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September 13 - September 19, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 471

## Westchester Sept. 11 Remembrances Keeps Spirit of Those Lost Alive

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County and many of its communities spent a sparkling Sunday afternoon remembering and reflecting on the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Throughout the day somber but uplifting ceremonies recalled the nearly 3,000 lives lost at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the four airplanes that were crashed, along with the first responders who bravely rushed into the twin towers.

The day culminated with the county's annual ceremony at Kensico Dam Plaza in front of Westchester's 9/11 memorial The Rising.

"Our remembrance tonight is bittersweet," said County Executive Rob Astorino. "We come here to grieve what was so wrongly taken from us. And yet beneath these silver beams pointing to heaven, our prayer is a celebration of all that is good."

The nearly hour-long program featured

the reading of the names by relatives and county officials of the 123 Westchester residents lost that day. Family and friends of many of those who perished placed flower bouquets, and in some cases, pictures of their loved ones in front of the panels with their engraved names that ring The Rising.

Earlier, Rep. Nita Lowey at ceremonies in New Castle and Armonk, pledged to maintain the needed resources for a strong military and law enforcement domestically.

"We all work together to stop terrorism abroad and at home," Lowey said. "United together we will continue to endure and to protect the American way of life."

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schilero said it is crucial for Americans to remember the victims of 9/11 and the sacrifices made by police and firefighters and servicemen and women in the military. Despite the passage of time, ceremonies on Sept. 11 must always

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ANDREW VITELLI PHOTO

The 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks made for a solemn day throughout the area, where Westchester County and many municipalities scheduled ceremonies to remember the victims. At Gedney Park in New Castle, a wreath is laid during the ceremony. For more photos from the day, see pages 20 and 21.

## Rt. 117 Roundabout in Jeopardy; Chap Crossing Delays Possible

By Martin Wilbur

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) opposes granting a variance for the proposed Route 117 roundabout, which could force a return to a T-intersection at Roaring Brook Road and construction delays at Chappaqua Crossing.

Representatives of developer Summit/Greenfield told New Castle officials last week that the DEP informed them in late August that it would not relax its regulations to construct the roundabout over the watercourse despite the agency acknowledging that mitigation efforts could be achieved at the site.

"The DEP came back late this summer and said upon further reflection they



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The New Castle Town Board huddled with the town's planning board and representatives from Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield last week to discuss the New York City DEP's opposition to a Route 117 roundabout.

were unable to grant the variance because one of the criteria they need in order to

*continued on page 2*

## Public Hearing Set for Major Housing Proposal in Thornwood

By Neal Rentz

A White Plains developer is proposing 116 single-family homes on a portion of the Legion of Christ property on Columbus Avenue in Thornwood.

A public hearing on the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been scheduled for the Monday, Sept. 19 planning board meeting at town hall in Valhalla at 8 p.m.

According to the DEIS, Baker Residential's proposed cluster subdivision with 448 parking spaces would be constructed on about 46 acres. Another 119 acres would remain undisturbed.

Mount Pleasant Building and Fire

Inspector Salvatore Pennelle said Baker Residential would purchase the nearly 165 acres located on the southern part of the property from the Legion of Christ. It is currently has half- and one-acre zoning, he said.

The northern portion of the property is now occupied by EF Academy.

Pennelle stressed the application is in the very early stages. Following the closure of the hearing on the DEIS, the developer would need to prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). If the FEIS is approved by the planning board, the developer will submit the site plan, he said.

Baker Residential is looking to complete the project by the end of 2020.

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# Rt. 117 Roundabout in Jeopardy; Chap Crossing Delays Possible

*continued from page 1*

grant the variance is showing substantial hardship by the applicant," said Andrew Tung, project planner for Summit/Greenfield.

Since the town had previously approved the standard T-intersection about two years ago, the DEP does not perceive that there is a significant hardship posed to the developer, Tung said.

Last year, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had recommended Summit/Greenfield reconfigure the intersection into a roundabout to reduce the speed of traffic and increase pedestrian safety. Town officials approved the roundabout, which was incorporated into the applicant's final approval last December.

During a Sept. 6 joint meeting of the town board and planning board, Summit/Greenfield requested the town board now approve both intersection plans so it can obtain a DOT permit, the final hurdle needed to begin construction at the 114-acre former Reader's Digest site.

The town has scheduled the start of a public hearing for tonight (Tuesday) to amend the retail Preliminary Development Concept Plan (PDCP), which is required to accommodate the

proposed change.

Without that permit, which is also needed to get a town building permit, construction would have to be delayed and the start of on-site work would be postponed until after winter, potentially jeopardizing the developer's standing with anchor tenants Whole Foods and Life Time Fitness, said Summit Development President Felix Charney.

"Getting started this fall is pretty important to us," Charney said. "If we miss this fall, then I think the whole project pushes back at least two quarters and we lose all our pricing and everything that's been done. It's just a problem and it's a problem because of this circle."

Charney said his company is committed to build and pay for whichever intersection receives approval from all of the permitting agencies.

Town officials, who have preferred the roundabout, said they will press the DEP to reconsider its position, hoping to convince the agency that the roundabout is the superior option. Planning board members expressed skepticism at DEP's protection of a watercourse that they described as a manmade "ditch" where there are nearby residential septic systems and impervious surfaces that cause runoff.

"The DEP, for some reason, is acting like this watercourse is something significant," said Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood. "I think, first of all, that's highly questionable. It's not a pristine area, it's affected by (road) salt all the time."

Town environmental consultant Steve Coleman said the DEP has a very strict interpretation of its watercourses. An agreement between the DEP and Westchester gives the agency the authority to make decisions on matters within the New York City watershed.

Suggestions including an appeal to DOT to sponsor the roundabout were raised last week, but town Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull said the DOT hasn't sponsored a road project that was privately built.

Construction for intersection improvements under either scenario would not be done before next spring or summer, enabling the town to make its case to the DEP for the roundabout in the ensuing months, Charney said.

Further complicating the situation was last week's announcement that the Roaring Brook Road grade crossing near the Saw Mill Parkway would be one of several train crossings targeted for a trial run of a new signal pre-emption system. The technology would trigger nearby traffic lights to change to red

when a train is approaching, potentially backing up traffic in the area, said town Supervisor Robert Greenstein.

With conditions out of the town's or developer's control around the site, a hardship could be argued, officials said. Town traffic consultant Michael Galante said it was too early to determine how the system would affect traffic.

"If we give (Summit/Greenfield) two options to get past go, then we could still press for our preferred option and also cover any changes that could come," Greenstein said.

But Councilwoman Hala Makowska said she was concerned that if the town board approved both options it would decrease the chances for the roundabout even if it successfully argues it's a safer option.

"I also feel that if we approve both, in essence, it undermines any hardship argument we have with the DEP," Makowska said.

Les Steinman, the attorney for the planning board, and Town Attorney Ed Philips said a carefully crafted letter would have to accompany any approval to explain the town's reservations regarding the T-intersection.

The public hearing is part of tonight's regular town board meeting, which is scheduled to start at 8:15 p.m.

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ATHLETES

### *What you should know about preventing knee injuries*



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#### Q: What are the most common sports-related knee injuries?

**A:** There are three:

- An injury to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), a key ligament stabilizing the knee, either tears the ACL in two or rips it from the femur (thighbone).
- Damage to the medial collateral ligament (MCL), which keeps the tibia (shinbone) in place, usually consists of a partial tear.
- Made of cartilage, the meniscus is the knee's "shock absorber," and a tear causes pain and dysfunction.

#### Q: When should an athlete seek medical attention for a knee injury?

**A:** If, after two or three days, your knee is swollen; you are limping; you can't put your full weight on the leg; or you are in pain, head to the ER for an x-ray to determine if there's a break or fracture. Whatever the outcome, you should see an orthopedic specialist without delay. Knee injuries often require surgical repair, and left untreated, can have long-term consequences.

At Northern Westchester Hospital, we treat the full range of sports-related knee injuries with the most advanced surgical procedures and rehabilitative physical

therapies. The three injuries mentioned here require different treatment, and we are deeply experienced in each. An injured ACL must be surgically replaced with a new ligament taken from the patient's own body. An MCL injury normally heals with physical therapy, while a meniscus tear requires surgical repair.

#### Q: Is it possible to prevent sports-related knee injuries?

**A:** Female athletes are much more likely to suffer an ACL injury. The good news is that a specific 20-minute warm-up called a neuromuscular injury-prevention and performance enhancement program can dramatically reduce ACL injuries among female athletes. Inquire at the local gym for personal trainers who have been trained in this protective conditioning program, and can offer it outside of normal practice. Male athletes can also improve stability from the warm-up.

Parents also need to monitor the number and type of sports a young athlete is involved in. It's important to offset activities that stress the knee with others that offer respite. Be aware: Playing sports year-round with no break can stress the knee to the point of injury.

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### Did You Know?

Female athletes are **2 to 10 times more likely** to suffer an ACL injury than male athletes engaged in the same sport.



# Mt. Pleasant, Chappaqua Rail Crossings Slated for Safety Upgrades

By Martin Wilbur and Andrew Vitelli

New York State last week received \$5 million in federal grants for railroad safety and grade crossing improvements, several of which are at local sites including Valhalla's Commerce Street where six people were killed last year.

The funds, part of a \$25 million initiative to enhance safety at rail crossings nationwide, will be used to install signal pre-emption at seven grade crossings on Metro-North's Harlem and Port Jervis lines. Along with Commerce Street, the Cleveland Street and Stevens Avenue sites in Mount Pleasant and the Roaring Brook Road intersection in Chappaqua are also scheduled to benefit in Westchester.

Another three crossings have been identified for the technology in Orange County.

Mitigation of hazardous conditions are also planned at three crossings within Metro-North's jurisdiction – Virginia Road in North White Plains and two Long Island Railroad crossings. At Virginia Road, Metro-North will upgrade the roadway, pavement markings and signage at the heavily used location.

"Safety is the MTA's absolute top priority, and this grant is a major step forward in our efforts to put safety in the foundation of every single aspect of the services we provide," said MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast, which operates Metro-North,



ANDREW VITELLI PHOTO

Congresswoman Nita Lowey was part of a group of federal, state and local officials who gathered Monday to announce a \$5 million grant to improve safety at railroad crossings, including five troubled locations in Westchester.

at a Monday morning press conference.

The signal pre-emption system, where \$1.34 million of the grant will be used at the seven sites, will allow queued traffic to exit onto the highway before activation of the railroad grade crossing warning systems.

Another \$1.9 million will be spent on the improvements to Virginia Road and the Long Island locations.

The balance of the money will pay for installation of cameras at 43 Metro-North and Long Island Railroad crossings to help the MTA study those locations.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey

(D-Harrison), whose district includes all of the Westchester crossings, said the grant is crucial to make critical safety improvements. Grade crossing fatalities have increased 16 percent over the past three years, she said.

"With over 212,000 rail crossings in this country, we must make safety improvements a priority, Lowey said. "Horrible crashes, near misses at rail crossings in recent years have been a wake-up call, forcing officials at all levels of government to work together to reduce the risk

at rail crossings."

Safety at grade crossings became a key issue locally following the Feb. 3, 2015, collision between an SUV and a northbound Harlem line train at the difficult Commerce Street site in Valhalla. Five train passengers and the driver of the vehicle were killed.

While the federal money will fund 23 projects in 14 states and Washington, D.C., New York is schedule to receive about 20 percent of the allocation. Federal Railroad Administrator Sarah Feinberg said no state has been more focused on improving grade

crossing safety than New York, particularly its congressional delegation, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the railroads.

"The reason New York is getting such a significant amount of this \$25 million pot is because they are thinking creatively about improving grade crossings, they are laser-focused on thinking outside the box," Feinberg said.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein, who attended Monday's press conference, has been pressing the state and federal government to explore an overpass over the Roaring Brook Road crossing because of the high traffic volume at that location near the Saw Mill Parkway and Horace Greeley High School.

Greenstein said it's a positive that state and federal officials recognize the need to improve the intersections but he will continue to lobby for an overpass at Roaring Brook Road. At peak hours the pre-emption system, which is to get vehicles as far away from the crossing as possible as a train approaches, there could be long traffic lines, he said.

"These are not traffic improvements, these are safety improvements and it actually will have a negative effect on traffic," Greenstein warned motorists.

"It's important that we make sure that drivers are aware of their surroundings and what actions they may need to take from a behavioral standpoint as they are at these crossings."

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## Westchester Sept. 11 Remembrances Keeps Spirit of Those Lost Alive

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continue.

