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May 5 - May 11, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 400

Petition Urges Referendum on Mt. Kisco Police Consolidation

County May Vote to Approve Next Monday

By Neal Rentz

A group of Mount Kisco residents was expected to submit a petition to the village board last night (Monday) urging trustees to schedule a referendum to determine whether the village should move forward with police consolidation.

Resident Kim Terlizzi was scheduled to submit the petition. She is one of several residents who publicly opposed the board's Apr. 20 vote when it unanimously approved an intermunicipal agreement (IMA) with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety to consolidate police services.

The petition will also be sent to the Board of Legislators, which must

approve the IMA before consolidation can be implemented. County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) said that the matter passed the budget and public safety committees on Monday and is tentatively scheduled for a vote before the full board on May 11.

Meanwhile, the residents' petition calls for a referendum to be presented to the public either at a special election or for the general election in November.

"We are doing the petition on the mayor's direction," Terlizzi said. "The mayor stated at the Apr. 20 board meeting, 'If you want a referendum, bring in the signatures, and we'll have a referendum.'"

Mayor Michael Cindrich said he was unable to answer any legal questions regarding the residents' petition.

Terlizzi said late last week that she

continued on page 4

Pleasantville PBA to Increase Scholarships to High School Seniors

By Janine Bowen

The Pleasantville Police Benevolent Association (PBA) is looking to improve community relations by increasing scholarships it offers to high school seniors in the village.

In past years, the department offered two scholarships valued at \$1,000 each, but this year it will be doubling its efforts, offering four \$1,000 awards, said Detective Morgan Cole-Hatchard. In addition, the way recipients are selected will be changed.

Previously, the PBA would ask Pleasantville High School to recommend worthy students. But this year the organization has designed an application where students looking for service-oriented careers, such as police or social work, are sought. Cole-Hatchard explained

that unlike many scholarships, the PBA is not necessarily looking for students with the best grades.

"We're more looking for that community-oriented person, that maybe they land in the 80 to 85 [grade] range," she said. "They're passing and they enjoy school but they're not at the top of the class for whatever reason."

Cole-Hatchard said that students who wish to apply don't need to complete a long essay, but must describe the field they wish to enter, explain how they plan to achieve that goal and what a service-oriented job means to them.

In addition, the PBA is requesting that students who submit an application describe an encounter they have had with a Pleasantville police officer, whether it

continued on page 8

Mangia!



DAMION PATRIGNELLI PHOTO

Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrich and members of the village's chamber of commerce welcomed restaurateur Abel Magana last Thursday during the grand opening of his new Italian restaurant, Terra Rustica Due, located at 77 S. Moger Ave. The restaurant, which opened on Apr. 5, took over the space previously occupied by Eduardo's Restaurant for more than 30 years.

North Castle Landmarks Main Breezemont Day Camp Building

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of North Castle recently approved town landmark status for the main building at Breezemont Day Camp in Armonk to ensure the preservation of the more than century-old structure.

The town board also decided on Apr. 22 to accept the Landmark Preservation Committee's recommendation to landmark the lawn between the two driveways in front of the former hotel at 62 Cox Ave. Landmarks Preservation Committee Chairwoman Susan Shimer said the town was required to landmark the spacious front lawn in order for the building to achieve that designation.

"The Landmark Preservation Committee proposes landmarking because of our interest in the house, and

continued on page 8



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The 19th century former hotel on Cox Avenue in Armonk that has been part of the Breezemont Day Camp property was granted landmark status by the North Castle Town Board two weeks ago.

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A: First, let's look at the host of major health problems linked to obesity. Two frequent consequences are type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, which increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Another serious potential problem is sleep apnea, in which a person's airway collapses during sleep, and breathing stops for long periods. The condition can raise blood pressure, and can cause a dangerous level of daytime sleepiness. Obesity is also a known cause of elevated blood fats, arthritis pain, mobility problems, asthma, and infertility. Despite the major health, emotional and social problems they face, many obese people can't lose weight through dieting and exercise. For these people, surgical weight-loss (bariatric surgery) can be the route to almost miraculously improved health - and greater happiness.

Q: What are the benefits of bariatric surgery?

A: They are remarkable. Studies published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* show that, for obese patients, bariatric surgery is more effective than exercise, dieting and even drugs, in controlling the high blood sugar of

diabetes, reducing blood pressure, lowering the risk of heart disease, and improving overall health. What's more, type 2 diabetes often decreases dramatically, or sometimes completely abates, due to the large weight loss common after bariatric surgery. The same weight loss can actually cure sleep apnea, and can also normalize female hormones, enhancing fertility and improving the ability to become pregnant.

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Pros and Cons of Ossining's Four Years of County Policing

By Neal Rentz

Nearly five years ago, the Town of Ossining and Westchester County agreed to consolidate police services, much like Mount Kisco officials hope happens in the near future.

Similar to Mount Kisco, which had its village board approve consolidation two weeks ago and awaits a county Board of Legislators vote, economics was the driving force behind the town's agreement with the county that lasted from Jan. 1, 2011, through last Dec. 31.

"When the town first considered contracting out for police services it did so because the costs associated with maintaining a small police force were growing dramatically," said Ossining Supervisor Susanne Donnelly. "It was difficult to maintain adequate staffing for both the headquarters and the patrols given the limitations of a small force when dealing with issues such as sickness, vacation, military service, training and officers on disability."

As expected there were positives and negatives, Donnelly said. Non-personnel expenses, such as insurance, vehicle, equipment and building maintenance had been rapidly escalating. An appealing option was to look to county to control those costs and provide patrols that were at least comparable to what the town had provided, she said.



In 2010, County Executive Rob Astorino announced police consolidation between the Town of Ossining and the county with then-Supervisor Catherine Borgia, an agreement similar to one that Mount Kisco is poised to enter.

Ossining paid \$2.25 million in 2011, \$2.37 million in 2012, \$2.2 million in 2013 and \$2.3 million in 2014, according to the supervisor's office. The move saved the town more than \$900,000 annually. All of the town police officers were hired by the county and kept their rank, with the exception of the chief, said Donnelly.

"The positive aspects of county policing were that there always were

available resources for any needs within the town," Donnelly said. "The officers were highly trained and supervised and supervision was provided 24/7."

Back office services were exemplary and the chain of command allowed for issues to be quickly addressed, she added.

But there was a perception that there was loss of a personal touch. Donnelly said while former Ossining police officers were hired by the county, it wasn't always possible to assign them to the town. Familiarity with the town was also an issue for the county officers, although that matter was eventually addressed.

Last year, the town ended its four-year relationship with the Department of Public Safety and entered a four-year contract with the Village of Ossining that started Jan. 1. Donnelly said it wasn't poor performance that led to the decision but officials felt obligated to bid out the next contract.

"The decision was not intended to reflect negative opinion of the county police force," she explained. "It was a decision intended to create competition to save the taxpayers money."

The town board vetted both proposals and was convinced the village was able to at least match the county's service. Donnelly said the competitive bidding process further reduced costs.

"Everything is running smoothly," she said.

Kieran O'Leary, a county Department of Public Safety spokesman, said under the agreement between the town and county,

Ossining paid for 10 fulltime officers and a detective. It was also able to absorb then-Chief Mark Busche, a lieutenant and three sergeants into existing vacancies, he said.

O'Leary said last year the county offered continuation of the service level it had offered. He acknowledged that the Village of Ossining's agreement was less expensive for the town. The village hired five new officers with the remainder of the patrol work to be done with current officers working overtime, he said.

"The county police declined an opportunity to submit a new bid based on the same model the village had chosen," O'Leary said. "We were not comfortable with a policing model that relies so heavily on overtime."

In 2010, when the agreement was being negotiated, there was an important sticking point that needed to be negotiated, O'Leary said. All county police on a promotional list at the time for sergeant, lieutenant or captain had to waive their rights under state civil service law to permit the transfer of the Ossining officers with their ranks intact.

He said that the county officers agreed to that point out of respect for the Ossining officers and the community's wishes. The same procedure will be in place if the Mount Kisco consolidation goes through, he said.

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Petition Urges Referendum on Mt. Kisco Police Consolidation

continued from page 1

didn't count the number of signatures collected because the drive was still a work in progress.

"It is a long, slow process, mostly because many residents know nothing about the issue," she said. "Answering questions is taking up a lot of time. We are hoping that the village board, when presented with the petition, will finally listen to the will of the people and hold a permissive referendum. It is, after all, our police department."

Harcckham said it is his understanding that there is no legal mechanism to force the scheduling of a referendum because consolidation can be decided through an intermunicipal agreement.

While certain issues allow for a referendum to be scheduled at the local or county level if a petition is submitted containing a requisite number of signatures, he said, the police issue isn't included.

However, Harckham added that he has seen a petition with about 400 signatures supporting consolidation.

"I have heard from numerous senior volunteer first responders who favor the merger for both the improved command



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Kim Terlizzi, shown above at the Apr. 20 Mount Kisco Village Board meeting, was expected to submit petitions on yesterday (Monday) to the board calling for a referendum on police consolidation.

and control that will result from the merger, (and for) the additional assets as well," Harckham said. "The merger will result in better police coverage at a lower cost to taxpayers. The merger makes sense at every level."

School Bus Driver Charged in Chappaqua Rail Crossing Incident

By Martin Wilbur

A 53-year-old school bus driver was cited for a vehicle and traffic law violation Monday morning after the railroad barriers at the Roaring Brook Road grade crossing in Chappaqua came down on the vehicle.

Nancy Peralta, of Jerome Avenue in the Bronx, was ticketed by New Castle Police Officer Brian Bruno at 7:52 a.m., who was conducting traffic observation at the time. Peralta drove her mini bus up to the crossing and came to a stop at the edge of the train tracks as the crossing gate lowered, said New Castle police Lt. Daniel Cannon.

There were two students and a bus monitor aboard the vehicle at the time of the incident, police said.

Cannon said Peralta was charged because under state VTL law a driver is required to stop at least 15 feet from the crossing unless he or she can completely cross over the tracks before the gates lower.

Peralta put the mini bus, which is owned by Mar Can Transportation of Mount Vernon, in reverse but stopped when the crossing gate became stuck on the brackets protruding from the body of the bus, police said.

The vehicle's front end was beyond the

gate and inside the Metro-North right of way as the oncoming train passed by. There was no collision and no injuries as a result of the incident, police said.

Cannon said in the past few months the department has increased its patrols near the crossing to target dangerous and unlawful driving and increase public awareness about what how to navigate the crossing.

"We're giving out a lot of tickets because of safety concerns at that particular crossing," Cannon said.

Since the fatal accident at the Commerce Street crossing in Valhalla on Feb. 3 which killed the driver of an SUV and five passengers in the front car of the train, New Castle officials and the municipality's state and federal representatives have stepped up public discussion about the hazards at Roaring Brook Road and the need for millions in funding to make improvements at that location.

The crossing is in close proximity to Saw Mill Parkway and Horace Greeley High School and is highly congested, especially during rush hour.

Peralta was released on an appearance ticket and is due at Town of New Castle Court on Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m.

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No. Castle Refers New Age-Restricted Proposal to Planning Board

By Martin Wilbur

A revised age-restricted development proposal in Armonk will be reviewed by the North Castle Planning Board to help the town board determine whether the building would be in character with the neighborhood.

