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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 630

Changes Sought to Chappaqua Crossing Townhouse Plans

By Martin Wilbur

Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield is prepared to formally submit a petition to the Town of New Castle asking for a series of changes to its site plan for the 91 proposed townhomes for the campus.

Among the key requests the developer is making are to increase the size of each unit by an average of 300 square feet, which includes the addition of basements; making nine additional units three-bedroom townhomes, bringing that number to 70; shortening the driveways from 15 to 20 feet to eight to 13 feet to accommodate the larger units; and an additional 1.5 acres of disturbance to construct the project's residential community referred to as the East Village.

Another major issue for the boards to

consider is the developer's request to now demolish an 1850s farmhouse and two ancillary structures near the Route 117 entrance. Summit/Greenfield had originally planned to re-purpose the structure, called the Thomas V. Wright House and previously used by Reader's Digest, into a clubhouse or community building. Under its proposal it would build a new clubhouse and swimming pool for the residents of the townhomes.

It is the position of Toll Brothers, the luxury homebuilding company that Summit/Greenfield has retained to build the East Village, that the house has deteriorated to the point where it would cost millions to refurbish, if it can be saved at all.

Summit/Greenfield's representatives appeared before joint meetings of the town

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Taking Action

County Executive George Latimer signs a panel last Thursday from the original 1969 Woodstock stage. Latimer joined Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and a large gathering of elected officials in White Plains to support federal gun reforms, including background checks on all gun sales and red flag laws. Rockland County resident Steve Gold had acquired the original stage from the festival and began using it for social change after collecting hundreds of signatures in support of stricter gun laws at Woodstock's 50th anniversary events in August.

Five Officers Honored for Preventing Man From Taking Own Life

By Joan Gaylord

Five local police officers were awarded the New York State Senate Liberty Medal for saving the life last April of a troubled man who threatened to jump from an overpass in Pleasantville.

State Sen. Pete Harckham (D-Lewisboro) presented the medals at last Tuesday's Mount Pleasant Town Board meeting to Sgt. Juan Garcia and Officer Erin Holly of the Pleasantville Police Department, Sgt. Walter O'Keeffe and Detective Lauren Valentino from the Mount Pleasant Police Department and Detective Rob Barber from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

The medals, the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the state Senate, are awarded for "actions of exceptional bravery"

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JOAN GAYLORD PHOTO

State Sen. Peter Harckham, pictured at Mount Pleasant Town Hall last Tuesday with the five officers honored for coming to the rescue and saving a 19-year-old man's life last April. Also pictured, at left, are Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer and Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi.

Residents Press No. Castle Town Board for Smaller Mariani Project

By Martin Wilbur

Several North Castle residents continued to call on the Town Board last week to reduce the size and scope of the proposed residential plan at the site of the former Mariani Gardens in Armonk.

During the Sept. 25 opening of the public hearing on the special use permit, a couple of residents who live near the site and others who fear that the Bedford Road Historic District would be compromised by the 43-unit development urged the board to reconsider the current application.

Opponents also argued that town officials have underestimated or failed to take into account the traffic impact in the area.

Armonk resident and former town justice Susan Shimer said there is currently much congestion at the intersection of Bedford

Road and Maple Avenue where the four-acre parcel is located. A downtown parking crunch would be exacerbated by the project, she said.

But it's the height and massing of the four structures that are proposed for the parcel that may be most out of line, Shimer said. The largest of the buildings, the 23-unit C Building that is located in the back of the parcel closest to Route 22, is more than 35 feet to the midpoint of the eaves and rises to more than 39 feet at its highest point.

The structures containing the four four-bedroom units and the 16-unit B Building each rise to a zoning height of just under 30 feet, the highest allowable height for the zone, but are about 35 and 36 feet to the highest point, respectively.

"I, as a member of the community, want

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Changes Sought to Chappaqua Crossing Townhouse Plans

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and planning boards each of the past two weeks to hash out details of the applicant's petition. The developer needs the Town Board to make changes to the Multi Family Planned Development Preliminary Development Concept Plan (MFPD PDCP) that it passed in 2015 in order for the Planning Board to vote on site plan approval for the residences.

Summit/Greenfield has already completed building and has opened the 120,000 square feet of retail at the site and re-purposed the interior of the old Reader's Digest cupola building for more than 60 apartments.

"What is before you is a petition for the consideration of the Town Board that would be necessary in order for us to be able to get the approval to get to build this," said attorney Mark Weingarten, representing Summit/Greenfield.

A more than two-hour discussion last Tuesday evening resulted in the boards being open to considering most of those changes as well as additional minor changes. However, there was strong opposition from Gray Williams, the town historian and ex-officio chair of the town's Landmark Advisory Committee, giving officials pause regarding the request to demolish the Wright house.

Williams said the house is a "well-loved iconic landmark" in the community that is in much better condition than what Toll Brothers is stating. The only reason why it isn't an official landmark is because its owners haven't consented to it, he said.



Summit/Greenfield has asked New Castle officials to demolish the 1850s Thomas V. Wright House, one of a series of changes proposed in connection with site plan review of the 91 townhouses on the campus.

"I maintain that it is sound and in far better shape than many old buildings its age, starting with one I know intimately – the Horace Greeley House," Williams said. "If the current owners don't wish to preserve the house for their own uses, we suggest that they allow someone else to do so."

He said the house could be used for offices or a restaurant.

James Fitzpatrick, division president for Toll Brothers in New York, said a third-party engineer determined that there were too many problems with the structure. It would also need to comply with modern fire codes and be made handicapped accessible, including the installation of an elevator.

"While it may be well-cared for in relation to other houses of its age, it's not a structure and a foundation that you would invest millions of dollars on top of in order to design and construct a community building that

will ultimately become that Homeowners Association's burden for maintenance," Fitzpatrick said.

Although Summit/Greenfield agreed to preserve the house in 2009, Toll Brothers was contracted by the developer in 2017.

No decision was made last week regarding the future of the Wright house.

Town officials had extensive comments and questions relating to the proposed changes to the 91 fee-simple townhomes and driveways. There was concern from the boards that there wouldn't be enough room for all residents' vehicles if the units had shorter driveways. Each garage could house two cars.

The addition of the basements might cause unit owners to have someone living in that space, such as older children. Summit/Greenfield representatives had said the townhomes would attract more empty-nesters.

Councilman Jeremy Saland said he was skeptical that nine additional three-bedroom units would net only three more children in the complex. The remainder of the units would have two bedrooms.

Fitzpatrick said that although there is no age restriction, these types of residences have generally provided a 50-50 split between older adult and younger owners. He also said that the addition of basements into the 91 townhomes is essential.

"We are considered luxury homebuilders. We have been contracted to build a luxury product on this site," Fitzpatrick said. "That's what we do and that's what we are. In order to construct the houses that we build, this is

what we need to do to be successful."

Weingarten added that the Chappaqua School District has had an 11 percent districtwide enrollment decline from 2007-08 to 2018-19 and a 19 percent decline at Grafflin Elementary School, which the younger children at the complex would attend.

Planning Board member Thomas Curley said the town either needs to allow the basements or not. If the basements would be allowed then the town should not check on whether anyone is living in the basements.

Town Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he would lean on the Planning Board for guidance on the key issues of contention because that has been the board working closely with Summit/Greenfield for two years on the East Village site plan.

Both boards gave the green light for Summit/Greenfield to submit a formal petition. Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood said there was consensus among his board on the additional three-bedroom units and general agreement on the other issues.

"I think from our standpoint, the nine (three-bedroom units), per se, is not a problem and this is something we can support," said Kirkwood.

Other changes sought included increasing the size of the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center parcel from .7 to 1.1 acres along with tweaks to the Office Park Retail Overlay District at the campus and the Business Retail Office zone.

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P'ville Planners Cast Doubts on Depew Street Mixed-Use Project

By Ed Perratore

A proposal to redevelop a one-acre site at Depew Street and Vanderbilt Avenue in Pleasantville continued to receive pushback from the village's Planning Commission last week despite the developer's efforts to satisfy lingering concerns.

The property, the former site of LaDuca Auto Service at 52 Depew St. and the adjacent building at 1 Vanderbilt Ave., straddles the Saw Mill River Parkway on one side and the Metro-North tracks on the other side.

White Plains-based Lighthouse Living's proposal would demolish the existing structures, remove contaminated soil in accordance with an approved remediation plan and construct a 28,140-square-foot building with 73 apartments containing a mix of studios and one- and two-bedroom units. There would also be 4,500 square feet of street-level retail space, parking for 108 vehicles, including 87 spaces in a covered garage, landscaping and associated facilities.

The plan calls for Depew Street to be widened in front of the proposed building to allow for emergency vehicles access.

But the developer, whose team met last week with the Planning Commission, faces multiple hurdles. There are environmental and traffic concerns and potential visual impacts.

The 52 Depew St. parcel is eligible for the state's Brownfield Cleanup Program, given the site's prior use. Of greater concern is that the property lies within the 50-foot



An artist's rendering, viewed from Grant Street on the Saw Mill River Parkway, of the proposed mixed-use building at 52 Depew St./1 Vanderbilt Ave. in Pleasantville.

buffer bordering the nearby Saw Mill River wetland. The developer must obtain a waiver and go through the state's Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process to assess a plan's environmental impact.

"The buffer is there for a reason," said Helen Meurer, chair of the village's Conservation Advisory Council, at the Sept. 25 Planning Commission meeting. "It's to protect the wetland from pollutants, from sedimentation, from being compromised, from changing the hydric quality of it."

Attorney David J. Cooper, representing the developer, countered that various measures in the proposal to limit and treat runoff would be a significant improvement. As part of the SEQRA process, Cooper pointed to three reports from a wetland scientist or engineer as well as the Storm

Water Pollution Prevention Plan showing the wetland's and buffer's location, the level of disturbance within the buffer and how it's going to be improved.

"The issue is not just (that) all wetland, all buffer, is sacrosanct," Cooper said. "The issue is, what is the functioning benefit of this wetland now, and, post-development, what will it be? Throughout New York State, throughout the country, that's the analysis. In this case, the record demonstrates with empirical data that it's going to be an improvement."

One such wetland report, by Michael Nowicki of Ecological Solutions, LLC, described the existing LaDuca site as of scant benefit to the wetland. Almost the entire 50 feet of regulated wetland buffer is either paved or contains other impervious

surfaces, the report stated. Vegetation is limited to Norway maple, poison ivy and Japanese knotweed with little or no value to wetland.

The development would be designed to allow only treated stormwater to discharge into the wetland. In the plans are permeable pavers, rooftop plantings that help filter rain and landscaping with native species.

Planning Commission members were also concerned that the development would add traffic on Manville Road, Grant Street and other nearby thoroughfares, particularly during peak hours. The commission had questioned an earlier study's conclusion that traffic in the vicinity peaks between 4 and 6 p.m. on weekdays and that the development would add little volume.

The board had asked for additional vehicle counts during later weeknight hours and when the Pleasantville Farmers Market operates, on Saturdays April through November. But the developer's team reported that even when they accounted for those additional times, peak traffic occurred on weekdays between 4 and 6 p.m.

Commission member David Keller said that numerous studies have compared pre-construction traffic forecasts with actual traffic patterns after construction and found significant differences.

"So the output of these models is not fact, it's estimate on estimate on estimate," Keller said. "While it may be the best, it doesn't necessarily mean it will provide

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P'ville Planners Cast Doubts on Depew Street Mixed-Use Project

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you with accuracy. None of these are real numbers."

Cooper responded that the village's traffic consultant had signed off on the results.

The issue of the development's visual presence, however, may present the greatest obstacle to the development's approval.

Project architect Philip A. Fruchter showed various animated representations of the proposed redevelopment, revealing how the building would look, with and without trees, from different angles. He presented relative elevations of the building, comparing roof lines, and detailed how the development would actually be slightly shorter than allowed for in the zone.

Fruchter also showed how the development would look if the one proposed building were two separate structures. The single building would actually be shorter than two separate ones, he said.

Commission member James MacDonald was troubled by the images.

"The renderings are very nice," he said, "but it feels really out of character with the residential homes that are right across the street."

Fruchter showed the commission samples of the terra cotta residential shingles – typically meant for roofs – that would be used for some of the walls, along with fiber cement panels intended for other parts of the façade.

"There's no question that this building is larger than the adjacent houses," said Fruchter. "There's no question that this is not a pitched-roof, single-family residence, and we don't want it to look like Disney World where we're just applying the full façade with fake mass art on something to let it try to blend in."

Planning Commission Chairman Russell Klein said other in-progress developments in town, such as The Lofts at 39 Washington

Ave. and the four-story 70 Memorial Plaza, are not situated in residential neighborhoods.

