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October 10 - October 16, 2017

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 527

Mt. Pleasant Engineer's Report Favors Grade Crossing Closures

By Neal Rentz

A report released last week from Mount Pleasant's engineer recommended that the railroad grade crossings at Cleveland Street and Commerce Street in Valhalla be closed to safeguard the public from potentially deadly accidents.

The conclusion reached in engineer David Smyth's Sept. 29 report, unveiled at last Tuesday's Town Board work session, was in response to an inquiry from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) about the feasibility of closing the Commerce Street crossing.

An estimated 1,000 vehicles per day would be rerouted to Lakeview Avenue as a result of a closure of Commerce Street. It would add an additional 1,500 feet to the trips of about 90 percent of those vehicles.

"The impact of the closing of the Commerce Street grade crossing would be minimal," the report stated.

Roadway improvements at Cleveland Street would compensate for the closure at that crossing, according to Smyth's report.

"Investment of a new roadway access and other recommended improvements to offset the impacts of a closure of the Cleveland Street grade crossing would allow this crossing to be eliminated and prevent any potential for the loss of life to those who continually use the crossing, particularly (youngsters) traveling to school or the Little League park," the report also stated.

Six people died, including five passengers on a northbound Harlem line train, when an SUV was struck at the Commerce Street crossing on Feb. 3, 2015.

The town cannot decide on its own to close the crossings, but could make a formal recommendation to the state Department of Transportation (DOT).

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New Name for Mt. Kisco Library to Honor Late Mayor, Village Justice

By Neal Rentz

The late Henry Kensing devoted his life to Mount Kisco publicly and privately in a variety of ways.

Later this month the village will express its appreciation for the many contributions of the former trustee, mayor and village justice.

The Village Board voted unanimously last week to change the name of the Mount Kisco Public Library to the Henry V. Kensing Memorial Library. A ceremony to commemorate the occasion will take place at the south side of the building, located at 100 E. Main St., on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m.

Kensing, a lifelong village resident, died of cancer on Oct. 24, 2016, at 83 years old. He was a village trustee from 1964

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The Mount Kisco Public Library will become the Henry V. Kensing Memorial Library on Oct. 29. Kensing, shown above, was a former village trustee, mayor and justice who died last October.

Soaring Into History



PAUL CARDI PHOTO

Students of aviation and World War II era aircraft experienced quite a show last Saturday at Westchester County Airport as the Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour returned. The tour featured four different types of aircraft, including the B-17 Flying Fortress, pictured above.

Sunrise Returns to P'ville With Revised Assisted Living Plan

By Anna Young

Representatives from a company that builds assisted living units have revised their proposal to build a facility at the United Methodist Church property in Pleasantville.

In a letter to the Village Board last week, Jerry Liang, senior vice president of investments and development for Sunrise Senior Living, stated that significant changes were made to the proposal following comments made by community members and officials in June.

The new proposal reduces the size of the project to 55 memory care units. The original proposal requested the three-story structure be built into the elevation of the site to make it appear smaller, but Sunrise is now proposing a

two-story building.

"While it would be a departure from Sunrise's new development prototype, we have two other existing Sunrises in the U.S. designed this way," Liang stated in his correspondence. "This new plan will reduce the impacts on the surrounding areas, while serving a specialized need in Pleasantville; one that is difficult to care for through your existing services."

Liang added that the revised plan would require less parking, have fewer impacts and likely result in lower tax revenues than the previous proposal.

Sunrise had initially requested a zoning change from the Village Board to add a new floating overlay district, which was needed before it could pursue site plan approval from the Planning Commission.

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Mt. Pleasant Engineer's Report Favors Grade Crossing Closures

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Councilman Mark Rubeo said if the town eventually supported closing the two crossings he wanted the DOT to guarantee that the agency would pay for the entire cost of the project.

Smyth told the board that the DOT would pay for the \$12 million project for traffic mitigation measures should the Cleveland Street crossing be closed.

He said he understood the concerns of residents who may oppose a closure, but there needs to be assurances that "any crossing you have is safe."

The Town Board will hold one or two

public information sessions on the issue, said Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi. The first, scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. at Town Hall, will allow public comment.

The board would hold a public hearing if it agreed on a specific proposal to close the crossings. However, no decision has been made, Rubeo said.

Representatives from the DOT and the MTA are scheduled to attend the Oct. 24 information session. Smyth said town officials had expected DOT and MTA personnel to attend last week's work session but they weren't able to because of a mix up.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Pleasant Town Engineer David Smyth discussed his report recommending the closure of the Commerce Street and Cleveland Street railroad grade crossings last week.

Though work sessions are typically sparsely attended, about 25 residents came out for last week's meeting, which was moved to the Town Hall courtroom from the supervisor's office.

Once the presentation concluded, two local residents expressed their displeasure. A Legion Drive resident described the presentation as "crap." If the Cleveland Street crossing is closed

"it will take 45 minutes to get out of my driveway" because of the additional 1,000 vehicle trips each day, said Alexis, who did not provide her last name.

The town has failed to take into consideration the congestion generated by traffic from Westchester Community College. Children who play on local streets would be in danger because of increased traffic should the crossing be closed.

"You're going to have cars turning into driveways," she said. "We can't get down Legion (now)."

Legion Drive resident Jerry Mackey said "it's stupid" for the Cleveland Street crossing to be closed.

Despite the concerns, Fulgenzi said the Town Board should consider closing both crossings. He said it would be "irresponsible" to ignore the recommendations.

Although the town has no control over the crossings, it would potentially be liable for millions of dollars if there was an accident at one of the locations, he said. The town is one of multiple defendants in lawsuits brought on behalf of victims of the 2015 accident.

Fulgenzi said the DOT would install a traffic light if the Cleveland Street crossing is closed, which would help alleviate traffic tie-ups.

PANTHER CLUB STAFF JOBS

The Village of Pleasantville Recreation Department is looking for adults who are interested in working as **Group Leaders** for our after-school program, for the **2017-2018 school year**. You must be available **Monday through Friday, 2:45 pm to 6:30 pm**.

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New Name for Mt. Kisco Library to Honor Late Mayor, Village Justice

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to 1967, then served as mayor from 1968 to 1981. He also served as a village justice from 1990 to 2005.

Among the many organizations he volunteered for in the community were the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Northern Westchester Hospital, Mount Kisco Day Care Center, A-Home, Open Door Family Medical Center and Neighbors Link.

Kensing, who was an attorney, served as vice president and general counsel for Dynamics Corporation of America. He retired in 1998, but opened a law practice in Mount Kisco and began a second career as a local lawyer and advocate, working primarily on behalf of the underserved and disadvantaged in need of legal and social services.

Last week, Kensing was praised by village officials.

"He was a very selfless man," said Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus. "He contributed a great deal."

Mayor Michael Cindrich said one of Kensing's significant contributions as village justice was the implementation of a drug court, which provided alternatives to jail for minor offenses committed by drug users. The drug court has "saved the lives of many young people," he said.

Aside from Kensing's years of community involvement, he also helped many people privately.

"He made a special place in his heart for each and every person in this village," Cindrich said.

Cindrich mentioned that he wanted the village to recognize Kensing, but to wait until a year after his death.

Contributions will be accepted to help pay for the new library sign. Checks should be made payable to the Village/Town of Mount Kisco, Henry V. Kensing Memorial Fund, and sent to Village Treasurer Robert Wheeling, Village/Town of Mount Kisco, 104 E. Main St., Mount Kisco, N.Y. 10549.

Sunrise Returns to P'ville With Revised Assisted Living Plan

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The proposal was for 79 units and would have accommodated about 90 residents. The site would have also contained 40 parking spots, including two handicapped accessible spaces.

During the public hearing in June, residents from Maple Hill Road and other neighbors in the vicinity of the site opposed the zoning change and urged the board to vote against the Sunrise petition. Four of the five village board members indicated the location was inappropriate for the project.

Maple Hill resident Bill Stoller said that while the new project is different from the

previous proposal, he's still against having a commercial facility in a residential area.

"We don't find it any more appealing than their previous proposal," he said.

While Liang hopes to come to an agreement with the board, Mayor Peter Scherer, who was vehemently opposed to the previous plans, said the next step for the village would be to hold a work session to discuss the new project.

"They're clearly proposing something significantly different," Scherer said. "We have an obligation to look at what that might be like before Sunrise spends a tremendous amount of time and money further developing this."

Fundraiser to Help Hurricane Harvey Dogs This Saturday

Heelers Made Fresh of Katonah and J.Crew will team up this Saturday, Oct. 14 for a "Shop with Your Dog" fundraiser event. It will take place at J.Crew at 126 Greenwich Ave. in Greenwich from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A portion of all sales will be donated

to the SPCA of Houston to help feed and care for misplaced dogs from Hurricane Harvey. Shoppers will receive 25 percent off all items in the store, and dogs will receive free tastings of Heelers Made Fresh organic homemade dog food.

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MEMBER FDIC LENDER

Renovation of Thornwood McDonald's Set for Completion This Week

By Jon Craig

A pair of McDonald's restaurants in Thornwood and Peekskill will soon reopen after major renovations, aimed at giving them a new modern look, near completion.

The McDonald's on Marble Avenue in Thornwood was among the franchise's first locations in the area, opening more than 45 years ago.

In recent weeks, some regular customers could be heard grumbling about the inconvenience of not having an early morning hangout. The restaurant began with a "soft closing" in which there was limited indoor access and then only drive-through service as employees directed traffic around bulldozers, jackhammers and a pair of portable toilets in the rear parking lot off Marble Avenue.

Amanda Pisano, a corporate spokeswoman for McDonald's, said the projects were on target for completion this month. The Thornwood restaurant has a sign posted alerting the public that its restaurant will reopen this Friday, Oct. 13.

"We appreciate our customers' patience as we work to build a better McDonald's," Pisano said.

The McDonald's renovation in Peekskill is part of a broader redevelopment of the Blue Mountain Shopping Center off Welcher Avenue.

Pisano said both locations will feature



JON CRAIG PHOTO

The McDonald's on Marble Avenue in Thornwood that has been under renovation since late summer is tentatively scheduled to reopen this Friday.

a modern restaurant experience "that offers guests an enhanced level of choice, engagement and service."

McDonald's goal is to modernize and update most of its U.S. restaurants by 2020. The New York Metro region, comprised of parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, is an "early adopter region and one of the first to roll out these changes in the United States," Pisano said.

To date, the New York Metro region has renovated and modernized more than 150 of the region's 565 restaurants, with an additional 18 projects currently underway.

The features are reflective of a new restaurant model that has been successfully rolled out in more than 2,600 international McDonald's restaurants and puts more choice and control in the hands of guests by how they order, what they order, how they pay and how they are served, Pisano said.

Some recent renovations, including one at the Arcadian Shopping Center off Route 9 in Ossining, added self-service kiosks to help personalize orders and increase efficiency. For those looking to order at their own pace, the digital kiosks

make ordering and paying for a meal easier, Pisano said.

"Kiosks empower guests to browse the menu, find new options and tailor their meal just the way they want," she said.

Guests' orders are delivered to tables by McDonald's crew members, allowing customers to relax and enjoy a more custom dining experience. McDonald's owner/operators and restaurant teams are placing a higher emphasis on hospitality by focusing on greeting customers, assisting with technology and ensuring a clean, welcoming environment, she said.

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New Castle Fire District to Allow Absentee Ballots in Commissioner Vote

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Fire District No. 1 Board of Commissioners agreed last Tuesday night to allow voters to use absentee ballots in this December's commissioner election, rescinding last month's resolution against the practice.

The board agreed in a 4-0 vote to reverse its Sept. 14 vote "based upon the recent vote in Millwood and in an attempt to unify the town with respect to the two fire districts located within its boundaries," according to the resolution read by Interim Board Chairman Anthony Oliveri.

Following the Sept. 14 vote, several outspoken residents urged the board to reconsider its position. Then on Sept. 25, the Millwood Fire District's Board of Commissioners agreed to make absentee ballots available for the first time in their district's history for the upcoming election.

As part of the resolution read by Oliveri Tuesday night, he said the New Castle Fire District was one of the first fire districts in the state to use absentee ballots 18 years ago. However, last year, the district's former attorney advised commissioners against absentee ballots

because of the "potential for abuse amongst other issues." Based on the attorney's advice, the board voted against their use, Oliveri said.

Fire districts in New York State are not required to provide absentee ballots for their elections, he said.

Chappaqua resident Gary Murphy, one of the residents who was critical of last month's vote, complimented the board for reconsidering their decision and doing what's right.

"In my belief, attempts to reduce any accessibility to the polls should be a concern," he said.

Murphy said he also hopes the commissioners will extend voting hours beyond the customary three-hour window of 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, the date of the board election. Although turnout for the vote is often extremely light, there are enough community members willing to volunteer as poll watchers to cover voting from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., the customary hours for voting in most other elections in New York, Murphy said.

Commissioners said the voting hours will be determined at their Oct. 12 meeting.

Former Animal Hospital Demolition Work

The commissioners also announced that they have awarded the bid to the WCD Group for the asbestos abatement work at the former Chappaqua Animal Hospital structure in the parcel adjacent to the New Castle firehouse at 495 King St. in Chappaqua. JMC Consulting has also been awarded a bid to manage the work.

Bids to find a firm to demolish the building are also ready to go out.