The town board agreed to forward developer Frank Madonna's latest proposal, a 16-unit building for Old Mount Kisco Road, to town planners at its last meeting on Apr. 22.

Madonna had already received a zoning change to allow for 14 townhouses in several smaller structures at the site, but recently returned to float an updated proposal consisting of 22 condominium units in a single structure before the town board. In exchange for the larger proposal, Madonna had offered to build sewer connections for the length of Old Mount Kisco Road instead of the originally agreed upon connections for eight properties.

It would be economically unfeasible to extend sewers beyond eight parcels if there were fewer than 22 units, said Madonna's attorney Kory Salomone.

"This makes more sense to us," Salomone said of the larger proposal. "If 14 is the number you're going to sit on, we'll just withdraw our petition and go to the planning board for site plan (review) on the 14 units that we have zoned right now."

Last month, the board was hesitant

to refer the 22-unit proposal because of concerns over density and the lower taxation rate of condos.

However, at its last meeting the board pitched the idea of 16 units in one building, a compromise representing a slight increase over what the new floating zone currently allows while potentially causing less disturbance. Each proposal includes two affordable housing units.

Some nearby residents had previously

said that a single structure, which would be two stories, might be less intrusive.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said it was a hard call, which prompted him and the board to send the matter to the planning board for feedback.

"When I look at it from Old Mount Kisco Road I can visualize a single structure better," Schiliro said. "When I'm on (Route) 128, that's where I have a big concern (with) the very, very large building sitting off of

128 sort of in a residential neighborhood."

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said she liked the idea of a single building but wasn't completely comfortable with a structure that could be too large for the site. Madonna said in the 16-unit building the residences would be close to 2,000 square feet each.

"It's something that just in good conscience, if we make a mistake we all have to live with it," DiGiacinto said.

Byram Hills Board of Ed Approves \$88.7M Budget

By Martin Wilbur

The Byram Hills Board of Education adopted a nearly \$88.7 million 2015-16 budget last week that will once again maintain all existing programs and increase taxes by just under 1.5 percent for most district taxpayers.

Spending is slated to rise by 1.1 percent next year while the tax levy will increase 1.8 percent.

"I don't want to sound boastful, I think 1.1 percent is a very prudent budget," Superintendent Dr. William Donohue said at a recent board meeting.

Staffing changes, made necessary by a projected small enrollment increase at the high school, will see a .8 special education teacher, a .2 science research teacher and two teacher aides added. There will also be

a .6 full-time equivalent special education and reading teacher added to the Wampus Elementary School staff.

Enrollment projections call for an increase of four students at the high school with decreases at the district's two elementary schools and H.C. Crittenden Middle School. Overall, Byram Hills is projected to have 2,497 students attend next year, down 41 pupils, a trend that started more than five years ago and is projected to continue at least through 2019-20.

Helping the district is a significantly lower contribution to the Teacher Retirement System for 2015-16. At a budgeted \$4.6 million, that is \$1.2 million less than the district is paying this year. However, the majority of the savings is offset by increases for the Employee Retirement System

(\$300,000) and health insurance (\$653,000).

North Castle residents are projected to see a 1.47 percent tax rate increase. The district's Mount Pleasant residents will have their taxes increase 1.26 percent, Bedford residents by more than 3 percent and New Castle over 12 percent.

Voting on the budget will take place on Tuesday, May 19 at H.C. Crittenden Middle School from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Uncontested Board Vote

The Board of Education will have two new members in July. District residents Michael Sanders and Scott Levy were the only two candidates who submitted petitions last month for the two open seats. Two-term incumbents Leslie Blum (Cziner) and Ann Tedesco decided against running for re-election.

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P'ville Adopts \$14.6M Village Budget With 1.6% Tax Hike

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville village officials unanimously agreed last Monday night to approve a 2015-16 budget but remained at odds over whether to join a community aggregation energy program.

The board adopted a \$14,669,933 budget with a \$10,278,795 tax levy. The tax rate for homeowners will increase \$90.87 for every thousand dollars of assessed value, a 1.6 percent hike.

The budget for the new fiscal year, which begins June 1, will use \$525,000 of fund balance, an indication that the village is moving in the right direction, said Trustee Joseph Stargiotti. He noted that the village was able to keep the tax increase low while facing the rising costs of certain items.

"Our people found ways to get things done more efficiently, get more done more efficiently," he said. "We have better services than we've ever had before and yet we're doing it at a better rate and I don't feel like we're moving in the wrong direction. I feel like this shows we're moving in the right direction."

Despite the relatively small tax increase, Mayor Peter Scherer said the village is looking to stabilize the tax base by encouraging development. Over the next few months, trustees will look to tweak the village's master plan and zoning regulations in order to encourage more development, especially downtown.

"I totally understand that people are nervous about development, and I have said many times and will continue to say that what I imagine is Pleasantville scale development," said Scherer. "We're not looking to see some massive project arrive but what we do need is incremental development in various places."

Input Sought on Energy Program

As village officials plan to look at ways to reduce taxes for homeowners, they are also looking to trim energy costs for residents. Last week they urged residents for input regarding Sustainable Westchester's community choice aggregation program.

If Pleasantville were to join the program, which was discussed extensively at a recent meeting, residents who are currently using Con Edison as their energy provider would automatically purchase energy from an alternative energy service company (ESCO). Once Pleasantville and other Westchester municipalities make a decision about whether to join the program, Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit organization, would send out a request for proposal to various ESCOs. A contract would only be signed if there were savings over current Con Edison prices.

"I think the end goal of this is very advantageous to everybody and I do think the end goal will be lower energy

bills; you just have to be comfortable with the process," said Trustee Steven Lord.

If Pleasantville decides to join, any resident who does not wish to be included in the program could opt out by making a phone call. Scherer, who has been a strong proponent of the program, said a phone call would be a small price to allow others to participate.

"Anyone who is interested in doing it and would like to participate and is interested in the potential energy savings and also interested in having the professional advisers that Sustainable Westchester interjects between them and an ESCO, can only have that opportunity if we participate," Scherer said.

Trustee Mindy Berard remained unconvinced and believes participation

is permitting government to make an intrusive decision for residents. She said she believes that residents are smart enough to make their own energy choice.

"A lot of people have called me and e-mailed me and talked to me and told me to stay out of their business and I respect that," she said.

Trustees last week urged residents to share their opinions over the next two weeks on whether the village should participate.

Sustainable Westchester has set a May 15 deadline for Westchester municipalities to make a decision. The board is tentatively scheduled to vote on the matter at its next regular meeting on May 11, Scherer said.

Last Weekend of Indoor P'ville Farmers Market; Moves Outside May 23

Come experience the Pleasantville Farmers Market, the largest farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted Best of Westchester 2014 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With 45 vendors during its indoor season, and more than 55 vendors during its outdoor season, the market is committed to providing year-round access to the best regionally grown, farm fresh foods. This Saturday shoppers can visit the indoor market at the Pleasantville Middle School for the last time this season before the outdoor season gets underway on May 23 at Memorial Plaza with seven nearby parking lots, creative weekly programming and many new offerings. The outdoor market will be open rain or shine. The market is closed May 16.

For more information, visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Paul Bagnato Named to Master's Club at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management



Mount Kisco, 04/21/2015— Morgan Stanley announced today that **Mr. Paul Bagnato**, a Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor in its Wealth Management office in Mount Kisco has been named to the Firm's prestigious **Master's Club**, an elite group composed of the firm's top Financial Advisors. The appointment recognizes Paul Bagnato's consistent creativity and excellence in providing a wide range of investment products and wealth management services to his clients.

Paul Bagnato has been with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management since 2013. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from State University of New York in Saratoga Springs. Paul currently lives in Chappaqua with his family. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, a global leader, provides access to a wide range of products and services to individuals, businesses and institutions, including brokerage and investment advisory services, financial and wealth planning, banking services, annuities and insurance, retirement and trust services.

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North Castle Landmarks Main Breezemont Day Camp Building

continued from page 1

the structure is a reminder of our past and it's vital that it be preserved," Shimer told the board.

Records for the house date as far back as 1867. From the late 19th century through the early 20th century the site was a bungalow colony with the building used as a hotel, according to the Breezemont Day Camp website. The entire parcel, which is 15 acres, has been used as a camp since 1936.

Shimer, who displayed an image of the building from 1911 at the last town board meeting, said the 50-room hotel was a summer getaway primarily for people

from New York City. It was renovated in 1919-20 and has looked as it appears today for the past 95 years, she said.

By becoming a town landmark, it will ensure that the building's exterior as well as the lawn will have its current appearance preserved in perpetuity, Shimer said. Only interior work may be done to the former hotel.

Breezemont Day Camp owner Gordon Josey, who also owns a camp in West Virginia that contains an old schoolhouse, which was landmarked by authorities there, said it made sense for the town to hold onto a piece of its history.

"We're happy to do this," Josey said. "We want to preserve the building."

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the main house is a beautiful structure but many local residents may not notice as they drive by on Cox Avenue.

"You really need to slow down and appreciate the beauty of that building because you can just drive around that corner and not even see it," Schiliro said. "If you look at it, it's a magnificent building."

Answering questions from a neighbor, Shimer said she can think of no disadvantage to having the building

become a landmark unless there are residents who would like to see a modern structure built at the site.

The town board's vote to landmark doesn't require the building to be used by a camp. Any changes in use would have to be considered by future town administrations, Shimer said.

Now that it has been landmarked by the town, Shimer said she plans to apply for the same status with the state. If the state were to landmark, then it would handle any attempt for federal landmarking.

Pleasantville PBA to Increase Scholarships to High School Seniors

continued from page 1

be positive or negative. Cole-Hatchard explained that the PBA welcomes constructive criticism as a way to improve community policing efforts.

The scholarship is one of several initiatives undertaken by the Pleasantville PBA to strengthen ties with the community. Although she could not currently reveal details, Cole-Hatchard said various family-themed events are being planned for the coming months. Last October, the PBA participated in the annual Ragamuffin Parade, handing

out Halloween-themed goodie bags to participants.

"The community response of how much they appreciated that type of thing, we're just looking to get more involved with the community and things they may need that we can help with," Cole-Hatchard said.

Applications for the PBA scholarship, which will be awarded at graduation, have been distributed to Pleasantville High School seniors and can be accessed through the district's Naviance webpage. The deadline for submission is May 29.



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Astorino: County Wins Another Round in Fight With HUD

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County was granted an injunction last Friday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit preventing the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from reallocating another \$10 million in federal funds.

The ruling follows a previous decision in the county's favor in February, when the court concluded that HUD did not

have the discretionary power to withhold money because there are limitations on its authority.

HUD had threatened to take away \$10 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money from 2013 and 2014 based upon its conclusion that the county was noncompliant with portions of the 2009 affordable housing settlement. Westchester had previously

forfeited about \$7 million for 2011 and \$5.2 million for 2012, most of which has been reallocated to other parts of the country.

"Both decisions are victories for Westchester and for the country against an aggressive and overreaching federal government," Astorino said as part of a statement following the decision.

Ned McCormack, Astorino's communications director, said the county continues to be in compliance with the housing settlement, which requires 750 new affordable units to be in place by the end of next year. It has met its annual benchmarks, including last year when funding was in place for 454 new affordable units, just over the threshold of 450.