"It should never end," Schiliro said during the town's late afternoon ceremony at Wampus Brook Park. "They should exist forever because (of) two main reasons: never forget those who fell that day. All of us surely have somebody we remember closely. But it also gives us a very stern reminder of the people who protect us every day. You have to look no further than the people on my left and on my right, and those people who do it on

a daily basis."

Astorino said that in the time since the attacks, there is a generation of Sept. 11 sons and daughters growing up who were either too young to remember a parent who died that day or who weren't born yet. He recalled how President Franklin D. Roosevelt, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, wrote a letter to the future President in 1956 to have a young American considered for admission to West Point as "an act of faith in the destiny of our country."

Caitlyn Lyons was 13 months old and her sister, Mary Michael, wasn't born yet when their father, Michael, a New York City firefighter, was killed on Sept. 11. She is now a junior at Westlake High School in Mount Pleasant, while Mary Michael is a sophomore. Both are excelling in school and sports while Caitlyn is a talented artist, Astorino said.

Similarly, Ryan and Ethan Zeplin, who both attend Rye Country Day School, lost their dad, Marc, a Cantor Fitzgerald equities trader, on Sept. 11, he said. Today,

Ryan, a senior, and Ethan, a sophomore, are varsity athletes and honors students.

"There is no stronger renewal of President Roosevelt's act of faith than seeing Caitlyn, Mary Michael, Ryan and Ethan here tonight," Astorino said. "They give us confidence that whatever our challenges, our future remains an optimistic one."

Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz said the horrific nature of the losses for the victims and their loved ones make it necessary for the entire community to grieve and remember.

"This far too public loss that brings with it a necessity and a responsibility to collectively mourn," Kaplowitz said. "The Rising memorial is a fitting and august place for our congregation, but it also provides hope and optimism for the future, for without such hope we cannot move on."

Astorino said the ceremony and the memorial is not only to pay tribute to the dead, but to help everyone re-evaluate their lives.

"It is a chance for all of us to hit the pause button on the overstuffed, overstimulated and over-the-top activities that consume our daily lives," he said, "and quietly ask ourselves what are the really important things for us to accomplish during our short time on earth?"

### Free Howard Meyer Acting Open House Sept. 14 in Pleasantville

For those who want to learn about acting classes and theater craft, Howard Meyer's Acting Program will host a free open house on Wednesday, Sept. 14 to introduce tweens, teens and adults to the multilevel acting and playwriting classes offered through the program. HM Acting is an affiliate of professional company Axial Theatre.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the acting and playwriting faculty, learn what happens in the

classes and meet, mingle and ask questions of faculty members. Howard Meyer, the program's founder, head instructor and artistic director of Axial Theatre, will discuss how classes and workshops operate.

Faculty members Rachel Jones, Jess Erick and Gabrielle Fox will explain the multiple study options for various age groups and experience levels. There also are performance workshops, private coaching and special one-day voice, movement

and other acting disciplines offered. Refreshments will be served.

Aspiring actors 10 to 17 years old should arrive at 5:30 p.m.; those 18 and older should arrive at 7 p.m. The open house will be held in the community room of St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 8 Sunnyside Ave. in Pleasantville.

Fall classes begin Monday, Sept. 19. For more details, call 914-439-193, visit [www.HMActing.org](http://www.HMActing.org) or e-mail [axialtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:axialtheatre@gmail.com).

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# P'ville Schools Re-Open With Improved Technology Infrastructure

By Andrew Vitelli

Over the summer, the Pleasantville School District invested \$1 million in technology infrastructure, creating 200 Wi-Fi hot spots with an upgraded public address system allowing for room-to-room communications and fresh wires behind the walls in the high school and the middle school.

But in the middle school cafeteria last Thursday, the buzz was over a simpler improvement – last year's square cafeteria tables had been replaced by round tables with more comfortable seats.

"I like them," one eighth-grader said. "You get to see everybody."

The improved lunchtime seating arrangements represent just one of the many changes students find this fall, as the second phase of a multiyear plan to make infrastructure and technology improvements totaling more than \$4 million was undertaken.

"This was a significant upgrade to our technology," explained Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter, who gave The Examiner a tour of the high school and middle school to highlight some of the improvements. "We want our facilities to reflect the academic excellence that takes place in the classroom, and facilities that are respectful of the work the students do."



ANDREW VITELLI PHOTOS

Round cafeteria tables at Pleasantville Middle School will help students socialize more easily, one of many improvements made at the district's secondary schools this summer. Right: Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter points out some of the new wires that will improve communication in the district's middle school and high school.

Students can see the technology upgrades at the start of the school day, as daily announcements are now broadcast on video screens seen throughout the schools. Students have access to a TV production classroom, with announcements produced onsite in the high school.

"It's encouraging public speaking, script-writing, journalism, technology," Fox-Alter notes. "All of those merge together and the students do it all every day."

The district has also upgraded its Wi-



Fi after last year's student government alerted the administration that students were using up their data plans on their laptops and phones. Now the buildings have more than 200 hotspots for students, teachers and guests. The biggest upgrades, Fox-Alter said, are in the wiring behind the walls.

"It's very much like your house," she said. "You could put in as many beautiful bathrooms and sinks as possible, but if you haven't upgraded your plumbing, none of it is going to work. So we put a lot of money into the technology

plumbing."

New in the classrooms are multipurpose public address systems, which allow for classroom-to-classroom communications and for public addresses to be broadcast from the classroom.

The technological upgrades, pegged at \$1 million, come along with a series of major infrastructure improvements, which began following a \$4,065,000 bond approved in a May 2014 referendum. The project's first phase included \$1,462,000 to replace the field hockey, lacrosse and soccer fields, incorporating a new turf made of cork and coconut.

"It's cooler. It's more environmentally friendly," Fox-Alter said. "The older crumb rubber had little black pellets that used to get into people's clothing."

That phase also included a new middle school roof along with pavement and sidewalk repairs. Infrastructure repairs continued this summer. In the middle school, the basketball court was resurfaced while at the high school the walls and ceiling of the wrestling room were replaced. There were also improvements to the parking lots and pedestrian walkways, Director of Facilities Steve Chamberlain said.



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## Mount Kisco Makes Closure of Garbage Transfer Station Official

Mount Kisco officials last week celebrated the closing of the garbage transfer station at 10 Lincoln Place.

The board voted unanimously Sept. 6 to sign the agreement, which puts an end to the 40-year lease agreement with Westchester County, pending a review by Village Attorney Whitney Singleton.

"This is really a big moment in Mount Kisco history," said Trustee Jean Farber, noting many residents have expressed displeasure with having the facility in the village.

"It's a 40-year mistake of having Mount Kisco become the garbage capital of northern Westchester, added Mayor Michael Cindrich. "So I'm glad it's over with."

Cindrich said the Lincoln Place building has been used for storage by the Mount Kisco Highway Department since operations ceased at the facility at the end of 2014. The village board could consider leasing the property in the future, he said.

--Neal Rentz

## Pleasantville Village Board to Hold September 20 Master Plan Workshop

By Andrew Vitelli

The Pleasantville Board will meet once again next week to hear from residents on proposed changes to the village's master plan, which after 20 years is set to be updated. The meeting will take place next Tuesday, Sept. 20 at the Clinton Street Center at 7 p.m.

On the table are changes to improve parking in the village and increase walkability near downtown.

"I think it's important that the village hear what the residents are thinking in terms of where this needs to go in the next couple of years," said Will Flooks, president of the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce. "I think they'll listen to the residents, they'll listen to the business people and merchants who come. I'm looking forward to it."

The village has hired Manhattan-based BFJ Planning to help with the

update. At the last workshop, held June 16, the idea of transit-oriented development, which would concentrate development in the existing downtown near the train station, was discussed.

"I do believe the village listens to the people," Flooks noted. "The scope of their plans depends on what people think they need."

The master plan was last updated in 1995.

### Outreach Sessions Set for Proposed New Castle Firehouse Expansion

New Castle Fire District No. 1 will be holding informational sessions for the public to attend this Sunday, Sept. 18 and Wednesday, Oct. 5 to learn more about the proposed expansion of its existing firehouse. The public is invited to attend the sessions, which will be held at the firehouse located at 491 King St. in

Chappaqua, to learn more about the plans.

The presentation is designed to include drawings of the plan, reasons for the project as well as providing financial information.

This Sunday's session is scheduled for 3 p.m. while the Oct. 5 forum will start at 7:30 p.m.

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# Fourth Chappaqua Children's Book Festival Eagerly Awaited

By Martin Wilbur

Chappaqua is well-known for being a great place to live, to send children to school and as the home of a former and perhaps future president.

It is also now home to one of the premiere book festivals in the metropolitan area.

The Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, scheduled to take place for the fourth consecutive year on Saturday, Sept. 24, has attracted the attention of parents and young readers throughout the region who have swarmed the event's venue, Robert E. Middle School in downtown Chappaqua, each time it's been held.

"I think it's really becoming well-known, actually," said children's author Barbara Dee, one of the festival's directors. "I think word has really gotten out about this. Now Chappaqua is not just known as the home of the Clintons, but it's also known as the home for a really spectacular book festival."

This year there will be close to 90 authors and illustrators who will sell and sign their books and interact with their biggest fans, the children. About 20 new authors are expected, Dee said, including the highly regarded Rita Williams-Garcia, Rosemary Wells and Jane Yolen.

The festival will also mark the return of the immensely popular "Pinkalicious" author Victoria Kann and many local favorites.

Last Saturday afternoon, Hall of Scoops,



JAMIE KILGORE PHOTOGRAPHY

Author Victoria Kann visits with a young reader at the 2014 Chappaqua Children's Book Festival. It is scheduled this year for Sept. 24.

the ice cream and candy shop on South Greeley Avenue, hosted a launch for a new flavor in recognition of the approaching festival. It unveiled Biscuit's Birthday Bash – cake batter ice cream and colorful confetti – commemorating the 20th anniversary of Biscuit, a series of books written by Alyssa Satin Capucilli and illustrated by Pat Schories.

The author-and-illustrator team was at Hall of Scoops last weekend to promote the festival and their 21st "I Can Read" series for emerging readers. They have also

collaborated on more than 80 titles geared toward children between three and seven years old.

Capucilli said for an author there is no better place to be than the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, in part because she can meet her readers.

"It's wonderful because everyone who comes there, in one way or another, is a book lover," she said. "We have teenagers come back and say this is the first book (they've) ever read. You see teachers and parents. It's a day where you don't stop smiling."

It's also a fun day that includes music, a wide assortment of children's activities and a variety of food vendors. Once again, the seventh annual Great Chappaqua Bake Sale will be part of the festival, an effort started by local parents and children to raise money for the Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign. In its first six years the bake sale has raised more than \$100,000.

This year The Mike Risko Band and entertainment company Hal Prince will provide the music. Regeneron will also be on hand with STEM activities.

Dee, who will be launching her own new title, "Truth or Dare," for tween readers at the festival, said last year when rain forced the event inside Bell Middle School, enthusiasm remained strong. In fact, sales last year exceeded either one of the first two years, she said.

Although holding the event outside is more festive, organizers won't be too worried about the weather forecast.

"I think it was where everybody who came was really there for the books," Dee said. "We feel like we can't lose, rain or shine."

The festival is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 24 on the grounds of Robert E. Bell Middle School on South Greeley Avenue. Admission and parking are free; books and food are available for purchase. For more information, visit [www.ccbfestival.org](http://www.ccbfestival.org).

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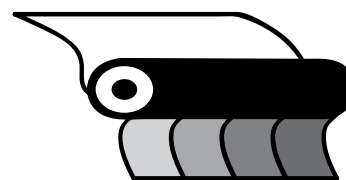
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# P'ville Historian to Lead Benedict Arnold, Major Andre Tour

By Martin Wilbur

If you love history, Pleasantville resident Dennis Corcoran has scheduled a tour for later this month that you won't want to miss.

Corcoran will be the guide for the Benedict Arnold and John Andre Conspiracy Tour, retracing some of the steps both men took locally during the Revolutionary War that ultimately resulted in the capture of Andre by American militiamen and Arnold joining the British after his plot with to hand over West Point was exposed.

"It's the most historical event that took place in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties," said Corcoran, a retired social studies teacher at Blue Mountain Middle School in the Hendrick Hudson School District, "Both the Americans and the British wanted to control the Hudson River. That was the key to the New England colonies, the mid-Atlantic and the southern colonies, having control of that river."

The tour group will learn about the two American militiamen who began firing on the British ship, The Vulture, resulting in a change in Major Andre's plans after meeting with Arnold in Haverstraw. There will be a stop in Tarrytown, near where Andre was captured.