After a bid is secured and remediation work is complete, the district will apply for a demolition permit from the town and the building will be removed, said Commissioner Brian Jabloner. All work is expected to be complete by the end of the year, he said.

The money to pay for the work is being derived from the approval of last February's \$2,674,444 referendum. Although a \$12.6 million proposition failed last October to complete this work and expand the firehouse, the February re-vote to buy the animal hospital land, treat the asbestos and demolish the building passed easily more than three months later.

Jabloner said as part of the project the contractor will also treat the soil around the building that has been contaminated with a pesticide because there are neighbors near the site and a preschool across the street.

"We want to go above and beyond and make everybody feel that they're safe, that we're taking care of them," Jabloner said. "That is our number one goal."

Purchase of the land accounted for \$1,620,000, with the remediation and demolition accounting for the remainder of the cost.



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Chappaqua Children's Book Festival Promises Fun, Excitement

By Martin Wilbur

Families from throughout the tristate area will descend on the hamlet's downtown this Saturday to meet their favorite authors and illustrators at the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival. The event will take place outside Robert E. Bell Middle School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fifth annual festival proves that books and reading can be fun and enjoyable for children.

"We always want to bring in the favorites that everybody loves like "Pinkalicious" and "Biscuit" and "Bad Kitty," but every year we want to bring in 15 or so new authors to shake things up a little bit and to stay really current," said Dawn Greenberg, one of the event's organizers. "I'm proud we were able to do that."

This year, Westchester's largest children's book festival will be the largest in its history. Greenberg said there will be 88 authors and illustrators on hand, who will not only be selling their works, but most importantly meeting their biggest fans. There will be books appropriate for all ages, from baby board books to the young adult reader and everything in between.

Highly anticipated authors and illustrators expected this weekend include the husband-and-wife team of Lesa Cline-Ransome and James Ransome, who have

come out with their latest book, "Before She Was Harriet," and author Doreen Cronin and author and illustrator Betsy Lewin, who have collaborated on the "Click, Clack, Moo series."

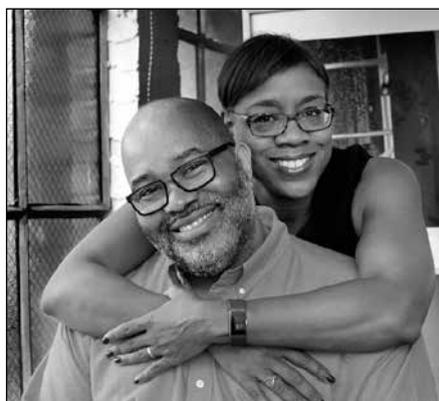
In five years, the festival has become such an in-demand event, that there is now a large waiting list of authors that couldn't be accommodated, Greenberg said.

While the festival takes place locally, its reach has gone far beyond a Westchester event. Greenberg said posters advertising the festival have been placed in nearly every Metro-North station. Plus, among educators, word has spread like wildfire into Connecticut and New York City, that the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival is an event that shouldn't be missed, she said.

About 6,000 to 7,000 people are expected to attend on Saturday.

"It's probably grown a little faster than expected," Greenberg said. "I'm a little flummoxed by it all, but eventually, the town can't keep on accommodating more and more people and we'll find our settle-down point."

While the focus is on books, the festival is more than a big book sale with authors on hand. It's also a fun time for families who can spend several hours. Club Fit will bring an obstacle course that will be placed on the adjacent field and children



The husband-and-wife team of Lesa Cline-Ransome and James Ransome will be among the nearly 90 children's authors and illustrators who will be on hand this Saturday at the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival.

can try their hand at various art projects brought by the Katonah Art Center.

There will be musical performers and if anyone gets hungry there will be several different types of food trucks. Those with a sweet tooth can buy goodies from the Great Chappaqua Bake Sale. All proceeds from the bake sale will be contributed to Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign.

"My emphasis has always been to make this a festival, to make it fun, to come and stay all day," Greenberg said. "You have the books but also to have meaningful activities that you can get into

all afternoon."

There is also a benefit to the town in general, as it brings people from outside Chappaqua and New Castle to show everything the town has to offer, said Supervisor Robert Greenstein.

"It's been great since day one," he said. "Dawn should be very proud of what she's accomplished."

The event will be held rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, the festival will be moved inside the school. Otherwise, it will be in the parking lot in front of the school facing South Greeley Avenue.

For more information, visit www.ccbfestival.org.

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Oct. 2: A North Bedford Road business contacted police at 3:15 p.m. after a small Ziploc bag containing some marijuana was found in an employee lounge. Company representatives said they were unable to determine who might have left the bag behind. Officers removed the item for destruction.

Oct. 3: Police responded to the 400 block of East Main Street at 10:19 a.m. on a report that a burglary had occurred overnight. A rear window and door were found damaged. The owner said several hundred dollars in cash and quarters was missing from the store. The case was turned over to detectives for investigation.

Oct. 3: Employees at a Main Street business contacted police at 9:30 p.m. to report that they saw a man looking through the store window as they counted cash after closing. Plainclothes officers responded and kept the store under surveillance until the employees left and made a night deposit without incident at a nearby bank.

Oct. 5: Police responded to Maple Avenue at 1:20 a.m. to conduct a welfare check on an infant after a man said he feared his ex-wife had left the child home alone. The mother and child were found at the residence.

Oct. 5: Police responded to Diplomat Drive at 10:44 a.m. on a report that a woman was having difficulty breathing. She was subsequently transported by ambulance to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 5: A West Street resident reported at 12:53 p.m. that he has been receiving harassing phone calls from a person he conducted a transaction with via Craigslist.

Oct. 6: An officer on patrol observed a man chasing another man along Main Street at 12:55 p.m. The officer intervened and subsequently determined that a father was chasing his son who had fled from a medical appointment after becoming upset. The son agreed to be transported by the officer to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 6: A West Street resident reported at 2:40 p.m. that her son had been involved in a dispute the previous day with a bus driver. Officers advised the woman that it was not a police matter and she was directed to contact transportation officials.

Oct. 6: Police responded to a Kisco Avenue car dealership at 7:04 p.m. after a man was observed walking around the lot after closing. The person was determined to be an employee who was waiting for a ride.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 29: A complainant arrived at headquarters at 2:32 p.m. to report that her vehicle had been struck while it was parked on Main Street about an hour earlier. A witness deposition was filed.

Sept. 29: Parties arrived at police headquarters at 3:23 p.m. to report that they were victims of fraud which affected their joint Bank of America account. A witness deposition was filed and an identity theft packet was issued.

Sept. 30: Report of an unruly guest at La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive at 7:50 a.m. The responding officers reported that the matter was adjusted and the guest is checking out.

Oct. 2: Armonk Fire Department was dispatched to Rosamalia Landscaping on Wampus Lakes Drive at 8:11 a.m. on a reoccurring mulch pile smoke condition. 60 Control was notified; fire was extinguished.

Oct. 3: A caller reported a missing

manhole cover on Route 128 at 2:37 p.m. that was reportedly cracked by a tractor trailer. The manhole cover was replaced.

Oct. 4: Report of a landlord-tenant dispute at a Main Street property at 11:53 a.m. The responding officer stated that there was a verbal dispute involving the parties.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 29: An arrest was made at 1 Broadway at 7:45 p.m. Police did not provide additional information because the matter is under investigation.

Oct. 6: Four women were arrested for possession of marijuana at 1:45 a.m. following a traffic stop on Pleasantville Road. The suspects are a 19-year-old and a 20-year-old from Yonkers, a 19-year-old Bronx resident and a 19-year-old Pennsylvania resident. The suspects were released on their own recognizance pending a court appearance.

Chappaqua Church to Host Oktoberfest, Youth Volunteer Fair

By Martin Wilbur

The First Congregational Church of Chappaqua (FCC) is more than a place for parishioners to come to services on Sunday mornings.

Each of the next two weekends, FCC will be hosting events that are open to everyone that promise to be fun and also help the entire community.

This Saturday, the church will be holding its first-ever Oktoberfest, where anyone in the mood for delicious food and a good time can join in.

"We wanted to do something that would be fun for people and fun for us, and we have members who are into beer, different craft beers, and that's how this whole idea came up," said Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs, the church's senior minister.

From 5 to 10 p.m., visitors can enjoy German beer and food, including bratwurst and pretzels, along with music and dancing. The entire family is invited

as there will be food and fun activities for children.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for each child. It would cost \$10 for each additional beyond the first two.

On Sunday, Oct. 22, from 12 to 2 p.m., FCC will host its third annual Youth Volunteer Fair. Youths starting as young as fifth grade are invited to come with their parents to learn about what volunteer opportunities are open to them.

About 25 local and Westchester-based nonprofit organizations and service organizations will be on hand to introduce themselves to youngsters and families.

"We're here to be part of the community and to support the community in any way we can by our actions, reaching out to the community is an important part of that for us," Jacobs said.

For more information or for tickets to Oktoberfest, visit www.fcc-chappaqua.org.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Homeless Awareness Event Scheduled for This Sunday in Mt. Kisco

By Neal Rentz

Westchester has a reputation for affluence but volunteers from local houses of worship are aware that not everyone is so fortunate.

The Mount Kisco-based Emergency Shelter Partnership goes out of its way to make certain that the homeless in the village and surrounding communities have a hot meal and a warm place to sleep overnight in cold weather.

The partnership is holding a program this Sunday, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. to commemorate World Homeless Day. The event will take place in the St. Francis of Assisi Church parish hall, located 2 Green St. in the village.

Mount Kisco resident Phyllis Ruppert, president of the organization's board of directors, said the purpose of the program is "to raise awareness of homelessness in northern Westchester and the world." It will include important information about how to help those without somewhere to call home, along with live entertainment and refreshments.

Ruppert said the upcoming event is the first held by the partnership related to World Homeless Day, which takes place on Oct. 10. The organization hopes to hold the program every year.

The Emergency Shelter Partnership was created in December 2004, by a group of community leaders who partnered with the Mount Kisco Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Council, the Northern Westchester Interfaith Clergy Association

and village officials to address the growing problem of homelessness in the area. By the following month, the emergency shelter operated for the first time at the Bedford Presbyterian Church in Bedford Village, helping four individuals.

Today, it consists of 17 houses of worship in Bedford, Mount Kisco, Chappaqua, Katonah and Pleasantville, as well as eight supporting congregations and organizations. The nonreligious entities included in the partnership are the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, the Mount Kisco Drug Council and Neighbors Link.

Ruppert said each church and synagogue affiliated with the partnership supplies volunteers to house and feed the homeless every night for at least one full week from November through March. Those who seek help are picked up nightly at 9 p.m. at the county police precinct on Green Street in Mount Kisco. Once they arrive at that week's host venue, they are given a hot dinner and spend the night in a sleeping bag. In the morning they are given a bagged breakfast and coffee.

Ruppert noted the meals are prepared by volunteers from the participating congregations. At 6:30 a.m., the homeless are dropped off by bus at the police station.

The partnership employs a part-time social worker and two part-time bus drivers/overnight supervisors.

Community partners are Antioch Baptist

Church and Bedford Community Church in Bedford Hills; Bedford Presbyterian Church in Bedford Village; Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford Corners; Bet Torah, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Mount Kisco; First Congregational Church and Temple Beth-El in Chappaqua; and Pleasantville United Methodist Church

in Pleasantville.

Donations will also be accepted at Sunday's event or can be mailed to the Emergency Shelter Partnership, P.O. Box 427, Mount Kisco, N.Y. 10549.

For more information about the Emergency Shelter Partnership, call 914-666-0614, send an e-mail to emergencyshelterpartnership@gmail.com or visit www.emergencyshelterpartnership.org.

A Pleasant Opening



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Local residents and officials recently welcomed Pleasant Manor Funeral Home to Thornwood as they helped owner Patrick McNulty during a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the new facility at 575 Columbus Ave. For more information about the funeral home, call 914-747-1821.

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Editorial

Mt. Pleasant Has No Choice But to Consider Grade Crossing Closures

Change can be difficult, but what the Mount Pleasant Town Board will soon be forced to weigh is something that goes beyond whether or not there may be inconvenience.

There promises to be plenty of debate in the weeks ahead as the Town Board will hold an informational session on Oct. 24 regarding the potential closure of the grade crossings at Cleveland Street and Commerce Street in Valhalla.

Despite arguments that are sure to be made against the idea, the board is obligated to at least explore the possibility, in light of the deadly accident at the Commerce Street crossing on Feb. 3, 2015.

The number of car-train collisions at suburban New York commuter lines have been steady or slightly increasing over the past 15 years while there have been sharp

declines nationally. From 2003 to 2014, there were 30 such accidents at Metro-North crossings.

It makes sense. In less populated areas of the country there is less traffic and more room to allow authorities to more easily make road safety improvements or eliminate grade crossings altogether.

At Commerce Street, there is no more than 200 feet between the crossing and the Taconic State Parkway, where traffic can stack up during peak periods.

During busy hours, there are difficult and unique sets of conditions at many of the grade crossings throughout the Metro-North system, including at Cleveland Street, and at the Roaring Brook Road crossing in Chappaqua.

Now the report from Mount Pleasant's engineer recommends closure. Last

summer, when the National Transportation Safety Board delivered its findings on the Commerce Street crash, one of the proposed actions was to encourage local, state and railroad authorities to take the necessary steps to increase safety at the location.

