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December 11 - December 17, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 588

Chappaqua Whole Foods Opening Postponed Over Traffic Safety

By Martin Wilbur

The opening of the Chappaqua Whole Foods was postponed last Friday after New Castle town and planning board members agreed they would not risk public safety until several traffic and road concerns are resolved.

Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield, which was looking to unveil the 40,000-square-foot supermarket this Wednesday at the former Reader's Digest campus, had sought temporary relief from a list of conditions it was required to fulfill in order to make the announced Dec. 12 opening. A handful of those centered around road conditions outside the site.

Summit/Greenfield submitted a Maintenance and Protection of Traffic Plan (MPT) to the town on Dec. 4 outlining interim measures it planned to install in the vicinity of the heavily traveled Route 117 and Roaring Brook Road intersection.

But after a three-and-a-half-hour public hearing last Tuesday and a special meeting of the two boards Friday morning

at Town Hall, officials concluded it could not approve the MPT that would have permitted the town's building inspector to issue a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy because Summit/Greenfield's plan failed to adequately address traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

There was also uncertainty about when three utility poles on the southbound side of Route 117 would be relocated by Con Edison. Summit/Greenfield's MPT contained alternatives with and without relocation. The poles would have been used as part of the barrier between a temporary right turn lane onto Roaring Brook Road and one of the Route 117 southbound through lanes if they were not removed in time for the originally scheduled opening.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said Con Edison was expected to remove its wires from the three utility poles on Saturday and cut off the top portion of the poles. The other service companies that use the poles will remove their wires shortly, although it was unclear last week when that would



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The new Whole Foods at Chappaqua Crossing will remain dark this week after the New Castle town and planning boards would not grant developer Summit/Greenfield temporary relief to some of the conditions that would have enabled it to obtain a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy.

occur.

With the site near Horace Greeley High School and frequent congestion plaguing the intersection during weekday peak hours, town officials were uncomfortable with granting the temporary relief and giving the green light for the highly

anticipated opening.

"I feel right now the wrong thing is wagging the dog," said Councilwoman Hala Makowska. "Whole Foods sends out a press release they're opening Dec. 12 and let's see how much we can squeeze (in) to

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Mount Pleasant Officials Faced With New Proposed Group Home

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Pleasant Town Board may fight a group home in Valhalla that has been proposed by a New York City-based organization which helps the intellectually and developmentally disabled.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said last week the town plans to oppose YAI/Seeing Beyond Disabilities' planned operation of a group home for six individuals at 5 Halsey Place.

The board recently received a notification of interest from YAI under the auspices of the state Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

In a letter to residents, the Town Board said a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the proposal with the public and assured residents that it would

be "protecting our community as our residents are top priority."

"As it is standard practice for public meetings, the agency will present their proposal and all residents will also be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide their thoughts and positions; the Town Board will do the same," the letter stated. "All recent e-mails and letters sent to the Town Board will be printed and consolidated for the public meeting."

Fulgenzi said he understands that the residents who would live at the house need assistance, but the town already has 26 similar facilities that are off the tax rolls. If no taxes would be paid on the Halsey Place house, a combined \$25,000 in town, county and school taxes would be lost, he said.

Fulgenzi added the board must do "what is right for the town."

In its Nov. 20 letter to Mount Pleasant, YAI said one of its top priorities is the establishment of facilities to provide opportunities for disabled individuals to live in communities close to families and friends and encourage life-enriching experiences for them.

"The purpose of a community residential program is to provide supervision, activities and daily living and social opportunities in a homelike environment," the organization's letter stated.

The Halsey Place property was chosen because it's in a residential neighborhood "close to a variety of amenities including shopping,

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NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi expressed concerns last week about a proposed group home at a house in Valhalla.

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Chappaqua Whole Foods Opening Postponed Over Traffic, Safety

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make that work.”

“I think you have to look at alternatives to make this thing as safe as possible,” added Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood.

There is currently no date for when Whole Foods may open. The town’s traffic consultant, Lou Luglio, sent a memo to town officials last Friday afternoon outlining what will be expected of Summit/Greenfield regarding road safety. The memo was scheduled to reach company representatives by Saturday morning and a response from Summit/Greenfield was anticipated by early Monday afternoon.

The public hearing before the Town Board and Planning Board will resume this night (Tuesday) at Town Hall at 6 p.m.

“The applicant must come back with a plan that meets Lou’s requirements,” said Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull. “That is going to take time.”

The postponement was announced despite Summit/Greenfield agreeing within the past two weeks to construct a temporary left turn lane from northbound Route 117 onto Roaring Brook Road and to pay for New Castle police officers to direct traffic near the site. Those measures were initially thought to be sufficient to permit Whole Foods to open.

Last week, attorney Mark Weingarten, representing Summit/Greenfield,

explained to town officials that delays in completing the required road work were caused largely by the slow-moving state Department of Transportation (DOT). Despite being ready to work on the road improvements earlier this year, Summit/Greenfield didn’t receive its work permit for Route 117, a state road, until Nov. 15, he said.

With the asphalt plants set to close for the winter on Dec. 20, there is insufficient time to complete the work in addition to installing a required retaining wall on one side of the road. Otherwise, less than three months would be needed before the roadwork is done.

Weingarten appealed to town officials that the temporary plan, which would be in effect until road work resumes in the spring, would be safe.

“We met with our experts, we have a commitment to Whole Foods, they have their employees, they want to open with respect to the holiday season and we tried to put together a plan,” Weingarten said.

Scheduled completion of the permanent right turn lane from Route 117 onto Roaring Brook Road is now Apr. 19 and the permanent left turn lane from northbound Route 117 will be finished by June 7, he said.

Town and planning board members weren’t convinced. A combination of factors, including the expected surge in

traffic to Whole Foods once it opens, the holiday season, the time of year where there is the least amount of daylight and the possibility of inclement weather were deemed too great a risk.

Councilwoman Lisa Katz said there are also many inexperienced drivers in the area because the intersection is in close proximity to Horace Greeley High School.

“You have a very, very dangerous intersection and I need to know how, I don’t understand how it’s going to be mitigated during construction and even after,” Katz said.

Councilwoman Ivy Pool said the drawings for the southbound Route 117 through lane appeared misaligned and worried there could be head-on collisions with motorists in the temporary left turn lane.

Planning Board member Tom Curley said the town needed greater assurances from the developer.

“Whole Foods is a national, big-box retailer with a sub-regional draw. There are going to be people going from everywhere to this location and we don’t have any idea whether the numbers that are in here reflect that,” Curley said. “Certainly, for the first month this place is going to be a nightmare.”

The Planning Board’s Sheila Crespi was one of several members on both boards that also expressed concern about pedestrian



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Felix Charney, CEO and President of Summit/Greenfield, addresses New Castle officials last week.

safety. With a Bee-line bus stop near the intersection and students walking to and from the high school, officials pressed for a push button to change the signal.

“How can we talk about safety without talking about the safety of pedestrians?” Crespi asked. “We need to have that as part of the plan.”

Luglio said a temporary push button to help change the signal could be installed within a few weeks.

Kirkwood and Greenstein suggested that when Whole Foods opens it should be on a Saturday to avoid conflicts with the high school and midweek commuters.



Is Your SI Joint Causing Your Back Pain?

A common problem that’s too often overlooked...

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Marshal D. Peris
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Spine Surgery Section
Northern Westchester Hospital

Learn more about Dr. Peris, visit
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Q: What is the SI Joint?

A: The full name is the sacroiliac (sa-krō-’i-lē-,ak) joint, and there are two of them, one on either side of your tailbone. They connect the triangular bone at the base of your spine, called the sacrum, with the iliac bone of your pelvis. The SI joints are the keystone of the body, or the center of gravity. Their job is to support and transmit the weight of your upper body to your legs and pelvis.

Q: How Does the SI Joint Cause Pain?

A: SI joint dysfunction occurs when the ligaments of either joint are injured or worn away. This can cause pain in your butt as well as in your lower back, groin, thigh and side. Most people with SI joint dysfunction experience severe pain when they get up from a seated position, then feel better when they walk.

Q: What Causes SI Joint Dysfunction?

A: Osteoarthritis, rheumatologic and auto-immune diseases, traumatic injuries and pregnancy can cause SI joint dysfunction. And some people get it after they’ve had surgeries such as hip replacement or spinal fusion.

Q: How Does the Doctor Diagnose SI Joint Dysfunction?

A: Since most back pain is caused by a spinal problem, the doctor first rules out the spine by doing imaging like X-rays and MRIs. There are also physical exam maneuvers that can pinpoint trouble in the SI joint.

Q: How Is SI Joint Dysfunction Treated?

A: Physical therapy, weight loss, trunk-strengthening exercises like yoga or Pilates, and anti-inflammatory medicines are the first lines of treatment. If these don’t help, doctors inject a steroid and local anesthetic into the joint, a procedure called SI joint injection. If there is still no improvement, doctors perform a minimally invasive surgery called SI joint fusion. Titanium implants are inserted across the sacroiliac joint through a 3-cm incision to lock the joint in place so it can’t move anymore. The surgery takes about an hour and is done under general anesthesia at Northern Westchester Hospital. For the first three weeks after surgery, patients walk with crutches or a walker. After six weeks, they resume normal activities.

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Mount Pleasant Officials Faced With New Proposed Group Home

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medical, recreational facilities and other community amenities," the YAI correspondence continued.

The group home would use one van to transport residents that would be

parked off the street.

The facility would have to be certified by the state as a supervised Individualized Residential Alternative. The residents would receive meals and be supervised at all hours. During

the day residents would be attending day service programs or vocational programs.

Under the state hygiene law, the town is required to forward its comments about the proposal within 40 days of receiving the letter. The town may accept the site, propose an alternative location or object to the proposal because it would result in a saturation of similar facilities in the vicinity and the character of the area would be substantially altered.

The two-story, 5,000-square-foot house contains five bedrooms and five bathrooms and is located on a .84-acre lot with a fenced-in backyard. There is parking available for up to eight cars in the driveway, which would be used by

employees.

Two Town Board members said Monday it was early in the review process and residents would be given opportunities to weigh in on the plan.

"The proposal is currently under review," Councilman Anthony Amiano said Monday. "A public meeting date will soon be scheduled."

"There has been no vote on anything yet," Councilman Nick DiPaolo said. "Once we have all of our information and get to hear from those for and those against and also from the organization proposing it, then and only then will I be able to have an opinion."

Messages left last week for YAI were not returned.

Anti-Semitic Posters Found at SUNY Purchase Campus

Posters with anti-Semitic images were found at SUNY Purchase on Sunday.

University police have identified a suspect and the investigation is ongoing.

The posters, found at various locations on the Harrison campus, had images of Hitler and swastikas.

"I was deeply troubled to learn about the discovery of neo-Nazi posters at SUNY Purchase, especially as Jews across the world came together for the Festival of Lights, a celebration of the triumph of the Jewish people over persecution," Congresswoman Nita Lowey remarked in a prepared statement. "It is with that same resolve and courage in which the Jews prevailed that we today must confront the disturbing rise of anti-Semitism at home and abroad."

The state police Hate Crimes Unit is also reportedly investigating. Incidents of

anti-Semitism are on the rise across the country, as are hate crimes more broadly. For example, hate crime incidents targeting Jews and Jewish institutions in the U.S. spiked about 37 percent between 2016 and 2017, according to FBI data.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), whose district includes the campus, said he was in contact with SUNY Purchase officials and is pleased that police are apparently making progress in their investigation.

"The last night of Hanukkah should be a time for family and celebration, but sadly someone saw this night as an opportunity to spread a message of hatred and intolerance," Buchwald said.

"All people of goodwill should come together to denounce hate in our society and especially on our school campuses," he added.