David Mann, president and founder of Lighthouse Living, expressed frustration regarding the resistance to a proposal he considered compliant with the A-1 Commercial zone in which the development would be situated.

"I know it's, one, a small street, but this is how you zoned it," he said. "It shouldn't have been zoned like that. What am I supposed to do, say 'Ah, you know, maybe you're right?' But we obviously bought this site based on the zoning and the development rights. And here it's compliant. It's the massing that's most important."

"I think it's too big, it's too massive," said commission member Henry Leyva.

"It doesn't fit the neighborhood."

Mann said his team would work with the board to incorporate its comments into the design.

Five Officers Honored for Preventing Man From Taking Own Life

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above and beyond the call of duty."

"We have thousands of years of conditioning to run away from danger, but with your training, you ran towards it," Harckham told the officers.

The 19-year-old emotionally disturbed man threatened to jump from an overpass over the Saw Mill River Parkway at Manville Road.

Harckham said on that morning, Garcia positioned himself on the parkway to coordinate traffic control and deployment of lifesaving equipment with county police. Meanwhile, Holly, Barber, Valentino and O'Keefe began speaking to the man on the bridge.

Using verbal de-escalation tactics to calm him, the officers were able to carefully move closer. After 30 minutes, they were close enough to the man that they were able to secure him, remove him from danger and transport him to Westchester Medical Center for evaluation.

"The Pleasantville Police Department is extremely proud of the way Sgt. Garcia and Officer Holly responded that morning," said Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner. "They showed great compassion and patience, while ensuring that the young man received the help that he needed."

Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program at Touro Dental Health

Touro College of Dental Medicine, established in 2016, recently launched a partnership with The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program, a public-private partnership that seeks to increase underserved Holocaust

survivors' access to oral care.

The program is jointly sponsored by Henry Schein, Inc., the world's largest provider of health care solutions to office-based dental and medical practitioners, and the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity (AO),

the oldest Jewish international dental and medical organization.

Dental care will be provided at Touro Dental Health, the college's 109-chair clinical training facility, located on the campus of New York Medical College in Hawthorne.



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Altice Workers Demand Company Stop Outsourcing Westchester Jobs

By Neal Rentz

Several Altice employees and members of the county Board of Legislators were among those who gathered in White Plains last Monday to protest the company's outsourcing of some of its jobs in Westchester.

The participants shouted slogans including "Altice, bring back the jobs" and "What do you want? Our jobs" at the press conference.

Altice, a cable television provider with headquarters in Long Island City, delivers pay television, Internet access and telephone services to customers throughout the United States.

Its workers in Westchester recently become part of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1103. Union president Kevin Sheil said the participants were seeking to have Altice provide its Westchester employees with job protections provided to its Brooklyn works and to stop outsourcing Westchester jobs.

He said one of the top priorities of any union is to fight for the middle class.

"It is long been a cornerstone of CWA's efforts to protect the rights of all workers, not just union workers," Sheil said. "We have seen across all industries how the race to the bottom subcontracting has devastated communities with job loss and customer service issues."

Sheil said Altice has an agreement with the state Public Service Commission (PSC) that includes "specific protections against layoffs along with customer service and broadband



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Altice employees and members of the Board of Legislators were among those who participated in a press conference last week in front of the county office building protesting the company's outsourcing of jobs.

access requirements." The company has eliminated more than 200 middle class jobs in Westchester and about 1,000 in the tristate area, he said. The jobs have been shifted to lower skilled and paid contract workers, Sheil added.

The transfer of Altice jobs to contract workers hurts Westchester's economy and threatens the quality of service, he said.

"Altice has systematically eliminated good middle-class jobs in order to make a quick buck," Sheil said. "If Altice continues to treat Westchester's workers and customers as

second-class citizens, we will look to the New York State Public Service Commission to carry on its review of Altice's compliance with requirements made under their agreement."

Altice field technician Jonathan Carter said he has been employed by the company for 13 years. For the past three years he has been part of the company's splicing project working out of Hawthorne.

Carter said in the last three years the workforce has shrunk from 300-plus workers to between 120 and 130. The job cuts came after Altice purchased Cablevision in 2016, he

said.

"It seems like our work is being contracted out more than ever before," Carter said. "When I say that job security is our number one issue, I believe I speak for all of my brothers and sisters that work for Altice."

Altice released a statement on Monday from its Head of Communications Lisa Anselmo, saying the company is committed to providing its customers with the best products and a great experience. It has invested in the Altice One entertainment platform, the newly-launched Altice Mobile service, state-of-the-art fiber network deployment and other features.

"We are currently in negotiations with the CWA and committed to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement that provides for our employees while ensuring the company can continue to succeed in today's competitive landscape," Anselmo's statement read. "We have offered the CWA terms that are consistent with current collective bargaining agreements for our other represented employees, and we will continue to negotiate in good faith."

Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) said the lawmakers who attended the press conference were standing with the CWA and other union members.

"We have your back," Boykin said. "We on the Board of Legislators, when we see an injustice, we're there to stand with you. And what we want for the Altice workers is the same security and the same pay that they're getting in Brooklyn."

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Residents Press No. Castle Town Board for Smaller Mariani Project

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you to represent us, the residents, not the developers, that you remember our history and that you scale this property to a size and appearance our community can handle," Shimer told the Town Board.

Resident Ann Dantzig questioned whether the board is "addicted to assessables" by allowing the project to advance this far when it is out of character with the neighborhood. Dantzig also questioned why the board has failed to

take into account the other major nearby projects in the pipeline, including the already-approved housing plan at the old lumberyard on Bedford Road, and Eagle Ridge, the hotel and multifamily housing proposal on a portion of the former IBM land.

"You're so focused internally on the plan on that site and I'm so much more concerned about the impact that that's going to have on the immediate surrounding area, and by extension, into town," Dantzig said of the

Mariani site.

Councilman Stephen D'Angelo refuted Dantzig's contention that the town's top priority is increasing taxable property. There are many instances when the Town Board discourages developers because an idea isn't good for the town, he said.

"That is absolutely dead wrong," D'Angelo said. "There are so many proposals that came before us that would raise assessables twice as much, three times as much when they first propose them and we work with them. Some of them don't see the light of day because we don't even want your proposal."

Attorney Mark Miller, representing applicant 45 Bedford Road LLC, said town traffic consultant Michael Galante has concluded that the Mariani proposal would not have a negative impact on the operation of the Bedford Road-Maple Avenue intersection.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiaccio suggested that the board consider the applicant contribute toward a fund for road improvements along with the developers of the other area projects should that ever be necessary.

The town is requiring that an easement be granted to widen Maple Avenue to accommodate a right turn lane from Bedford Road if and when increased traffic congestion at the intersection needs to be addressed.

Miller said his client has already agreed to pay \$1.25 million as part of a Community

Benefits Agreement that will go toward upgrades for the water and sewer plants.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the traffic issue is a sensitive one for the board with so much development interest in the town.

"I think the work we did with the new lights, the smart lights, at Maple and Bedford has helped at Route 22," he said. "The left turn lane is better, so that's a good thing."

Another nearby resident, Linda Fernberg, said her main issue is the size of the buildings.

"What do we want out of this project? Why do we keep fighting every step of the way?" Fernberg said. "We want it smaller. I don't like these buildings. They're apartment buildings. We want a smaller project. It's as simple as that."

Since his client last appeared before the board, Miller said that the owner of 40 Bedford Rd. has been contacted. Town officials are hopeful 45 Bedford Rd. LLC will be granted an easement by that owner to build a sidewalk that leads into Armonk Square from Bedford Road. There has been no commitment from the property owner, Miller said.

The Town Board approved rezoning of the parcel from Nursery Business to a residential multifamily designation in June following a public hearing. Should the special permit be granted, the applicant would still need site plan approval from the Planning Board.

Byram Hills Employee Arrested for Threatening Co-Worker

A Byram Hills School District employee was arrested by North Castle police last Friday for making a threatening statement against another employee.

Matthew Martorana, 51, of Port Chester, was charged with making a terroristic threat, a Class D felony, police said.

North Castle Police Chief Peter Simonsen said Martorana, a bus driver for the district, threatened another bus driver. No students or other staff members were involved in the incident, he said.

District administrators reached out to the police department once they received a complaint from the target of the threat.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jen

Lamia sent an e-mail to the school community Friday afternoon stating that the safety of students and staff is the district's top priority.

"Please understand that it would be inappropriate for the District to share the details concerning this arrest," Lamia's message stated. "We can share that our District safety measures were effective today."

Additional information regarding the nature of the threat was not released by police or the school district because the matter remained under investigation.

Martorana is scheduled to appear in North Castle Town Court on Oct. 22.

—Martin Wilbur

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Mt. Pleasant Explores Lights at Valhalla's Pat Henry Field

By Joan Gaylord

A proposal to install lights at Pat Henry Field in Valhalla generated a spirited discussion at last Tuesday's Mount Pleasant Town Board meeting with residents split on whether the plan should move forward.

The field, located at the end of South Kensico Avenue, is the home of the Kensico Little League team, which has played there since 1963. Installing lights, several residents commented, would allow greater flexibility in scheduling games. The lights would be focused downward to minimize impact on the neighborhood.

Tom Whitman, a Kensico Little League board member, said there wouldn't be an increase in the number of games at the field but would allow the games to be scheduled later in the evening, avoiding peak traffic times in the area.

Some, however, expressed concern about how the lights and crowd noise could negatively impact the residential neighborhood.

Elizabeth Cantor, a South Kensico Avenue resident, said that the early evening games would conflict with children's bedtimes and asked the league to find an alternate field in town that might be better suited for night games.

Cantor was also one of several residents who raised concerns about traffic on the street. The narrow, dead-end street, she said, is poorly lit and does not have sidewalks. The extra cars could pose a hazard to commuters walking home from the train station during

after dark.

Others noted that the additional cars traveling on the street would be parents arriving for the games, people who are already aware of safety issues. Valhalla resident Paul Barbuto said he appreciated the safety concerns and suggested the league could explore ways to mitigate the situation, such as having people directing traffic with flashlights.

Town officials said the proposal is being considered and no decision has been made. No cost estimates for the lights were given last

week.

"We are in the formative stages of making a decision," said Councilwoman Laurie Smalley. "We don't do anything quickly. We study both sides."

During the discussion, Smalley alluded to "hidden meetings" held by a Town Board member and the disservice that it causes. She held up a flyer that she said announced such a meeting.

Her comment appeared to be directed at Councilwoman Francesca Hagadus-McHale,

who replied that she had been invited by residents to visit the field at night and had accepted the invitation.

"I did not make any promises," Hagadus-McHale said.

When Hagadus-McHale asked to see the flyer, Smalley quipped, "Oh, I'm sure you've seen it," before returning it to her notebook.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said the board is continuing to study the situation.

"We've not come to a conclusion," he said.

Man Sentenced in Attempted Sexual Abuse of Pace Student

By Martin Wilbur

A 32-year-old New York City man was sentenced last week to two-and-a-half years in prison for attempting to sexually abuse a Pace University student in her dorm room.

Ariel Caro, who pleaded guilty in July to the felony counts of first-degree attempted sex abuse and second-degree burglary as a sexually motivated crime, will also have 10 years of post-release supervision and must register as a sex offender.

On Sept. 11, 2018, Caro knocked on a student's dorm room on the Pleasantville campus at about 7:30 p.m., according to the Westchester County district attorney's office. When the female student opened the door expecting someone else, Caro pushed his way in, closed the door behind him and blocked the student's ability to leave, authorities said.

At that time, Caro exposed himself and

began masturbating in front of the student, the district attorney's office said. The student asked him to leave, but he continued his actions and tried to verbally engage her. Authorities said the student began to repeat a series of expressions, acting as if she suffered from a form of autism. As she got louder, Caro fled the scene.

The student called her mother who contacted campus security on her behalf. Caro was not a student and had no legitimate reason to be on campus. When security checked surveillance video, they found Caro had been in another dorm as well and other students reported an unknown man knocking on their dorm room doors.

Following an investigation by Mount Pleasant police, Caro had put his possessions



Ariel Caro

and drug paraphernalia in a vacant dorm room, which triggered the burglary charge, the district attorney's office said.

In court, Assistant District Attorney Michelle Lopez read the victim's impact statement. The student described the fear and horror.

"Perhaps one might think that because I was not physically injured that perhaps the attack

was not so serious. This is not so," the statement read. "This attack was heinous and the attacker in my opinion is a threat to society."

Westchester County Court Judge Susan Cacace who sentenced Caro ruled that the two terms, which each carry two-and-a-half year sentences will be served concurrently.

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Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 20: A High Street resident reported at 7:56 a.m. that a tire was left in her bushes from a nearby motor vehicle accident and that it be removed. The responding officer secured additional photographs of the tire at final rest.