It will be interesting to hear what both the MTA, and perhaps more importantly, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) will have to say. The town, the DOT and the railroad must guard against doing something – anything – just to prove they are being proactive.

However, doing nothing shouldn't be an option either, not when the deaths of six people are still fresh in everyone's mind and ongoing inherent dangers persist at many grade crossings.

Letters to the Editor

New Castle Sewer, Infrastructure Projects Show Failure of Leadership

New Castle residents are paying higher property taxes than necessary because our town's administration has failed to obtain state funding to pay for our infrastructure projects.

The State of New York has a \$2 billion program, the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), to give grants and low or no interest loans to fund water infrastructure projects, like our downtown infrastructure plan and the sewer projects needed in Random Farms, Yeshiva and Riverwoods. The Town completely failed to apply for this money

for our downtown, and when it applied for the Riverwoods/Yeshiva/Random Farms project, the town neglected to correct errors and omissions in the application, leading to the application being rejected.

These consistent failures are a result of the lack of leadership and highlights the need for a change in administration. Since the current administration has failed to apply for and obtain available grant dollars and low or no interest loans, New Castle taxpayers are left holding the bag in the form of millions of dollars in higher taxes added to our already very

high property tax rates.

My Stronger New Castle running mates and I, Kristen Browde for town supervisor and Ivy Pool for Town Board, will keep your taxes in check. Every penny counts, and missing out on opportunities like funding for needed infrastructure upgrades hurt hardworking New Castle taxpayers.

Gail Markels

Candidate for New Castle Town Board

Picinich, Albanese Best to Help Mount Kisco Reach its Potential

We wanted to take this opportunity to express our support for the 4MK campaign led by mayoral candidate Gina Picinich and trustee candidate Isi Albanese. We have lived in Mount Kisco for over 17 years and have never seen this level of enthusiasm and commitment to improving our town.

Undoubtedly, Mount Kisco has been a great place to raise a family. But in recent years, it seems as though our village hasn't lived up to its high potential. With a welcoming town center, easy commuter access to New York City, a highly regarded hospital, many organizations and places of worship, a beautiful park, a top-notch school district and a diverse multicultural

flare, Mount Kisco could, and should be, an engine for economic growth and a model of cultural vibrancy – a desired home to the American Dream.

Instead we have been plagued with empty storefronts, inconsistent and lax enforcement of laws and ordinances, vagrancy and poor cultural assimilation. Pride is down and frustrations are high. We believe it is time to look forward and work on doing what we all can to help Mount Kisco achieve its full potential.

Gina and Isi are the ones to lead this effort. We feel confident that a vote for Gina Picinich and Isi Albanese will breath new life into our already beautiful town. They have demonstrated that they have

the vision and energy to bring new ideas and move our town in the right direction.

4MK is more than a campaign; it is a concerted effort by citizens from all across the village who are ready and willing to lend their time and energy for positive change. Perhaps most importantly, the 4MK movement transcends typical national party politics. Regardless of party affiliation, supporting Gina and Isi is about helping Mount Kisco reach its amazing potential. That's a common goal we can all support.

Ron and Diana Rozgonyi
Mount Kisco

There's a Pressing Need to Expand the New Castle Firehouse

I am writing this letter to respond to an article in The Examiner regarding the New Castle firehouse ("Absentee Ballot Resolution Fails for New Castle Fire Commish Vote," Sept. 26). The need for an addition to the firehouse is really for the community. They need space for the firetrucks and also for equipment that is

needed to fight fires and to protect the volunteer firefighters.

The firefighters give of their time 24/7, as do their families. They just don't fight fires. They are there during hurricanes, snowstorms and all types of disasters in the community.

Anyone who has questions about the

firehouse or commissioners should attend the monthly meetings that are open to the public in the firehouse meeting room.

Grace Murphy
Mount Kisco

Column

Celebration of Columbus Day is Important to Honor Italian-Americans

By Emil Muccin

The Mount Pleasant Italian-American Association (MPIAA) is committed to the continuation and preservation of the Columbus Day holiday and all Columbus monuments and statues, including the one at Columbus Circle.

Since the arrival of explorers and immigrants, Italian-Americans have played a key and vital role in the development of this great country of ours. Additionally, over the many years, Columbus Day and all the Columbus monuments have played a major role in Italian-American recognition, acceptance and the celebration of Italian culture.

During recent years questions have arisen from groups that have limited knowledge of what Columbus means to Italian-Americans and this country. In many regards it is disrespectful, and in today's culture if it was reversed it would be discriminatory.

We ask some questions: "What is the significance of Columbus and why is

it important to the Italian-American community?"

In researching Columbus and from what all of us learned as students in elementary school, Columbus was truly essential in legitimizing the transition from Italians into Americans. I know first-hand that our Italian-American ancestors, including my grandparents and father, faced bigotry, discrimination and exclusion but from that era did not protest or complain. What they did was to be extremely diligent and hard workers, many working in the trades to build this country into what it is today.

Another important point is that they are extremely proud people who never asked for any type of handouts, even with no money in their pockets. Always looking to build a better country, and foremost always trying to improve and educate.

We identify with Columbus as an Italian celebrated greatly across America for establishing a lasting bridge between the Old and New World. Columbus was

many things to many people, but mostly he was an explorer, an expert navigator and sailor and later governor. Through some of this exploration during his career, he was involved in actions that are deemed today unjust. As was once indicated to me by a relative who was a veteran, sometimes events happen that in retrospect you wish you could change or alter. I'm sure that's the same here more than 500 years later.

The MPIAA believes that Columbus' actions during his long career deserve reflection and acknowledgment, but we strongly believe and can unequivocally attest that the role this seafarer from Genoa had in the shaping of what would become the United States of America was truly significant.

As our country continues to become more complex and reflective in reevaluating what transpired in our history, let us not forget who we are and what we stand for: "One nation, under God, indivisible and with liberty and justice for all."

Bearing that in mind, our organization and many Italian-Americans strongly believe that the Columbus Day holiday and monuments are paramount to the legacy and heritage of Italian-Americans and need to exist and continue.

We hold the Columbus Day holiday as a cornerstone to our culture and as a day of remembrance for all the sacrifices that Italian-Americans made to make our country great. More importantly we are proud to be American citizens who believe in the promises we know the United States holds for all of us.

For all those naysayer politicians in New York City that support and identify with every other cause, whether it is marching with a terrorist or being unsupportive of their own ethnic heritage, we say enough. Go find some other ethnic background to disparage. In today's climate of inclusivity, this is wrong and unjust.

Emil Muccin is the former president and board member of the Mount Pleasant Italian-American Association.

Just Because It's Fall Doesn't Mean Ticks, Lyme Disease Disappear

By Dr. Debra Adler-Klein

Many people mistakenly believe that the tick season ends at Labor Day, but in fact the danger of tick bites extends well into the fall and even the winter if the weather stays warm.

Last winter, for the first time since I began treating Lyme disease in the 1980s, I saw new cases of Lyme all winter, even in January and February. We won't get the final numbers until later this fall, but this year is shaping up to be one of the worst in recent memory for Lyme disease and other tick-borne infectious illnesses.

The combination of a mild winter with an unusually large population of mice led to an increased number of ticks this spring and summer, and it will likely continue into the fall. Along with an uptick in the number of acute Lyme cases this year, I am also seeing a spike in other tick-borne illnesses such as anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

It's not just gardeners and hikers who are coming down with these infections. Simply walking through grass to the mailbox can put you at risk. The agricultural stations in Connecticut and Westchester warned us in early spring that they were seeing unusually large numbers of ticks that were infected with Lyme disease.

Mice and deer are the primary carriers of the very small blacklegged tick, which carries Lyme and these other diseases. They are also known as deer ticks. A single mouse can carry up to 100 infected

ticks just on its face, ears and head.

Symptoms of Lyme disease include a rash, headache, flu-like illness, fatigue, neck stiffness, numbness and tingling in the face or hands and feet, a drooping facial palsy or Bell's palsy, dizziness and heart palpitations. Joint pain, especially in the knees, is a common Lyme symptom. Knees may be swollen as well.

The best way to prevent Lyme disease is to avoid being bitten by a tick. Here are some prevention strategies:

- Avoid wooded areas and be vigilant about ticks even if you're not the outdoor type. If you are in grassy or wooded areas with ticks, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Tuck long pants into socks. Wear shoes, not flip-flops.
- When you come indoors after being in areas where ticks may be living, do full-body tick checks on yourself and your children. Ticks like warm, moist areas of your body, including the groin, behind the knee, armpits and around hairlines.
- Shower within a couple of hours of coming indoors to wash off any ticks. Put your clothing and outerwear in the dryer for 10 minutes. Super-heating will kill ticks.
- The Centers for Disease Control recommends mowing your grass regularly. Consider putting wood chips or gravel around the perimeter

of your property, about two to three feet deep. When mice run across the uneven, bumpy terrain, about 50 percent of the ticks they are carrying will fall off.

- Do tick checks on your pets, too. Try to keep them off areas where you sleep. When removing a tick from a dog, wear gloves or use a paper towel to avoid coming in contact with any blood, and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Tick vaccines for pets are now available.
- Consider having your yard sprayed with chemicals that contain pyrethrins and other compounds that help kill ticks. There are also organic, less toxic sprays made of peppermint, lemon and citrus oils.
- Birds can carry ticks, too, so you may want to move bird feeders away from the house and outdoor decks.
- If you are bitten by a tick, remove it promptly.
- Use a clean pair of tweezers to grasp the mouth parts of the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull it off in a steady upward motion. Avoid breaking the tick and releasing its blood.
- Clean the bite area thoroughly with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide. For some people, the bite area will become an itchy red welt right away or within a day or two

– this does not mean you have Lyme disease.

- Write down the date and location of the bite in case you develop Lyme disease symptoms later. Your medical provider will want to know when you were bitten.
- Watch for signs of the classic bullseye rash that may develop around the bite, but note that not everyone with Lyme develops this rash. The rash doesn't hurt and there is no itching or burning sensation with it. If you have the bullseye rash, you have Lyme and should seek treatment right away.
- Don't panic. It usually takes at least 24 hours for a tick to transmit Lyme and other diseases to humans. So if you removed the tick quickly, you are not likely to develop Lyme. If you have Lyme, it is generally treatable.
- Depending on your symptoms, your medical provider may want to do a blood test to look for Lyme disease or other tick-borne infections. Three antibiotics are used to treat Lyme disease: doxycycline, amoxicillin and cefuroxime axetil. Doxycycline has the added benefit of also treating ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis.

Dr. Debra Adler-Klein, a board-certified internist and infectious diseases expert, recently joined New York-Presbyterian Medical Group Westchester and is practicing at a newly renovated location at the Vernon Hills Shopping Center at 700 White Plains Rd. in Scarsdale. To schedule an appointment, call 914-787-2242.

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Obituaries

Margaret Sarno

Margaret Sarno of Pleasantville and formerly of Eastchester, a proud great-grandmother, devoted grandma, loving mother, wonderful aunt and sister, died peacefully at home on Oct. 1.

Sarno is joining her husband of more than 50 years, Arthur, who pre-deceased her in 2010. Her precious 92 years were spent happily surrounded by family. Whether she was sharing her wonderful cooking, preparing for a holiday, caring for her grandchildren or walking through town, she always had a smile on her face, a kind word and time to share with others. Her home and her heart were always open. She will be missed by everyone who

knew her.

Sarno is survived by her sisters, Mary and Eleanor; daughter Debbie and Jerry; her son Ronnie; grandchildren Jerry (Christine), Chris (Jen), Kacie and Danny Schulman and Nicky and Samantha Sarno; great-granddaughters Katherine and Charlotte; and many nieces and nephews.

The family received friends on Oct. 4 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Innocents R.C. Church on Oct. 5. Interment followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in New Rochelle.

Joseph Surgot

Joseph J. Surgot of Thornwood died suddenly on Oct. 4.

He was 70.

Surgot was born on July 15, 1947, to the late Joseph and MaryAnn (nee Swirski) Surgot in Brooklyn. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1968. Surgot was a retired New York City schoolteacher.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Katherine (nee Delancey) Surgot, of Thornwood; his loving children, Joseph (Erin) Surgot, Stephen (Michele) Surgot

and Denise Surgot, all of Long Beach, N.Y., Harrison Knowles of Brooklyn and Spencer Knowles and Jacqueline Knowles of Thornwood; one brother, Thomas (Jean) Surgot, of Toms River, N.J.; three cherished grandchildren, Maureen, John and Thomas Surgot; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, MaryAnn Malagnone.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Oct. 6, where funeral services were held on Oct. 7. Interment followed at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

Elvira Bruno

Mrs. Elvira (Vera) F. Bruno of Chappaqua passed away in the loving embrace of her family on Oct. 5. She was 83.

Bruno was the beloved wife of Robert F. Bruno, her passing occurring just one week shy of their 61st wedding anniversary.

Bruno was born in the Bronx on June 12, 1934, the daughter of the late Rosario and Antoinette D'Alessio. She graduated from Cathedral High School in 1952. Soon after, she was employed as head of claims at Railway Express in New York City. In high school, she was chosen to be most likely to become a fashion model.