Those who attend will go for lunch at the Old 76 House in Tappan and see the

room where Andre was held prisoner, then visit the Dutch Reformed Church, which served as George Washington's headquarters and where Andre was hung. There is also a stop to where Arnold and Andre met face to face.

The tour crosses back over the Hudson via the Bear Mountain Bridge to go to Garrison, where Arnold escaped to join the British. If there is time at the end, the group will visit the Post Hannonck House in Verplanck. It was there that Washington awarded medals to Andre's captors. The tour is expected to last more than five hours.

What helps make the story so intriguing, Corcoran said, is how Arnold was a distinguished general early in the war, helping to stave off the British at Valcour Island in Lake Champlain and preventing them from gaining control of the Hudson.

"Washington we're all told was a tremendous leader," said Corcoran, who has written three books on Pleasantville and is also a baseball historian who wrote the highly successful "Induction Day at Cooperstown: A History of the Baseball Hall of Fame Ceremony" in 2010. "(But) he had difficulty in the beginning and then he really changed. He was very aggressive, then become more defensive."

However, Arnold, who often suffered from money problems, was repeatedly



Pleasantville resident and retired Hendrick Hudson social studies teacher Dennis Corcoran, shown here leading a talk in Briarcliff last year, will be the guide for a Sept. 29 tour retracing the steps of Benedict Arnold and John Andre locally.

passed over for promotion despite his early successes.

For Corcoran, who has organized this tour several times in the past decade, said

the biggest challenge this time is to attract about 48 people in time to reserve a coach bus. He needs to have confirmation from attendees by next Monday in order to reserve the bus.

In the past, they used a school bus from Chappaqua Transportation but looked to upgrade. If necessary, they will opt for a smaller bus, he said.

Corcoran has reached out to many of the historical societies in the county looking to sign people up.

He has also contacted Claire Capossella, with whom he taught with for years at Blue Mountain, and is a representative of the Red Hat Society to entice others to attend.

Corcoran hopes that some area schools will be receptive to him talking to students about the area's close connection to Arnold and Andre.

"If you tried something today in schools a lot of kids wouldn't know Benedict Arnold," he said.

For those interested in reserving a space, the tour, which beings at the ShopRite parking lot in Croton, costs \$54, including lunch. The money needs to be received by next week. For additional information, contact Dennis Corcoran at 914-769-8819 or e-mail [djcinstructionguru@gmail.com](mailto:djcinstructionguru@gmail.com). To reserve a space for the tour, send a check to Dennis Corcoran and mail to 90 Weskora Ave., Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.

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## Police Blotter

### County Police/Mount Kisco

**Sept. 5:** Report of a dispute between two roommates at a West Main Street apartment at 9:24 p.m. The dispute was verbal in nature and ended when one of the men said he was leaving to go to work.

**Sept. 6:** At 10 a.m., report of an abandoned vehicle parked at a Kisco Avenue business. A Toyota Camry that had been left in the lot was found to have been stolen from Allentown, Pa. The vehicle was impounded by county police.

**Sept. 6:** The owner of a Lexington Avenue restaurant reported at 10:25 a.m. that the premises were burglarized sometime overnight. A point of sale terminal was stolen.

**Sept. 6:** A Brentwood Court resident reported at 12:29 p.m. that \$2,225 worth of jewelry was missing from her home. She said she last saw the items in July before contractors hired by her father made renovations. She was advised to compile a list of contractors who performed the work. The case was turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

**Sept. 7:** A village resident reported at 8:39 p.m. that she had lost her cell phone in the parking lot behind the Green Street firehouse. The woman said she had placed the phone on the roof of her car and drove off. She could not find it when she returned to the lot to search for it.

**Sept. 8:** A village resident arrived at the Green Street precinct at 3:17 p.m. to report that a Rolex watch she owns was taken from a jewelry box in her home and replaced with a counterfeit. The woman said she is going through a divorce and suspects her husband is responsible.

**Sept. 8:** Police served a Family Court-issued order of protection to a West Street resident at 6:29 p.m. The order bars him from having contact with other persons who share his residence.

The man was allowed to retrieve some personal possessions before leaving the house.

**Sept. 8:** Report of a man playing loud music and throwing garbage in the street on North Moger Avenue at 7:08 p.m. The man was gone upon the responding officer's arrival.

**Sept. 9:** Police and the Mount Kisco Fire Department responded to the Guard Hill condominium complex at 11:55 a.m. off North Bedford Road on a report of smoke coming from one of the units. A fire that had broken out on a stove was extinguished by firefighters.

### North Castle Police Department

**Sept. 2:** A caller reported at 8:30 a.m. that his car was struck by another vehicle while turning onto southbound Route 120 from Route 22. The other vehicle reportedly left the scene and entered onto I-684 at Exit 2.

**Sept. 2:** Report of a couch in the roadway on Route 22 at 6:34 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Report of a large number of people and cars congregated and making noise in the Stop & Shop parking lot on North Broadway at 11:43 p.m. The parties were subsequently dispersed without incident.

**Sept. 3:** A caller reported at 4:43 p.m. that her one-year-old child is locked in a running vehicle in her driveway on Jeanne Place. An officer and Armonk Garage was dispatched. The responding officer reported that access was gained and the child was removed in good condition.

**Sept. 4:** A Denim Place resident reported at 7:02 p.m. that a neighbor is using his bow to shoot arrows at a target in the rear of his residence. The complainant was concerned that an arrow may land near his home. The responding officer spoke to the neighbor and advised him of the restrictions.

## Obituaries

### Richard Johansen

Richard "Dick" Johansen died unexpectedly and peacefully in his sleep on Sept. 3 at his home in Chappaqua.

He was 70.

Johansen was born on July 4, 1946, in Carroll, Iowa to Marvin and Maybelle Young Johansen. Several years later the family moved to Montrose, Colo. He graduated from Colorado State University with a masters in environmental engineering. He married Karen in 1978 in Hamburg, N.Y. Johansen worked as an engineer for Union Carbide in Buffalo.

The family moved to Chappaqua in 1982, and he worked for Lotepro and then M2T Technologies. Johansen remained in the environmental engineering field and had been instrumental in designing wastewater treatment plants for major U.S. cities, having recently completed the New York City Ward's Island facility. He was looking forward to beginning a partial retirement sometime this year.

Johansen was an extremely patient and supportive father and spouse with a

passion for reading and playing softball. He and Karen enjoyed many vacations and other entertainment such as concerts, plays and dancing in New York City. He was always available to help others using his technical knowledge, sense of direction and do-it-yourself advice. Knowing almost all Jeopardy! answers, his daughter called often with random questions, assured that her dad would know. He always did. Erin's most recent birthday present was her long-awaited, impromptu wedding to Alex on July 8.

Johansen was predeceased by his brother, John. He was the beloved husband of Karen (Wierzbza) Johansen and loving father of Erin (Nugent) Johansen of Patterson.

A memorial service will take place on Thursday, Sept. 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Richard's life. In lieu of flowers, please donate to [www.petsforvets.com](http://www.petsforvets.com) or a charity of your choice.

### Richard Devine

Richard Walter Devine, a longtime Pleasantville resident, passed away on Aug. 22 at the age of 80.

Devine was chief physical therapist at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers for 38 years. He was a lifelong parishioner of Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pleasantville, an alumnus of Notre Dame, Class of '58, and a proud member of American

Legion Post 77.

Devine is survived by his sisters, Mary and Phyllis, and a brother, Terry. He was predeceased by brothers Jimmy and Steve. He was the devoted father of daughter Francis, sons Richard, Jamie (Cathy) and Robert and loving Gramps to Kelly and Olivia. He was predeceased by son Donald in 2011.

## County Seniors Dept. Public Hearing Scheduled for Sept. 16

The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) will hold its annual public hearing on Friday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Westchester County Center, located at 198 Central Ave. in White Plains.

The hearing provides a venue for individuals to learn about and speak out on concerns that affect Westchester seniors and their families. Registration is not required to attend or speak at the public hearing.

At the meeting, DSPS will unveil its 2017 plan on the proposed use of funds from the Older Americans Act and the New York State Community Service for the Elderly Program.

The plan will be available starting Monday, Sept. 12 at the DSPS office

at 9 S. First Ave., 10th floor, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10550. It will also be distributed at the public hearing.

Written comments on the plan must be sent by Friday, Sept. 30 to Rose Pasquale at the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services at the above address. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to [rcp4@westchestergov.com](mailto:rcp4@westchestergov.com).

In addition, DSPS Commissioner Mae Carpenter will also present a new pilot initiative to create shared opportunities for senior housing through houses of worship.

The public hearing also serves as the regular meeting for the Aging Network, the Council on Seniors and the Older Americans Act Advisory Council.

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# P'ville Panthers Shave Heads, Raise \$10G for Cancer Research

By Andrew Vitelli

For years, the Pleasantville High School football team has had a tradition of having its players receive Mohawk haircuts. The Panthers continued their tradition this weekend, but this time the haircut was more than just a fashion statement.

In a fundraiser Saturday at the Pleasantville Hiawatha Lodge, the players raised more than \$10,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization which funds childhood cancer research. Players, coaches and parents raised money by reaching out to friends and family to sponsor their haircuts by donating to the organization.

"I think it's great to fundraise money for kids that need it," said fullback Nick Salzarulo, a junior. "It's great for research. It's just a great fundraiser to do."

The fundraiser was organized by Pleasantville parents John Mueller and Laurie Drillock. Mueller, a Yonkers police officer, had previously worked with St. Baldrick's and knew that the organization backed similar head-shaving fundraisers. He also was aware Pleasantville has had a Mohawk tradition.

"John had the idea of combining the two, having them shave and for a good



AYDIN MAYERS PHOTOS

Pleasantville Panther wide receiver Charlie McPhee helped raise more than \$1,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation by getting a Mohawk haircut.

cause," explained Drillock, whose son Ryan is a senior captain. "John had the idea and they ran with it."

After Mueller checked with St. Baldrick's to make sure Mohawks were

acceptable, he reached out to Head Coach Tony Becerra. Mueller had worked with Becerra's brother Pete, a criminal investigator, at the Westchester County district attorney's office. Pete Becerra died from cancer in 2012.

"I had no idea they knew each other, and I was really touched," Becerra said of being approached by Mueller. "It means a lot, not just to me but to my whole family, that after all these years people are still thinking about Pete."

Charlie McPhee, a junior wide receiver, said he e-mailed close to 15 friends and relatives asking them for contributions. Everyone was supportive and McPhee raised more than \$1,000, the most of any player.

"Right when the idea was brought up, I thought it was a great thing," McPhee said. "I'm always busy, but I love to do as much as I can to help causes like this."

The players didn't need too much convincing to try the Mohawk; many had gotten the haircut last year, when there were no charitable contributions involved.

"Now that there's a good cause, it means a lot more," junior receiver Brian Reda noted. "It's a good thing for everybody to get behind and it gives us



Junior fullback Jack Fitzgerald gets a Mohawk that helped raise more than \$10,000 for cancer research.

motivation. It's just a good thing to do."

After the season, Mueller hopes to take the players to visit some of the organizations that receive funding from St. Baldrick's so they can see firsthand how they are making a difference. That the team was able to raise money in such a short amount of time, Mueller added, reflects positively on them and the community.

"We have a very, active, engaged community," said Mueller, whose son Jack is a junior defensive back. "It's great for the kids to think outside of themselves about how fortunate they are and what other people are up against."

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# Mount Kisco Sales Days Returns to Village This Weekend

By Neal Rentz

It's a popular ritual enjoyed by thousands of local shoppers for more than four decades.

The 45th annual Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Sales Days is returning to downtown this Saturday and Sunday.

Gina Picinich, the chamber of commerce's co-executive director, said about 7,000 people, including many who come from outside the village, descend on Mount Kisco for the weekend event every year. About 100 vendors are expected to set up along South Moger Avenue, in Shoppers Park and on the Promenade.

"It's always a big event," Picinich said.

One of the event's goals is to attract shoppers to downtown, she said. Jewelry, clothes and home goods are among the many items that will be sold at discount prices presented by local vendors.

"Sales Days has grown into a beloved community weekend where there is something for everyone," said Eileen Polese, the chamber's co-executive director. "This is a wonderful opportunity for people throughout the region to enjoy an outdoor weekend in



the very special Village of Mount Kisco. Bring your appetite, walking shoes and holiday shopping list."

Picinich said this year's Sales Days has a few new features. A free pancake breakfast will be held at the Holiday Inn from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday to launch



MOUNT KISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHOTO  
This weekend will be the 45th annual Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Sales Days, a popular event that is returning to the village's downtown.

the festivities.

There will also be a craft beer garden offering a wide variety of artisanal brews, which will be located in the food court, Picinich said. Food items from Mount Kisco restaurants will be available during the weekend.

