



Mt. Kisco Voters to Decide on \$4M Bond for Firehouse Work

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials held a public session last Thursday to detail what's at stake for the village's three firehouses as voters decide Nov. 5 whether to authorize another \$4 million to help renovate and expand the facilities.

The session at Village Hall, led by Mount Kisco's Board of Fire Commissioners and attended by the Village Board and representatives of H2M architect + engineers, centered on what work would be completed if the referendum succeeds and what the fire department would face should it fail.

The latest referendum on the general election ballot is scheduled two years after voters passed the original \$10.25 million bond issue. Officials learned last winter that miscalculations by H2M along with cost escalations would see the village fall as much as \$8 million short to complete the original scope of work.

The Green Street firehouse, where the Union Hook & Ladder Co. and Mount Kisco Fire Rescue Police are based, was built in 1949, while the Mutual Hose and Engine Co.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich speaks to residents about the \$4 million referendum that would help pay for renovation and expansion at the village's three firehouses while the Board of Fire Commissioners looks on.

firehouse on Main Street and the Independent Fire Co. facility on Lexington Avenue were built in 1954 and 1955, respectively.

Fire Commissioner Michael Curtis said the extra \$4 million will allow for both renovation and expansion of the three facilities, even though multiple items from the original project have been excluded. If the referendum is

defeated, work would be primarily limited to bringing the three buildings up to code and making infrastructure improvements such as electrical upgrades and basic firefighter safety improvements. An exception would be a one-day addition at the Main Street firehouse.

"While the renovations will get done, we would not be able to expand the firehouses and

that's something we desperately need to do," Curtis said. "Our equipment gets larger every year."

Architect David Pacheco, vice president of H2M, said the building envelopes need to be expanded to have enough room for today's larger apparatus and to provide dedicated space to separate contaminated gear. In all three locations, firefighters are currently susceptible to a "crushing hazard" because there are just a few inches to spare in the front of the trucks and the inside of the front door and the back of the trucks and the rear wall of the firehouses, Pacheco said.

He said safety standards recommend three feet of space on all sides of the trucks.

There is also inadequate room to implement cross-contamination and cancer-reduction measures of the gear when firefighters return from a fire, Pacheco said.

In addition, ventilation and exhaust systems would be serviced but not replaced.

"This is an important task because these facilities need to operate efficiently and people getting dressed near apparatus or turnout gear

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P'ville Seeks to Solve Congestion and Enhance Pedestrian Safety

By Abby Luby

Morning traffic congestion around Pleasantville's schools is a common source of frustration for many parents attempting to drop off their children before the opening bell.

But a solution to unsnarl the morning gridlock as well as make the village safer for pedestrians may be in sight.

The 1.8-square-mile village has many sidewalks, which allows the Pleasantville School District to operate without buses, but that has meant long lines of cars on streets leading to the district's schools.

Pleasantville's Pedestrian Committee has been working for the past year to present viable ideas to reduce traffic and make Pleasantville a more walker-friendly community. Last Wednesday, the committee presented the Village Board with a summary of proposals and plans.

Three members of the committee known as Pedestrian Walks – Chair Carrie Roberts, Samantha Hoover and Melisa Russo – showed the board a draft map of sidewalks and crosswalks and the locations of crossing guards.

"The purpose of the map is to show parents and kids what the safest walking routes are to school," Roberts said.

When finalized, a hard copy of the map will be sent home to parents. Families will receive a digital version via e-mail as well. The possibility of the village and the Pleasantville Board of Education splitting the cost of printing the maps was also discussed last week.

Along with several local community groups, the committee has been working with Police Chief Erik Grutzner, Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Econom and the Board of Education to determine the safest routes for students

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North Castle Approves Mariani Permit; Site Plan Review Next

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board approved a special permit for Mariani Gardens last Wednesday, allowing the applicant's proposed 43-unit residential development to advance to site plan approval.

The 4-1 vote came after the board closed the public hearing. Much of the acrimony that has marked the public discussions of the project was absent from last week's final session of the hearing. In a contentious atmosphere in June, the board voted 3-2 to rezone the four-acre property from Nursery Business to the Residential-Multifamily-Downtown Armonk Zoning District.