While raising her four children, Bruno reentered the workforce part-time as a real estate agent, becoming the owner and principal of Howe & Sibley from 1972 until 2011. In 2011, she became an associate real estate broker at Houlihan Lawrence where she remained employed and actively listing and selling homes. She continued to be the go-to broker for so many people in and around Chappaqua as she worked in partnership with her husband.

Bruno participated in volunteer work with Chappaqua Twigs and the Chappaqua Neighbors Club, and she had deep faith and a long association with her church, St. John and St. Mary, where she had been a longtime member in the Women's Association. She was a member of Soroptimist International, a global volunteer organization working

to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. When living in White Plains, she was an active member of the White Plains Women's Club, where she was active socially and philanthropically; it was where she first began building her extensive network of friends.

In addition to her loving and devoted husband, Bruno is survived by her four children, Robert Bruno, Jr. (Sula), Russell Bruno, Rosemarie Bruno (Simon) and Rachel Bruno Fitzpatrick and son-in-law Tony Fitzpatrick, and her beloved grandsons, James and Luke Fitzpatrick. She was predeceased by her parents, Rosario and Antoinette D'Alessio, and her sister, Paula Cafarchio.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. at St. John & St. Mary Church, 30 Poillin Rd. in Chappaqua, followed by burial at Ferncliff Mausoleum, at 280 Secor Rd. in Hartsdale. Friends are asked to meet directly at the church. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12 and Friday, Oct. 13 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville.

To honor her memory, contributions may be made to Maryknoll, Fathers and Brothers in Ossining or to the COPD Foundation, 641 S St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

North Castle Police Arrest Town Resident for Heroin Possession

A 53-year-old North White Plains man was arrested last Friday night for holding a quantity of heroin in his car following a traffic stop.

North Castle police detectives and members of the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force arrested Kevin Finney of Nethermont Avenue at about 11 p.m. on Oct. 6. The arrest was made after police stopped Finney's 2004 Chevrolet Malibu on Hillandale Avenue. He was found to be in possession of 190 glassine envelopes

containing heroin.

Finney was charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a Class B felony, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a Class C felony. He was arraigned and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in Valhalla on a \$10,000 bond or \$5,000 cash bail.

He is due to appear in North Castle Town Court on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

—Martin Wilbur

Briarcliff Man Dies in One-Car Accident Near Rockefeller Park

A 25-year-old Briarcliff Manor man was killed in a one-car crash early Saturday morning on Route 117 near the entrance to the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Mount Pleasant police said.

Lt. Robert Miliambro said Monday the vehicle, a 1994 Ford Mustang, was being driven on Route 117 when it "hit the center median and flipped over." Police were called to the scene at about 4:26 a.m., Miliambro noted.

On Monday, the man was identified as Connor Estavillo, a 2010 Briarcliff High School graduate and a U.S. Army veteran. He died at the scene of the accident, police said.

Estavillo joined the Hawthorne Fire Department before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 2011, according to his obituary. He served in the Army until 2017, and completed a tour in Iraq.

Arrangements are being handled by Waterbury & Kelly Funeral Home in Briarcliff Manor. Visitation is at the funeral home on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. Funeral services and interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Estavillo's name may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

—Neal Rentz



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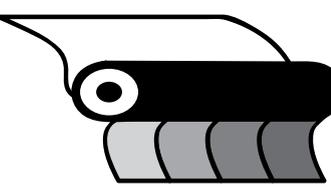
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Puzzle People Invade Pleasantville for a Great Cause

By Anna Young

Crossword puzzle aficionados from throughout the tristate area gathered at St. John's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville Friday night for the 20th annual Westchester Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

The event, hosted by New York Times crossword puzzle editor and village resident Will Shortz, attracted nearly 50 participants. Eatontown, N.J. resident Bob Mackey captured the title for the seventh time.

Throughout the night, contestants were challenged during four rounds, with the winners of the first three rounds facing off on giant poster board puzzles on stage for

the finale.

Mackey edged out New York City's Jeff Schwartz and last year's winner, Glen Ryan of Norwich, Conn., in the championship round, finishing the puzzle in 5 minutes, 25 seconds.

"Ever since I was young I was doing crosswords and I haven't given it up," said Mackey, who has been participating in puzzle tournaments for 20 years. "It keeps you young, it keeps you sharp and it keeps you focused. My brother and I come every year to support the Pleasantville Fund for Learning and to see some of the better solvers in this area."

During each round, players were given 20 minutes to solve puzzles, which

become progressively more difficult. While speed is vital, accuracy is even more important. A perfect puzzle trumps one with a single mistake regardless of the time taken to finish.

While Ryan completed his puzzle before Mackey, one empty space cost him his second championship.

"It's really tough to make the finals and you have to double check before you declare you're done. I know that now," Ryan said. "It's fun to come here, it's a long drive but it is what it is."

Few Pleasantville residents participated this year. A majority of the contestants were out-of-state veterans of competitive tournaments, including the American



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Bob Mackey, second from left, captured the Westchester Crossword Puzzle Tournament for the seventh time last Friday night in Pleasantville. He is joined by third-place finisher Glen Ryan, left, of Norwich, Conn., runner-up Jeff Schwartz of New York City, second from right, and Will Shortz. The tournament raised money for the Pleasantville Fund for Learning.

ProSwing of Mount Kisco to Hold Travel Baseball Tryouts

ProSwing of Mount Kisco will be holding tryouts for its Pride Baseball Travel Program for the 2018 season. Tryouts will run every Saturday from Oct. 14 through Nov. 18. The 9U to 12U age group tryouts will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. each week and the 13U to 15U age group tryouts will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Dan Gray, the owner and a former Los Angeles Dodgers catcher, and his staff of former professional and college players pride themselves on providing the best baseball and softball instruction in the

area. Trainers are focused on preparing athletes physically and mentally, and more importantly, on developing leaders on and off the field. Anyone looking for a professionally-coached, all-inclusive baseball program for their child should visit Gray's team at ProSwing.

In addition to offering a baseball travel program, ProSwing also provides a number of other training services to build the best players possible. There are youth afterschool clinics, private and semiprivate lessons, advanced clinics that emphasize pitching, hitting

or fielding, programs for college players and adults and much more. ProSwing has also expanded its facility to bring strength and conditioning training in-house with the addition to TP Strength run by ProSwing alumni Tim Panetta. ProSwing is the complete training facility for baseball and softball.

Tryouts are at ProSwing, located at 27 Radio Circle, in Mount Kisco. There's a \$25 fee. For more information, contact Dan Gray at 914-242-1626 or Dan@ProSwingBaseball.com.

Crossword Puzzle Tournament (ACPT), the oldest and largest puzzle tournament in the country that was founded by Shortz in 1978.

"It makes me feel good. I don't care where people are from, they're all interesting people," said Shortz, who mentioned how pleased he was donating the proceeds to the Pleasantville Fund for Learning. "You talk to anybody and everybody here is interesting. They're all smart, well-rounded, often they're funny and they are just people I like to be around."



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Home Bakers to Compete at P'ville Farmers Market Apple Pie Contest

This Saturday, Oct. 14 the Pleasantville Farmers Market – the region’s largest, year-round farmers market – will honor three champion bakers at the annual Phelps Apple Pie Contest.

Categories for the contest are Best All-From-Scratch 2-crust Apple Pie, Best All-From-Scratch 1-crust Apple Tart, Crumb or Crisp and Best All-From-Scratch Apple Pie by a Junior Chef (18 and under). Winners will each receive a gift basket, a first-place medal and bragging rights for the next year.

The contest is a highlight of the market’s culinary programming.

“This is a big market and we try to create for our visitors something close to a state fair-type of contest, but on a smaller and friendlier scale,” said local cookbook author and event committee chair Suzy Scherr. “To be deemed the best by our panel of judges means you are a very good baker.”

Contest rules state that participants must be amateur home bakers, submit a pie/dessert that is made entirely from scratch by the person making the submission and that only one submission is permitted per household. Entries are accepted until 9:45 a.m. at the market. The winners will be announced at 11 a.m.

The judges include a mix of culinary experts and village luminaries including Daniel Blum, executive vice president



Local amateur bakers will turn out this Saturday morning at the Pleasantville Farmers Market to claim bragging rights by hoping to capture first place in one of three categories at the annual Phelps Apple Pie Contest.

of operations of Phelps Hospital Northwell Health; Nina Dolls, Zwilling J.A. Henckels’ marketing director and culinary relations; Caitlin Dwyer, owner of Flour & Sun Bakery; Peggy Galotti, principal, Bedford Road School; Dave Juros, Pleasantville Community Garden;

fruit and vegetable producer Chuck Mead, a vendor at the Pleasantville Farmers Market; John Morash, assistant principal, Bedford Road School; Greg Nemecek Pleasantville High School art teacher and a favorite volunteer for Market Sprouts Kids Activities; Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer, a Friend of the market; and Q, owner of Pleasantville Bakery and Café.

Entries will be judged on appearance, taste and the baking skill of the chef.

“In the past, some entries have been very fancy with décor but the dessert had areas of undercooked or burned crust or overcooked apples,” said Ali Serebin, an event committee member. “Event judges carefully note texture and baking skills.”

“We recognize that everyone who puts their pie out there is a winner,” added event committee member Catherine Sabol. “Every piece of pie is sold after the winners are announced and the eating of these apple desserts is always a great celebration, letting our participants know they should all be proud of their culinary skills.”

Money raised by entry fees and the sale of pie slices contributes to the nonprofit market’s scholarship fund. Scholarships are awarded annually to a graduating Pleasantville High School student on the basis of community service in areas of environmental stewardship, education and leadership.

“The Phelps Annual Apple Pie Contest always has (a) wonderful sense of community participation and involvement – whether those attending are pie bakers, pie eaters or both,” said Steve Bates, the market’s executive director of operations. “It’s a great way to celebrate the harvest season and the market appreciates the generosity of our vendors, who donate our wonderful prizes.”

Each winner receives a Pleasantville Farmers Market canvas tote bag stuffed with products donated by some of the market’s 56 vendors.

The entry fee is \$5 and is paid on Saturday morning. Contestants are asked to e-mail info@pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org to receive rules and details for the event. In case of rain, the contest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21.

All Health & Sustainability and Culinary events are made possible by generous support from Lead Sponsor Phelps Hospital Northwell Health, which over the course of the summer includes a corn roast, apple tasting and chef demonstrations.

To subscribe to market news, view events or vendor lists and get directions and more details, visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org. The Pleasantville Farmers Market is located at Memorial Plaza.



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Hudson Stage's Lights Will Be 'Shining' Brightly With Irish Play

By Martin Wilbur

Derry Woodhouse wasn't necessarily looking for a new role late this summer when he stopped in at the Actors Equity building near Times Square to see if anything interesting was going on.

Woodhouse, who has consistently found acting work since moving to the United States from Ireland about 20 years ago, noticed a listing for upcoming auditions for "Shining City," a play written by Irish playwright Conor McPherson that he saw when it first hit the stage. When Woodhouse saw the listing, he knew he had to go for the part.

"I wasn't planning an audition and didn't know they were holding these auditions for 'Shining City,'" Woodhouse said. "But I loved the play. I saw it in London in 2004, the original cast. It left an impression on me and said I'd love to do it sometime."

That time will begin this Friday night, when Woodhouse will be part of the four-member cast in Hudson Stage's production opening at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk. It is the first of nine performances scheduled for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 28.

Of course, it didn't hurt Woodhouse's chances that the parts for "Shining City," including his role as John, requires Irish accents. Interestingly, Woodhouse is the only native-born Irish actor in the cast.

It also helped that Woodhouse has been a big fan of the work of the highly prolific McPherson.

In "Shining City," John sees a therapist following his wife's passing, claiming that he sees his dead wife in his house. The therapist, Ian, a former priest who has recently left the church and has opened his own practice, is battling his own demons.

"He's kind of has an obsession with the dead," Woodhouse said of his character. "It's beautiful. It's a very touching, moving piece. It's a great play with great actors and we're very happy to be doing this."

Hudson Stage producer Denise Bessette said the company continually searches to find different types of stories to feature for each of its main stage productions. With Hudson Stage in its 19th season, and two full productions scheduled each season, it can be a challenge to find engaging plays that can be executed by a relatively small company, Bessette said.

Last spring during the production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles," one of the cast members mentioned "Shining City" is something that Hudson Stage should consider, she said.

Bessette said Irish theater in general has long held a reputation as very rich, containing strong and very human storylines.

"Conor McPherson is one of the most



RANA FAURE PHOTO

Irish actor Derry Woodhouse is featured in Conor McPherson's "Shining City," opening Friday night at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk.

highly respected Irish playwrights, so it's kind of a no-brainer," Bessette said. "When you read something from him, it's so strong. It was obvious it was a strong contender from the beginning."

Woodhouse, originally from Limerick,

Ireland, started his acting career in Greece and Turkey with his reenactment of "The Odyssey." When he came to the U.S., he hooked up with Irish theater companies in the Boston area, where he has spent much of his time.

Recently, he played the role of Jesus in Bernard McMullen's hit comedy, "Return of the Wine Maker" in both Ireland and Boston.

Woodhouse said he's always gravitated to the stage, and with roles like John in "Shining City," it's fun to work.