Carnival rides and Grand Prix New York go-cart rides will be available behind the library and village hall. Picinich said a historic trolley tour up Main Street to Kisco Avenue is also scheduled. Local musicians will

perform throughout the weekend on the Promenade.

On Sunday, the third annual Kisco 5K road race will start at 8:30 a.m. to kick off the second day. This year's race will feature a new course up Main Street, and include prizes for the top three overall male and female winners as well as prizes for the top age group winners. Following the race, there will be a Kids Mad Dash for children 10 and under. For more information on the race and to register in advance, visit [www.kiscorun.com](http://www.kiscorun.com).

This year's Sales Days is presented by Holiday Inn Mount Kisco; the carnival sponsor is TD Bank; the Entertainment Stage Sponsor is All of Me MediSpa; and general sponsors are Fun Time Amusements, Events to Remember, Expect Natural, Mount Kisco Child Care Center, My Second Home and Family Services of Westchester.

Mount Kisco Sales Days is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. It is a rain or shine event. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available by contacting the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce at 914-666-7525 or at [director@mtkischochamber.com](mailto:director@mtkischochamber.com).

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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 withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

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## Editorial

### Money for Rail Crossings a Good Start, But More Work Needs to Be Done

For anyone who drives the area's roads and crosses over any one of several railroad grade crossings, it was a relief to hear last week that Congress came through with money for improvements designed to enhance safety.

Not all of the roughly \$5.1 million earmarked for the MTA is for this area, but 19 months after the horrific crash at Commerce Street in Valhalla that killed six people, there is at least recognition in Washington that changes have to be made.

Anyone with familiarity with Commerce Street, Cleveland Street and Stevens Avenue in Mount Pleasant, Virginia Road in North White Plains and Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua is aware that those crossings present difficult challenges, even for some seasoned drivers. You don't have to be a traffic engineer or railroad safety expert to arrive at that conclusion.

Unfortunately, it often takes a tragedy

to get the attention of policymakers and those who hold the public's purse strings. For four of the crossings, Roaring Brook Road and the three in Mount Pleasant, signal pre-emption will be installed, which can best be described as a way to trigger nearby traffic lights to turn red when a train is approaching.

At Virginia Road, improved pavement markings, upgraded signage and roadway improvements are much-needed help for drivers navigating that crossing.

It's hoped that these changes will make a positive difference, and it's definitely a good start. But it doesn't change the fundamental issue: there is too little room between nearby parkways and the edge of these crossings. Rush hour, nighttime conditions, poor weather and drivers unfamiliar with the area all combine to make for continued unsafe conditions.

At Roaring Brook Road, with the eventual redevelopment of the former Reader's Digest campus, which will generate more traffic, the level of danger could increase. Meanwhile, a Roaring Brook Road overpass, backed by New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein, may seem like a longshot to ever be financed, but local officials should continue pressing for that option.

It is also puzzling why Gov. Andrew Cuomo hasn't acted on Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti's legislation to actually study all grade crossings in the state to find out definitively what locations actually need work.

Sooner or later, some crossings that were designed many decades ago to accommodate smaller vehicles and less traffic may have to be reconfigured to keep motorists safe. It appears there may be the will to do that, there just may not be the dollars.

## Letters to the Editor

### Relay for Life Events Once Again a Success Thanks to All Participants

On behalf of the American Cancer Society, we'd like to thank the many local towns and cities for their generosity and support of Relay for Life this year.

This year, 692 teams participated at one of 19 Relay for Life events in Westchester and Rockland this spring, raising just over \$1.4 million to support the American Cancer Society's mission of saving lives from cancer. I am proud of our volunteers and participants for standing up and making an impact in the fight to end cancer.

We were honored to welcome and

celebrate the lives of 387 cancer survivors, who walked an opening lap and inspired us all. Our luminaria ceremony demonstrated the community's warmth and strength in honoring survivors and those who are no longer with us.

I would like to thank the Relay for Life volunteer leaders, team captains and participants who worked so hard to make each event a success. And of course, thank you to our corporate sponsors for their support, which made all of this possible, including Westchester Medical Center, Memorial

Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and New York Presbyterian.

Opportunities for 2017 Relay for Life leadership volunteers will be available soon. Visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org), visit our office at 2 Lyon Place in White Plains or call 1-800-227-2345 to learn how you can help make an impact in an event next year.

**Megan McGrady**  
**Senior Manager, Relay for Life,**  
**American Cancer Society**  
**White Plains**

### Quarterback is Wrong for Not Standing Up During National Anthem

While it might be his right under the Constitution to not stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, it's wrong the way a pro football hero quarterback is displaying his political feelings about how he feels America is doing. It is as wrong as the

protesters who appear at funerals of soldiers to protest the brave men and their families who gave their lives for their country and the American flag and everything it stands for.

The owner of the San Francisco 49ers should demand he salute the flag. George Steinbrenner, may God bless his soul, would probably have told this player to honor the American flag or take a walk. After all, this player plays football which many now say is equal to baseball as America's game. While his right might be protected to protest by sitting down during the salute to America, this is the wrong forum to express his views.

If he plays and does not respect the flag and his country, shame on the National Football League, its sponsors

and the San Francisco 49ers for letting the sacrilege to propagate. We watch sports in America to escape for a few hours the harsh reality of what's happening in the world. America is the greatest country in the world with our Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

If Colin Kaepernick can't salute the flag and set the right example for America, maybe he should go to another country he feels is better, rather than play football and make millions, and see if he could have the right like he does in America to not salute their flag.

**A proud American disabled Vietnam**  
**veteran,**  
**George Ondek**  
**Peekskill**



# Cider, Donuts and Road Race Make for a Fun Day in Armonk

By Martin Wilbur

In a few short years, the Armonk Chamber of Commerce's Fall Cider and Donut Festival has become the organization's top event of the year. That's saying a lot for an organization that has been around for decades.

Chamber President Neal Schwartz said the event, which features games and activities, is fun and low key while allowing all merchants to have a presence and interact with the community.

"Our goal is to bring business owners with members of the community have it done in a comfortable way," Schwartz said.

The annual festival makes its return this Sunday, Sept. 18 at Wampus Brook Park in Armonk from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will once again start off with Jamie's 5K Run for Love, in memory of Byram Hills graduate and track and field star Jamie Love, who was also a college runner at the University of Vermont.

First, there are the races for children, beginning with the Donut Dash at 10 a.m. for children two to eight years old, followed by the McIntosh Mile at 10:10 a.m. The 5K is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Registration can be completed online at the chamber's website or runners can register on Sunday starting at 9 a.m.

Proceeds from the 5K will benefit the North Castle Public Library's Children's



What would a cider and donuts festival be without the delicious apple donuts.

programs and the chamber of commerce.

Added to the festivities is the Byram Hills Pre-School Association Fall Carnival, which the chamber arranged to share the park with this year. While the carnival is a separate event, Chamber Communications Director Stacy Wilder there was no reason for the carnival to operate elsewhere with the possibility of drawing people away from both venues.

The carnival, the association's biggest event of the year, begins at 10 a.m. with age-appropriate rides, activities, pizza and ice cream among other attractions.

The festival will also feature a pie-eating contest, donut fishing, and, of course, the donuts from Armonk's own Beascake's Bakery and plenty of apple cider.

Sunday's festivities kick off a big week for Armonk, which culminates the following weekend with the Armonk



Runners from all over Westchester and the metropolitan area will converge on Armonk this Sunday for the Fall Cider and Donuts Festival and Jamie's 5K Run for Love.

Outdoor Art Show. Schwartz said the Cider and Donut Festival and the 5K were scheduled for the same day the Sunday before the art show's opening for its 50th anniversary.

The day proved successful, but the organizers of that year's run approached

the chamber of commerce to take on the 5K as well.

The race is rain or shine. To register for the race in advance or for more information about the Fall Cider and Donuts Festival, visit [www.armonkchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.armonkchamberofcommerce.com).



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### Marion Davis, Retired Dentist Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

By the time he was six years old, Marion Davis found the career he wanted to pursue.

Playing in the backyard where he, his mother and brother lived in a cramped White Plains apartment, he fell face first, pushing his front teeth back in his mouth. In severe pain until his mother came home from work, she took him to the old Grasslands Hospital on the last bus of the evening. An oral surgeon numbed his mouth and removed the teeth.

"I was so relieved and so thankful I turned to my mother and I said, 'Mother, this is what I'm going to do,'" recalled Davis, who turned 84 last Sunday. "I was in so much pain. I wanted to help people like that man helped me."

If the decision to become a dentist appeared easy – he also toyed entering the ministry but stayed with dentistry – getting to that point was the polar opposite. Growing up in the Depression and during World War II after his family left the segregated South, it was a challenge just to get to college. But Davis has always

prided himself on doing his best. Whatever obstacles he had to face, he could always count on having his work ethic at his disposal.

Born in Savannah, Ga. Davis' family headed north in hopes of finding work when he was five years old. Davis, his mother, uncle and brother first went to live with an aunt in Newark, N.J., leaving his father behind. His uncle landed a job as a superintendent of a White Plains building, while his mother cleaned houses to help support the family.

For nearly the rest of his childhood that's where Davis grew up. One exception was in second grade when he was sent by his family back to Savannah to stay with an aunt after his grandmother died. The school was so substandard he wasn't promoted when he returned to White Plains.

"I stayed there for one year and when I got back I had to do the grade over," he recalled. "But you know, that helped, too. That helped because I figured I should be the smartest guy in the class if I'm going to do it a second time."

Not only was Davis a good student while redoing second grade but he remained so for his school career while playing football at White Plains High School.

There was a temptation to go into the Army before earning his diploma because of relatively good pay and benefits. A high school friend tried to convince him to join, so

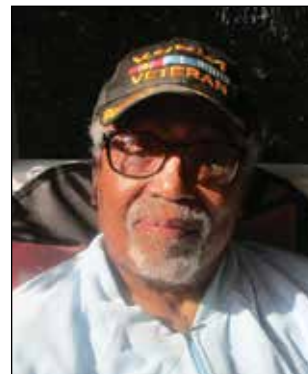
Davis turned to his guidance counselor for help. The counselor advised him to stay in school because he was in line for a football scholarship. He eventually received the scholarship to Alfred University in upstate New York.

Meanwhile, his friend was sent to war in Korea. It is the reason why he is often seen wearing a Korean veteran baseball cap.

"It wasn't one month that his body was brought back in a body bag," said Davis.

His brother, two years younger, also played football but broke his neck and was left paralyzed. Davis' mother demanded that he stop playing football halfway through college.

Davis washed dishes and pots at the college to pay for the dorm his junior and senior years and the school allowed him to defer his tuition until after he graduated after relinquishing the scholarship. Having enrolled in the ROTC, he joined the Army



after he finished and was able to repay his tuition.

After the Army, Davis, who has two grown children from his first marriage, went to Howard University Dental School. He worked at Harlem Hospital and at Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in Brooklyn before practicing in Mount Vernon. He also became an anesthesiologist to help oral

surgeons

Davis remarried but in the early '90s his stepson died of cancer, shortly after his mother passed away. That time, which Davis described as his "blue period," saw his second marriage fizzle. He went back to Savannah to ease his pain.

In 2006, he returned to Westchester and has been living in Chappaqua since then, with his children working and living in the county. He enjoys singing and visiting the senior center in Chappaqua.

Davis remembered a conversation with his mother and grandmother where a lesson was ingrained in him from an early age that has served him well throughout his life.

"I always felt, I always said to my mother, my grandmother and my family, to do the very best I can," Davis said. "That was the thing. I might not be first, but I won't be last."

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# WESTCHESTER REMEMBERS: KEEPING ALIVE



Above: Mount Kisco's 9/11 memorial where Sunday's ceremonies took place.

Below: The Scarsdale High School choir, which performed at Westchester County's Sept. 11 ceremony at Kensico Dam Plaza.



First responders salute during Mount Kisco's 9/11 ceremony.



Armonk Fire Department members stand at attention during the ringing of the bell at North Castle's Sept. 11 ceremony.

Below: The laying of the wreath at Westchester County's ceremony at Kensico Dam Plaza.



Above: Mount Kisco volunteer firefighters march to the memorial.

Below: Lynn Watson of the Green Acres Garden Club lays the wreath at the North Castle memorial.



The Civil Air Patrol color guard at Kensico Dam Plaza.

MARTIN WILBUR, NEAL RENTZ AND ANDREW VITELLI PHOTOS



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Above: Congresswoman Nita Lowey speaks in New Castle.

Below: Volunteer firefighters in New Castle on hand for the town's 9/11 commemoration.



