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December 18 - December 24, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 589

## The Village Bookstore Ready for Next Chapter

By Anna Young

The Village Bookstore in Pleasantville will be starting the next phase in its long history as a new owner looks to keep the beloved store thriving.

For 46 years, The Village Bookstore has seen many owners come and go while at different locations throughout the village. But the popular Washington Avenue establishment became a prime destination for book lovers in 2003 when the husband-and-wife team of Roy Solomon and Yvonne vanCort made the place their own.

Now, 15 years after making a decision that changed their lives and helped revitalize the village, the couple has passed the torch to Pleasantville resident Jennifer Kohn, who this month took over ownership. While vanCort said she'll miss the store, it was time to turn the page.

"I started feeling more and more like I

wasn't fully staying on top of everything, and the last thing I wanted to do was run this store into the ground," she said. "We love this store, we love being in the community and we're going to miss it enormously, but I think for the store and the community it's way better to have a young, energetic, fresh face here."

The dynamic duo had been living in the community for nearly 20 years before they made the decision to purchase the bookstore. While vanCort was gung-ho about taking ownership, Solomon was less enthused about spending every day in a retail environment. After a little convincing and some time spent around the store, Solomon quickly changed his mind and agreed to buy the shop.

"Much to my amazement I loved it. I just loved it," Solomon said. "Bookstore people are very special."

"I love bookstores," vanCort added.

*continued on page 2*



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Roy Solomon and Yvonne vanCort, owners of the treasured The Village Bookstore for the past 15 years, with new owner Jennifer Kohn outside the store on Washington Avenue.

## New Castle Approves Whole Foods Traffic Plan; Supermarket Opens

By Martin Wilbur

Whole Foods at Chappaqua Crossing opened last Saturday morning after the New Castle town and planning boards late last week were satisfied that traffic and safety measures executed around the site will protect the public.

The boards each approved a pair of resolutions supporting a deferral of several conditions the developer must adhere to in the vicinity of Route 117 and Roaring Brook Road and a Maintenance and Protection of Traffic plan (MPT). That enabled New Castle Building Inspector Bill Maskiell to issue a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. The 40,000-square-foot supermarket opened to customers Saturday at 9 a.m.

"We've been working toward this goal

*continued on page 6*



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The new Whole Foods at Chappaqua Crossing opened last Saturday morning after a whirlwind week-and-a-half of town meetings.

## Business Group: Airport Noise Complaints Come From Few Residents

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester's largest business organization presented statistics last week showing a colossal spike in noise complaints lodged against Westchester Airport dating back to last year but most of those were registered by relatively few households.

John Ravitz, the chief operating officer for the Business Council of Westchester (BCW), said in the one-year period from May 2017 to May 2018 complaints skyrocketed more than 6,600 percent. Ravitz questioned whether public discussion of the airport's future and it being a key issue in last year's county executive's race are the reasons behind the extreme jump.

"We as an organization, we as residents

*continued on page 4*



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

John Ravitz, chief operating officer for the Business Council of Westchester, points out startling statistics about noise complaints at Westchester Airport.



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# The Village Bookstore Ready for Next Chapter

*continued from page 1*

"Bookstores are not like any other business. It really is a place where people come to learn. It's not just buying and selling stuff, it's a totally different transaction in nature."

Solomon and vanCort took ownership of the neighborhood bookshop when it was in the corner space that is now occupied by Dunkin' Donuts. With one year remaining on their lease, they moved to their current storefront at 10 Washington Ave. and transformed the business into one of the most sought-after independent bookstores in the

region. They have survived competition from Barnes & Noble and the rise of Amazon and electronic reading devices.

"Part of the reason this store survived was the number of people coming to the Jacob Burns Film Center who would plan a visit to the bookstore as part of their movie experience," vanCort said. "During those really hard years that made the difference between survival and non-survival of this store."

With the bookstore seeing continuous foot traffic every day, it was the busy holiday season last year that made the couple realize it was time to move on.

The holidays are exhilarating but it does leave you rung out, Solomon said.

Fortunately for them, Kohn, an avid reader and book lover, had expressed interest in buying the store for more than two years. She has an extensive background in business, branding, communications and public relations and hopes to elevate The Village Bookstore's presence, something Solomon and vanCort believe she can do well.

"We've gotten the store to a place where it's worth spreading the word and marketing to a much broader world, and we don't have the knowledge, skills,

energy and expertise," vanCort said. "Jen has it and we're very excited."

Moving forward, Kohn said she wants to preserve the elements of the store that people love. With a goal of continuing to appeal to readers of all ages, Kohn plans to increase social media presence by creating a website and being active on Facebook and Instagram.

She also wants to bring more programming to the store and work with booksellers to help readers discover new and exciting authors and works.

"Bookstores are all about community, discovery, happiness and joy and I think everything that we do will be under one of those buckets," Kohn said. "People like being in a bookstore because it's a fun and happy environment and we want to keep that. The store really is the town store and it's our store collectively."

While Solomon and vanCort are ready for life's next chapter, the duo said they will miss their loyal customers and meeting new people every day. But for now, they'll be sticking around the bookstore for the next few months before they enjoy their retirement.

"I'm going to miss the daily contact with the wonderful people," vanCort said. "This has been our social life for 15 years."

## Nominations Sought for Annual Girl Scout Leadership Award

The Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. is seeking nominations for their Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Award that will be presented at the Spring Luncheon – Honoring Women of Distinction scheduled for Thursday, Apr. 25, 2019, at Brae Burn County Club in Purchase.

The nominee should be between the ages of 21 and 35 who participated in Girl Scouting as a girl for at least three years and has distinguished herself as an exceptional leader in her

chosen profession and/or her current volunteer capacity in her community. The nominee needs to have held a leadership position for a minimum of one year either in her professional, community or volunteer role.

When Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts 106 years ago, she recognized the value of developing girls' leadership abilities from the start. She started a movement that has endured and achieved her vision of developing girls into leaders.

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson will honor a young adult Girl Scout alumna who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in her professional or volunteer life.

For information about tickets, sponsorships and the Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Award and for the nomination form, visit [www.girlscoutshh.org/luncheon](http://www.girlscoutshh.org/luncheon). The deadline for nominations is Feb. 28, 2019.



## Hernia Repair Methods and Recovery

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### Q: What is a hernia?

**A:** A hernia is an opening within muscles or connective tissue, called fascia, through which intestines or fat protrudes. Hernias tend to occur in the belly through previous incisions, or most commonly in the groin, which is known as an inguinal hernia. They can develop at any age, from birth onward. Hernias may grow over time or they can come on suddenly; they may result from strenuous activity, heavy lifting, during pregnancy, or even from a fit of coughing.

### Q: What should I do if I think I have a hernia?

**A:** It's important to seek medical attention right away if you think you have a hernia. Aside from resting and taking ibuprofen for pain, unfortunately there isn't a lot that people can do on their own when it comes to treating a hernia. The only definitive treatment is surgery. Hernias, if left untreated, can continue to enlarge, putting you at risk for potentially dangerous complications, like lack of blood supply or strangulation to the intestines.

### Q: What are the surgical options for treating a hernia?

**A:** Hernias are treated either by open repair, or minimally invasive surgery, which includes laparoscopy or robot-assisted surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital all methods are available and selected based on the size and location of the hernia. Inguinal hernias, or hernias in the groin, require a synthetic mesh to repair and cover the defect, or hole. Other methods, like Laparoscopy and robotic hernia repair, allow the surgeon to make smaller incisions with smaller operating tools. In both types of surgery, the risk of complications is minimal – about the same as any surgical operation. Hernia repairs are ambulatory procedures and you'll be able to go home the same day. The risk of recurrence is slim: There's about a 5 percent chance that a person will experience another hernia in the same spot or elsewhere.

### Q: How long is the recovery period?

**A:** I generally recommend patients take a week off from work and that they do not lift anything heavier than 25 pounds for at least six weeks. I typically don't restrict cardiovascular exercise with my patients and most patients are able to return to regular activities without pain after a few weeks.



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# Business Group: Airport Noise Complaints Come From Few Residents

*continued from page 1*

of Westchester County, we want to understand what noise complaints there are, we want to be able to address them and hold people accountable," Ravitz said. "The airlines need to be held accountable if there are issues to be resolved with legitimate noise complaints."

To highlight the council's argument, Ravitz said the organization obtained statistics from the county's monthly Airport Monitor that reported 51 noise complaints lodged from 21 households in May 2017 in communities in close proximity to the airport. In January 2017, there had been only 38 complaints.

However, during the course of the next 12 months the number of complaints exploded, jumping to 200 in July 2017, 712 in September and more than 1,800 each in October and November 2017 and January 2018.

In May 2018, the last month official statistics have been released, there were 3,425 complaints but from only 87 households. Just four households in Armonk accounted for 2,033 of the complaints, followed by 36 households lodging 783 complaints in Pleasantville. Another four households in Purchase registered 336 complaints and 21 Chappaqua households submitted 210 complaints, easily the four communities

with the highest number.

Meanwhile, there were more than 1,700 fewer flights – 14,602 to 12,867 – when comparing May 2017 to May 2018.

Ravitz said while credible noise complaints must be taken seriously, the statistics shed new light on the issue. He said those homeowners should allow monitors to be placed on their property.

"We want noise complaints to be addressed, we want legitimate noise complaints for the communities that we serve in to have the proper oversight and the proper enforcement, if necessary," Ravitz said. "But it's hard to legitimize real complaints when you see these types of numbers because it skews everything."