Sept. 20: An officer reported at 6:43 p.m. that the driver of a vehicle was issued a summons for operating with a suspended registration following a traffic stop. The vehicle was removed by Armonk Garage.

Sept. 22: A Whippoorwill Lane resident reported two loose dogs in her backyard at 6:39 p.m. She was able to secure one dog but not the other. Both dogs are described as a golden retriever-shepherd mix. The responding officer brought one of the canines to headquarters where the owner successfully secured the animal. The other canine returned was home.

Sept. 24: Multiple callers reported at 10:39 a.m. that an elderly female fell at Stop & Shop on North Broadway and an ambulance was being requested. The call was transferred successfully to 60 Control. The responding officer stated that the party was transported by Valhalla Ambulance to

Westchester Medical Center.

Sept. 25: Caller reported at 2:20 p.m. that a 50-year-old male was unconscious in the men's locker room at Equinox on Business Park Drive. The dispatching officer successfully transferred the call to 60 Control. The responding officers reported that the party was conscious but only partially responsive. The subject was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital by Armonk Ambulance.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 21: Report of a disturbance on Wheeler Avenue at 9:39 p.m. Officers spoke to the parties involved who went on their way without incident.

Sept. 25: Items were reported missing from an apartment at the senior residences on Clinton Street at 2:38 p.m. The complainant stated that \$60 and two articles of clothing were taken. Detectives are investigating the matter.

Sept. 26: A subject reported at headquarters at 9:15 a.m. that there were fraudulent charges on a credit card. The matter is under investigation.

Obituaries

Rosemary Underwood

Rosemary (Rose) Theresa (Sniffen) Underwood of Croton-on-Hudson passed away on Sept. 25 at the age of 57.

Underwood was born to Donald James and Georgianna Elizabeth (Beardsley) Sniffen on Oct. 19, 1961, in North Tarrytown. She recently retired from a lifelong career with two school districts and was able to finally travel and enjoy retirement.

Rose joins her mother, Georgianna; her father, Donald; stepfather Bob Sloat; sisters Holly Rodriguez and Geraldine Sniffen; brother Joseph Sniffen and lifelong friend Lucio LaForgia in heaven. She is survived by her husband, David Maglin; children Erika Miller (Charles Moncion), Crystal White (Dennis) and John Carlos; grandchildren Kiara, Isabella, Charles and Olivia Moncion; siblings Donald, Miracle, Frances, Alfred (Barbara), Robert (Mary) and Charles (Marie) Sniffen; and many nieces and

nephews.

Underwood was a devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and grandmother. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, playing cards and watching tennis. She loved, most of all, animals, including her cat Whiskey, and spending time with her grandchildren at the Hudson River and the lake in New Hampshire. She opened her heart and her home to many over the years and will be truly missed by family, friends and all that knew her. Always in our hearts.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. this Saturday, Oct. 5 at Holy Name of Mary Church, located at 110 Grand St. in Croton-on-Hudson. Flowers are being accepted, or in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the World Wildlife Fund (www.worldwildlife.org) in Rose's memory.

Elissa DeBenedictis

Dr. Elissa Ann DeBenedictis passed away on Sept. 18. She was 49.

DeBenedictis was born on Mar. 19, 1970, in Mount Vernon to the late Angela and Elia DeBenedictis.

She graduated from Our Lady of Victory Academy in June 1988, from Manhattan College in 1992 and from New York Chiropractic College in 1995. She was a practicing chiropractor in Mount Vernon for 17 years and worked at American Academy McAllister Institute for 22 years as a professor, director of academic support and coordinator of clinical embalming. She was fondly referred to by her students as "Dr. D."

DeBenedictis was the loving sister of Stephanie and Danny Zito and Anthony and Lauren DeBenedictis; the beloved

aunt to Frank, Sereena and Eliana Zito and Avanna and Anthony DeBenedictis; and a beloved niece and cousin who was devoted to her family. She touched the lives of many friends, colleagues and students and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Family received friends at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Sept. 22. A funeral Mass was held at St. Theresa Church in Briarcliff Manor on Sept. 23 followed by entombment at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale.

In lieu of flowers, American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service has established the Dr. Elissa DeBenedictis Achievement Award. Donations may be made to AAMI, 619 W. 54th St., 2nd floor, N.Y., N.Y. 10019. Please note achievement donation in memo section.

Mt. Pleasant Library to Hold Children's Room Forum Wednesday

The Mount Pleasant Public Library is currently running a community-based planning process to help develop a new vision for services to children and physical layout of the Children's Room.

Over the summer there was a staff workshop, an online public survey as well as "dot boards" in the library's Children's Room for caregivers to interact with.

A public forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Children's Room, which will be the final segment in the data gathering phase of the planning process.

At the forum, there will be a

presentation detailing the information received so far and a conversation facilitated by trustees Edwards and Riina, that will allow the opportunity to share the community's ideas and suggestions.

Following the forum, the library Board of Trustees will review all the information received and develop a final report. The report will detail a philosophy to guide the Mount Pleasant Public Library's services to children and also recommend improvements to the Children's Room.

The Mount Pleasant Pubic Library is located at 350 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

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Pace to Open Student Veterans Center With Help of State Funds

By Martin Wilbur

The transition for veterans to civilian life can often be a trying experience. For those who go directly from the military to college, that can be a greater challenge than coming straight from high school.

By the end of this academic year, the roughly 60 veterans who now attend Pace University's Pleasantville campus will have a place to go to get information on benefits they may be entitled to receive or simply to have some camaraderie among their fellow students who also served the nation.

Last Saturday, state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) announced that he secured \$200,000 in state funding for Pace to open a Student Veterans Center in the lower level of the Kessel Student Center. The space will be carved out of a portion of the campus bookstore, which will be downsizing, said Vanessa Herman, assistant vice president, government and community relations.

Construction is expected to start after the fall semester ends and will be finished next spring. The university is expected to contribute \$50,000 to \$100,000 of the cost, Herman said.

Harckham said that veterans have sacrificed for the country and that having

a place of their own to make college life a little easier was a top priority for him.

"Sometimes they come with different skills and different experiences and this will give student veterans a place that's theirs, where they could meet with peers, where they could meet with others," he said.

Peter Riley, a retired colonel and Pace's director of veterans' services, said that veterans often have needs that are not typically found in a college's larger population. Most are starting their formal college education sometimes many years later than their peers, so they don't have the same relationship with their 18- and 19-year-old classmates.

Between the Pleasantville and Manhattan campuses, Pace has about 300 student veterans out of its roughly 13,000-student population, a higher ratio than seen in the general public, Riley said. Members of the military comprise less than 1 percent of the population.

Since most student veterans are older, most commute to and from school each day with many holding jobs. Sometimes their higher education comes just a few weeks after leaving the military, he said.

"Veterans need a place where they can interact, where they can be relaxed and tell stories," Riley said. "Our mission



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

State Sen. Peter Harckham, left, with Pace student and Navy veteran Alun Gilpin and Pace President Marvin Krislov, announcing that the school is building a Student Veterans Center. Most of the cost will be covered by money secured by Harckham.

here, at least my mission, (is) to make sure that they have all the tools they need to succeed in college and beyond."

Available services at the center will include how to work with and navigate the VA system, learning about available education-related benefits, including the

Forever GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and vocational rehab and training.

First-year Pace student Alun Gilpin said he's looking forward to when the center is operating. Gilpin served in the U.S. Navy for eight years, with stops domestically in Maryland, Virginia and California and overseas in Thailand and Japan. The Palm Beach, Fla. native went from being in uniform to Central Texas Community College for two years before transferring to Pace.

He said leaving the regimentation of military life – getting up at 5 a.m. every day and having specific duties, including looking after others – was jarring at first. The center will help others who faced that predicament.

"When I didn't have that responsibility... first time out it was what do I have to do," Gilpin said. "I (realized) I had to calm down, it's about you now, take care of yourself now."

Pace President Marvin Krislov said he's proud that the university will have the Student Veterans Center.

"Veterans are very much a part of our community," Krislov said. "We very much value their service and we think they deserve to have the kinds of support and resources that they have provided to this country."

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Great Chappaqua Bake Sale Marks a 'Decade of Deliciousness'

By Martin Wilbur

On a Saturday afternoon 10 years ago, Charlotte and Sophia Spiegel and Rebecca Blum were young children out on South Greeley Avenue with their moms selling a relatively modest assortment of cookies, cupcakes and brownies to anyone who wanted a snack.

This Saturday, the three girls, now Horace Greeley High School sophomores, will have the Great Chappaqua Bake Sale up and running once again at the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival. At the festival's inception, its organizers asked them to bring their bake sale to

their event, which where they will be for the seventh consecutive year.

Since then, the effort has taken off. The Great Chappaqua Bake Sale has raised about \$215,000 and provided some 2.1 million meals for Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign.

As Blum and the Spiegel sisters have gotten older – and have fully taken over operation of the bake sale – they have come to realize the importance of what they started.

"It really opened our eyes about how less fortunate some kids are and how fortunate we are, that we don't have to go to school every day and eat with meals

programs and go on (school) break and wonder where our next meals are going to come from," said Sophia Spiegel.

To mark the milestone, they have called the 10th anniversary bake sale campaign a "decade of deliciousness." They have started a No Kid Hungry club at school to recruit classmates to help fight childhood hunger. They plan to create other efforts to raise money for the cause, including participating in World Hunger Day in the spring.

Blum and the Spiegels have also created a cookbook that includes the most popular treats from their 10 years of bake sales.

"We're trying to think of all these new things to do throughout the year," Blum said. "We just don't want to have the one bake sale. We want to spread it throughout the year."

For this Saturday, there will still be a large selection of treats available for purchase. Similar to previous years, the girls have enlisted community volunteers to bake and to help man the tables in two-hour blocks while soliciting contributions



From left, Charlotte Spiegel, Rebecca Blum and Sophia Spiegel, who started the Great Chappaqua Bake Sale with their mothers 10 years ago, will return with their sale at the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival this Saturday.

of baked goods and raffle prizes from area merchants.

There will be more than \$13,000 worth of prizes to be raffled off.

"We want to share with other kids the importance of charity and giving back," said Charlotte Spiegel.

For more information about the Great Chappaqua Bake Sale, to buy raffle tickets or learn how to volunteer, visit <http://join.nokidhungry.org/goto/decadeofdeliciousness>.



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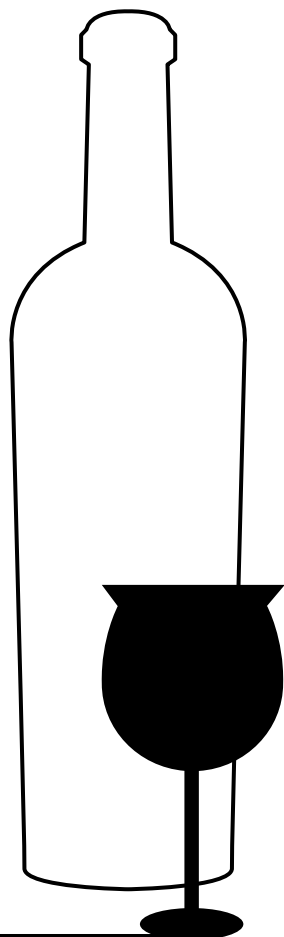
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Chappaqua Children’s Book Fest to Be Bigger and Better Than Ever

By Martin Wilbur

If you thought that the Chappaqua Children’s Book Festival has been a smashing success, wait until you see what’s in store this Saturday at Robert E. Bell Middle School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The annual event, in its seventh year, is the largest children’s book festival in the metropolitan area. Now, it has been expanded to include 145 authors and illustrators, more than 50 percent larger than in previous years. There will also be four literature panels for teachers, librarians and families to attend throughout the day.

Dawn Greenberg, the festival’s founder, said the event has proven to be so popular that the decision was made to try and accommodate additional authors. The Chappaqua School District allowed organizers to use the middle school field, which will enable organizers to provide the necessary room to keep up with demand.

Previously, there had been room for about 90 authors and illustrators. Despite the extra space, there is still a wait list, Greenberg said.

“We’re clearly becoming somewhere you travel to, which is flattering,” Greenberg said. “It’s going to be a little bit of an experiment to see how it works.”

A big coup for the festival was being able to attract two big-name children’s authors – Jarrett Krosoczka and Cece Bell – along with more than 50 other new authors and

the return of most of those who attended last year, she said.

The four panel discussions, to be held inside the middle school, will each feature several of the authors and address various topics that will be of interest to adults and some children, Greenberg said.