Above: County Executive Rob Astorino addresses the gathering in front of The Rising at Kensico Dam Plaza.

Right: Assemblyman David Buchwald at the New Castle ceremony.

Lower right: The reading of the names of the Westchester residents who perished in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Below: The laying of the wreath in New Castle.



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# Arab Film Series at the Burns Hopes to Bridge Two Worlds

By Neal Rentz

Lina Matta has served as curator of the Contemporary Arab Film series at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville since its 2012 inception. To Matta, it's not just a film series, but there's a personal connection.

"Have you seen things improving in our understanding of each other? Events don't happen in a vacuum," said Matta, a Lebanese-American based in Dubai who is senior channel manager of MBC Group's channel 2, 4, Max and Variety. "The film series is my way of playing a tiny role in bridging two worlds and bringing about a better understanding."

The Burns is one of the biggest reasons for the series' ongoing success, Matta said.

"Without the help of the Burns staff and their shared commitment I could never do this," she said. "I live and work full-time in Dubai. Being able to mount a film series in New York requires an army."

Another key is the question-and-answer sessions conducted after some of the screenings, where the director can put the film into proper context for the audience, she said. The series also provides opportunities for socialization.

"We Middle Easterners are a social bunch," said Matta. "We like to get to know each other and delight in each other's company. I carry that over to the series."

"After the screenings I encourage the audience to join us for coffee, drinks

or a meal around the corner in one of Pleasantville's many haunts. Fascinating conversations, debates and friendships have developed from these get-togethers."

One of the trends in Arab cinema is stories about current events, such as the Arab Spring uprisings, the Arab-Israeli conflict and political upheaval in North Africa, she said. Social trends have also been depicted in both lighthearted and more serious works.

"Most recently, filmmakers, like their brethren in the West, just want to spin an enthralling thriller, road trip, romantic comedy or fantastical fairy tale," Matta said.

Female directors are particularly active now in Arab cinema. Proportionally, there are more women filmmakers in the Middle East than in the West.

"It could be that this is a nascent industry regionally and, therefore, women entered it at the same time as did men," Matta said.

Because fictional films has recently been stronger than usual, there will be no documentaries this year. The series contains a familiar theme: the power of the human spirit and the importance of believing in, and pursuing your dream, she said.

Opening night feature "The Idol," directed by Hany Abu-Assad, is an example of that.

"I was in the audience in Beirut, attending the taping, when Mohammed Assaf was voted 'Arab Idol.' The elation in the audience and across the Middle East was like no other



JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER PHOTO

"The Idol," directed by Hany Abu-Assad, is the opening night feature in the fifth annual Contemporary Arab Cinema series at the Jacob Burns Film Center. This year's event is scheduled for Sept. 14-21.

I'd ever observed," Matta said. "It's like the hopes and dreams of a nation and its people were all being carried on the shoulders of this young, talented, poised Palestinian singer. For a few very precious moments we could all dream of a better tomorrow. What more appropriate message to open the series with."

This year's series also features an exhibit in the film center's Jane Peck Gallery of film posters from the Golden Age of Egyptian Cinema. The original posters, from films in the 1960s through the 1980s, belong to the private collection of Mohamed Bibi. Bibi

was the manager of one of Lebanon's most popular movie theater chains and one of the top movie distributors in the Middle East. The collection includes more than 2,000 posters, all of which were hand painted, Matta said.

This year's series, which runs from Sept. 14-21, is made possible by a grant from the Violet Jabara Charitable Trust.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. Call 914-747-5555 or visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org) for information, including ticket prices and schedule.

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## Trip Back in Time to Benefit Justin Veatch Fund in Fall Concert

Forty-five years ago this month the first live album by an American rock band was released. The Allman Brothers double disc record documented their momentous concert at the Fillmore East NYC in March of that year. Fans who were there remember and those who weren't wished they had been after listening to the release celebrating that occasion.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, that moment can be re-lived as The Justin Veatch Fund brings Live at the Fillmore, a tribute to the original Allman Brothers band, to Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill.

Live at the Fillmore, seven star musicians from Philadelphia, play the music of the Allmans in one of the most distinctive tributes to the group's early years. Twin guitars, two drummers, percussion and all the rest are the most true-to-form re-creation of that musical moment in time. The band features Rick Baldassari (guitars/vocals), Dennis Barth (drums/percussion), Jeff Quattro (B3/piano/vocals), Barron Chandler (acoustic guitar/harmonica/vocals), Mike Mahomet (bass), Lou Maresca (guitar/vocals), and Don McCormick (drums/percussion).

The upcoming concert will also present an opportunity for The Justin Veatch Fund All Stars to strut their stuff at the

historic Peekskill theater.

"We're excited about returning to the Paramount," said Jeffrey Veatch, president and founder of the fund, who recalled the success of last October's Best of the Eagles concert.

"Last year was a blast, but this year we're going to raise the bar," said fund Vice President Thom Iannicari, who also serves as concert production manager. "Show up and you will see what we mean."

Tickets are \$35 and are available at the Paramount Hudson Valley box office. All proceeds will go to Justin Veatch Fund scholarships and other programs.

The Justin Veatch Fund is a nonprofit organization and official New York State charity formed in 2009 following the death of Yorktown High School senior Justin Veatch from an accidental drug overdose. Jeffrey Veatch, Justin's father, has presented his multimedia talk A Message from Justin, which addresses the issue of substance abuse among young people, to more than 24,000 students. Justin Veatch's story is also told in the documentary Whispering Spirits, which premiered in November 2014 at the Jacob Burns Film Center and is being screened by community anti-drug coalitions in 36 states.

## Coldwell Banker Golf Tourney Raises \$61G for Friends of Karen

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut and Westchester is pleased to announce that \$61,600 was raised for Friends of Karen Inc. through the 10th annual Coldwell Banker-Erin O'Connor Memorial Golf Outing.

The annual tournament is held annually in memory of Erin O'Connor and raises funds for Friends of Karen, a nonprofit organization that supports critically ill children and their families. O'Connor, who died of a brain tumor in 1999 at 13 years old, was the daughter of Michael O'Connor, an associate real estate broker affiliated with the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Yorktown Heights.

"I am so grateful for the generosity that is demonstrated each year by our community," Michael O'Connor said. "Through this outing, we have been able to make significant contributions to Friends of Karen, which relies on the community's support to be able to continue to assist children who are undergoing treatment, as well as their families."

The mission of Friends of Karen is to provide emotional, financial and advocacy support for children with life-threatening illness and their families, in order to help keep them stable, functioning and able to cope. Since Friends of Karen was founded



Michael O'Connor, an associate real estate broker affiliated with the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Yorktown Heights office, presents a trophy to Rich McNichol of McNichol Home Inspections. McNichol's foursome won the tournament trophy at the 10th annual Coldwell Banker-Erin O'Connor Memorial Golf Outing.

in 1978, the organization has assisted more than 14,000 children and their families.

## PARAMOUNT

### HUDSON VALLEY THEATER

**NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE  
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**TO HELL AND BLACK**  
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**VIC DiBITETTO**  
Sat. October 8 at 8PM



**YESTERDAY-  
THE BEATLES TRIBUTE**  
Sat. October 22 at 8PM



**DAVID CASSIDY**  
Fri. October 28 at 8pm



**SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY  
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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Sept. 13

**Point Insurance Reduction Program Defensive Driving Course.** This state-approved six-hour course saves drivers 10 percent on liability and collision portions of their auto insurance premium for three years and removes up to four point from the insurance. Will be offered once or twice a month throughout 2016. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 to 9 p.m. \$55. Seniors and military personnel (active or retired): \$25. Next session: Sept. 27. Info and registration: 646-413-3295 or visit [www.drivercourse.net](http://www.drivercourse.net).

**Drop-in Tech Help.** Drop in for help with any of your technology devices. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscolibrry.org](http://www.mountkiscolibrry.org).

**Italian Language and Culture.** Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 20 and 27. Info: 914-273-3887.

## Wednesday, Sept. 14

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

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

**Baby Time.** A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-

0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Pound Fitness Program.** A 45-minute full-body jam session that combines cardio, Pilates, plyometrics and isometric movements and poses with the excitement and euphoria of drumming. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix, you'll rock your entire body into beautiful shape while torching calories, isolating core muscles and strengthening coordination and balance. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Also Saturdays at 11:15 a.m. RSVP required. Info and registration: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.

**Adult Coloring Club.** A relaxing, analog stress-reducer that can offer a sense of accomplishment. Coloring also provides a creative outlet to people who may not be trained artists. Colored pencils and intricate mandala patterns provided, just bring your creativity. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Sept. 14, 21 and 28. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

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

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

**Support Group for Alzheimer's Caregivers.** Temple Shaaray Tefila and Westchester Jewish Community Services have scheduled this forum to provide a place for caregivers to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer's Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaaray Tefila's Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin

Rd., Bedford. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or visit [www.alz.org/hudsonvalley](http://www.alz.org/hudsonvalley).

**Storytime.** For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday and Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscolibrry.org](http://www.mountkiscolibrry.org).

**Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer.** Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 21 and 28. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

**Knitting at the Library.** Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or [www.mountkiscolibrry.org](http://www.mountkiscolibrry.org).

**Lego Club.** We provide the Legos, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-8041.

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

**Art Series: Semester Intro and Heinrich Campendonk.** An introductory look at several artists that are discussed in the German documentary film on Wolfgang Beltracchi. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Know the Law: It's Your Responsibility.** Mount Kisco Partners in Prevention presents this primer for parents that will address the do's and don'ts of being a social host, when parents should call 911 and the

consequences for parents of teen alcohol and drug use. The guest speaker will be Westchester County Assistant District Attorney Michael Borelli. Mount Kisco Village Hall, second floor, 104 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Dr. Nan Miller at [nmiller@mkpartners.com](mailto:nmiller@mkpartners.com).

**Wildlife Ecology of New York City Lecture.** Dr. Eric Sanderson, a senior conservation ecologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society and author of the 2009 book "Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City." Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit [www.bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org).

## Thursday, Sept. 15

**Prostate Cancer Screenings.** September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and Phelps Hospital is hosting prostate cancer screenings performed by urologist Dr. Arno Housman and Dr. Jack Hershman, chief of urology. Phelps Hospital's Hoch Center for Emergency Education, Suite 200, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon and Sept. 19 and 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3577.

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

**Preschool Storytime.** This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Herb Fair.** The New York Unit of the Herb Society of America will hold this 68th annual event featuring homemade herbal baked goods, fresh herbs and unusual plants, local honey, herbal  
*continued on page 26*



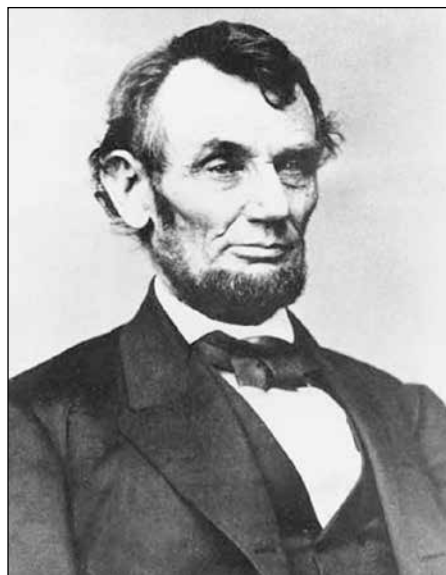
## New Castle Historical Society to Open Exhibit, Host Lecture By Lincoln Scholar

On Friday, Sept. 23, the New Castle Historical Society will open a new exhibition, "Abraham Lincoln and Horace Greeley: Uncertain Allies." Illustrated with contemporary photographs, prints, cartoons and documents, the exhibit traces the complex and sometimes tempestuous relationship between these important leaders during the Civil War era.

Lincoln and Greeley had much in common. Both rose from poverty to achieve success through a combination of natural talent and personal effort: Greeley as a journalist who became the editor of the country's most influential newspaper, Lincoln as a lawyer and politician who became President of the United States. Both shared many of the same aims and ideals, particularly their determination to preserve the Union and to bring about the eventual end of slavery.

But their very different personalities and temperaments often put them at odds. They became allies, but uncertain ones, who respected and exasperated each other.

Lincoln is justly celebrated for his



The often complex relationship between Horace Greeley and Abraham Lincoln will be explored during the New Castle Historical Society's newest exhibition, "Abraham Lincoln and Horace Greeley: Uncertain Allies," which is set to open Sept. 23.

leadership through the ordeal of the Civil War. But Greeley also made a significant contribution, through his support of Lincoln at certain crucial moments, and more importantly by his influence on northern public opinion,



which gradually shifted goals from simply defeating the Southern rebellion to achieving a "new birth of freedom" in a nation free of slavery.