"This is us having to say, let's look at these numbers and let's see where they're coming from and what's really going on in this community," said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of the BCW.

Last summer, the BCW formed the Coalition for Westchester, which is comprised of some of its member businesses. The organization has supported having an outside company operate the airport and wants enhancement of the facility since it is such an important engine for the county's economy.

Peter Schlactus, a spokesman for the Coalition to Prevent Westchester Airport Expansion and a member of the county's Airport Advisory Board, said the numbers

of residents who have complained are misleading because historically no changes have come from the objections. Therefore, people stop reporting noise problems. Then there are others who aren't aware of how to file a noise complaint and will suffer in silence while other residents repeatedly report out of frustration.

"There are people who have dedicated themselves to showing just how frequent, bothersome and painful the episodes have become," Schlactus said.

Two outspoken area residents who have reported sharp increases in aircraft traffic in the past year or two questioned the BCW's motives. Chappaqua resident Suzanne Chazin said it appears the noise problem is being dismissed by the organization as a "couple of cranks" complaining rather than a larger problem.

From about Memorial Day weekend through summer, it is now impossible to sit outside on Friday and Sunday afternoons and evenings, she said.

"I've lived in the same house for 20 years. It's only been a problem, I'd say, for the last three, so it's not like I just discovered something," Chazin said. "This is a change."

Mara Van Fleet, another Chappaqua resident, said it's not just the frequency of flights that have increased, it appears the aircraft are approaching lower and are larger. Van Fleet said she tracked 158 flights last Friday that flew over or near her

house. Some of the planes were only two minutes apart.

"It's just feels like a free-for-all in the sky," she said.

Jonathan Wang, a Purchase resident and co-founder and Executive Director of Citizens for a Responsible County Airport as well as a member of the county Airport Advisory Board, said the BCW has aviation interests, including private carriers Million Air and Skyqueen Enterprises that are part of the coalition. Wang said that non-commercial aviation accounts for more than 80 percent of the flight traffic.

Ravitz said he applauded County Executive George Latimer for following through on securing about \$4 million for the runway repaving project next year. He said the Airport Advisory Board went as far as to pass a resolution to halt all capital expenditures at the airport until the master plan supplement is complete.

A spokesperson for Latimer said the schedule has that project ready to go out to bid in February.

Ravitz said the BCW does not support airport expansion but airport enhancement because it is such a vital transportation hub.

"Let's keep our eye on the prize and the eye on the prize is enhancing Westchester Airport," he said. "It's good for the business community, the neighboring community and the travel community."

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# New Castle Approves Whole Foods Traffic Plan; Supermarket Opens

*continued from page 1*

for 15 years, so we've got 15 years of relief," said Summit/Greenfield CEO and President Felix Charney, the developer of Chappaqua Crossing.

"The end result is this community will have a world-class grocery store and we're proud of that," he added.

Last Thursday afternoon's vote by the Town Board followed by the Planning Board's approval on Friday capped off a drama-filled week-and-a-half which saw the previously-scheduled Dec. 12 opening postponed. At a Dec. 4 public hearing, members of both boards questioned how Summit/Greenfield's MPT plan would maintain safety for motorists and pedestrians until the developer can complete permanent improvements next spring. On Dec. 7, members of both boards concluded it was insufficient to move forward with the supermarket's opening.

However, during a work session last Tuesday night, municipal officials, along with town traffic consultant Lou Luglio, agreed that if a series of steps were taken the store would be able to open.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein thanked officials for their efforts and welcomed Whole Foods to the community late Friday.

"Both boards have been laser focused on safety," said Greenstein. "Together we have prepared an MPT plan that will make

the intersection safer; safer now for both drivers and pedestrians and safer in the future when permanent measures that we are mandating are implemented."

Upon Luglio's recommendation, the temporary left-turn lane from northbound Route 117 onto Roaring Brook Road was eliminated because it would only accommodate up to three vehicles at a time as opposed to six or seven cars in a permanent lane.

Other requirements asked of Summit/Greenfield were to add a barrier between the edge of the road on the northbound side of Route 117 and a pedestrian path; to add "don't block the box" striping on the roadway at the campus's Route 117 entrance and at the nearby intersections with Annandale Road and Cowdin Lane; and to place traffic barrels around the utility pole that will remain for now at the corner of southbound Route 117 and Roaring Brook Road.

There will also be no right on red for the right turn lane onto Roaring Brook during the temporary plan. Larger signs alerting motorists of that change were required as were traffic video message boards placed in both directions on Route 117 approaching the site. There will be signs for a 25-mile per hour speed restriction through the construction zone.

Summit/Greenfield was also obligated to install temporary signal heads with push

buttons to allow pedestrians to cross Route 117 at the Roaring Brook Road intersection. However, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) did not agree to holding traffic in all directions while pedestrians crossed. Instead, the pedestrian walk signal will coincide with the green light for Roaring Brook Road traffic onto Route 117.

New Castle police will provide three officers, at Summit/Greenfield's expense, to direct traffic at the site from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Officers will remain until at least through Jan. 20, when the town will re-evaluate the need for them.

Extra lighting to illuminate the intersection to enhance pedestrian safety has been brought in.

No more than 50 percent of office space at the Chappaqua Crossing campus may be filled until the permanent roadwork is completed.

The permanent right-turn lane from southbound Route 117 onto Roaring Brook Road is scheduled to be finished by Apr. 19 while the left-turn lane from northbound Route 117 is expected to be installed by June 7.

There will be weekly reports submitted to the town on the implementation of the MPT plan.

New Castle Police Lt. James Carroll said he was at the site last Wednesday and Thursday

and the traffic was moving through the area without incident as Summit/Greenfield was installing the improvements.

"Overall, it performed well," Carroll said. "Traffic flowed north and southbound. There were a couple of occasions on the northbound (side of Route 117), there were a lot of northbound left turns that took more than once cycle to get through the light."

On Friday, moments before the Planning Board gave its approval, board member Tom Curley lamented the process that left town officials scrambling to ensure public safety around the site after Whole Foods had announced several weeks ago it planned to open on Dec. 12.

"I'm guessing that this is probably going to be the safest intersection in town," Curley said.

The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy issued last week allows only for Whole Foods and the 3,000-square-foot Chase Bank to operate. For the 40,000-square-foot Life Time Fitness to open, additional requirements must be met, Greenstein said. Those requirements include another public hearing for a second Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, removal of the remaining utility pole at the corner of Route 117 and Roaring Brook Road and a pedestrian path from Cowdin Lane to Chappaqua Crossing's entrance, he said.

Lift Time Fitness has announced an opening for some time in January.

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# Shoppers Flock to New Whole Foods on First Day of Business

By Martin Wilbur

It may have taken awhile for Whole Foods to open but for shoppers who made the trek to Chappaqua Crossing last Saturday to check out the area's newest supermarket, it was worth the wait.

A continuous flow of Local shoppers and curiosity seekers from around the area and the county got their first experience at the sparkling 40,000-square-foot store with shelves fully stocked and a large assortment of produce, meat, seafood and baked goods.

"We've been really, really looking forward to it," said Chappaqua resident Rebecca Kohn, who was sitting with her husband and two children in The Pizza Parlor, a 37-seat space with a wood-burning oven featuring pizza and Italian dishes. "It couldn't have come soon enough. I know that there were dates that it didn't happen and we were really, really disappointed. It's great. It means so much for the kids and for us and it really heightens the Chappaqua experience."

The debate over traffic and safety issues was far from most shoppers' minds in the store's opening hours. Mary Ellen McMahon and Patricia Seidel, Tarrytown residents who shop regularly at Whole Foods, said they wanted to see the new store. They also plan to return rather than risk traffic on I-287 en route to the Port



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Preparing food fresh is one of the store's selling points.

Chester store, where they usually shop.

The three-day delay may have been an inconvenience for some, but it was fortuitous timing for the two friends.

"We might not have been able to come (last Wednesday) but we came early because we needed groceries, one, and two, I didn't know what traffic look like out here now but they're going to have to do something with turn lanes," McMahon said.

For general store manager Alex Saa,



The fish department at Whole Foods was fully stocked and ready for business last Saturday morning.

last week's delay was something to put aside and to focus solely on serving customers. The store has about 240 employees, all but 20 of them new hires, he said.

"We are very excited to open our doors to the community," Saa said. "I feel that this partnership is really going to be very successful. We want to bring the freshest food and be able to bring the best service that we can."

Chappaqua resident Noah Schwartz,

who was sitting with his two young children by the tables and chair in the front of the store, said not only does Whole Foods have one of the widest selections of organic food but it's now the closest supermarket to his home.

"This is wonderful," he said. "It's much-needed in the town. It's a very friendly place so we're happy about it."

Another town resident, who asked not to be identified, had mixed emotions about Whole Foods debuting in Chappaqua. He said as attractive a supermarket as Whole Foods is, he's concerned about whether it will draw shoppers away from downtown Chappaqua despite the best efforts of town officials to complete the streetscape by next summer and make the hamlet a destination.

Downtown store vacancies are something that the town has to focus its attention on.

"But I just see what's here and I think landlords are going to have to adjust how they approach downtown. and the town is going to have to take a good, long look at it," he said.