P'ville Music Fest Holiday Ticket Sale Through Dec. 31

Tickets for the July 13, 2019, Pleasantville Music Festival will be available at the lowest prices they're going to be through Dec. 31: \$40 for adults and \$25 for students (12-21) and seniors (65 and up). Visit Ticketweb at <http://bit.ly/PMF2019> tix. Online sales will incur processing fees.

Tickets will also be available at the Pleasantville Recreation Center at 48 Marble Ave. on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All recreation center sales are cash or check only. For more information, visit www.pleasantvillemusicfestival.com.

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Byram Hills Honors Academic Achievements of its Top Students

By Aaron Notis

The Byram Hills School District honored its top students last week with a Cum Laude and National Merit ceremony before its Dec. 4 Board of Education meeting.

The board inducted 21 students and two faculty members into the Byram Hills chapter of the Cum Laude Society. The organization was founded in 1906 and has about 380 chapters nationwide.

Modeled after the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, the Cum Laude Society has only about 24 public school chapters.

Students who finished in the top 10 percent of the Byram Hills Class of 2019 and those who scored in the top 3 percent on the PSAT in October 2017 qualified for the honors.

Superintendent of Schools Jen Lamia noted that the motto of Cum Laude is "excellence, justice and honor. I can

definitely say that in Byram Hills to be amongst the group that represents these values takes courage and determination."

Thirteen of the Cum Laude Society students honored were also recognized as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists or received commendations for their scores on the October 2017 PSAT exam. They were commended for finishing in the top 3 percent of the 1.6 million students who took that exam. Byram Hills' seven National Merit Scholarship semifinalists scored in the top 1.1 percent of all students who sat for the October 2017 test.

Lamia noted that the College Board states that the objective of the National Merit competition is to promote the pursuit of academic excellence. The College Board refers to these students as "scholastic champions." Lamia came up with her own description.

"You all have faithfulness in what you're doing, and you've obviously developed goals and pursued them," she said "That is going to take you far in your personal and professional lives."

Before calling the students up to be congratulated individually, Board of Education President Scott Levy told the students, "We want you to remember your journey."

Veteran Trustee Ira Schulman said student achievement is the most

rewarding aspect of serving the district.

"We celebrate a lot of things at Byram Hills, but it's really the students who are the crown jewel of the school district," Schulman said. "We are very, very proud of all of you. Don't forget to thank your parents. They were key to your success. I hope that you'll all go forth with honor."

The dual recipients were Samantha Abbruzzese; Ellen Amico; Alan Chang; Rahul Gupta; Elyse Kanner; Emma Lucchino; David McDaniels; Sydney Nepo; Brent Perlman; Griffen Rakower; Jonah Schwam; Nicole Tissot and Spencer Weinhoff.

The remaining Cum Laude students are Abigail Binder; Zachary Cogan; Tyler Harp; Isabelle Ilan; Pietro Perez; Lindsey Perlman; Hayle Siegle and Dylan Starker.

National Merit Scholarship semifinalists or commendation recipients are Matthew Butera; Joshua Freedman; Shea Gordon; Megan Hwang; Renner Kwitken; Nicole Meyer; William Siege; Riley Sullivan and Zoe Swiss.

Social Studies Chair Jennifer Laden and Byram Hills High Schools math teacher Christopher Lewick were the two educators also inducted at last week's ceremony.

Student Scientists

Two Byram Hills High School seniors, Rachel Chernoff, left, and Samantha Abbruzzese, were chosen as two of 12 finalists for the Neuroscience Research Prize given by the American Academy of Neurology and the Child Neurology Society. They were selected out of 74 students nationwide. Four winners will be announced in February.



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Support in County for Undocumented Immigrant Driver's Licenses

By Anna Young

State and county officials stood in solidarity last week in support of a proposed law that would grant undocumented immigrants the right to access a driver's license.

Advocates for the campaign Green Light NY: Driving Together hosted a standing-room-only forum last Monday evening at the White Plains Public Library where officials and advocates gathered to urge state lawmakers to support the Green Light bill. The legislation would establish that the newly created standard license be accessible to all state residents regardless of immigration status.

Officials said allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license would enhance traffic safety, ensure drivers understand traffic laws, unify the community and prevent small traffic infractions from resulting in arrest or deportation. State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) said that allowing everyone the right to a license will reduce racial profiling, and the state would protect the residents' immigration status.

"Now because the Democrats have become the majority in the New York State Senate, we finally have the possibility of passing this bill," said Mayer, a co-sponsor of the measure.

The proposed bill would require any undocumented state resident to pass a road



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Supporters of the Green Light bill, which would make the standard state driver's license accessible to all residents regardless of immigration status, packed the White Plains Public Library last week for an informational meeting on the legislation.

test and provide proof of state residency prior to obtaining the license. Officials stressed the license cannot be used for federal purposes, will not allow the license holder to vote or change the legal status of an immigrant.

Currently, 12 states and Washington D.C. permit all residents to apply for a driver's license without checking their immigration status.

"Everyone driving should be properly trained and properly insured," Assemblyman Steven Otis (D-Rye) said. "Life is complicated enough, but it shouldn't have the added complication of having to drive around in fear."

Otis added that expanding licenses would be an economic boom. State and county

governments would receive about \$57 million in combined annual revenue and \$26 million in one-time revenue through taxes and fees, he said. The bill has strong support in the Assembly and is hopeful the bill will pass next year when the Democrats take over the Senate, Otis added.

"This bill gives people equal access to opportunity, it allows people to get to work," Senator-elect Peter Harkham (D-Lewisboro) said. "I'm very proud to support this bill."

Along with state lawmakers, county officials showed their support. Ten members of the Board of Legislators' Democratic caucus sent a letter of support to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

"I stand for the passage of this bill,"

County Executive George Latimer said. "We have excellent senators and Assembly members in this county, they're going to work very hard to make this happen and those of us in the county government will help them in any way they need it, and we will win."

Ossining Police Chief Kevin Sylvester and Port Chester Police Chief Richard Conway are also advocating for state lawmakers to support the bill. While both cited public safety in letters to Cuomo, Sylvester stressed the importance of involving police enforcement when crafting the bill to reduce misinformation and ensure the law's passage.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient Kevin Duarte noted that immigrants shouldn't live in fear of law enforcement or deportation because they are driving to work, school or dinner. Duarte said there's nothing preventing an undocumented immigrant from wanting to be an insured and authorized driver should the legislation pass.

"We realize that denying an important form of identification not only makes it really difficult for people to go about their day-to-day lives, it also makes it more difficult for the police to do their jobs," Duarte said. "This is the right thing to do because people deserve to drive in peace, and when everybody can drive in peace, everyone will be safer for it."

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Dec. 4: A woman who works on Carpenter Avenue reported at 9:30 a.m. that someone entered her car the previous Friday and stole her wallet containing \$1,000 in cash, a credit card and a ring valued at \$4,000 from the center console. The woman said that she apparently left the vehicle unlocked while it was unattended from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. She said she did not discover the wallet was missing until later that night.

Dec. 5: Report of a man behaving erratically at the Mount Kisco train station at 12:47 p.m. When an officer arrived, he was advised that the man had boarded a train. MTA police were notified.

Dec. 6: Police responded to the Guard Hill condominium complex at 9:55 a.m. on a report of an odor of gas. Con Edison and the Mount Kisco Fire Department were notified to respond.

Dec. 6: Two people were arrested at 3:02 p.m. after they were found siphoning cooking oil from a large storage container behind Stop & Shop

on North Bedford Road. The oil they had removed was valued at \$292. A 33-year-old Yonkers man and a 29-year-old Bronx woman were each charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. A van in their possession, which was outfitted with hoses, two large storage containers and a generator, was impounded. The pair was released on \$100 bail pending a Dec. 13 appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

Dec. 7: A village resident arrived at the Green Street precinct at 11:55 a.m. to report that he had lost a set of license plates for a vehicle he owns. He was provided with information and forms to get a replacement set from DMV.

Dec. 7: A Barker Street resident reported an icing condition on the roadway at 3:59 p.m. The Mount Kisco Highway Department was notified.

Dec. 7: Police responded to the Mount Kisco train station at 1:40 a.m. on a report of a person possibly tampering with the ticket machines. Officers located a woman who said she was homeless and was checking the machines for money that might have been left behind. A check of her ID uncovered a warrant for her

arrest issued by state police in Brewster on fourth-degree criminal mischief, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. The woman, 57, was held at the Green Street precinct until troopers arrived to take her into custody.

North Castle Police Department

Nov. 30: A 911 caller reported at 8:30 a.m. that an 18-wheeler drove down Washington Avenue and ripped down the power lines in front of his house. The truck did not stop and left the area. The truck was orange, with no further description provided. The responding officers reported the wires are phone and cable lines and no power lines were involved. Flares were set in the roadway and the condition was subsequently corrected.

Dec. 3: A caller reported at 9:52 a.m. that an elderly man fell outside his home on Bedford Banksville Road and is having difficulty getting up. The responding officer reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Dec. 3: Report of a lost dog on Oregon Road at 7:42 p.m. The caller is holding onto the animal, a small white dog, until the owner is found. She stated if anyone calls looking for the dog have them

contact her and she will arrange giving the dog back. She also stated that there was a second dog that looked like a golden retriever which ran away and she notified Bedford police about that situation.

Dec. 4: An employee of Broadway Pizza on Main Street reported at 8:33 p.m. that two parties parked in the back are involved in a verbal argument. The vehicle is described as a black Ford Escape with a Connecticut tag. The matter was adjusted after the responding officers arrived.

Pleasantville Police Department

Nov. 30: A 41-year-old Ossining man was arrested at 12:38 p.m. on Pleasantville Road for unlawful possession of marijuana following a traffic stop.

Dec. 2: A 59-year-old Croton man was arrested at 9:10 p.m. for suspicion of driving while intoxicated after he crashed his car into another vehicle on Hays Hill Road.

Dec. 5: A traffic stop at 9:58 p.m. on Grant Street led to the arrest of a 19-year-old Mount Kisco man for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Dec. 7: A 22-year-old Nyack man was arrested at 12:30 a.m. on Village Lane for unlawful possession of marijuana following a traffic stop.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

County Lawmakers Approve, Latimer Signs \$1.94B Budget for 2019

By Anna Young

The Westchester County Board of Legislators approved the county's \$1.94 billion operating budget for 2019 Monday afternoon that will maintain essential services but result in a 2 percent tax levy increase.

Following a month-long deliberation among county officials, lawmakers voted 13-4 along party lines. Democrats, who unanimously supported the budget, believe the budget is a productive step to restoring financial stability within the county, resolving structural imbalances, rebuilding the county's fund balance and continuing to provide vital services.

"The people of Westchester won today," Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) said. "This is a budget that will move us forward to begin the process of rebuilding our finances, adding to our fund balance and continuing to provide the essential services that the people of Westchester County need and want and must have."

The budget contains a spending increase of \$98 million over the current year, with the 2 percent tax increase that will raise \$11 million toward the \$71 million budget gap. With a \$32 million deficit from last year and another \$39 million shortfall this year, County Executive George Latimer said his budget aims at restoring fiscal order.

"We inherited a budgetary situation which for many years did not raise revenue

sufficient to run the county government," Latimer said. "For the next year, we have a game plan for how this is going to be executed."

Latimer, who signed the budget Monday afternoon shortly after the Board of Legislators' vote, said other potential revenues could be realized in 2019 if the state legalizes sales tax on internet purchases, a move that could raise about \$6 million for Westchester. He noted the county could fill the deficit if the state legalizes sports betting and the use of recreational marijuana. Other proposed actions include new fees for Airbnb and surcharges for Uber and Lyft.

More than \$8 million will be bonded to pay for anticipated tax certioraris. A temporary hiring freeze will leave an increasing number of vacancies as some workers retire in 2019, which the county expects will net \$7 million.