Plans call for luxury rentals that include four four-bedroom units in two structures closest to Bedford Road, a 16-unit structure on the side near where the empty greenhouse currently stands and a 23-unit building in the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Attorney Mark Miller, representing applicant 45 Bedford Road LLC, addresses the North Castle Town Board at a recent meeting.

back of the property that will contain the five affordable apartments.

In addition to the four-bedroom units, the project would contain 24 one-bedroom apartments, nine two-bedroom units and six

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that's in a contaminated area are big problems for firefighters," Pacheco said.

Despite the extra debt service associated with the additional \$4 million, Mount Kisco is projected to remain within the tax cap for the foreseeable future, said Village Manager Edward Brancati. Should the extra bond pass, the village is projected to see a 3.52 percent tax increase for the 2020-21 fiscal year, a \$122 hike for homeowners in the average Mount Kisco residence with a \$415,000 market value, he said.

However, with the village able to apply carryover from consistently being below the tax cap, it would qualify to be within the cap,

Brancati said.

Based on current projections, there would be a 2 percent tax increase each of the two following years before leveling off to a 1 percent annual increase for the remainder of the bond.

Mayor Gina Picinich said after the Village Board and fire commissioners huddled to discuss what should be done once it was learned that the 2017 bond would fall far short of completing the original scope of work, a compromise was reached to ask for about half of the money while scaling back portions of the project.

Regardless of the outcome of the referendum vote, there will at least be work done with the money authorized by voters in

the \$10.25 million bond.

"That money has been secured," Picinich said. "At the very least, we will be renovating our firehouses for that amount of money."

She said the village would start the process of rebidding the project shortly after the vote and look to commence work next spring.

One resident asked why the village was considering pouring money into the three existing firehouses that are each 65 to 70 years old when it could build a brand-new firehouse for a projected \$20 million.

Curtis said department brass concluded that the location of the three firehouses contribute to shorter response times. That is critically important because in addition to the village, the Mount Kisco Fire Department is

also contracted to provide service to portions of Bedford and New Castle, he said.

"We're not going for fancy," Curtis said. "There's no gold-plated anything. It's just going to be what we need for a modern fire department. It's what we need. We're one of the larger fire departments in the upper part of the county and we cover a lot of area."

Picinich said the village plans to recover damages from H2M that is equivalent to the cost of the extra design plans and the escalation of construction costs. The company has already agreed to base their fee on the \$10.25 million project, not \$14.25 million, should the Nov. 5 proposition pass, she said.

P'ville Seeks to Solve Congestion and Enhance Pedestrian Safety

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to walk to school and make sure the highest-volume crosswalks are manned by crossing guards.

The committee reviewed locations most frequented by walkers, places where there is unchecked traffic speed and streets without sidewalks. Among the sites that need a reduction in morning drop-off traffic are Bedford Road, Academy Street and Manville Road.

Also studied was the number of students coming to school from different areas.

"Being considered are points where parents can easily pull up and drop their kids off where there's a sidewalk that's a straight shot to school," said Village Administrator

Eric Morrissey. "That would avoid the long lines of cars waiting to get closer to the school, especially near the high school."

The committee's summary of an online survey that received 653 responses (about 10 percent of the community), showed 44 percent walk three to five times per week, mainly to the center of the village to shop or to go to school and parks.

The survey cited speed and traffic as major concerns and the lack of sidewalks along some streets was also an issue. Suggestions made for high school students walking to school along roads without sidewalks included getting dropped off where there are sidewalks in the municipality's outskirts.

Included in the committee's proposals were

brightly-painted crosswalks and eye-catching flags to be used by pedestrians crossing streets where speed limits are generally ignored. The flags are picked up from a receptacle on one side of the crosswalk and returned to another receptacle on the other side of the street.

Village Board members appeared supportive of the two safety steps. They were shown pictures of bright "rainbow crosswalks" that are currently used in many municipalities across the country.