The first panel, Keeping It Real: Authors Discuss Writing Nonfiction for Young Readers, will be moderated by Michele McAvoy, an award-winning children’s book author and host of the popular kidlit podcast, “MY MESSY MUSE.” It will bring authors, illustrators, teachers and librarians together to celebrate books.

The Girls in the World panel will include middle school book authors Barbara Dee, Lisa Greenwald and Veera Hiranandani who will share their perspectives on the issues of identity, friendship, boundaries and home and on adolescent girls’ development, growth and empowerment.

Next, the discussion All the Feels: How Books Help Kids Understand Their Emotions will discuss the panelists’ works that address emotions and how books can help children deal with their feelings. It will be moderated by Ronni Diamondstein, a retired school library media specialist, a former member of the festival’s board of directors, freelance writer and a member of the Chappaqua Library’s Board of Trustees.

The final panel will be Project Lit, formed from the national, grassroots literacy movement through which educators



Children will be able to meet and talk to many of the participating 145 authors and illustrators at the Chappaqua Children’s Book Festival this Saturday outside Robert E. Bell Middle School. This year’s festival will be the biggest in its history.

empower young people by sharing books that make them feel seen, heard, affirmed and valued.

While the emphasis throughout the day is clearly books and reading, there will be plenty of fun to be had. Art projects highlighting books at the festival, mural painting, juggling and tightrope walking, hair braiding and learning a musical instrument will be available. Also, KidLit TV, the first free multimedia website connecting parents and educators with authors and their books, will be filming and broadcasting live from the festival.

Then there is musical entertainment

and a gourmet food court consisting of a variety of food trucks.

The Great Chappaqua Bake Sale returns (see previous page) to raise money for No Kid Hungry.

Greenberg said the question going forward will be whether to confine the festival to one day or make it a two-day event. She has also toyed with starting a festival in New York City.

While the event attracts families from throughout the tristate area and authors from around the country, the Chappaqua Children’s Book Festival has become a drawing card for the town, Greenberg said.

“Part of it was how can we use this to make Chappaqua more of a destination, to put us on the map,” she said. “People do enjoy the town.”

A key change this year is the closure of South Greeley Avenue between Woodburn Avenue and Town Hall to vehicular traffic. Those driving are asked to park in the train station parking lot by coming over the Route 120 bridge or via Washington Avenue. Greenberg said the Washington Avenue access point will have ingress and egress for the day.

Robert E. Bell Middle School is located at 50 Senter St. but the festival is accessible from South Greeley Avenue. It will be held rain or shine. For more information and a complete list of authors who will be attending, visit www.ccbfestival.org or its Facebook page.




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Editorials

Unanswered Questions Hound Mariani Gardens Application

Since the 3-2 vote to rezone the Mariani Gardens parcel in Armonk in June, there has been a relatively small but persistent group of opponents that have attended town meetings to lodge their continued disapproval with the multifamily housing project.

What's interesting is these citizens are not a group of rabble-rousers and gadflies or the predictable but understandable not-in-my-backyard opponents fighting to preserve their own property values. They are involved, engaged citizens with most having served as longtime community volunteers.

That doesn't make their point of view necessarily correct, but it does give them more credibility on an issue that should gnaw at anyone who cares to see the preservation of the Bedford Road Historic District and the neighborhood's character.

What still has not been satisfactorily addressed throughout hours of public discourse on the application, is how the rezone from Nursery Business to a multifamily residential use was approved even though it ran counter to the originally

updated Comprehensive Plan.

Municipalities typically have referred to that document as a blueprint for development for the next generation. When some of the guidelines in it become obsolete, it is usually after 10, 15 or 20 years.

Barely a year after the official adoption of its update, where the Comprehensive Plan clearly recommends that there should be "limited" residential at the site, the town voted to rezone the parcel for 43 units, which would contain 76 bedrooms. While limited residential meant mixed use at the site, it's unlikely the citizens who worked on that document had 43 units and 76 bedrooms in mind.

For certain, the Mariani parcel is one of the most important in the Town of North Castle, serving as a gateway to the hamlet of Armonk. Like any prime parcel in nearly any community, it's not going to say dormant forever. And to the Town Board's defense, all indications point to greater traffic volume and congestion if the site was partially or entirely used for a commercial enterprise.

But it is now the speed with which the

application seems to be progressing without other requirements close to being in place that is puzzling. There currently isn't enough capacity in Sewer District #2 and Water District #4. Yes, the applicant would be unable to obtain a building permit without extra capacity, but if that's the case, what's the rush?

There is no guarantee the applicant will obtain the easement needed to build the sidewalk that officials would prefer on Bedford Road leading into Armonk Square across the street.

A valid point that has been repeatedly raised by opponents of the current proposal is whether officials are taking the potential compilation of Armonk projects, including the lumberyard and Eagle Ridge applications, into a more global evaluation of Bedford Road and Maple Avenue.

Change is inevitable and also healthy, even in or near a historic district. But the apparent willingness to grant the applicant what it needs to build the project was not just inconsistent with the updated Comprehensive Plan but the recent history of North Castle.

Support Connection Provides Help and Hope for 25 Years

Whether it's a business, a friendship or a marriage, reaching 25 years is quite a milestone, and an achievement certainly worth celebrating.

This Sunday, Oct. 6, the 25th Support-A-Walk will be held at FDR State Park in Yorktown, Support Connection's annual fundraiser that draws thousands of people with a special bond and a common mission.

More than 10,000 individuals have received guidance and emotional assistance from the remarkable and dedicated staff at Support Connection since the unique nonprofit organization was started to offer a helping hand and a compassionate ear to women and their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer.

All of their confidential services, which have steadily grown over the years, are free. There is no other place like it, since all the professional peer counselors on staff, and other staff members, are cancer

survivors and know first-hand the fear and anxiety that a cancer diagnosis creates.

"We're needed now more than ever," said Kathy Quinn, Support Connection's longtime executive director, and who this year's Support-A-Walk Honorary Chairpersons Denise and Lou D'Amico called the "heart and soul" of the organization. "This is really amazing what we have here."

Amazing, without a doubt, since Support Connection relies on donations and is not affiliated with any of the larger national cancer groups. It's as grassroots as it gets, and it has thrived and survived because of the generosity of average citizens who want to make a difference for a loved one in need.

Support-A-Walk is an event like no other, where the human spirit is on full display. For a few hours on the first Sunday in October, those currently battling cancer or in remission can come together with

others in their shoes to share a hug and stories on what is and isn't working for them in their personal fight.

It's also powerful when families and friends unite at the walk to fondly remember someone who has lost their battle but has left behind memories to always cherish.

The success of Support Connection has shown that dreams can come true, and when people with passion for a cause never lose sight of what the purpose is, anything is possible, especially when the lives of people are at stake.

"The first 25 years has energized us to more forward for the next 25 years and beyond," Quinn said. "It's been a good run for us."

To ensure that run continues for another quarter of a century, get up early and walk this Sunday at Support-A-Walk. You're guaranteed to be inspired and empowered.

Correction

In last week's issue, there was an item regarding the Mount Kisco Village Board naming two new individuals to the village's Wall of Honor. The article stated that Fernand Jobin would be one of the two names but cited the elder Fernand Jobin, who passed away in January 2018, as the recipient of the honor. It is his son, who has the same name, who will be included on the Wall of Honor. The Examiner regrets the error.

Harckham to Host Opioid Roundtable, Hearing This Week

State Sen. Pete Harckham, chairman of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse is holding an opioid prevention roundtable and public hearing at the Putnam County Training and Operations Center, located at 112 Old Route 6 in Carmel this Thursday, Oct. 3. The hearing/roundtable is one of seven being held around the state.

At 10 a.m., there will be a roundtable

discussion with task force members and local county officials. The discussion will center on identifying flaws in the state system. Following lunch at 1 p.m., there will be a four-hour public hearing. Participation in the roundtable and testimony at the hearing will be done by invitation only. The public is welcome to attend both events.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Pace Welcomes Community to Campus – and Helps a Great Cause

By Martin Wilbur

For many of those in the community who pass by Pace University in Pleasantville on a regular basis, there may be no reason for them to ever go onto the campus.

Last Saturday, the university sought to change that. Students, faculty and administrators welcomed local residents onto Pace's grounds for its inaugural Communiversy Day, a daylong celebration to extend a welcome to the neighboring communities.

The day featured family activities, drone and robotics demonstrations, a birds of prey exhibition and a chance to meet its other animals at the Dyson College Nature Center, a football game, a women's soccer game, food trucks and many other great things to do on a glorious early autumn day.

Pace President Marvin Krislov said over the past year the school's leadership brainstormed how they could entice local residents to become more involved in campus life.

"We just want people to know about us and I think many people haven't been on campus, so we want them to do that," he said. "It's so convenient. Sometimes people don't know that they're invited to come on campus. We wanted to make this special."

While the day was overall a fun experience, the university kicked off the celebration in the morning with a critically important event. The second annual Harris Project CODA Walk for co-occurring disorders drew



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Students and officials were ready for the start of the Harris Project CODA Walk last Saturday morning at Pace University to raise money for co-occurring disorders. The walk kicked off the inaugural Communiversy Day, which welcomed neighboring residents onto the campus for a day of fun activities.

more than 400 participants who traversed a two-mile route around the campus to raise money and awareness to promote better treatment for those battling mental health issues and substance abuse.

Stephanie Marquesano, who founded the Harris Project, named after her son who died from an overdose in 2013 when he was 19, said the university agreed to be the site of the inaugural walk last year. This year, when

the school decided to hold Communiversy Day, Pace leaders asked Marquesano to have the walk be the first event on the schedule.

For Marquesano, it showed how much Pace University is committed to making sure its students are happy and healthy and know where to turn should they or someone they know need help.

"I have to say when you think about an organization that talks about mental health,

substance abuse and addiction, when a private university says we want to lead with this, it shows that they have a true commitment to the health and well-being of their students," Marquesano said.

The Harris Project is the only nonprofit organization in the United States that addresses mental health, substance abuse and addiction, which often go hand in hand but for years were not treated that way.

Joining the Pace students were their counterparts from Mercy College who helped organize the walk and swelled the ranks of its participants.

Leading the walk was Michael Orth, Westchester County's commission of community mental health. He said it was encouraging that the students were taking the event seriously, many unashamed to talk about mental health or substance abuse issues, since they are often the ones most affected.

"We have the young people who understand the importance of co-occurring disorders," Orth said. "It's their lives. We have the young people who are talking about their own mental health."

Madia Bestman, the president of Pace's Student Government Association, said there is help available on campus for those who need assistance.

"We must take care of ourselves and each other and we must see the signs when we do need help and seek out the resources," she told the crowd before the walk stepped off.



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Next Shared Services Initiatives Moving Forward in Westchester

By Neal Rentz

Westchester County is looking at a series of new initiatives to share services with its municipalities in addition to its current programs, officials said last week.

The county recently received a \$300,000 state grant to implement the Westchester Shares Online Shared Services Portal Project. According to County Executive George Latimer, the portal will serve as an online database of all available equipment and services that can be shared between the county, municipalities and school districts.

The new initiative is part of an update to Westchester's shared services plan from last year, said Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

Emily Saltzman, the deputy director of operations, noted that the state has extended its deadline for shared services plans from New York's counties until the end of the year. The Westchester final bipartisan shared services plan will be submitted to the municipalities and the Board of Legislators and a third public hearing will be conducted, Saltzman said.

One of the programs is the portal, the county's Chief Information Officer Marguerite Beirne said. Once the portal is operational it will save the county and its municipalities \$2 million the first year, with an expected \$1.2 million in annual savings in subsequent years.

Some of the other new shared services



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left, and Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins at last week's County Wide Shared Services public hearing in White Plains.

initiatives outlined by county officials last week include having a county police officer serve as a school resource officer, then work in county parks when school is out of session; working with the New York Power Authority on energy efficiency programs; and having the county partner with local governments for regional tax assessments.

"The basic principal here is to be as innovative as we can," Latimer said. "The state will provide a financial matching grant equal to the savings generated by new shared savings programs."

"The plan that we submitted last year

was a quantum leap over the prior year's plan. The county is seeking to create additional shared services plans even after the new plan is sent to the state by the end of 2019."

During the last year, Westchester tried convincing municipal governments to partner, which is not easy to do, Latimer noted. The county needs to prove to local governments that sharing services will be in local governments' interests, he said.

Board of Legislators Chairman Benjamin Boykin (D-White Plains) said White Plains has a shared services program with the city school district to purchase new school buses to replace aging vehicles. Having other municipalities enter into similar agreements with their local school districts would be financially beneficial, he said.

There were two speakers during last

week's hearing. Stanley Dorson, a district representative from the office of state Sen. David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown), asked for the date of the deadline for submitting the shared services plan to the state.