The budget also includes the proposed transfer of the County Center parking lot to Westchester's Local Development Corporation (LDC) for \$22 million, a deal that stirred controversy among lawmakers. While the deal would yield the county a projected \$23 million, it would result in the loss of about \$2.5 million in annual parking revenues.

Republican lawmakers have compared the proposed move as a one-shot revenue source, similar to former county executive Rob Astorino's plan to privatize Westchester



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer, seated, is surrounded by Democratic county lawmakers and members of his administration as he signs the 2019 budget. The spending plan will increase taxes 2 percent.

County Airport, an arrangement that Latimer harshly criticized.

Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill), who voted against the budget, has continually advocated for the county to pursue private partnerships to generate ongoing revenues in lieu of raising taxes and fees on homeowners and small businesses. He said he was "baffled" that his Democratic colleagues want to sell parkland and raise taxes instead of moving forward with "thoroughly vetted partnerships."

"With the federal government implementing its recent state and local tax law, now is not the time for a tax increase for our residents," Legislator David Tubiolo (R-Yonkers) said. "I don't feel comfortable

supporting a budget that uses the proposed sale of the Westchester County Center parking lot to fill a \$23 million hole."

A series of approvals would need to be obtained for the transfer of the parking lot, Latimer said, adding that no action would be taken before July 1 to give the county time to see if the state legislature takes action on the new proposals.

"If we can find sufficient revenue to balance this budget without having to make this transaction, we will not make this transaction," Latimer said. "If we're able to find those alternative revenues and we don't have to do the plan, then I think that would be an honorable solution to what we face."

Democratic lawmakers acknowledged that the approved budget isn't perfect, but it's a step in the right direction to prioritizing public safety, health and mental health, consumer protection parks, seniors, youth and restructuring the county's finances.

"We have much to do in this county to put things right after years of irresponsible decisions left us with extensive maintenance needs for which money had never been budgeted and with a backlog of capital projects the county desperately needs," Majority Whip MaryJane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) said. "While there's more to be done, this is a start."

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Obituaries

Paul Lorenzen

Paul Manton Lorenzen, 67, of Thornwood passed away on the evening of Dec. 5 in his home.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Mary Maher, and his two children, Brian Manton Lorenzen, and Kathleen Case Lorenzen (Vaccaro).

Lorenzen was born in Queens on Apr. 20, 1951, to his late parents, Richard and Jacqueline Lorenzen, and was the oldest of five children: Peter Lorenzen, Barbara Lorenzen, Patricia Maxwell and Richard Lorenzen. He attended Brooklyn Preparatory High School and then graduated from the College of the Holy Cross where he played baseball. Lorenzen was an avid baseball fan and enjoyed playing golf with his regular foursome each weekend at Mohansic Golf Course. He frequently enjoyed debating his friends and family on their divergent political views, yet loved them all nonetheless. He retired from his position at HEPCO, Inc. in the spring of 2017.

The highlight of Paul's final year was walking his daughter, Kathleen, down the aisle and offering a rousing toast at the reception before his beloved friends and family. Paul's greatest joys were being a husband to his wife, father to



Paul Lorenzen

his children, father-in-law to Samara & Dennis Jr. and gramps to his Eddie Bear.

Arrangements were handled by Pleasant Manor Funeral Home in Thornwood. A memorial mass will be celebrated at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla on Saturday, Dec. 15. The time of the Mass will be announced. Please visit www.pleasantmanorfh.com for details.

Marianne Bulger

Marianne F. Bulger of Thornwood died on Dec. 4.

She was 67.

Bulger was born on Dec. 12, 1950, to the late Frank and Marie (nee Marazio) DeMasi in White Plains. She was a retired owner-operator of Mystique Beauty Salon in Mount Kisco.

Bulger is survived by her devoted husband, Jay (Skip) Bulger, of Thornwood; her loving children, Kevin Bulger of Thornwood and Regina (Adam) Bartlett

of Wappingers Falls; one brother, Frank (Susan) DeMasi, of West Harrison; and her two cherished grandchildren, Joshua and Madison Bartlett.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Dec. 9. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla on Dec. 10. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Pets Alive, Inc., 363 Derby Rd. Middletown, N.Y. 10940 would be appreciated.

Margaret DeGasperis

Margaret R. DeGasperis of Hawthorne died on Dec. 8.

She was 77.

DeGasperis was born on May 21, 1941, to the late August and Mary (nee Tuccillo) Rubicco in Mount Vernon. She and her husband Armando owned and operated the family business, MDG General Contracting in Hawthorne, where she helped him run the business, including doing most of the secretarial work and job estimates.

DeGasperis is survived by her devoted husband, Armando DeGasperis, of Hawthorne; her loving children, Salvatore A. (Maureen) Bossio of Mohegan Lake

and Gina (Frank) Brescia of Putnam Valley; one sister, Carole (Robert) Steck, of Indianapolis, Ind.; and her five cherished grandchildren, Francis Brescia, Brenden Bossio, Travis Brescia, Samantha Bossio and Angelo Brescia.

Visitation will be at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to The American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

James Roina

James J. Roina, most recently of Carmel and formerly of Hawthorne, died suddenly on Nov. 30 at his residence.

He was 51.

Roina was born on Feb. 4, 1967, to Anthony and Phyllis (nee Traficante) Roina in Queens. He was employed by the trustees of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and worked at various cemeteries including Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne as a computer data and records specialist. He was a lover of music and old movies and was a guitar player.

Roina is survived by his beloved

parents, Anthony and Phyllis Roina, of Kinderhook, N.Y. and formerly of Hawthorne; his loving siblings, Robert G. (Lorena) Roina of Poughkeepsie, Anthony (Tony) (Laurie) Roina of Steamboat Springs, Colo. and Kathleen M. Roina of Bronxville; and one nephew, Michael Roina, of New Hampshire.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Dec. 4 followed by a funeral Mass at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne and interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to a charity of your choice.

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No matter what way residents choose to receive any expected deliveries this year, be aware of the growing “porch pirate” trend.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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A food drive and benefit radio show for the Community Center of Northern Westchester's food pantry was held last Wednesday evening at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco. The Clubhouse Crew at 1490 AM, consisting of Rob Adams, Mark Jeffers and Dave Torromeo, also participated at the annual Christmas Spectacular at Grand Prix. More than 900 pounds of food and \$370 in cash donations were collected for the center.



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ED ELLIOTT PHOTOS

Singers and musicians from Pleasantville and Valhalla schools gave the community a special treat last Saturday by getting everyone in the holiday mood during the Chamber of Commerce's Music in the Village day. Singers from the Pleasantville High School Camerata went from store to store in the late morning performing some favorite holiday tunes for shoppers. Then the Holiday Instrumental Ensemble from Pleasantville and Valhalla performed holiday carols at the Memorial Plaza gazebo before moving over to the Old Village.



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Proposed Pleasantville Microbrewery, Tasting Room Application Advances

By Anna Young

Plans for a brewery on Wheeler Avenue in Pleasantville took a step forward after the village's Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously approved the application last week.

The property at 41 Wheeler Ave. may soon house a new microbrewery and tasting room in the storefront vacated by Nilsson's Flower Shop. The location, which is part of the A-1 Central Business district, received approval on Dec. 6 to manufacture and sell small quantities of beer and ale, most of which will be sold on the premises and to local restaurants. Wine, cider and soft drinks will also be offered.

The application is expected to head to the Planning Commission for site plan review.

Applicant Allen Wallace, a Pleasantville resident and owner of Soul Brewing, said he modeled his idea for a grain-to-glass microbrewery after honeymooning in Europe and visiting small breweries in Belgium and Germany. Wallace said the space could be a gathering place for the community to enjoy themselves while being able to observe the manufacturing.

"We've been thinking about this for a while," Wallace said. "Most of the beer is being sold there at retail and serves as

a community gathering spot. The vast majority is meant to be made and sold on site, and we do want to be able to sell a small amount to local restaurants."

Wallace added that he would make deliveries himself when the brewery is closed. Wallace said the operation will not open until 4 p.m. on weekdays and after noon on weekends. He might consider opening earlier on weekdays if customers request it.

"I figure most of the business is going to happen when people are getting off work," Wallace said. "If we open and we find out we're missing a lot of opportunity then I'd like to be able to change our hours."

Wallace explained that his brewery will complement Wheeler Avenue and benefit local businesses by attracting more people to downtown without providing direct competition. He has plans to partner with local restaurants by selling their produce and offering prepared foods and takeout from those establishments for consumption at the brewery.

"We're a good scenario because we're not competing with them directly and, in fact, we're hopefully providing a little extra draw for them and a little bit of extra business for them as well," Wallace said.

Day of Infamy Remembered



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Veterans from several local American Legion posts and the New York State Medal of Honor Committee gathered last Friday afternoon at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla for a special ceremony on the 77th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony featured the reading of the names and brief descriptions of the eventual 15 Medal of Honor recipients who served at Pearl Harbor at the time of the infamous attack and the sacrifices they made. There was also a wreath laying ceremony and a 21-gun salute by the cemetery lake. At the event, the committee announced that it will hold its second annual Medal of Honor parade in Pleasantville in July.

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Editorial

Whole Foods Postponement a Disappointing but Necessary Step

It was 14 years ago this month that Summit/Greenfield closed on acquiring the Reader's Digest campus in what has since become known as Chappaqua Crossing.

About a year-and-a-half later, the developer submitted the initial residential plan containing well over 300 units.

After multiple iterations of the ill-fated residential-only project, followed by lawsuits, a settlement and various mixed-use proposals, all of which would take a volume longer than a James Michener novel to recap, it appeared reasonably certain earlier this year that the centerpiece of the 120,000-square-foot retail portion of the site, Whole Foods, would open this fall.

The original Nov. 7 target date for the opening was pushed back to Dec. 12 and it appeared that the much-anticipated supermarket was to make its debut this week.

But then the latest setback came. The New Castle town and planning boards could not reconcile the substantial and still unresolved traffic and safety concerns around the Route 117/Roaring Brook Road intersection. At issue weren't just a few maintenance bonds or landscaping matters that were also part of a list of conditions that hadn't been fully satisfied by the developer, but one of the core challenges that has been omnipresent in the site's review for more than a decade.

It was the likelihood of nightmarish congestion, incomplete turn lanes, pedestrian safety and not knowing when three utility poles would be relocated that conspired to present problems.

Everyone was hoping that Whole Foods would be up and running in time for the holidays, but with many years of comments and debate on the record before both boards, New Castle town officials made the only reasonable decision it

could last week – hold off on the opening until they were comfortable that the area was safe to operate. Not necessarily free-flowing traffic, but safe.

Of course the danger now is with the asphalt plants on the verge of shutting down for the winter, can enough be done between now and next week to satisfy officials for the next few months?

Relocation of the poles is one big step that's doable and would help, as would push buttons for pedestrian walk signals. More should be learned by sometime Tuesday night when Summit/Greenfield's representatives return to Town Hall.

Whole Foods is built and is going to open. There's no doubt about that and at this late date the supermarket isn't going to abandon New Castle. The town and the developer have waited this long for the project to bear fruit; everyone can wait a bit longer to make sure a tragedy is avoided.

Guest Column

Healthy Holiday Food Swaps to Support Elder Nutrition

By Jennifer Brullo

Ask anyone who's ever tried to make a drastic diet change: the switch from junk food to healthier, more nutritious alternatives is difficult and cannot happen overnight.

Anyone who grows accustomed to a high-fat, high-salt and high-sugar diet will inevitably set themselves up for failure (and cravings) if they quit unhealthy eating "cold turkey." Mix in the holiday season – treats, trimmings and all – and you've got a recipe for nutritional upheaval.