McCormack said more units are slated to be approved for funding this year with the county looking to reach its requirement of another 150 units by the end of December.

County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) said while the decision may appear to benefit the county as long as there is litigation pending the issue will continue to cost Westchester.

"I think really the county and HUD really need to stop litigating and they need to start negotiating," Harckham said.

The fight that resulted in CDGB funds being lost stemmed from disagreement of

the county's Analysis of Impediment (AI). HUD had rejected the county's AI and demanded that it file a document that was compliant because the agency concluded that the zoning in some of the 31 communities included in the settlement potential had exclusionary zoning.

Most Democrats on the Board of Legislators shared the view after the court's decision in February that the county will eventually have to resubmit an acceptable AI.

The case between the county and HUD is still being adjudicated in the Court of Appeals.

Making Their Case



Byram Hills High School's Mock Trial team defeated Blind Brook High School last month at the Westchester County Courthouse in a competition run by the New York State Bar Association. Pictured, left to right, with Judge Francesca Connolly, are Kevin Chang, Daniel Koster, faculty coach Martin Gilbert, senior captain Elizabeth Kingsley, Josh Schubak, Jolie Feldman, Krista Tissot, Taylor Cvern, Nolan Abramowitz and faculty coach Lisa Pellegrino. Not pictured are Greg Mekenian, Miriam Lachs, Paul Erlanger and Sarah Crucilla. Byram Hills later dropped matches to Goshen and New Paltz in the regional competition.

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Mount Kisco Police Department

Apr. 26: Report of a petty larceny on West Street at 10:30 a.m. A license plate was stolen off a resident's vehicle, a 2007 Chevrolet, sometime between Apr. 23 and Apr. 25. The resident was advised to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles to report the plate stolen and get new plates.

Apr. 26: Report of criminal mischief on North Moger Avenue at 2:59 p.m. A 1999 Honda sustained a shattered windshield and other exterior damage while it was parked on that street between 3:30 and 6:30 a.m. The amount of damage was estimated at \$1,000. There are no suspects at this time.

Apr. 27: A 33-year-old Jefferson Valley man turned himself in at police headquarters at 4:10 p.m. after failing to appear at two previous court dates at the village justice court in connection with a fourth-degree criminal mischief charge. The suspect had failed to appear in court on March 19 and Apr. 4. He was arraigned by Judge John Donohue and released on \$500 bail.

Apr. 29: A 39-year-old Mount Kisco woman was arrested at 1:30 p.m. and charged with third-degree grand larceny, a Class D felony. The subject, an employee at the Westchester Burger

Company on North Bedford Road, is suspected of running a scam connected with Groupon tickets and stealing in excess of \$10,000.

Apr. 30: A Grove Street resident reported at 10:27 a.m. that two iPads were missing from her house. The two items were estimated to be worth about \$1,350.

Apr. 30: A 45-year-old Chappaqua man was arrested at 5:52 p.m. and charged with a violation of a local law. The suspect, the owner of a local livery company, was cited for having one of his drivers working without a hack license.

Apr. 30: A 53-year-old homeless man was arrested at 5:52 p.m. and charged with trespassing on a Dakin Avenue property. The property owner has had previous problems with the individual. The suspect is due to return to village court on May 7.

Pleasantville Police Department

Apr. 24: A Clinton Avenue resident reported at 8:16 p.m. that she received a call criticizing her for her Facebook posts. The woman stated that she does not have a Facebook account.

Apr. 25: Report of possible fraud at 7:45 p.m. A resident reported that she listed an item on eBay and was notified

that the item sold but the money wasn't transferred to her account. After checking, the item did not sell and was still available to be purchased.

Apr. 27: Report of a larceny at Key Food on Pleasantville Road at 3:40 p.m. The matter is under investigation; no further information is available at this time.

Apr. 28: A 32-year-old Thornwood man was arrested on Pleasantville Road at 1:40 a.m. and charged with driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop.

North Castle Police Department

Apr. 24: Report of a dispute and possible assault at Mariani Gardens

Armonk Man Arrested in Yonkers School Bus Billing Scam

By Martin Wilbur

An Armonk man who ran a Yonkers bus transportation company was one of two suspects arrested last Thursday in a scam where they allegedly billed the city for about \$280,000 for a phantom bus route.

William Ahern, 59, of 28 High St., the owner of A Plus Transportation in Yonkers, was charged with one count each of second-degree grand larceny, a Class C felony, and second-degree rewarding official misconduct, a Class E felony, according to the Westchester County District Attorney's office.

Ahern's company allegedly submitted false invoices for school bus services that were never provided to the Nepperhan Community Center.

The second suspect, Anna Sollozzo, 52, the Yonkers Board of Education Transportation supervisor, knowingly approved the invoices for payment, despite being aware that the services were never provided, a district attorney spokesman said.

Sollozzo was arraigned on nine felony counts: three counts each of first-degree and fourth-degree criminal tax fraud, and one count each of second-degree grand larceny, second-degree receiving reward for official misconduct and third-degree criminal tax fraud.

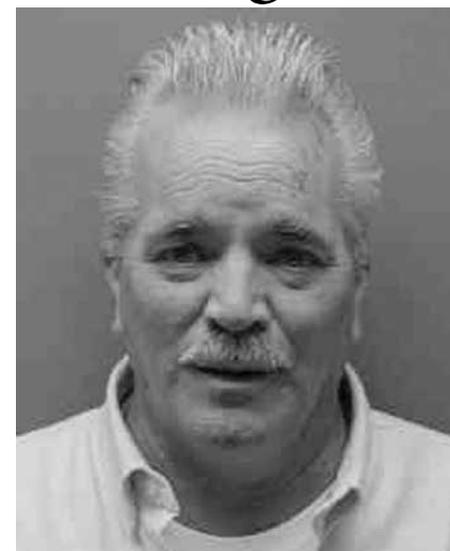
The pair was arrested and taken into custody by Yonkers Police Department detectives.

"The allegations outlined in the complaint are the essence of fraud, corruption and mismanagement," District Attorney Janet DiFiore said in a released statement. "These defendants, over an 18-month period, conspired to defraud the City of Yonkers Board of Education, and by extension, all its students by providing non-existent

on Bedford Road at 2:18 p.m. A caller stated that a male subject was struck in the face and is bleeding. Armonk Fire Department and ALS were dispatched.

Apr. 27: A complainant reported at 10:26 a.m. that both license plates were missing from the company vehicle parked on North Broadway. She did not know when the theft may have occurred.

Apr. 29: A Custis Avenue resident reported at 5:06 p.m. that her neighbor is putting mothballs on the street in front of his residence, possibly in an attempt to deter dogs and other animals from entering the area. The caller stated that she feared that neighborhood dogs may be sickened if they were to ingest the substance.



William Ahern

services. How many music or art classes could have been maintained with that misappropriated money?

The alleged thefts took place between Sept. 24, 2012 and Apr. 11, 2014, the district attorney's office said. They are accused of creating a phantom bus route by invoicing the Board of Education for bus pickups at the community center, when in fact, no buses ever were dispatched.

Ahern then would submit false invoices for the services that were never provided, authorities allege. His company had bus service contracts with the City of Yonkers for about \$2.8 million during the period of time in question.

During that same period, Ahern is suspected of depositing \$107,250 into Sollozzo's personal bank account. Sollozzo also neglected to remit \$282,398 to New York State Income Tax between March 8, 2011, and Apr. 14, 2014.

The fraud was exposed as the Yonkers Inspector General was investigating an unrelated complaint. Each suspect faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

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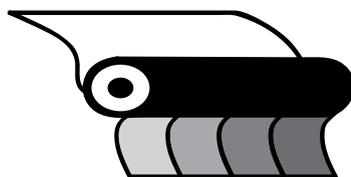
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P'ville Honors Middle School Counselor as its Teacher of the Year

By Janine Bowen

Barbara Brandenburg was shocked during last Tuesday evening's Board of Education meeting when her family entered the room to help present her a very special award.

Brandenberg, a Pleasantville Middle School counselor, was named Pleasantville's Teacher of the Year for 2015. It's an award bestowed annually to an exceptional educator in the district who exemplifies top leadership qualities, but one that Brandenberg never imagined she would be in contention to receive.

"I just never thought this would go to a counselor because I always think of the teachers who are in the classrooms," said Brandenberg, who was also surprised that her family was able to keep the secret from her when they met just two days earlier.

Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter described Brandenberg as caring, kind and compassionate who has a strong work ethic while passionately advocating for students.

Brandenberg, who has worked in the district for 20 years, explained that she came to her career later in life after finding her previous work to



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Barbara Bradenberg, right, accepts her award as Pleasantville's 2015 Teacher of the Year on Apr. 28, as Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter and Board of Education President Shane McGaffey look on.

be unsatisfying. Despite the fact that she was told by many that she would never get a job at her age, Bradenberg returned to school in her forties to become a counselor.

Having watched former students grow up, she realized that she has made a difference in their lives.

"When we were young, we never thought about finding work that would

make you happy; you find work that you can do to make a lot of money or something close to that," she said. "It's not about the money, but I've just met such amazing people."

In addition to being named Teacher of the Year by the district, Brandenberg was also presented with a proclamation from the village by Trustee Steven Lord declaring Apr. 29 Barbara Brandenberg Day in Pleasantville. County Legislator Michael Smith also presented her with a proclamation marking Apr. 30 as her day in Westchester County.

"The passion and the belief you have had in the students in this community,

you are changing people's lives," Smith said.

Brandenberg, who will be retiring at the end of next month, said while she is looking forward to retirement, she will miss leaving her work and the students behind.

She said she will have to figure out what the next chapter in life holds for her. However, she has enjoyed her time in Pleasantville.

"I'm not the most brilliant person in the world, I know that, and I'm certainly not the most technology savvy...but I have loved every minute," Bradenberg said.

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Advocates Urge for Changes to Encourage the Poor to Vote

By Janine Bowen

The United States Voting Rights Act may be 50 years old, but local officials and community activists are advocating change as concerns remain that many low-income and minority voters are inadequately represented.

A direct correlation exists between income level voter turnout, said Julie Ebenstein of the American Civil Liberties Union. Last year, 80 percent of people with an annual income of at least \$150,000, roughly twice as much as those who earn less.

At an Apr. 30 forum in Greenburgh run by Westchester for Change, a community organization working for progressive social and political change, Ebenstein said a variety of barriers has prevented low-income voters from participating as much as wealthier individuals. For example, New York does not allow early voting, meaning if someone can't make it to the polls on Election Day they are unable to vote. This largely impacts low-income voters because they are more likely to work for an hourly wage and, therefore, less likely to take time off to vote, Ebenstein said.

In addition, voter identification requirements largely affect low-income and minority citizens, she contended. More than 300,000 citizens statewide



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) was part of a group of speakers to support early voting and easier voter identification requirements in New York during a forum last week in Greenburgh on substandard voter turnout among the poor.

don't have a required government-issued I.D., such as a driver's license or passport. That number is disproportionately comprised of African-Americans and Latinos, Ebenstein said.

"Economic inequality, I want to

suggest to you, is the greatest threat to our democracy," said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville), who attended the forum.