Whole Foods is open every day of the year, except Christmas, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Pizza Parlor is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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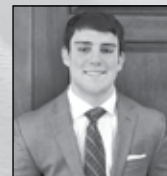
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## Obituaries

### Joan Corwin

Joan Corwin, a resident of Chappaqua and Pleasantville and the longtime owner of Chappaqua Transportation Co., died on Dec. 17. She was 83.

Corwin was best known in the community for her nearly 50 years with Chappaqua Transportation, which has transported students to and from school. She was the manager of the company

starting in 1970 and became its owner in 1987. She was also a member of the Chappaqua Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Pleasantville Rotary Club.

Visitation will be at Beecher-Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 5 to 9 p.m. A service will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 11 a.m.

*Check back for next week's edition for more details on Corwin's life.*

### Frank Ricciardi

Frank J. Ricciardi of Thornwood died on Dec. 15.

He was 77.

Ricciardi was born on Sept. 23, 1941, to the late Ciro and Antoinette (nee Fiorello) Ricciardi in New York City. He worked in the defense sector for many years where he led a team of electronic technicians in the production of electronic countermeasure systems for fighter aircrafts. Afterwards, he worked to bring computers and automation to his wife's successful tax preparation business.

Prior to his health challenges over the past decade, Ricciardi was part of the Westchester PC Users Group where he worked with their PC Renew subgroup to refurbish older computers with the aim of bringing computer access to

disadvantaged people who couldn't afford it.

Ricciardi was predeceased by his devoted wife, Louise (nee Tassone) Ricciardi, in 2015. He is survived by his loving children, Gerald (Suzanne Fohl) Ricciardi of Mount Airy, Md. and Elizabeth (Robert Donovan) Ricciardi of Bothell, Wash.; his two nephews, Arthur Bannerman and Frank (Barbara) Bannerman; and one niece, Lisa (Joseph) Glynn.

Visitation will be at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 4 to 8 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the White Plains Hospital Foundation at [www.wphospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give.aspx](http://www.wphospital.org/foundation/ways-to-give.aspx) would be appreciated.

### Judith Barbarite

Judith B. Barbarite (nee Mayer) of Valhalla passed away on Dec. 15 at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. She was 60.

Family and friends are invited to Pleasant Manor Funeral Home, Inc., located at 575 Columbus Ave. in Thornwood, on Tuesday,

Dec. 18 and Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. for visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Holy Rosary Church on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 11:30 a.m. Interment with her loving parents and sister will follow at Gate of Heaven in Hawthorne.

## Police Blotter

### North Castle Police Department

**Dec. 7:** Multiple 911 callers report an elderly man fell in front of DeCicco's Market at 4:10 p.m. The dispatching officer successfully transferred the call to 60 Control, which dispatched Armonk Ambulance. The responding officer reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Dec. 7:** A caller reported at 8:29 p.m. that a man approached her at Stop & Shop on North Broadway and asked her several questions, which made her feel uncomfortable. The party was described as 5-foot-8 and about 150 pounds wearing a black trench coat with short black hair. The responding officer stated that the individual was apparently gone on arrival.

**Dec. 8:** Report of a suspicious person at a Leisure Farm Drive residence at 4:15 a.m. The caller reported someone attempted to break into her home. While the caller

remained on the line, two officers were dispatched. The caller reported she is home with her two children and they are with her. Upon their arrival, the officers reported making contact with a party and a friend who were dropped off by a taxi service at the incorrect address. Those individuals were driven to the correct address by their taxi service and the complainant was advised of the officer's findings.

**Dec. 10:** Report of a burglary on Old Mount Kisco Road at 3:57 p.m. The complainant reported that upon returning to the residence, he saw the front door was ajar and it appears that someone had broken in.

**Dec. 12:** A complainant reported at 7:14 a.m. that a backhoe is being operated and moving numerous dumpsters around the property at 470 Main St. The caller said the activity began at 6:30 a.m. The responding officer issued a summons.

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# Change of Venue Request Denied for Chappaqua Man's Possible Trial

By Anna Young

The Chappaqua man who was arrested outside a New Castle Planning Board meeting in January was refused a motion to change venues should his case go to trial.

Lawrence Fisher, the lawyer for resident Will Wedge, had argued in his request that local media coverage of the case would result in a biased jury pool and his client wouldn't receive a fair trial.

For nearly a year, Wedge has appeared before New Castle Town Justice Noah Sorkin with little movement toward resolving his case. With the intent on bringing his case to trial, Fisher issued a motion to change venues in July. He cited articles published in The Examiner detailing Wedge's arrest and legal woes that were sensationalized and would "incite warped judgment" that would prevent him from receiving a fair and impartial trial.

"We contend that these articles are of such character as to excite local popular passion and prejudice so that Mr. Wedge will not be able to have the fair trial to which he is entitled," Fisher said in his motion. "Clearly, a change of venue to another community in order to obtain jurors who can be more objective in their duties is reasonable, necessary and in the interest of justice."

Wedge was arrested on Jan. 16 after he used a profanity during Planning Board discussion on the controversial Sunshine Children's Home application. He was

eventually charged with two counts of second-degree harassment and one count each of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and obstructing governmental administration. He was being escorted out of Town Hall by police but was arrested moments later.

Throughout his motion to Westchester County Judge Larry Schwartz, Fisher described Wedge as an active, interested and critical thinker who is known to residents and elected officials as an outspoken critic with strong views on community issues. As a result, many town residents have strong and unfavorable views of Wedge, Fisher explained in his motion.

"Many will be biased against Mr. Wedge and may seek to hide said bias during jury selection," the motion stated. "In short, the town residents who would be in the jury pool will be prejudiced and biased against Mr. Wedge."

In his Nov. 29 decision, Schwartz stated that the motion lacked merit. He explained that The Examiner's articles on the matter did not amount to extensive publicity or prejudice that would make it impossible to select an unbiased jury.

"The articles are, for the most part, narrative in nature, objective, and devoid of commentary," Schwartz said. "Moreover, the defendant has failed to show the articles have produced a 'deep and abiding resentment' towards him in the town which

would make selection of an impartial jury fruitless to merit approval."

Shortly after Wedge's arrest in January, Sorkin issued an order of protection which prohibits Wedge from entering the upstairs level of Town Hall where public meetings are held and most town offices are located. Despite attempts by Fisher to have the order vacated so Wedge could once again attend board meetings, Sorkin has kept it in place, asserting that Wedge's civic engagement

was the catalyst for the incident.

Wedge had also disrupted two Chappaqua School District meetings in 2016, resulting in the New Castle police being called to one Board of Education meeting.

While it is unclear if Wedge's case will go to trial, he is scheduled to appear next in New Castle Justice Court on Jan. 17.

Messages left for Fisher were not returned.

## The New Recruits



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The North Castle Town Board approved the probationary appointment of two new police officers to the town's force last week. Julie DeCrenza and William Young, right, will begin their careers in North Castle on Jan. 2. Standing with DeCrenza and Young is Police Chief Peter Simonsen.

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# Byram Hills Continues to Work on Wellness for Life for Students

By Aaron Notis

Byram Hills school officials are advancing their student wellness initiative by continuing to implement a Stanford University-developed program to help their students achieve greater balance in their lives.

The district is using the Challenge Success Program to collect information to help students through Byram Hills' Wellness for Life K12 initiative. The district is using the program to partner with its schools, families and the community to

broaden the definition of success.

Superintendent of Schools Jen Lamia said the goal is to have well-balanced students who are "fortified with the right toolbox."

"We started to look at our kids a little differently," Lamia said. "We knew that our students were getting into top tier colleges, but we also knew that couldn't be the only measure of success for kids."

The objective of Challenge Success is to help students understand that becoming independent thinkers and adaptable,

motivated and engaged members of society is just as important as high grades and test scores.

H.C. Crittenden Middle School Principal Kim Lapple and Assistant Principal Angelo Ancona told the board that they put together a steering committee comprised of students, parents, teachers and administrators to review program surveys and find common themes that relate to students. They learned that recurring issues that are recurring high priorities are screen time, overscheduling

and student-teacher relationships.

Students would now like the committee to focus on self-advocacy.

"Our students said that they are more comfortable advocating for their ideas in an academic setting than in a social setting," Lapple said.

The committee will help develop strategies to build students' social confidence. Lapple said that they are working closely with teachers to help encourage that process.

Byram Hills High School Principal Christopher Walsh noted that Challenge Success doesn't try to come up with all the answers.

"They know that each school is unique, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution," he said.

At the high school, the administration is putting out a survey regarding scheduling to determine whether students are comfortable with their work-life balance. The survey will include questions about the amount of homework, students' desire to take more electives and free time.

Lamia said she hopes to make this an ongoing "curricular conversation about wellness," prioritizing the students' mental well-being.

The Board of Education will continue to monitor the progress and milestones of the district's wellness initiative.

## North Castle Reaches New Agreements with Cablevision, Verizon

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board approved new franchise agreements with the municipality's cable providers last week, contracts that will allow for live meeting broadcasts from Whippoorwill Hall and the North White Plains Community Center.

Verizon and the town are entering a new five-year contract that will include a \$70,000 PEG grant to be paid within the first 60 days of the new contract going into effect, said Town Clerk Alison Simon. That's \$12,000 more than the expired contract.

Cablevision Systems' contract is a 10-year deal that will yield the town a

\$55,200 PEG grant to be paid in three installments – \$30,000 within 60 days of the effective date of the contract, another \$15,000 within 60 days of the first anniversary of the effective date and \$10,200 following the second anniversary of the agreement, Simon said. Cablevision had also paid the town \$58,000 in PEG grants in the last agreement.