The exhibit opening will take place at the Horace Greeley House, located

at 100 King St. in Chappaqua on Sept. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free and open to all ages. Adults may enjoy complementary wine and cheese.

In connection with the exhibit, the historical society and the Chappaqua Public Library will jointly host a lecture by renowned Lincoln historian Harold Holzer, recipient of the 2008 National Humanities Award and many other honors, and author of more than 50 books on Lincoln and the Civil War era. His talk is entitled "Old Abe and The Old Philosopher: The Long, Unhappy Alliance between Horace Greeley and Abraham Lincoln."

Holzer's lecture will take place in the Chappaqua Library's theater on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and copies of Holzer's books will be available for sale and signing, including his latest, "Lincoln and the Power of the Press." The historical society exhibition will be open before and after the lecture.

For more information, call 914-238-4666 or e-mail Cassie Ward at director@newcastlehs.org.

## Burke Rehabilitation to Host 37th Annual Wheelchair Games

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital will hold its 37th annual Wheelchair Games, a much-anticipated event for wheelchair athletes and the community, on Saturday, Sept. 24.

When it was introduced nearly four decades ago, the event was one of the first of its kind. Today the Games is

still known for its spirit of inclusion, welcoming wheelchair athletes of all ages and abilities.

Burke's beautiful 61-acre campus at 785 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains is the setting for a day that exemplifies sportsmanship, camaraderie and resilience. The Wheelchair Games

provides disabled competitors with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability in a variety of track, field and table tennis events. It empowers participants to build strength, coordination, endurance and self-confidence by being active and competitive in an entirely supportive atmosphere.

"Although our annual Wheelchair Games are a competition, we emphasize camaraderie, encouragement and inclusion for participants of all ability levels," said Richard Sgaglio, senior administrator at Burke. "It's also an unforgettable experience for children and other members of the community to be inspired by the tenacity of the athletes."

The Wheelchair Games competitive categories include a Futures Division (six and under), a separate Junior Division, adult and separate masters levels at age 35 and older and age 50 and older, and the senior Masters division at age 60 and older. Beginning at 9 a.m., there will be field events, table tennis and a slalom (obstacle) course. Track events start at 1:30 p.m. Burke is adding precision toss and high toss field events this year.

Morning event winners will be awarded during lunchtime, track event winners will be awarded after all races have been completed.

"We are proud to have such a longstanding tradition of hosting these games at Burke for such a diverse group of athletes," said event co-chair Tracey Bogart. "This event is an exciting follow-up to the Summer Paralympics because it demonstrates the indomitable nature of wheelchair athletes and the wide range of



Burke Rehabilitation Hospital will be hosting the Wheelchair Games for participants of all ages on Saturday, Sept. 24 at its White Plains campus.

physical activities they participate in."

Regular registration fee is \$25 and includes an event t-shirt, lunch and goodie bag. Financial assistance is available for those who cannot afford the fee. All athletes are encouraged to participate.

Admission is free for spectators and the public is encouraged to attend. In addition to watching the exciting competitions, the Wheelchair Games will feature carnival games, musical entertainment and raffles. The event is produced entirely by volunteers, including Burke employees and community members from civic groups, schools and various associations.

Registration forms for both athletes and volunteers can be found at [www.Burke.org/wheelchair-games](http://www.Burke.org/wheelchair-games). For more information about the Games, call 914-597-2850. For questions about classifications and/or the athletic events, contact Ralph Armento, meet director, at 732-266-2634 or e-mail [ralph461@msn.com](mailto:ralph461@msn.com).

## Art Gallery Event to Benefit Greeley Scholarship Fund Sept. 25

The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation in Mount Kisco is opening its art gallery for a special showing to benefit the Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. The event will include a gallery viewing and a wine and cheese reception.

The foundation's collection is made up of pieces by self-taught and contemporary artists, including James Castle, Rackstraw Downes, Red Grooms, Stanley Lewis, Sangram Majumdar, Claes Oldenburg, Nellie Mae Rowe, E.M. Saniga, Beatrice Scaccia, Judith Scott, Sam Szafran, Bill Taylor and Purvis Young, among many others. The installation of works is beautifully arranged, and there are wonderful surprises around every corner.

During the exhibition, there will also be the screening of the award-

winning documentary "Generosity of Eye," directed by Brad Hall. Narrated by actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus, the film is the inspirational story of her father's passions for art, justice and education and how they connect in a single act of generosity.

Tickets are \$100, and are limited. To register, visit <https://www.hgsf.org/art-event>. To read about the foundation and to view the collection, visit [www.wldfoundation.org/index.php](http://www.wldfoundation.org/index.php).

The Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund gives grants to graduates of Horace Greeley High School to help cover the gap between the rising cost of college and the ability of a family to pay through family resources, loans and other grants and scholarships. This year, the fund awarded grants totaling \$223,000 to 29 Greeley alums. Each year, it strives to meet more of the demonstrated need with your help.



# Happenings

*continued from page 24*

and gardening books and gift items. Lunch available for purchase. John Jay Homestead, 400 Route 22, Katonah. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-5651, visit [www.johnjayhomestead.org](http://www.johnjayhomestead.org) or e-mail [herbsocietyny@gmail.com](mailto:herbsocietyny@gmail.com).

**Mahjongg Club.** Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

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

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

**Bedford Hills Farmers Market.** Come down and stock up for the weekend. Fresh picked produce and flowers, handmade soap, bread, cheese, lobster rolls, stunning bracelets and live music. Bedford Hills train station, 46 Depot Plaza, Bedford Hills. 4 to 7:30 p.m. Every Thursday. Info: Visit the Bedford Hills Live Facebook page.

**Read to Rover.** Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**"In Our Son's Name."** The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series presents a screening of this film telling the story of Orlando and Phyllis Rodriguez, whose son Greg perished in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Amid a national environment of anger, calls for revenge and the rush to war, these two grieving parents stood up for peace, forgiveness and compassion and strongly opposed the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Followed by a panel discussion featuring the Rodriguez family and Rev. Ron Lemmert, former chaplain at Sing Sing. Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theatre, 53 Croton Ave., Ossining. 6:15 p.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.ossiningdocumentaries.org](http://www.ossiningdocumentaries.org).

**"Back to School, Back to Sports."** Three highly regarded experts from White Plains Hospital will present a valuable talk on sports safety for kids. The forum will provide parents, coaches and caregivers with the tools they need to prevent injuries and accidents among school-

aged kids, as well as guidance on what to do when injuries occur. Panelists include Dr. Samantha Lowe, a pediatrician with a background in emergency pediatrics; Dr. Michael Weintraub, a neurologist specializing in brain trauma and cerebral concussions. Pediatrician Dr. Ellen Lestz will provide introductory remarks. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Registration not required, but those interested in attending may contact Jamie Bocchino at 914-681-2650 or email [JBocchino@wphospital.org](mailto:JBocchino@wphospital.org).

**"Clinical Trials and Ovarian Cancer."** Support Connection is holding this educational webinar open to women nationwide who are living with ovarian cancer. The guest speaker will be Dr. Stephanie Blank, gynecologic oncologist at the NYU Clinical Cancer Center and a principal investigator in numerous cancer research studies. 8 to 9 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

## Friday, Sept. 16

**Tai Chi Classes for Seniors.** Tai Chi is a graceful form of exercise that helps reduce stress and is beneficial for a variety of other health conditions. It also promotes serenity through gentle, flowing movements performed in a slow, focused manner accompanied by deep breathing. First session of a six-week series. The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 42 N. Broadway, Tarrytown. 9:30 a.m. \$60 for six sessions. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

**Mount Kisco Senior Group Tag Sale.** Fox Senior Center, 198 Carpenter Ave., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also Sept. 17. Info: 914-666-8766.

**Zumba With Amy.** Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginner. Addie-tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Drop-in rate: \$12. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Info: 914-643-6162 or e-mail [olin.amyj@gmail.com](mailto:olin.amyj@gmail.com).

**Friday Night Cinema: "Man Up!"** All Lake Bell has to do is get to an important family party and yet will things ever go as planned for her? This British romantic comedy stars Simon Pegg and Bell as hilarious victims of poor choices, mistaken identity, hooliganism and obsession. In English. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**New Riders of the Purple Sage.** The New Riders of the Purple Sage began as a part-time spinoff from the Grateful Dead when Jerry Garcia, Phil Lesh and Mickey Hart teamed up with John Dawson and David Nelson. Although early live appearances were viewed as an informal warmup to the main attraction, the

group quickly established an independent identity through the strength of Dawson's original songs. With opening guests Professor Louie & the Crowmatix. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. \$25 and \$30. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com).

## Saturday, Sept. 17

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** Experience the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted "Best of Westchester" in 2014, 2015 and 2016 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With 56 vendors and seven nearby parking lots, the market is a delicious good time. This week, market lead sponsor Phelps Hospital Northwell Health visits, Shovel Ready String presents bluegrass and original music for the music series and nd the Woods School of Irish Dancing hosts the kids' event. Rain or shine. The market is a dog-free environment. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

**Breakfast with the Hawks.** Scheduled to take advantage of peak Broad-winged Hawk migration. Complementary breakfast offered. Co-sponsored by Westmoreland Sanctuary. Hawkwatch platform at Arthur Butler Sanctuary, 265 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Bedford Corners. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Sept. 25. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-232-1999 or e-mail [info@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:info@bedfordaudubon.org).

**Chappaqua Farmers Market.** Bringing locally-raised and produced food to the community in a weekly market, creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. Chappaqua train station. Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday. Info: Visit [www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org](http://www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org).

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

**Tales of the Mysterious Leatherman.** The Ossining Historic Cemeteries Conservancy presents this program featuring master storyteller Jonathan Kruk leading a special ceremony to unveil the New York Folklore Society's legends and lore marker. All proceeds to benefit the Ossining Historic Cemeteries Conservancy and the restoration and preservation of historic Sparta and Dale cemeteries. Historic Sparta Cemetery, Scarborough. Parking and ticket purchase at 9:30 a.m. at Scarborough Presbyterian Church, 655 Scarborough Rd., Briarcliff Manor. Program at 10 a.m. Free shuttle service to the cemetery. \$10 per person. \$20 per family. Info: 914-643-3406 or

e-mail [ohcc10562@gmail.com](mailto:ohcc10562@gmail.com).

**Mount Kisco Public Library Book Sale.** To benefit the Friends of the Mount Kisco Public Library. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: 914-666-8041 or e-mail [mklibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:mklibraryfriends@gmail.com).

**Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille.** Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Sept. 24. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

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

**Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education.** Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday (except Sept. 18). Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors.** This engaging, interactive program is for anyone trying to navigate their way through the complicated healthcare system for older adults. It will help those who already have Medicare, as well as people soon to be 65 years old, planning their retirement or assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions. The workshop outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with health insurance provided by the government and private companies. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome. Pre-registration requested. Info and pre-registration: 914-231-3236.

**Faith, Food and Friends.** A weekly gathering that includes prayer, song, discussion and dinner for all. Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 197 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: Visit [www.emanuelelc.org](http://www.emanuelelc.org).

*continued on page 30*



## The Restaurant Examiner

# Egg White Frittata a Favorite Recipe of MP Taverna Chef

By Jerry Eimbinder

One of the favorite dishes of chef Michael Psilakis is a frittata made with spinach, cauliflower and feta cheese.

"This crust-less egg pie is a healthy option any time of day, breakfast, lunch or dinner," he said.

Psilakis opened MP Taverna in Irvington in May 2012 and has founded many restaurants in the metropolitan area. He was a co-star of the BBC America cooking competition television series "No Kitchen Required," which launched in April 2012.

"Frittatas are open to all manner of toss-ins," Psilakis said. "We often use whatever blanched vegetables, cheese, that happen to be in the refrigerator. I love it tucked into a ciabatta sandwich loaf for lunch."

Here is his recipe for egg white frittatas with blanched vegetables.

