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P'ville Approves Master Plan Update With Focus on Downtown

By Anna Young

The Pleasantville Village Board approved an update of the municipality's Master Plan last week that officials hope will refine the village's downtown and expand opportunities for assisted living.

Representatives from the Manhattan-based BFJ Planning worked closely with village officials during the past year with the aim of preserving Pleasantville as an attractive, business-friendly community while looking to brand it as an authentic American village. It is Pleasantville's first Master Plan update in more than 20 years.

The revised plan gives Pleasantville an opportunity to entice new development in a revitalized downtown that will support business and improve walkability, public spaces and amenities, officials said.

"The Master Plan is giving us a guideline for the kinds of things we'd like to look at adopting in the future, it's only a theoretical construct of things

we'd like to see happen in the village," Trustee Steven Lord said. "Anybody who is worried that all of a sudden they are going to start seeing bulldozers all over the place – in due course perhaps – but not because we're approving the plan."

Downtown changes include raising the permitted height of buildings in the central business district from three to four stories in areas that have limited impact on adjacent residential zones. Four-story buildings will be allowed where the property is separated from a single-family residential zone by at least 150 feet or by a road or railroad.

Another area of focus was making intersection improvements and more effectively managing parking for greater ease for shoppers and diners. That, in turn, is expected to improve circulation and attract more people to downtown.

The plan also promotes walkability and improving parking by reducing the

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New Castle Name Change Receives Icy Millwood-West End Reception

By Martin Wilbur

A group of Millwood and West End residents last week overwhelmingly panned the proposal to change the name of the Town of New Castle to Chappaqua.

All but one of the Millwood-West End Advisory Board members who spoke during an extended discussion at last Thursday's board meeting and the handful of residents in attendance said they saw no benefit to making a switch.

Opponents of the proposal argued that the town, which has been named New Castle since 1791, would lose a significant piece of its history and identity. Others said they liked the greater diversity offered in

Millwood and the West End, particularly since their children go to Ossining schools, and being called Chappaqua could change that perception.

Advisory board member Michael Dorio said if the change isn't expected to affect each resident's mailing address, school district or real estate values then he "could find no coherent need to make the change."

"This history should not be set aside because a realtor or a town board member has found the name confusing," Dorio said. "How could this suggestion bring benefit to all residents of the town?"

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Job Well Done



Hawthorne Troop 1 honored four of its members last Friday evening who recently rose to the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Pictured, left to right, are Gregory Alfieri, Alexander Warne, Joseph Andrews and Gregory May. Each scout was required to complete an extensive community service project. Since forming in 1936, 114 scouts from the troop have achieved the rank of Eagle.

Mt. Kisco BID, Comp Plan Update Sought to Help Downtown

By Neal Rentz

Six months after the first of two meetings were held to devise strategies to reinvigorate downtown Mount Kisco, Mayor Michael Cindrich said he has been working with private stakeholders to entice new businesses to the village.

Cindrich said last week a willingness for coordination between the private sector and local government is needed to make the effort a success.

"I'm working to build bridges with the commercial property owners, real estate agents and business owners," Cindrich said. "The revitalization of the

business district must be a joint venture of government and property owners."

To accomplish that goal, the mayor once again called for creation of a Business Improvement District (BID). A BID levies a tax on property owners that would be used to contribute toward needed improvements. Cindrich said the action requires a commitment of time and money. But feedback has been in short supply.

"Unfortunately, the property owners have been slow to respond," he said.

Cindrich suggested hiring a consultant to analyze the business district, suggest

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Mt. Kisco BID, Comp Plan Update Sought to Help Downtown

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outreach projects, devise marketing strategies and make recommendations regarding the types of businesses that might be successful in Mount Kisco.

While revitalizing downtown will take time, the business climate isn't all doom and gloom.

Eileen Polese and Gina Picinich, co-executive directors of the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce, said the village enjoyed a successful holiday season, with the streets and stores filled with activity.

Modell's Sporting Goods, which opened last summer, has been a welcome addition, they said. The Mount Kisco River Eatery and Siegel Brothers Wine & Spirits opened in December. Siegel Brothers Market Place is scheduled to open in early February.

Despite the arrival of new businesses downtown, more needs to be done, including a review of whether a BID would be a benefit, according to Polese and Picinich.

"As we have said in the past, our members would welcome and evaluate the benefits of any proposals for a Business Improvement District," a chamber statement read. "We look forward to receiving the mayor's plan."

Cindrich said one component of the downtown revitalization is a Comprehensive Plan update. Developers are interested in building transit-



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

A portion of Main Street in downtown Mount Kisco, the heart of the business district where revitalization efforts are centered.

oriented housing, mixed-use buildings and parking structures in the business district, he said.

However, the current central business district does not permit mixed-use residential development, something that could be addressed in a Comprehensive Plan update. The village board is hopeful of receiving grant funding for an update, but revitalization of the business district and finding tenants for vacant spaces does not depend on its review, Cindrich said.

Ideas for projects floated would "dramatically change the landscape of our retail district which is currently stuck in a time warp of nostalgia and regulations,"

Cindrich said. "The question is: Do the residents of our community want change and to what extent?"

Complaints continue about inadequate parking and the need for streetscape improvements, Cindrich added.

Several downtown merchants said last week there is reason for optimism but there are differences of opinion about how best to help downtown.

Exit 4 Food Hall owner Isi Albanese, who has owned businesses in Mount Kisco for 26 years, said he opposes the creation of a BID. The responsibility for improving the village should fall on each landlord to maintain their own area, he said. If the village wants to promote an attractive downtown it should require landlords to maintain and beautify their buildings.

Dawn Marie Manwaring, owner of the Beehive Design Collective boutique, said creation of a BID is unnecessary because the additional tax would be passed on to tenants. What's more critical is for the village to update its Comprehensive Plan, she said.

"Any sort of reworking and revisiting I think is not a bad thing," said Manwaring, who urged the village to schedule another meeting with landlords and merchants. "A lot of things have changed."

Albanese also called for a Comprehensive Plan update. He said

some realtors and potential business owners still shy away from Mount Kisco because it has had the reputation of a difficult municipality to receive approvals.

"I think the downtown needs a lot of help," he said. "We have to catch up to some of the other towns that are doing well."

Albanese agreed with Cindrich that for downtown revitalization to take hold, cooperation is needed to attract new businesses. Stamford, Conn. has a committee devoted to find tenants for empty storefronts, he said.

Robin White, owner of New York Dolls, a clothing store, suggested having additional free parking periods and making parking meters more user friendly.

Attracting new small businesses to the area with owners who have a stake in the community would also be helpful, Manwaring added.

The village has been moving in the right direction regarding downtown revitalization over the past year, but the village needs to be more welcoming to those seeking to open businesses in Mount Kisco, Albanese said.

"The town is realizing that we can't close the door," he said.



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Q: How does breastfeeding benefit my baby?

A: There are many benefits, which continue as your baby develops. The World Health Organization (WHO) finds that babies who are exclusively breastfed have fewer ear infections, serious illnesses and allergies than those who were not breastfed or were partially breastfed. Moreover, the AAP reports a more than one-third drop in the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome among breastfed infants. Breastfed babies are also less likely to become obese adolescents or adults. Interestingly, the composition of breast milk changes over time to support baby's ongoing developmental needs.

Q: What are the benefits for mom?

A: The advantages for mothers are numerous. Breastfeeding women often find it easier to lose their pregnancy weight quickly. In addition, the WHO finds that women who breastfeed lower their risk of breast and ovarian cancers. Breastfeeding also decreases a woman's risk of developing both Type 2 diabetes and osteoporosis. There are also important psychological and emotional benefits: nursing offers peaceful downtime that can have a restorative and meditative effect on the busy mother of a newborn.

Q: How do I succeed at breastfeeding?

A: Some new mothers worry they "won't do it right." Others are concerned about painful, sore nipples or that their baby won't get enough milk. First-time mothers are often unsure how to continue breastfeeding once they're back to work. Preparation is the key to success. I advise every expecting mother and their partner to take a breastfeeding class in the last trimester of pregnancy. You'll feel empowered and gain confidence by learning what to expect during the first weeks with a newborn. You will be ready to experience this intimate act of love between mother and baby.



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Pleasantville Middle School Principal Ossowski to Retire

By Anna Young

The Pleasantville Board of Education announced last Friday that middle school Principal Vivian Ossowski will be retiring at the end of June completing a 33-year career with the district.

Ossowski arrived as a special education teacher at Pleasantville High School in 1984 after spending her first three years teaching in Yonkers. Four years later she was promoted to director of educational services because of her work supporting children with special needs. She has been middle school principal since 2004.

"We are grateful for her leadership and



Pleasantville Middle School Principal Vivian Ossowski will retire at the end of the school year following a 33-year career in the district.

contributions to the district and wish her well in the next stage of her life," read a Jan. 13 Pleasantville Board of Education statement.

Board of Education President Angela Vella said trustees and Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter are expected to discuss the search for Ossowski's replacement at the board's next meeting on Jan. 24.

She said Ossowski's pending departure wasn't a big surprise because of contract incentives for teachers and principals who announce their retirements by Jan. 15.

Under Ossowski's leadership the school was honored in 2012 by the state Department of Education's (SED) Schools to Watch program, which recognizes schools that demonstrate continuous improvement and excel in academic excellence, developmental responsiveness,

social equity and organizational structure.

The middle school was also cited as a New York State Reward School for academic achievement for the 2014-15 school year.

The board will begin the search for Ossowski's successor through a district committee comprised of teachers, administrators, parents and PTA officers who will conduct initial interviews, Vella said.

Finalists for the job will be interviewed by trustees, she said. Fox-Alter will make a recommendation following the interviews.

Candidates from within the district are currently being considered but the board will be placing an ad on an online application system serving New York State school districts, Vella added.

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Mt. Pleasant Resident Seeks to Jumpstart Town's Historical Society

A Mount Pleasant resident is seeking to help the town's historical society to be a vibrant organization.

The town recently appointed Jim Maxwell to head the historical society, which has been inactive in recent years. Maxwell, who does not have a specific title, is seeking to

have the society research and document the town's history. Mount Pleasant was incorporated in 1788.

"I did not pursue a position. I just thought that having an active Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Society was an important activity for the town," Maxwell said.

The effort to jumpstart the society will come next month with an initial meeting of interested persons. A meeting date and location have not been determined, he said.

Maxwell said he's looking for ideas from the public.

"How the society moves forward will be decided by the

group at the initial meeting," he said.

For more information about the Mount Pleasant Historical Society, contact Jim Maxwell at 914-239-8642 or e-mail Jimax153@optonline.net.

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Astorino Blasts Cuomo, Touts Own Record in WCA Address

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino last week derided Gov. Andrew Cuomo's key initiatives in the traveling State of the State addresses as "fake news" for being unrealistic or lacking detail while touting his accomplishments in office.

Astorino, speaking last Thursday at the Westchester County Association's annual county executive breakfast in Tarrytown, invoked the now often used label to describe Cuomo's calls for demanding that counties and municipalities cut taxes, for announcing the closure of Indian Point in 2021 without a revenue or energy replacement plan and promising free public college for middle and lower income families.

While Cuomo has failed to cut mandates during his tenure as governor, Astorino said he cut taxes 2 percent his first year and has maintained a flat tax rate for the past six years.

"We've done it the old-fashioned way, just like you're doing – managing within our means," Astorino told several hundred business leaders. "It's not always easy. Trust me, the calls for more spending by special interests are always there, as well as the unfunded mandates that are always there, as well as the new ones Albany is always sending our way."

He said \$4 billion in taxes are sent



County Executive Rob Astorino didn't mince words in aggressively criticizing Gov. Andrew Cuomo's key policies that were outlined in last week's multiple State of the State remarks.

to Albany annually from Westchester taxpayers who receive only \$1 billion in aid in return. Meanwhile, 77 cents out of every dollar on the property tax goes upstate to pay for the state's unfunded mandates, Astorino said.

The county executive saved his strongest comments for Cuomo's critiques of local and county governments spending too much money and for his sudden plan to shut Indian Point within four years.

"To correct this inequity, the governor is pretending that Westchester is the problem, that all the local communities are the problem," said Astorino, widely believed to be seeking a rematch against

Cuomo in next year's gubernatorial race. "The solution is to sock it to the middle class.

"Here's where it gets a little weird. Without any authority, the governor is demanding that I and other elected officials go in a room, make up a plan to cut services and then force residents to keep on voting for that plan until they pass it."

Astorino blasted the governor for his secretive deal with Entergy and Riverkeeper to shut Indian Point.

He said there has been no plan offered to replace the electricity to Westchester and New York City or the tax dollars that could be lost to the host communities of the Town of Cortlandt, the Village of Buchanan, the Hendrick Hudson School District and the county.

Cortlandt stands to lose an estimated \$1 million in annual revenue, Buchanan \$2.6 million, Hendrick Hudson \$23 million and the county more than \$3 million, Astorino said.

Indian Point has shown to be one of the safest and most reliable energy sources in the United States, he said. Without it 1,000 jobs are in jeopardy, another roughly 1,000 ancillary workers will be affected, taxes will skyrocket in the host communities and there could be energy shortages, Astorino warned.