In addition, Cablevision will be adding a connection to Whippoorwill Hall enabling the town to broadcast its live meetings from that location. Town meetings are relocated to that site if a larger venue is needed. The company will repair and move the North White Plains

Community Center connection that will also allow live broadcasts from that location, according to the agreement.

The providers will continue to pay the town a 5 percent franchise fee based on annual gross revenue. Both contracts go into effect Jan. 1, said Simon.

A key change is the length of the Verizon contract, she said. The town sought what is generally regarded as a standard 10-year contract but Verizon was not willing to agree to a longer franchise because of rapid changes in technology, Simon said.

The previous contracts expired on Dec. 5 for Cablevision and June 22, 2017, for Verizon.

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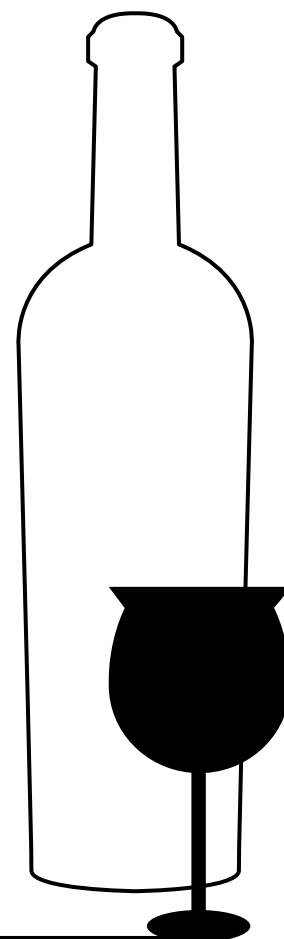
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# Bedford Officials Approve School of Choice for Mt. Kisco Elementary

By Erin Maher

The Bedford Board of Education approved a policy last week establishing the Dual Language Bilingual Education (DLBE) School of Choice for Mount Kisco Elementary School students next year.

In an effort to address concerns that the traditional classroom students were not receiving an equitable educational experience, trustees asked the administration to devise a School of Choice policy. The policy's first draft was crafted by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Manno and other administrators.

Under the policy's guidelines, parents of Mount Kisco Elementary School students who enter grades 1-5 next September must decide by Feb. 15, 2019, whether to enroll their children or have them opt out of the DLBE program for the 2019-20 academic year.

Students who are enrolled in the DLBE program will attend Mount Kisco Elementary and will continue in the program through fifth grade, the draft policy stated.

Should the number of students who opt out of the program be able to fill two traditional classes, the students will stay at Mount Kisco Elementary. If the school is unable to fill two traditional classes, those students will be able to attend one

of the district's four other elementary schools.

The school where those students would be rezoned would be determined by district officials based upon "the consideration of logistical, operational, space, class size guidelines, capacity needs and requirements," the policy states. Mount Kisco students attending other schools would be provided busing.

All students from a particular grade whose parents have chosen to opt them out of the DLBE program will attend the same elementary school through fifth grade. Students from different grades may be sent to different elementary schools, although siblings may attend the same school upon request. The assigned school for each child who opts out of the DLBE would be known by June.

In addition to rezoning students, the policy would offer the DLBE program at Mount Kisco to students in the district's other elementary schools, depending on available space and interest. A lottery system will be applied to determine which students are included. Busing will also be provided for these students.

Students may withdraw from the DLBE program at any time. If that occurs, the student would attend the elementary school that their grade was assigned.

Since 2015, Mount Kisco Elementary, which has a large number of students

from Spanish speaking families, has offered parents of children in grades 1-5 the choice of the single-language curriculum or to enroll in the DLBE program after their child finishes kindergarten.

Last December, the administration presented trustees with a strategy to create a more equitable experience by including a School of Choice option for parents who decide against enrolling

their child in the DLBE program. Those children would have been sent to West Patent Elementary School for the traditional class.

After that plan was scuttled following intense opposition, school officials decided to offer integrated classroom time for traditional class students. However, parents of those students have contended that the integration plan has been inadequate.

## Let There Be Light

On Friday, Dec. 7, Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford Corners opened its doors to the entire community for its inaugural Night of Light: A Reimagined Hanukkah Festival for all ages. The festival focused on exploring light in all its forms. After a brief service, featuring Hanukkah music and a community menorah lighting, guests spilled out of synagogue to see various hand-made light sculptures made by temple members and three roaring fire pits with s'mores.



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## Letters to the Editor

### County Should Follow Bipartisan North 60 Agreement

The unanimous passage of the Westchester Bioscience and Technology Center lease agreement by the Westchester County Board of Legislators in April 2017 was heralded as "historic." The 99-year lease at the North 60 property in Valhalla would provide Westchester County, and the Town of Mount Pleasant in particular, with a tremendous opportunity to grow the bioscience-technology industry in our region.

After years of negotiations, the \$1.2 billion public-private partnership would also provide an economic boon to both the county and town, with \$9 million in new annual tax revenue and nearly 12,000 construction and permanent jobs.

Importantly, there was no housing component to the project, meaning no enrollment impact on the Mount Pleasant or Pocantico school districts.

Prior to breaking ground, the developer is required to receive the necessary local approvals from the Town of Mount Pleasant. Unfortunately, we have not yet reached that point. After a new county administration started in January, the future of the property now

appears unclear.

Recent conversations have turned to potentially re-opening the agreement to include housing at the site – for employees and their families, millennials or affordable housing, among other options. The long-term economic implications of such housing must not be taken lightly.

Much of the housing currently under consideration would likely increase student headcounts, thus leading to increased costs that will be absorbed by taxpayers.

There would also be a significant impact on local first-responders including our police department and volunteer fire and ambulance services. One must also consider the impact on infrastructure such as water and sewer systems. Certain infrastructure improvements already proposed by the developer would in fact benefit the Route 9A corridor.

It is not incumbent solely upon the Town of Mount Pleasant to provide new housing specifically for this project. There are new developments currently under construction and in the pipeline that will increase and diversify the

town's housing stock as appropriate.

Any additional housing in town should be decided at the local level alone through the standard review process – and does not need to be included in the North 60 agreement in order to move forward. An economic analysis for the project was completed as recently as 2016. Further delays will only hamper current and prospective interest in the site.

It was wrong for previous county officials to include Mount Pleasant in the problematic and poorly-worded 2009 Affordable Housing Settlement. It would be wrong for current officials to re-open the North 60 legislation after 17 legislators, Republicans and Democrats alike, reviewed and approved the final agreement after months of conducting their own due diligence. All representatives should now simply adhere to the deal.

**Anthony Amiano**

**Councilman, Town of Mount Pleasant**

### Special Needs Residents Bring Value to Their Home Community

I'm writing in support of the home in Valhalla proposed for a family of six young adults with developmental disabilities. One of who would be my daughter.

Despite being developmentally delayed, she is a busy young lady. Every day she's out and about in the community attending her adult day program, working at her internships in the community and enjoying various social and recreation programs. In other words, she's trying her best to go about

her business and live a normal, happy life as best she can. Just like the rest of us.

When her mother and I learned she was selected to be part of this new family, right here in the same community that was so welcoming, so accepting of her when she went to school here–, the community where she's made so many dear friends, we were absolutely delighted.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, a lot of misinformation is being spread in order to keep these individuals from living

here together.

If you know the value that people with special needs bring to a community, what a wonderful and positive addition people with developmental disabilities can be to any neighborhood, I encourage you to let your voice be heard at a special meeting of the Mount Pleasant Town Board on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 8 p.m. Come and find out the facts for yourself.

**Curtis Au**

**Pleasantville**

### Group Homes Provide the Disabled With Independence, a Quality Life

I would like to express my support for the YAI Group Home that is proposed for the Valhalla location. As the former executive director of North East Westchester Special Recreation, Inc. in Hawthorne and a professional in the field for 40 years, I base my support on my daily experiences.

The transition from the family home to a group home setting is a natural progression for many persons with developmental disabilities. Before an individual is considered for such a placement, they are evaluated to determine if it is an appropriate

placement and the services are then tailored to meet the needs of the individual. The decision to place people in that setting involves years of training, education and supervision. Graduation to this level of independence has been earned.

I hope that this home will be received in a positive way. My experience has shown me that persons with developmental disabilities are some of the sweetest, kindest people I know. They do not pose any danger to a neighborhood nor does their placement lower property values. They will be

people like the rest of us who go to work every day and come home to a welcoming group of peers who allow for the development of social skills, independence and a quality life.

Housing for people with disabilities should be treated in the same way as housing for any citizen. They are entitled to lead happy, productive lives and become contributing members of society.

**Janet Riley**

**Southeast**

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



# Pleasantville Leaders Prepare for Impacts of Recreational Marijuana

By Anna Young

Members of a coalition dedicated to reducing underage drinking and drug use are working with Pleasantville school and village officials to protect children should recreational marijuana be legalized in New York State.

With an increasing likelihood that the state legislature could approve the use of recreational marijuana in the upcoming 2019 session, Pleasantville STRONG and the Pleasantville School District have been advancing preventative measures to help guide parents and students on marijuana's dangers and health risks.

During a Dec. 10 Village Board work session, school officials and Pleasantville STRONG proposed a joint resolution opposing legalization.