"It's a great way of losing yourself, the excitement of it, taking a journey," he said. "I suppose the excitement of it and the fact that you can step out and become someone else, that's always appealed to me, and being Irish I've always been good at storytelling."

"Shining City" is directed by Dan Foster, one of Hudson Stage's three producers. It also stars Hamish Allan-Headley, Gemma Baird and Michael Jennings Mahoney. In addition to this Friday evening, performances will be held on Oct. 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27 and 28. Show times on Friday and Saturday evenings are 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays. There will also be a matinee on the Oct. 28. Tickets are \$40; \$35 for seniors (65 and up) and students.

For tickets and more information, visit www.hudsonstage.com.



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Revisiting the Raised Ranch: Love it, Leave it or Change it

Some years ago, I wrote about the demise in interest of the raised ranch, which held sway from the early 1960s to the 1980s as a ubiquitous house design that spread like wildfire across the country.

Since that time, the style has spawned even more opposing viewpoints. Some prospective homebuyers are drawn to it, perhaps because they grew up in one, while others say, "Show me anything but!"

"I don't know who exactly invented the design of the raised ranch, but whoever it was should be shot!" a noted architect once told me.

Actually, some architectural historians say that the design was created by none other than Frank Lloyd Wright.

The history of the raised ranch and its place in the American housing scene, rising from a clever idea to ubiquitous popularity, then to disfavor as a style, is a very interesting, strictly American phenomenon. While you see many ranch-style homes in the New York area, they originated on the West Coast in the 1920s. Once their influence reached the east, the foundation had risen a half-story and the one-level ranch was "raised" to create two levels.



By Bill Primavera

The main complaints we hear about the elevated ranch are that the entrance platform between the main and lower levels of the house is normally foreshortened to the extent that it's difficult to close the door behind you without stepping up or down a step. Also, there is no provision for an entry hall closet and the lower level is cut off from the main flow of the house.

"When modernizing a raised ranch, it's not easy to modify the space," another architect told me. "It can become a more sizable project that's more complicated than re-doing a ranch, cape or colonial."

Yet, it's that cut-off feeling that some people find desirable for converting a raised ranch into a mother-daughter layout or for an accessory apartment.

Basically, the raised ranch is a one-story ranch propped atop a high foundation, creating a lower living space without really raising the construction cost appreciably. Normally that lower space is divided into one or two rooms, along with a half or full bath and a laundry room. The rest of the level is for the utility room and a two-car garage.

Another factor in the raised ranch

debate is that its design has fallen into disfavor more quickly than any other house style. Certainly, the colonial design has been around literally since the founding of our country, and people still prefer it among all the styles.

Supporters of the raised ranch, particularly contractors who build them, have said that you get more bang for the buck by raising the house on a high basement and creating a whole new level at a fraction of the cost that the main level requires. Detractors would say that while the inside may offer more space at less money, the exteriors are devoid of any distinguishing features, so that large tracts of the design have tended to look alike.

Homeowners today are more sophisticated at all price levels and they want to distinguish themselves from their neighbors. On the longest block in my town with the most raised ranches, the transformation from having similar homes began in the late 1980s, first with the selection of new siding and windows, then with additions, which many times included revamping the two-car garage into living space and extending a wing with a new garage and a "bonus" room overhead.

A while back, I worked with some architects who first made me aware of clever ways to disguise the top-heavy look

of the raised ranch with a front bump-out called an "entrance tower" that remedies at least two of the design problems associated with the house's design. The tower is basically a one and a half to two-story extension in the middle of the house, which solves the problem of the small entry platform.

The entrance now becomes expansive depending on the dimensions of the tower and provides more room for a coat closet, too. Also, the addition of the tower tends to make the raised ranch look more like a colonial. The tower can soar two stories to impress visitors or to create a second floor for a large elevated walk-in closet or another bathroom.

For anyone who's living in a raised ranch who wants to update or upgrade the design to a contemporary colonial look, I've researched and worked with a couple of architects and contractors who can help at a very reasonable cost. For contact information, just call my number below.

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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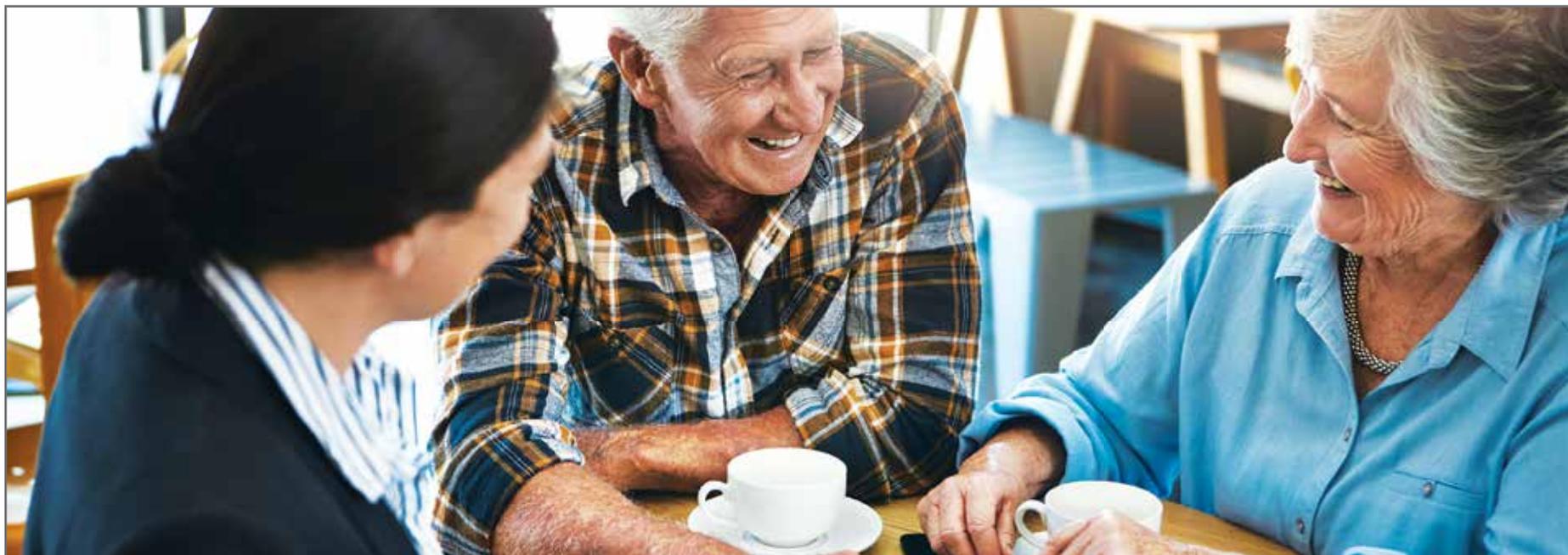
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Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2 pm

Westchester County

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Armonk Company Captures Forbes' Main Street Business Award

By Martin Wilbur

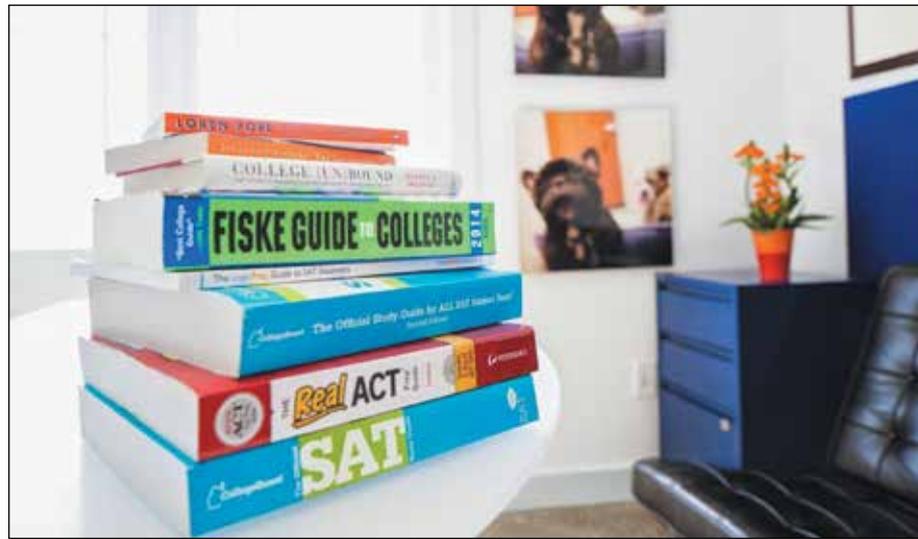
An Armonk-based tutoring and test prep firm was honored last week by Forbes, one of five firms across the United States to be recognized by the financial publishing company's inaugural Main Street Awards.

LogicPrep, located at 430 Bedford Rd., captured the top prize in the Audience Choice Award category, which is based on consumer voting and satisfaction, said its co-founder and COO Lindsay Tanne.

"We're really focused holistically on the entire narrative, and the entire identity of the student," Tanne said when explaining what sets LogicPrep apart. "We're as focused on EQ (Emotional Intelligence) as we are on IQ, so in addition to instruction, mentorship is a huge part of our methodology."

While LogicPrep helps high school students prep for standardized tests, the roughly 30 instructors at the Armonk location also assist youngsters so they can flourish inside the classroom, Tanne said. The service provides help to students in 15 subjects, including sciences, humanities, foreign languages and math.

LogicPrep, which is headquartered in Armonk but has about grown to about 200 locations nationwide, also



offers personalized college consulting to students and their families, with services such as guiding youngsters through the application process, school selection and how to approach essays and interviews.

This is the first time that Forbes has honored small and medium-sized companies that have a presence within their local business district. The awards are designed to recognize the positive impact of small businesses that exhibit leadership in their industries and communities.

"The five companies who won the Forbes Main Street Awards are driving

positive change for their businesses and the communities they serve," said Forbes Small Business Editor Loren Feldman.

The winners are featured on Forbes.com and will be included in the Dec. 12 issue of Forbes magazine.

Tanne said part of the success of her company is finding instructors who are not only masters in their subject matter, but who are also inspiring people who deal well with and connect with teenagers. Not all come from academia, she said.

"So our instructors may be successful in the arts, are entrepreneurs, are really

dynamic, interesting people that offer mentorship beyond just teaching for the test," Tanne said.

Part of the mentorship is providing students with a pep talk the night before a test, to let them know that they aren't just a client but that they care about them and their future.

LogicPrep is open seven days a week, since many students have time only on weekends for the extra preparation, Tanne said.

The four other winners were the Missouri Star Quilt Company, winner of the Best Brick-and-Mortar Adoption of E-Commerce Award; Dynamic Discs, a former startup based in Emporia, Kan. that has grown into the second largest manufacturer of disc golf equipment, which captured the Best Community Engagement Award; The Rusty Rose, of Plainview, Texas, won for Best Paid Marketing by employing professional photographers and paid models who created marketing campaigns for Instagram and Facebook that it says sell 80 percent of the items posted; and WaterMark Corners, an Illinois-based gift and stationary store, which won for Best Social Media.

For more information, visit www.logicprep.com.

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Radisson Hotel	1 Radisson Plaza, New Rochelle 10801 (Restaurant)	Oct 18, Nov 1, 15, 29, Dec 6	10:00 am
White Plains YMCA	250 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains 10605 (Community Room)	Oct 19, Nov 2, 16, 30	10:00 am
Grassy Sprain Diner	477 Tuckahoe Rd, Yonkers 10710	Oct 19, Nov 9, 22	2:30 pm
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Crows and Kin: The Birds of Paradise

By Brian Kluepfel

I've spent much of the past two weeks obsessing on ravens and crows, clever corvids who are among the most intelligent animals on earth. Well, they say it's hard to be both smart and beautiful, but I did find out that among the taxonomic family corvoidea are the birds of paradise, New Guinea's entry in the world's most stunning species.

In their amazing "Birds of Paradise: Revealing the World's Most Extraordinary Birds," Tim Laman and Edwin Scholes spell it out: they call the 39 different Birds of Paradise species "Glorified Crows." Yep, right in there with the gaggle of shrikes, jays and magpies sit these absolutely stunning birds.

Now, you and I see crows and ravens nearly every day. I hear their familiar caws and cackles as they circle my neighborhood. They are attractive birds, I think, in a plain-black way. Less is more, right?

But then, take a look at the Birds of Paradise. There's a reason the native New Guinea tribes thought the birds descended straight from heaven. It's why they're still honored today by those same people with ceremonial dances.

I watched Cornell's half-hour teaser on Birds of Paradise on the same night that I saw another nature DVD, "Birds of the Gods." You've likely never seen such



TIM LAMAN/CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY PHOTO

an array of colors, shapes and just plain oddities in birds before. Amazingly, Laman and Scholes, whom I heard speak at SUNY Purchase when their book was published, spent eight years combing Papua New Guinea to document all 39 species. Eight years! That's two presidencies, given no impeachments.

Noteworthy in the nature DVD were the efforts of another duo, New Guineans Miriam Supuma and Paul Igag, the latter of whom spent more than 15 years studying the birds of his homeland. With their local connections and language

skills, Supuma and Igag also worked with the tribes to try and document and reduce the use of the feathers in order to preserve the more endangered of the species like the Blue Bird of Paradise and the aptly-named Superb Bird of Paradise.

We've seen this everywhere: human beings, in our effort to duplicate birds' beauty, use their feathers. It was the mass killing of egrets (for hat plumes) in North America that brought about the National Audubon Society.