"Electricity to 10 million people is at

stake," he said. "You're going to need real power transmission, not power point presentations. New York and the whole metropolitan area may be subject to brownouts and rationing like a Third World country."

Astorino mentioned that development has been strong in Westchester, boosting the county's coffers. He promised to get personally involved to help promote business in the county, if that would help.

Various government initiatives are being planned that will also improve the quality of life and generate revenue, including the proposed lease of Westchester County Airport to a private concern, the proposed ice skating facility and fountains at Kensico Dam Plaza and Playland. A lawsuit by the City of Rye is the only hurdle preventing that privatization to continue, he said.

Astorino said that with the affordable housing settlement behind the county, he looks forward to working with the Trump Administration. Westchester will have an ally with Donald Trump in the White House, particularly in stopping what Astorino has consistently described as an overreaching federal government.

"I'm very optimistic that local control of zoning will be preserved and we will win this year-long battle that has gone on since 2009, and he will be a friend to us," he said.

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New Castle Name Change Receives Icy Millwood-West End Reception continued from page 1

Board co-chair Michael Stern called the proposal "nonsense."

On Jan. 3, the New Castle Town Board discussed the possibility of the change. Supervisor Robert Greenstein said it could be a more effective way to brand the entire Town of New Castle. Most people outside of the immediate area are unfamiliar with the name New Castle, but have heard of Chappaqua, he said.

Town board members are currently receiving feedback from residents.

Greenstein, who indicated he would need to see a majority support the proposal, at least in excess of 60-40, said last Friday that the responses he's received so far favor the change but not overwhelmingly. The most favorable response has come from residents with the Mount Kisco mailing address in the Chappaqua School District

while its biggest detractors are in the West End.

Greenstein said the most valid argument against the change would be for those in the Ossining School District. To some, particularly prospective home buyers, it could be construed as misleading to live in a town of Chappaqua and not be in the Chappaqua School District, he said.

Councilwoman Hala Makowska, who attended last week's advisory board meeting, said she found similar results based on location in town.

Advantages include having an immediate and recognizable town-wide identity that is simple and to the point while the loss of tradition, history and identity would be a negative.

"I would say this is not a clear-cut win on any side," Makowska said.

Lewis Beritz, a 20-year Millwood resident, was the lone dissenting voice on the advisory board, saying he agrees with those town board members who believe that if you go more than 10 miles out of the area few are familiar with New Castle.

Growing up in Valley Cottage, Rockland County but going to Nyack schools, he experienced a similar identity problem in that community.

"For me, after 20 years I don't feel any connection to the Town of New Castle," Beritz said. "Millwood I'm a little more attached to but I don't have a problem just being called Chappaqua."

Others at the advisory board meeting said they preferred the name remains the same.

"The reason why we moved to this area, we loved the house, we loved the

district, but we all liked the diversity for our children and we wanted them to go to the Ossining schools, and for better or worse, they turned out damn well and they learned that there was another world out there that wasn't Chappaqua," said West End resident Sara Brewster.

"I live in Millwood. I wanted to live in the Millwood section of New Castle," said advisory board member Leslie Smith. "There's more diversity. To me Chappaqua is white, rich and that stops there."

The advisory board said it would like to conduct a formal survey of residents in its area before coming to a conclusion.

The town board will hold a public hearing at a future date. It must pass a resolution and gain approval from the state legislature to change the name.

P'ville Approves Master Plan Update With Focus on Downtown

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demand for commuter spaces through ride-sharing options such as Uber, and potentially introducing a commuter shuttle service.

Removal of the right turn lane from Memorial Plaza onto Manville Road proposes to free up space for a pocket park. The proposed creation of landscaped medians along Manville Road are also possible.

A key feature of the Master Plan is expanding the areas for the development

of assisted living. Currently, assisted living facilities are only allowed by special permit in the Residence-Professional Office (RPO) district.

Moving forward, assisted living may be located in the business peripheral zones or in single-family residential zones through the use of a special permit or in a floating zone. That would ensure it would be located within convenient walking distance of retail shops, personal service establishments, mass transit and

community facilities.

The plan also raises the maximum permitted height for assisted living facilities from two-and-a-half stories and 30 feet to three floors and 38 feet; relaxes floor area requirements for units, including eliminating the restrictions on bedroom mix; and reducing minimum required parking.

Mayor Peter Scherer said the Master Plan changes will be an asset to Pleasantville economically and would

make the village more attractive.

He assured residents the updated plan will not change Pleasantville's character, which has consistently attracted new residents to the village.

Pleasantville finished the update in under a year. Scherer said BFJ Planning and the village remained focused on addressing issues in the downtown, which helped speed the process, he said.

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No. Castle Vote Expected Next Week on Treatment Facility

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board is expected to decide next week whether it will object to a proposal from the California-based Paradigm Treatment Centers to operate a community residence for teens on Cole Drive in Armonk.

The board's Jan. 25 meeting is the last regularly scheduled meeting before the 40-day window closes for a municipality to lodge an objection with the state Office of Mental Health (OMH) against the proposal. Under state mental hygiene law, the OMH has jurisdiction, but an objection would trigger a hearing before the state commissioner of health.

One of the few areas where municipalities may object would be the issue of overconcentration of similar facilities in the area.

Since the town was alerted in November of Paradigm's intentions to move into a vacant eight-bedroom house at 14-16 Cole Drive, residents of that street, Davis Drive and other areas of town have vehemently opposed the proposed operation. Residents have argued that it would primarily be a drug treatment center, similar to its four current locations in California, jeopardizing the environment and safety in the area, including through a sharp traffic increase in a residential neighborhood.

Paradigm has contended that the

Armonk location would be for teens suffering from depression, anxiety, grief and trauma. Youths would not be treated at the Cole Drive location if their primary need for treatment is for drug or alcohol abuse.

Town Attorney Roland Baroni said last week Paradigm has yet to furnish several documents its attorneys promised at the highly contentious Nov. 30 public meeting where the issue was debated for several hours.

Baroni said a septic report, a safety and traffic report, a well analysis and a copy of the lease has not been provided.

In a Jan. 6 letter from attorney Robert Christmas of Nixon Peabody to Baroni and town officials, he wrote that many of the issues raised by opponents at the highly contentious Nov. 30 meeting are "not relevant" to the Padavan law process, including providing details of the lease, which do not have to be shared. The Padavan law allows for neighborhood group homes and residential facilities under certain conditions.

Other details are expected this week, although Christmas' correspondence did not specify what that might entail.

"Paradigm's management team has an excellent track record in running treatment facilities over many years, and will do the same in Armonk," Christmas stated. "Contrary to unfounded

suggestions to the contrary at the Town meeting in November, given Paradigm's past experience the presumption should be that Paradigm will properly manage the facility, as required by the State of New York."

However, Joshua Grauer, an attorney representing many of the opposing residents, wrote in his own Jan. 6 letter that Paradigm had reneged on its pledge to provide all the information it promised at the Nov. 30 meeting.

It also intentionally waited until the holiday season to notify the town, possibly in an attempt to limit community opposition.

"Paradigm is seeking to make a mockery of this Board and of the Padavan law," Grauer stated. "It has acted with a disturbing lack of candor and good faith. Paradigm's facility is unquestionably a Drug and Substance Abuse program for all of the reasons noted at the Nov. 30 meeting."

Last week, two outspoken residents urged the board to stand up for its constituents by objecting to the proposal. Davis Drive resident Robert Rattet said he doesn't believe Paradigm's proposal is valid under the Padavan law.

"They're not going to provide any information at this point," said Davis Drive resident Robert Rattet. "Whatever they provide it at the last minute, it will

be designed to make sure that we don't get an adequate opportunity – you the board and we as the town members – to not get an adequate opportunity to review the information."

At the Nov. 30 meeting, representatives stated that Paradigm was looking to open a New York location because about 30 percent of its program participants live in the state.

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Jan. 10: A village resident arrived at the Green Street precinct at 5:58 p.m. to report that a paycheck he was missing had been cashed by a woman at a local bank. An investigation is continuing.

Jan. 11: A 32-year-old Moore Avenue resident was arrested at 6:52 a.m. on South Moger Avenue on a warrant charging him with disorderly conduct, a violation. An officer on patrol recognized the man and was aware that he had not appeared in court to answer a previous disorderly conduct charge.

Jan. 12: A 26-year-old Barker Street resident was arrested at 4:57 p.m. and charged with unlawful imprisonment and criminal obstruction of breathing, both misdemeanors, following a domestic disturbance at his residence. He is accused of choking another person and temporarily refusing to let her

leave the apartment.

Jan. 12: A motorist reported at 10:05 p.m. that his car was rear-ended by a brown SUV as he waited to make a left turn from Main Street onto Byram Lake Road. The other vehicle, possibly a Chevrolet Traverse, fled the scene.

Jan. 12: Police responded to the 600 block on Main Street at 9:27 p.m. on a report that a man was lying on the side of the road. The man, who was intoxicated, was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Jan. 13: Police responded to Mount Kisco Elementary School on West Hyatt Avenue at 10:55 a.m. on a report that a 10-year-old boy had fallen and injured his arm. The child was taken by the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps to Northern Westchester Hospital.

North Castle Police Department

Jan. 8: A caller reported at 11:05 a.m. that a suspicious male wearing a maroon

bathrobe was walking up Whippoorwill Road East near Briggs Lane. The responding officer checked the area for the person with negative results.

Jan. 9: Complainant reported at 6:17 p.m. that threatening text messages were sent to his wife's cell phone.

Jan. 10: A caller reported a loud noise in the area of North Broadway at 5:05 a.m., possibly from a generator. The responding officer confirmed a noise emanating from what appears to be a generator in the area that Con Edison has been working on.

Jan. 11: Complainant reported at 7:15 p.m. possibly overdosing on thyroid medication. The call was forwarded to 60 Control, which dispatched the Armonk Fire Department. The party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Jan. 12: A wrong-way driver was stopped on Route 22 at 12:14 a.m. The

driver was subsequently arrested for DWI.

Jan. 12: A caller at La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive reported an unruly party at 1:03 p.m. and asked for police assistance.

Pleasantville Police Department

Jan. 9: At 12:26 a.m., police received a call reporting a verbal dispute at the Metro-North station on Memorial Plaza. Two male roommates, one intoxicated, were fighting about their living situation. Police reported both men live in Mount Kisco.

Jan. 11: Report of a domestic dispute on Clinton Street at 4:13 a.m. Police were unable to provide additional information.

Jan. 13: A Peekskill woman was suspected of fraud after she attempted to pass a fraudulent check at Chase Bank on Washington Avenue at 4:17 p.m. She departed the premises when police were called but left her driver's license behind.

Armonk Man Sentenced in Fatal Wrong-Way I-684 Crash

By Martin Wilbur

The Armonk man who pleaded guilty to killing a woman in a wrong-way crash on I-684 more than a year ago was sentenced Thursday to three to nine years in state prison.

Zachary Tokson, 24, of Seymour Lane, was sentenced by Judge Barry Warhit in White Plains for his role in the death of Elena Lopez on Dec. 13, 2015.

Tokson was driving a Lexus SUV northbound in the southbound lanes of the highway in the Town of Bedford

when he collided with a head on at mile marker 16.8 in Bedford with a Ford Focus station wagon driven by Lopez at 5:49 p.m., according to the Westchester County district attorney's office. She died instantly on impact from multiple blunt force trauma injuries.

Late last year Tokson, who was legally intoxicated at the time of the crash, had pleaded guilty to one count each of aggravated vehicular homicide, second-degree manslaughter and second-degree vehicular assault, all felonies.



Zachary Tokson will serve three to nine years in jail for killing a woman while he drove in the wrong direction on I-684. He was legally intoxicated at the time of the crash.

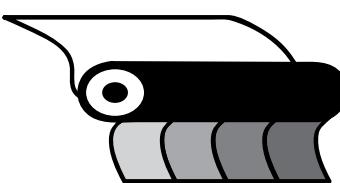
He escaped with a laceration over his right eye. Tokson's passenger, who survived, suffered serious injuries including broken ribs, a dislocated femur and lacerations of the liver and spleen.

An investigation revealed that the

defendant had been drinking hours earlier at a Brewster bar. After leaving the bar and having stopped for some food, the defendant and his passenger drove southbound on I-684, then stopped at the Bedford Rest Area to take a nap. The defendant woke up and began driving the wrong way on I-684 for about 1.1 miles before the collision.

A search of Tokson's vehicle revealed a closed empty bottle of whiskey and a mixed alcohol drink inside a closed soda bottle.

Following his sentencing, the defendant was remanded to the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections.



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Slain Pleasantville Firefighter Remembered at Annual Vigil

By Anna Young

Frigid, bone-chilling temperatures didn't stop Pleasantville firefighters from gathering once again at Graham Hills Park last week to remember their former comrade Thomas Dorr.

Friends, co-workers and first responders from numerous municipalities, including the Bedford Hills Police Department, Westchester County police, the Pleasantville Ambulance Corps and the White Plains Police Department, gathered in front of a tree planted in Dorr's memory for the 15-minute ceremony.