It's easy to fret about the upcoming holiday menu if you care for an elderly loved one who manages chronic medical conditions or simply needs to keep an eye on what they eat. As a registered nurse at Partners in Care, I communicate often with concerned family caregivers while providing care for their loved ones at home. During the holiday season, two pieces of advice often arise – facilitate incremental changes in your loved one's diet, giving them a chance to get used to each change before making a new one, and don't skip out on holiday treats but moderate.

Here are some suggestions for healthier versions of favorite celebratory dishes.

No need to "uproot tastiness." Did you know that one cup of mashed potatoes made with butter and whole milk contains about 240 calories, nine grams of fat and 35 grams of carbohydrates? With all their flavor and creamy, rich texture, mashed potatoes may seem like a holiday staple, but there is a healthy alternative growing in popularity that is

sure to be just as popular at your holiday dinner: mashed cauliflower. The mashed vegetable has the same texture and similar flavor and is loaded with Vitamin C.

No-fry zone. Love plantains? You're not alone. The vitamin A-, potassium-packed veggie is omnipresent in Puerto Rican cooking. While you can't eat these starchy bananas raw, always avoid frying or mashing them. Instead, save calories and cholesterol by eating them baked or even boiled.

Dip on some dips. Skip the high-sodium dips and the crisp-fried and salty chips. Greek yogurt and hummus are delicious and much healthier substitutes for mayonnaise, sour cream and cream cheese dips, all of which negate the power of veggies that the dips may include. On the chip front, try switching it with your favorite vegetable. If carrots or celery sticks don't appeal, try bell pepper strips, broccoli florets or grape tomatoes.

It's easy being green. The bad news is that the traditional green bean casserole found on so many "favorites" lists, despite its name, is mostly made from overly processed foods that are high in sodium and fat. The good news? There are delicious alternatives to getting creative and cooking greens. In fact, some greens should be simmered or sautéed for the best flavor and nutrition. Many of these are at their best in the winter. (Frost makes them sweeter and more tender.) Kale and collards, in addition to brussels sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli, are all high in sulfur compounds that provide many health benefits and taste best

roasted.

'Tis the season for seasonings. In Latin cooking, food is highly seasoned – but not necessarily salty or spicy. Take, for instance the popular dish sofrito (also popular in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese cooking), which is made from tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic and cilantro and is used in dishes from rice to seafood. Adding seasonings and skipping salt to add flavor to your favorites will still taste delicious and your heart will thank you.

Skip the cake but have pumpkin pie. When it comes to cookies, cakes and pastries, you face the double-whammy of sugar and trans fats. Trans fats can raise cholesterol and put you at risk for heart disease and diabetes, so do your loved one a favor and skip the cake – and most pies – for a (surprisingly) healthier alternative: pumpkin pie. Because the seasonal favorite is missing the top layer that most pies have, it is lower in saturated fats. For an even more nutritious alternative, try instead making the pie crust from dates and nuts and eliminating butter altogether.

For year-round recipe ideas, check out this Caregiver's Cookbook: https://www.vnsny.org/article_category/caregivers-cookbook.

Jennifer Brullo is a registered nurse and senior vice president and the leader of Partners in Care, an affiliate of The Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY). For more information, call 1-888-735-8913 or visit www.partnersincareny.org.

Holy Rosary's Christmas Spirit Sends Packages, Cards to Troops

By Martin Wilbur

It's always great to receive a package at Christmastime. That's especially true if you're halfway around the world and won't be home for the holidays.

About 370 students in grades 1-8 and their teachers at Holy Rosary's Religious Education Program in Hawthorne renewed their now annual effort of putting together care packages to send to the men and women serving in the Armed forces in Afghanistan, accompanied by handmade cards from the children.

They stuffed stockings with treats such as granola bars, hard candy and small packages of cookies, toiletries, socks and items that could help them pass the time such as playing cards, small board games and magazines.

The packages should arrive in time for Christmas, said Aura Zelaya, Holy Rosary's religious education coordinator.

"So this is our way of acknowledging them, thanking them and letting them know that someone at home is thinking about them," Zelaya said.

Jenn Florio, one of the program's teachers, started the effort a few years ago after learning that Cathy Praino of the Bronx started sending these holiday care packages to the troops following her nephew's death in Iraq in late 2004.

"We're going to make a lot of men and women happy and hopefully they'll get



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

One of several tables of Religious Education Program students at Holy Rosary in Hawthorne who were happy to make cards and send care packages to troops that will spend the holidays in Afghanistan.

through the holidays without their families and we'll be like their second family," Florio said.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the older students created the cards using construction paper, crayons and markers to send brief messages to the members of the military while the younger children stuffed the stockings. There will be more than 300 stockings that will be transported to the Korony American Legion Post 253 Auxiliary in the Bronx this week where

Praino will collect and package the stockings for shipment, Florio said.

U.S. Navy Seabee Lou Casale, who served in Vietnam and has been a Holy Rosary parishioner for 48 years, told the students that their efforts will be deeply appreciated by the troops. Anyone who is so far away from home for Christmas can't help but have their spirits lifted when receiving the packages, he said.

"I was (in Vietnam) twice, I was there for Christmas twice and this is really a special

time and I know what these guys halfway around the world are feeling and it's really a good thing what you guys are doing because it was something," Casale said. "It's following Jesus's teachings when he says 'Love your neighbor as I have loved you.'"

The students making the cards the message of helping others is satisfying.

"It makes me feel really good inside knowing that if I help others it's going to make them feel better, and if I make them feel better it's going to make them feel happy and I just want them to be happy," said student Emily Bloom.

"It makes me really happy to know that such a little card is going such a long way to a very important person that's serving our country," said another student, Kelly McCloskey.

Zelaya, who is in her first year as coordinator, that said after Florio talked to her about the school's previous Christmastime stocking stuffer efforts for the military, Holy Rosary opened up the donations to the entire parish. While the servicemen and servicewomen each will receive a few treats along with some practical items, knowing that people are thinking about them will be a big boost.

"It wasn't so much what they received, it was the fact that somebody cared about them and actually thought about them during the holidays and they were so happy to get the package," Zelaya said.

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How to Rid Your Home of Problematic Household Scents

My home is new redolent of holiday scents, from the wreath on the door close to my office, to the special aromas coming from the kitchen. It would not be a bad time to invite guests to visit us.

When it comes time to sell a house and I advise a client of all the things to do in preparation, probably the most sensitive issue to address is unpleasant odor in the house when it exists.

Every home has a particular smell. Sometimes it's good, sometimes not. When it's good, we might want to savor it and remember it, but when it's bad, both we and a prospective buyer want to escape it.

I can still recall that particular, sweet smell of the home I grew up in. Maybe it was a combination of my mother's cooking, largely tomato- and olive oil-based, with her perfume, which was "My Sin." Many times, people would compliment her on that perfume, which today I remember as smelling like a mixture of all my favorite blossoms in the garden – rose, jasmine, lilac and lily of the valley. I remember that our house smelled particularly sweet when she would can tomatoes in the basement.

When I rented my first apartment, the air quality was very different. I lived in the basement of a private house, which was only slightly above grade and faced

the north side of the house. It had a musty smell caused by the moisture in the air that was so thick that the walls would sometimes weep from it. Being a proactive tenant, even as an 18-year-old college student, I petitioned the landlady to buy a dehumidifier for me, and I kept it running day and night to make the air quality acceptable.

The next time I was keenly aware of objectionable house smells was in the apartment of a very old woman who had invited me – I was an antiques dealer at the time – to buy some of her things. When I entered her apartment, located in an old former hotel in Brooklyn, I was hit with a very unpleasant smell that was very hard to describe.

The windows were all shrouded in heavy curtains and shades and the furniture was all deeply tufted. I'm embarrassed to admit that I thought the smell was coming from what I had heard was "old people smell." That, however, was a wrong assumption. I learned from an air quality control company that it's really the circumstances of the old person's environment. There may



By Bill Primavera

be closed windows and no air flow. It could also be their personal habits, including how often they bathe and clean their clothes, and the odors just don't have an opportunity to dissipate with circulation.

I also learned that the three most common causes of house odor are smoking, pets and mold. Usually no one does anything about the first two – smoking and pets – because people are unaware of those odors when they live with them. They are very aware of mold, however, either because of the smell or allergic reaction, and that is something they should do something about. Toxic mold produces a chemical called mycotoxins, which can cause serious illnesses that can be fatal.

Pet smell and the odor from smoking may not raise a danger signal as much as toxic mold. But the source of the smoking smell can be very harmful to both the smoker and the one who breathes in second hand smoke, according to the Surgeon General. Pets can be anathema to those with severe allergies to them.

Both smells can be addressed with home remedies when the source moves on, but toxic mold, which is reputed to have hastened the death of television personality Ed McMahon, should best be handled by a professional remediation service. There is just too much at stake, especially in the remediation process, to approach on one's own.

If a house is being readied for sale and the owner is advised to eliminate the smell of smoking or pets, the best cure is good ventilation. The process can be expedited with baking soda, that old standby that we know from our mothers placing a box in the refrigerator. Baking soda can be sprinkled on furniture and carpeting that has absorbed smoking or pet odors, and after it sits for several hours, is vacuumed.

The worst thing to do about household odors is to try to mask them with candles, incense or other odor-combating products. The layered smells can be worse than the original offending odor.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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New Center Helps Patients to Perform Dialysis From Comfort of Home

By Martin Wilbur

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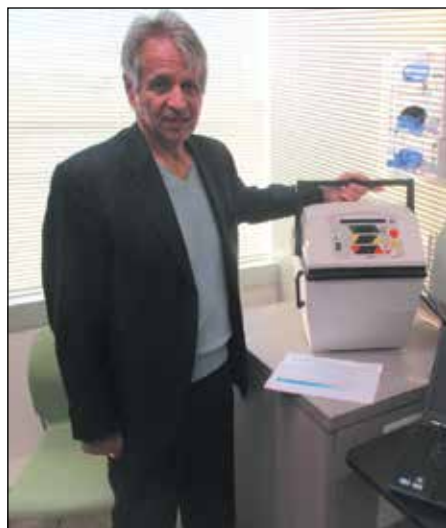
Dialysis Center, Inc. (DCI) is making that experience more manageable and improving the quality of life for those who suffer from kidney failure.

DCI has opened a new 3,800-square-foot home training center in Yorktown Heights to accompany the location it has operated for years in Hawthorne to provide patients with the ability to undergo dialysis at home.

Dr. Allen Coffino, a nephrologist and medical director of DCI's Yorktown facility, said the advantages of dialyzing at home strongly outweigh going to a hospital or clinic three times a week for up to four hours.

"(Dialysis) is a tough experience, it's a life-changing experience because it takes up three days out of your seven days," Coffino said. "You have to be here at a particular time because this is your time slot and you don't have flexibility. When people do this dialysis at home, one, (patients) have the freedom of being able to go to work or go out, which is huge, and they can do it when they want to do it."

In addition, because patients are dialyzing more frequently, they use less medication and feel stronger, he said.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Dr. Allen Coffino, medical director of Dialysis Center, Inc., with the home hemodialysis unit that some patients can operate on their own.

Many patients who have in-patient dialysis are more easily fatigued because three to four kilograms – between 6.6 and nine pounds – of fluid are removed from the body in one sitting, rather than having it done on a daily basis, Coffino said.

It takes DCI's staff about two weeks before a patient can be trained to use the devices either for peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis at home. For peritoneal

dialysis, the patient is hooked up to a catheter which sits near the bowels removing the excess fluid and waste as it would in an in-patient setting but they dialyze while they sleep every night.

The home hemodialysis also works similarly to the way it's done at a clinic by being hooked up to machine that cleans the blood. However, the patient can have it done in the evening after coming home from work about four or five times a week.

Most people can do either type of dialysis unless there's a medical issue that would prevent one kind from being performed.