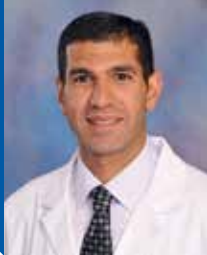
The committee proposed rolling out newly-painted crosswalks in a trial run using Pleasantville's school colors – green and white. The best time for the rollout would be during the winter or spring. Locations suggested for the painted crosswalks were Memorial

Plaza, Marble Avenue near the Wood & Fire Restaurant across from Parkway Field, and possibly somewhere along Washington Avenue.

Another suggestion would be to place reflective crossing flags at one or two heavily-used intersections.

Roberts recommended to the village that future public forums be held to solicit community feedback.

"We need to have that conversation about pedestrian issues here in Pleasantville," she said. "Preferably there should probably be more than one meeting. We want people to buy in to what these issues are."



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Q: What's behind the trend toward later parenthood?

A: Women in the U.S. are waiting longer than ever to have children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, the average age of first-time mothers is now 26, up almost two years since 2014. In the last 10 to 15 years, we've seen the average age of first-time mothers increase greatly, mainly because women are pursuing careers and education first.

Q: I'm turning thirty. Should I be worried about my "biological clock" ticking?

A: The best time for a woman to get pregnant is between the ages of 20 and 35. In this age range, you are most fertile and least likely to experience complications. Though there is a slight risk of declining fertility by the age of 35, it's only about 5 percent. Egg quality and quantity decline after age 35, and good ovulation cycles become less frequent. Eggs of poorer quality are released, making it more difficult to get pregnant.

Q: Will older moms-to-be face risks?

A: A mere twenty to thirty years ago, the maternal age of 35 was considered advanced for childbearing; it was also considered the age at which a woman became – virtually overnight and automatically – a high-risk pregnancy. Today we know that if you're a healthy 35-year-old woman

who is pregnant, you may often have the same degree of risk in pregnancy as that of a younger mom-to-be.

If you're over 35 and considering pregnancy, you may have to visit your physician more frequently to ensure that the pregnancy is proceeding smoothly. I recommend scheduling an appointment for both preconception counseling and genetic counseling. This will help your physician identify and minimize any risk factors so you can improve your chances of a healthy pregnancy. Women over 35 can deliver healthy children and have a safe pregnancy. It's all about taking care of yourself, knowing your risks and coming up with a plan that is right for you and your family.

Q: I'm worried that when I do decide to have children, I won't be able to. What are my options if I can't get pregnant?

A: Advances in technology help many women over 35 get pregnant and give birth to healthy babies. In vitro fertilization is a process by which a woman's eggs are extracted and combined with a sperm sample, creating an embryo that is transferred to the woman's uterus. In vitro fertilization now includes a procedure called pre-implantation genetic diagnosis that helps identify chromosomal and genetic abnormalities, ensuring physicians are implanting healthy embryos.

Survey Results Mixed on Memorial Plaza Civic Space Project

By Abby Luby

Do Pleasantville residents support the proposed new civic space project at Memorial Plaza? That was the first question posed by former village trustee Jonathan Cunningham in his recent online survey about the project.

Survey results have now been tabulated and 351 village residents responded, revealing split results.

When asked "To what degree do you support the Memorial Plaza Civic Space?" 20.2 percent strongly support the project while 29.1 percent strongly oppose.

In between, 9.1 percent moderately support the plan, while 7.4 percent responded that they are somewhat opposed.

Meanwhile, those moderately opposed tabulated 16.0 percent and somewhat supportive was 9.4 percent. There were 8.8 percent of respondents who were undecided.

Cunningham was aided by a marketing professional familiar with online surveys. The three-question survey ran was conducted Sept. 3-30 and was accessed on social media sites for local Pleasantville groups. Respondents were asked to provide their names and addresses to verify that they were village residents.

"We were limited just to village residents and businesses," Cunningham said. "I feel that there are people living just outside the village borders, including those in the school district, who weren't able to have

their voices heard on this project."

Data was broken down to determine what motivated residents. Categories included those strongly and moderately in favor of the project to those strongly or moderately opposed.

Of the 103 respondents who strongly or moderately favored the project, 80.6 percent mentioned improved aesthetics for downtown was a positive. Also, support for a central gathering place for planned or programmed events registered 63.1 percent and the same number favored improved pedestrian safety.