Kristina Andreatta, deputy organizer for Citizen Action of New York, explained that low-income voters failing to show up at the polls has a negative public policy impact on them, since many politicians then don't have an incentive to respond to their needs. Therefore, it creates a cycle in which politicians pass laws that benefit wealthier citizens, creating even more economic inequality and leading the poor to believe that politicians fail to work for them, she said.

A survey of nonvoters nationwide revealed that 41 percent felt that their vote didn't matter, according to Andreatta. Meanwhile, 59 percent responded that politicians make empty promises and don't accomplish anything.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), who was recently named chairman of the Election Law Subcommittee on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement, said it's critical for those who feel disenfranchised to speak out and vote. Many local officials welcome input from the public on problems and solutions, he said.

"Too many people are cynical when it comes to government and they

don't know what I know, which is that government, when it's used right, can really help people, empower them to better their lives, improve their families and get involved in their communities," Buchwald said. "So many people, they have real issues and they don't even think to turn to their state assemblyman or state senator."

Along with raising minimum wage, advocates and officials said changing voter I.D. laws and the introduction of early voting in the state would help to reduce inequities. New York has one of the lowest turnouts of minority and poor voters, Andreatta said.

"If at least you go to the polls and you vote, you have an opportunity to transform your lives by transforming the people who are making the laws that dictate what happens in your life," said state Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers).

Stewart-Cousins is sponsoring a bill that would permit voting up to three weeks before the general election. Buchwald and fellow Assembly Democrats Sandy Galef and Amy Paulin are sponsoring a matching bill in the Assembly. While these measures have generally been supported in the Assembly, they often meet roadblocks in the Republican-controlled Senate, Stewart-Cousins said.

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Editorial

Tax Cap, Few Board Races Puts School Vote Apathy at All-Time High

The annual school budget votes and board of education elections usually generated at best middling interest over the years unless a full-fledged controversy raged in a particular district.

In 2015, most residents hardly notice that the third Tuesday in May is the day that their school district holds a vote on the following year's operating budget.

Why should the public care? Is there anything of substance that is being decided on the annual statewide school vote day anymore?

One of the consequences of the state's tax cap is that while it has guaranteed a certain level of cost certainty for taxpayers there is little to debate once the public goes to the polls. Whether a district should add another section in a grade or a high school elective, for example, is largely pre-determined by enrollment and how much the district has to spare under the cap after the pensions, health insurance and contractual obligations are accounted for.

Today, there are scant few school

officials who would dare to exceed the cap because it would require the budget to pass with a near impossible 60 percent share of the vote. Any district that would attempt such a move would also likely be hit with an avalanche of bad publicity.

Couple the inevitability factor of the budget with the rapidly escalating percentage of board of education races with no competition and there is no compelling reason except for a few hardcore citizens to vote.

It could also be argued that the tax cap is contributing toward the declining number of board of education candidates, although hectic schedules are the most likely culprit. Many of the school controversies in past generations would focus on what to add, and what to cut in the budget. With seemingly none of that on the table any longer, there is no extra incentive for someone who may have once considered running to submit a petition.

The apathy trickles down to the few important votes that do exist. Twice in the past six months the Mount Pleasant

School District proposed a major bond issue, mainly to address pressing infrastructure needs at the district's secondary-level buildings. The turnout, once on a Saturday, the next time on a Tuesday, drew a similarly dismal turnout.

Is the cynicism misplaced? Not at all. While education decisions over much of the past 50 years concentrated on local control and having residents decide what's best for their schools, the Common Core, standardized testing, the tax cap along with many other edicts from high above have taken away much of the important decision-making from the community.

Instead of important school votes, the fight is now being waged in Albany. Voters need to be aware of where their state representatives, gubernatorial candidates and the legislature's leadership stand on education issues and apply the pressure there.

If not, the third Tuesday in May will become more meaningless every year.

Letter to the Editor

Teacher Evaluation Deadline of Nov. 15 Should Be Eliminated

We fully support the step Chancellor Tisch has taken to provide districts with flexibility on the Nov. 15 deadline. We recommend that the Regents go further and drop that deadline altogether and use Sept. 1, 2016, as the deadline for school districts to fully implement new teacher and principal evaluation plans.

The law is clear that districts can submit plans for approval by Nov. 15, 2015, or by Sept. 1 of each subsequent year, i.e. September 2016. We know that it is unrealistic for school districts

to be able to document and submit new teacher and principal evaluation procedures by Sept. 1 of this year, have them approved by SED and implement them by Nov. 15 when the regulations setting out the guidelines for the process are not required to be in place before June 30. Moreover, districts need to negotiate with their unions the teacher observation category of the evaluation system. It is impossible for districts to negotiate with the unions when teachers are away for the summer.

We urge the Regents to develop and adopt the regulations as scheduled by June 30 to ensure that districts have the most time possible to negotiate and submit evaluation plans to SED. If the Regents cannot meet the June 30 deadline, they must inform the legislature as soon as possible so that the law can be amended.

The statutory language provides

the Regents the ability to extend the deadline to Sept. 1, 2016. We must take this opportunity to ensure that we give our districts the time needed to design fair, relevant and sustainable teacher and principal evaluation plans that respect professionalism and provide appropriate accountability and to ensure that critically needed state aid resources are not withheld from our schools and our children. Our teachers and students deserve nothing less.

Signed by: Thomas Abinanti (Assembly, 92nd District), Didi Barrett (Assembly, 106th District), David Buchwald (Assembly, 93rd District), Steven Englebright (Assembly, 4th District), Sandra Galef (Assembly, 95th District), Aileen Gunther (Assembly, 100th District), Ellen Jaffee (Assembly, 97th District), Kimberly Jean-Pierre (Assembly, 11th District), Todd Kaminsky (Assembly, 20th District), Charles Lavine (Assembly, 13th District), Steve Otis (Assembly, 91st District), Amy Paulin (Assembly, 88th District), J. Gary Pretlow (Assembly, 89th District), Michelle Schimel (Assembly, 16th District), Frank Skartados (Assembly, 104th District), James Skoufis (99th District), Michaelle Solages (22nd District), Fred Thiele (1st District), Kenneth Zebrowski (96th District)

Correction

In last week's issue, it was incorrectly reported in the article regarding the Mount Kisco Village Board's approval to consolidate its police services with Westchester County that Patric Kilkenny is an attorney. He is not an attorney. The Examiner regrets the error.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be

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Charles Pound Armonk

By Martin Wilbur

At a time when career changes were done only when necessary, it could be said that Charles Pound has been ahead of his time.

By his own count, Pound has had at least five separate careers, in some cases one having little connection to what preceded or followed.

"Life has been just one successive thing," Pound said. "As a door opens I'm just willing to take a look down the path and decide what I'm going to do."

What makes Pound's life all the more remarkable is not just what he's accomplished. At 96 years old he remains active, looking forward to the next challenge, whether for business or pleasure, such as camel riding in Tunisia, which he did two years ago.

Pound, who was the Byram Hills Board of Education's first-ever president and was one of the community members instrumental in forming the school district more than a half-century ago, is in the midst of selling his dredging company that he's owned for 40 years. When the sale's complete, don't expect him to be lounging around his

Armonk house that he built--literally with his hands when moving to town 63 years ago--or find him sitting idle on a beach. He will be a consultant, using his vast experience and expertise.

"I've worked all my life," Pound said. "I'd go really bonkers if I sat around."

An accordionist as a child, he auditioned for and was selected to appear regularly on the Horn & Hardart's Children's Hour and Major Boews Amateur Hour, two popular radio shows of the day.

Those opportunities led Pound to become part of a vaudeville group from 14 to 16 years old. He worked out an arrangement with his school, Roosevelt High School, where he would barnstorm the eastern United States for three-month stretches as long as he returned to take his tests. He did well because one of his band mates tutored him.

"This was the height of the Depression and it just so happened there was a college professor in this vaudeville act who was out of work," Pound said.

Although he was accepted to MIT and had saved a few thousand dollars, Pound

was unable to afford four years of tuition. Instead, he enrolled in what is today the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse and became an engineer.

During college, Pound earned his pilot's license, then was called on to serve in the military following his 1941 graduation and Pearl Harbor. He flew 28 missions in the Pacific during World War II. Many of his buddies never returned.

"We were scared all the time," Pound recalled. "It was almost an unconscious scare. It was something you had to do."

When Pound returned to the states, he went to St. Louis, where he spent time before heading overseas and had met Trudy. She wanted to get married before he left, but Pound insisted they wait since he didn't want to risk leaving a young widow. They married in 1945 and would have three children. Today, Pound is a grandfather of eight and has four great-grandchildren.

Back in civilian life, Pound landed a job with the Boy Scouts of America. For 10 years he was its director of planning, construction and maintenance, designing camps throughout the U.S. To make extra money, as he and Trudy began raising their family, Pound worked out an arrangement where he would have a four-day work week



while he launched his own consulting firm to inspect camps.

Pound then served as Parks Department commissioner under County Executive Edwin Michaelian, a role that was later expanded to oversee the former garbage dump at Croton Point Park. Pound said he was the only commissioner at the time with civil service protection.

"I just did not play politics at all," he said. "I did not get

involved in politics at all. I ran the Parks Department with an iron fist."

Pound left the post in 1974 when Alfred DeBello became county executive. Through overseeing the landfill, he became acquainted and took a job with a company that disposed of nuclear waste. While negotiating a contract with Commonwealth Edison for work in Lake Michigan, Pound suggested the company invest in a special dredging apparatus to limit turbidity. That vaulted him into the dredging business.

Like he did when helping to form the Byram Hills School District, Pound remains active in the community. Currently, he serves on the North Castle Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Pound has visited 105 countries and still hopes there's time to reach a few more.

"It's been an interesting life and I've got a few more things that I want to do," he said.



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The Home Guru's Roundup of Home Improvement Providers

There's always the possibility that we're taking a chance when we hire a home improvement contractor for the first time whether the job is big or small.

When I moved to the suburbs and it was time for me to find a contractor, it was for a big job: to take a mud room that was literally falling off the back of my historic home, reframe it and install a new door, a half bath and a closet.

A good friend who had moved from the city a few months before us recommended a contractor he had used, basically a handyman, and knowing no one else in the area, I trusted that referral. Foolish me, I forked over \$500 to the guy to buy materials and that was the last I saw of him. Forty-plus years ago that was a lot of money, but being rooked and made a fool of hurt more than the financial loss.

The lessons learned: Never hire a contractor who wants money up front or who doesn't have a significant portfolio of jobs in the community to demonstrate his or her stability.

Since becoming The Home Guru, I've formed happy alliances with many home improvement suppliers, and because readers frequently ask me for recommendations, I'm opening the pages of my "little black book" to share those I'm



By Bill Primavera

using right now or have used in the recent past. I can recommend them with full confidence and, for good measure, I've included some personal notes.

Blinds: Niles Floors & Blinds. Anthony and Pat Viverito, 914-737-6780, www.nilesfloorsandblinds.com. The Viveritos convinced me to filter the light in my new digs rather than have my windows go naked, as I was wont to do for some years.

Carpeting: Redi-Cut Carpets. Michael Feldman, 914-937-5885, <http://redicut.com>. Feldman just installed all the carpeting in my new offices.