The deadline for submission is Dec. 31, Saltzman said. The county will also forward data to the state regarding how much money it saved through the shared services initiatives and how much in savings it anticipates from the revised plan for next year, she added.

Eileen Nadelson, president of the League of Women Voters of North East Westchester, asked if local governments would object to having their volunteer fire departments replaced with a county fire department.

"There's no proposal on the table to do this," Latimer replied.

County to Hold Job Fair for Mental Health, Social Services Providers

Recognizing that vacant staff positions impede the mission of Westchester County's nonprofit service providers, the county executive's office, the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) are holding a job fair on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the County Center in White Plains.

In delivering a broad array of programs to residents, more than 75 nonprofits contract with Westchester County, through DSS and/or DCMH, to provide community-based services to thousands of people across Westchester. More than 20 different potential employers, with over 400 open positions, will be participating.



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St. John's Church Subdivision Raises Pleasantville Neighbors' Ire

By Ed Perratore

Neighbors of St. John's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville protested at last week's Planning Commission meeting the church's plans to subdivide its property and potentially worsening an intersection they claim is already hazardous for drivers and pedestrians.

The church, at Bedford Road and Sunnyside Avenue, would partition 9,100 square feet of its property for another lot intended to accommodate a two-story, single-family residence with a detached garage. The driveway would have ingress and egress from Martling Avenue.

Residents aired their grievances about snarling a neighborhood that currently gets too much traffic.

"We need to hold up and look at the safety concerns here on this corner," said George Gatta, whose house on Martling Avenue is across the street from the lot the subdivision would create. "We've two blind hills and a blind corner that's not maintained. There's parking that crowds the entire intersection from 3 to 6 o'clock. There's very little room for error when it comes to that intersection with kids there. And we have no crossing guard."

"On top of the normal traffic day to day, there are events at the Episcopal church, the funeral home (Beecher Flooks) and the high school, so that street is used for parking at all different times of the day," added Daniel Fischer, whose Martling Avenue home is two houses south of the proposed new lot.

Linda Hogan, whose home on Martling Avenue is adjacent to the new lot, had similar concerns.

"Pulling in and out of my driveway is often a great complexity because of the cars that park immediately adjacent to the driveway. That's an ongoing challenge," she said.

Kory Salomone, the church's legal counsel, insisted the subdivision would not significantly add traffic.

"With respect to cars, we're not putting a 7-11 here, where cars are in and out all day long," he said. "I can appreciate the issue on the street, but it's a single-family home. There'll be two cars there. Like everyone else, they go out in the morning and come home at night."

The planners directed Salomone and Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, the church's rector, to have their architect submit another design that relocates the parking lot's driveway to the other side, away from Hogan's house. It would exit where parking close to that corner is already prohibited.

For their concerns about safety in the neighborhood, however, the Planning Commission directed the residents to the Village Board.

Neighbors also decried how they received notice of the Sept. 25 hearing

on the application only a few days before it occurred. Village code specifies that notifications of public hearings be sent by certified mail and be postmarked five days before the meeting, noted Pleasantville Building Inspector Robert Hughes.

"It doesn't say they have to receive it five days before."

The proposal is expected to be voted on at the commission's next meeting on Oct. 9.

A view facing east from Martling Avenue of the lot, left, where a home and detached garage would be built if the St. John's Episcopal Church subdivision is approved.



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SMALL NEWS
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Fall Chores in the Garden Can Be the Most Gratifying

As a realtor, I show homes that have various types of yards and gardens. Especially when a client is from the city, I am always sure to point out the care and maintenance that is required outside.

I remember well when I first moved from the city to my country home, I was a bit overwhelmed by the attention and sweat my property required. After just one growing season, however, I was hooked as an ardent gardener and accepted the considerable toil with pleasure.

I have found that, for me, autumn in the garden and yard can be most gratifying as deciduous trees and perennials start to yawn, preparing for a long winter's sleep, accompanied by that sweet smell that comes from plants releasing their chemistry and the crisp, clean sound of decaying leaves falling to the ground. It forecasts shorter days. The only outdoor chore that remains is clearing walkways of snow and ice.

While spring is probably everybody's favorite time in the garden, the fall signifies the finiteness of garden chores. When a weed is pulled, it stays pulled and doesn't replace itself with double the aggression. When perennials are deadheaded, the



By Bill Primavera

gardener can take a furlough from assuring that they are properly fed and watered, but will welcome them back in spring after they both have rested.

The proportions of any garden change as the perennial and annual growth are whacked back, which makes the vistas more open from one bed to the other. Also, it eliminates many of the planning mistakes from one season to the next, as errant plans are abandoned and bulbs and perennial roots are moved to other locations.

More creative joy comes from choosing which mums to feature as the color transitions from fall to winter. While you will see drifts of mum plants on some properties that have every color in the fall palate, I always liked to stick to one color, two at the most.

For the longest display of mum flowers, it's best to buy those where most of the plant is still buds. When the mums fade, just leave them where they are; they maintain a nice mound throughout the winter and you can cut them back in early spring. If you're lucky, they may return, but sometimes they don't, depending on winter conditions.

I now live at Trump Park where there is a fantastic landscaping program three

seasons of the year. But I look back on my long-term gardening chores with great pleasure and nostalgia. My most gratifying fall jobs was always building up the mulch beds to make them look well-tended and keeping the perennial roots from heaving.

I always asked my tree service provider to send me a truck load of wood chips if they are very clean (no leaves) and processed into smaller chips. Truly, it's as good as expensive mulch. In fact, I liked it better because it offered more texture and looked more natural to me.

Here are other garden tips at this time of year:

1. Harvest any vegetables left on plants. It's important to pull out all of the crops because debris left over the winter can cause diseases to enter the soil and re-appear the next spring.

2. This is the time when you can add horse manure or compost to the soil because that allows plenty of time for it to break down.

3. For those who like to bring houseplants inside, they should all be gathered into a shady area for a few days to get them used to low light conditions. Make certain that they are clean and free from little critters.

4. Perennials that are overcrowded or growing in a large ring with the center portion missing means that it's time to subdivide. You'll become popular with your neighbors if you share the excess. Cut back the remaining perennials to three to six inches in height.

5. Prepare for brilliant displays of daffodils, tulips and crocuses in spring by planting bulbs now. Do not plant them in tidy rows but rather "broadcast" them in drifts on the surface and plant them where they land for a more natural look.

6. For those who have the patience to endure the rigors of rose maintenance, it is time to prune dead branches and cut off any old flowers. Rose bushes should be mounded using topsoil or mulch and the canes should be cut back to six to 12 inches. For better protection, the bush can be covered with a bushel basket.

7. Also, this is the best time to transplant shrubs or young trees to new locations.

I don't advise readers about preparing lawns in the fall for next spring because I must confess that for years I didn't aerate and thatch the soil and I didn't fertilize. Because my former property was first cultivated in the early 18th century, I felt that I got a free pass to a very naturalized lawn accepting crabgrass and dandelions with grace.

But then, I engaged a wonderful lawn care service that took care of all those great chores that I said I was too busy to do. I do hope that it wasn't because I was too lazy.

Bill Primavera enjoys a dual career as a publicist and a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate in Yorktown. He engages in residential and commercial real estate. To employ the services of The Home Guru to market and promote your home for sale, call Bill directly at 914-522-2076.

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P'ville Woman to Walk in Memory of Friend Lost to Breast Cancer

By Abby Luby

Longtime Pleasantville resident Salli Figler remembered her close friend Mary having battled breast cancer. Helping Mary in her most trying time was the nonprofit organization Support Connection.

"I knew Mary was going to Support Connection and that her children and husband were getting the emotional support they needed," Figler recalled. "I could see what a great organization it was."

After the dreaded disease took Mary's life 10 years ago, Figler joined the organization's next Support-A-Walk for Breast & Ovarian Cancer.

"I had a large team with me that first year," she said. "I was joined by many friends who knew Mary and wanted to celebrate her life."

Figler continued to walk with Support Connection for a few years, but became involved in other groups helping people in need. This year, the 10th anniversary of Mary's death, Figler has returned to the walk to recognize her late friend and Support Connection in a different way. Three weeks ago she posted a fundraiser page, <https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/salli-figler/walk2019>, with a goal to raise \$1,000 for Support Connection.

"When I decided to post my fundraising page, I had a lot of support and positive recognition from my family and friends," Figler said. "They know this is important



Pictured, from left, are Salli Figler's daughter Jamie; son Matt and daughter-in-law Jess; husband Bruce; brother-in-law Huj and sister Jodi; and Figler helping out at a dining hall in the Bronx that offers free meals. All will be joining Figler for the Support-A-Walk on Sunday.

to me and they feel it's a great thing to do. There is a spider-and-web kind of effect that we can all have. I like that."

This year is the 25th annual Support-A-Walk, which will be held this Sunday, Oct. 6 at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights. It is Support Connection's most important annual fundraiser, with 88 cents of every dollar raised directly funding its free breast and ovarian cancer support services.

Support Connection was then

established the next summer, in July 1996, and doesn't receive funds from any national cancer organization.

"During that walk it hits you that this is real," Figler said. "All the people are walking because they either love someone who has cancer or someone who has died of cancer or who is a survivor. Some have sad stories, some have happy stories, but these are real people who are living with cancer in some way. It brings a strong reality of what the illness is."

Figler's memories of Mary date back to when their young children became friends.

"They were a new family moving in from Brooklyn with a son and daughter the same age as my children," Figler recalled. "We quickly became friends and she was a wonderful, positive and caring person who I adored."

She was aware her friend had breast cancer but never knew the severity. When the cancer metastasized, their daughters were 13 and their sons were 18.

After Mary's death, her husband told Figler that his daughter never knew her mother as a healthy person.

"She only knew her mother as being ill," Figler said. "Mary was always being tired, always going to the doctor or in the hospital overnight. Having cancer affects the whole family. Her kids were young and Support Connection offered solid support for Mary's husband and her children."

About one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast

cancer during her lifetime, according to Breastcancer.org. This year, an estimated 268,600 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 62,930 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that 22,530 women in the U.S. will receive a new ovarian cancer diagnosis in 2019 and about 13,980 of them will die from the disease.

"I am just hearing so much about breast cancer," Figler said. "I have another friend who is fighting for her life, and even though there are new treatments, it seems women are still dying. I strongly feel that I have to fight in another way – for Mary and for all the women battling breast cancer."

To donate or create a fundraising page for Support-A-Walk or to learn more about Support Connection, call 914-962-6402 or e-mail walk@supportconnection.org or visit www.supportconnection.org/support-a-walk.



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Affordable Boutique Turning Heads in Armonk, Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

Modern wisdom dictates that to find fashionable and comfortable clothes at affordable prices, you have to shop online, not in a local boutique in the heart of two downtown hamlets.

The Shop @ Dori's, with locations in Chappaqua and Armonk, debunks that premise.

Dori Cook, who opened a small location on South Greeley Avenue in 2017 with business partner Barbara Lerman and a second store last summer in Armonk Square, has been able to attract girls as young as middle school with stylish casual outfits as well as outerwear that is suitable for business casual for their mothers.

More recently, Cook has expanded her merchandise to offer party dresses for her younger customers, something to wear to a Bat Mitzvah, High Holy Day services or another type of event that calls for a dressier clothing option.

It's what she calls "affordable fashion," and Cook has kept her pledge to keep it affordable since first opening.

"I was bringing 100 new items in each week, and everything's under \$100, and that was our motto from Day One, and it kept building and

building and building," she said.

Popular items at Dori's are the sweaters, jackets, jeans and joggers, a more stylish version of sweatpants, which many high school girls like to wear either to school or around the house. All jeans sell for \$58 a pair and are soft and stand up well when washed. In many name stores, the jeans sell for at least twice that price.

"They know we have got comfortable stuff that they know is going to wash okay, especially for a mom that goes to Bloomingdale's," Cook said. "Their jeans are over \$100. They can come here and get it for less."

Ironically, perhaps the biggest selling item at The Shop @ Dori's isn't any clothing item but the highly popular Haute handbags. Cook said they started carrying the item, particularly in Armonk, because there are no stores in downtown that specialize in accessory items. The bags have been flying out of the store, she said.

The decision to go into business grew out of both passion and practicality. Following Cook's advertising and marketing career – she was a brand manager for Bristol-Myers – she started making jewelry for a friend, then for Lerman, a fellow Chappaqua

resident who also has clients for her own luxury personal shopping business.

They decided to partner on a small space at 26 S. Greeley Ave. a little over two years ago to bring more affordable products to local families. When Cook's parents moved to the area, she noticed that her shop might fit well in Armonk as well.