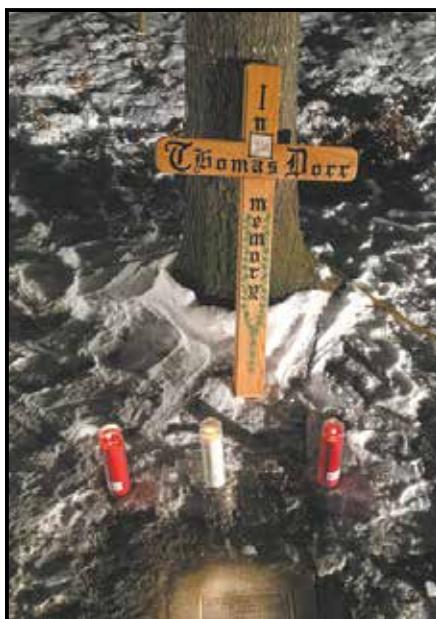
It's been 21 years since Dorr was found murdered during a blizzard on Jan. 7, 1996.

"We always hope someone will step forward," Pleasantville Fire Department Commissioner John Brooks said solemnly. "But there's never new evidence."

Dorr was near his Pollywoggle Road home feeding wild turkeys on the day of his murder.

The 50-year-old who worked for the White Plains Water Department planned on walking to the Washington Avenue firehouse to join other volunteers on standby during a snowstorm, but never made it. When firefighters learned Dorr was missing, they began a search and found his body the next morning, beaten and stabbed, buried under two feet of snow.

Despite speculation that Dorr's wife, stepson and son's friend may have been involved, Dorr's murder remains unsolved



ANNA YOUNG PHOTOS

Firefighters from Pleasantville and surrounding communities gathered at the Jan. 9 vigil at Graham Hills Park in Mount Pleasant in memory of former fire department member Tom Dorr, who was murdered near his home 21 years ago.

now more than two decades later, and is one of two homicides in the village that are open cases. In October 2014, Linda Falkoff was stabbed to death in her Grandview Avenue home and police have yet to make an arrest in that case.

While many continue to pray Dorr's killer will be brought to justice, county police confirmed this week there is no additional evidence on the case.

"Even though Tom's death was tragic and untimely, his life also continues to

speak and for that reason we continue to gather together to remember him and call to justice, but also to follow his example in service to the community," said Pastor Paul Egensteiner of Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pleasantville.

Dorr had served with the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department since 1979.

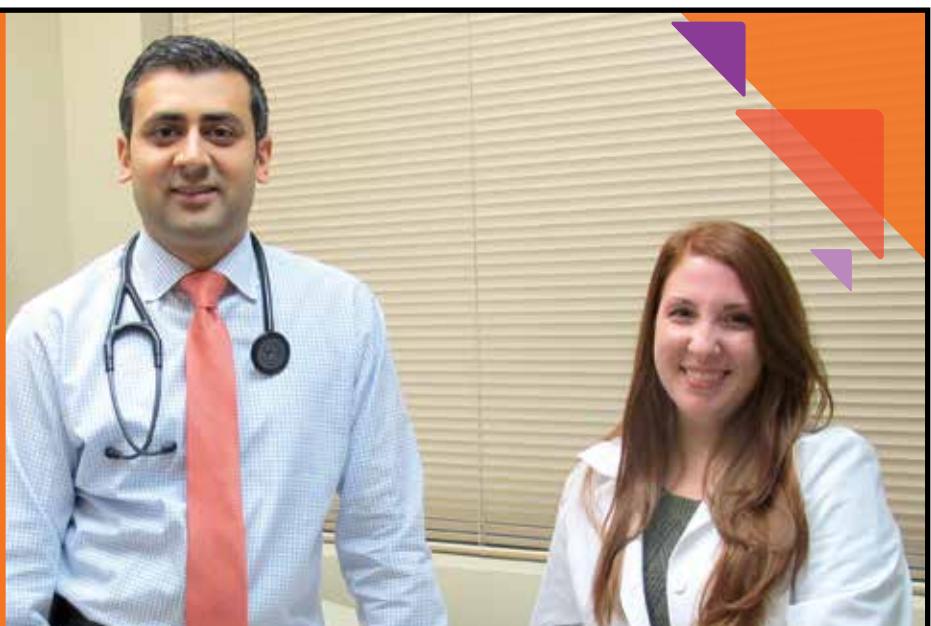
Despite all the years since his death, Brooks noted that each year more people turn out to remember Dorr and pay their respects to the roughly 6-foot-7, mild-

mannered and determined team member of their community.

"We've been gathering here for many years to keep the call for justice alive, to let the community know that we haven't forgotten and the fact that this is not solved is irritating at best, and frustrating and maddening at worst," Egensteiner said. "Every one of you gathered here tonight are a wonderful testimony to the fact that community means something and that Tom's life continues to make a difference."

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Saturday, January 28, 2017 – 9:00 am - 12 Noon
Thursday, February 2, 2017 – 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

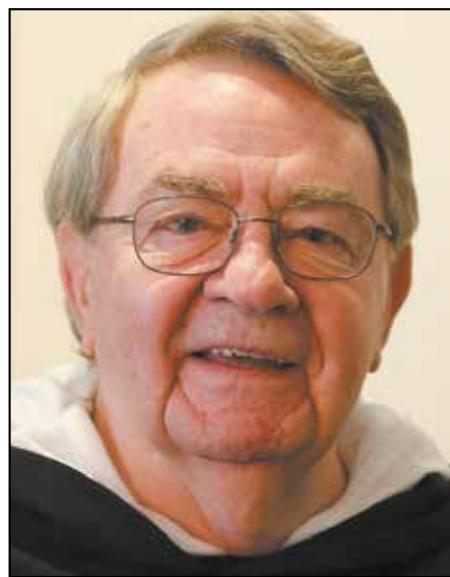
Obituaries

Father Donald

Paul Thibault

Father Donald Paul Thibault, O.P. died peacefully on the feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 8, at the Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne at the age of 78.

During more than 40 years of dedicated



parochial ministry, Fr. Thibault generously served as pastor in four parishes across the Province. He is survived by his sisters, Pauline Goulet (Enfield, Conn.), Patricia Boardman (Phoenixville, Pa.) and Joy Thibault (Rockland, Me.), the widow of his brother, Robert.

Father Thibault was born on Nov. 11, 1938, in Lewiston, Me. to Alfred Louis and Anne Marie (née Fillion) Thibault and named Donald Gilbert. He attended St. Peter and St. Paul Grammar School in Lewiston and St. Francis High School in Biddeford, Me. He attended Providence College from 1956 to 1960, earning a bachelor's degree.

He entered the Dominican Novitiate on Aug. 29, 1961, at St. Joseph Priory in Somerset, Ohio and received the religious name Paul. He made his first profession at St. Joseph's on Aug. 30, 1962, and his solemn profession at Sea Bright, N.J. on

Aug. 30, 1965. He studied philosophy at St. Stephen College in Dover, Mass. before going on to the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception (PFIC) in Washington, D.C. to study theology. On June 13, 1968, he was ordained a priest at St. Dominic's Church in Washington by Bishop Bertrand Boland, O.P.

After completing his STL in 1969, Fr. Thibault was sent to teach at Barry College in Miami Shores, Fla. In 1971, he was assigned to St. Martin de Porres Priory in Columbia, S.C., while he continued his teaching and residence in Miami Shores.

In August 1972, he was assigned to St. Louis Bertrand Priory in Louisville, Ky., where he served as a parochial vicar for eight years. In August 1980, he was elected prior of St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Ky., and served there for two terms. Shortly after his election, he was appointed pastor of St. Rose Priory Church.

In August 1986, after completing his second term as prior, he was assigned to the Holy Name of Jesus Rectory in Valhalla, where he served as a parochial vicar at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish. In February 1987, he was appointed superior of the Holy Name of Jesus Rectory and appointed pastor of the parish shortly thereafter.

In September 1992, Fr. Thibault was assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Rectory in Zanesville, Ohio, where he served as a parochial vicar. In the spring of 1994, he was appointed pastor of St. Dominic Church in Washington, D.C. and assigned to St. Dominic Priory. In April 1999, he was appointed subprior of St. Dominic Priory, while he continued to serve as pastor. He completed his term as pastor in the spring of 2003.

While awaiting a new assignment, he assisted at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, Conn. for several months. In July 2004, he was appointed pastor of Holy Innocents Parish in Pleasantville and was appointed superior of the community the following September. In July 2011, after completing two terms, he was assigned to St. Pius V Rectory in Providence, R.I., where he served as a parochial vicar at St. Pius V Parish.

In June 2013, he was assigned to St.

Dominic Priory in Washington, D.C. to better provide for his health care needs. In October, he moved to the Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne.

Fr. Thibault's body was received at Holy Innocent's Parish in Pleasantville on Jan. 12, and the Office of the Dead was celebrated that evening. Very Rev. Kenneth Letoile, O.P., Prior Provincial, was the principal celebrant at the Mass of Christian Burial, which was celebrated on Jan. 13. Rev. Hugh Burns, O.P. was the preacher. Interment followed at All Souls Cemetery in Pleasantville.

Dame Eva Vorosmarty

Eva Vorosmarty of Armonk passed away peacefully on Jan. 8.

She was 96.

Vorosmarty was the wife of the late Dr. Vitéz Mihály Vörösmarty. She precedes her five daughters, Ava (Hank Rowe), Theresia (Jack Teifer), Marika (Gary Blumerick), Alexandra (Joseph Kochevsar) and Louisa (William Potvin). She was also the grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of 18.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, Éva was the only child of a privileged Hungarian aristocratic family. Speaking seven languages, she was also a classically trained pianist whose first piano teacher was the famous composer Béla Bartók.

In 1940, she married Michael Vörösmarty, the chief economic adviser to the prime minister of Hungary. Her heroic story lies in her fleeing Hungary as a displaced person during the Russian invasion as a pregnant woman with three young children and spending time at the Messerschmitt work camp. It was ultimately her grace, charm and courage that allowed her family to move safely from town to town, from barge to barge, through swamps and forest across Austria and Germany until 1949, when she and her family finally were accepted for immigration into the United States.

After one year working on a Michigan farm, Eva and Mihály eventually settled for over 30 years on Hickory Island in Grosse Ile, Mich. and spent their final years together in Alpine, Tex. In Michigan,

while raising five daughters, she built a catering business which was a favorite of Gov. George Romney, his wife and young son Mitt.

After her husband's passing, in 2004, she moved to Armonk and lived with her daughter Louisa's family. There she became an active member of the community and was elected to the North Castle Republican Committee, where she was the oldest elected official in Westchester County. She was very active in Hungarian cultural organizations, a leading member of the North Castle Seniors Club and attended many charity and cultural events.

Although her life in the U.S. began with little, she made many friendships throughout the years with her work as a chef, her volunteering and community involvement, and most importantly, through her kindness and appreciation of others. She never looked back to the years, privileges, titles and status that she had to give up. Her pride, family and "love of life" sustained her. She will be sorely missed.

Carmen Rivera

Carmen M. Rivera of Hawthorne died on Jan. 7.

She was 87.

Rivera was born on Dec. 7, 1929, to the late Antonio and Celia Alfalla in Rincon, P.R. She was a retired hairdresser in the Bronx.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Gilberto Rivera, of Hawthorne; her loving children, Linda (Steven) Panzer of Valhalla and John Badillo of Hawthorne; one brother, John Alfalla, of Florida; four sisters, Lillian Chiesa of Garden City Park, N.Y., Doris Claar and Violet Alfalla, both of Florida, and Anelly Alfalla of Puerto Rico; four cherished grandchildren, Steven, Lauren, Tara and Talia; and one great-grandson, Grayson. She was predeceased by one brother, Tony Alfalla.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Jan. 11. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on Jan. 12 followed by interment at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.



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Initial Library, Community Center Improvement Nears Finish

By Martin Wilbur

Installation of an outside deck that will provide extra space for programs at the North White Plains Community Center & Library is nearing completion.

North Castle Town Administrator Joan Goldberg said the finishing touches of the project, the first piece of what will be more extensive improvements planned for the Clove Road facility, should be done by the end of this week.

Work on the deck needed to start before the expiration of a matching \$75,000 state library grant or North Castle would have lost the funding, Goldberg said. The deck wraps around the side of the building and part of the rear exterior wall and will not interfere with upcoming expansion plans for the center.

Officials said in good weather the new deck will host some children's programs at the library and provide patrons with an



The North White Plains Community Center & Library will have its new outdoor deck completed, perhaps as early as this week. It is the first piece of a more extensive upgrade to the facility that will cost more than \$1 million.

area to sit outside.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he expects the town to go out to bid shortly for work related to the the expansion of the community center and library. The

town board discussed the issue at last week's work session, part of its wide-ranging goals it is hoping to pursue for 2017.

It is estimated the entire project will cost \$1.25 million.

"We are going to move forward with the expansion of the community center," Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said last week. "So, we should hopefully see something happen as opposed to just discussing it."

The next improvement will be the long-awaited installation of a surplus generator obtained from the federal government

that will enable the town to eventually use the facility as an emergency shelter, Goldberg said. That is expected to be done in the spring.

Amenities such as showers and new bathrooms are needed to meet standards as a shelter.

The main thrust of the work for the library and center focuses on the expansion of the community room that will increase in size by about 50 percent and relocated to the back of the building and the doubling of the library space. In a presentation last summer, the North Castle Library's director of youth services, Megan Dean, said one of the primary advantages of the additional space will allow for better technology, including science lab, Skype and 3D printing.