For 158 respondents who strongly or moderately oppose the plan, 70.9 percent were concerned with the cost and 74.1 percent cited the loss of parking in the village for commuters, businesses and shoppers.

Overall, support for the current plan came from 38.7 percent of respondents, while all categories in opposition added up to 52.5 percent.

Improved downtown aesthetics was most appealing to 44.4 percent of all respondents, while 46.7 percent said the improved pedestrian safety and transitions were most attractive about the project.

"I thought the survey was positive," said resident Emily Persons. "It was very evenhanded. It's too bad that 29 percent strongly oppose it."

Persons said she read many comments about the project on social media.

"I had the feeling that people didn't know what the project really was,

she said. "Those that support the plan, they definitely knew and understood it."

Cunningham sent the survey results to the Village Board.

"At first glance I'm not surprised by the results," said Mayor Peter Scherer. "It's all useful data and we're glad to have it."

The board will review the survey as well as several comments added by residents that Cunningham also sent to the board.

"Some said everything is great or

everything is not great. Life is more complicated than that," Scherer said.

The message to the Village Board, said Cunningham, was to think twice about the scale of the project.

"Parking and cost are the two central drivers of this project," he said. "They need to consider scaling back to a project that's not as big and doesn't cost that much. They need to walk the political line."

Treats Galore

Nature's tricks did nothing to dampen the spirits of the many families who participated in the seventh annual Trunk or Treat at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mount Kisco last Sunday. Parents and their children decorated their trunks or hatchbacks with a family-friendly theme, typically from the Bible. Shown is one



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

family's rendition of Noah's Ark. Other kids brought bags for some early trick-or-treating. Rain forced this year's event indoors, but dozens still showed up as did representatives from the county police, the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps, the Mount Kisco Fire Department, Grand Prix Entertainment and Ben & Jerry's.

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North Castle Approves Mariani Permit; Site Plan Review Next

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three-bedroom residences.

"It's been a long process, it's been a good process," said attorney Mark Miller, representing applicant 45 Bedford Road LLC. "I think the project, I think we can all agree, is much better than when we started and we're on to the Planning Board."

Miller said he expects a roughly six-month site plan review. His client will be unable to obtain a building permit to begin construction should site plan approval be granted until there is capacity for the project in the town's Sewer District #2 and sufficient water in Water District #4.

That could delay issuance of a building

permit for a few months or for a much longer period of time.

The project is expected to have average daily sewage flows of 4,322 gallons and use 8,360 gallons of water a day, plus another 5,500 gallons for irrigation.

Before last week's vote, Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto convinced her board colleagues to agree on a recommendation to the Planning Board calling for the applicant to consider building a rainwater cistern, if feasible. The system would collect rainwater to be recycled for irrigation purposes to cut down on water use.

The applicant must also reach an agreement with the owner of 40 Bedford Rd. to satisfy the condition of building a sidewalk across the street that connects to the Armonk Square entrance on Bedford Road.

In the final resolution, board members were able to have the applicant commit to funding the right-hand turn lane from Bedford Road onto Maple Avenue in hopes of mitigating a traffic increase. The town's traffic consultant had concluded the project would not have a negative impact on the operation of the intersection of Bedford and Maple.

After the meeting, Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the town is exploring multiple options regarding the sewer district. Currently, there isn't sewer capacity for the project but officials are considering ways

to improve efficiencies in the system that could avoid an imminent expansion, he said.

The town has been considering expanding its sewage plant from a 500,000-gallon daily capacity to as much as 700,000 gallons a day.

"Everything's on the table," Schiliro said. "We're looking at everything and the fact that maybe we don't need to go above 500,000 (gallons)."

The applicant had already agreed to pay about \$1.25 million into a Community Benefits Agreement that would help toward potential expansion of the water and sewer districts.

Despite the outcry from a contingent of residents who have feared that the project would be too large and out of character with the Bedford Road Historic District, the board moved ahead with approval. Schiliro, who called the proposal "a positive project for the town," said he and his colleagues grappled with the issue but ultimately believed that a residential development would be more manageable at the site than having commercial uses.