"I have two daughters and I'm shopping a lot with them," she said. "My parents lived out on Long Island and they actually moved to Armonk, and I said to Barbara, 'I'm not driving over the bridge anymore to go shopping, so we have to build it here and buy my kids the clothes here. part' So, we're doing it."

They split a storefront at 402 Main St. with Susan Blake jewelry.

Things have been going well enough where on Sept. 20, Cook and Lerman opened a third location on Greenwich Avenue in Greenwich.

Cook said the Chappaqua and Armonk stores have evolved slightly differently with the Chappaqua location catering a little more toward working moms, perhaps because of its close proximity to the train station. In Armonk, The Shop & Dori's has attracted young girls. It's within



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Dori Cook, co-owner of The Shop @ Dori's in Armonk, Chappaqua and most recently Greenwich with some of her jackets and blouses she sells at her store.

walking distance of Crittenden Middle School.

Younger or older, Cook said she tries to build and maintain relationships with her customers, and most of all, cater to their tastes.

"We try to keep it affordable, and again, it's similar to the high-end brands that the girls in our communities would be aware of, and the moms are happy to buy for their kids because they're more reasonable."

The Shop @ Dori's in Armonk is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. In Chappaqua, the store is open until 5 p.m. from Monday through Saturdays, except on Fridays when it remains open until 5:30 p.m. The Chappaqua store is closed on Sunday.

For more information, visit The Shop @ Dori's on Facebook and Instagram.





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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Oct. 1

Reading With Tobie and Karen. For school age children. First-come, first-served. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Apple Print Wreath. Make a festive fall wreath using apples. All ages. For children under five years old, a caregiver must accompany the child. 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.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Pajama Storytime. Join Miss Debbie for an evening that includes stories, songs and fun. Pajamas and stuffed animals are welcome. For children two to five years old and their families. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday (except Oct. 8). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

"O Brother, Where Art Thou?" As a bumbling trio of Depression-era con men (George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson) who escape from a Mississippi chain gang search for a mysterious treasure, they meet up with a host of musical characters in a weird and warm story that blends "The Odyssey" with the American South. Part of the Caramoor at the Burns Movies Musicians Love series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Open Book Club. "The Shell Collector" by Anthony Doerr will be discussed. Led by Christine Bobkoff. New Castle Town Hall Conference Room C, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Legendary Tuesday Night Jam. This jam has fostered many great musicians over the years. Some have gone on to tour, win Grammy Awards and achieve celebrity status. You never know who you'll hear. Come on down, play or listen, dance, drink and enjoy. All levels of musical talent are welcome. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. No cover charge. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-747-4740.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-769-

0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Mother Goose. Listen to stories and sing along with the librarian for a fun morning. The session incorporates picture books that focus on colors, shapes, letters and more. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Bilingual Storytime. Sing songs and read picture books in English and Spanish. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 16, 23 and 30. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

People Love Yarn. Share your knowledge or learn from the group. All skill levels welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Louann Rooney at rooneylm@optonline.net.

Science Lab. Become junior scientists and learn about different science topics through stories, crafts and experiments. For children four to six years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Mount Kisco Democratic Meeting. All Democrats are welcome. Dinner is provided. 118 N. Bedford Rd., Suite 100, Mount Kisco. 6:30 p.m. Free. Meetings are held the first

Wednesday of each month.

Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group. Northern Westchester Hospital at Chappaqua Crossing, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Art Series: Italian Cultural Month Federico Zandemeneghi. This Italian impressionist hailed from a family of master sculptors but chose to present his vision in pigment. With incredible emotion and beautiful compositions and palettes, Zandemeneghi's work brings forth tremendous emotion. 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.

2019 Sundance Shorts Program. A 97-minute theatrical program of seven short films selected from this year's Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour, widely considered the premier showcase for short films and the launchpad for many now-prominent independent filmmakers for more than 30 years. Includes fiction, documentary and animation from around the world, offering new audiences a taste of what the Festival offers, from sharply-written comedy and drama to edgy genre and an intimate family saga. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Thursday, Oct. 3

Pleasantville Garden Club. Vivian Utiko will be discussing one-pan cooking with herbs. Utiko is a master gardener and a member of the Herb Society of America. Through her love for gardening and using her herbs in food preparations, she developed her own edible gardens. Discover her special tips on the preparations of super soups and one-pot dinners with specifics hints on reducing starch and processed ingredients leading to a healthier intake of nutrients. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Membership meeting a 9:15 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org.

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

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

Lifeline 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 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Visit www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html.

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

Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Bounce the Baby. Enjoy simple stories, fingerplays and lap-sit songs for early literacy skills. Incorporates board books that focus on singing to, moving with and playing alongside your babies as instructed by the librarian. For children three to 18 months old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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.mountkiscolibrary.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.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Career Fair. CareMount Health Solutions LLC, the management services organization for CareMount Medical, P.C., the largest independent multispecialty medical group in New York State, will host this fair. Clinical and non-clinical opportunities are available for those interested in full-time, part-time and per diem work at CareMount's locations in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia and Ulster counties, and New York City. Candidates should bring copies of their résumé to the fair for an immediate interview. Chappaqua Crossing's Kisco Room, second floor, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 2 to 6 p.m. Free. Info or if unable to attend, résumés may be submitted at www.caremountmedical.com/careers.

Pumpkin and Gourd Sale. Come celebrate the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco's 18th sale. There are pumpkins

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A New Season is Time to Reflect on How to Navigate Transitions

Now that autumn has arrived and the temperatures are starting to cool, I plan to open my grandmother's hope chest that I inherited, take out warmer clothing that is kept there and store away summer dresses.

Each time I do this at the beginning of a new season, I reflect about the past and the future. I've found that when navigating transitions, such as the change from summer to autumn, it's helpful to try to keep my thinking mostly in the present.

A strategy that I ask clients to try as they go through changes is for them to stay in the moment, while respecting that touching on some past memories or planning for the future is natural at the same time.

As part of this seasonal change, the school year is about a month along for most students. As I thought about the various approaches that are helpful for coping with adjustments, I decided to ask some children (including my nephews) for their creative ideas. Here are the suggestions they shared:

1. Control what you can. Think about and appreciate what you can keep constant and reliable in your routine, even when other



By Joanne Witmyer

parts of it are changing around you.

2. Be kind to yourself. Consider how to practice self-care and find time for doing activities you enjoy to reduce the potential stress of change.

3. Try to face it and learn. Some changes can throw us in different ways, whether we anticipate them or are surprised. Rather than ignoring or hiding from what's going on, try to proactively consider what greater understandings can result from navigating changes.

We can learn from each other about strategies to try for building resilience, and respect that certain changes may seem more significant to different individuals at various points in their lives. See if you can find the simple pleasures in them, such as the crisp autumn leaves beginning to show their vivid orange, red and yellow colors.

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

Nourish



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Big Move to Bigger Digs

Dr. Alan Siegel and Dr. Brian Dombal, surrounded by staff, Bill Flooks, far right, and Ernie Csak, second from left, of the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce, and village Mayor Peter Scherer, far left, cut the ribbon last week during the grand opening of ProClinix's recent move to its larger new Pleasantville home at 175 Tompkins Ave. The move, from a smaller facility across the street, will allow the chiropractic, physical therapy and health and wellness center to offer all of its services at the Pleasantville location. ProClinix also has facilities in Armonk, Ardsley and White Plains.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

A Fall Collection. A new fall season is upon us. Soon, all round us, the trees will be displaying their fall colors. Perhaps a few of the words in this week's collection will be displayed in your vocabulary this season, and beyond.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. magnanimous (adj.) | A) collected indiscriminately | B) generous and kind | C) exceptionally fine |
| 2. preen (v.) | A) to taste tentatively | B) stand in front of | C) dress with care |
| 3. cantankerous (adj.) | A) affectedly righteous | B) uncooperative | C) lacking vitality |
| 4. epigram (n.) | A) a witty remark | B) the removal of hair | C) a sudden outbreak |
| 5. eschew (v.) | A) to avoid | B) revert back | C) support |
| 6. lustrum (n.) | A) an inducement | B) a period of 5 years | C) an inner beauty |
| 7. bombinate (v.) | A) to hold together | B) buzz | C) fall flat |
| 8. adit (n.) | A) a final accounting | B) a modification | C) an entrance |

- ANSWERS:**
1. B. Generous and kind, especially toward a competitor or enemy
 2. C. To dress or groom with elaborate care
 3. B. Difficult or irritating to deal with; uncooperative
 4. A. A witty, often paradoxical, remark concisely expressed; quip
 5. A. To avoid something intentionally or to give almost horizontal passageway into a mine
 6. B. A period of 5 years
 7. B. To buzz, drone, hum
 8. C. An approach or entrance, specifically an

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF FOXWOOD CONDOMINIUM, ON BEHALF OF ALL UNIT OWNERS, Plaintiff v. MICHAEL CASARELLA and CHRISTINA CASARELLA, Defendant, Index no. 54254/2018. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated November 20, 2018, and entered in the above-entitled action on November 27, 2018 (the "Judgment"), I the undersigned Referee in said Judgment named, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., White Plains, New York 10601, the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold. The premises will be offered for sale, as one parcel, on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The premises therein is described as being in the County of Westchester and State of New York, and designated as Tax Lot no. 2.121, Block 2, Section 69, Sheet 51 and commonly known as 121 Foxwood Circle, Mt. Kisco, New York 10549. The premises is more particularly described as follows:

THE land area of the Property is described as follows:

The Unit is designated as Lot 2.121, Block 2, Section 69, Sheet 51, on the Tax Map of the Town and Village of Mount Kisco and further described as follows: The unit ("UNIT") designated and described as Unit No. 121 in the Declaration (the "Declaration") establishing a plan for condominium ownership of the land (the "Land") and buildings (the "Buildings") comprising Foxwood Condominium (col-

lectively the "Property") made by the Grant-er under Article 9 – B of the New York Real Property Law, dated November 27, 1985 and recorded in the Office of the County Clerk of Westchester County on December 5, 1985, in Liber 8286 cp 59. Being further designated and shown on the floor plans certified by Jack P. Fermery, A.I.A., filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Westchester County, Division of Land Records, on December 5, 1985 as Map #22143. The Land is comprised of all that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Village and Town of Mt. Kisco, County of Westchester, and State of New York and more particularly bounded and described in herein. Together with an undivided .8686 percent interest in the Common Elements.

The premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment, Index No. 54254/2018 the Terms of Sale, and an assigned mortgage held in the principal sum of \$331,550.00, with interest thereon.

The approximate amount of the Judgment, for the property referred to therein, is \$14,737.91, plus interest and costs, as provided in the Judgment. The successful bidder will be required to deposit 10% of the bid by certified or official bank check, unendorsed, made payable to the Referee in accordance with the terms of sale.

Robert A. Hufay, Esquire, Referee.
(914) 664-8400

Ansell Grimm & Aaron, P.C., Attorneys for Plaintiff, 365 Rifle Camp Road, Woodland Park, New Jersey 07424 (973) 925-7343,
Attention: Stacey R. Patterson, Esq.

Happenings

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and gourds of all shapes, sizes and colors. To benefit the church's ministries. Donations for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry will also be received. United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco, 300 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 3 to 6 p.m. The sale continues through Oct. 31 Wednesdays through Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturdays and Columbus Day (Oct. 14) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays 12-6 from p.m. Info: 914-666-5014 or visit www.mountkiscochurch.org.

Kahoot! Sports! Sports! Sports! Do you like trivia? Come for an hour of sports trivia using Kahoot! an online gaming program. Be sure to bring a phone, iPad, tablet or laptop to log on to the website and play. Snacks and prizes included. For students in grades 5-12. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Pre-K Storytime With Craft. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Flight Time! A place to learn about how things fly and the history of flight. You'll even get the chance to build your own aircraft! For children six years old and up. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Popsicle Stick Scarecrow. Make your very own adorable, or scary, scarecrow out of popsicle sticks. For children four to seven years old. Children under five must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 5 to 6 p.m. Free. Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

Fox Read. The Bedford Central School district and the Bedford Teachers' Association, in conjunction with the Fox Lane High School English Department, invite community members to participate in this event. Read "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." There will be opportunities to join community members in discussions led by district faculty members on themes, issues and ideas inspired by the novel. This evening, there will be a literary discussion with English teacher Francis Hughes and history teacher Erin Filner. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Free. Additional programs on Oct. 17 and Nov. 7 and 14. Info and sign-up: Visit <https://www.bcsdny.org/domain/119>.

Great Books Forum Series. "Tzili: The Story of a Life" by Aharon Applefield will be discussed. Led by Professor Scott Zaluda. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor James Werner at james.werner@

sunywcc.edu.