"For these people, this is freedom," said Coffino, practices at Northern Westchester Hospital. "Until you're on dialysis, you don't know what that's like."

Once they're set up at home, the patient comes into the office twice a month, once to get blood drawn and a second visit to consult with the staff and Coffino.

Ellen Jones, DCI's home therapies coordinator, said as long as a patient has the willingness to learn how to use the equipment, a stable home situation with room for one of the relatively modest-sized devices and the mental capacity to consistently and responsibly dialyze themselves, they are a candidate. For the home hemodialysis, a partner is required but home peritoneal dialysis can be

performed independently, she said.

"You can learn to do this and not have to read," Coffino said. "You can do this without even a high school education."

Jones said while in most other countries at-home dialysis has become increasingly common, in the United States it is the exception. Currently, DCI has 92 patients coming to its Yorktown site while seven are doing it at home. Of the approximately 7,600 new dialysis starts in 2016 in New York State, only 415 patients were trained for home use, according to the center's statistics.

"You're doing it in the comfort of your own home," Jones said.

Coffino said there is an increasing trend for more at-home dialysis because of the convenience. Currently DCI is the only outfit in Westchester that trains patients, he said. The Yorktown office is designed to serve patients in the northern part of the county and Putnam who had to travel for their training and follow-ups down to the Hawthorne site.

Although there are definite advantages, including a cheaper option, Coffino acknowledged that some patients may not have the confidence to dialyze on their own.

"It's a better long-term way to go in terms of finances and a better long-term way to go in terms of patient care but it's not for everyone," Coffino said.

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Rockefeller Preserve Named to State Register of Historic Places

A multiyear effort by The Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve culminated last Friday when the New York State Historic Review Board voted unanimously to designate the preserve and its 65-mile carriage road network for inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places.

The designation recognizes the unique beauty and character of the 16-foot-wide, crushed-stone pathways designed by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and his son, John D. Jr., over more than 40 years from 1910 into the 1950s. The winding carriage roads are the signature feature giving the preserve its distinctive and elegant look and feel and are integral to its overall appeal.

The network is one of only two such extensive systems in the nation. The other, in Acadia National Park in Maine and also Rockefeller-designed, already has historic designation. The preserve's network includes well-engineered loops that traverse the property offering stunning vistas. Numerous stone bridges carry them across the Pocantico River and are noteworthy. More than 400,000 visitors from around the world walk the roads each year, joined by countless joggers and equestrians.

"The Rockefeller Pocantico Hills Historic District, which includes Rockefeller State Park Preserve and the magnificent network of carriage roads, is truly deserving of the nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places," said State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey. "The nomination honors the conservation ethic and philanthropy that made the Rockefeller family among America's greatest benefactors of public park land."

Ann Rockefeller Roberts, author of "Mr. Rockefeller's Roads," added "My

grandfather, John D. Rockefeller Jr., introduced me to these roads at an early age –he taught us to ride, and we each came to love these roads and the out of doors through him. I have walked and ridden on horseback and in carriages along these roads with my own children and grandchildren. My grandfather's desire in creating these roads was that people from all walks of life would be able to receive nature's blessings."

George Gumina, founder of The Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserve, said he was deeply appreciative

that the state has recognized the preserve's historic value and the 100-year-old carriage roads by placing them on the Historic Register.

"They represent not only an important part of the history of Westchester County but also of the Rockefeller Family," Gumina said. "The Friends group was inspired by the family's vision and we are pleased to see that vision fulfilled with this momentous action."

The preserve was one of 16 properties voted to the State Register. It is also in

line for designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserve received letters of support from several public officials including Rep. Nita Lowey and Westchester County Executive George Latimer along with organizations throughout Westchester County. This designation expands opportunities for federal and state tax credits and grants to support restoration, local tourism and economic development initiatives.

20th County Center Slam Dunk Tourney on Tap for Dec. 19-22

Eighteen high school basketball teams will face off in the 20th annual Slam Dunk Tournament. The tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 19 through Saturday, Dec. 22, at the County Center in White Plains. Games are scheduled for 4:30, 6:15 and 8 p.m. Dec. 19-21. The schedule for Dec. 22 is 11:15 a.m. and 1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15 and 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 per day.

Info is available by calling 914-995-4050 or visiting www.countycenter.biz.

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Finding Coziness on a Cold Winter's Day – and in Life

Years ago, I offered a seemingly straightforward compliment to a work colleague from Denmark about her impressive wardrobe of hand-knitted woolen sweaters and scarves.

This led to an intriguing conversation in which she explained to me how creating, supporting and discussing warmth, togetherness and comfort are absolutely integral to the culture and history of Denmark. There is even a Danish word to capture this concept: hygge (pronounced hue-gah).

The idea of hygge is challenging to translate directly to English. It's a noun and is perhaps best described as a calm, comfortable time with people you love; a complete absence of frustrations or anything emotionally overwhelming, often enjoyed with good food and drinks, warm blankets and candlelight.

From what I learned, wearing warm woolen sweaters, scarves and socks during the cold-weather months is all part of the hygge experience. But it's so much deeper than that. It is rooted in a Norwegian word that means well-

being. The well-being that comes from cultivating comfort and happiness from experiencing coziness and engaging all of the senses as much as we can.

Now, I am further researching to write this column for readers. So, I am all at once: having a bowl of soup (taste), listening to a vinyl jazz record (sound), lighting a candle (scent), enjoying a ceramic mug of tea (feel) and watching the rainfall outside (sight). These all lead to an overall feeling of well-being and comfort for me.

Nourish

Okay, as for many of us, given the reality of daily life I don't expect to be in a position to have all or perhaps most of these elements in place going forward.

But, if we can each try our best to build just one piece of these into our day when we can, especially during moments of stress or unease, that



By Joanne Witmyer

goes a long way to helping us unwind, feel connection and experience a sense of well-being. Some of us may be more drawn to different expressions of creating coziness. Hygge can also be expressed as a verb, when you are seeking an active way to cultivate the feeling of well-being I described.

I look forward to hearing from you about what has helped you. Happy holidays.

Joanne Witmyer is the founder of Indigo Health and Wellness based in Croton-on-Hudson. She teaches group classes, offers wellness consulting to companies and helps private clients achieve their health goals – particularly during times of change and transition. You can reach Joanne at 914-208-1022 or Joanne@IndigoHW.com.

Vanessa Williams to Headline Holiday Benefit Concert in Chappaqua

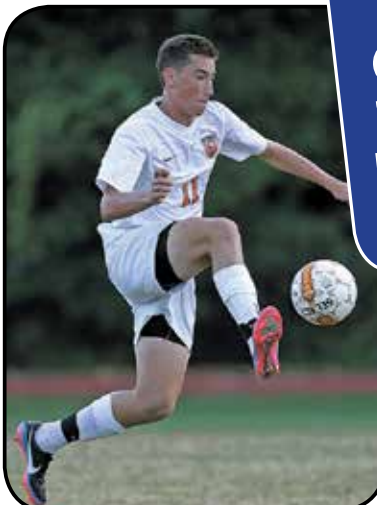
Vanessa Williams, the multiplatinum recording artist and actress and a Chappaqua resident, will headline a holiday benefit concert for San Miguel Academy of Newburgh on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center.

Frank Shiner, another local resident, and his All-Star Band will be the opening act.

The San Miguel Academy of Newburgh is a charity of choice for Williams because it offers hope to youngsters who are deemed at risk.

San Miguel Academy of Newburgh was founded by Father Mark Connell 13 years ago with a mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through education. The tuition-free, faith-based middle school for boys in grades 5-8 has become a steppingstone to a better life for its students and their families.

Tickets for the concert start at \$100 each and can be bought by visiting www.chappaquapac.org. The Chappaqua Performing Arts Center is located at 480 Bedford Rd. within the Chappaqua Crossing complex.



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In the Shadow of the Freeway: Birding Parsippany

By Brian Kluepfel

After enjoying travel-writing assignments near and far this year, from Quito, Ecuador to Bogota, N.J. – not to mention the great state of Connecticut (aka the Big Nutmeg) – December finds me on desk assignment in Parsippany, where the mighty Route 80 crosses the majestic I-287.

Despite the daily commuter panic and unromantic circumstance, I refuse to allow this to be the winter of my discontent.

On my first week back in the technical writing realm, I immediately discovered a manmade pond behind the Sheraton hotel, across the street from my new office. This body of water is about a half-mile in circumference and sits right next to the whizzing traffic of 287. Yet it is a small birding paradise.

I walk around the pond thrice daily –



once before beginning work and twice at lunch time. I've found the morning walk a good way to loosen up my body after an hour in the car and inject some life into my veins with the cool

late autumn air. And, I get to see some birds.

On the first day I noticed several blue jays hopping in the trees around the pond's perimeter.

Loud and beautiful, they're always a sight to behold. And I thank them for making themselves so obvious with their constant chatter.

That same day, walking with a colleague, we spied a bright red northern cardinal (male), always an outstanding bird in the winter, crisp crimson against the faded grasses and dead leaves. It too makes a telltale sound, a chipping sort of alarm. The female cardinals are attractive in a different way; their bodies mostly a brownish hue, with perhaps a hint of red, but the beak an

unmistakable orange.

I also saw a sparrow of unknown provenance this week. I'm not good at identifying them, to be honest, but if I had to guess, I'd say it was a chipping sparrow. Just don't hold me to that.

My colleague also told me about a "big grey" bird in the pond, and next morning, sure enough, as I crossed near the freeway underpass where the water flows into one end of the pond, I startled a magnificent great blue heron out of its spot, just below the morning traffic. A spectacular sight to see fly overhead, six-foot wingspan floating to the other end of the pond and safe from my intrusion.

The next morning, I spied something just as cool (cool to birders, anyhow):

coming around the same corner I surprised a pair of hooded mergansers, who quacked their alarm and quickly flew off to mid-pond to hide themselves among a gaggle of Canada geese. This merganser is a sight to behold. The male has a striking black and white crested head, (a very odd oblong shape, to be honest, when the crest is puffed up), while the female

has a flatter, russet shade of head with some tufts sticking out back. Like the cardinals, both genders are lovely in their own fashion.

I have brought my binoculars to the pond, which allows for a closer look at these wonderful aquatic birds. I hope to see a greater variety as winter progresses, and maybe some hawks and eagles, too. But you don't even need special optics at a place like this, just the time to walk around the pond for a half-hour a day. I highly recommend it.

This column is dedicated to my friend Deborah Blakeney, who loved birds and all living creatures. We're down here trying to protect this special planet, as you would have liked. God rest your soul.

Brian Kluepfel is a travel writer for Lonely Planet publications and Birdwatching magazine, among other

publications, and serves as a board member on Saw Mill River Audubon. He blogs at www.brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com. We encourage you to participate in their activities, listed in the ad below.

For The Birds

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

All Those Ologies was a category on the game show Jeopardy! and is the theme of this week's quiz. Unlike Jeopardy! you will not win any money for a correct answer, but then again you will not lose any money for an incorrect answer. Time to see how you do on what could be referred to as an anthology of ologies.

1. Pomology is the scientific study of what?

A) vocal sounds B) fruits C) drug doses
2. What subject does nephology study?

A) kidneys B) newborns C) clouds
3. In logic, what is the definition of tautology?

A) a self-affirming truth B) a mistaken belief C) skepticism
4. Ichnology is the study of which subject?

A) foreign words B) fossil footprints C) fish migration
5. What does orology study?

A) musical instruments B) dreams C) mountains
6. Balneology is the study of what?

A) organizational charts B) baths C) blackberries
7. What does chirolgy study?

A) palm reading B) time C) crop circles
8. A zumology is a treatise on what subject?

