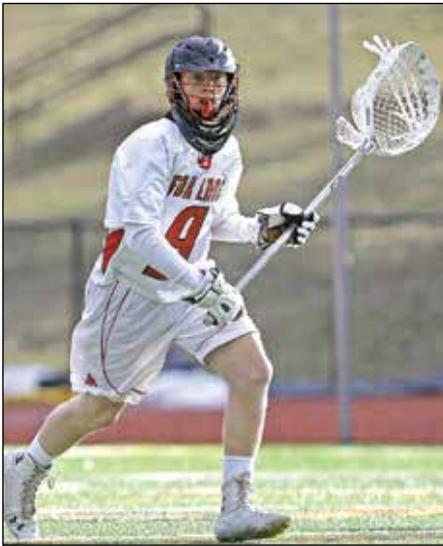
Freshman Larissa Labs of Pace was just named the NE-10's rookie of the week.



Pace University senior Natalie Gellos drives a pitch to left field on Sunday afternoon.



# Fox Lane Lax Team Defeats the Indians Monday Afternoon for Its First Victory



Fox Lane goalie Colin Smith advances the ball up the field during Monday afternoon's home win over John Jay.



Liam Belhumeur of Fox Lane heads for the goal in the Foxes' big victory over visiting John Jay.

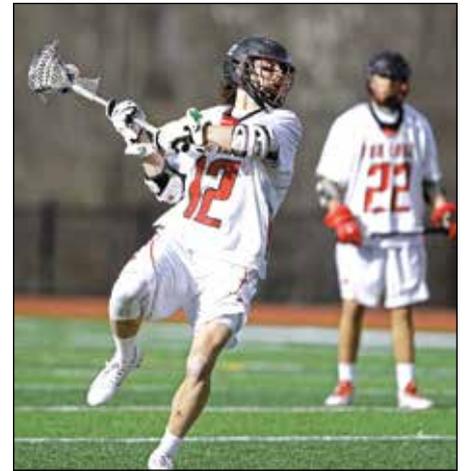


Matt Harrison passes the ball during Fox Lane's 10-7 win vs. John Jay.



Above: The Foxes' Thomas Tenney uses a screen from teammate Matt Harrison in Monday's game vs. the John Jay Indians.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Right: Fox Lane's Cullen Morgan fires a shot in Monday afternoon's win over John Jay.



Fox Lane's Sean New tries to get the ball out of the Foxes' defensive end in Monday's home win over the Indians.

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