Contractors: Miracle Home Improvements. 914-2719119, www.miraclehomeimprovements.com. Mary and Robert Sniffen specialize in roofing, windows, siding, doors, skylights and decks.

Franzoso Contracting. Mark Franzoso, 914-271-4572, www.franzoso.com. Franzoso came to Yorktown's aid when we were about to lose an historic landmark, which he agreed to restore in exchange for the right to build an additional house on the property.

Environmental Company: Enviro-Star. Mark DiBartolo, 845-279-9555, www.tankremovalservices.com. Remember, an

underground oil tank on your property isn't a death sentence. But if it must come out, DiBartolo's the guy.

Electrician: P&K Electric. 914-962-3581. Pete and Ken are doing the wiring for an electric fireplace in my new digs that, I swear, you would never know isn't the real thing. I found it at Fireglow in Jefferson Valley.

Fencing: Campanella Fencing. Tony Campanella, 845-628-2200. Campanella always offers me creative solutions when it's time to repair my very old stockade fencing.

Flooring: Absolute Flooring. 914-245-0225, www.absoluteflooring.com. When it came time to replace my kitchen floor, owners Mary and son Bryan Fellbusch treated me like family and gave me the best installation job imaginable for a checkerboard white and black pattern.

Home Inspector: Robin Home Inspection. 914-456-7718. Dale Robin does an incredibly thorough job; clients are always impressed.

Landscaper/Snow Removal: Fitz's Landscaping. John Fitzpatrick, 914-618-1549, www.fitz-landscape.com. Now that spring is here, you can rely on Fitzpatrick for total landscaping design and lawn maintenance needs.

Mold Remediation: Oxygen Sanitizing Systems. 1-877-224-3080, www.newindoorair.com. When my office

library was attacked by mold, owner Valerie Maziarz rescued it with this wonderful service. I actually breathe better now.

Mover: Advantage Movers. 800-444-0104. Phil D'Erasmus is the best in the business, and his resources aid charities in need. That really appeals to me.

Painter: Joe Pascarelli. 914-330-3889. Can there be anyone else but "Fireman Joe" for painting inside or out? He'll also tell you about fire safety at home. (Check your smoke detectors!)

Plumber: Goldberg Plumbing & Heating. 914-962-3498. Dave Goldberg was the first plumber I called over 40 years ago.

To my suppliers, If I've left anybody out, don't shoot me. Forgive me and I'll catch you the next time around. Just as with the throes of maintaining a home, there's always another job to be done, right?

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

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HOME & GARDEN

How Safe Are the Spring Cleaning Products That You Use at Home?

Do you know what ingredients are in the cleaning products you buy? Probably not, as there are no federal governmental regulations requiring companies to disclose their contents. But harsh chemicals can take their toll on the indoor air quality of your home, are harmful to the environment and may irritate eyes and skin.

So how can you learn more about the cleaning products you plan to purchase? Luckily, certain retailers are making it easier for consumers to make informed decisions. For example, in 2011 Whole Foods Market introduced the Eco-Scale Rating System, which are the first household cleaner standards offered by a retailer.

This season, don't just spring clean your home; take stock of your cleaners and clean up your entire act. By opting for green cleaning products, you can help make your home a safer, healthier place. Here's how:

- Do an audit. Take a look at the cleaning products you currently own. Just because a brand or product is well-known does not make it a healthy option. A quick Internet search can reveal the safety attributes of a product's ingredients -- so long as the manufacturer has chosen



KONSTANTIN YUGANOV - FOTOLIA.COM PHOTO

to disclose ingredients. Toss anything problematic and make a shopping list of what you need to replace.

- Full disclosure. Avoid cleaning products that don't disclose what ingredients they use. Look for brands, such as 365 Everyday Value, that make it easy for you to know what ingredients are being used in the product you're purchasing.
- Be informed. Know what ingredients

to avoid entirely. Harsh ingredients like formaldehyde and chlorine can still be found in cleaning products today. Don't know where to start? Take a look at the list of more than 40 ingredients that aren't allowed in Whole Foods Market's cleaning products, including chlorine, formaldehyde, phosphates, phthalates and triclosan.

- Lock-up. No matter the contents of your cleaners, it's good practice to

keep them stored in a safe place, such as a locked cabinet. Young children and pets should not be able to access your cleaning products supply.

- Do it yourself. A quick and easy way to know exactly what's in your cleaning products is to make them yourself. Luckily, only a few inexpensive ingredients are needed to make your own all-purpose cleaner. Simply mix one part water with one part vinegar, add a few drops of your favorite pure essential oil and you have an all-purpose spray. Baking soda is another great cleaner that has a mild scrubbing power and helps combat odors.

Don't have the time to make your own cleaner? The Eco-Scale Rating System evaluates products for environmental impact, safety, efficacy, source, labeling and animal testing. Visit www.WholeFoodsMarket.com/ecoscale to learn more.

If you're using conventional cleaning supplies, you may be exposing your family to harmful ingredients. By learning more about the products you use, you can green your spring cleaning for a healthier home.

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Hair Today, Hair Tomorrow: P'ville Salon Celebrates 25 Years

By Janine Bowen

Raffaele "Ralph" Farraioli has been cutting hair for most of his life and for the last 25 years in Pleasantville.

In 1990, Farraioli came to the village, opening La Barberia on Wheeler Avenue. A lot has changed over the last quarter of a century.

During the time, kids who needed booster seats are graduating college while adults visited him for haircuts when they were growing up in Yonkers are now bringing their own children to La Barberia.

Farraioli said it was always important that the shop be a place where families could come to get their hair cut without breaking the bank.

"I had no idea where to go...so I really prayed that evening and I felt like getting on the Sprain [Brook Parkway] and I got here," he said of his decision to open a shop in Pleasantville.

"I'm a family man myself and I know what it can cost to bring kids to a hair salon, and then yourself, and then your wife, so our work is just as good as the high end stores," Farraioli said. "I just couldn't go there [with high prices]. I just didn't feel like that's the right thing to do," he added.

Farraioli, 71, began cutting hair in the early 1960s, after winning \$2,700 in a sweepstakes while working as a cashier in his father's supermarket. After using some of the money to take a vacation in Florida,



Raffaele Farraioli's La Barberia at 65 Wheeler Ave. in Pleasantville has kept customers coming back to the salon for a quarter century.

he returned to his apartment on Arthur Avenue in The Bronx, which happened to be located above a barber shop. Following a conversation with that shop owner, Farraioli used his remaining money to go to barber school.

After a few apprenticeships under some of the biggest names in hair at the time, including Vidal Sassoon, Farraioli got a

hair cutting job at a Manhattan shop in 1969 at a time when men were wearing their hair long. It was his ability to style hair for men and women that inspired him to open the first unisex salon in Yonkers a year later.

"I was doing guys' long hair and now the girls are coming in and they want the same haircut as their boyfriend, so I started

doing girls and realized...I'm going to open up a unisex salon," Farraioli said.

He remained in Yonkers before selling the business to his former employees and taking a break from the hair cutting business. But after getting bored, Farraioli started search for a location for a new shop. A sudden burst of inspiration found him driving north from his Yonkers home, and eventually he found himself in Pleasantville. Farraioli determined that it must be a nice neighborhood because there were no locked metal gates in front of the jewelry store.

Although his prices have remained relatively consistent, a lot has changed in the world of hairstyles since he started the business. He said hairstyles for men have become more complex while women are shying away from high-maintenance hairstyles and opting for easy-to-manage hairdos.

Although he will be turning 72 next month, Farraioli has no intentions of retiring anytime soon. He hopes to keep himself and his staff up to date on the latest styles from Europe and remain in business as long as possible.

And no matter what hairstyles are popular, if there's one that poses a challenge he will learn how to do it.

"There's not a haircut that walks around that I can't do or my staff can't do," Farraioli said.

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Business of the Week

**The Twisted Branch
Olive Oil & Vinegar Tap Room
Valhalla**

By Pat Casey

When what you love to do in your spare time becomes your full-time occupation, that's Kismet, and you know the result will be the fruit of pure passion.

The Twisted Branch Olive Oil & Tap Room has just opened at 24 Broadway in Valhalla, and already the new store is getting a reputation as a "must visit destination." Chefs from some of the more popular eateries in Westchester have made the discovery and The Twisted Branch is on their regular shopping routes.

White Plains residents and brothers John Cherico and Richard Cozza and Cozza's wife, Erika, have partnered to open the new business. The idea for the specialty shop had been discussed among the partners for several years, but last November when it looked like they had the opportunity to finally make the jump - Cherico was leaving the corporate world and Cozza was moving on from his IT job - they took the business plan to the fast track and opened the store in just

over four months.

The shop is full of delicious add-ons that finish off a special entrée, appetizer, pasta or salad or make that cup of coffee or tea something you want to linger over.

"We stocked the shelves with things we like, products we had found and use," Richard Cozza explained.

From Italian families where the kitchen is the center of the household, Cherico and Cozza grew up with inquisitive palates. Cozza, who had experimented with different olive oil and balsamic vinegar recipes, became known for his olive oil finishes to pizza and pasta dishes. His wife discovered early in their marriage that he had a knack for taking anything she cooked to the next level and she was happy to let him do it.

The shop features oils and vinegars imported from Italy, Spain, Chile and Tunisia. The Twisted Branch works with a flavor-infusing company based in California. Each product is created to exact specifications and bottled on site in Valhalla.



PAT CASEY PHOTO

Left to right, Richard and Erika Cozza with John Cherico at The Twisted Branch Olive Oil & Vinegar Tap Room in Valhalla.

When traveling for his job in IT, Cozza would often spend time in California and Seattle.

"Oil and vinegar tap rooms are quite popular on the West coast," he explained. "I was already hooked on the concept and was shipping product back home for my personal use. That's how I got involved in the network, which made it easy to set up the business so quickly. I had already done much of the work."

Infused and flavored olive oils such as basil, blood orange, sage and onion, Tuscan herb, garlic mushroom, sundried tomato and white truffle, among others, are on the menu.

Dark balsamic vinegars include black mission fig, honey ginger, raspberry,

pumpkin spice and traditional. The white balsamic vinegars include cranberry, bittersweet chocolate with orange, coconut, strawberry peach and Anjou pear.

There are also gourmet wine vinegars and special flavors created for each season. The store has tasting cups and spoons and bread cubes for sampling.

They also plan to have Arthur Avenue bread delivered fresh each morning for customers to purchase.

On his trips to Seattle, Cozza indulged in the gourmet coffee culture of the West Coast and the shop offers a signature small batch coffee.

Because Erika Cozza is a tea drinker, master tea blends from Harney & Sons can be found on the shelves along with local honey from a Connecticut bee farm, gourmet and flavored salts, flavored cane sugars and hand-blended spices.

Cozza has been busy developing recipes which he will post on the store's website. There will also be a blog for sharing taste experiences.

If you're in White Plains, The Twisted Branch will be a vendor at the White Plains Farmers Market every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Twisted Branch is located at 24 Broadway in Valhalla. Store hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 914-437-8000 or visit www.TheTwistedBranch.com.

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BOCES Honors Chappaqua Youngster as Student of Distinction

Mother Earth may be facing some serious challenges but Chappaqua's Kevin O'Brien is doing all he can to protect and preserve the planet.