The North Castle police substation that is located within the building will also be upgraded.

P'ville ZBA Approves Mixed-Use Project for Washington Ave.

By Anna Young

After months of review and varied community reaction, the Pleasantville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) last Thursday unanimously approved variances for a mixed-use building for the parcel that once housed Try & Buy toy store.

The project, named Washington Avenue Lofts, at 27-45 Washington Ave., calls for construction of a three-story building consisting of five retail spaces on the ground floor, 23 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments on the second and third floors and two levels of parking in the rear of the parcel. Due to the substantial slope of the property in the back and planned excavation, most of the parking structure will be below grade to lessen the visual impact on neighboring residents.

On Jan. 12, the ZBA approved a 10-page draft resolution concluding that the project will not have an adverse impact on the physical or environmental conditions



The block on Washington Avenue in downtown Pleasantville where Schloat Properties is planning to build a mixed-use building. The applicant still needs planning commission and architectural review board approval.

in the neighborhood or the Central Business District.

Property owner Warren Schloat of Schloat Properties and project architect Michael Gallin convinced the board that the new building will be a major improvement over the property's current structure, including the diminishment of visual impacts for nearby Grove Street

residents.

The applicant was granted a variance for insufficient setback because the 66-space parking structure at its closest point would be within eight feet of the residential district in the northeast corner of the property. Another variance was obtained because the parking structure would push building coverage to 89.7 percent on the parcel, exceeding the 80 percent maximum allowable coverage.

Schloat Properties has proposed to demolish about 17,000 square feet of existing structures to make room for the new building. In addition to the five ground-floor retail shops, there will be two 1,000-square foot studio apartments, 10 one-bedroom apartments that are 1,200 square feet each and 11 1,500-square-foot units with two bedrooms.

Schloat said he's hoping to break ground in early April. Two current tenants hold leases through March, he said. Schloat has already notified tenants, whose leases required they be given six months' lead time.

As part of the project, improvements will be made to the parking lot behind 17-23 Washington Ave. to make it safer and more functional. There will be an additional 26 spaces in that lot.

The resolution stated that the development will provide a significant upgrade to the Washington Avenue streetscape by introducing new retail stores and residential apartments consistent with the goals of the Master Plan. The village board approved the updated Master Plan last week.

Schloat said he still needs approvals from the Pleasantville Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board (ARB). He is scheduled to appear before the commission on Jan. 25 and the ARB at its February meeting.

New Castle Issues Building Permit for Chappaqua Station Project

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein announced last week that the town issued a building permit for the controversial Chappaqua Station affordable housing project marking the final regulatory step needed by the developer from the municipality.

Greenstein said the Building Inspector Bill Maskiell granted the permit for the first phase of construction on Dec. 29 because Conifer Realty, the developer of the approved 28-unit project at 54 Hunts Place, has satisfied all conditions outlined in the special permit issued by a previous town board in 2013.

The town also issued the permit

despite a unanimous insistence by the current town board that the size of the project and the location raises safety concerns, including what might happen should there be a Metro-North derailment at the site and a train hits the building. Chappaqua Station is built up to the property line with a narrow space between the building and the tracks.

Project opponents have also been critical of the building's proximity to the Saw Mill Parkway ramp off the Route 120 exit, which they contend creates a dangerous condition.

"We have expressed concerns about safety, which were shared by our building inspector and others,"

Greenstein said. "And we have said that the building's location is terrible, and may tend to stigmatize and isolate its future residents. At all times, however, we have followed the law."

Town officials have been unsuccessful so far in obtaining an MTA safety study to address the derailment issue; however, New Castle was unable to delay granting the building permit because that was not a condition in the special permit, Greenstein said.

Attempts to reach Randolph McLaughlin, the attorney that has been representing Conifer for this project, regarding potential construction schedules were unsuccessful last week.

Although eventual construction has been largely seen as inevitable, news of the issuance of the permit last week sparked dismay among opponents on social media.

However, Greenstein said the board failed to convince Conifer to relocate the project within the town or to reduce its size. The federal government has been critical of the town's efforts to change or impede the project, he said.

Greenstein denied the town has tried to obstruct Chappaqua Station from being built but has expressed opinions that the Hunts Place parcel is a poor site.

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History Says Town of Chappaqua May Be a Hard Sell for Some

By Gray Williams

When considering a possible change of name from the "Town of New Castle" to the "Town of Chappaqua," it might be helpful to review the history of the two.

Settlement of the area called "Shapequa" (and other variants) began about 1730. The name is presumed to derive from an Indian word, but no one really knows what that word might be, or what it might mean. Most of the pioneer settlers were Quakers, who held their first services, or "meetings," in private houses, and built the first section of the meetinghouse on Quaker Road in 1754.

The Chappaqua Friends Meeting had no formal boundaries; it drew its members not only from what is now New Castle, but also from Philipsburgh Manor, now Mount Pleasant and Ossining.

Officially, "Shapequa" was part of the Town of North Castle, which held its first town meeting in 1736. North Castle was divided in two in 1791, and the northern half was called New Castle. That's the only reason for the name. Over the next century, town government was largely decentralized. Annual town meetings were held at various locations, many of them at the late lamented Granite House, on Somerstown Road in Millwood. Until the end of the century, New Castle possessed no administrative center.

However, the extension of the New York and Harlem Railroad in 1846 brought radical change. The small Quaker hamlet

around the meetinghouse was displaced by the station stop of Chappaqua, which then experienced explosive growth. The rest of New Castle never caught up. The arrival of the New York and Northern Railroad, later the Putnam division of the New York Central, led to the formation of Millwood in the 1880s, but its passenger service was too limited to encourage much development. Construction of the Catskill Aqueduct and the electrical substation further hindered the growth and unity of the hamlet core (and still does).

By the early decades of the 20th century, Chappaqua was not only the population center of New Castle, but also the center of most of its community institutions and services. Its first and only public cemetery, Fair Ridge on Quaker Road, was founded as early as 1867. Most of the town's churches were located in Chappaqua, many of them clustered along King Street.

The first Town Hall was located about 1910 in a commercial building on King Street, and its successors have remained in the village ever since. From the 1890s, when the first Chappaqua Library occupied upstairs space in a store, it, too, has remained in the heart of downtown; there is no other library in New Castle. Perhaps most important, one of the town's common school districts, District 4, centered in the village, became during the early 1900s the nucleus of the Chappaqua Central School District. Its

first comprehensive school, the Horace Greeley School (now Robert E. Bell Middle School), was built in 1928 on land of the former Greeley farm in central Chappaqua. When the new high school was built in 1957, it was sited even further east. And although the Chappaqua Central School District extends through Millwood, the West End is cut off, and its schools are in Ossining.

Many Chappaqua residents may have come to feel that "Chappaqua" and "New Castle" are synonymous. But those in Millwood and the West End have never felt that way, and don't now. Through much of the 20th century, there was considerable resentment of Chappaqua in these areas, and a widespread (and sometimes justifiable) belief that the town government neglected their needs to favor the more populous community.

Since the 1970s, encouraged and prodded by the Millwood Task Force (now the Millwood-West End Advisory Board), successive administrations have devoted considerable efforts to dispelling that perceived imbalance, particularly through significant infrastructure improvements in Millwood. But it is safe to say that few if any of those living there think of themselves as citizens of Chappaqua.

As a result, despite any advantages in greater name recognition or "branding," trying to make the "Town of Chappaqua" acceptable throughout the Town of New Castle is likely to be a hard sell. And for that, history is much to blame.

Gray Williams is the New Castle town historian.

Guest Column

Letter to the Editor

Indian Point Closure Strikes Another Blow to New York

implacable will.

And the state will struggle to make us whole.

When Indian Point closes in 2021, we'll realize exactly how not whole we are, but we can imagine the consequences already: a thousand high-skilled, good-paying jobs and the over \$1.5 billion in economic activity they provide will be gone, together with 25 percent of our baseload power that once was generated locally.

We will gain something, though: millions of tons of carbon pollution pumped into our air by the likeliest alternative, fossil fuels. And that's because the other fantasy vividly entertained by Indian Point's opponents is that New York will become the home of enormous wind

and solar projects – that's right, the same not-in-my-backyard New York that fights against any major energy project.

So brace yourself, New Yorkers, one more blow is being struck to our prosperity and our environment, unwise and unnecessarily, by our own state government. Gov. Cuomo must now tell us exactly how he plans to bring the jobs back, make our energy affordable and keep our air clean – and it's our job to hold him to account for his actions.

Sincerely,
Nan Hayworth, M.D.
Bedford

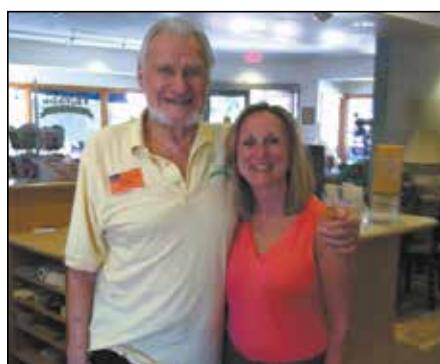
The writer is a former member of Congress from New York's 19th Congressional District.

Letters

Guion's Perspective, Knowledge Was an Invaluable Resource to P'ville

I had the great fortune to visit with former Pleasantville Mayor John Guion over the past several years in Green Valley, Ariz. My in-laws live in the same development as the Guions and would alert them to our visits. John always made time for me, whether he was on a break from his volunteer work at the Treasure Shoppe, on his way to swim laps or breaking bread with his family, he always made the time and he never disappointed.

I was enamored by the stories of the Pleasantville he had a hand in shaping. He held community in his heart and was wise in his opinions of policy that were beneficial for the people of Pleasantville. I



Pleasantville Trustee Mindy Berard with former mayor John Guion

did a lot of listening; however, his pointed questions on the current events in front of

the village board always sparked a lively exchange. His opinions were strong, but deep in knowledge and history. He stayed connected with Pleasantville in many ways.

Mayor Guion, maybe not knowingly, provided me his counsel and wisdom, which has served me well for the duration of my term on the village board. It was my honor to have known you, and I will be forever grateful for your guidance and your contribution to the great Village of Pleasantville.

*-With a Heavy Heart,
Mindy Berard
Trustee, Village of Pleasantville*

Why No. Castle Must Put Brakes on 200-Unit Apartment Complex

By Richard Panetta

The North Castle Town Board will be conducting a scoping session, or evaluation, to consider an extreme zoning change at its Jan. 25 meeting. The change would accommodate a proposed 200-unit apartment building complex on the Jenny Clarkson property located in North White Plains near Route 22.

The speculation and assurances by professionals representing the developer, JMF Properties, for the project called The Vue cannot be trusted.

This 200-unit rental building requires a drastic zoning change from one single-family home per two acres to a special zoning designation. The town's planning office confirmed that at any point after the zoning change is approved, rather than the requisite 10 percent affordable housing required by law, the developer can legally increase its proposal to as much as 100 percent affordable housing. Because affordable units are generally smaller, the developer will be allowed to increase the number of units.

The most misleading assertion is the speculation that the 200 apartments would only put 12 students in the Valhalla School District. This came from a study outside this area. Me and my neighbors researched two similar buildings that are actually in the school district, the Edgebrook Cooperatives and the River Park Apartment Buildings. Together these 305 units have 114 students currently attending Valhalla schools. This rate translates to 75 students per 200 units.

A FOIL request of one-, two- and three-family homes, apartments and accessory apartments shows North White Plains has 848 dwellings ranging from studio apartments to four-bedroom houses. A 200-unit apartment building could increase the number of dwellings by 24 percent. This is far too large an immediate increase for a hamlet as small

as North White Plains.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Department of Land Acquisitions has designated the Jenny Clarkson property as a high priority to purchase. A DEP representative has tried to contact the owners of the Jenny Clarkson property in hopes of purchasing it to preserve as undeveloped open space http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed_protection/land_acquisition.shtml.

The proposed structure would be the largest and tallest in North White Plains. It's a larger logistical effort to provide fire protection to its residents than

11 single-family homes. There would also be corresponding response time and volume concerns. The structure, and fire house, are on opposite ends of the district. Apparatus must negotiate congestion on Route 22. Two hundred apartments will produce significantly more 911 calls than 11 homes.

This building will produce more traffic on the road the firefighters will have to negotiate to get to that same structure. The North Castle Town Board, via its North White Plains liaison, Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto, have discussed the possibility of a ramp connecting I-287 to the Bronx River Parkway to reduce traffic on Route 22. Why would the board now entertain something contrary to their own admitted traffic concerns?

The applicant's attorney, Anthony Veneziano, has alleged that there were enough single-family homes for sale in the area, and that we don't need any more. Real estate data shows exactly the opposite. Realtors' "absorption rate" and the decreasing number of listings indicates there are less homes for sale.

Also, multimillion dollar homes built on two acres would fill a niche this area doesn't have, enhancing neighboring property values, unlike a large apartment complex that would have the opposite effect. These homes would also be more inclined to have children in private schools.