"I have not seen a school board and village board or town council come together to form a joint resolution," said Coalition Coordinator Nicole Malgarinos. "It really is a powerful statement when these two bodies can come together."

Malgarinos explained that marijuana use is a cause for concern among youth. It's been a challenge educating the public on the risks, and legalization will only increase its impact on youth. The legalization issue is a corporate-driven machine with advertising focused on appealing to younger people, she said.

Malgarinos added that the issue has resulted in Pleasantville STRONG leaders pleading with state lawmakers to slow down and analyze how marijuana use is currently impacting youngsters and communities before taking action.

Medical marijuana use has been legal in New York since 2014. On Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, once an opponent of recreational marijuana, announced that he will advocate for its legalization. It is estimated that it would bring in additional tax revenue of \$248 million and \$677 million in the first year.

"The fact is we have had two criminal justice systems: one for the wealthy and the well off, and one for everyone else," Cuomo said.

Currently, 10 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana.

Recently, Cuomo concluded a series of listening sessions that offered advice on different legislative and regulatory approaches to legalization. The goal is to draft a bill that lawmakers can consider next year.

Judy Mezey, assistant director for community-based programs for Student Assistance Services, warned that marijuana is more dangerous to the adolescent brain due to an elevated increase of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which makes the substance more potent. She added that data has revealed that marijuana use has resulted in increased hospitalizations and traffic fatalities in states that have legalized it recreationally.

Mezey cited statistics showing there are more marijuana outlets than Starbucks and McDonald's in states such as Colorado.

"We're really concerned with young people more than anything else," Mezey said. "There's a lot of reason to be concerned, both on the effects on the developing brain and bodies of young people, but also on the communities, as well."

Pleasantville STRONG leader John Mueller stressed the importance of working to craft common-sense

ordinances to guard against adolescent use, distribution, packaging and the sale of marijuana. Mueller suggested passing a law that would restrict marijuana advertising throughout the village. He also advised crafting a resolution that would allow adults to exercise their rights while taking the necessary steps to protect local youths.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter noted that every municipality in the state is different. She said the ability for children to be exposed to marijuana is exponentially higher in Pleasantville.

"We're clearly not talking about adults doing what they're allowed to legally, we're talking about this extra layer of protection for our children because this town is so small," Fox-Alter said. "Any resolution will contribute to the conversation and I think that sends a message to everyone."

Mayor Peter Scherer said the boards would continue to communicate with Pleasantville STRONG and the school district to draft a resolution and use their influence to ensure recreational marijuana is properly regulated if it is legalized.

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## Outside Holiday Decorations – for the Child in All of Us

Among all the holidays of my life, the one I remember most vividly is Christmas when I was seven years old, living in a row home in Philadelphia. That was the year my parents suggested that I could have a holiday party and invite the neighborhood kids to see our gigantic tree, decorated to the nines with hundreds of balls and demonstrating our family's specialty skill with hanging lead tinsel so precisely on each branch that it created a cascading effect of a frozen waterfall.

I loved decorating the lower branches with this material until it was discontinued in 1972 at the suggestion of the Food and Drug Administration, claiming that the lead posed a threat to children.

My particular delight was that at our tree's base was an oval track where a Lionel train, originally my dad's from the 1930s, chugged along with a clatter that I can still hear in my head. My brother Bobby, six years older than I, to whom Dad's set was given, allowed me to lie to my friends and say the train set was mine rather than his, and that I



By Bill Primavera

could operate it myself as long as he was present to supervise.

My preeminence for holiday decoration and wonder was short-lived, however, when my arch nemesis who lived next door, Joey Delayo, announced that his dad was decorating his front porch with strings of colored lights and we were all invited to come see it that evening. Christmas decoration outside, I wondered? I had never seen it.

Sure enough, later that evening, Joey's dad flipped the switch on what seemed to be endless strings of lights on the porch, illuminating

the brick facades of the entire block. And Joey beamed as his mom handed out candy canes to all the children who came to see the only outdoor display on the block. God, I hated that kid.

When I asked my dad if we could also decorate outside for Christmas, he said it was a waste of time and money. "Why decorate for the neighbors?" I remember him saying.

Today, more and more homeowners want to decorate for the neighbors. Whenever I see a home with its lawn

highly decked out for the holidays, I get the urge to pull up, knock on the door and meet the owners. I'm sure that they would be great people who love children and probably are still as wondrous as kids themselves.

In my old neighborhood, I remember the most talked about home at Halloween was owned by a fellow named Dominic who lived on a quiet street with his wife and three children. His lawn was a dark wonderland of scary figures, more than life-sized, in various guises and contraptions, from execution in an electric chair to scenarios with video amplification, music and smoke.

One year, I stopped and knocked on his door, but Domenic wasn't home. However, a young mother was walking past the house with her two children, ages 8 and 4. When I asked what they thought of their neighbor's display, the woman told me with great animation about all of its special effects.

I later reached out to Domenic by phone and asked whether he knocked himself out each year for the children or for himself.

"It's both," he said, explaining that it's "in his blood." "My parents always decorated their lawn and instilled the fun of it in me. Now my dad comes to help me build new devices to add to my

collection."

The scary fun of Halloween seems poised to overtake the serenity of Christmas in terms of money outlay. The National Retail Association reports that today we spend about \$8 billion on costumes and outside decorations for Halloween, more than double of what was spent in 2005.

What happened to the day when my biggest effort in entertaining my child for Halloween was to carve out a pumpkin and place a candle inside?

As for that Lionel train set, my very kind and generous brother Bobby, knowing how sentimental I was about it, presented it as a gift to me several years ago. Since then, sadly, my brother has died but I think of him at least once daily because the train set sits in a large box in the corner of my office, awaiting the opportunity to once again provide noisy entertainment around the base of my Christmas tree.

*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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# KenKen Heavyweights Dominate Annual Puzzle Tournament

By Martin Wilbur

The ninth annual KenKen International Championships on Sunday turned into a showdown of two of the most high-powered puzzle solvers anywhere.

Data scientist John Gilling won the tournament for the third consecutive year defeating three-time champion Martin Eiger, a computer programmer, at the Westchester Table Tennis Center in Pleasantville. Brooklyn math teacher Julie Davis, who entered the competition for the first time, finished third followed by student champion Aritro Chatterjee, an 11-year-old from the United Arab Emirates, part of a contingent of international competitors who made the trip.

For Gilling, defeating his friendly rival was as satisfying as the \$1,000 prize for winning the tournament.

"The first year (I competed) Martin beat me and we haven't competed side by side since then," said Gilling, a Brooklyn resident. "He makes it fun."

After each of the contestants appeared stumped in the opening minutes of the championship round, Gilling broke through to complete the 9-by-9 grid in an unofficial 6 minutes and 4 seconds.

Eiger, of Montville, N.J., who finished fourth each of the last two years after winning the event three times, said he didn't try to put too much pressure on himself this year and just go out and have

fun. He out finished all of the 179 other contestants – except Gilling.

"He's amazing," Eiger said. "I don't know what he does – or how he does it – that I don't do, but you know he's very good."

Davis, in her first KenKen competition, said it was a bit intimidating to be in front of the crowd trying to complete the oversized championship puzzle on a large easel alongside the two three-time winners. For several years, the charter school math teacher has been doing the puzzles online and recently noticed an ad that popped for the tournament.

Davis looked up past results and articles and took notice of Eiger and Gilling. She said it was an honor to be in the championship round with two of the most accomplished KenKen competitors.

"I was kind of freaking out a bit," she said. "My heart was pounding up there."

The contestants with the combined top three scores over three qualifying rounds made it to the championship, said Robert Fuhrer, the owner of the Pleasantville-based company Nextoy, which is responsible for bringing the numerical puzzle to the United States from Japan. Each round featured a set of three puzzles, which were progressively more difficult, he said.

The tournament, which was held for the first seven years at the Chappaqua Public Library, was moved last year to the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Robert Fuhrer, left, owner of Nextoy, which brought KenKen to the United States, with the championship round competitors in Sunday's KenKen International Championships in Pleasantville. Also pictured, from left, are 11-year-old Aritro Chatterjee, three-time champion John Gilling, runner-up Martin Eiger and third-place finisher Julie Davis.

Westchester Table Tennis Center because it had become so popular. Fuhrer said it is now believed to be the world's largest math puzzle competition.

It's also fitting that the center is owned by Pleasantville resident and longtime New York Times crossword puzzle editor Will Shortz.

"I feel like my two worlds are colliding here, puzzles and table tennis," he said. "I'm really proud of it."

Even for those who didn't win, matching wits against some of the best KenKen solvers was a thrill. In addition to Chatterjee, contestants came from China, Japan, India, Israel and throughout the



John Gilling's winning puzzle

United States.

Paul Ternes, a Washington, D.C. geometry teacher, combined his trip to see his sister in the city, who last week had a baby, with the tournament. About two years ago, Ternes discovered KenKen and introduced it to his students.

"The kids loved it and they were into it," he said. "They were excited."

Nola Bass-Weiss, a fourth-grader from Dobbs Ferry, was one of the student finalists. Her mother, Brooke, said that she is in an afterschool math club and the teacher told the students about the KenKen tournament. So Bass-Weiss gave it a try.

"It makes me nervous, but it's also fun," she said.

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# Landscape Plan Discussed for Mt. Kisco Solar Farm Project

By Neal Rentz

A representative for the company seeking to install a solar panel array on a portion of Oakwood Cemetery told the Mount Kisco Planning Board last week the project would have no negative visual impact on the area.