### Serving size

### Four people

### Ingredients

Extra virgin olive oil (to coat the skillet)  
1 head of cauliflower cut into florets (about four cups), blanched and shocked and broken into half-inch pieces  
4 garlic cloves, tiny, sliced  
4 cups of loosely packed chopped spinach  
8 large mint leaves, chopped  
Kosher salt  
Fresh ground black pepper  
16 large egg whites, beaten until foamy  
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

### Blanching and shocking vegetables

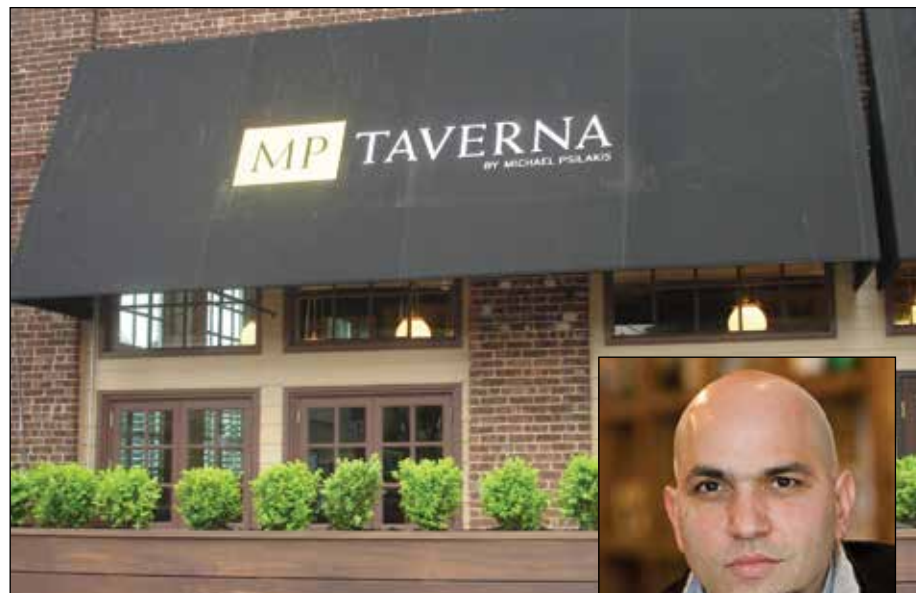
Blanching and shocking is plunging vegetables into boiling, salted water to cook until they are firm, yet still soft enough to bite into, then plunging them into an ice water bath to halt the cooking process.

Drain and store the vegetables in a container and refrigerate. The same boiling water can be used for all the vegetables but begin with the cauliflower and then progress to the haricots verts and broccoli to prevent the white florets from taking on a green tinge. A bonus is that the leftover cooking water makes a light vegetable stock useable in soup, thin sauces and deglaze pans.

Blanching is a simple process. Best results are obtained if the pot is large enough for the vegetables to move around freely. Be sure to salt the water liberally.

Try to blanch enough vegetables to leave some for snacks. Leftovers can also be chopped and tossed for omelets, put into a pot with some stock to mix into a soup (add Greek yogurt and fresh, soft herbs) or toss with pasta.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Prepare an ice bath in a large bowl. Line a baking sheet with paper towels and



The outside patio at MP Taverna in Irvington where executive chef Michael Psilakis makes his egg white frittata. Right: Psilakis, executive chef and founder of MP Taverna in Irvington.



proceed to prepare the vegetables.

### Cauliflower preparation

Remove and discard the green leaves from the cauliflower. Cut the head in half lengthwise and cut out the solid stem and core entirely.

Break into big florets by hand. Using a knife, trim the larger pieces into half- to 1-inch pieces. Cut the stalks into 1/8-inch

thick slices.

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees. Heat a large cast-iron skillet sliced with olive oil over medium heat.

Add cauliflower and sear, turning occasionally, until golden in places. Add the garlic and sauté until golden brown and fragrant, then add the spinach and

cook, tossing until the spinach wilts. Add the mint and toss to distribute evenly. Season with salt and pepper.

Spread the mixture evenly in the pan, then pour the egg whites over. Scatter the feta cheese over the eggs. Transfer to the oven and bake for 10 to 12 minutes until the egg whites are set; they shouldn't jiggle when you shake the pan. Serve in a cast-iron skillet to keep warm.

Psilakis is a recipient of numerous culinary awards including chef of the year from Bon Appetit and Esquire and best new chef from Food & Wine and an award from Gourmand International for Best Foreign Cuisine.

He was an executive producer of "No Kitchen Required" with two other chefs and traveled the world, cooking in challenging and remote locations using locally procured ingredients. Psilakis wrote the cookbook "How to Roast a Lamb," which was published by Little, Brown in 2009.

MP Taverna has sister restaurants in Roslyn, L.I., Astoria, Queens and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The same restaurant group also founded Kefi and Fishtag, both on Manhattan's upper West Side.

MP Taverna is located at 1 Bridge St. in Irvington. For reservations or more information, call 914-231-7854.

## Special Discounts to Spice Up New Rochelle Food Fest

By Jerry Eimbinder

Thirty-five restaurants are scheduled to participate in the New Rochelle Food Fest that will be held Sept. 18-22, with many providing special discounts.

Prix fixe, three-course meals will be available at Alvin & Friends (\$27.50), Manville Soul Caribbean (\$29.99) and Jolo's (\$25).

Alvin & Friends, a southern/Caribbean restaurant, offers its prix fixe meal patrons a house salad, dessert and a choice of three entrées: fried chicken with mac and cheese and greens; Jamaican Escovitch tilapia with yellow rice and seasonal vegetable; or vegetable linguine. Chocolate cake will be served for dessert.

The prix fixe meals at Jolo's, a vegan restaurant and juice bar, come with soup, marinated kale salad and an entrée.

Beverages, tax and gratuity are extra. Customers opting to order adult entrées from the regular menu will receive a complementary glass of house wine.

A Caribbean/American eatery called A Place 2 Go is offering a 10

percent discount on entrées. D'Chef Restaurants will take 10 percent off the cost of any entrée (includes two sides) and offer a fish selection with a side for \$11.

Cosi offers a \$7.99 flatbread sandwich choice of tomato, basil, mozzarella, roasted turkey club or pesto with chips or baby carrots.

Fish on the Run will give a free three-fruit smoothie to purchasers of an entrée.

A \$30 tasting menu will be available at NoMa Social (the name is a play on North of Manhattan) and will include a complementary glass of wine.

The Wooden Spoon offers a free dessert to purchasers of an entrée.

Other participating restaurants include Beechmont Tavern, Carlo's Restaurant, Dubrovnik, Got Thyme, Korean BBQ, Mamma Francesca, Patsy's Pizzeria, Pepe's Place, Texas Roadhouse, Silkies Saloon and Tzatziki Greek Grill.

For more information, visit [www.newrochelleny.com/foodfest](http://www.newrochelleny.com/foodfest).



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTO

Alvin Clayton, founder of Alvin & Friends in New Rochelle, which will be one of 35 restaurants to participate in this year's New Rochelle Food Fest, featuring five days of specials, beginning this Sunday.



## Tree Lover Tells When and if to Plant (and Gripes a Little)

This article might well be titled “The Joys and Agonies of Being a Tree Lover.”

The subject of planting trees comes to me each year as we approach autumn because it's the perfect time to plant deciduous and evergreen trees as they enter into dormancy. And, Lord knows, I have done my share of planting trees through the years, even though I bought a property that was more than half wooded.

The idea of planting small, manageable green things and watching them develop over time into sculptures of beauty reaching to the skies in graceful forms and providing shade, has always appealed to me.

When I saw an ad for what turned out to be my dream house in the country, I called the owner and asked if it had privacy, noting that I preferred not seeing any neighbors. He answered, “No matter which window I look out of, all I see is trees.”

How wonderful, I thought, considering that when I looked out of my window in the city, all I saw was one scrawny Ginkgo that had been hit repeatedly by cars vying for the parking space in front of it. The last time I visited the old neighborhood, it had finally lost the battle to the cars and hadn't been replaced.



By Bill Primavera

But my 1.5-acre property in upper Westchester was laden with generous thickets of sugar maples, honey locusts, ash, black walnuts, cherries and many other species I never bothered to look up. Former owners had planted some old dogwood, ornamental flowering trees and a long row of hemlock.

Having grown up in an urban setting with no trees, I just enjoyed looking at them, often reminding myself of Joyce Kilmer's poetic turn, “I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree,” and becoming somewhat of an expert in shade

gardening.

It wasn't long, however, before reality set in. I learned that trees, especially the big ones, can fall. Or they get sick and have to be removed.

As recently as last weekend when I was returning from vacation, I couldn't turn on to my street because a large maple on the edge of my corner property, which had looked in perfect health, fell across the road, taking with it the telephone, electric and cable wires. Thankfully the utilities companies, then my wonderful local highway department, took care of the damage, otherwise it would have been costly.

I can't even calculate the amount of money I've spent through the years to have fallen or diseased trees removed. Early in the 1970s, during a very wet season, my dogwoods were all wiped out by a fungus infection. In the '80s, my hemlocks fell to woolly adelgid. Then, a number of my largest maples got “thrip” and slowly withered. One evening we heard a thunderous noise as a half dead pine fell just inches from our house. Each calamity involved the very expensive proposition of dealing with tree removal. I started to feel cursed.

Having become good friends with my tree service provider, I asked him why it seemed that I had such bad luck with trees. He answered simply, “It's just because you have so many of them.”

If there's any moral to this story, I guess it would be to consider the responsibilities that go with a wooded property. If a property is lacking trees and you want some shade, consider their variety, manageability and distance from the house.

There are certain trees that have been very popular either for their beauty or fast-growing habits that, from experience, I would not recommend. Chief among them are the weeping willow, the Bartlett pear and the white pine.

Most people know that the weeping

willow's roots are ready to suck all water out of the soil and don't like anything else planted near them. Unless you have a wetland area on your property and lots of space, avoid it.

Many homeowners and professional gardeners regard the Bradford pear as desirable for its pyramidal shape and lovely white flowers in spring, but that characteristic shape also makes it very fragile. Its branches tend to break during storms or strong winds.

The same goes for the Eastern white pine. While they grow fast, they shouldn't be planted close to the road because they suffer from salt burn and sustain damage in winter when their branches become laden with snow.

My favorite tree plantings have been the flowering ornamentals – particularly my crabapples and weeping cherries – that are contained in size and offer the joy of flowers in the spring, greenery until late fall and not much cleanup to worry about.

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

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# Saving for Higher Education? No Better Time to Start Than Now

Signs of fall are in the air. Cooler nights, changing leaves and the ubiquitous presence of long, yellow mass transportation vehicles filled with students returning to school.

Although the school bus may be the most obvious sign of the changing season, it is after all, transportation for many elementary and secondary school students. While we may cover the cost of elementary and secondary education through taxes and other means, have you given any thought lately to college?

If you have children, or plan to, and hope to see them pursue higher education, it can be a good idea to start thinking about how to finance that education. In fact, you might consider making your first deposit into an education savings account early on, perhaps even the day your child is born, in order to make a significant contribution when today's newborn becomes a college freshman.

Though there may be funding options available for qualified students, the sources that exist to support education today may be different in a decade, or even in the next two years.

Take for instance Perkins loans, the nation's oldest student loan program,

which began in 1958. It briefly expired last September, but was revived for two more years after Congress approved a streamlined version in December. New applicants for the program now qualify only if they've already exhausted all other options for borrowing, and it will no longer be available for graduate students.

While the proposed changes to the loan program were the subject of congressional debate, it has not provided funding for the program in about a dozen years. In some cases, schools that want to continue offering the loans have been using funds from students who had repaid their Perkins loans, which is a shrinking source of revenue.

One of the most popular sources of college funding is the Pell Grant, which is different than programs such as Perkins loans in that it does not require repayment. The maximum amount available for the 2016-17 award year (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017) is \$5,815. However, the amount awarded to each



By Lisa Santo

eligible student depends on financial need, cost, status as either a full- or part-time student and whether the student will be in school for the full academic year.

Knowledge of the myriad programs available to help assist with college costs is essential. However, for couples planning on having children or who already have started a family, talk about the current status of grant and loan programs is, well, academic. We can't be sure what college costs will be in 18 years, or even 10 years, nor do we know what funding options will be available.

The best bet is to start saving now and do it in a way that will allow you to benefit from tax advantages. One option is a 529 Plan, which is a type of education savings plan that has been in place since 1996. Such plans – and they can differ from state to state – are operated by a state or educational institution.

The 529 plans can be used to help cover the cost of qualified colleges nationwide. For most plans, a student's choice

of school is not affected by the state where the 529 savings plan was opened. However, it is important to check on the variations in each state's plan to be sure it meets your needs. In addition, 529 plans often are attractive because other family members, such as grandparents, can contribute to them as well.

There are numerous equations for what a college education will cost two decades from now, including a variety of unknown factors, from how state and federal governments may tackle the issue of rising student debt to how educational institutions will address their increasing costs. For that reason, it is important to consider the other options that exist to set up accounts for college costs. It may be worthwhile to review them with professionals who can assist with your financial, legal and tax issues.

Primarily, the issue comes down to timeliness. It is never too early to start saving for college, but hesitation can certainly make it too late.