Veneziano points out that 85 percent of the parcel would be open space. This sounds deceptively magnanimous. The same footprint could accommodate a 10- or 20-story building with 1,000 units, and technically there would still be 85 percent open space. Also, the developer is not disclosing how topographically difficult it would be to develop the remaining portion of the 22 acres.

Veneziano said in his June 8, 2016, presentation to the town board that JMF Properties "would build homes if they have to." Because the developer considers 11 single-family homes an option, and because of the aforementioned negative impacts to the surrounding community, the zoning for the property in question should remain R-2A, allowing one single-family home per two-acre parcel.

The only reason this proposal is being considered by North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro and the town board is because Armonk is geographically insulated from the negative traffic, school tax, safety, property value and environmental issues, but will benefit from the increased taxes paid to the town through property taxes and other ancillary revenues associated with a project of this magnitude.

If you believe, as many do, that this drastic zoning change, and subsequent construction of a 200-unit apartment complex, is a bad idea, please attend the Jan. 25 North Castle Town Board meeting. *Richard Panetta is a North White Plains resident.*

Congress Must Step Up and Invest in Preservation of National Parks

We just celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with free admission to our 23 national park sites in New York and all across the country. Each year, our parks welcome more than 305 million Americans and international visitors to explore our nation's most historic, culturally significant places.

However, among the stunning landscapes and places in our national park system that share the stories of our country are less welcome sights: crumbling buildings, roads in disrepair and closed trails. When added up, our national parks across the country are facing a more than \$12 billion infrastructure repair backlog.

For example, the nearby Franklin D Roosevelt National Historic Site has more than \$19 million in deferred maintenance needs. This daunting challenge facing our parks is just one example why our members of Congress need to step up and take action to make funding our national parks a national priority again.

I call on Rep. Nita Lowey, members of the New York delegation and all of our members of Congress to take action, to ensure our park managers have the resources and support needed to continue protecting America's favorite places.

*-Amanda Cesario
Yorktown*

P'ville PBA to Host 'Coffee With a Cop' Jan. 28

On Saturday Jan. 28, officers from the Pleasantville Police Benevolent Association (PBA) and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships and drink coffee.

The event, Coffee with a Cop, aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction. It is a national initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

The Pleasantville PBA will also be providing free child ID kits for any child in grades K-5 in the Pleasantville School District.

All community members are invited to attend. The event begins at 9 a.m. at the Pleasantville Recreation Building at 48 Marble Ave. For more information, contact Detective Morgan Cole-Hatchard at 914-769-1500.

Guest Column

McCann: Civility Biggest Hurdle Facing Chappaqua Schools

By Anna Young

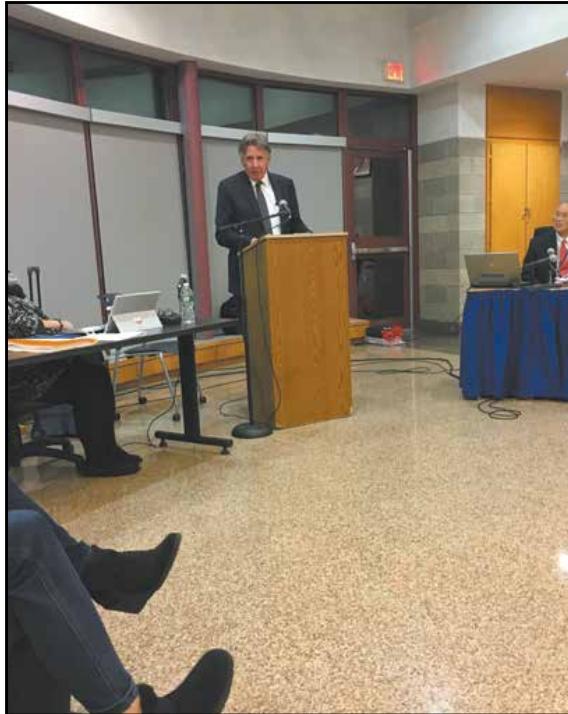
As the Chappaqua School District begins a new calendar year, Interim Superintendent Dr. Daniel McCann pledged last week to work with the board of education to move the school system forward following a divisive several months.

McCann, who took over early last month as the interim schools chief following the Oct. 31 resignation of the embattled Dr. Lyn McKay, released his 30-day assessment noting the strengths and weaknesses within the district and his plans going forward.

While McCann praised the district's hardworking students, educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, professional development, literacy, 21st century learning skills and the well-maintained facilities, the biggest challenge is restoring and maintaining civility.

Since the start of the school year, parents have consistently filled board meetings harshly criticizing the district's handling of the Christopher Schraufnagel sexual abuse controversy. The former Horace Greeley High School drama teacher pleaded guilty last summer to having inappropriate contact with students between 2011 and 2015.

After McKay resigned due to intense community pressure, the board welcomed McCann to the district where many



Dr. Daniel McCann, Chappaqua's interim superintendent, addressed the board of education last week outlining the immediate tasks facing the district.

community members requested the need for greater civil discourse during board meetings.

"I've learned to respond to reason and not pressure," McCann said. "I've witnessed when pressure tires to overtake

reason and it's not very productive."

McCann said while there are many tasks to manage within the district – most importantly educating children – the community has a responsibility to act in a civil manner to set an example for students.

"As a community, we need to commit to our task with civility," he said. "I am committed to doing what you asked me to as superintendent and that's to keep moving forward and that's what I will do."

He also reminded trustees that there are finite resources and hard choices will have to be made.

"You (the board) need to look at the reallocation of your resources," McCann said. "You can't do all the things you envision without making some commitments to prioritizing."

With McCann settling into the district, the board is seeking a consultant to conduct the search and locate Chappaqua's next permanent superintendent.

School Leadership, LLC and Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates have been

previously hired by Chappaqua on separate occasions and are currently competing for the contract to lead the upcoming search.

Board President Alyson Gardner said despite reaching out to other firms, these two consultants have settled on the most relevant educational experience for candidates.

No timeline has not been set to name a permanent superintendent, but Gardner said the board is working on setting a process and looking at timing to ensure a search is done to attract the strongest candidates.

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Wired or Wireless: Today's Choices for Our Home's Doorbells

Not so long ago, the sweetest young lady who worked at my firm had attached a ring sound to her iPhone signaling her mother-in-law, which was the theme song from "The Addams Family." Her husband, even adoring as he was, wasn't amused and she rapidly changed it.

With the new electronic doorbells, welcoming visitors can take on any jazzy theme imaginable.

When I was a child, my parents bought a newly constructed home featuring a doorbell with a particularly beautiful set of chimes just inside the door. I'm told it was that special feature that sold my mother on the house.

From earliest times, visitors to a home were announced simply by banging one's knuckles against a door. Shortly after, knuckles were spared by the use of knockers, which gave Gene Wilder a great line in "Young Frankenstein." Later, a bell on the inside of the house was sounded by pulling a string from the outside.

In 1831, the electric doorbell was invented by Joseph Henry, an American scientist who was the first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. It was a simple device, much like the wired doorbells we see today, where an outside button is pushed and electrical current flows to an inside transformer which activates a noise signal.

In the beginning, this noise was an annoying buzz, but the sound was enhanced in the 1920s to bells or a chime.

In my recent mid-18th century home, the doorbell still features that annoying buzz sound, much like an insect zapper. The cover has so many coats of paint on it that its shape is hard to define. I'm convinced that the same device has been working faithfully since the 1920s.

Well, maybe not so faithfully. In the recent past, any unannounced visitor could get frustrated trying to reach us inside. It's embarrassing to admit, particularly because I write as The Home Guru, but something went haywire with my doorbell system. It somehow got disconnected and didn't ring for a couple of years without my knowing it.

Visitors would call us on our cell phones saying they were waiting for us in the driveway.

Recently, I had a handyman install new buttons outside thinking that was the problem but, not being an electrician, he couldn't figure out the connection to the buzzer. Even the electricians who came later had a hard time getting it operational again. But now it works like a charm, albeit still with the annoying buzz.



By Bill Primavera

While the basic function of a doorbell has always been as an important signaling device, there are times when you don't want to hear it. For instance, during a visit to my local Subway, I was seated near the door trying to enjoy my meatball sandwich. Every time a customer walked through the door, there was an annoying and loud sound that all but stopped my heartbeat. I can only imagine the effect this must have on the staff members there who have to listen to it all day, everyday.

From the first mechanical systems, it seems that inventors have spent a lot of time and effort devising new ways to alert homeowners of visitors, from the first use of chimes to iTunes ringtones.

Today the major choice in doorbells is either a wired or wireless version, and there seems to be a debate about which is better. While wired doorbell systems are still the preferred choice, wireless has caught the imagination of younger buyers. Wired doorbells are cheaper than wireless, but more involved to install. Wireless can be up and running, literally in minutes. Aesthetically, wired doorbells are more appealing, with many designs, shapes and

materials from which to choose, while wireless models are more utilitarian in design. Wireless wins out on portability; its receiver, whether battery operated or plug-in, can be moved around the house at will.

Sound quality and the range of tunes are clearly better on the wired models, while wireless can have erratic performance if there is outside interference.

With the advent of iTunes and the MP3 player, sounds announcing visitors are limitless, much like telephone ringtones. Now each time that I hear that annoying buzz from my antiquated but functional doorbell, I imagine what would best represent my personality in a customized sound.

In my new condo, there is a sturdy knocker on the door, but not a single person has had the chance to use it. Visitors are announced at the concierge desk and, as though I haven't seen a human in years, I swing open the door wide before they have a chance to knock. I hope I don't frighten them. *Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

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North Castle, W'chester County Airport Subjects of New Books

By Martin Wilbur

Local history lovers will have two new books to sit back and enjoy in the next few weeks to learn more about one local town and a thriving transportation hub.

Arcadia Publishing, which has printed thousands of books on the history of local villages, towns and cities across the United States through its Images of America series, is scheduled to release its books on North Castle on Jan. 30 and the Westchester County Airport on Feb. 6.

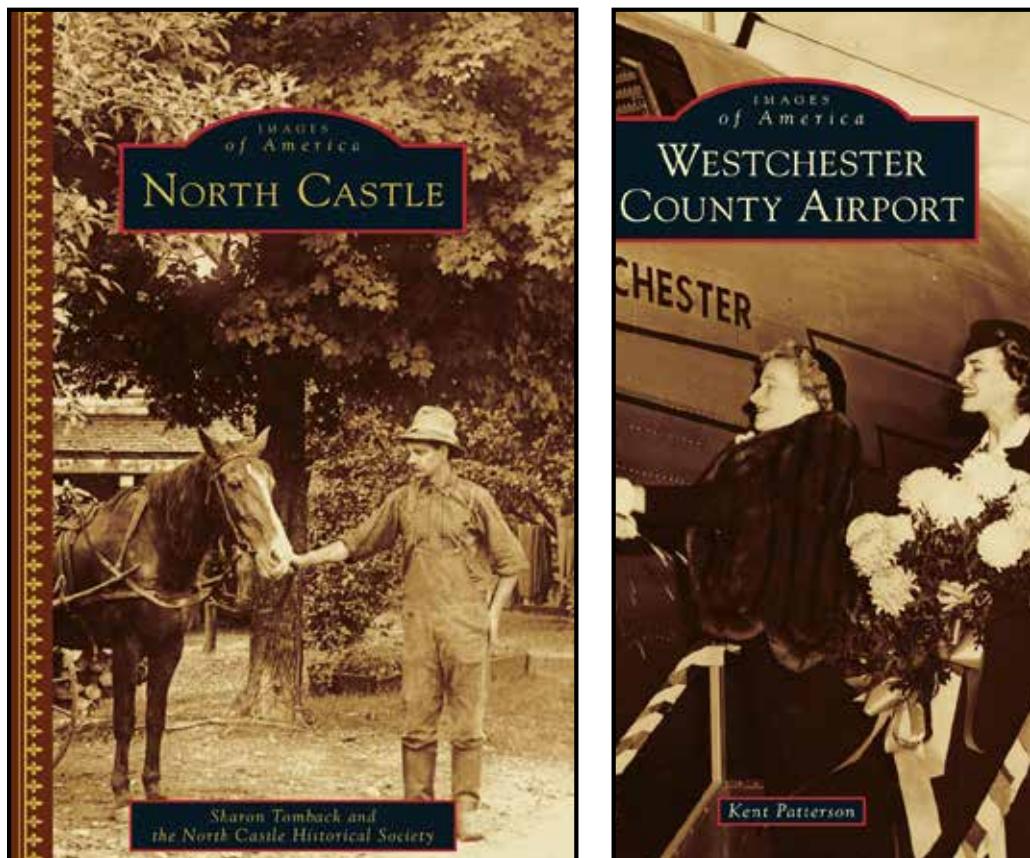
Sharon Tomback, North Castle's co-town historian, was responsible for poring over hundreds of the town's historical society's photographs and write the captions to help tell the story. For "Westchester County Airport," Yorktown resident Kent Patterson researched photos from historical societies throughout the county that not only focuses on the development and evolution of the airport, but on the history of aviation in Westchester.

Tomback said she wrote the captions for the more than 200 photos that appear in "North Castle," adhering to Arcadia's strict word counts of about 50 words per caption.

"The difficulty was picking the pictures, deciding on the thrust of the book," Tomback said. "It started out (that) I was going to limit it to 1,500 farms and then if this is my only chance to tell North Castle's story, I should tell the story of the dam and Valhalla, how the village was completely inundated."