My friends at the Barba Azul Nature Reserve near Trinidad, Bolivia are trying to introduce ways to honor a national heritage species, the Blue-throated Macaw, which has been "honored" in the same way in New Guinea, by being turned into ceremonial headdresses. Good, dedicated people are working to save the birds and honor tradition simultaneously. It can be done.

We are daily witness to the bold intelligence and beauty of our backyard crows, while technology makes us aware of their brilliant brethren across the globe. People have dedicated their lives to maintaining a natural balance so we all can live in harmony. Let's honor their work.

This article is dedicated to Paul Igag of Papua New Guinea, who died at age 46, in 2010, two weeks before "Birds of the Gods" was finalized. Igag was one of the country's first birding experts and helped found the PNG Institute of Biological Research. His work lives on.

Brian Kluepfel is a travel writer who lives in Ossining and is a board member of Saw Mill River Audubon. He has contributed to guidebooks on Chile, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Peru and other Latin American countries and blogs at www.brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com.

For The Birds

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Thu, Nov 30, 7:00 pm: Mysteries of Sparrow Identification. Croton Library.

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org for more events and to learn about our eight local wildlife sanctuaries

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

Tuesday, Oct. 10

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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

SAT Prep Course. A 10-week, one-hour weekly class that will teach the test-taking strategies to help you get the score you want. Participants are strongly urged to attend all sessions to get the most benefit from the class. North Castle Public Library, 10 Clove Rd., North White Plains. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Free. Tuesdays through Dec. 5. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-948-6359 or visit the library.

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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." A screening of Stephen Sondheim's screwball musical set in ancient Rome where a slave attempts to win his freedom. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

"Ugetsu." A ghost story like no other, this is Japanese director Kenji Mizoguchi's supreme achievement. By the time he made the film, Mizoguchi was already an elder statesman of Japanese cinema, fiercely revered by Akira Kurosawa and other directors of a younger generation. And with this exquisite film, a fatalistic wartime tragedy derived from stories by Ueda Akinari and Guy de Maupassant, he created a touchstone of his art. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

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.

Ambassadors for Successful Aging. Are you aware of the benefits available to you as a Westchester County senior? Information can be provided to you

on housing, home care, transportation options, counseling options, memory care, nutrition, vision and dental services along with SNAP, HEAP, EPIC and STAR and other programs that can save you money and help you plan for the future. Feel free to discuss a Westchester County "ambassador." No appointment necessary. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Also Mondays at the North White Plains branch, 10 Clove Rd., North White Plains. Info: 914-273-3887 or 914-948-6359.

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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Oct.9). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Oct. 9). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Support Group for Alzheimer's Caregivers. Temple Shaaray Tefila and Westchester Jewish Community Services have scheduled this forum to provide a place for caregivers to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer's Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaaray Tefila's Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin Rd., Bedford. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free.

Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 18 and 25. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.com.

Medicare Consulting. James Shelly, certified by the Centers for Medicare Services, will be on hand to answer Medicare questions so you can make informed choices. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday throughout the open enrollment period. Also Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Info: 914-273-3887.

Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 18 and 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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

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

Creating a Character. Makeup design Joe Dulude has been creating characters for over 14 years on Broadway. Learn about his work and life in the theater and watch as he uses the public's suggestions to create a character on the spot. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Art Series: Ettore Sottsass. Born in Italy in 1917, Sottsass is known for a tremendous creative output that spans more than 60 years and covers jewelry, architectural drawings, ceramics, interiors,

glass, furniture, painting and photography. Respected as a true design radical, his influence can still be felt in the works of numerous artists worldwide. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

For the Birds: Protecting Wildlife Through the Naturalist Gaze. Join Elizabeth Cherry, sociology professor at Manhattanville College, for a discussion on her research on birding. As an environmental sociologist, Cherry studies the connections among people, animals and the environment. She will discuss how birders develop a special way of looking at birds and their place in the natural world, which leads them to devote their time to community science and wildlife conservation. Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. (Please bring a reusable mug.) Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit www.bedfordaudubon.org.

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.

Thursday, Oct. 12

Health Tech '17: The Opioid Crisis. Given the complexity and severity of the opioid crisis and the costs involved in treatment and care, there are multiple touch points needed to address solutions in a coordinated, collaborative approach. Hear directly from pharma, providers, insurers and a parent. Doubletree Hotel, 455 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Young professionals and Westchester County Association members: \$195. Non-members: \$225. Reservations: Visit www.westchester.org. Info: Contact Christina Barry at 914-948-6444 or e-mail cbarry@westchester.org.

Breakfast With the Hawks. A complementary breakfast at the HawkWatch, right around the peak of Cooper's Hawk migration. Perfect for families; children must be accompanied by an adult. Co-sponsored by Westmoreland Sanctuary. HawkWatch platform at Arthur Butler Sanctuary, 265 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Bedford Corners. 9 to 11 a.m.

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Heart Transplant Recipients Celebrate W'chester Medical Milestone

By Anna Young

Former heart transplant recipients and their families joined physicians, nurses and administrative staff at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla last week to celebrate the hospital surpassing more than 200 of the life-changing procedures.

Nearly 50 former heart transplant patients from the hospital's heart transplant program gathered on National Organ Donor Enrollment Day last Wednesday, reflecting on their lives before and after surgery and sharing stories of heartache and success.

"It's a good feeling to have life back when it's almost taken from you," said Kim Guinta, a 63-year-old Bridgeport, Conn. resident who had his transplant in 2014 after spending six months in the hospital. "Before every step was an effort, I could barely walk my dog around the block. It's hard to explain what life is again because I took everything for granted before I was sick. Once you get sick, you don't know what's going on."

Guinta praised the hospital and its staff for treating the program's patients as individuals.

Since the heart transplant program



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Recipients of Westchester Medical Center's heart transplant program reunited with the hospital's medical staff on Oct. 4 to celebrate the more than 200 procedures that have been successfully completed.

was launched in 2001, Westchester Medical Center's Heart and Vascular Institute's heart transplant program helped the patients by combining clinical expertise and compassionate care.

Dr. David Spielvogel, chief of cardiothoracic surgery and surgical director for heart transplantation, said

the medical center's program often admits patients that are often turned away at other facilities after qualifying as a poor transplant candidate.

"We really tried to find a way to help everyone that came to us," he said. "I think that was something that made us special."

The program also has a reputation of

providing the best possible outcomes for patients, with higher survival rates and shorter wait times than the national average.

Dr. Alan Gass, director of cardiac, transplantation and mechanical circulatory support, reflected on the level of anguish patients and families feel before surgery. He said it's extraordinary to see patients given a new lease on life.

"In medicine it's rare you have a terminal disease, and there's a solution and (a) transplant is a real solution," Gass said. "When I look around this room I see people who made it to their kid's graduation, saw grandchildren born, went back to school, completed marathons. What you can accomplish after a transplant is pretty remarkable."

Montrose resident Maria Quizhpi was born with pyruvate kinase deficiency, a type of hemolytic anemia. She said her life has dramatically improved since her transplant last December.

"I was always tired, I didn't want to do anything and I had no energy," said the 26-year-old Quizhpi. "Now I get to do a lot of things on my own. I'm cooking and I spend a lot of time with my nieces. I'm young and I feel lucky."

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Index No.: 60616/2017

Date of Filing: September 15, 2017
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, OCWEN LOAN SERVICING, LLC., Plaintiff, against "JOHN DOE" AND "JANE DOE" 1 THROUGH 50, INTENDING TO BE THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DISTRIBUTES, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, TRUSTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF THE ESTATE OF JEANNE E. ELLIOTT WHO WAS BORN IN 1923 AND DIED ON JANUARY 18, 2017, A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS 50 CRESTVIEW STREET, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801, THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF"; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O SECRETARY OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT; JOHN DOES" AND "JANE DOES", SAID NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS, PARTIES INTEND-

ED BEING POSSIBLE TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES, AND CORPORATIONS, OTHER ENTITIES OR PERSONS WHO CLAIM, OR MAY CLAIM, A LIEN AGAINST THE PREMISES, Defendants. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable David F. Everett of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on September 8, 2017, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, State of New York.

The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by JEANNE E. ELLIOTT to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR LIBERTY HOME EQUITY SOLUTIONS, INC., SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS bearing date March 7, 2014 and recorded in the County of Westchester on April 4, 2014 in Control Number: 540833164.

Thereafter said mortgage was assigned to OCWEN LOAN SERVICING LLC

by assignment of mortgage dated April 14, 2017 and recorded in the County of Westchester on April 24, 2017 in Control Number 571083319. Said premises being known as and by 50 CRESTVIEW STREET, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801. Date: August 22, 2017 Batavia, New York Andrea Clattenburg, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff, Batavia Office 26 Harvester Avenue, Batavia, NY 14020, 585.815.0288

Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure

New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

Legal Notice

Happenings

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Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Susan at 914-302-9713 or e-mail info@bedfordaudubon.org.

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

Book Discussion. "Great Light: A Memoir" by Frank Rich will be discussed. Led by Barbara Bernstein. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.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.mountkisco.org.

Advanced Beginner and Intermediate Bridge Class. Do you want to improve your bridge game, but the beginner class is redundant for you? This class is for people with some knowledge of the game. With Joel Goren. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Thursdays through Nov. 16. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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.

Health for Life Programs. Are you 55 or older with a chronic health condition or caring for someone with a health issue?

This workshop can enhance your quality of life and provide fun while learning. Offered by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, it focuses on the mind-body connection, better breathing, fall prevention and getting a good night's sleep. Bedford Hills Train Station, 46 Depot Plaza, Bedford Hills. 2 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday through Nov. 2. Advance registration required. Info and registration: Contact Marikay Capasso at 914-813-6427 or mqqc@westchestergov.com.

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

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

English as a Second Language Class. Strengthen your English skills through pronunciation exercises, grammar exercises and conversation practice. All are welcome to participate in these informal small English Language Learner group classes. The friendly, flexible yet structured setting is ideal for those who want to improve their English communication skills. Led by Stacey Fields. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Books and Coffee. Come and learn of the newest, hottest books this fall. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

What's Next in My Life and Career? Discovering Possibilities After 50. Find out what employers look for when hiring mature workers, explore work and volunteer options and learn about the latest job search strategies and how to handle challenging issues in this workshop. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0038.

Friday, Oct. 13

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.

Play Days at Jay. Pack a picnic and spend the afternoon at John Jay Homestead. Explore the six discovery centers and help volunteers collect eggs from the chicken coop. Education staff will lead a short hands-on activity. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 12 to 2 p.m. Free. Fridays through Oct. 27. Info: 914-232-8119 or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Evening Howl for Adults. Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a lovely spread of wine and cheese. Take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Friday Night Cinema: "Confused and Happy." When a psychoanalyst gets depressed and canceled all his appointments, his secretary decides to gather his patients to try to get him out of his funk. The patients include a drug dealer, a mama's boy, an unhappy husband and a stressed-out couple. Can they can find their way out of their own problems to help rescue their analyst? In Italian with English subtitles. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Teens on Broadway. Join the Chappaqua Library teens as they sing, dance or play music from Broadway shows. For youngsters in grades 6-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Open Mic Night. This is not your average open mic. The big stage, amazing acoustics, high-end equipment and experienced sound engineer create a concert-like experience in Purpl's friendly, laid-back environment. Come to play or just to watch. Purpl, 52 Main St., Hastings-on-Hudson. Doors open and sign up at 7:30 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. \$8. Second Friday of every month. Info: 914-231-9077 or visit www.purpl.org.

Martin Sexton Trio. touring in support of his ninth studio release, "Mixtape of the Open Road," Sexton has one of the finest voices that has ever graced the stage. A Syracuse native, Sexton got his start singing in the streets and subways of Boston in the early '90s. Still fiercely independent and headlining venues from The Fillmore to Carnegie Hall, he has influenced a generation of contemporary artists. His songs have appeared in television series such as "Scrubs," "Parenthood" and "Masters of Sex" as well as numerous

films. It's his incendiary live show, honest lyrics and vocal prowess that keep fans coming back for more. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$45 and \$58. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

An Evening With Branford Marsalis. Known for the telepathic communication among its uncommonly consistent personnel, its deep book of original music replete with expressive melodies and provocative forms and an unrivaled spirit in both live and recorded performances, the Branford Marsalis Quartet has long been recognized as the standard to which other ensembles of its kind must be measured. Led by Marsalis on saxophone, the band features Joey Calderazzo on piano, Eric Revis on bass and Justin Faulkner on drums. The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$32.50, \$52.50, \$62.50 and \$72.50. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit <http://www.artscenter.org/events/jazz-at-the-center-branford-marsalis-quartet>.

"Shining City." The Hudson Stage Company's production of Conor McPherson's play about a man in present day Dublin who comes to a therapist seeking help. He claims to have seen the ghost of his recently deceased wife. But what begins as just as an unusual encounter becomes a desperate struggle between the living and the dead, a struggle which will shape and define both men for the rest of their lives. Directed by Dan Foster. Whipoorwill Hall, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. \$40. Seniors and students: \$35. Students a half-hour before show time (while tickets last): \$10. Also Oct. 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 15, 22 and 28 at 3 p.m. Info: 914-271-2811. Tickets: 800-838-3006 or visit www.hudsonstage.com.