A) fermentation B) wood working C) the Zodiac

- ANSWERS:
1. B. The scientific study of, and cultivation of fruits

2. C. The branch of meteorology that deals with and studies clouds

3. A. A self-affirming truth

4. B. A branch of paleontology that deals with the study of fossil footprints and tracks

5. C. The study of mountains and their mapping

6. B. The study of baths or bathing, especially the study of the therapeutic use of thermal baths

7. A. The study of telling fortunes by lines on the palm of the hand; palm reading

8. A. The fermentation of liquors



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 306 PRESCOTT STREET, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/26/2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7 Arbor St, Yonkers, NY 10701. **Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WEBER ROSSELLI & CANNON LLP filed with SSNY on 8/8/2018. Office in Westchester, SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7 Skyline Drive - Suite 350, Hawthorne, NY 10532. **Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF SURETY TITLE AGENCY COASTAL REGION, L.L.C. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/6/18. Formed in NJ on 10/12/99. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to 853 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050. The office address required to be maintained in NJ is 11 Eves Dr., Ste. 150, Marlton, NJ 08053. **Cert. of formation filed with State Treas., 33 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SU-JEAN STUDIO LLC filed with Secretary of State NY on 11/14/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 33 Windmill Rd., Armonk NY 10504. **Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 10/18/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC, 351 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

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Special Needs Trusts Are Complicated But Necessary for Estate Planning

Special needs trusts are an integral part of almost every estate plan, yet most people don't realize this and fail to take the initiative to include it in their plans.

Typically, those who seek consultation on the applicability of special needs trusts are either disabled or closely involved with a disabled child or other adult. In these instances, the need for a special needs trust is obvious.

Less apparent, is the need for special needs trusts for nearly everyone. Consider that a beneficiary of your estate may become disabled at any time. As discussed below, I use them in most of my estate planning documents to deal with unforeseen disabilities.

The purpose of a special needs trust is to provide a pool of assets that can be used to supplement, not replace, government benefits or assistance for which the disabled person may be entitled to receive. The assets of the trust are commonly used for expenses such as medical equipment, transportation, vacations and other recreational items, personal care and expenditures that are not covered by government programs.

There are two types of special needs trusts: First Party and Third Party. A First Party Special Needs Trust is one that is created with the assets of a disabled person who is under 65 years old. Often, this type of trust is used where a disabled person is already receiving government benefits such as Social Security or Medicaid and receives assets, for instance, by inheritance. If this trust is properly utilized, the disabled beneficiary's government benefits will not be discontinued.

Until recently, only a parent, grandparent or court could establish a First Party trust for the benefit of a disabled beneficiary. Earlier this year, the law changed, now allowing a disabled person, who has the capacity, to establish a First Party trust on their own.

Upon the death of the disabled person, a First Party Special Needs



By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo, Esq.

Trust must name the state as a remainder beneficiary for any benefits paid to the disabled individual during his lifetime. This is called a payback provision. If the trust does not include this provision, the assets of the trust will be considered available assets for the disabled individual, thereby discontinuing any government benefits.

A Third Party Special Needs Trust is a trust that can be created by any person, with that person's assets, for the benefit of a disabled individual. Consider a parent who has a disabled child. If assets are to be set aside for the disabled child, a properly drafted estate plan would include a Third Party Special Needs Trust for the benefit of the disabled child.

Unlike a First Party Special Needs Trust, a Third Party trust does not have a "payback provision." Therefore, you can name any individual or entity

as beneficiary of the trust after the death of the disabled person.

I use Third Party trusts in most of the estate planning documents I create for clients. As I mentioned above, anyone can become disabled at any time. For this reason, we provide in our documents that where assets are being left to a beneficiary who is disabled at the time of distribution, a Third Party Special Needs Trust shall trigger and be used to hold the disabled child's inheritance, thereby preserving their inheritance where there is an unforeseen disability. This is called a "trigger trust."

Special needs trusts are complicated areas of elder law and special needs planning. Please contact us to discuss their applicability and your options.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP in Rye and Yorktown Heights. He is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. Di Costanzo can be reached at 914-925-1010 or at smd@mfd-law.com. For more information, visit www.plantodayfortomorrow.com.

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Dec. 11

English Conversations. For speakers of other languages seeking to improve their English. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

DIY Sparkly Snowflakes. Have fun welcoming winter by cutting out your very own snowflakes using model clay and cookie cutters. Materials provided. For children six to 12 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Current Affairs Book Club. "What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia" will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:15 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

The New York Tenors Christmas Special. The New York Tenors celebrate the holiday season in this evening of Christmas spirit. Inspirational performances of newly created and timeless Christmas classics move the audience from the days of Irving Berlin to the millennium. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Show at 8 p.m. \$95 per person (plus tax). Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.broadwaytheatre.com.

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. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

History and Biography Book Club. "Red Notice" by Bill Browder will be discussed. Extra copies of the book are available for checkout. Drop-ins are welcome. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 7:30 p.m. Free. Also meets the second Tuesdays in January and February. Info: 914-669-5161 or www.keelerlibrary.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Confronting Climate Change: What to Expect in Our Region. Hear from leaders in the field who have been studying the results of changes in climate for Cornell University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Professional credits for landscape architects will be available. The conference is being presented in partnership by the Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District and Department of

Planning, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester, the Watershed Agricultural Council and The Native Plant Center. Westchester County Center, 198 Central Park Ave., White Plains. Registration and continental breakfast from 8 to 8:45 a.m. Workshop from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$40. Info: Contact Robert Doscher at 914-995-4423 or rrd1@westchestergov.com. Registration: Visit <https://planning.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/SoilWater/ClimateWSReg.pdf>.

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. 9 a.m. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

New Mommy and Daddy Meet-Up. Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. World Cup Nursery School, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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. Also Dec. 14. 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 (except Dec. 26). 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. Also Dec. 14. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Bilingual Storytime. Sing songs and read picture books in English and Spanish. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. 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 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 19. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.com.

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

Affordable Care Act Navigator. A trained navigator provided by the county Department of Health will be available to help people with choosing and signing up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and the state health marketplace. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Also Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointment required. Info and appointment for Wednesday sessions: 914-336-6026. Info and appointment for Thursday and Saturday sessions: 914-813-5192.

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 to 5:30 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.

Chess Workshop for Young Adults. Come learn chess with the help of guided instruction and supervised play. Included will be the study of strategy and tactics to make you an even better player. For children in grades 5 and up. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville. 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or

www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Artists Avoiding Censorship: Veronese to Street Art. Veronese changed the title of his irreverent "Last Supper" to satisfy a scandalized Catholic Church. Ursula K. Le Guin and Rod Serling turned to fantasy writing to expose contemporary societal problems. Former slave Bill Traylor used allegory to address human dynamics hard to speak of openly in the Jim Crow South. Street artists in the 1980s "defaced" public property to get their political messages across. Join artist and lecturer Cliff Tisdell as he explores the ingenious and subversive ways artists avoided censorship. New Castle Town Hall Assembly Room, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Art Series: Pablo Picasso. Born in 1881 in Malaga, Spain, Picasso changed the way the world looks at and experiences art. Fluent in many styles of painting, he created a way of presenting numerous viewpoints of an object at one time, as well as offering a way to express thoughts from the unconscious. Look at different pieces from various periods throughout his career. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Riverkeeper and the Hudson River Estuary. Join Riverkeeper staff members George Jackman and Jen Benson to learn about the Hudson River, its history and the species inhabiting its waters and shorelines. It is home to a variety of protected and endangered species now affected by numerous threats. Mechanisms of harm the river faces include industrial pollution, PCB contamination, Indian Point and dangerously under researched projects being advanced by the Army Corps of Engineers. In partnership with the Greenburgh Nature Center and the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St., Dobbs Ferry. 7 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.dobbsferrylibrary.org.

Bedford Chamber Concert. an all-Vivaldi program, including "The Four Seasons," plus two concerti from Vivaldi's Opus III. The Double Concerto is for two violins, featuring Ensemble violinists Renee Jolles and Emily Daggett-Smith, and the Triple Concerto features these two violinists plus cellist Alexis Gerlach. The solo violinist for "The Four Seasons" is Katie Hyun. Refreshments at intermission. St. Matthews Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 382 Cantitoe St., Bedford. 8 p.m. \$45. Info and tickets: Visit www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

Wednesday Night Comedy. An exciting show filled with big laughs as three of our

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Business of the Week

All Together Now Mount Kisco

By James Miranda

Robin Bucu has spent the last 11 years photographing families, weddings, creating head shots and helping clients create snapshots for life. While photography has been her passion and livelihood, she always envisioned a different kind of snapshot for herself: owning a toy store.

Bucu, the founder and owner of All Together Now in Mount Kisco, knows photography and owning and operating a retail store have virtually nothing in common. But she always grew up admiring the purity and fun that a toy store delivers.

"I felt that there was a big hole missing from this town, that there was no children's store," said Bucu, 35, a mother of two. "Even before I had kids, it was always fun to stop into a toy store, so I thought it would be a fun business to own one day."

Her dream moved closer to reality when she discovered the vacant space at 53 S. Moger Ave. in September. Her opportunity to fill that void in the village's downtown started to take shape when she decided to combine her trade and dream.

All Together Now –the name is inspired

from The Beatles song – opened its doors in early November. Toys, clothes and books for children 10 and under made from wood and other eco-friendly products are offered in the front of the store.

But like any experienced photographer, Bucu's vision goes what's out front and includes the details in the background as well.

She uses the store's backspace as a photo studio for her freelance photography business, Robin Eden Photography. The space is also used for 45-minute Mommy & Me yoga classes for pre-walkers (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.), walkers (Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.) and children in grades K-2 (Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.). There are also Music for Aardvark classes on Sundays.

"I knew if I opened a retail store it wouldn't just be retail," said Bucco, who took her daughter to the same types of music classes starting when she was three months old. "I knew I wanted to (combine) it with a retail space and a class space. I wanted it to be, overall, a space of community building and inclusiveness for



JAMES MIRANDA PHOTO

Robin Bucu, the owner of All Together Now in Mount Kisco, which opened last month. The space serves as a toy store and a home for Mommy & Me classes for young children and their parents as well as Bucu's photography studio.

everyone."

Bucu hopes All Together Now will be a community resource for local children and families. She believes the foundation has been laid despite having been open for about a month.

Bucu and her staff got a taste of that community atmosphere at the recent grand opening where the first Music for Aardvarks class took place and children and their parents were in a circle enjoying themselves. It was a highly rewarding moment for Bucu.

"I think [All Together Now] will become a local, go-to place for buying gifts, for

celebrations, for community resources and building," she said. "I don't care what country you're from, what language you speak or how much money you have in your bank account. Everyone should be welcome to come in here."

All Together Now is located at 53 S. Moger Ave. in Mount Kisco, NY. It's open Tuesday to Friday at 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's closed on Mondays. For more information, call 914-864-2400, visit www.alltogethernowkids.com or e-mail hello@alltogethernowkids.com.

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Happenings

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most popular comics, Patrick Scully, Joe Cuomo and Josh Kincade, are coming together for this special event. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$15. Info and advance tickets: Visit www.lucyslaughs.com. Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Plan Today for Tomorrow Breakfast. Join leading elder law attorney Sal Di Costanzo over breakfast for a casual conversation about ways to manage your financial and health care needs and those of your loved ones. Di Costanzo will speak about his experience assisting clients with estate planning, wills, trusts, Medicaid and long-term planning, special needs planning and other related areas of interest. Breakfast will be provided. Yorktown Coach Diner, 340 Downing Drive, Yorktown Heights. 8 to 9:30 a.m. Free. Space limited; registration required. Info and registration: <https://bit.ly/2SJz8UX>

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.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 (except Dec. 24 and 31). Info: 914-273-3887.

Life Line Theater Music Program. An outlet for unlocking the potential of children and adults with special needs through integrated arts and life skills programs. Drop in anytime and join founder Billy Ayres as he uses singing, dancing, creating plays, artwork and gardening to help participants realize their strengths and potential contributions to their communities. Ayres has created a technique called improvisational integrated music/drama. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Also Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Visit www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html.