"This did happen shortly after we updated the Comprehensive Plan and I made comments to the applicant that were not received well, basically where were you (during) the process of the Comprehensive Plan?" Schiliro said. "I think I will also say the world has changed significantly with respect to development and commercial development and the economy."

Although DiGiacinto voted against the rezone because of concerns about density and building size, she said the applicant's willingness to make improvements to the design of the buildings, pay for the right-hand turn lane and explore the rainwater cistern led her to believe the project could work despite her concerns.

"I don't want to just be a negative," DiGiacinto said. "If I can take something that I'm not madly in love with – I also don't think it's horrible – and make it better, than I think I've accomplished one of my goals as a Town Board member."

The dissenting vote was from Councilman Jose Berra who said the density at the site is "objectionable to me and I think it's objectionable to a lot of other people."

"I wouldn't be as opposed to the height if it were smaller buildings like we have now," Berra said. "But it's the combination of factors – height and size."

Before the close of the hearing there were four speakers, including former Architectural Review Board Chairman Alex Bacon. He said the proposed buildings are likely to blend in with the historic district and that if Mark Mariani were proposing the greenhouse that is there now, the objections would be overwhelming.

"We have an opportunity to do something better on this property, more sympathetic to the historic district," Bacon said.

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New Castle Retains Expert to Represent Town on Airport Issues

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board last week appropriated \$5,000 to retain legal representation with expertise in aviation issues to ensure that the municipality's interests are protected in matters related to Westchester County Airport.

On a request from the town's Airport Advisory Board, the Town Board hired the Irvine, Calif.-based Buchalter Law Firm on an advisory basis to help it wade through the issues.

The move doesn't mean the town is prepared to commence litigation regarding the airport, Town Administrator Jill Shapiro cautioned.

For more than two years, residents in parts of the town have repeatedly pressed local and county officials for answers about the noticeable spike in noise from aircraft landing at the airport.

"This is to help the board understand the information that comes in from the county and know what questions to ask," Shapiro said.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said while the county hired a consultant earlier this year to help it formulate an airport Master Plan and began monitoring for noise and air quality, there is no one connected

with the town that has the technical expertise to help advocate for the residents.

"If you recall, instead of having a consultant we asked Westchester County when they hired a consultant to not just do it for the Master Plan, but to try to address our concerns as well," Greenstein said. "They said they did but we just want to make sure."

Councilwoman Ivy Pool said that the board's decision to hire its own consultant is reflective of what its members have been hearing from the community. Residents and officials want to know why people who have lived in their houses for decades in some cases now hear constant airplane noise instead of just a few times a day, she said.

"We really need to understand what has changed here," Pool said. "Prior to 2017, we still live close to an airport, that hasn't changed. We've always lived close to an airport but these airplanes that we would see a couple of times a day, all of a sudden we are seeing every five minutes, and it's not everybody either."

A request for a response left on Friday with County Executive George Latimer's office into New Castle's action as well as feedback about a recent letter sent to Latimer from the town was not returned by

the end of the day on Monday.

That letter, dated Oct. 8, urged the county executive to publicly release the results of the noise and air quality monitoring, which was supposed to be received on or about Sept. 27; that the county schedule a promised public meeting in New Castle with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) representatives and the town's

congressional representatives; and for the county to prepare for potential legal action against the FAA if that proves to be necessary.

New Castle officials told Latimer in the correspondence that "now is the time to act more assertively."

"We must avoid the same fate as Long Island where empty promises by the FAA to change flight patterns were nothing more than lip

service," the town's letter states. "Legal action may be required to make change happen and to enforce FAA promises."

The Examiner learned Monday that the results of the noise and air quality studies may be discussed at this Wednesday evening's county Airport Advisory Board meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Westchester County Airport.

Making a Difference


Zeina Soliman, second from right, a senior at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, presented the board members of the Emergency Shelter Partnership (ESP) with a check for \$435 last Wednesday at the Mount Kisco police precinct on Green Street. ESP is a Mount Kisco-based nonprofit organization that provides shelter to the area's homeless during the cold weather through a coalition of local houses of worship. Soliman raised the money by making decorative handmade soaps and then selling them for the past several months at outdoor markets and at stores such as Desires by Mikolay and Scattered Books in Chappaqua. Also pictured, from left to right, are ESP board members Phyllis Ruppert, Mel Berger, Noah Sorkin and Chris Lowndes.