Saturday, Oct. 14

Bird Walk: Discover Migration. Join naturalist Tait Johansson for a walk around the historic grounds. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 8 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Susan at 914-302-9713 or e-mail info@bedfordaudubon.org.

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Experience the largest year-round farmers market in Westchester and the one voted Best of Westchester from 2014 to 2017. With 56 vendors and seven nearby parking lots, the market is a delicious good time every This week is the Phelps Annual Apple Pie Contest from 9:45 a.m. to noon. For kids, there will be Cooking with Jean-Jacques from 9:30 to 11 a.m., eastern European Caprice Rouge will perform in the music series from 10 a.m. to noon and there will be a lead sponsor visit from Phelps Hospital Northwell Health. This market is

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Columbus Elementary School Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Neal Rentz

It was a blast from the past at Columbus Elementary School last week.

Principal Michael Cunzio ditched his suit for a black leather jacket to resemble Fonzie from "Happy Days."

Some of the women teachers wore poodle skirts and many of the students joined in the 1950s clothing trend with girls wearing Pink Ladies jackets.

What inspired the back to the future feel last week was Columbus Elementary School's 60th anniversary. To mark the milestone, there was a full school assembly. The program was organized by art teacher Lauralee Chambers, and music teachers Barbara Schultz and Michael Hood.

Chambers said she first thought about marking the anniversary last year and decided to go ahead with the celebration.

"Big birthdays need to be celebrated," she said. "We had a grand school, community celebration 10 years ago for our 50th birthday, and I knew we could not let 60 slip by unnoticed."

Artwork and musical rehearsals began during the first week of school, Chambers said. Students in grades 3-5 helped with the planning. The students were excited to contribute ideas, which included dressing up in '50s clothes, she



NEAL RENTZ PHOTOS

The Columbus Troubadours sang last week during an assembly to recognize Columbus Elementary School.

said.

Musical entertainment was part of the assembly, as Hood, Schultz and teachers Jerry Banner and Suzanne Ketchum performed. The student group the Columbus Troubadours sang "We Go Together" from "Grease." Students also sang hit songs from each decade since the school opened.

The students also familiarized themselves with photographs depicting life in the 1950s, a portion of an episode of the "Superman" television series and a CBS television news report on

the launching of the Russian satellite Sputnik, 1, which went into space on Oct. 4, 1957.

Westchester County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Thornwood) presented a proclamation from the county to honor the school to her husband, who is the principal.

"Our school went through some major renovations over the summer, and this time of year was the perfect time to throw a party," Michael Cunzio said. "It is truly an honor to be the principal of a school that has a rich tradition of



Westchester County Legislator Margaret Cunzio presented county proclamations to her husband Michael, Columbus Elementary School's principal.

providing a well-rounded education to all of our students."

"It was delightful to revisit the memories of the many special people who worked so hard for so long to make Columbus an outstanding place to be," said teacher Patty Sullivan. "A fantastic day for children and adults alike."

Happenings

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a dog-free environment. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through Nov. 18. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Locally-raised and produced food to the community in a weekly market, creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. Chappaqua train station. Chappaqua. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Field Walk. Explore the meadow and woodlands surrounding Swan Lake. Learn about native plants and invasive species and what the Rockefeller Preserve is doing to promote and manage both. Rockefeller State Park Preserve Welcome Center, 125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville. 9 to 10 a.m. \$6 per vehicle for parking.

Scarsdale Woman's Club Tag and Book Sale. Drop by for books galore, clothes you'll adore, jewelry and more. Proceeds will be donated to local charities in Westchester County. Carriage House, 37 Drake Rd., Scarsdale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. Also Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: Visit www.scarsdalewomensclub.org.

Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors. This engaging, interactive can help anyone

trying to navigate their way through the complicated healthcare system for older adults. It will help those who already have Medicare, as well as people soon to be 65, planning their retirement or assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions. The workshop outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with health insurance provided by the government and private companies including original Medicare, Advantage Plans, prescription drug plans (Part D), Medigaps (supplemental plans) and various cost-saving programs. Mount Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome; pre-registration preferred. Pre-registration: 914-231-3236. Info: Visit www.westchesterlibraries.org/westchester-seniors-speaking-out.

Indie Author Day. Meet authors Patricia Dunn, Jimin Han and Diane Pomerantz, followed by talks, a reading and a book signing. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Chappaqua Children's Book Festival. Close to 90 renowned children's book authors and illustrators will participate. Families will have the chance to interact with their favorite authors and illustrators and have books signed, participate in arts and

crafts activities and enjoy food from local restaurants and food trucks. Robert E. Bell Middle School, 50 Senter St., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free; books available for sale. Info: Visit www.ccbfestival.org or www.facebook.com/chappaquabookfestival.

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

BMichael Cardillo will help you reach peace and a clear vision in meeting your life's goals. An AA member, he will share his knowledge and meditation techniques. Open to all. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Alexander Technique Demonstration. This class introduces the Alexander Technique and the benefits of learning how to care for your body, relieve back pain and strain, attain better posture, move freely, gain greater range of movement, develop better balance and deepen breathing.

This demonstration previews three upcoming series of classes in Alexander Technique for the back, for Parkinson's and to help everyday performance. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Free. Info: Contact Carol MacCallum Strozier at 248-885-0305 or cmstrozier@gmail.com or visit www.alexandertechniquestudios.com

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.

Yoga Teachers Association of the Hudson Valley: "Traction Action." A yoga strap is a prop that can be used in supine poses to create freedom and space in the hips and back, in standing poses to clarify the sense of direction and action and even in inverted poses and backbends to provide support. It has benefits when we need to modify the practice and to find ways to deepen it. In this playful workshop, participants can explore the many creative ways in which a yoga strap can enhance the practice and teaching of yoga. Led by Tzahi Moskovitz, who discovered yoga between rehearsals early in his acting career and soon trained in New York City

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EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683**

AUCTIONS

WARREN COUNTY TAX FORECLOSED REAL ESTATE AUCTION; Saturday, October 21, 2017. 25+ Parcels! Registration: 9AM| Start: 10AM Location: Warren County Courthouse; 1340 State Route 9, Lake George, NY Visit: www.auctionsinternational.com/liveauctions or Call: 800-536-1401

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PIONEER INTERCOM SERVICES, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/16/2017. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **2 Sunnyside Dr., Suite 4B, Yonkers NY, 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF C. WILLIAMS LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/29/2017. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **464 S. 10th Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW SOFTWARE SOURCE, LLC. Art of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/9/2017. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: **United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE ORGANIZED YOU, LLC. Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 9.12.17. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon home process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **130 Pelham Rd., New Rochelle, NY, 10805. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LUIS CAMILO FILMS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 8/29/17. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail

process to **1160 Midland Ave., Apt. 3J, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EDROCK, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/18/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name: **MAIN STRING MACHINE, LLC** Date of filing of Application for Authority with New York State Department of State: 08/15/2017 Jurisdiction and Date of Organization: New Jersey on 07/11/2017 Office Location: Westchester County Street Address of Principal Business Location: None Secretary of State of State of New York (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Main String Machine, LLC, 2 Cortland Street, Suite 1A, Mount Vernon, NY 10550 Address Required in Jurisdiction of Organization: **Main String Machine, LLC, 2 Cortland Street, Suite 1A, Mount Vernon, New York 10550 Certificate of Organization filed with the Treasurer, State of New Jersey, 33 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608 Purpose: any and all lawful business.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HAPPY HILL FARM LLC. Arts of Org filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/1/17. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **111 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NAJO Consulting, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/21/2017. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against NAJO Consulting, LLC served upon him/her is: **2 Glen Wood Road, Millwood, NY 10546. The principal business address of NAJO Consulting, LLC is 2 Glen Wood Road, Millwood, NY 10546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SLP TALENT HUNTRESS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/12/17. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **10 Stew-**

ard Place, Suite 9FE, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HALITE PARTNERS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/30/16. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **156 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SANDRA WONG GEROUX LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/27/2017. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **647 Forest Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE is hereby given that a license, number "Pending" for Beer, Wine and Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine and Liquor at retail at a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at **161 MAMARONECK AVENUE WHITE PLAINS NY 10601** for On Premises Consumption. **CRAFTED AMERICAN KITCHEN & BAR, LLC FREEBIRD KITCHEN AND BAR 161 MAMARONECK AVENUE WHITE PLAINS NY 10601**

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Jim Ormond, Communications Manager/ Documentarian, Mt. Kisco

By Martin Wilbur

With numerous active historical societies throughout Westchester, there are many residents who have a healthy appreciation of local history.

Jim Ormond takes it to a different level.

Ormond has written, directed, filmed and produced an assortment of documentaries on a range of topics and historical figures that have a connection to Westchester or New York and can also be appreciated by wider audiences.

“What I’m looking for is the local story,” Ormond said. “I have to choose a subject I live with because I do it as a hobby now. I’m not in a rush. I can take a year or two, but I have to be able to live with it. I have to be able to enjoy it.”

The longtime Mount Kisco resident, who has spent most of his career working in communications and media relations, started filming short documentaries as early as 2010. He produced an eight-minute piece on Anna Richards Brewster, an artist and Scarsdale resident living and working at the

turn of the 20th century, who had to fight the male-dominated art world at the time to have her works exhibited.

Ormond also featured World War II veteran and photographer Tony Vaccaro, a New Rochelle resident, who snapped some 8,000 images of the war while he served.

After Ormond, 48, attended a presentation at the Beczak Environmental Education Center in Yonkers about the history of the brickmaking industry along the Hudson River in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, he decided to make longer films.

That presentation spawned his documentary, the 28-minute “Hudson River Brickmakers,” that he completed in 2012. He pitched the piece to PBS’ Channel 13, which they accepted and aired the following spring.

It was atypical that PBS would accept an outside production, particularly since it came from an unknown, self-taught filmmaker, but it was a shot in the arm for Ormond. He received positive feedback



from the airing, which motivated him to do more.

That effort was followed by “The Enslaved Africans’ Rain Garden,” about sculptor Vinnie Bagwell’s attempt to create a public art project to honor enslaved Africans in New York and their contributions to the area and the United States.

“I’m still learning,” Ormond said. “It takes time. I never went to film school. Some of the videos that are on Youtube, some of the storylines are good but I’m a little embarrassed by some of the production mistakes and by some of the production values that I was doing five or six years ago.”

His most recent works, completed last year, were a 43-minute documentary on Washington Irving, and shorter pieces on the making of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle.”

With Irving’s estate Sunnyside close by, the famed writer was an excellent subject to feature, Ormond said. Not only did he spend much of his adult life in Westchester, but he first rose to prominence as a newspaper

columnist, before moving to England for 10 years to work in the family business. He only returned after the business failed.

“If he didn’t go bankrupt, we wouldn’t have “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” or “Rip Van Winkle,” Ormond said.

A challenge for Ormond is the expense of filming quality documentaries. He has increasingly used re-enactments as part of each film, where he must hire actors and find period clothing. He does most of his filming locally.

Ormond, who grew up in Mount Kisco and graduated from Fox Lane High School, was more interested in history than filmmaking. He earned his bachelors from SUNY Oswego and master’s from SUNY Albany. He lived in Albany after completing his education, working as communications director for the State Assembly.

Returning home, Ormond served as manager of communications and media at ArtsWestchester. Since 2015, he has worked in a similar capacity for the Association of Computing Machinery.

On Oct. 22 at 1 p.m., Ormond will show two of the Irving films before the Yorktown Historical Society at John C. Hart Memorial Library, one of five historical societies in Westchester he is appearing before this fall.

Ormond is now well into his next project, a film about 1920s baseball. He hopes to finish filming by the end of the month.

“I can edit over the winter, so I can have it ready for spring,” Ormond said.

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Vaughn College Selected as Top Regional School by U.S. News

For the seventh year in a row, Vaughn College has been ranked among the first-tier top regional colleges in the north and moved up in the rankings to eight from nine last year. U.S. News & World Report results released Sept. 12 again recognized Vaughn in its 2018 survey of the best regional colleges.

“Vaughn is committed to preparing graduates for a professional life of success and these latest rankings reflect that dedication to our mission,” said President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo. “This year, Vaughn has been consistently recognized for our educational value to students, most prominently as the number one institution in the country in economic mobility; the best at moving students from the bottom income levels to the top. U.S. News is yet another opportunity to provide evidence to students and families about the value of investing in a Vaughn degree.”

In this year’s survey, Vaughn also moved up in the “Best Colleges for Veterans” category, to third from fourth in the same category.

“Our support to our nation’s veterans is mission-critical,” said DeVivo. “With more than 10 percent of our students having served, we provide a transition from military to civilian life ensuring that the professional skills they have already

acquired are enhanced and provide for long-term career achievement.”

One of the variables used in the ranking is the predicted versus actual graduation rate. U.S. News calculates a predicted six-year graduation rate for Vaughn students based on economic and academic characteristics at the time of admission, and this year they predicted a rate of 43 percent and Vaughn achieved 53 percent.

Further evidence of graduates’ success is the current career placement rate of 98 percent employed or continuing their education within one year of graduation. Eighty-one percent are employed in their field of study or a related field.