The Holiday Boutique at Philipsburg Manor. Holiday shoppers can browse local wares and support Historic Hudson Valley's educational programs while checking off their entire gift list. Stocked with Hudson Valley-inspired and holiday-themed

merchandise, including artisan foods, books about the region, winter solstice-scented candles, handcrafted jewelry and regional artists' work, the shelves are full of unique items for everyone that can't be found elsewhere. Philipsburg Manor Visitor Center, 381 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22. Info: Visit www.hudsonvalley.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, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Storytime. For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.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.mountkiscopubliclibrary.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. 5 to 6 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org.

Westchester's Winter Wonderland. A one-of-a-kind holiday event featuring the Santa Experience, unlimited skating, a circus, great rides, food trucks, gift vendors and more on weekends and select dates through December. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 5 to 9 p.m. \$20. Continues Thursdays through Sundays through Dec. 23 and daily from Dec. 26 to 31. Thursdays, Sundays and Dec. 26, 27 and 31 from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m. Info: Visit www.Wwinterwonderland.com.

Job Search 123: The Interview. The last of three seminars to provide you the tools to help find the right job. At tonight's session, learn about the different types of interviews, what to expect from each one and how to get through them; take home the single most important tip to remember when answering interview questions; and how to follow up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Free. The remaining session is scheduled for Dec. 13. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org.

"The Feeling of Being Watched." When journalist Assia Boundaoui investigates rumors of surveillance in her Arab-American neighborhood in Chicago, she uncovers thousands of pages of

documents proving her hometown was the subject of one of the largest FBI terrorism probes conducted before 9/11. The film weaves the personal with the political as it follows the filmmaker's examination of why her community fell under blanket government surveillance and her ongoing struggle to confront the emotional effects of this decades-long investigation. An eye-opening, often infuriating look at the perils of xenophobia and prejudice. Followed by a Q&A with Boundaoui and Michelle Mattered, professor of media studies and film at The New School. Part of the Global Watch: Crisis & Social Action series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Friday, Dec. 14

ZUMBA® With Amy. Fun cardio dance fitness workout, low-impact approach, easy learning environment. This feel-good workout is exercise in disguise. Free trial class available. Addie-Tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza, lower level, Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. \$14 drop-in fee. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Walk-ins welcome. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162 or visit www.amyolin.zumba.com.

Christmas Tree Sale. The North White Plains Fire Company No. 1 will again be selling Christmas trees this year as a fundraising event. Proceeds to benefit the fire company. All ages are welcome. North White Plains firehouse, 621 N. Broadway, North White Plains. 4 to 8 p.m. Parking free. Trees are priced according to size and type. Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Dec. 23 (or until sold out). Info: 914-949-3575 or e-mail ncsf1@optonline.net.

Friday Night Film Series: "Captain Fantastic." As we bound into the holiday season, this film takes us into the forests of the Pacific Northwest to follow a father devoted to raising his six kids with a rigorous physical and intellectual education. As he is forced to leave his paradise and enter the world, everything challenges his idea of what it means to be a parent. Starring Viggo Mortensen with Frank Langella, this thought-provoking drama is both poignant and funny. 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 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

"RBG." A screening of this documentary, which chronicles the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, revealing what many people don't know about her. Before she was the second woman on the Supreme Court, Ginsburg was a crucial crusader and an unsung hero in the fight

for women's rights and someone who was ahead of her time. Includes a discussion with award-winning filmmaker Julie Cohen, who co-directed the film with Betsy West, and the newly-elected state Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. VIP ticket (first four rows and a free glass of wine): \$30. General admission: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.irvingtontheater.com.

The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert. Get ready to rock around the Christmas tree with the one and only Rob Mathes, now in his third decade of holiday performances. This annual celebration featuring Mathes, plus his all-star band, chorus and special guest stars Sting, Vanessa Williams and saxophonist David Sanborn, is a high-energy evening of rock, jazz and blues – original tunes and holiday classics that will put you in the spirit of the season. Mathes has worked with virtually every big name in the music industry, arranging, producing, directing, recording and performing with the likes of Bono, Bennett, Sting and Springsteen. Despite his busy schedule, this Greenwich, Conn. native returns each year for the holidays. Purchase College's PepsiCo Theater, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$40 to \$85. Also Dec. 15. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Experience the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, voted "Best of Westchester" from 2014 to 2018. With nearly 40 vendors participating in the Indoor Market, the delicious good time continues each week. The farmers market is a dog-free environment. There will be seasonal vendors throughout December. Pleasantville Middle School cafeteria, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Mar. 30, 2019. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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

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.

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Our Virtual Tour Takes Us Deep Into Spain's Sparkling Wine Country



By Nick Antonaccio

This week our virtual tour of Spain's wine regions takes us further up the Mediterranean coast to the bucolic region of Penedès. Geographically, it is only a 45-minute drive, due west of cosmopolitan Barcelona in Catalonia. Yet historically and culturally, it is centuries away from the modern pace of its neighboring bustling cities.

Think rolling hills, 16th century hilltop towns, stucco and terracotta haciendas, grapevines planted wherever their roots can grab a foothold. It is reminiscent of the Tuscan landscape and vistas, but without the hordes of American and British tourists. Here Spanish winemakers have found paradise. How best to share their paradise than to enjoy the wine most associated with happy occasions and good times: sparkling wine.

The microclimate: warm, mild temperatures. The altitude: "hillsides" that are among the tallest in Europe. The sun: a beautiful interplay of light and

landscape. All come together for a perfect environment suitable to growing three indigenous grapes that, when blended by artisanal winemakers, create a unique sparkling wine: Cava.

In the Champagne region of France, it's Champagne; in the remainder of France it's Cremant; in Italy it's Prosecco; in the U.S. it's simply sparkling wine; and in Spain it's Cava. (The term Cava is derived from the natural "caves" used as cellar storerooms where aging takes place, but I bet you figured that out on your own.)

The Spanish have adopted the same process as the French for producing their bubbly, which contributes to the sophisticated style of the Spanish version. However, what makes Cava unique among sparkling wines is the grape varieties grown in Penedès. These indigenous grapes, grown here since the 19th century, are the Macabeo, Parellada and Xarel-lo varieties. Try pronouncing these names after a glass or two of Cava. (Okay, let's try it: mah-kah-BEH-oh, Par-el-YAH-dah and Sha-REHL-loh.)

Here is where the Spanish winemakers shine. It is the masterful crafting and blending of these grapes that emphasize the individual characteristics of each

variety and creates an end result that is greater than the sum of its parts. The Macabeo offers fragrant floral aromas. The Parellada offers a creamy mouth-feel and fruity flavors of citrus and apples. The Xarel-lo offers ripeness, full body, acid and alcohol. What comes through the bubbles are intoxicating aromas and flavors with toasty, creamy notes, sure to please discriminating palates.

Several artisans produce Cavas aged in their cellars for extended periods. Look for Reserva and Gran Reserva. They are worth the additional cost.

Cava production is second only to the Champagne region. Annual production is about 18 million cases (216 million bottles). Of this, exports top 10 million cases.

That equates to nearly 4 percent of all wine production in Spain. I'm sure that sometime in your life a number of you have been exposed to Cava without perhaps realizing it. The most consumed sparkling wine in the U.S. in the 1970s was Freixenet, in the distinctive black bottle at a cost of under \$10. (Ah yes, I remember it well at weddings and graduations.)

Now it's time to experiment. Visit your favorite wine shop and inquire about the availability of Cava. Most carefully

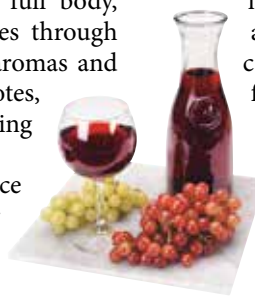
curated shops will stock one of two brands. If your shop doesn't offer any, ("I have limited shelf space." "Prosecco is my top seller in that price category, so I stock up on those wines." "Most customers haven't experienced Cava. It's an unknown to them.") you can regale them with your new-found knowledge and press them to stock a few. Excellent

Cavas sell for less than \$20, a similar price point to Prosecco, but in my opinion, a far superior wine.

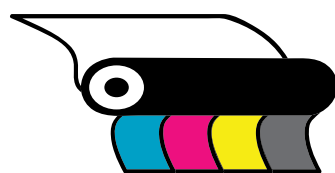
Reward yourself simply for being able to pronounce the names of the grape varieties. I trust you will appreciate the uniqueness and complexity of such an affordable sparkler.

As with many success stories in life, Cava's overnight popularity has been 50 years in the making. Here's to its long life and continued success.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 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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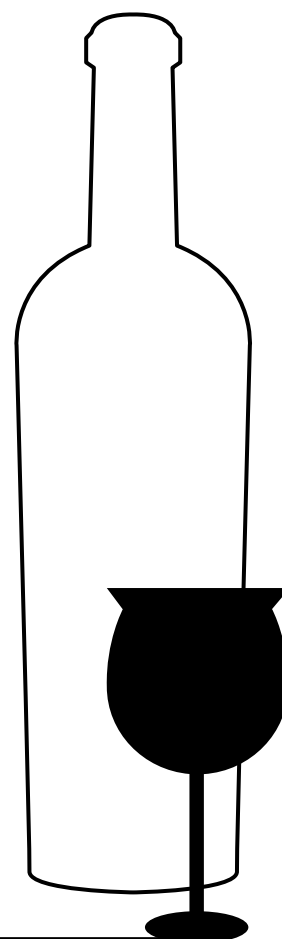
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Happenings

continued from page 28

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. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they prepare for winter. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 27-31 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Adult Salsa Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. \$12. Every Saturday. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit www.addie-tude.com. Call or visit website because classes are subject to change.

Family Gingerbread House Workshop. Come decorate your gingerbread house! Customize your candy land dream home with sweet architectural details including gumdrop gables, candy cane cornices, Pizelle windows, ice cream cone towers, waffle wainscoting and more. Embellish with professional icing techniques with Wilson Decorating Tips for fabulous frosted finishes. Led by Donna Ross. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Second session from 3 to 5 p.m. Members: \$45 Non-members: \$50. (Fee is for one parent and one child.) Each additional person \$25 additional. Info and registration: Visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

Puppet Ornaments Workshop. Create your own custom puppet ornaments. These lightweight, movable dolls will be a delightful addition to your holiday. Participants will be led through the production and decoration of these personality-filled ornaments. Led by Susan Saas. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Second session from 3 to 5 p.m. Members: \$41 Non-members: \$45. (Fee is for one parent and one child.) Each additional person \$25 additional. Info and registration: Visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

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 as they are out searching for prey preparing for winter. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 29 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-

763-2373 or visit www.nywolf.org.

Live Performance the Story of Scrooge. Come see the Traveling Lantern Theater bring a beloved classic Christmas story to life, the story of Ebenezer Scrooge or "A Christmas Carol." Light refreshments will be served following the show. Open to all ages and families. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

"Christmas Carol." Revelers can share in the spirit of the holiday season in a dramatic performance of Dickens' classic. Along with musical accompaniment, master storyteller Jonathan Kruk brings new life to the classic Charles Dickens story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future and Tiny Tim in this Historic Hudson Valley production. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Historic Old Dutch Church, 430 Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 3:30, 4:45 and 6 p.m. Adults: \$25. Children (under 18): \$20. Also Dec. 16. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

Messiah-Sing. Join in singing Handel's great Oratorio and be a part of this wonderful family tradition of fellowship and music. Accompanied by professional soloists and string quartet conducted by Dr. Sándor Szabó. Scores will be provided. Reception to follow. The Reformed Church of Bronxville, 180 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-337-6776.