*Sleepy Hollow resident Lisa Santo is a financial adviser with the Global Wealth Management Division of Morgan Stanley in Manhattan. She can be reached at 212-883-7707.*

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# Happenings

continued from page 26

**The Irvington Town Hall Theater Tune-Up Chorus.** The event offers music lovers the opportunity to gather and sing some favorite tunes with complete abandon – regardless of ability. Pop-up choruses have been a huge hit around the country. The Friends of the Theater has expanded the repertoire this year to include songs from the '60s until now. Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

**Almost Queen Returns!** Almost Queen succeeds in blending the vocal layering and studio precision that is a signature with the energy and spectacle of a live stage production. Elaborate lighting, effects and costumes aptly frame the seasoned musicians who step into these very large shoes to effectively render an authentic "Queen experience." Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. \$25 and \$35. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com).

**Saturday Night Jazz at Chappaqua Station: Affinity Jazz Trio.** With a hat tipped to New York's musical renaissance, Chappaqua Station welcomes local and international musicians to the historic train station. Think intimate lounge setting, warm bourbon glow, farm fresh cuisine

and an inclusive spirit of Westchester's vibrant culture. Chappaqua Station, 1 Station Plaza, Chappaqua. 8 to 11 p.m. \$10 per person for table reservation. First come, first served at bar with no cover charge. Every Saturday. Tickets available through Eventbrite. Info: 914-861-8001 or visit [www.chappaquastation.com](http://www.chappaquastation.com).

**Argentine Tango Dances.** Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$16. Also the first Sunday of each month from 3 to 6 p.m. \$12. Info: 914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail [sampelayo@optonline.net](mailto:sampelayo@optonline.net).

## Sunday, Sept. 18

**Yoga for Beginners.** A perfect way to refresh your body and mind. Move, stretch, breathe and renew. All bodies and minds are welcome in this class. Expect Natural, 774 Bedford Rd., Bedford Hills. 8:30 to 10 a.m. \$15 per class. Every Sunday. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Marta at 914-242-4685.

**Armonk Cider and Donut Festival and Jamie's 5K Run for Love.** Sponsored by the Armonk Chamber of Commerce. The Armonk Chamber of Commerce is

partnering with the Byram Hills PreSchool Association's Fall Carnival. Races for all ages followed by the 5K; carnival rides and amusements; face painting; bounce houses; pizza, ice cream and cider and donuts; and more. Wampus Brook Park, Maple Avenue, Armonk. Races start at 10 a.m. Carnival continues until 2 p.m. Proceeds from the run and festival benefit the North Castle Public Library and the Chamber of Commerce. The carnival proceeds benefit the Byram Hills PreSchool Association.

**Honey Harvest Party.** Learn about the fascinating social network of honeybees, the basics of beekeeping and how honey is harvested from our hives. Event activities include honey extraction and tasting, how to make apple cider, crafts and games. Honey will be available for purchase. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$4. Non-members: \$8. Pre-register online to save on admission. Info and registration: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Ballroom Dancing and Dinner.** Dancing followed by a complete dinner. All proceeds to go to the scholarship fund at Fox Lane High School and New York Boys' State. Third Sunday of every month. Moses Taylor American Legion Post 136, 1 Legion Way, Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$18 per person. Info: 914-241-0136 or contact Commander John A. Graziano at 914-248-7134.

**Sunday Music at the North Castle Library: Cante Libre.** Enjoy the glistening beauty inside Cante Libre through gems composed for smaller instrumental combinations. All ensemble members will shine as they are featured in a fascinating array of duos, trios and quartets. Featured works from Howard Blake. Gary Schocker, Vincent Persichetti and Erwin Schullhoff will be performed. Romantic mainstays by Massenet, Marcel Grandjany and Jacques Ibert round out the program. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**"Operattitudes."** The New Rochelle Opera will present this concert narrated by company co-founder and artistic director Camille Coppola. It will consist of impassioned declarations from familiar operas sung by some of the company's leading singers: Zhanna Alkhazova (soprano), Anna Tonna (mezzo-soprano), Joshua Benevento (tenor) and Youngjoo An (baritone). The artists will be accompanied by Brian Holman. Sponsored by the Iona College Council on the Arts. Iona College's Christopher Murphy Auditorium, 715 North Ave., New Rochelle. 3 p.m. \$25. Seniors and students: \$20. Iona students and staff: Free. Info: 914-576-1617. Tickets: Visit [www.nropera.org](http://www.nropera.org).

**Donovan in Concert.** After a breakthrough and historic period of hit recordings and 50 years after his Carnegie

Hall concert, Donovan actively and consistently performed live, and today remains a towering icon of rock's golden age. He played with and influenced generations of music greats while releasing a canon of music that changed the world. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7 p.m. \$49.50, \$59.50 and \$69.50. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com).

## Monday, Sept. 19

**Knitting Group.** Hats for our servicemen and women overseas and other ongoing projects for care centers and hospitals. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

**Storytime.** For children of all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org).

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

**Square Dancing Fun Nights.** Friendly Squares Dance Club will hold the first of two square dancing fun nights. Square dancing is fun and great exercise for the body and mind. It is an enjoyable activity for all ages and also an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Open to singles, couples and families. Attire is casual; no experience necessary. Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd., Katonah. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Tee Cotter at 914-433-2919.

## Tuesday, Sept. 20

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

**Senior Steps.** Health screenings for seniors. This month's offering is a balance screening. Phelps Hospital, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-366-3937.

**Speech Therapy for Parkinson's Patients: Think LOUD, Speak LOUD.** Learn about this intensive speech therapy program for individuals with Parkinson's disease. Presented by Andrea Bracciante-Ely, senior speech-language pathologist. Phelps Hospital's Walkway Conference Room, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3010.

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# Decisions, Decisions: Wine By the Glass or Buy the Bottle?



By Nick Antonaccio

"May I offer you a drink?"

"Yes, I'd like a glass of (white, red, sparkling) wine."

This seemingly innocuous interchange with a waiter or bartender can be fraught with indecision, or worse, a hurried choice that yields a mediocre result.

In today's dining environment, we've gravitated to watching our wallets as much as our waistlines. (They seem to be heading in opposite directions.) Restaurants, bars and wine bars understand this. Offerings of wines by the glass at reasonable prices have increased multifold into broader and deeper selections of wines from around the world. But, "I'll have the house wine" is still the typical response when ordering a glass of wine.

Let's change that behavior pattern. Be adventurous. Order wine by the glass with the goal of finding a new "favorite" wine. Better yet, why order a bottle when you can pick and choose multiple wines from the by-the-glass list?

*'Be aware of the pitfalls that lurk as you navigate through this process.'*

As with most adventures, caution is paramount. Be aware of the pitfalls that lurk as you navigate through this process. Here are my guidelines for how and when to order a glass of wine, whether seated at your restaurant table or waiting to be seated at the restaurant's bar. Whether meeting friends at your local watering hole or socializing at a wine bar.

First, the benefits.

1. When dining with the special person in our life, we tend to order one bottle for the evening, trying to find a middle ground to satisfy differing food preferences as well as the competing flavors of our first and second courses. We rarely succeed. This situation cries out for a glass (or glasses) of wine perfectly paired with individual dishes.

2. When socializing with friends at a local bar, it's too easy to order generically. Be inquisitive. "Which red (white) wines are you offering this evening?" Ask the server to describe each – the country of origin and the style of wine. "The Chilean Cabernet sounds

appealing. May I sample it?" Your server has been trained to lower the barriers of selection; multiple choices usually lead to multiple glasses.

3. If you're like me, you have a life list of wines to enjoy before you kick the (ice) bucket. Today many restaurants and wine bars offer high-end wines by the glass. Are they expensive? Yes. Would you otherwise have the opportunity to check them off your life list? Probably not. Besides, \$25 for one glass is an extravagance I can better psychologically rationalize than \$200 for a bottle.

Now, the pitfalls.

1. Financially, wines by the glass yield a low return on investment for you and an extraordinarily high return for restaurants and bars. Here's the math: the typical restaurant or bar pour is four to five ounces, which equates to five to six glasses per bottle. The average price to you for a glass of wine is \$8 to \$12. The average cost of that bottle, at wholesale, is \$8 to \$12. The restaurant or bar typically needs to sell one glass to recover their cost of the bottle, not including overhead.

The remaining pours from the bottle are profit.

2. "I'll have a glass of the house wine." My advice: never order the house wine. It may be convenient to do so in the midst of conversation, but by spending a few minutes being more selective, you will most likely experience a new wine and expand your knowledge and palate, for only \$1 to \$2 more than the house wine.

3. Make sure the wine being poured into your glass is the wine you ordered. Reputable establishments will always present the bottle as they are pouring; this helps you prevent any bait-and-switch tactic.

Ordering wine by the glass is an excellent way to experiment with new wines. Employing a financial analysis can result in a cost-efficient experience. Find the right balance and you've created a win-win experience.

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



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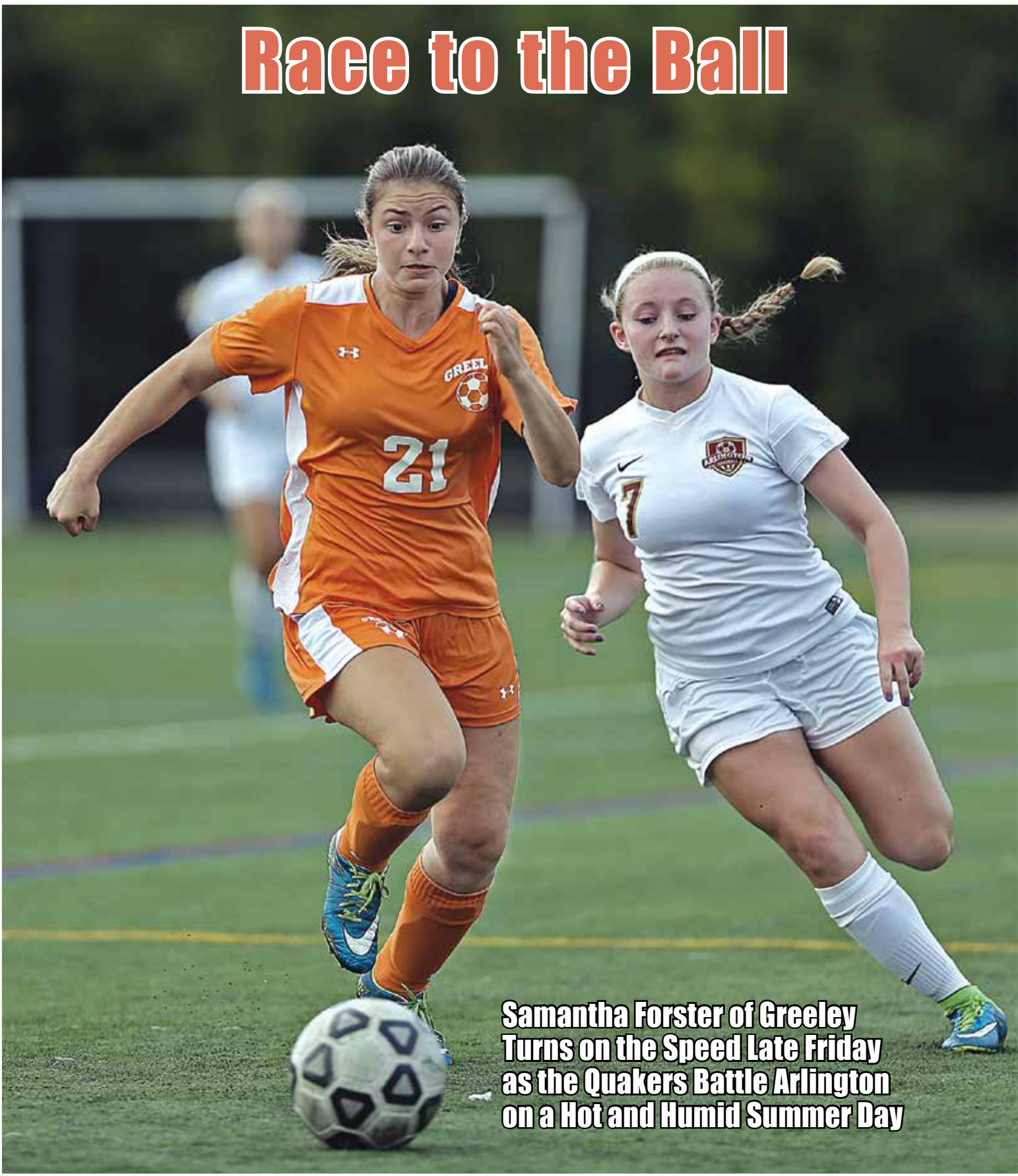
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