She also included photos and text on the story of the town's immigrants, the native Americans and the 1908 car race that was contested in town. Tomback did maintain a healthy share of her original focus on the farms and on the gentleman farmers.

Tomback said since the North Castle Historical Society is chartered by the Regents of the state Education Department, its board of trustees agreed that sharing some of its collection of photos for a publication



"North Castle," by co-town historian Sharon Tomback, and "Westchester County Airport," by Kent Patterson, will be two of the latest local historical books from Arcadia Publishing.

fulfills that mission.

She had contacted Arcadia Publishing several times without success, but after seeing books published on other Westchester towns, including some of North Castle's neighbors, Tomback persisted.

Late in 2015, Arcadia's editors were interested. Tomback completed an application, which included a general outline, and last year the editors accepted the concept.

Since neither Tomback nor the historical society wanted the treasure trove of photos out of their possession, she had to choose photos that could be scanned and reproduced well enough to

meet Arcadia's standards. She could also only use a few photos that were dated after 1975.

Tomback credited former town residents such as the late North Castle historian Dorrie Watson, Barbara Massi and Dick Lander who helped preserve many of the town's historical resources.

"God bless the people who had the foresight to do that and tell our history," Tomback said.

Patterson, who worked for Metro-North for 37 years and whose hobby is exploring planes, trains and boats, also approached Arcadia Publishing last year with a proposal to write about the county airport.

He said he's been fascinated with the facility since taking his first flight from there in 1961 – a local aerial tour that cost him \$3 – when it was an airstrip for private planes.

"I've been visiting the airport all along and watched it grow into an airport that has airline service," Patterson said. "About a year ago I wanted to read about it and I could not find a book. I was so curious that little by little I started doing some research and inquired about doing a book through Arcadia."

Patterson also includes fascinating nuggets of aviation-related stories and history from throughout Westchester. For example, the first record of an aircraft landing in the county was at Croton Point in 1912.

He also uncovered a photo and information about the Hindenburg flying by Tarrytown in the 1930s and explores the history of the Armonk Airport, which operated for years

but was displaced when I-684 was built. As Westchester's post-World War II population boom continued, it was also deemed too close to White Plains to operate safely, Patterson said.

"I really wanted to dig deep, dig in records, get details and information as much as possible and make it as interesting as possible," Patterson said.

Following the release date, "North Castle" will be available for purchase through the North Castle Historical Society, 440 Bedford Rd., Armonk, N.Y. 10504. For information on how to buy "Westchester County Airport," visit www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Emergency Blood Drive Set for Jan. 25 in Mt. Pleasant

To help address the New York Blood Center's emergency blood shortage, state Sen. Terrence Murphy and the Town of Mount Pleasant will sponsor a blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 12 to 6 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant Community Center, located at 125 Lozza Drive in Valhalla.

"There is no substitute for blood donations," Murphy said. "Blood products have a limited shelf life, and supplies must be continually replenished. I encourage everyone who is eligible to donate blood."

Donors must be 16 years old and up. Sixteen-year-olds will need a consent form signed by a parent. Seniors 76 years

old and up can donate if they have a letter signed by a physician. All potential donors must bring a government issued identification in order to donate.

"The New York Blood Center recognizes the incredible contributions of our donors, volunteers, chairpersons and organizations that have helped us fulfill our mission to collect and distribute lifesaving blood throughout 2016," said Andrea Cefarelli, executive director of donor recruitment at the New York Blood Center. "Thank you for your continued support and we're encouraging all to donate in January at the post-holiday/winter period and help replenish inventories to provide blood

for our hospital patients."

Supplies of many blood types are now at the critical three-day level, with distribution restrictions placed on Type O, Rh negative blood.

Ordinarily, a five- to seven-day supply is required to ensure that blood is available for scheduled surgical procedures, medical treatments for cancer patients and to meet emergency or unexpected disaster needs. To meet local needs, the New York Blood Center requires 2,000 blood donations each day. Blood needs to be typed, tested and ready to provide for hospital patients who rely on it.

Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter due to the holidays,

travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. January, in particular, is a difficult month. With about 15 percent of regional blood collection coming from high schools and colleges, winter recess contributes substantially to the shortfall.

Founded in 1964, the New York Blood Center provides lifesaving blood products and services to nearly 200 hospitals in New York, New Jersey, Long Island, the Hudson Valley and parts of Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Refreshments will be served. To register, call Sen. Murphy's office at 914-962-2624. For more information about donating blood, call 800-688-0900 or visit www.bloodcenter.org/blood.

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Nelson Salazar, Real Estate Agent, Katonah

By Martin Wilbur

For someone who never intended to become a real estate agent, Nelson Salazar is pretty good at it.

The former Morgan Stanley technology and project manager had been buying properties, renovating houses and selling them while he was still working on Wall Street. His initial decision to take out his license about 15 years ago was simply to learn about better properties, not make a career change.

But Salazar became so proficient at acquiring, fixing and selling houses that others took notice and were soon reaching out to him to see if he could help them.

"What I did find was that I really enjoyed doing the business," Salazar said. "I was good at it. I was selling my own properties and because I was renovating and selling properties, people were seeking me out to handle their properties."

With the first of his four children having just been born, he then thought it was a good time to make a change and forego the tiring and time consuming daily commute to the city.

It didn't take long for the decision to

pay off for his family and career. In his first full year on the job, Salazar was the #2 agent in Coldwell Banker's Katonah office and has been its leading agent every year since. He is also in the top 3 percent of the firm's agents worldwide and is one of its top people in Westchester. Salazar, who is also licensed in Connecticut, has closed on more than \$100 million in sales since becoming a full-time agent, according to Coldwell Banker.

What has made Salazar, 47, a lifelong Westchester resident and Iona graduate, successful in his second career? Of course, he attended plenty of corporate conferences and he watched how other successful agents operated. He also noticed there was no secret to the best agents' success. While each had a good baseline knowledge of the industry, they developed their own style based on their individual strengths and personality traits.

But there were other aspects of residential real estate sales that Salazar didn't care for and sought to change.

"This was a business that for a long time was done part-time and not in a professional manner," said Salazar,



who grew up in Mamaroneck. "It was a relationship business and, interestingly enough, it was a relationship business between brokers, not really between the clients. There was a lot of loyalty to your fellow broker and very little loyalty to the client."

Psychology is one of the often overlooked factors in becoming a successful agent, Salazar said. Setting expectations for the seller, buyer and the other agent is important – and that's critical regardless of which party in the transaction he's representing. Eventually all parties need to agree to meet in the middle.

"You're dealing with something that's very personal," Salazar said. "It's their home. In some cases, their family may have built it, or they all have put a lot of effort into renovating it or they raising

their children there."

Salazar also instructs clients to avoid having their house linger on the market for too long. It needs to be priced properly, be in good repair and decluttered when prospective purchasers come to visit. He doesn't recommend the need for major renovations in most cases or elaborate staging.

In a solid purchasing environment, a good house that is properly prepared should sell within a few weeks. When sellers say that they're in no hurry to sell but want their house listed, Salazar tells them to call him again when there's more urgency.

"I want the house to sell for the most that it can and what the market can bear and having it sit for a long time on the market does not increase that," he said. "In fact, it does the opposite."

Fifteen years after his career change, Salazar is thrilled with his decision. In a 24/7 world, he's almost always on call from clients who need his attention. But he's close enough to his Katonah home where has been able to watch his four children grow. With some seasonality in the business, it allows him and his wife and children to travel, one of their passions.

Most of all, Salazar derives satisfaction from helping people buy a home they'll be living in for years or sell their home and move on to the next stage in life.

"I love the fact that no two days are the same," he said. "I'm actually helping people with what is almost always their biggest asset. It's important. It's life changing for them."

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Happenings

Tuesday, Jan. 17

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.

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 Jan. 17, 24 and 31. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Jan. 18

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

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

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 Riptix, 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.

New Mommy Meet-up. Whether you just gave birth to your first or fourth child, join us and enjoy time to meet and chat

with other new moms in the Romperee Indoor Playground. This is not a structured class, but rather an opportunity to hang out with your new baby. We also invite guest speakers to come and share their expertise about various topics that interest parents of new babies. World Cup Schools, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday through June 21, 2017. Info: 914-238-9267.

Adult Coloring Club. It's a relaxing, analog stress-reducer that can give you a sense of accomplishment. Coloring also provides a creative outlet to people who may not be trained artists. The library provides colored pencils and intricate mandala patterns, just bring your creativity. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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.

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

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

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

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.

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increase focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 25. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.com.

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 Jan. 25. Info: 914-273-3887.

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.

Art Series: Missing Masterpieces at the Gardner. More than two decades have passed and yet the masterpieces stolen from the Gardner Museum in Boston have never been returned...and the empty spaces on the walls in the rooms where they were exhibited have not been filled with other works. We will take a look at the missing works and explore why they have not been replaced. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Separation/Divorce Support Group. A new group for men and women separated, in the process of separating or post-divorce. Establishes a safe place where attendees can deal with the pain and loneliness brought about by the ending of a significant relationship. This nondenominational group will use the 12 Steps to focus on its members and the choices made to cope and adjust. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 15 S. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco. \$10. Every Wednesday. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Contact Ilene Amiel at 914-980-0898 or e-mail 12stepdivorcegroup@gmail.com or visit www.meetup.com/Mount-Kisco-12-step-Separation-Divorce-Support-Meetup.

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.com.

Pleasantville Friends of STEM Meeting

A great opportunity to meet and network with local professionals from a variety of STEM fields. The community is welcome. Co-sponsored by Pleasantville High School, the Science National Honor Society, Pleasantville Friends of STEM, Inc. and The Village Bookstore. Pleasantville High School Library Media Center, 60 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Thursday, Jan. 19

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.

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

Mahjongg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrry.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.

"Fantastic Planet." Nothing else has ever looked or felt like this animated *continued on page 21*

Shoulder Impingement: What is it and How You Can Get Rid of it



By Dr. James H.
Cassell IV, PT, DPT

Shoulder impingement is the most common injury I see in my clinic. Also known as rotator cuff tendonitis, it occurs when one of the four rotator cuff muscles (the supraspinatus), is pinched underneath the highest bony piece of the shoulder joint (called the acromion process).

There is not a lot of room for the rotator cuff muscle to fit between the tip of the shoulder and the upper arm bone (also called the subacromial space), and any disruption of the normal shoulder mechanics can cause friction. This friction can lead to inflammation in the area, limited mobility, fraying or even tearing of the tendon.

Typical symptoms include pain when reaching to the side, but classically, the pain occurs with overhead motion, as this range creates the most compression of the muscle between the two bones. Patients may also report pain down the outside of the arm or in the elbow when performing an overhead motion.

There are many contributing factors to consider. Overhead activity, poor posture and repetitive motions can influence the positioning of the shoulder blade on the ribcage.

Overhead athletes and people with labor-intensive careers are frequently diagnosed with shoulder impingement, as they are repetitively minimizing the space where the rotator cuff muscle is located. If the strength of the muscles of the shoulder blade and the rotator cuff are not balanced properly, there may not be enough space created, leading to impingement of the muscle. The athletes most affected by shoulder impingement are swimmers, baseball pitchers and tennis players. The occupations generally affected are painters, electricians and hair stylists/barbers.

While repetitive overhead activity is a precipitating cause of shoulder impingement, most of my patients are not overhead athletes; rather they are your typical population. The primary cause of the shoulder impingement is poor shoulder blade control due to muscle

imbalances.

Generally speaking, most people are in a slouched posture throughout the day, whether from sitting, driving, reading or texting. Most of the activity humans do is in front of the body and below eye level, which pulls the shoulder blade forward and upward on the ribcage, which minimizes the space. For short periods of time, this is not an issue, as the shoulder blade is designed to move in such a manner. However,

if it is in this position for multiple hours every day, the muscles in the area adapt to the shortened or lengthened positions. A lengthened muscle is a weaker muscle and a shorter muscle is a stronger muscle. The muscles that are generally tight and strong are the chest and neck muscles, whereas the back muscles are typically weaker.

Treatment for shoulder impingement is fairly straight-forward, focusing on strengthening the weakened muscles and stretching/massaging the tight muscles in an effort to restore a normal balance throughout the region. Exercises that are typically performed are row variations, band external rotation, dumbbell external

rotation, serratus punches and prone Ts, all of which strengthen the upper back and shoulder musculature.

Stretching of the neck muscles requires no equipment and can be performed sitting. Pectoral stretching can be performed against a doorway. The physical therapist will also identify which muscles require extra focus and will perform a combination of deep tissue massage, trigger point release, Graston Technique® and contract-relax stretching.

Shoulder impingement treatment durations vary greatly, depending on how long the patient has been experiencing the symptoms, compliance with stretching and exercise as well as occupational hazards that are unavoidable. Additionally, patients may have bone spurs in the shoulder, causing the impingement. Bone spurs may be removed via surgery, though the research has shown that an effective physical therapy program can increase the subacromial space two to three times more than surgery can. *Dr. James H. Cassell IV is a physical therapist at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic in Armonk. He can be reached at 914-202-0700. For more information, visit www.ProClinix.com.*

Guest Column

Happenings

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marvel. A politically-minded and visually inventive work of science fiction, it's set on a distant planet where enslaved humans finally rebel against their violent oppressors, giant blue natives known as Draags. With its coolly surreal cutout animation, brilliant psychedelic jazz score and wondrously inventive creatures and landscapes, this Cannes award-winning 1973 counterculture classic is a perennially compelling statement against conformity and violence. Part of the Retro Revival Series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 3 and 7:30 p.m. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.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.mountkiscolibrary.org.