New York Polyphony. This a cappella vocal quartet brings their exquisitely blended voices to the Music Room in "Sing Thee Nowell," a program of sacred Christmas music spanning seven centuries. The Rosen House, splendidly decorated for the holidays, will be open for self-guided tours between the two performances. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 4 and 7 p.m. \$25, \$35, \$50 and \$65. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

Ballroom Social. Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Includes food and snacks, plus raffle tickets. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 7:30 to 11 p.m. \$18. Third Saturday of each month. Info: 914-579-2228.

The Weight Band Performs The Band's "Music From Big Pink." Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Rolling Stone's 34th ranked album in its 500 albums of all time ranking. Performed by The Weight Band, which formed in 2013 inside the famed Woodstock barn of Levon Helm. Inspired to carry on the legacy of the unforgettable rock group, Jim Weider, Randy Charlante and Byron Isaacs perform fan favorites from The Band catalog to audiences across the country. Tarrytown Music

Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$30, \$35 and \$40. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Sunday, Dec. 16

Children's Christmas Pageant. Everyone's invited to a bilingual English-Spanish Christmas celebration and worship service. This joint service with Misión Bautista Hispana de Westchester will include a children's Christmas pageant telling the story of Jesus's birth. Followed by a community lunch. First Baptist Church of White Plains, 456 North St., White Plains. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-949-5207 or visit www.firstbaptistwhiteplains.org.

A Crooner's Holiday Concert. A concert for all ages performed by the Community Universalist Unitarian Church Choir and friends to celebrate the season and visit the past of golden holiday oldies. With conductor Lisa N. Meyer and pianist Georgianna Pappas, the choir will perform seasonal favorites from the '40s, '50s and '60s made famous by Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams and others. Community Universalist Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 1 p.m. \$20. Senior and students: \$10. Children: \$5. Maximum for families: \$45. Info: 914-946-1660 ext. 6 or e-mail concert@cucwp.org. Tickets: Visit www.cucwp.org/concert-series.

Animal Tracking in the Snow. Discover the secret lives of animals by following their tracks in the snow. Weather and snow permitting. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard St., North White Plains. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

Westchester Philharmonic's Winter Pops. Exuberant Maestra and Rockland native Rachael Worby, will be the guest conductor. She has been music director of the Pasadena Pops, Wheeling Symphony, Carnegie Hall's Young People's Concerts conducts around the world with legendary soprano Jessye Norman and leads her own Los Angeles-based ensemble, Muse/ique. Joining her and the Westchester Philharmonic will be Time for Three (violinists Nicolas Kendall and Charles Yang and bassist Ranaan Meyer), who happily and infectiously defy genre classification, performing music from Bach to Brahms to bluegrass to The Beatles. The program for this annual celebration of the season includes light classics, American Songbook gems and holiday favorites. Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 3 p.m. \$36 to \$98. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Memories and Premonitions. The sounds and spirits of the past often inhabit the music of the present. The ghosts of Mozart, Brahms, klezmer, ragtime, Peruvian folk music and Hindustani vocal music hangs over works by William Albricht,

Gabriela Lena Frank and 2012 Cultivate Fellow Reena Esmail. Copland House at Merestead, 455 Byram Lake Rd., Mount Kisco. 3 p.m. \$25. Friends of Copland House: \$20. Students (with I.D.): \$10. Info and tickets: Visit www.coplandhouse.org.

The Westchester Chordsmen's Winter Holiday Concert. An a cappella concert of seasonal holiday favorite songs by the entire Westchester Chordsmen chorus and selected quartets. The Westchester Chordsmen, the county's premiere barbershop chorus, has been a staple for 65 years, performing throughout the tristate area. Co-sponsored by The Cortlandt School of Performing Arts. First Presbyterian Church, 34 S. Highland Ave., Ossining. 3 p.m. \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door. Info: 914-298-7464. Tickets: Visit www.chordsmen.org.

Monday, Dec. 17

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. 719 Bedford Rd., Bedford Hills (next to ShopRite). 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 tinacampbell@masternetworks.net or 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.

Morning Shorts Book Group. "Your Duck is My Duck" by Deborah Eisenberg will be discussed. New Castle Town Hall Conference Room A and B, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Here We Are Together: Story Time for Children. From newborns to school-age children, with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Monday (except Dec. 24). Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

DIY Wrapping Paper. Making a stamp from a potato is a fun and inexpensive way of turning plain paper into something special. You will have the opportunity to make your own beautiful wrapping paper. For children six to 10 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

An Evening With Cher, Elton John, Celine Dion and Streisand. Remember all the wonderful variety shows we all grew up on in the 1970s and '80s? Now
continued on next page

Jessica Lynn Returns to the Paramount for Christmas Spectacular

By Anna Young

Rising country singer Jessica Lynn is bringing the holiday cheer to the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill this weekend for her annual Christmas spectacular.

On Saturday evening, Lynn will return to her home county with her family band and several local musical and dance talents to put concert-goers in the holiday spirit with her third annual "Very Merry Country Christmas."

"This is one of my favorite shows that we do because we get to involve so many different groups in the community," Lynn said. "The feeling the show brings is so special, happy and magical and I'm looking forward to it so much."

With a love for Christmas music and giving back to the community, Lynn was inspired three years ago to launch the holiday show. She said it was a great opportunity to put audiences in a festive mood while also benefiting Toys for Tots. "This time of the year is all about giving and being a good person," Lynn said. "I grew up very fortunate, always having a toy for Christmas and it breaks my heart for those who don't and I want to help."

While attendees are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy, Lynn is partnering with Trufflicious Treats, which will donate \$5 from each jar purchased to the military



Country music artist and Yorktown native Jessica Lynn returns home this Saturday night with her third annual A Very Merry Country Christmas show at the Paramount in Peekskill.

charity. She has also enlisted D'Angelico Guitars to provide a grand raffle prize of a new guitar at the concert. Guests will qualify for the drawing by donating to Toys for Tots during the show.

Raised in Yorktown and surrounded by a musical family, it seemed inevitable that Lynn found her way into the music business. While she began singing at four years old and started writing her own music as a teenager, it wasn't until Lynn was 21 that she decided to pursue a solo career as a country music artist.

Trying to jumpstart her career, Lynn and her family, who are also members of her band, paid to tape a live performance at The Winery at St. George in Mohegan Lake. The live show was picked up by PBS stations across the nation and aired to millions of viewers in 2014.

That led the Lakeland High School graduate to be signed to a song writing and artist's contract in Nashville where she landed her first national tour sharing the stage with country heavyweights Brad Paisley, Jake Owen and Chase Rice.

She followed that with a second PBS special in 2015 that was taped at the Paramount, which attracted more attention. From there, Lynn rocked her way onto another national tour sharing the bill with some of the biggest names in the genre, including Keith Urban, Tim McGraw and Jo Dee Messina.

Last summer, Lynn released her EP "Look at Me That Way" followed by the single "Crazy Idea," which was her first song to break into the Top 50 on the country charts. During her recently completed international tour that kicked off in May, Lynn released another single, "Let's Don't."

During this Saturday's anticipated two-hour performance, the 28-year-old singer said the audience can expect to hear holiday classics, her new Christmas song "Santa

You Can Skip Our House" and a few of the hits that catapulted her career. Along with a decorative production, a Christmas play, special effects and seasonal tunes, Lynn will be joined onstage by local choirs, dance troupes and musicians. Among those that will be part of the show are Peekskill's Dance Expression; Mohegan Lake's Star Struck Dance Studio; Cortlandt's Dance Conservatory; the Port Chester Middle School Choir; the Port Chester High School Marching Band; Cherko Country Line Dancing; Nick Bukuvalas; John Winton; and Bob Maniscalco, Diane Fitzgerald and Premier Entertainment.

Lynn will also be performing with her seven band members, including her father, bassist Peter Calamera; her mother, backup vocalist Victoria Calamera; and her husband, guitarist Steven Sterlacchi.

"It's so great to bring all these elements into one night and to have so many come together for a good cause," Lynn said. "It's not just a concert but a Broadway theatrical experience meets a country concert. I can't wait to see it all come to life."

"A Very Merry Country Christmas" is scheduled for 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and \$35. For tickets and more information, visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com. The Paramount Hudson Valley is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill.

Happenings

continued from previous page

is your chance to see them live and recreated by the Edwards twins, Las Vegas' top impersonators of all time. All your favorite legendary superstars come alive in an evening with the stars. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Lunch at 11:15 a.m. Show at 1 p.m. \$69 per person (plus tax). Show only: \$55 per person (plus tax). Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Show at 8 p.m. \$89 per person (plus tax). Show only: \$55 per person (plus tax). Also matinee and evening performances on Dec. 18. Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.Broadwaytheatre.com.

"**L'Atalante.**" In Jean Vigo's hands, an unassuming tale of conjugal love becomes an achingly romantic reverie of desire and hope. Jean, a barge captain, marries Juliette, an innocent country girl, and the two climb aboard Jean's boat – otherwise populated by an earthy first mate and a multitude of mangy cats – and embark on their new life together. Both a surprisingly erotic idyll and a clear-eyed meditation on love, it's Vigo's only feature-length work and is widely regarded as one of cinema's finest achievements. This is the unseen 1934 director's cut in a new 4K restoration. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1, 3:05, 5:10 and 7:15 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

org.

Belly Dancing. Learn this captivating Middle Eastern dance and enrich your cultural knowledge. Whether you want to dance professionally or just have fun and get in shape, this is the place to start. Josie's International School of Dance, 42 Memorial Plaza, Level B, Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$20. Every Monday. Info: 914-332-8670 or visit www.josiedance.com.

"Coeur Fidele." (The Faithful Heart) In the fourth film by Jean Epstein, good triumphs over evil in this melodrama set against the backdrop of the Marseille docks. A young orphan, Marie, suffers great hardships throughout her life starting when she's adopted by an exploitative bar owner. Marie grows up to work for the man as a servant in his tavern and as a barmaid, she's chased after by the worthless lay about, Petit Paul. She eventually marries Paul even though she is secretly in love with kind dockworker, Jean. Followed by a Q&A with Artist-in-Residence Emelie Mahdavian and Sean Weiner. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge Open Comedy Mic. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Sign up at 7 p.m. Show at 7:30 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 19. Info and tickets: Visit www.nomacomedy.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Music & Movement. Shake, shimmy and dance. For children two to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org.

"Monrovia, Indiana." Frederick Wiseman's film explores a small town in rural, mid-America and illustrates how values like community service, duty, spiritual life, generosity and authenticity are formed, experienced and lived along with conflicting stereotypes. The film gives a complex and nuanced view of daily life in Monrovia and provides some understanding of a way of life whose influence and force have not always been recognized or understood in the big cities on the east and west coasts. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1:15, 4:15 and 7:15 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Slime Time. Make slime to take home with you using glue, baking soda and other safe ingredients. For children six to 12 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Vanessa Williams Holiday Benefit Concert. The multiplatinum recording

artist and actress and Chappaqua resident will headline a holiday benefit concert for San Miguel Academy of Newburgh. The tuition-free, faith-based middle school for at-risk boys in Newburgh, N.Y. in grades 5-8 has become a steppingstone to a better life for its students and their families. Frank Shiner and his All-Star Band will open. Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. \$100 and up. Info and tickets: Visit www.chappaquapac.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Three Short Films By Vigo. "À Propos de Nice" (1930), a silent cinematic poem, is an absurdist and invigorating slice-of-life look at the resort town of Nice. "Taris," (1931) an experimental documentary short about champion swimmer Jean Taris, features incredible slow-motion and underwater photography. And the highly influential "Zero for Conduct" (1933) presents a sweet-natured vision of childhood as a time of imagination and rules-flouting – including the famous slow-motion pillow fight – based on Vigo's own experiences. All three films presented in new 4K restorations. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1, 3 and 7:05 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.



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