"The Big Animal." This passionate 2000 Polish film exposes greed and pettiness while celebrating the most beautiful human themes: love, friendship and tolerance. Renowned filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski wrote the screenplay about a couple who adopt a camel and the impact that has on their family and town. It was shot in black-and-white by Oscar-nominated cinematographer Pawel Edelman. Part of the Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Date Night." The Armonk Players presents this lovefest of one-act comedies, including "Sure Thing" and "English Made Simple" by David Ives, "National Love Championships" by Joy Arzaga, "A Chance Meeting" by Frederick Stoppel and "Check Please" by Jonathan Rand. Conceived and directed by Joy Arzaga. Whipoorwill Hall, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. Adults: \$20. Students (18 and under): \$10. Also Oct. 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.armonkplayers.org.

Friday, Oct. 4

Hudson Chorale's Giant Tag Sale. This is not your typical neighborhood tag sale. The sale includes used and new donated items in a wide variety of categories: used and antique furniture, collectibles, jewelry, small appliances, housewares, CDs, DVDs, books, toys, sports equipment, tools, gardening supplies, good used clothing and accessories, holiday items, bed and bath, decorative art and more. All proceeds will benefit Hudson Chorale, the area's renowned nonprofit community chorus, and will be used to cover the costs of securing professional soloists and musicians to join us the concerts. Rain or shine. 107 Bedford Rd. (corner of Manville Road), Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Early bird from 8 to 9 a.m. for \$10. Also Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: Visit www.HudsonChorale.org.

New Castle Historical Society Tag Sale and Purse Party. Visitors can come to shop for purses, antiques, jewelry, art, decorative pieces, vintage treasures and more. Do you have any items you would like to donate? Donations in good condition will be accepted, to be dropped off on Oct. 1. Media items, books, electronics, sports equipment, children's toys or large furniture will not be accepted. Horace Greeley House, 100 King St., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also Oct. 5. Rain or shine. Info: 914-238-4666 or visit www.newcastlehs.org.

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. Walk-ins welcome. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162 or visit www.amyolin.zumba.com.

Music With Miss Laura. Stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. For children from 18 to 36 months. North

Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 to noon. Free. Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Evening Howl for Pups of All Ages. Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why October is a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. All guests will be served weather appropriate treats. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

"The Ascent." Larisa Shepitko's 1977 emotional final work won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and has been hailed as the finest Soviet film of its decade. Set during World War II's darkest days, it follows two peasant soldiers who seek refuge in a snowy backwoods town in Belarus. Their harrowing trek leads them on a journey of betrayal, heroism and transcendence. Part of the Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

The Sleepy Hollow Experience. This outdoor immersive theater event will now be seen for the first time in the tristate area, staged at the estate of Washington Irving, just in time for the bicentennial of his publication of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The production features live professional musicians and singers, who will perform the scenes in various locations around the estate and engage with audience members. Theater-goers will be guided by storytellers from scene to scene, meeting Ichabod Crane and Katrina Van Tassel, imbibing and snacking during the famous party scene at the Van Tassel', and, in a thrilling climax, encountering the Headless Horseman himself. Washington Irving's Sunnyside, 3 W. Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Historic Hudson Valley members receive a 10 percent discount. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 3. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Songbook. A screening of a concert that cuts to the very soul of jazz. The Lincoln Center Orchestra focuses on new pieces by members of the band as well as customized arrangements of classic repertoire. Highlights the vitality and richness of the big band. Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "Saturn in Opposition." Kick off Italian Heritage Month with some of the most interesting films Italy has to offer. In this film, powerhouse Director Ferzhan Ozpetek looks at how several friends deal with life, death and infidelity while supporting their friend after the death of his boyfriend. Starring Stefano

Accorsi and Margherita Buy. In Italian with English subtitles. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Country Line Dance. 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. 7 to 11 p.m. \$15 per person. First Friday of every month. Info: 914-241-0136.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch." The Next Stage of Arc Stages presents this unique musical starring Will Taylor and Lauren Singerman and directed by Ann-Ngaire Martin. Based on the book by John Cameron Mitchell with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask. Musical direction by Adam Spiegel. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$28 and \$36. Also Oct. 5, 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.arcstages.org.

Saturday, Oct. 5

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Experience the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, voted "Best of Westchester" six years in a row from 2014 to 2019, with over 50 vendors and eight nearby parking lots. This week, Harper Keehn Knife Sharpening will make its seasonal visit from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; there will be Cooking with Suzy Scherr from 9:30 to 11 a.m.; the music series will feature acoustic rockers Skyfactor from 10 a.m. to noon; and there will be apple tasting from 10 a.m. to noon. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine. Please note the market is a dog-free environment. Saturdays through Nov. 23. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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

Early Morning Photo Session. A special opportunity to photograph the Wolf Conservation Center's ambassador wolves – Nikai, Alawa and Zephyr. Guests will also be given access to photograph some of the center's critically endangered Mexican wolves and red wolves from vantage points not generally available during regular visits. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 9 a.m. \$100 per person. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

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

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Westchester United FC Offers Experience of Playing in Viareggio Cup

By Rob DiAntonio

The Westchester United FC, a northern Westchester-based soccer club established in 2014, will be sending boys and girls teams to the Viareggio Cup in Italy next year.

The tryouts will be held on Monday, Oct. 14, at SUNY Purchase. The girls' tryouts, for players born in 2001, 2002 or 2003, are scheduled from 7 to 8:15 p.m. For the boys, it is scheduled from 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. for players born in 2002. (Each boys' team will be allowed to carry one player born in 2001.)

It is the 72nd edition of the boys' Viareggio Cup and this is the second straight year Westchester United will be sending a team. The tournament will be held from Mar. 16-30. It is similar to the World Cup, where teams initially compete in a group stage. If they advance past the group stage, they enter a single elimination round until a winner is determined.

The girls' Viareggio Cup is entering just its second year with Westchester United sending a team for the first time. The girls' tournament will take place from Feb. 12-19.

It is a FIFA and UEFA recognized tournament. The United will compete against teams throughout Europe, South America and Asia and will face some of the best soccer clubs in Italy.

"We've worked really hard to get our club into this tournament," Westchester United Director Antonio Corrado said. "We want to provide players in this area, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, basically the tristate area, including northern New Jersey and Connecticut, the opportunity to showcase themselves against some of the best youth players in the world."

It's also an opportunity to "take in the experience," Corrado said.

"Last year, we played against Fiorentina, and in our game, we were actually police-escorted to the stadium," he said. "To this day, there are players who were on that team who talk about that experience. It's just one of a kind."

The teams arrive in Viareggio a few days early and have scrimmages set up before the real games begin.

"Just to go through the motions and get out the cobwebs," Corrado said. "And Viareggio is a beautiful city, so it kind of provides the opportunity for us to walk around as a team. A lot of the locals say hi to us and ask us where we're from. They'll stop us on the boardwalk and it makes for great interaction. Basically, once the tournament starts, you play one day and you're off the next day. When we're off, we usually have a training session, just to break down the lactic acid, fix some of the mistakes or just prepare for the next game."



From left, Kenji Harper, Westchester United Program Director Antonio Corrado and Cristian Valencia. Harper and Valencia were members of the Westchester United team that traveled to Italy last March to compete in the Viareggio Cup. They recently signed professional soccer contracts with teams in Greece.

The overall goal of the club is to "provide an experience that consists of high quality soccer instruction by focusing on the four pillars of the game: technical development, tactical awareness, strength

and conditioning, and psychological development," the Westchester United website states.

"We started the club because there weren't that many opportunities in the northern Westchester area for kind of a more premiere program that was focused on helping players with their development on the field and off the field," Corrado said. "In our first year as a club, we actually won the Eastern New York Premiere League title."

After capturing the league championship in its first year, the club has doubled in size each year.

The Westchester United have multiple top-notch coaches on its staff, including Brian Lanzetta, who has guided Somers' varsity boys' soccer team to a state title and a sectional championship the past three years. He will be one of the coaches joining the teams in Italy.

"Our coaching staff has collegiate and high school experience," Corrado said.

Kenji Harper and Cristian Valencia, two members of the Westchester United FC who were on the Viareggio Cup roster last year, recently signed professional contracts with A.E. Messolonghi of the Greek Fourth Division.

For more information about the Viareggio Cup tryouts and Westchester United FC, visit www.westchesterunitedfc.com.

Happenings

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Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Also Wednesdays from 2:30 to 7 p.m. (except Oct. 2) and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. Appointment required. English only on Wednesdays. Appointments available in Spanish on Thursdays and Saturdays. Info and Wednesday appointments: 914-336-6026. Info and Thursday and Saturday appointments: 914-336-6935.

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 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Training and Being Safe With Dogs. The importance of safety around dogs for all family members will be emphasized by Patti Murphy, 4HClub leader and canine handler, breeder and dog shower. Murphy and club members will prepare a demo on how to approach and handle dogs. Includes a short discussion on how to pick a new member for

your family and a demo on what dog sports are available for kids and dogs. Attendees without dogs would be appreciated. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Children's Concert. Energetic performer Lee Knight brings well-loved children's books to life with her happy, original music. Children get to join in the performance by singing, dancing, using funny props and adorable puppets. For children three to seven years old and their families. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Seating limited; registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or at the library.

Open Art Studio. All supplies are provided to create your own artwork. For children four years old and up; with parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. First Saturday of every month. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

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

"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." Rumor has it that He Who Shall Not Be Named has returned, but Minister for Magic, Cornelius Fudge isn't so sure. Fudge entrusts newly arrived Defense Against

the Dark Arts professor Dolores Umbridge (Imelda Staunton) with keeping control over Hogwarts, leading Harry, Hermione and Ron to recruit a small group of students to form "Dumbledore's Army" in preparation for the ultimate spell-casting showdown. Part of the JBFC Potter-thon. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$13.50. Children (13 and under): \$7.25. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they celebrate the birth of pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves as well. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Oct. 12 and 19 at 11 a.m. Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Drop in for Tech Help. Receive assistance with any of your technology devices. PC, Google, Microsoft savvy volunteers help with troubleshooting, downloading, Overdrive, Freegal, Hoopla or any other online service. First-come, first-served. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Saturdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Info: 914-

666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Origami. Join Westchester Origami Workers, a regional group of Origami, USA to share models and techniques. Open to all adults. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. First Saturday of every month. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Chappaqua Children's Book Festival. Visit with more than 140 authors and illustrators. There will also be food, author readings, panel discussions and kid-friendly activities. Robert E. Bell Middle School, 50 Senter St., Chappaqua. 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission. Info Visit www.ccbfestival.org.

Public Opening for Sparkling Amazons: Abstract Expressionist Women of the 9th St. Show. Groundbreaking and innovative, this exhibit presents the often-overlooked contribution by women artists to Abstract Expressionism and the significant role they played during the 1940s and '50s. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 2 to 5 p.m. Adults: \$10. Seniors and students: \$5. Children (under 12) and members: Free. Exhibit continues through Jan. 26, 2020. Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-232-9555 or www.katonahmuseum.org.

Borderline Personality Disorder Presentation. Sponsored and presented by Andrea Rosenhaft, from BWellBStrongBPD™ LLC, a mental health advocacy and awareness organization. Mount Pleasant Public Library,

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350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail andrea@bwellstrongbpd.com.

"I Am Cuba." This delirious 1964 Soviet-Cuban celebration of Communist kitsch mixes Slavic solemnity with Latin sensuality as it explores Batista's Cuba and the 1959 revolution. One of Jonathan Demme's must-see movies, which he and Suzana studied together while researching a Bob Marley film. Initially disregarded, it was re-released in 1995 and is now considered one of the great discoveries in cinema. Part of the Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

The Robert Cray Band. Cray has been bridging the lines between blues, soul and R&B for the past four decades, with five Grammy Awards, a Blues Hall of Fame inductee, recipient of the Americana Lifetime Achievement Award, countless tours and more than 20 acclaimed albums. The group's most recent recordings, "Nothing But Love" and In "My Soul," put the band back on the Billboard Charts. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$39, \$49 and \$60. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

"1984." George Orwell's classic will be brought to the stage by Aquila Theatre. The group's new live theatrical adaptation of this cautionary novel features Aquila's signature bold, ensemble-driven, physical style. As the modern world grapples with technological integration and institutional challenges, this production provides evocative storytelling with individual thought and personal freedom pitted against a backdrop of repression. Big Brother is always watching as technology is wielded as a propaganda weapon to monitor thoughts and actions. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$28. Seniors and students: \$26. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts. Tickets may also be bought at the box office 30 minutes before showtime.