Scott Blakely, senior principal landscape architect for Insite Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, said Sunrise Solar Solutions, LLC of Briarcliff Manor, is looking to remove 130 trees to install more than 3,500 solar panels but has a landscaping plan to provide screening. The solar panels would not be visible from Lexington Avenue, Blakely said.

To provide screening in the northern and western portions of the cemetery, a currently undetermined number of new trees would be planted, including native species. Some of the trees that would be cut down aren't native to the area, Blakely said.

The solar panels would be raised 10 feet off the ground, Blakely said. A recent balloon test was recently conducted to provide a visual reference point.

"The balloons were not visible from any location," he said.

The solar array would be on about 4.2 acres of the northern portion of the Lexington Avenue cemetery's property. Sunrise Solar Solutions' president is Planning Board Chairman Doug Hertz,

who has recused himself from the board's discussion of the project. The company is seeking site plan, special use permit and wetland permit approvals from the board.

The panels are proposed in a Preservation District and would provide electricity for 200 homes. Plans call for the installation of 3,580 solar panels within a fenced enclosure and an underground electric line connecting to a new utility pole at Lexington Avenue.

The solar farm would be located toward the rear of the property, adjacent to the Metro-North railroad tracks. The area

where the solar panels are being proposed would not be needed as cemetery plots for many years.

Blakely said his client would agree to the request from Planning Board member Ralph Vigliotti to explore whether the solar panels would be seen from Beverly Road and Forest Drive.

The applicant has also created a decommissioning plan for the eventual removal of the solar farm. The plan would be activated when the lease for the property expires, the solar farm does not provide power for 12 consecutive months

or when the system is damaged and there would be no plans to repair or replace the panels. Blakely said his client was following the directives of the recently approved Village Board legislation to regulate solar power.

Sunrise Solar Solutions is asking that Tesla provide battery storage on site. The batteries would be used to provide backup power if needed for the solar power's consumers, he said.

The Planning Board scheduled a public hearing that is scheduled to begin Jan. 8.

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# Kesten Hosts First Coalition Forum Focusing on Political Change

By James Miranda

It didn't take long for Robert Kesten to resume fighting for issues that he cares deeply about.

Kesten hosted the first community forum for Coalition New York in Sleepy Hollow on Dec. 10 that brought community activists together to start a conversation about how best to influence change.

Coalition New York, which formed out of Kesten's unsuccessful candidacy earlier this year for the Democratic nomination for the 40th state Senate District, aims to give people "ownership" of the political process instead of through other organizations, he said. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in hopes of initiating community discussion on how to produce change on the local, state and national levels.

"The whole declaration's reason of coming about is because people have to be thought of before politics, before economics, before all the other things that we've seen get placed in front of people, which have led us to a world that is really not sympathetic to humanity and human dignity," Kesten said. "The hope is that local people will take it over in their own communities. The idea of it is to form coalitions, so that people can



JAMES MIRANDA PHOTO

Robert Kesten speaks to about 50 audience members last Monday in Sleepy Hollow on how best to influence progressive changes at the local, state and national levels.

work together."

Bringing the community together in one room to search for ways to unify and take control of the political process was one of the goals of the event.

"I think people need to take a deep breath and pay attention to what's going on (in the world)," said Sr. Bette Ann Jaster, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in Ossining. "It's such a unique idea to reach out to people who aren't in your neighborhood, culture or financial area. Everyone has something to offer."

Following a brief reading of the UDHR, Kesten asked the roughly 50

people who attended the forum to reflect on the 30 articles within the UDHR – which was founded by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1948 – and discuss ones they felt have been violated in their lives.

Much of the ensuing discussion during the two-hour meeting centered on why America is polarized. Unifying society is difficult if not impossible, according to Kesten, but part of forming Coalition New York was to start looking at why there hasn't been greater traction in making change.

"[This event] was a good starting point for getting a large group of progressive people to attempt to redirect how New

York state is going to govern," said Baila Lemonik, a Mahopac resident. "I think we have to come together and get rid of all the hate in this country that's emanating from Washington and making people so polarized."

Kesten ended the event by asking the audience to consider three ways they would recommend to help bring people together.

The next Coalition New York meeting will discuss those topics and be held sometime after New Year's.

For more information, visit the Coalition New York Facebook page.

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**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.**

**NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN** that a license number PENDING for beer, liquor and wine has been applied for by the undersigned\* to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 222 East Main Street, Store #1, Mount Kisco, in the County of Westchester for on-premises consumption. **TPM Partners, Inc. d/b/a Fiesta Cancun on Main**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KABATCHNICK ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/7/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **18 Belmont St., White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ROMANOFF ELEMENTS, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Carol Romanoff 55 Byram Ridge Road, Armonk NY 10504 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

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# P'ville Student Gov't Airs Proposals at Annual Meeting With Trustees

By Anna Young

Representatives of Pleasantville's student government shared ideas last week with district officials on several key topics to improve their high school experience.

Student government President Shannon Kauber, senior class President Pat Doherty, Vice President Keon Ansari, Secretary Mike Matica and senior Justin Perlman proposed larger desks in all classrooms, that sports events be livestreamed and additional refillable water bottle stations and ceiling fans in hallways or classrooms be made available. Their requests came during the annual joint meeting with the Board of Education on Dec. 11.

Each year since 2013, the board has conducted a meeting with student government, which has helped shape new policies.

District officials have stepped up efforts to boost technology and increase Wi-Fi availability, hotspots, computers and laptops over the last few years at the students' request. This year, student leaders implored the district use larger desks in all classrooms.

Matica said that students would benefit now that they are required to bring their laptops to school. While math and science classrooms already have larger desks, he said other courses continue to use standard desks.

"A lot of teachers still use printed out



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Pictured, left to right, are Pleasantville Board of Education President Angela Vella, Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter and student government representatives Shannon Kauber, Pat Doherty, Mike Matica, Keon Ansari and Justin Perlman.

guided notes and still require us to have computers on the desk so there's no way to optimize space because there is no space," Kauber said.

Trustees agreed that students are at a disadvantage and Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter commended students for the idea. High school Principal Joe Palumbo said the district has been reorganizing each department with desks to accommodate technology and flexible learning spaces.

"We're kind of department by department going through and making that change over time," Palumbo said. "To do that big order all at once...it's just not possible."

With two refillable water bottle stations located near the gymnasium and weight room, the students requested two more be added, suggesting one be placed near the library. The students said they visit the hydration stations multiple times a day and

are more useful than water fountains.

"Those two are closer together so it's really a matter of having them spread out," Perlman said.

Students also requested ceiling fans be installed in hallways or classrooms to help during the warmer weather. Additionally, they asked for screens to be placed on windows to prevent bugs and insects from causing a distraction during class.

With many area schools adding a livestream component to their sporting events, including Fox Lane, Lakeland, Walter Panas and John F. Kennedy Catholic High School, students requested the district partner with streaming service LocalLive Networks. Matica said the district would need roughly six cameras for each location. He acknowledged that the cameras would be expensive and require continual maintenance.

"I think that with everything you see with our laptops everything is going online and digital," Matica said. "I feel like if we can get that it would be huge. It's a really smart thing for Section I schools."

Trustee Shane McGaffey agreed that livestreaming would be beneficial when family members can't attend games. He added it would be beneficial for athletes when they need to use game footage for college admissions.

Board member Larry Boes said that the quality of the LocalLive feed was fair and that students wouldn't be able to use the footage for submissions since the camera only captures the entire field. He suggested his colleagues analyze the program at other schools.

President Angela Vella recommended the board reach out to the booster clubs for additional financing.

"It would mean most of our sports teams would have this opportunity, so it's a little bit more evenhanded," Vella said.

Fox-Alter applauded the students for their ideas. Trustees reflected on the progress the district has made since the first joint meeting, reminding students that their proposals are important and benefit the district.

"Your voice, as far as we're concerned, is the most important voice," Trustee Emily Persons said. "You are why we're all here."

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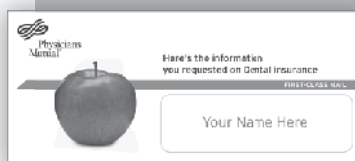
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# Happenings

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 [mwillbur@theexaminernews.com](mailto:mwillbur@theexaminernews.com).

## Tuesday, Dec. 18

**"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. 4:15 and 7:15 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://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.

**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](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**Light-o-Rama Christmas Light Show.** The Serratore Family is pleased to announce that their humble Light-o-Rama Christmas light show is now running. The show is 22 minutes long and can be enjoyed from the privacy of your vehicle by tuning into 88.1 FM. Happy holidays! 22 Pine St., Mount Kisco. Dusk until 9 p.m. (The show runs in a continuous loop.) Daily through Jan. 6.

**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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees Meeting.** Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779.

**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](http://www.chappaquapac.org).

[chappaquapac.org](http://chappaquapac.org).

## Wednesday, Dec. 19

**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.

**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.

**Bagels & Books.** A monthly book discussion group. The books that will be discussed are "Love Medicine" by Louise Erdrich, "Judas" by Amos Oz, "Fates and Furies" by Lauren Groff and "The Children Act" by Ian McEwan. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 10:30 a.m. Free. Continues the first Thursday of each month through March. 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.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.

**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](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break.** Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.com](http://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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**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](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**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.