O'Brien, a senior at Horace Greeley High School and a student in the New Visions Environmental Science and Sustainability Program at the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Tech Center, was honored as a Student of Distinction by the Chappaqua Board of Education on Apr. 8.

BOCES teacher Deborah Ashley presented O'Brien with a certificate of



Kevin O'Brien, third from right, shows off his BOCES Student of Distinction award, which was presented to him at a Chappaqua Board of Education meeting last month. He's pictured with his parents, Marty and Jackie, second and third from left, respectively, and BOCES teachers and administrators.

In addition to his work at BOCES, O'Brien also participates in an internship at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. O'Brien's intern responsibilities include helping to care for the nature center's animals, presenting these animals to visitors and maintaining the landscape.

O'Brien, who is also working on a research paper about bio remediation, said he wants to pursue a career as a naturalist after graduation.

"I've had a significant interest in the natural world, especially animals, since I was about six," O'Brien said. "Working at the nature center has been ideal for me. I really appreciate the New Visions program. It's given me the guidance that I need to focus on my passion."

O'Brien was accompanied at the ceremony by his family and BOCES administrators and teachers.

"We're exceptionally proud of Kevin," said Jackie O'Brien, Kevin's mother. "Despite any of the challenges he's faced, he continues to be one of the best learners that I've been acquainted with, and I'm a teacher. He's so persistent in getting answers for himself. He's worked so hard and his teachers have been so helpful. This program is one of the best things he's ever had the chance to experience, and I'm not exaggerating."

recognition and a medal in honor of his accomplishments in the New Visions program. Ashley noted that O'Brien is an engaged student who keeps the classroom laughing with his jokes, and called him "kind and thoughtful."

"Kevin was nominated as a Student

of Distinction because he is an amazing student and an incredible citizen," Ashley said. She also called him knowledgeable, curious and dedicated to making a lasting difference in the field of sustainability.

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Locally Created Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Honors Clinton

Tina's Wish, the only nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to funding research for the early detection of ovarian cancer, honored President Bill Clinton with the inaugural Tina's Wish Global Women's Health Award at a reception at the Waldorf Astoria New York on Apr. 14.

Hundreds attended the event which raised much-needed funds that will benefit Tina's Wish and its mission to find an effective way to diagnose ovarian cancer at its earliest, most curable stage.

"If there is one solid rule that is true all around the world, it is that creative networks of cooperation are the best way to solve problems faster, cheaper and better," said President Clinton during his acceptance speech. "The global impact of ovarian cancer is so great because of the absence of early detection. By being here tonight, you are playing a small role in a giant collaborative effort to guarantee a 100 percent survival rate from this disease, redeeming Tina's wish and the best parts of the unfulfilled lives of every person we've ever lost."

The Tina's Wish Global Women's Health Award was created to honor individuals whose contributions to the betterment of women's health have been extraordinary. President Clinton was chosen as the first recipient because of the lasting impact the Clinton Foundation's work is having on women's health globally. Both Tina's

Wish and the Clinton Foundation were founded on the principle that turning an idea into action is best achieved through collaboration.

"It was an inspirational evening and we thank President Clinton for joining us and sharing his thoughts on how working together to solve problems can make the biggest impact," said Chappaqua resident Andrew Brozman, Tina's husband and member of the Tina's Wish board of directors. "We are grateful to those who came out to support this important cause and we are already looking forward to next year's ceremony."

Since its inception, Tina's Wish has become the third largest private funding source dedicated to ovarian cancer research and established The Tina Brozman Ovarian

Cancer Research Consortium which is comprised of five world-class research institutions. In 2014, the foundation established one of the first ever consortium grants to benefit ovarian cancer, The Rita M. Kirpalani Memorial Consortium Grant for Ovarian Cancer Research. Through this grant, six research teams will work together on the same set of specimens with the goal of finding an early detection screen.

Tina's Wish honors the memory of Tina Brozman, former chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, who died at the age of 54 following a two-year battle with ovarian cancer. The organization will host its next event, the Tina's Wish Women's Committee Spring Reception, on Monday, May 18, at the Time Warner Center in New York City.



Andrew Brozman, founder of Tina's Wish, with fellow Chappaqua resident President Bill Clinton. Clinton received the organization's inaugural Global Women's Health Award last month.

For more information, visit tinaswish.org, "like" Tina's Wish on Facebook and follow on Twitter.

Registration Open for May 17 New Castle 10K Road Race

The New Castle Recreation and Parks Department will hold the 28th running of the New Castle 10K Road Race on Sunday, May 17. Participants can join in on an exhilarating run through one of the most challenging courses and scenic landscapes in Westchester County.

The race steps off at 8:10 a.m. outside Town Hall at 200 S. Greeley Ave. in Chappaqua. Check-in is from 6:45 to 8 a.m. Awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers in each age category.

Runners may pre-register through

Thursday, May 14 for a \$20 fee by completing the application form that can be found on the Recreation and Parks page on the town's website at www.mynewcastle.org. The application can be delivered in person or mailed to New Castle Recreation and Parks, Attn: 10K Road Race, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua, N.Y. 10520. Checks should be made out to Town of New Castle.

Day-of-race registration is available by completing the form and paying \$25 either in cash or check to the Town Hall Assembly

Room during the morning check in.

Immediately after the start of the 10K, there will also be the Kids' Fun Run, which captures the excitement of the big race but on a much smaller scale. All family members are invited to take a run around the block with their children. Registration is available at the Kids Fun Run table on the day of the race. Registration is free.

For more information, contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 914-238-3909.

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Tuesday, May 5

Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo. Born and raised in Italy, De Matteo 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 Whippoorwill Rd East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

Planning for Your Future: Housing Options as You Age. Whether you are in the early stages of planning your retirement or already retired, this program will provide valuable information on the best and most affordable choices for housing. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center Auditorium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

First Tuesdays Book Club. "Once We Were Brothers" by Ronald H. Balson will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, May 6

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership

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

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Blood Pressure Screening. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center's Walkway Conference Room, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Also May 20. Appointment required. Info and appointment: 914-366-3220.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™

and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

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

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

Chair Yoga. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday in May. Info: 914-273-3887.

"Cutting Edge Containers." The garden section of the Scarsdale Women's Club presents this program featuring well-known celerity gardener Kent Russell. He designs gardens and container plantings for clients throughout the East Coast and travels regularly to share his garden experiences. There will be plants for sale and a tea following the program. Scarsdale Women's Club's clubhouse, 37 Drake Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-5021.

Mind Games. A fun way for seniors to stimulate their minds and improve cognitive functioning by playing group games. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center boardroom, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

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.

Art Discussion Series: "Ridolfo and Benedetto Ghirlandaio." Domenico Ghirlandaio's influence spanned several generations, including his son, the scenic painter Ridolfo, and his brothers Davide, who worked in mosaics, and Benedetto, as well as the fresco painter Fra Bartolomeo, whose artistic career was interrupted by controversy and then jumpstarted again by his acquaintance with Raphael. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Life and Death With Dignity: Taking Charge of Healthcare Decisions. The League of Women Voters of New Castle is hosting this healthcare forum to start a conversation about palliative care, hospice, advance care planning and other issues to consider when taking charge of present and future healthcare decisions. Moderated by Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs, senior minister at the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua. Refreshments will be served. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Amy McNamara at 914-238-8342 or lwnnewcastle@gmail.com.

Bedford Chamber Concert Series. The series' final concert will feature Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 for flute, violin and harpsichord; Mozart's Flute Concerto in D performed by soloist Mimi Stillman; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 2. St. Matthew's Church Fellowship Hall, 382 Cantitoe St. (Route 22), Bedford. 8 p.m. \$40. (Includes refreshments during intermission.) Info and tickets: 914-522-5150 or visit www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

Thursday, May 7

Plant Patch Sale. This annual sale will feature a wide variety of perennials and annuals, herbs and vegetables, hanging baskets and beautiful herb gift baskets and Mother's Day plant and flower gifts. The selection of perennials has expanded this year to include many early blossoming varieties. St. Luke's Katonah Episcopal Church, 68 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission. Also May 8 and

continued on page 28

HISTORY MATTERS

By Edward Goralski

What in the World? The quiz questions this week are taken from the U.S. Geography Olympiad, sponsored by the National History Bee and Bowl, which was held in late April. The U.S. Geography Olympiad is a nationwide competition focusing on all aspects of geography. Here is your chance to see how worldly wise you are.

1. Fort Knox, Lincoln's Birthplace, and the National Corvette Museum are all in what state?

- A) Illinois B) Kentucky C) Indiana

2. What city is home to the Taj Mahal?

- A) Agra B) New Delhi C) Mumbai

3. The Three Gorges Dam is a mega project along what river?

- A) Mekong B) Yangtze C) Yellow

4. What attraction is part of the site known as the Acropolis?

- A) Pyramids of Giza B) Pantheon C) Parthenon

5. What U.S. state has the highest percentage of federally-owned land?

- A) New Mexico B) Nevada C) Utah

6. What is the name of the indigenous people of Guam?

- A) Siletz B) Waitangi C) Chamorro

7. The Valdai Hills are in what country?

- A) Russia B) South Africa C) Canada

8. Karst topography is responsible for what American landmark?

- A) Pikes Peak B) Mammoth Cave C) Niagara Falls

ANSWERS:
1. B. Kentucky
2. A. Agra
3. B. Yangtze
4. C. Parthenon

5. B. Nevada
6. C. Chamorro
7. A. Russia
8. C. Niagara Falls

Take Care of the Moms Who Take Care of an Elderly Mom

By Gail Goodman

Families around the country are making plans for Mother's Day: making the reservations for the celebratory family dinner, mailing the cards and buying presents.

Hallmark and stores bombard us with reminders of what to get for our moms and the perfect way to celebrate her, highlighting the joys of motherhood, from new mothers to grandmothers. We accept the picture perfect world portrayed in advertising and expect to see it reflected in our lives.

What the ads don't tell you is this: type "elderly mothers" in a search engine and you will get titles such as "My Elderly Mother is Driving Me Crazy" or "Is My Elderly Parent From the Exorcist." This is the reality for many families as they confront Mother's Day. These are the websites and articles written by those who bear the burden of caring for their elderly parents.

Our moms who once cared for us now need our care and the strain is showing.

Everything might have been rosy a short while ago when mom was on her own and independent, but now she has taken a turn and requires around-the-clock support.

Those who care for elderly parents make up 36 percent of the care-giving population. About 66 percent of family caregivers are women. According to AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving, in 2014 the "typical" family caregiver is a 49-year-old woman caring for her widowed 69-year-old mother

who does not live with her. This model caregiver is married and employed and more than 37 percent of them have children or grandchildren under 18 years old living with them, making them eligible to be celebrating Mother's Day with their family.

Care-giving takes its toll, particularly on women. Women who are the primary caregivers are 2.5 times more likely to live in poverty and five times more likely to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) than those women who are not primary caregivers.

The stress of care-giving has a negative effect on their health as well. Almost a quarter of family caregivers report they are in poor health. They are more likely to have not seen a doctor, missed appointments or been too busy to meet their own physical and mental health needs. And this persists even after their care-giving duties are over. The stress of caring for people with dementia has been shown to impact the caregiver's immune system for up to three years after.