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Tentative 2020 New Castle Budget Carries 1.78% Tax Hike

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of New Castle's \$42.8 million tentative budget for 2020 was released last week with a 1.78 tax rate increase for residents and a levy that once again is within the state's property tax cap.

Overall spending is scheduled to increase by \$858,569 in next year's expenditures. However, with offsetting

revenues, the increase in the tax levy is \$380,291.

For the average homeowner, the proposed increase in the town tax bill is just under \$30 if no changes are made.

The town anticipates receiving about \$750,000 from the county as part of its share of the new 8.375 percent sales tax, which is being shared with municipalities and school districts in areas where the

additional 1 percent tax went into effect on Aug. 1.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said the town has proposed increasing road paving expenditures next year by \$200,000, bringing the paving budget to \$1.1 million, as well as the addition of a public information officer.

According to Town Administrator Jill Shapiro's budget message to the Town Board and community, there is \$145,000 being set aside to purchase new equipment for the Parks Department.

Greenstein said with the Chappaqua School District now agreeing to reimburse the town for the expense of using a town police officer to fill the School Resource Officer (SRO) position, that will enable the town to hire another police officer to compensate for the time that the SRO is spent serving the schools.

"The impact on our budget is that we're going to go out to hire another officer because we're essentially committing one of our officers to the school, which means that there's one less officer for the normal functions," Greenstein said.

Another potential hire is for a downtown hamlet caretaker to help maintain the

nearly completed streetscape work, he said.

"The 2020 Budget sets forth a roadmap for responsible budgeting for increased paving, improved recreational facilities and extended sidewalks, to name just a few projects for 2020 and beyond," Shapiro's budget message stated. "This Budget continues our commitment to provide our residents with the services and facilities they expect as well as restore and create the infrastructure they deserve."

Officials are prepared for a relatively modest 4 percent hike in health insurance premiums, which is well below the national average. The increase computes to a rise of about \$125,000 for that line, Shapiro's budget message stated.

There were small increases in both the state employees' retirement system and the police retirement system, combining for about an additional \$50,000 in expenses.

A public hearing will be held next month on the spending plan. The town is expected to adopt a final 2020 spending plan in December. To view the tentative budget document online, visit the town's website at www.mynewcastle.org and go to the comptroller's page.

Standing Tall

Visitors to Hergenhan Recreation Center in Armonk will soon see this statue, called "Acrobat," near the front of the building on Maple Avenue. Joyce Hergenhan, whose father, a former town police chief, had the recreation center named after him, has offered to pay \$3,200 to buy the statue, said Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto. DiGiacinto said that Joyce Hergenhan, who is her cousin, told her that "this certainly would have been a statue that my parents would have loved and appreciated."



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Latimer Announces \$1.5M in Capital Funds for Merestead Restoration

County Executive George Latimer announced last week that the county will be funding \$1.5 million in restoration work at the historic farmhouse at Merestead in Mount Kisco.

Additionally, Latimer will hold a Merestead Public Listening Session to be held at the property on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to engage the public in a conversation about the site's future.

"The Merestead property is in serious need of repairs so it can be restored as a resource for all county residents to use and enjoy," Latimer said. "If we allow our county's historic buildings to fall into such states of disrepair, we lose a part of our history and a chance to teach future generations. Equally important is to reach out to the residents and neighbors, to hear their thoughts and ideas for the future of Merestead."

The \$1.5 million includes \$1.1 million included in last year's capital budget plan with an additional \$400,000 included in the county executive's proposed \$309.7 million 2020 capital budget. These funds will go toward the rehabilitation of the currently boarded up farmhouse, making the property safe for use by visitors as well as increasing the security of the home in light of recent attempted break-ins.

With beautiful walking paths and a historic main house, Merestead is a Westchester County park that is used by visitors who stroll its gentle hills, observe nature and enjoy an occasional musical performance.