Sunday, Oct. 6

Third Annual Fall Fun Fest: Celebrating Abilities. The Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) is presenting this event in support of people with developmental disabilities and vulnerable children. Includes entertainment and refreshments. To include those with walkers and in wheelchairs, the event will feature a Stroll and Roll followed by music and activities. All proceeds to support WIHD's vital services and programs. Westchester Institute for Human Development, 20 Hospital Oval West, Valhalla. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free; donations accepted. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit <https://www.wihd.org/event/fall-fun-fest>.

Study Skills Workshop. Does your child struggle with developing good study habits, managing their time, taking notes effectively or using the best resources? Open to students

in grades 7-10 and their parents and friends. C2 Education, 195 N. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco. 12 to 1 p.m. Free. Seating limiting; registration required by Oct. 4. Info and registration: 914-362-1100, e-mail mount.kisco@c2educate.com or text 914-362-8495.

Pack Chat for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Kids will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves as they are out searching for prey as they prepare for the birth of this year's pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves 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 Oct. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-763-2373 or visit www.nywolf.org.

21+ Book Group. "Memory Man" by David Baldacci will be discussed. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. New members welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Carolyn at 914-769-9169.

Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian. The 2019-20 season beings with music for flute and strings. Flutists Demarre McGill will join violinist Nancy Wu, violist Michael Roth and cellist Jerry Grossman for works by Beethoven, Debussy, Dohnanyi, Mozart and Pazzolla. Rye Presbyterian Church, 882 Boston Post Rd., Rye. 3 p.m. \$40. Students: Free. Walk-ups the day of the concert are welcome. Info: 914-967-0842 or visit www.ryepc.com. Tickets: Contact Ronald Arron at 914-523-4646 or e-mail ronarron@optonline.net.

Valhalla Oktoberfest. A fun-filled day as the community brings Munich to Valhalla. Enjoy German food and music. The Valhalla Fire Department will also be hosting a fire prevention event. See the department's equipment, go for a ride in the bucket of the ladder truck, flow some water from one of the engines, see the Jaws of Life in action and much more. Broadway, Valhalla. 3 to 6 p.m. Free admission. Info: Visit www.mtpleasantchamberofcommerce.org.

Hops and Harvest Benefit. Kick off the fall season by enjoying the breathtaking fall foliage while sampling food and drink from local artisan chefs, area wineries and breweries. To benefit the Greenburgh Nature Center. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 3 to 6 p.m. Members: \$100. Non-members: \$150. Info and reservations: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"The Executioner." Brilliantly scripted with lively dialogue and vibrant characters, this film is a series of conversations around capital punishment, economic strife, domesticity and other serious issues that are somehow made to seem like fodder for comic melodrama. This 1965 Spanish film takes off from an unlikely romance between an undertaker and the daughter of an executioner who wants to retire. Part of the Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364

Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Monday, Oct. 7

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. 719 Bedford Rd., Bedford Hills (next to ShopRite). 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Tina Campbell at 914-441-1383 or e-mail tinacampbell@masternetworks.net or drop in.

Foreign Policy Discussion Group: China's Ambitions in the Arctic Region. The guest speaker (via Skype) will be Heather A. Conley, director, Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Facilitated by Don Shields. Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Mommy and Toddler Yoga. Stretch and shine with your toddler during this playful introduction to yoga using games, songs, stories and more. For children one to four years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 21. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Here We Are Together: Story Time for Children. Story time for children of all ages, from newborns to school age children; with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Monday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

Read and Relax. Listen to Ms. Stephanie read "The Phantom Tollbooth." Read one or two chapters each session until the book is finished. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 21. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Dungeons and Dragons. Be part of a role-playing adventure. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Columbus Day Craft. Draw and paint a picture of the ship that Christopher Columbus sailed in to discover America. For children three years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

What's to Eat? Wild Rice Salad with Lime-Sesame Dressing. Group therapy for the culinary challenged. Led by Michelle Harvey. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

Just Write! A creative writing club led by published poet and librarian Mary Johnson. Come and write in a friendly, encouraging environment. Writers of all levels and new members welcome. Open to anyone 16 and up. North Castle Public Library, 19

Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 21. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

Ten Tips to Tackle Your College Admissions Essay. A program for high school students and their parents, with proven concepts that have helped numerous students get into their chosen colleges and that have alleviated the stress for anxious parents waiting on the sidelines for their children to complete their applications on time. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer. This Support Connection group offers the opportunity to share information and experiences with women across the country who are living with breast cancer. Share information and experiences. Confidentially discuss concerns and gain support from others who understand from the comfort of home. Open to women nationwide living with recurrent, advanced stage or metastatic breast cancer. 8 p.m. Free. Typically, the first Monday of each month. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Bridge for Beginners. Sharpen your mind and enlarge your social circle by learning this fascinating game. You will learn the suggested rules of bridge through card playing. Moving at a comfortable pace, experience a passion for this game and stimulate your mind through the cards while meeting new friends. Led by Doris Paucaldo. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Tuesday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

Sign and Play With Chloe. A fun, musical, early-communication program for children and caregivers to enjoy together. Based on the award-winning Baby Signing Time series, this class uses songs and games to help families learn to communicate using signs from American Sign Language. Taught by certified instructor and professional children's entertainer, Chloe, from Chloe's Kids. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Putnam Valley Town Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:00 pm. to hear comments on a proposed Local Law for the use of Bubbler/Aeration Systems in Putnam Valley Lakes: **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING** the Putnam Valley Town Board will conduct a Public Hearing to hear comments on a proposed Local Law re: the Septic Tank Pump Out for Protection of Impaired and other Water Bodies Proposal to amend Section 90.1 **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING** the Putnam Valley Town Board will be conducting the regular monthly Work Session meeting. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Sherry Howard, Town Clerk Dated: 09-18-2019**

ESTOPPEL NOTICE On August 26, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the "Village") adopted a Bond

continued on next page

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- experience and proven ability to direct, train, motivate, evaluate and monitor the performance of subordinates;
- the ability to establish high quality standards of work and ensure they are carried out;
- the ability to communicate effectively and professionally with all levels of school district personnel as well as the public;
- the ability to oversee supplies and equipment acquisition needs, maintain records and make oral and written reports as required;
- a skill set to enhance the overall appearance of the grounds for a large campus;
- the minimum qualifications as established by Putnam County Civil Service.

Interested applicants must apply online via OLAS (BOCES Online Application System) at <https://www.pnwbores.org/olas/#!/jobs> no later than October 13, 2019.
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Resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Village is not authorized to expend money or the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the New York State Constitution. Summary of Bond Resolution 1. Specific Object or Purpose – the purchase of a sanitation truck at a maximum estimated cost of \$245,476. 2. Period of Probable Usefulness – fifteen (15) years. 3. Maximum Amount of Obligations to be Issued - the maximum amount of obligations to be issued for the objects or purposes described above is \$245,476. The Bond Resolution herein summarized shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours for twenty (20) days following the date of publication of this notice at the office of the Village Clerk of the Village of Pleasantville,

Westchester County, New York. Noreen Regan Deputy Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York

Town of Putnam Valley Work Session October 2, 2019 5 P.M. Public Hearings

1. Expansion of septic pump out law 2. Deicer law Regular Meeting 3. Presentation of Town Budget by Sherry Howard, Town Clerk. 4. Discussion: rescind Town law prohibiting paint ball games and activities within the Town of Putnam Valley. 5. Schedule of 2020 Preliminary Budget Meetings.

Please be advised that the next meeting of the **Planning Board** will be held at **Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday October 7, 2019** for the purpose of considering the following applications: **Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm** **AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING** The following public hearings have been scheduled for **October 7, 2019 at 6:00PM** (or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions permit) at the **Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York, 10579**. All interested

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parties are invited to attend and will be heard. A copy of the application materials and plans may be inspected during normal business hours at the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall. 1. **Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7.12& 7.11/ File2019-0199)** The subject property consist of +/- 10.3 acres of land and is located on Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing soil remediation of contaminated fill that was placed on the Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps. Properties. The remedial design project includes re-grading the unstable slopes and construction of a clean soil cover over the top of the contaminated fill. 2. **Sposato Adam- 694 Sprout Brook Road TM#72.15-1-23/ File 2019-0198)** The subject property consist of +/-1.004 acres of land and is located on 694 Sprout Brook Road and within the R-1 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing an accessory apartment attached at the rear of the existing residence. A Site Development Plan and Special Use Permit is required. **SKETCH 3. Gjonaj, Chris- White Rock Road (TM#73.-2-30.1/ File2017-0170)** The subject property is comprised of +/- 3.9 acres and is located on White Rock Road within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single family residence, driveway, septic system and well. 4. **Fields, Harrison-15 Locust Glen**

Road (TM#73.-1-44/ File 2019-0202) The subjects property is comprised of +/- 1.99 acres and is located on 15 Locust Glen Road within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a log cabin home on existing foundation. 5. **Copper/Bier- 23 Twin Pines Road (TM#74.-1-5/ File 2019-0201)** The applicant is proposing to demolish and reconstruct a single- family residence. The subject property is located in the Three Arrow Co-op and within the R-3 Zoning District. 6. **Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7/ File2019-0196)** The property consist of +/- 10.3 acres of land and is located on Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a Fire Station building +/-30,000 sq.ft. in size, with well and septic system, 127 parking spaces, stormwater management facilities and related site improvements. 7. **Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (TM# 72.20-1-7.11/ File2019-0204)** The applicant is proposing an amended site plan for improvements to allow shared access and parking with proposed fire station on adjacent property. The Planning Board will consider adopting a resolution declaring intent for lead agency for the Fire House and Ambulance Corp. project. **EXTENSION 8. Fiorentino, Annette- Wiccopee Road (TM#41.-2-14/ File2017-0169)** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 9. Approve**

Fortified Wine: It's Time it Receives the Recognition it Warrants



By Nick Antonaccio

The notion of naturally produced wines has gained significant support and popularity in the United States. Left behind have been naturally produced wines that are fortified. These wines have been further processed with alcohol, typically brandy, a good deal of which are naturally produced.

I was never a big fan of fortified wines. But I've been fortunate in the past few years to enjoy a number of excellent, palate pleasing wines that happen to be fortified.

Sometimes it's been port, other times sherry, on a few occasions madeira. I will freely admit that it has taken me a number of years to develop an appreciation for this style of wine. I believe my experiences were likely influenced by the bad rap to which these wines were subjected.

There was the fortified wine of my teenage years (Thunderbird) followed, as

a responsible twenty-something by Dry Sack Sherry (yecch). It was a bottle of vintage 1970 Dow Port I received on my 40th birthday that opened a new world of sensory pleasures to me; it was more sophisticated and more complex than many table wines I had previously enjoyed.

Even today, each time I pour a glass from an open bottle, it is different than the first or most recent pour from that bottle. I find this is the defining element of these wines. They are living, breathing organisms that for several decades undergo constant changes in aromas and flavors. Each pour is steeped in nuance and is meant to be contemplated. Think of a Shakespearean passage that holds a different meaning each time it is read.

There are several types and styles of fortified wines, depending on their country of origin, the fortification process employed and the length of aging.

1. Port. This has been the signature wine of Portugal since the 16th century. The fortification is achieved from adding brandy to fermenting red wine, which halts the fermentation at a critical stage, sustaining the sugars present in the barrel. In this manner, the wines are able to develop their signature structure

of raisins and a slight sweetness, making them perfect as dessert wines.

2. Sherry. During the Age of Discovery, Spanish explorers stocked their ocean-going ships with fortified wines, ensuring that the wines would not spoil on long voyages. Produced from white grapes and ranging from lighter-bodied to deep, complex, full-bodied styles, sherries have a much more diverse profile than port. Although fortified in the same manner as port, the brandy is added at the end of the fermentation process, resulting in a drier style than port and easier to blend to a winemaker's preference. This makes most Sherries a preferred aperitif wine.

3. Madeira. On this island off the Portuguese mainland, wine is fortified in a manner similar to sherry, with one pronounced difference. Upon completion of fermentation, the wine is distilled in oak casks – literally slow-cooked for up to three months before bottling. The concentrated end product has sophisticated, complex flavors that are best enjoyed in front of a roaring fire (with your favorite cheese).

4. Marsala. This is not the bottle that is in your kitchen pantry. Produced in Sicily

from white (or red) indigenous grapes, it is fortified in a similar manner to port. It is a lighter, softer, nuanced wine that is best when served chilled and paired with fruit or hearty cheeses. Recently revitalized,

Sicilian winemakers have made this a wine to be sought out.

The best way for you to introduce yourself to these wines is through a wine-by-the-glass list at a local restaurant, tapas bar or wine bar. Once you've isolated your personal

palate preferences, purchase a bottle at a local wine shop.

I encourage you to take a step back – clear your perceptions of fortified wines – and enhance your wine experiences with a fresh look at what's being offered today. Your palate, and your psyche, will thank you.

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

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