The "sandwich generation" is trying to maintain a healthy family life for their children while being tried by the demands of an elderly parent. The inherent stress that caregivers endure, including the balancing act among children, employment and an elderly parent, asserts pressures on the immediate

family. Stress tests even the best of relationships between an adult child and parents, not to mention the strain that develops between adult siblings of elderly parents because of the unequal burden of care and responsibility. The work of caring for, and decisions involving mother's care, are often fraught with tension as siblings now struggle to share those responsibilities.

This Mother's Day we should make a special card that you will not find on the shelves of the card racks thanking and acknowledging all the work that these women caregivers do for their moms. Time, instead of flowers, is a gift to consider--an afternoon off, a weekend away, a

spa day. The rest of the year we should take the time to remember our mothers who care for their mothers and our grandmothers. Although this is their special day, make it a point to support them all year round.

We should also vow to support efforts that make it easier for all caregivers who are sacrificing so much for our moms.

Chappaqua resident Gail Goodman is a co-founder of Talking Alternatives, a family mediation firm specializing in elder and adult family mediation. For more information, visit www.talkingalternatives.net.



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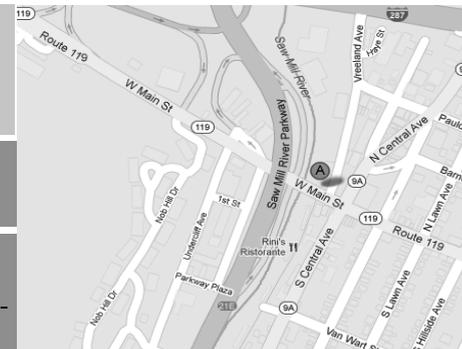


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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BOND RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the "Village"), at a meeting held on April 27, 2015, adopted a bond resolution, which is subject to a permissive referendum, that authorizes the issuance of \$425,000 serial bonds of the Village to finance the purchase of machinery and apparatus to be used for constructing, reconstructing, repairing or maintaining Village improvements, including a dump truck and sweeper to be used by the Department of Public Works

(the "Project") the cost of each item of which is \$30,000 or more. The period of probable usefulness is fifteen (15) years and the bonds are payable from amounts to be annually levied on all the taxable real property in the Village. Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), the Village has determined that the project is a Type II Action requiring no further action under SEQRA.

Judith Weintraub
Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville,
Westchester County, New York

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NEW LISTING

Pleasantville | \$949,000 | Charming and meticulously cared for 1904 three-story Dutch Colonial set in the heart of the Village on a tree-lined street. Rocking chair wrap-around front porch welcomes you into this 5-bedroom home boasting gleaming wood floors throughout, fireplace, built-ins and 9 ft ceilings. Web# 4516909 **Chappaqua Office 914.238.3988**



NEW LISTING

Briarcliff Manor | \$945,000 | Stylish 4-bedroom, 3 full bath Contemporary located in a quiet cul-de-sac with enchanting backyard with in-ground pool and pastoral views. Highlights include living room with vaulted ceilings and skylights, granite eat-in kitchen and first floor master bedroom with marble bath. Web# 4515358 **Chappaqua Office 914.238.3988**



NEW PRICE

Pleasantville | \$825,000 | Impeccable 3-bedroom, 2-bath Country Contemporary in tranquil setting on a beautiful acre. Living room with cathedral ceilings, high windows and wood-burning fireplace. Upgraded kitchen and baths. Library/family room, lower level playroom, wrap-around deck and screened-in porch. Web# 4504472 **Pleasantville Office 914.769.3333**



NEW LISTING

Pleasantville | \$749,000 | Spacious 4-bedroom, 2-bath Contemporary situated on .97 acres. Features include living room with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, screened-in porch, large master bedroom with bath plus expansive bonus room with separate entrance perfect for home office. Web# 4516593 **Pleasantville Office 914.769.3333**



NEW LISTING

Pleasantville | \$649,999 | Super home for entertaining with large screened porch and patio on beautiful half acre with 100-year old stone wall in rear. Main level master bedroom and 2 additional bedrooms with full bath. Lower level offers family room, guest/playroom, half bath, laundry and utilities. Near all. Web# 4513382 **Pleasantville Office 914.769.3333**



NEW LISTING

Mount Kisco | \$599,000 | Charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath Cape located close to all yet offering peace and tranquility. Fantastic opportunity to put your special touches on this gem of a home. A great opportunity to be part of all Chappaqua has to offer in this conveniently located home. Web# 4514795 **Pleasantville Office 914.769.3333**

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Happenings

continued from page 24

9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Info: 914-232-5220 or e-mail parish@stlukekatonah.org.

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.

Speech-Language Screening for Preschool Children. Are you concerned about your child's speech and language development? An experienced pediatric speech-language pathologist will screen your child. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center's Donald R. Reed Speech & Hearing Center, Suite 303, 777 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Also May 15 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Appointments required. Info and appointments: 914-366-3220.

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.

Bereavement Support Group. For adults struggling with the loss of a loved one. Led by bereavement coordinator Bess Steiger. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center's James House, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 per session. Also May 21. Info: 914-366-3325 or e-mail bsteiger@pmhc.us.

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.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org.

Latest Trends in Resume Writing. Learn how to transfer your resume into a marketing document, find out about different formats and which one will work for you and understand how to post your resume on job boards and social media sites. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

gmail.com or visit www.Addie-tude.com.

Friday, May 8

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.

Senior Open House. The Senior Activity Group of New Castle invites community members to explore the programs and services offered to adults 60 years old and up. All seniors are welcome as well as those with relatives over 60 who are interested in getting themselves or loved ones involved in exciting and supportive programs. Refreshments will be served. New Castle Community Center, 10 Senter St., Chappaqua. 12 to 2 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Brittany at 914-238-6391 or e-mail bneider@mynewcastle.org.

Wolf Tales for Kids: Mythology of a Predator. A program discussing the relationship between the wolves and humans of the past. Guests will be introduced to various wolf mythologies and have a chance to create their own and share if desired. Also visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Bring a camera. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 4 p.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Friday Night Films: "The Great Beauty." This 2013 feature is director Paolo Sorrentino's gorgeous, frantic, assured, hopped up, quiet, funny answer to Fellini's La Dolce Vita. Winner at the Oscars, BAFTA and the Golden Globes, this film is a veritable Valentine to the city of Rome and the pleasures of a life well lived and a critique of life's excesses consumed without any spiritual examination. Adult content; in Italian with English subtitles. Discussion led by Professor Val Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

WCC Film Series: "A Late Quartet." After a classical string quartet's 25 years of success, Peter, the cellist and oldest member, decides that he must retire when he learns he has Parkinson's disease. For the others, that announcement proves a catalyst for letting their hidden resentments come to the surface. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. Doors open at 7:10 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Screening at 7:50 p.m. \$11. Seniors (60 and up): \$10. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-723-3186.

"Dead Man's Cell Phone." Axial Theatre's presents Sarah Ruhl's bright,

satirical comedy that received the 2007 Helen Hayes Award for outstanding new play. St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$25. Seniors and students: \$20. Also May 9, 16 at 2 p.m., May 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. and May 3, 10 and 17 at 4 p.m. Info and tickets: 1-800-838-3006 or visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1396632>.

Saturday, May 9

Pleasantville Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. For new gardeners and those who need the right plant for their much-loved garden, choose from member-grown, proven perennials, new varieties of annuals, vegetables and herbs and plush hanging baskets. Plenty of gift ideas for Mother's Day. Proceeds are used for beautification projects in the Village of Pleasantville and the Town of Mount Pleasant and for scholarships to local high schools. Rain or shine. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Featuring a variety of meats, cheeses, breads and prepared foods. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.com.

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

Briarcliff Manor Garden Club Plant Sale. Choose from hanging baskets, flats of annuals, perennials grown by club members, vegetables, flower and herb baskets and baked goods. Just in time for Mother's Day. Rain or shine. Wells Fargo Bank parking lot, 1050 Pleasantville Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday in May. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a special time for packs in North America. Visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Also May 16, 24, 25 and 30. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Dance Company Auditions. The

Academy of Dance Arts is holding an audition for its 2015-16 season for those looking for opportunities beyond weekly dance classes and recitals. Academy Dance Arts, 17 Marble Ave., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Info: 914-741-5678.

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.

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

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

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration. Come join our naturalist to learn about birds of prey and get to know some of our local migrants. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Family Second Saturdays: Plastic is Art! Can you imagine a world without plastic? Consider how artists used plastics in the mid-20th century, when it was a brand new material. We'll look at the work of Robert Rauschenberg and experiment with plastic art works of our own. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6113.

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

continued on page 30

The Nuances of Branding and Marketing Wine and Chocolate



By Nick Antonaccio

In my last two columns, I focused on the similarities of select agricultural products to the life cycle of wine from raw ingredients to finished product. In the growing, harvesting and production of wine,

I compared each step to similar steps in the making of coffee and chocolate. The similarities run deep and broad.

This week I am focusing once again on chocolate, taking my comparison to another level: branding and commercialization.

The similarities between wine and chocolate go beyond production techniques. Just as fine wine achieves its ultimate expression in the hands of artisanal winemakers, so too does chocolate in the hands of artisanal chocolate manufacturers and chocolatiers.

With the proliferation of artisanal chocolate styles and brands on the market today, it is often difficult to differentiate one chocolate bar – or truffle -- from the next. This week I offer a comparison of

wine and chocolate to guide consumers through the maze in the wonderful world of chocolate.

Reading between the lines: As wine evolved over centuries, small producers made inroads in their local markets, garnering increasing market share. In the late 20th century, the balance shifted as mass producers saturated the market with low-cost wines. In the last 10 years, small artisanal producers have captured the attention of discerning consumers. Throughout this sea change, many small-scale winemakers thrived. Others were acquired and merged into global corporations; several of these retained their brand name and control over their product.

A similar phenomenon for wine occurred in the 20th century for chocolates. Brands such as Ghirardelli and Sharffen Berger in the United States and Valrhona and Amedei in Europe brought

fine chocolate making to new levels of refinement, purity and consumer popularity. Today several coexist with the mass producers, while others have been acquired and absorbed into global behemoths.

Ghirardelli began as an artisanal

chocolate producer in 1852, gaining fame for the quality of its products; then in 1998 it sold out to the European giant Lindt. Today, Lindt has kept the name and independence of the Ghirardelli brand.

The same is so for Sharffen Berger, long considered one of the finest producers in the world. Begun in 1996, it attracted the attention of the Hershey Company in 2005 and has retained its reputation while under the corporate rule of one of the largest chocolate companies in the world.

Artisanal European producers Valrhona and Amedei have remained independent and flourish in the shadow of Big Chocolate. Valrhona, founded in 1924, has succeeded in competing with Big Chocolate by concentrating on the finest ingredients and processes. Today it is the overwhelming choice of top pastry chefs around the world.

Likewise, Amedei, a brother-and-sister artisanal chocolate-making team in the Tuscan region of Italy, have established a solid reputation for their ability to incorporate the finest ingredients and technology in producing a superior finished product. Their extensive line of chocolates has repeatedly been voted the best in the world.

A number of mass producers have fared well in both the low and high end of their market. Just as wine behemoth Gallo thrives with its marketing and branding

strategies for gaining market share across the quality and pricing spectrum, so too do Hershey and Lindt.