U.S. News & World Report began its annual rankings of American colleges and universities in 1983. As in years past, it used more than a dozen indicators to score its 2018 choices, including undergraduate academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity, graduation rates, freshman retention rates and alumni giving. Rankings were based on a weighted evaluation of all categories.

Founded in 1932, Vaughn College is a private, four-year college that enrolls more than 1,500 students in master’s, bachelors and associate degree programs in engineering, technology, management



Vaughn College, with its main campus in New York City, has been consistently ranked as one of the top regional colleges, according to U.S. News & World Report.

and aviation on its main campus in New York City and online. The student-faculty ratio of 14 to 1 ensures a highly personalized learning environment.

Ninety-eight percent of Vaughn College graduates are placed in professional positions or choose to continue their education within one year

of graduation. They work in 20 countries and all 50 states. The institution serves many first-generation college students and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

For more information, visit <http://www.vaughn.edu>.

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Business of the Week

Kira Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar Armonk

By Colette Connolly

Kira Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar may be best known for great tasting sushi, but this restaurant offers much more.

Under the watchful eye of manager and co-owner Eddie Ng, Kira Asian Bistro offers a Pan-Asian cuisine that fuses Japanese, Chinese and a vast selection of other Asian dishes.

Selections feature an array of sushi and sashimi plates such as Tobiko, which contains flying fish roe; Saba, made with mackerel; Ikura, with salmon roe; Magura, made with tuna; Kani, which includes crab; and Tako with octopus.

While sushi and sashimi are often used interchangeably, there is a difference, Ng explained. Sushi is typically a combination of ingredients, with rice dressed in vinegar being the common thread. It is often combined with ingredients such as raw fish, seaweed, cucumber, soy paper, omelets and avocado.

“The sushi we serve is different from other restaurants,” Ng said. “While others put a lot of sauce in it, a lot of garnish,

if you will, we emphasize the freshness of the fish.”

Sashimi is thinly sliced fish, often served on top of shredded white radish, along with pickled ginger, wasabi and soy sauce.

Ng said over the years he has discovered that his customers prefer their fish dishes “plain, simple and fresh.”

Diners will find a selection of sushi entrees, including some vegetarian options. Among them are the Maki combo, which includes yellowtail, tuna and California rolls; the veggie Maki combo, that contains avocado, cucumber and vegetable roll; and the spicy Maki combo, which uses spicy yellowtail, tuna and California roll.

The chef’s special rolls are a longtime favorite, Ng said. The Atlantic is filled with steamed lobster, mango and jalapeno with spicy king crab and tobiko served with lime sauce on the outside, the Moon Rocker (shrimp tempura with garlic on the inside and seared toro and avocado with spicy mayo and eel sauce on the



COLETTE CONNOLLY PHOTO
Kira Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar manager and co-owner Eddie Ng, right, with one of his chefs.

rice or noodles, fish or meat with pickled and cooked vegetables, all in a box.

Kira Asian Bistro offers the meals with chicken, beef or salmon teriyaki with shrimp tempura, California rolls or assorted sushi or sashimi.

Casseroles, rolls and hand rolls and a selection of vegetables are available as well.

For customers dining in, a \$6 jumbo shrimp or grilled branzini with basil and lime sauce over a jumbo tiger prawn is currently offered. Another meal must be ordered to take advantage of the special.

The restaurant offers a variety of daily lunch deals, including its 4-in-1 specials, which are served until 4 p.m., except on major holidays. Those include a choice of soup (miso, hot and sour or wonton) or romaine salad, the appetizer of the day, a vegetable fried rice or noodle and one of 15 kitchen specialties on the menu. Ng said he is offering the special as a way to say thank you to his loyal customers.

Ng also offers catering service and works closely with a variety of country clubs in the area.

Kira Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar is located at 575 Main St. in Armonk. Its hours are Monday through Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday noon to 10 p.m.

To order or to make a reservation, call 914-765-0800 or visit www.KiraAsianBistro.com.

outside) and the Pink Lady (soft shell crab tempura and cucumber on the inside with Toro and mango on the outside).

Ingredients can be added or removed depending on each customer’s dietary preferences, Ng said.

Other favorite dishes include Szechuan crispy sautéed shredded beef, the Malaysian red curry with vegetables, chicken, steak cubes or seafood and the grilled Chilean sea bass.

The restaurant’s Japanese dinner bento selection is also quite popular. Ng said the single-portion takeout meal is common in Japanese cuisine. A traditional bento holds

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Happenings

continued from page 29

at Be Yoga. Participants should bring a yoga mat. Yoga Studio at Club Fit, 584 N. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. In advance: YTA members--\$45. Non-members: \$65. At the door: YTA members--\$55. Non-members--\$75. Pre-registration suggested: Pre-registration: Visit www.ytayoga.com. Info: Contact Audrey Brooks at 914-582-7816 or e-mail ytapresident@gmail.com.

Celebrating the Female Composers and Musicians That Have Shaped American Music With Susan King and Steven Wright. Carole King, Betty Comden and the Andrew Sisters are just a few of the women who made a huge impact on American musical theater with timeless works such as "Annie Get Your Gun," "Sweet Charity" and more. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr as well as the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children

(under 12): \$11. Also Oct. 15 at 11 a.m. and Oct. 21 and 22 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-763-2373 or visit www.nywolf.org.

Object Out Loud: Arman and Nick Cave. An exhibit featuring the bold pairing of two artistic leaders in a cross-disciplinary and cross-generational dialogue. Cave is a leading contemporary artist whose interest in performance and sculpture results in stunning, often fanciful works. Arman, who plucked his materials off the streets and sidewalks of the city, trolls in the familiar residue of everyday life. Featuring more than 20 works of sculpture, film and photography that exemplify two distinct, spectacular visions. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 5 to 6 p.m. Curator's talk and walk-through at 5:30 p.m. Adults: \$10. Seniors and students: \$5. Members and children (under 12): Free. Exhibit continues through Jan. 7, 2018. Gallery hours Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-232-9555 or www.katonahmuseum.org.

Sunday, Oct. 15

American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Five-Mile Walk. When it comes to breast cancer, no one should walk alone. Form a team,

join a team, walk as an individual or bring a friend. Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase. Registration at 8 a.m. Walk at 9:30 a.m. No registration fee; contributions and donations greatly appreciated. Info, registration and donations: 1-800-227-2345, visit www.makingstrideswalk.org/westchester or e-mail WestchesterNYStrides@cancer.org or visit to sign up or donate today.

Pack Chat for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Kids will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves; they're out searching for prey as their pups grow bigger and bolder. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr as well as the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Oct. 21 and 22 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-763-2373 or visit www.nywolf.org.

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

Catapult. As a finalist on America's Got Talent Season 8, this must-see show features a magical theatrical art form, shadow dancing, which combines dance, storytelling and sculpture. Fresh off their three-year European tour, Catapult is touring the U.S. for the first time. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. \$30. Students: \$28. Children (under 13): \$24. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts.

Westchester Philharmonic's 35th Anniversary Season Opener. Jinjoo Cho, yet another former student and protégé of conductor Jaime Laredo, who went on to win first prize in a few major international violin competitions, followed by acclaimed solo engagements with the Cleveland Orchestra and Montreal Symphony. Cho, Laredo and the Westchester Philharmonic take on Dvořák's lyrical masterpiece, aptly celebrate the philharmonic's 35th anniversary season with Mozart's 35th Symphony, and close with Beethoven's monumental Seventh Symphony. The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 3 p.m. \$36, \$76 and \$98. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Costume Design on Broadway: Exploring the Evolution of Iconic Looks

on the Stage. Costume designer Lisa Renee Jordan will explain the costume design process and how it helps to shape the best-known characters on Broadway. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Takács Quartet. The quartet makes its Caramoor debut with a program of Haydn, Shostakovich and Brahms. The first string quartet to win the prestigious Wigmore Hall Medal and the only one inducted into Gramophone's first Hall of Fame. The group's discography has been recognized with a Grammy, three Gramophone Awards, three Japanese Record Academy Awards, Disc of the Year at the inaugural BBC Music Magazine Awards and Ensemble Album of the Year at the Classical Brits. Caramoor Center for Music and Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 3 p.m. \$66 and \$91 (including service charge). Info and tickets: Visit www.caramoor.org.

Air Supply in Concert. This Australian soft rock duo with British-born singer-songwriter and guitarist Graham Russell and lead vocalist Russell Hitchcock are known for their heavily orchestrated sweet ballads. They had a succession of hits worldwide, including eight top 10 hits in the United States in the early 1980s, including "Lost in Love" and "All Out of Love." Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7 p.m. \$58 to \$108. VIP Package: \$179. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Monday, Oct. 16

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Tina Campbell at 914-441-1383 or e-mail tinacambell@masternetworks.net or just drop in.

Morning Bird Walk. Go birding with the Saw Mill River Audubon. Beginners welcome. Rain or shine. Rockefeller State Park Preserve. (Use Sleepy Hollow Road entrance.) 8:30 a.m. Free. Meets the third Monday of each month. Info: Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

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.

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Never Been to a High-end Wine Auction? Enjoy a Virtual Experience



By Nick Antonaccio

In the rarefied air of high-end auctions, the elite come together – in person or electronically – to bid against one another for sought-after rare collectibles. It is the thrill of on-upmanship that drives wealthy investors to bid against each other for the prestige to own and display these collectibles.

I've been fortunate to attend several wine auctions, mainly as an observer, but also as one seeking out "bargains" that pass under the radar of those caught up in the frenzy of the moment. Alas, I show nothing material for my efforts, although I have experienced a surge in my levels of adrenalin and endorphins.

As I pen this column, it occurs to me that many readers may not have had the opportunity to attend an auction house event. Allow me to regale you with my memories of the structure and excitement of attending my first Christie's auction a few years ago.

The preliminaries

The Christie's auction house event required a vetting process. I was required to first, complete an application to determine my financial worthiness,

and second, establish a line of credit for bidding. All those who met these requirements were issued a catalog of the wines to be auctioned and a numbered paddle for tracking bids.

The event was billed as "The Finest and Rarest Wines Auction. Featuring the exemplary cellar of an esteemed collector." The wines were being sold post-mortem. The poor collector never had a chance to enjoy these fine wines. Or perhaps he never intended to. This collection may have been a legacy to pass on to his heirs, who instead chose to liquidate the holdings rather than perpetuate the collector's legacy. (I never found out the reason.)

With offering catalog in hand, I found a seat in the middle of the room of about 100 seats. The auctioneer's podium, with its time-worn gavel, was on the right-center of the room, next to a screen set up to display the information on the lots of wine to be offered. Along the side walls were banks of telephones manned by Christie employees. Above the seats were several blank monitors. This being my first auction, it wasn't clear to me how each of these elements fit into the auction process, but I was soon to find out.

The structure

The concept is simple. Bidders gather together, paddles in hand, to vie for a particular lot of wine specified in the

catalog. It is assumed that each bidder has spent time poring through the catalog and is prepared to engage in the fast-paced bidding the auctioneer conducts.

As the bidding began, I quickly realized there were more participants than those present. As best I could discern, there were three groups of bidders other than those sitting around me: Those who had submitted pre-bids and were not in attendance; those who were on open phone lines with the Christie's employees; and those who were bidding online and whose bids were displayed on the aforementioned monitors.

I never found out how many ghost bidders were participating, but their presence was constantly felt as the auctioneer continuously acknowledged the back and forth competition.

The rush

As the auctioneer began in his familiar staccato voice, and remained in total control of the swirling proliferation of bids from the room and around the world, I was caught up in the subdued excitement. My eyes and head were in constant motion as I attempted to follow the flow of bidding.

Several of those around me were raising their paddles for every lot; others only sporadically. The gentleman seated to my immediate right bid on only one mid-auction lot, an offering of vintage Champagne, which he aggressively pursued, and won. He then summarily stood and walked out, his mission accomplished.

As for my participation? From the moment the auction began until the last lot was sold, my paddle was securely in hand – and under my seat. But my hands were sweating, my heart was racing and my face was bright red. The rush was incredible, and cost me not a penny – or a mortgage payment.

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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Grapevine

LISTEN. IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS.

Everybody likes to be heard, understood, and have a point of contact. Like good doctors, lawyers, builders, accountants, or chefs, our Orange Bankers care about your business and are there for you. We get to know you and your business needs. If you're running a business, pick up the phone or stop by to talk. We're all ears.

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"BREW AFTER DARK" EVENT PRICING

Draft beer packages we offer:

\$12/person/hour
Open bar from five of our draft lines (as chosen by our curator).

\$18/person/hour
Open bar from all twelve of our draft lines.

By The Glass
We keep a tally of what's consumed. All twelve draft lines are available. Additional \$200 site rental fee for this package.

Cash Bar
Your guests pay as they go. All twelve draft lines are available. Additional \$200 site rental fee for this package.

A MINIMUM OF 20 GUESTS. WITH ANY OF OUR BAR PACKAGES, YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE TO SERVE WINE. OUR SISTER STORE VINE & CO. WILL ASSIST YOU IN CHOOSING THE WINE AND QUANTITY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT
914-666-3600 OR MIKEY@BREWANDCOMPANY.COM

532 BEDFORD ROAD, BEDFORD HILLS NY 10507

FIT TO BE TIED



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Sophie Berkowitz Chases the Ball as Greeley Battles Host Fox Lane to a 4-4 Draw on Friday Afternoon



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