Merestead, the former estate of William Sloane, consists of farmland, woods, gardens



Restoration of the historic farmhouse at Merestead is in County Executive George Latimer's proposed capital projects budget for 2020.

and buildings, including its 1906 Georgian Revival main house designed by architects Delano and Aldrich. Bequeathed to the county in 1982 by Margaret Sloan Patterson and her husband, Dr. Robert Patterson, as a life estate, Merestead became a Westchester County park with her passing on Aug. 3, 2000.

"Merestead is one of our more unique parks," said county Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor. "The facilities are in badly need of infrastructure work and these vital funds will better allow Westchester residents to enjoy all it has to offer."

O'Connor said having the public involved in the future of the property will help the county

provide quality park uses that residents will enjoy.

Westchester County Legislator Kitley Covill (D-Katonah) said preserving and protecting the 180-year-old farmhouse along with the rest of Merestead – including its 130 acres and the historic mansion – is an important responsibility.

"We want to make sure that this property, left to the county for use as parkland, is properly cared for, to benefit the residents of Bedford, Mount Kisco and all of Westchester County," Covill said. "I'd like to thank the county executive and the Parks Department, as well as my colleagues on the Board of

Legislators, for the steps we've already taken to preserve the main house. It's important that we take the same kind of steps to save this farmhouse."

Merestead is located at 455 Byram Lake Rd. in Mount Kisco.

Latimer to Officially Reopen Miller House Next Monday

County Executive George Latimer will officially welcome the public back to the historic Miller House in North White Plains with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m. at the newly-renovated Westchester County Park historic property at 140 Virginia Rd. in North White Plains.

The reopening follows a \$3.5 million capital project to restore this 18th century Rhode Island-style farmhouse house that was used as a Revolutionary War headquarters and command post by George Washington during the Battle of White Plains.

The Miller House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the New York State Register of Historic Places and the Westchester County Inventory of Historic Places. It is also a Town of North Castle landmark.

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North Castle Police Department

Oct. 11: Report of a grand larceny on Maple Avenue at 11:56 a.m. A complainant reported at headquarters that several checks were stolen out of the mailbox at the listed location.

Oct. 11: An officer was investigating a car accident on North Broadway at 5:15 p.m. involving a car with Connecticut registration. The officer discovered that the driver was operating one of the vehicles with a suspended license.

Oct. 11: A caller stated at 7:08 p.m. that his newspaper deliveryman saw a man inside lying on the floor at a North Broadway address. The desk officer notified 60 Control which dispatched an ambulance. The responding

officers reported that the party had a diabetic emergency. He was treated at the scene but refused further medical attention.

Oct. 12: A complainant reported observing a large bear on the side of Route 128 at 6:14 p.m. The responding officers reported checking the surrounding areas with negative results.

Oct. 13: Report of a suspicious person at a Bedford Road residence at 6:58 a.m. A party arrived at headquarters to report an unknown male party sleeping inside his house. The responding officers found the party sleeping on a couch. The subject was escorted out of the premises without further incident, then transported to his home and turned over to the care of his parents.

Oct 14: A caller reported at 5:07 p.m. that

a female got her hand stuck in a revolving door on Business Park Drive. The responding officer reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 15: Report of highway debris in the roadway of Route 22 in the vicinity of the Bronx River Parkway at 10:33 a.m. A caller stated that a piece of furniture fell off of a truck and into the roadway. The responding officers reported finding the object and removed it from the roadway. Both officers will continue to canvas the area for other possible objects in the roadway.

Oct. 15: A party arrived at headquarters at 12:45 p.m. to report a stolen check that was cashed for \$3,843. The money had been taken out of an account that the complainant shares with her mother, an Armonk resident.

Witness and owners' depositions were filed.

Oct. 15: Multiple boxes of grapes were reported to have spilled onto Route 120 at 4:59 p.m. The state Department of Transportation was notified. The roadway was cleared of the debris.

Pleasantville Police Department

Oct. 16: A 42-year-old Pleasantville man reported at 6:14 p.m. that there were fraudulent charges made on his card.

Oct. 16: A 23-year-old Pleasantville man reported at 6:48 p.m. that someone slashed two of his car's tires while parked on Marble Avenue.