Prices: Just as wine prices vary significantly, from jug to cult wines, so too for chocolates. High-end wines and chocolate are expensive to source and produce; producers have no hesitation in passing these costs and a brand-name markup to consumers. And consumers don't seem to mind paying for the higher quality. You can still buy a bottle of Gallo for under \$5 and a Hershey bar for under \$1. By contrast, a bottle of high-end Bordeaux costs over \$1,000 and an Amedei Chuao chocolate bar costs \$14.

When wine becomes big business, artisanal producers may succumb to the temptation to sell out. Or they may dig in and follow their passions. So too in the chocolate marketplace. Consumers are the ultimate winners. They have myriad choices to tailor their tastes and budgets to their individual palates.

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

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The Restaurant Examiner

Buffet Lunch a Good Deal at Tarrytown's Swagat Halal

By Jerry Eimbinder

Much is new at Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine on Broadway in Tarrytown. The interior has an attractive new look, the lunch buffet has added three permanent special dishes for Friday through Sunday and a new à la carte dinner menu is coming soon. The new dinner menu is the restaurant's first menu change in four years.

The lunch buffet is modestly priced at \$10.95 per person and coffee or tea is included in the cost.

New buffet dishes available Friday

through Sunday are chili chicken (not spicy), Bengali fish curry (whitefish) and samosa (a vegetarian dish). The chili chicken includes onion, red and green peppers, tomato ketchup, barbecue sauce, Indian spices and herbs, among other ingredients.

Swagat Halal's interior walls have been redecorated and include vibrant floral murals throughout and scenes of San Francisco at the front of the restaurant.

Swagat was opened by Humayun Khan in October 2010 with an extensive all-you-can-eat lunch buffet containing an



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTOS

Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine on Broadway in Tarrytown.

The lunch buffet is available seven days a week, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Manager Mohammed Baten said the most popular items on the dinner menu are chicken tikka masala (with tomato and fenugreek creamy sauce) for \$14.95; chicken vindaloo (tangy goat sauce with potatoes) for \$13.95; and lamb curry at \$15.95. There is also lamb pasanda (\$15.95); shrimp tikka masala (\$18.95); shrimp curry (\$18.95); tandoori chicken (\$15.95); tandoori shrimp (\$18.95); chicken shashlik (\$14.95); and malai kabab, which is grilled chicken cubes marinated in sour cream, nuts and herbs (\$15.95).

Customers ordering from the à la carte dinner menu can specify the degree of spiciness they prefer (mild, medium or fiery). The dinner menu is available seven days a week.

The restaurant seats 60 and has a room for private parties for up to 10 guests. Home delivery requires a \$20 minimum and is available from 5 to 9:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine is located at 19 N. Broadway in Tarrytown. For more information, call 914-332-5544.

Hudson Social Settles Into Dobbs Ferry Train Station

By Jerry Eimbinder

Hudson Social in Dobbs Ferry is a happy place. Its customers don't just eat and drink, they hang out with their friends, make new acquaintances and have lots of fun.

A nine-month renovation program has done wonders. The former Metro-North train station has become an airy, bi-level spacious eatery with a great, bold look with a beautiful view of the Hudson River.

The food can best be described as New American or American Casual. Executive Chef Giuseppe Bologna's signature dish is a panini with fresh mozzarella, prosciutto, fig, goat cheese and wild flower honey (\$11).

One of the best sellers here, Bologna said, is the Cait, a 12-ounce beef and bacon cheeseburger with roasted garlic potato wedges (\$15).

The menu also includes a Philly hanger steak sandwich (\$11), a grilled chicken sandwich (\$11) and numerous comfort food items. Expansion of the menu is on hold pending an electrical upgrade approval from the town.

Sandwiches are made with Filone bread cut from four-foot loaves delivered daily. The taco du jour is served only on weekends with its contents changing from week to week.

Beverages include Captain Lawrence Kolsch, Brooklyn Irish Stout, Blue Moon, gluten-free beer and wine from New York's Finger Lake region.

The signature drinks cost \$12 each and help to define Hudson Social. They include Drunk Monk (Frangelico liqueur, Irish cream liqueur and Absolut vanilla vodka), Hudson Line (Beefeater gin, Bacardi 151 Rum, cherry brandy, orange juice and lime juice) and the Riverkeeper (Absolut Orient Apple vodka, Sour Apple Pucker, sour mix, Grenadine syrup and a caramel rim).

Multiple dining areas can seat at least 120. The lounge area has an eight-stool bar, regular tables and high stool tables. The grill on the outside patio operates



Hudson Social Executive Chef Giuseppe Bologna, left, and restaurant co-owner Dominick Durante.

all day; the patio also has a satellite bar, tables, benches and wait staff service.

Brunch is served on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$19 per person. It includes a mimosa with bottomless free refills. The children's brunch costs \$12.

Live musical entertainment is offered on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

Hudson Social opened on Dec. 3, 2014, by Dominick Durante and James DiBella, former Wall Street commodity traders for 15 years. Durante is a Pleasantville resident, while DiBella, a Brooklyn native, previously opened Red Star in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Lavazza coffee and Balthazar baked goods await patrons when Hudson Social opens at 5 a.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. on weekends. It closes when the last customer leaves.

Hudson Social is located at 11 Station Plaza in Dobbs Ferry on the west side (Hudson River side) of the train tracks, adjacent to the New York City-bound rails. A parking area has designated spaces for Hudson Social customers. If full, customers can request a parking pass for their cars. Call 914-478-3634 for more information.

abundance of items, with the selections varying daily.

The dishes served at Swagat, which translates into "welcome," have their origins traced to the Mughal Empire, which preceded the British Empire, and lasted from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

Two lunch buffet tables include chicken, fish, lamb, vegetables, salad, tasty breads (naan) baked in the tandoor oven, rice, condiments and dessert. No guessing is required at the buffet table since each dish is identified on a small sign.

Happenings

continued from page 28

www.nywolf.org.

American Voices Part II. Hudson Chorale, Westchester's largest chorus will conclude its fifth season with the second of a three-part series featuring American composers who found their inspiration in American writers, with accompaniment by a full orchestra. Composers include Randall Thompson, Cecil Effinger, Michael Conley and Paul Basler. Preceded by a pre-concert talk by Conley regarding his composition based on the poetry of Emily Dickinson and by book author, actress and expert/lecturer on Dickinson, Barbara Dana. Irvington Middle School/High School Auditorium, 40 N. Broadway, Irvington. Pre-concert talk at 6:45 p.m. Concert at 7:30 p.m. Advance sales: \$25. Door: \$30. Premium reserved (advance only): \$40. Students: \$10 (Advanced sale and door only). Info and tickets: 914-462-3212 or visit www.hudsonchorale.org.

Blackout NYC a Cappella. Since entering the a cappella scene in 2012, this group reinvents the genre of a cappella music with innovative arrangements and a distinct, signature sound, delivering high-energy performances with a contemporary twist. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 8 p.m. Adults: \$25. Students (22 and younger):

\$20. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit www.wppac.com.

Sunday, May 10

Throw Mama to the Wolves. Celebrate mom and Mother Nature. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a special time for packs in North America. Wolf families are out searching for prey as they celebrate the births of this year's pups. Guests will also visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered Mexican gray wolves and red wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Animal Moms. We love moms, even the furry and four-legged ones. Visit with and learn about some of our animal moms and complete a Mother's Day inspired craft. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Learn and Play Mah Jongg. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Every Sunday in May. Info: 914-273-3887.

Jazz, Wine Series a 'Perfect Pairing' This Month at Jacob Burns

By Neal Rentz

Two Jacob Burns Film Center series that open this week will feature more than film screenings and the center's popular post-movie discussions.

Patrons who attend "Jazz Sessions: The Greats on Camera," a four-film series scheduled to open tomorrow (Wednesday) will be treated to live musical performances. The same is true for "Wine and Film: The Perfect Pairing," scheduled to run nearly three weeks (May 7-27). Each night includes a wine reception following each screening.

'Jazz Sessions,' which has been a popular annual series, will begin this week with a program commemorating the 100th anniversary of Frank Sinatra's birth.

Film center programmer Kathy Bonomi, who organized this year's series, said "Swinging With Sinatra" will feature stories about Ol' Blue Eyes and film clips, including the "New York, New York" sequence from "On the Town," which in 1949 was one of the first Hollywood studio films to be shot on location.

One of the guests that evening will be John Pizzarelli, who was the opening act in Sinatra's 1993 tour and came to know him, Bonomi said. The John Pizzarelli Quartet will be joined by the Jazz House Ambassadors, a youth group that is part of Jazz House Kids, a community arts organization based in Montclair, N.J. that

educates children about jazz.

Aside from his legendary music career, Sinatra was an accomplished actor, having won an Oscar for "From Here to Eternity." He performed in a variety of highly acclaimed dramatic roles such as in "The Man With the Golden Arm" and "The Manchurian Candidate."

On May 21 the documentary "Mary Lou Williams: The Lady Who Swings the Band" will be screened. Following the film, veteran music writer Tom Staudter will interview director Carol Bash.

On May 28 another documentary, "Keep on Keepin' On," about trumpet legend Clark Terry, will be screened. Terry, who performed with Count Basie and Duke Ellington, was Quincy Jones' first music teacher and mentored Justin Kauflin, a gifted young pianist who went blind at 11 years old. After the screening, The Justin Kauflin Trio will perform.

The series will wrap up on June 4 with "Afro-Cuban Jazz and Beyond With the Ignacio Berroa Quintet." The program includes a video presentation by Berroa, an acclaimed drummer, on the legacy of Afro-Cuban music and a performance by his group. The video includes footage from the early days of Cuban jazz.

Creating the jazz series was challenging, Bonomi said, particularly booking the live performances.

"There's a lot of moving parts," she said.

Wine and Film

While 'Jazz Sessions' has been a popular series at the Burns, "Wine and Film: The Perfect Pairing" is making its debut. Burns programmer Gina Duncan said there was a reason for its development: she wanted to pair quality films and wine, with wine being the focus of the movies.

Each of the series' four films will be introduced by an editor from Wine Enthusiast Magazine, Duncan said. Following each screening there will be wine reception.

The opening night film on May 7, "Somm," a 2013 documentary directed by Jason Wise, is about the Master Sommelier exam for aspiring wine stewards.

On May 13, "Barolo Boys: The Story of a Revolution," the 2014 documentary directed by Paolo Casalis and Tiziano Gaia, will be shown. Duncan said the revolution referred to in the title relates to the revolution in winemaking that was brought to Italy.

The only fictional film in the series is "You



JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER PHOTO

"You Will Be My Son," a French drama starring Niels Arestrup, left, and Lorant Deutsch, will be screened on May 20 as part of the "Wine and Film: The Perfect Paring" series, which runs from May 7-27 at the Burns.

Will Be My Son," a French movie produced last year directed by Gilles LeGrand. The work is about a demanding proprietor of a family wine estate portrayed by Niels Aretrup.

The series final film is "A Year in Champagne," about the famous region in northern France. The American-French co-production was directed by David Kennard.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, including ticket prices and the full schedule, call 914-747-5555 or visit burnsfilmcenter.org.

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