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

DIY Glove Toys. Make the cutest little glove creatures you have ever cuddled up to. Materials provided. For fourth-graders

and up; younger children welcome with parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Friday, Jan. 20

"Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters." This program looks at the early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease. Early detection is important because it allows more time to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley chapter. Bronxville Public Library, 201 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville. 11 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 800-272-3900 or 914-337-7680.

Zumba. Low-impact Zumba with Amy. A great dance fitness workout for those who like to sweat, sizzle and tone while moving to the beat of exhilarating rhythms with a low impact/high intensity approach. A perfect class for those who need to protect vulnerable body parts such as knees, shoulders and back. Try a free trial class. Addie-tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Drop-in rate: \$12. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162.

44th Annual Art Show: Bedford Preview Party. Includes a champagne reception and hors d'oeuvres catered by

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Business of the Week

Green Pink Cleaners Plus, Pleasantville

By Colette Connolly

Abraham Kim has a passion for dry cleaning. With nearly 15 years of experience and owning three stores throughout Westchester, he enjoys helping his customers and offering them highly competitive prices.

Kim's is the owner of Green Pink Cleaners Plus on Wheeler Avenue in Pleasantville, which celebrated its grand opening last September. His two other locations are in New Rochelle and Hastings-on-Hudson.

Before entering the dry cleaning business, Kim worked in the fashion industry with iconic brands such as Tommy Hilfiger and Polo. He's savvy enough to know that dry cleaning, like many businesses, undergoes perpetual change.

"Fashion changes every 20 years, but it often goes back to the same styles but with modifications," he said.

To adapt, Green Pink Cleaners Plus offers more than dry cleaning. Its services include wash and fold, clothing alterations, UGG boot cleaning and free suit and shirt

cleaning for customers going on a first job interview.

Green Pink Cleaners occupies the same storefront as the former Pleasantville Cleaners, a fixture in the village for 52 years. Kim modernized the 1,000-square-foot space by installing new lighting and furniture and revising the interior layout.

The Eco-Green dry cleaning strategy that Kim uses is a combination of dry cleaning solvent and water. About 95 percent of items that at one time could only be dry cleaned, can now be cleaned by water, he said. All of this is possible, by using advanced detergents and softening agents and new dry cleaning technology, explained Kim, who is accredited by the Drycleaning and Laundry Institute.

Despite the additional services, about 75 percent of his business is his bread and butter: dry cleaning. Recently he launched free pickup and delivery service. The turnaround for a customer to retrieve clothes is quick, usually within three days. Tuesdays and Fridays are typically the



Abraham Kim, owner of Green Pink Cleaners Plus, was welcomed in September by Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer and the village's chamber of commerce.

pickup days.

Rising at 5 a.m. daily, Kim visits his three locations before they open to the public, making sure the equipment is working properly and his staff is prepared.

Kim, a hands-on business owner, is involved in all of the day-to-day tasks at Green Pink Cleaners. While other dry cleaners send UGG boots to an outside facility for cleaning, he does the job himself. The cost for cleaning is \$25, which is cheaper, he said, than most other dry cleaning businesses.

Standing by his claim to offer the best prices in town, Kim currently charges \$1.60 to dry clean shirts, \$11 for suits and \$5.50 each for pants, sweaters and blouses.

Customers can also get myriad other items professionally dry cleaned, and

not just clothes. Green Pink Cleaners is able to clean table cloths and napkins; comforters and blankets; draperies; rugs; wedding gowns; bed sheets and pillow cases; and leather and suede.

Kim plans to offer a number of new services in the near future, such as shoe repair, a shoe shine, sneaker cleaning and handbag repairs and dying.

It's a business that Kim, a Pelham resident, truly loves, although he is quick to add that running three stores

isn't the only thing he devotes his life to. He frequently takes international mission trips with his church, recently visiting Chiapas, Mexico, to help the indigenous population there.

"There has to be something more meaningful to life than making money," said Kim, who enjoys the balance of running a successful business and doing work for others.

Green Pink Cleaners Plus is located at 49 Wheeler Ave. in Pleasantville. New customers can receive 35 percent off their first dry cleaning order.

For more information, call 914-769-5143. Also, check out the store's customer reviews on Yelp at <https://www.yelp.com/biz/green-pink-cleaners-pleasantville>.

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Happenings

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Bedford Gourmet. Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew's Church, 382 Cantitoe St. (Route 22), Bedford. 6:30 to 9 p.m. \$100; \$125 at the door. Info and tickets: 914-234-9636 or visit www.artshowbedford.com.

Friday Night Cinema: "Marguerite." Before there was Florence Foster Jenkins there was Marguerite, a wealthy French socialite who adored opera, even though it didn't quite adore her. Starring Catherine Frot of Haute Cuisine, this comedy is in French with English Subtitles. 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.

Saturday, Jan. 21

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The Pleasantville Farmers Market is the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester and the one voted "Best of Westchester" in 2014 to 2016 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 40 vendors participating in the indoor market, the delicious good time continues. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through Mar. 25. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Third Saturday Bird Seed Sale. The sale supports the local conservation work of the Saw Mill River Audubon. Pruyne 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.

44th Annual Art Show: Bedford. Featuring a mix of contemporary and traditional art, sculpture and photography, plus unique jewelry, glass and pottery items. The show is in partnership with artists from Uprise Art and chashama in Manhattan, as well as popular local artists. Today, children's craft activities (ART 4 KIDZ), led by chashama artist Roy Secord. St. Matthew's Church, 382 Cantitoe St. (Route 22), Bedford. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Also Jan. 22, 26, 27 and 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Snow date for children's craft activities: Jan. 28. Info: 914-234-9636 or visit www.artshowbedford.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 Jan. 28. Info: 914-273-3887.

Meditation Workshop. Come early; space is limited. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Jan. 21 and 28. Info: Contact Michael Cardillo at 914-438-4602.

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.

JBFC Kids Open House. Hands-on activities for children three years old and up and a selection of short family friendly animated films. Take a break and watch a selection of short family friendly animated films in our upstairs theater. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The series of animated films will be shown at 11 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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

Saddle Up Saturdays With Jonathan Demme: "Rio Bravo." This series returns to try and recapture the heady thrill of settling into the theater for the delicious ritual of getting immersed in a full-tilt Saturday Western matinee. Demme will appear at select screenings. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Most Saturdays through March 25. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Belle & Sebastian." In World War II France, six-year-old Sebastian tames the enormous, yet gentle mountain dog Belle. When the Nazis arrive and begin rooting out resistance members, Belle and Sebastian prove their loyalty to the village and each other when they undertake a treacherous journey to help the cause. Followed by making a 3D dog (on Jan. 21 only). Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Children (under 13): \$7.50. Also Jan. 22 at noon and Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. Info: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Indoor Crafts. Warm up inside and have fun making a variety of craft items. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$4. Pre-registration required by Jan. 17. Info and pre-registration: 914-428-1005.

Yoga Workshop: Connecting to Source Through Meditation, Postures, Mantra and Sound. Jeff Migdow, a holistic physician and Reiki master and practitioner for over 25 years will lead this workshop on practices such as meditation, postures, pranayama and mantra/sound vibration, which are designed to increase the flow of prana in our bodies and minds to facilitate healing and expand consciousness. Experience how these practices speed the flow of energy/prana throughout our entire being and release stress/karma from our physical, pranic and mental bodies. Bring a yoga mat. Yoga Studio at Club Fit, 584 N. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Advance registration: Yoga Teachers Association members-\$45. Non-members: \$65. At the door: YTA members: \$55. Non-members: \$75. Pre-registration requested. Info: contact Audrey Brooks at 914-582-7816 or e-mail ytapresident@gmail.com. Registration: Visit www.ytayoga.com.

Author Talk. What would compel a woman to change her entire life? Author Jacqueline Goldstein addresses this issue while reading excerpts from her novel, "Ms. Murphy's Makeover." Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco, 2 p.m. Free.

"They Call Us Monsters." A powerful new documentary about violent juveniles between 14 and 17 years old who can be tried as adults. They are accused of heinous crimes – murders and attempted murders – that leave their victims' families shattered. The film takes the viewer into The Compound, a high-security facility in the middle of Sylmar Juvenile Hall, to meet three offenders awaiting trial. Followed by a discussion and Q&A with the director Ben Lear. The Picture House Regional Film Center, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham. 4 p.m. \$15. Seniors, students and members: \$12. Info and tickets: Visit www.thepicturehouse.org.

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

Saturday Night Jazz at Chappaqua Station: James Robbins & Dan Nadeau Quartet. 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. 7 to 10 p.m. \$10 per person for table reservation. First come, first served at bar with no cover charge. Tickets available through Eventbrite. Info: 914-861-8001 or visit www.chappaquastation.com.

Grande Romanza: Scenes of Love and Passion From Opera, Operetta & Broadway. Renowned for glorious operatic voices, Stefano and Nina Tanchietti, the magical tenor and soprano duo, portray musical scenes of love and passion from the beloved favorites of Broadway, operetta and opera. With vocal virtuosity and spellbinding theatrical portrayals, they demonstrate extraordinary versatility in dramatization and musicality. Fully staged scenes of choreographed and costumed duets, solos and dances will be presented. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$22. Senior and students: \$20. Children (under 13): \$16. Info and tickets: 914-606-6261 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartsarts.

The Maccabeats. Often traveling with little more than the shirts on their backs and the ties around their necks, the Maccabeats have entertained and inspired hundreds of audiences worldwide, from Alabama to (New) Zealand and everywhere in between. Using nothing more than the unadulterated human voice, a clean-cut presentation and a little Jewish humor, this unique group of singers is able to connect with fans of all backgrounds and ages. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 8 p.m. \$25 to \$40. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit www.wppac.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.

Sunday, Jan. 22

Project FeederWatch. Whether you're a beginning birder or a budding ornithologist, we've got you covered in this new program for nature and bird lovers. Join a naturalist for morning bird watching, gather data for Project FeederWatch and brush up on local bird identification. For children seven years old and up. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Sunday and Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Merestead Through the Eyes of the Servants. Find out in this curator-led tour of the mansion what it was like to be a servant in a grand house in the early 20th century. Merestead Estate, 455 Byram Lake Rd., Mount Kisco. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required. Info and reservations: 914-447-7497.

Recorder Concert. Internationally known performer and teacher Karen Snowberg and Friends will offer this

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The Restaurant Examiner



Monthly Beer-Paired Dinners Debut at Captain Lawrence

By Jerry Eimbinder

The Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. will conduct monthly beer-coupled, prix fixe dinners at its Elmsford facility this year.

Its first 2017 event is planned for this Thursday, Jan. 19, a joint venture with the Industrial Arts Brewing Co. of Haverstraw. The cost to attend is \$75 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

Dinners on Feb. 14 (beer and wine pairing) and Mar. 16 (a beer and whiskey combination) have also been scheduled.

This week's program will pair six Captain Lawrence and six Industrial Arts ales with dishes locally sourced from the Hudson Valley and prepared in Chef Joseph Smith's kitchen. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a hand-passed chilled lobster and salad appetizer paired with a palate cleansing brew. The evening's activities are expected to end by 10 p.m.

Next, attendees will sit down for the five courses to follow.

First course

Food: Pan seared sea scallop, Hudson Valley fois gras and apple brown butter.

Drink: Golden Delicious Apple Brandy Barrel Aged vs. State of the Art #54.

Second course

Food: Hudson Valley duck confit crepe with vanilla parsnip puree and spiced pear.

Drink: 6th Borough Pilsner vs. State of the Art #68.

Third course

Food: Pretzel crusted fluke with grain mustard Buerre Blanc, braised red onions and rissole potatoes.



Scott Vaccaro, founder of the Captain Lawrence Brewing Co., left, and Executive Chef Joseph Smith will present beer-paired dinners each month at the Elmsford brewery starting this Thursday.

Drink: To be determined.

Fourth course

Food: Braised beef short rib with toasted gnocchi, honey glaze turnip and carrots.

Drink: Poopy Pants Porter vs. Night School.

Fifth course

Food: Bittersweet chocolate cake with salted caramel, pecan tuile and vanilla gelato.

Drink: Frost Monster Imperial Stout vs. Long Monday Imperial Coffee Porter.

Wine from Michael Migliore's Whitecliff Vineyards in Gardener, N.Y. will be paired next to Captain Lawrence ales at the Feb. 14 dinner on Valentine's Day, priced at \$75 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

The Mar. 16 program, to be conducted



The beer hall at the Captain Lawrence Brewing Co.

in cocktail party style, combines whiskey, beer and cigars and includes participation by the Taconic Distillery in Stanfordville, N.Y. The cost is \$85 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

Smith joined Captain Lawrence late last year after serving as executive chef at The Ram's Head Inn at Shelter Island on the eastern end of Long Island. He launched Captain Lawrence's first beer-paired dinner on Dec. 8.