**Holiday Cookie Decoration.** Decorate holiday cookies with icing, candies and other treats. For all ages. Co-sponsored with the North Salem Recreation Department. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).

**Knitting at the Library.** Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**"Tournage d'Hiver,"** Vigo Outtakes and Rushes." After his untimely death from tuberculosis at age 29, Vigo left behind a large number of outtakes and rushes from "Zero for Conduct" and "L'Atalante." "Tournage d'Hiver" is over an hour of this material restored and edited together with narration by French critic and historian Bernard Eisenschitz, who oversaw the restoration of "L'Atalante." Released in 2017, it's a fascinating peek behind the scenes. 4K restoration. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Art Series: The Guggenheim.** This winter at the Guggenheim offers a look at one of the most controversial photographers in contemporary history as well as interpretations by several artists on the permanent collection at the museum. Robert Mapplethorpe's sculptural black and white images of the human form, as well as his collages and mixed media

assemblages are on view in a yearlong celebration of his work, complemented by an exploration of abstract paintings by Hilma af Klint. 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](http://www.northcastlelibrary.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 Jan. 7. Info and tickets: Visit [www.nomacomedy.com](http://www.nomacomedy.com).

## Thursday, Dec. 20

**Third Thursdays Bird Walk.** Join naturalist Tait Johansson at this local migration hotspot for the second in a new series of bird walks. A great way to hone your birding skills and mark the passing of the seasons and birds. Maple Avenue, Katonah. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Susan at 914-302-9713 or e-mail [info@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:info@bedfordaudubon.org).

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

*continued on page 26*



# A Guide for Caregivers During the Holidays

By Jerri Rosenfeld and Rita Hayes

Every year the holiday season brings unique challenges to almost everyone. But for caregivers who have loved ones in the hospital or are caretaking someone at home, the holidays can be a time of stress, frustration and exhaustion, instead of peace and goodwill.

If you have a loved one in the hospital during the holidays, you may experience the additional stress of visiting them in the hospital along with concern about their well-being and trying to maintain family holiday traditions. This combination can be extremely overwhelming.

## Tips for Caregivers, Family and Friends

Here are some tips that you may find helpful while your loved one is in the hospital during the holidays. Remember for safety reasons, it's very important to check with hospital staff before you bring any items into a patient's room.

1. Bring small gifts to your family member if they are well enough to unwrap the item.
2. Bring something pleasant and safe as a decoration for their hospital room.
3. Bring comforts of home such as your loved one's favorite pajamas, blankets or pillow.
4. Deliver their favorite snacks or

holiday food that fit within any dietary restrictions.

5. If you think it will raise their spirits, assemble a photo album of pictures from previous holidays.
6. If religiously observant, bring in a recording of a religious service or watch one on television.
7. Play some holiday music or watch a favorite holiday movie together.
8. If family is unable to visit, reach out to the volunteer department for visitors.

## Gift Suggestions for Patients

**Entertainment.** Books, magazines, music, movies, crossword puzzles and playing cards.

**Enjoyment.** Get well cards, holiday cards and small gifts.

**Gift of Service.** Have someone offer to run an errand for your loved one. This can feel very supportive when in the hospital. If your family member needs information about a community resource, you can offer to assist them in gathering information.

Those who provide care to loved ones in the community also experience additional stress during the holiday season. The demands of caregiving on a daily basis are tremendous, therefore holiday expectations can increase the demands of entertaining, cooking and



The Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center at Northern Westchester Hospital provides a respite for family members who have a loved one in the hospital. It also provides helpful resources for caregivers.

gift buying.

Of great importance to all caregivers is taking care of oneself and paying close attention to emotional needs. This could include support from social networks, maintaining communication with others and identifying ways to reduce the demands placed on you as the holidays approach.

## Other Useful Tips

1. Consider modifying some holiday traditions by enlisting the help of friends and family to assist with shopping, cooking and household chores. Perhaps have a pot luck holiday meal instead of doing all the work yourself.

2. Set manageable expectations for the holidays. Prevent overtaxing yourself in order to maintain traditional celebrations by making a plan that is realistic for you to implement.
3. Ask for and accept help. Let others know how they can be helpful to you. Possibly include a note about your loved one's condition in a holiday card. This may invite others to offer assistance.
4. Maintain your social connections. Support helps reduce isolation and can be helpful in managing stress.
5. Get enough rest and exercise on a regular basis.

Ideally, caregivers need to have daily, weekly and monthly breaks from caregiving. Consider yoga, meditation, support groups, lunch with a friend, meeting someone for tea, taking a quiet drive, walking in nature or other enjoyable activities.

The Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center is available to help, whether you have a loved one at Northern Westchester Hospital or not. We can offer assistance and support to family and friends during the holidays. You can also call us at 914-242-8128.

*Jerri Rosenfeld and Rita Hayes are licensed clinical social workers at the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center at Northern Westchester Hospital.*

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# Happenings

continued from page 24

Visit [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.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.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.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.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.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.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.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](http://www.Wwinterwonderland.com).

**"The Nutcracker."** This production of the classic tale set to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's score is presented by the great artists of The Royal Ballet. Bring the whole family to enjoy the magical adventures of Clara, who is given an enchanted nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve, defeats the Mouse King, visits the Kingdom of Sweets, meets the Sugar Plum Fairy and so much more. Choreographer Peter Wright's interpretation of "The Nutcracker" has been enchanting children and adults alike since its first performance by The Royal Ballet in 1984. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$30. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Hard Headed Comedy.** Hard Headed Comedy is slamming the comedy scene by hitting the stages of New York City, Westchester and Connecticut with magnificent, brilliant comedians. Each show is jam-packed with diverse, exclusive lineups with various themes for each show. Tonight's show features Luz Michelle, Margaret Champagne, Rachel Green and Brooke Arnold. Lucy's Laugh Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and advance tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughs.com](http://www.lucyslaughs.com). Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

**"Axel Himelo's Christmas Fish Tale."** The zany show is a seasonal slice of life in the fictitious small Gulf Coast hamlet of Ross Landing. The town and its eccentric folk provide local native Axel Himelo with

a wealth of hilarious and often touching stories. The one-man show is directed by Schoolhouse Theater Artistic Director Bram Lewis and stars celebrated writer/performer Vincent Park. Appropriate for people of any age with a funny bone. The Schoolhouse Theater & Arts Center, 3 Owens Rd., North Salem. \$38 Seniors: \$35. Also Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 22 and 23 at 3 and 8 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit [www.schoolhousetheater.org](http://www.schoolhousetheater.org).

## Friday, Dec. 21

**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](http://www.amyolin.zumba.com).

**Winter Centerpieces.** Create festive holiday arrangements with evergreens, ornaments and candles. Work with holly, white pines and cedar to bring a bit of nature to the table with festive color pops. Seasonal candies, berries and bows can be added to each to brighten up a table or entryway for your holiday gathering. Led by Charlotte Mouquin. For adults. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Members: \$41. Non-members: \$45. Info and registration: 914-738-2525 or visit [www.pelhamartcenter.org](http://www.pelhamartcenter.org).

**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. 4 to 8 p.m. Also Dec. 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (unless sold out). Info: 914-949-3575 or e-mail [ncsf1@optonline.net](mailto:ncsf1@optonline.net).

**Holiday Howl for Pups of All Ages.** Get outside during the holidays and learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will assemble "wolfy" gifts for ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Guests can also behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5:30 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**The Hollywood Songbook: Our Love is Here to Stay.** Together, two brothers, George and Ira, took Broadway by storm during the 1920s and into the '30s, with many successful musicals. The Gershwins

would eventually make the transition to Hollywood, collaborating on writing film scores. In this series, film historian Philip Harwood discusses and presents five films, which features wonderful and classic songs by George and Ira Gershwin, both in original film scores, later film adaptations and even an Academy Award-winning musical. Enjoy clips from "Shall We Dance," "Girl Crazy," "The Barkley's Of Broadway," "An American In Paris," "Funny Face" and others. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

## Saturday, Dec. 22

**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](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

**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.

**Holiday Howl.** Get outside during the holidays and learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will assemble "wolfy" gifts for ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Guests can also behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://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](http://www.addie-tude.com). Call or visit website because classes are subject to change.

**Popsicle Stick Ornaments.** Create ornaments out of popsicle sticks. All ages. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).

**"Mary Poppins Returns."** A screening of this family favorite Angela Lansbury, Dick Van Dyke, Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Meryl Streep. Come early for umbrella-twirling photos a supercalligraphicxpealidocious spelling bee and an extra spoonful of sugar on your popcorn. Guest should arrive early. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford. Pre-screening activities at 3:30 p.m. Film at 4 p.m. Adults: \$12. Children (12 and under) and seniors (65 and up): \$10. Info and tickets: 914-234-6704 or visit [www.bedfordplayhouse.org](http://www.bedfordplayhouse.org).

**Full Moon Wolf Walk.** Celebrate the December full moon with more than 40 moon-loving wolves. While enjoying nature's winter chatter by the outdoor fire pit, guests will enjoy seasonal treats and the symphony of howls. Guests will learn about the history of wolves in the United States, their importance in a healthy ecosystem and the efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations. Guests will also take a short moonlit walk to visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Zephyr and Nikai. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5:30 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Holiday Dance Party.** A good, old hip-shaking dance party with The Rock & Soul Revue. Led by keyboardist Ray Castoldi since its founding in 2005, the band strives to promote community, fun and self-expression through music. Listen to a repertoire of Motown, Stax/Volt soul, New Orleans funk and other classics sure to make you want to get on down. Presented by Common Ground Coffeehouse. First Unitarian Society of Westchester, 25 Old Jackson Rd., Hastings-on-Hudson. 7:30 p.m. \$18 in advance. \$20 at the door. Info and tickets: Visit [www.commongroundconcerts.com](http://www.commongroundconcerts.com).