The Elmsford brewery offers a regular food menu during the beer hall's Wednesday through Sunday operating hours.

The Industrial Arts Brewing Co. was opened by Jeff O'Neil last year. It is housed in the Garnerville Arts and Industrial Complex, a pre-Civil War historic landmark, and is easy to spot by its high smokestack. Located at 55 W. Railroad Ave.

in Garnerville, N.Y., it is open to visitors Wednesday through Sunday afternoons. For more information, call 845-942-8776 or visit www.industrialartsbrewing.com.

The Taconic Distillery was founded by Paul Coughlin and Gerald Valenti. The distillery's products include straight bourbon whiskey. Its ingredients include natural spring water from Rolling Hills Farm. The distillery, which has a tasting room, is located at 179 Bowen Rd. in Standfordville, N.Y. Call 845-393-4583 or visit www.taconicdistillery.com for more information.

Founded by Scott Vaccaro, the Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. began operations in Pleasantville in December 2005 and moved to Elmsford six years later. It is located at 444 Saw Mill River Rd. For more information, call 914-741-BEER (2337) or visit www.captainlawrencebrewing.com.

Valentine's Day Romance Writers Luncheon at Alvin & Friends

By Jerry Eimbinder

Four romance novel authors will speak at a three-course luncheon on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at Alvin & Friends in New Rochelle.

The fundraising event from 12 to 3 p.m. will benefit teen workshops and mentoring programs at the new Digital Media Center of the New Rochelle Public Library. The \$75-per-person cost includes a champagne toast.

The program is the latest event in a series called Cocktails and Conversations being conducted by the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) Foundation. The participating writers are Kristi Cook, who will also moderate the panel discussion, K.M. Jackson, Sally MacKenzie and Maya Rodale.

Cook is a New York Times bestselling author of more than a dozen books for adults and teens. Her historical novella, "Swept Away," won the 2009 National Readers' Choice Award for best novella. During the summer, she teaches



Left to Right, authors K.M. Jackson, Kristi Cook, Maya Rodale, and Sally MacKenzie will participate in the Valentine's Day Romance Writers Luncheon at Alvin & Friends in New Rochelle.

creative writing classes for teens and adults at Miami-Dade College.

Jackson's novel "Bounce" won the Golden Leaf Award for best novel with strong romance elements from the New Jersey chapter of Romance Writers of America. She was also named author of the year by the New York Chapter of Romance Writers of America. Her latest book is called "Insert Groom Here."

MacKenzie's latest work, "When to Engage an Earl," is the final installment of a four-book series. It will be released in

June.

Rodale is the author of the non-fiction work "Dangerous Books For Girls" and "The Bad Reputation of Romance Novels, Explained."

Tickets can be reserved online at www.nrplfoundation.org or by mailing a check to the NRPL Foundation, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801.

The NRPL Foundation, created in 1993, supports library initiatives for learning, exploration and public discourse. Among the foundation's recent contributions

is more than \$106,000 to partially underwrite the remodeling cost of the Ossie Davis Theater. Along with new seating and exterior signage and entrance work, the upgrade includes assistive listening technology, greater accessibility and upgraded fire suppression, HVAC and other improvements.

Alvin & Friends was opened by Alvin Clayton in October 2011 with a varied menu that includes Caribbean and southern American dishes.

It is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday and for brunch on Sunday. It is closed Mondays. The restaurant is located at 14 Memorial Highway in New Rochelle. Call 914-654-6549 or visit www.alvinandfriendsrestaurant.com for more information.

2016 North Castle Public Library Annual Report

A Year of Transformation, Dramatic Improvements

The North Castle Public Library has become one of the fastest growing libraries in Westchester County, according to its recently released 2016 Annual Report. Recapping a year in which the library's leadership team committed to becoming the "educational and cultural hub of North Castle," the annual report details a year of greatly expanded programming attendance, increased circulation and vast infrastructure improvements.

Now offering a wide range of downloadable collections and digital services and access to state-of-the art equipment like 3-D printers, the North Castle Library is striving to become a "library of the future."

The library's board of trustees believes that publishing this report annually informs the public and provides strong incentive to set aggressive goals and improve services. This year's report details significant success in implementing the library's major strategic initiatives outlined in its multiyear strategic plan. The annual report and the strategic plan can be found at www.northcastlelibrary.org/board-of-trustees.

2016 Strategic Initiative Progress

Circulation growth and increased programming attendance continue as the library's main strategic goals, with 2016 proving to be a banner year for both areas. A significant investment in new materials, both physical and digital, resulted in a total circulation of 143,013 physical and digital items – a 13.1 percent increase over 2015. The library also offered 2,061 unique programs, from early childhood literacy and youth STEAM-related programs to language, art and film classes for adults, resulting in a jump of 34.1 percent

versus 2015, to 36,015 attendees. For the year, programming attendance, digital circulation and patron visits all reached all-time highs.

To help expand circulation and programming attendance over the past two years, the library also significantly expanded its hours of operation and is now the second most active library in Westchester.

According to the annual report, the library also made a significant push to fully update its new "virtual library," which gives patrons access to library materials and databases from home and at the library. These offerings include a full complement of digital and online services, including a rapidly growing collection of downloadable materials such as digital books, magazines, newspapers and music, and a wide range of informative databases to guide patrons in areas such as career planning, healthcare and travel. The commitment to its virtual library led to a 57.7 percent increase in digital use, with more digital offerings and usage projected for 2017.

The report also details the library's investment in both its physical plant and its staff. Last year, the library and town invested more than \$275,000 to improve its facilities. The library's top priority has been the renovation of its North White Plains branch, where a new deck is nearly installed adding 2,400 square feet of much-needed space. In its Armonk location, the library installed a new automatic main entry door to ease access, a generator to support continuous operation and LED lighting to cut costs and minimize environmental impact.

Supporting the library's improvement, a

greater focus has also been placed on staff development, with staff actively involved in the library's transformation. The team has been fully involved with expanding the collection, delivering a rapidly expanding program schedule, fully outfitting the virtual library, modernizing the facilities and providing improved customer service.

Over the last four years and continuing in 2016, the North Castle Public Library expanded its partnerships with other organizations to offer services the library cannot provide on its own. The Hudson Stage Company, a professional theater production company run by Broadway, film and TV professionals, now calls the library's Whippoorwill Theater its home, and library management continues to pursue similar arrangements with others.

As the library transforms itself into a "library of the future," the annual report notes how it has implemented management techniques to identify opportunities, analyze usage patterns, determine solutions to problems and gather community service requests. It has also invested in improving marketing communications with its patrons, placing special emphasis on informing the community about new and improved products and services via its newly designed website, town-wide e-mails and on-site digital displays.

This rapid growth, performance improvement and expansion were accomplished while operating with a flat annual budget for the fourth consecutive year, according to the report. To accelerate the facilities upgrade and the delivery of quick transformation, part of the library's reserve fund balance was used, but the balance remains within reasonable limits.

Future Plans

In 2017 and beyond, the library intends to aggressively pursue significant investment in improved operations, targeted mainly in three areas: expansion of its North White Plains branch, the addition of dedicated programming space and the expansion of its Digital Innovation Center.

Growing demand in North White Plains requires significant expansion of the physical facility. To handle the growth, the library staff and board are currently working on detailed plans to enlarge and upgrade its space at 10 Clove Rd.

The record programming attendance in 2016 is expected to continue, requiring more dedicated programming space to minimize the impact on other library services. Renovations in the Armonk adult and youth areas as well as in the North White Plains branch are planned for 2017.

In its drive to modernize and become a library of the future, additional resources are also being allocated to fully outfit the Digital Innovation Center and extends its offerings beyond 3-D printing and STEAM-related services.

Together with the generous support of the Friends of the North Castle Library, the Town of North Castle and its patrons, the library is now looking forward to another year of modernization, growth and transformation that will build on its recent success and truly make it one of the showcase libraries in the region.

North Castle Public Library

TY Performance Improvement

Digital Circulation: +57.7%

Program Attendance: +34.1%

Total Visitors: +15.2%

Total Circulation: 13.1%

Happenings

continued from page 24

program of lively and lovely music. Reception to follow. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3 p.m. Free-will offering. Info: 914-769-0458.

Monday, Jan. 23

Young Explorers Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-member: \$12 per child. Every Monday (except Feb. 20).

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

Belly Dance. Learn this captivating Middle Eastern dance and enrich your cultural knowledge. Whether you want to dance professionally or just have fun and get in shape, this is the place to start. Josie's International School of Dance, 42 Memorial Plaza, Level B, Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$23. Every Monday. Info: 914-332-8670 or visit www.josiedance.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 24

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 visit www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Music & Movement. Shake, shimmy and dance. For children two to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or visit www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Comedy Night. Enjoy six popular comics for a night of great dining and outrageous adult fun. Featuring Paul Bond, Mike Cannon, Peyton Clarkson, Michael Harrison, David James and Corey Rodrigues. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Show at 8 p.m. \$84 per person (plus tax). Show only: \$50 per person (plus tax). Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.broadwaytheatre.com.

John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit. Friends of John Jay Homestead launches its 2017 Scholars Lecture Series featuring author and public policy and foreign affairs journalist James Traub. Scion of a

political dynasty and our sixth president, Adams served the country as a diplomat, secretary of state and congressman. He saw the country ride through recessions and populist rebellions; assert a role on the world stage; play wedge politics among the great powers of the day; and struggle with nation-building in countries without a tradition of self-government. He finally and painfully recognized that the problem of slavery would have to be faced directly. Light refreshments served. A book signing will follow the lecture. John Jay Homestead State Historic Site, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. Registration at 6:15 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. \$25. Members: \$20. Reservations recommended. Info and registration: 914-232-8119, visit www.johnjayhomestead.org or e-mail friends@johnjayhomestead.org.



A Celebratory Wine for the 58th Presidential Inauguration?



The 58th Presidential Inauguration is upon us. Sitting at my keyboard this past week, I began to ponder a wine slant that would provide fodder for a timely

column as the 45th president of the United States of America assumes office.

As I rummaged through my memory bank, seeking out a wine-focused angle that might relate to President-elect Trump, a video flashed in my mind. Do you remember the press conference during the Republican primaries when he displayed his eponymous products on a table for all to marvel at a la the Home Shopping Network?

Prominently displayed were several wines from the Trump Winery in Virginia. I tucked the visual image – and Trump's comment, "I own it 100 percent, no mortgage, no debt" – into my memory banks.

Fast forward to this week, and a presidential focus emerges. This week's column is based on information culled from (what I believe to be) reliable news sources, presented with validated (not unverified) facts, from news articles (not fake news) published by reputable (not questionable, social media pop-up)

organizations.

My focus is on two disparate views of Trump Winery. First, the long road that brings us to the Presidential Inauguration, and second, a top-level focus on the wines in the bottle.

The history

The winery was acquired by Trump in 2011. It began as Kluge Estate Winery and Vineyard, a start-up created in 1999 by Patricia Kluge, the widow of one of the wealthiest entrepreneurs in the United States. The purchased land was chosen for its intrinsic beauty, not its capacity for producing great wines. The grapevines planted were Kluge's favorite varietals, not those most suitable to the characteristics of the vineyard.

The inevitable result? The property, with its awe-inspiring vistas, manicured vineyards and high-end winery, had a modicum of success until the Great Recession hit, when it succumbed to the weight of a heavy burden of bank debt.

In rushed the real estate developers, including Trump, who excel at sniffing out distressed properties. He ultimately acquires the 776-acre vineyard and winery for a mere \$6.2 million, plus \$1.7 million for equipment and inventory. Instantly,

he has a new product line to tout: Trump wines.

"I'm really interested in good real estate, not so much in wine," Trump said at the time. Ironically, Trump is not a wine drinker, abstaining from all alcohol by choice.

Last year, he explained his winery investment: "I own it 100 percent, no mortgage, no debt."

Ah, the art of the deal.

However, in now-classic Trump style, this is not entirely factual. A review of the Trump Winery website disclaimer contains a contradictory statement: "Trump Winery is a registered trade name of Eric Trump Wine Manufacturing LLC, which is not owned, managed or affiliated with Donald J. Trump, The Trump Organization or any of their affiliates."

The wines

Trump touts the Trump wines as the "finest wine, as good a wine as you get anywhere in the world."

As those who have read this column over the years are well aware, fine wines are in the eye – and palate – of the beholder. One wine consumer's fine wine is another's plonk. A personal disclaimer: I have yet to sample any of the Kluge or Trump wines.

The overall media opinion of the Trump wines?

Under Kluge's ownership, the estate's sparkling wines and red blends won several accolades.

Under (Eric) Trump's stewardship, the winery offers sparkling wine and white (Chardonnay and Viognier) and red (Cabernet Sauvignon and a Bordeaux blend) wines, from \$22 to \$38. The overall scores settle in between those for fine wine and plonk; overall, not so bad for a celebrity wine, even though they carry higher expectations – and higher prices. Locally, several of these wines are available at Westchester Wine Warehouse in White Plains.

Regardless of your political and ideological persuasion, the Presidential Inauguration is a validation of the American experiment in democracy, with all its twists and turns. I'll be drinking to that on Friday.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. 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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