## Sunday, Dec. 23

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

## Monday, Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.** Sing and hear the story of God coming into our tumultuous world as a vulnerable, defenseless infant in order to bring hope, peace, joy and love forever. All welcome. First Baptist Church of White Plains, 456 North St., White Plains. 7 p.m. Info: 914-949-5207.

continued on next page



# Continuing on the Spanish Wine Trail With Your Wine Guy



By Nick Antonaccio

Yes, we're still touring – and enjoying Spain's geography, culture, cuisine and wines. This week on our virtual tour we're leaving the coastal regions and heading inland.

With every step we take into Spain's past, literally and figuratively, we find a bright and exotic present. From the blending of old and new architecture to the revitalization of the wine industry, Spain continues to rise in esteem throughout the world, a direct reflection of its ancestral roots of the 15th and 16th centuries and the Age of Exploration, when Spain dominated the Western Hemisphere.

On our virtual tour we leave Barcelona and head toward the foothills of the Montsant and Priorato regions. Priorato is the smaller of the two regions; in fact, it is surrounded by the Montsant region, making it difficult at times for our virtual GPS to know in which region we are traversing. We are traveling to the heart of Priorato on this trip, justifiably considered one of the top wine regions in all of Spain.

Soon we notice the landscape changing as steep terraces loom in the near distance. The vines planted here appear as long

## 'traveling to the heart of the Priorato and Montsant regions'

wavy rows, undulating up and over the hilltops, giving the impression of rows of camouflaged soldiers in strict military formations. (A great photo op.) These terraces enjoy abundant sun and a unique slate soil that infuse the grapes with great body and strength.

The dominant grape variety is Garnacha, followed by Cariñena, with an uncharacteristic smattering of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot used for balancing the intense fruits and rough edges of the Garnacha. The wines are deep purple in color and full-bodied, with flavors of plums and blackberries, not to mention alcohol levels ranging above 13 percent.

Why have these wines become so highly regarded? It's all about time and place. Today, the newest generation of Spaniards, the EU generation, has a sophisticated view of life and their place in the world. They have transformed their homeland. No longer is Spain a self-centered, quixotic nation of tumultuous politics, civil war and agrarian economics. Instead, they have catapulted their homeland to the forefront of new age cuisine, art, architecture and wine making, all the while retaining their unique heritage, masterfully blending the best of the old and the new. If only

they could solve their nation's ongoing economic woes.

This new-age sensibility on winemaking is most evident in the Priorato region. Long a sleepy wine region, the EU generation has transformed the Priorato into a highly regarded wine appellation. By looking outward, they have incorporated the best equipment, practices and techniques that are prevalent in global winemaking, including a revitalized respect for the land. The Priorato region now produces some of the most sought after wines in Spain.

The young winemakers have embraced the land's unique soil and climate, while retaining the widespread plantings of old vines. From this base they are producing wines of intense flavors and balance.

Here are examples of Priorato wines available locally. At the high end are Clos Erasmus, Mas Doix and Clos Mogador, selling above \$60. (Notice the French-sounding names; the young winemakers received their education at the best French schools and wineries and these names

distinguish them from the old-world winemakers) These are blockbuster wines that won't reach their greatness for at least five years. For wines at the popular "under \$20" price point, try La Cartuja (\$19), Conreria d'Scala Dei (\$15) and Solanes (\$19).

The wines of the greater Montsant region are also noteworthy, having characteristics similar to Priorato wines. Try Clos Dels Codols (\$17), Cellar de Capcanes selections (from \$20) and one of my favorite blends, Can Blau (\$14).

As I write this column a time-worn phrase comes to mind: "Everything old is new again." In the Priorato region, the winemakers have embraced this maxim and the results are far better

than the wines of "the good old days."

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted numerous 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine

## Happenings

continued from previous page

### Wednesday, Dec. 26

**Red Cross Blood Drive.** Once donor can save up to three lives. New donors needed. Walk-ins welcome. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 12 to 5 p.m. Info and to sign up: Visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter the sponsor key word Blood Drive.

**Family Bingo.** Bring the whole family to play Bingo and win books. All ages welcome. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).

**Art Series: Aubrey Beardsley.** A look at the works of Beardsley, who was born in 1872, which are remarkable illustrations and images. A major contributor to the development of Art Nouveau, Beardsley was a collaborator in the Aesthetic art movement that helped to change the art world in his brief 25 years. Also, a review of the art, artists and museums that have been covered during the past several months. 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](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

### Thursday, Dec. 27

**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. 28, 29, 30 and 31. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Kwanzaa Celebration.** Includes traditional drumming by Kofi and Sankofa Dance & Drum Ensemble and performances by White Plains Youth Bureau drummers and dancers, White Plains Steppers, Praise Dance, storytelling and books for children and more. A cultural Karamu feast will be provided by ShopRite following the program. Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-7186.

**"Polar Express."** A screening of this G-rated movie. All welcome. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).



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#### Draft beer packages we offer:

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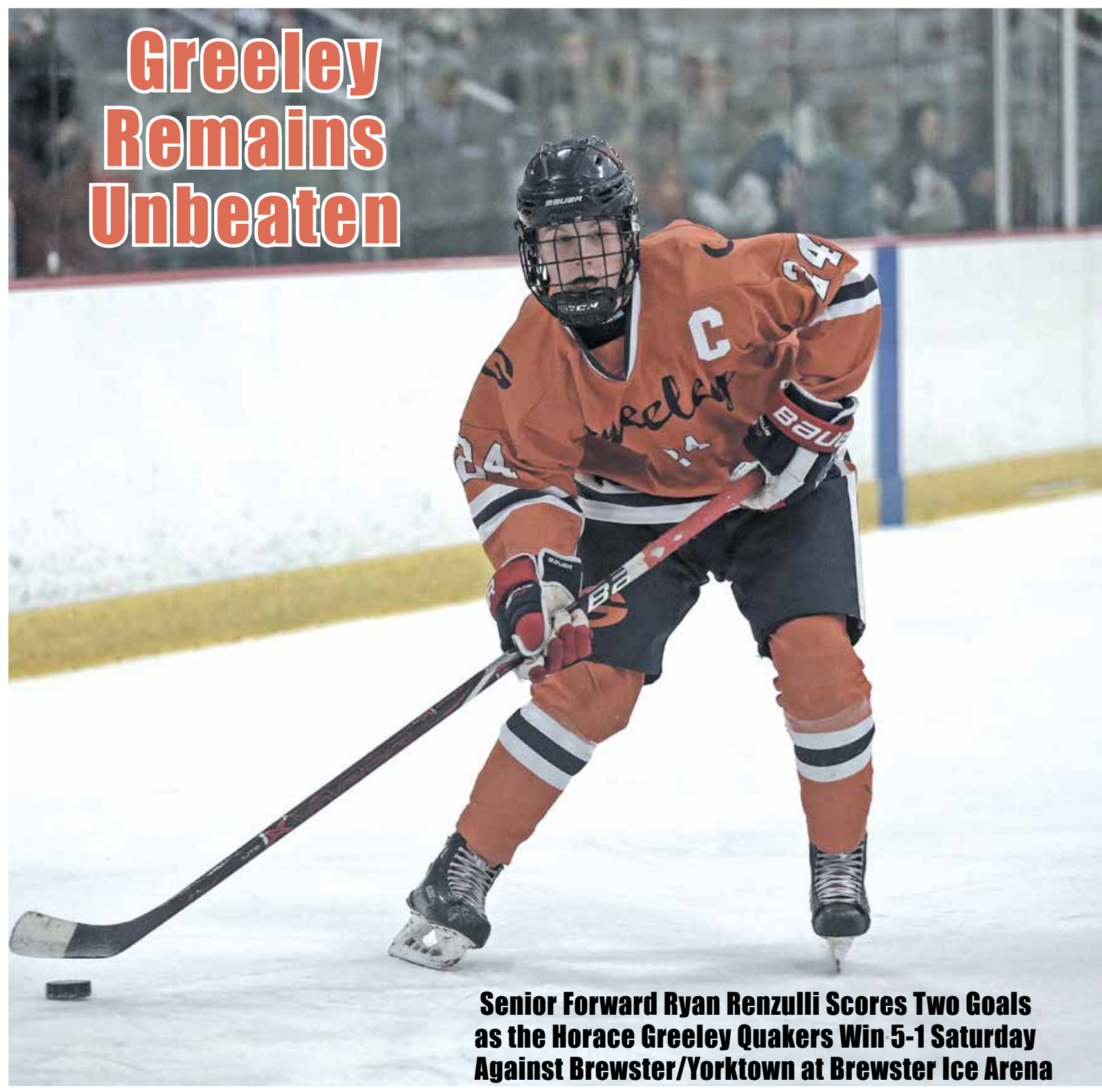
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# Greeley Remains Unbeaten

**Senior Forward Ryan Renzulli Scores Two Goals  
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Against Brewster/Yorktown at Brewster Ice Arena**

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



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