Obituary

Mary Ann Sharts

Mary Ann Sharts, daughter of the late Lillian (Olson) Sharts and the late John Milton Sharts, passed away on Oct. 14 in Yonkers. She was 74.

Sharts was born on Nov. 9, 1944, in White Plains. A lifelong Pleasantville resident, she graduated from the Saint Thomas School, the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel in White Plains as well as the Berkeley School of Business, also in White Plains.

After graduating from business school, Sharts worked for the Chicago Title

Insurance Company in White Plains where she remained for 30 years. She loved to travel, enjoyed the theater and baseball. She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Viewing will be at the Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 4 to 8 p.m. As a parishioner of Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville, Sharts will be laid to rest the following morning at All Souls Cemetery in Pleasantville.

Touro Dental Health Honors Vets With Free Dental Services Nov. 4

In honor of Veterans Day, Touro Dental Health, the 109-chair clinical training facility and full-service dental practice of Touro College of Dental Medicine, will provide free oral health screenings, x-rays and cleanings for veterans, military service members and their families, as well as activities, entertainment and giveaways for all ages on Monday, Nov. 4. Elected officials

and other local leaders are expected to attend.

The services will be provided from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Touro Dental Health, located at 19 Skyline Drive in Hawthorne. Advance registration is required for patients by calling 914-594-2700 or by visiting <https://dental.touro.edu/news-events/events/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D134183400>.



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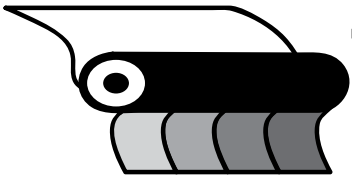
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Tina's Annual 5K Run/Walk Set to Step Off Saturday in P'ville

By Abby Luby

Since 2011, the popular Tina's 5K Run/Walk in Pleasantville has attracted hundreds of runners and walkers of all ages.

This Saturday morning, Oct. 26, runners and joggers will again put their running gear to good use. The event has become a fixture on the Pleasantville calendar, along with the annual Ragamuffin Parade taking place the same day.

Last year was the first time the 5K wasn't held, as it was canceled after a nor'easter swept through the region.

"There were serious safety issues and concerns," said Janice Gambino. "We prefer to say that we postponed the 5K and that we're looking forward to this year which will be our ninth annual run."

The death of Gambino's 17-year-old daughter, Tina, in 2004 inspired her family to create the Tina Shaina Gambino Memorial Foundation. The foundation has continued to receive unwavering community support.

In 2011, Michael Bloom, then 13, decided to honor Tina, who was his first babysitter when he was five. As part of his community service project for his Bar Mitzvah, Bloom reached out to the Gambino family to create the 5K. The collaboration between Bloom, Janice and Tony Gambino and their daughter Isabelle resulted in Tina's 5K Run/Walk.

"That first year we saw such tremendous support," Janice Gambino recalled. "We were thrilled the way it was received and people continue to come and enjoy it. The run stands on its own."

Bloom is currently attending Wesleyan University and won't be at the race, but his parents, Diana Planells-Bloom and Steven Bloom, and his sister, Rachel, have picked up the baton. The Blooms have also remained good friends with the Gambinos.

Bloom said he considered Tina a friend, despite their age difference, but it was her kindness that still resonates with him today.

"My dad and I were both runners when I was in seventh grade, and creating a 5K run wasn't our first idea, but it was the boldest, Bloom said. "When we told the Gambinos about our crazy idea, they totally took to it. Once the race started happening, the community was so supportive."

Since its inception, the Tina Shaina Gambino Memorial Foundation has developed programs helping teens and the community, awarding more than \$154,000 in scholarships. The foundation's Reflections Scholarship benefits two deserving college-bound Pleasantville High School students. It provides \$6,978 to each student, -- \$1,700 per year for four years -- plus an additional \$178 the first year, which represents the amount of cash Tina once found in a wallet that she returned to the owner.

Scholarship recipients are also selected based upon their "integrity, optimism and never-ending smiles," traits that described Tina.

The foundation's Drive Smart Program connects the high school and Pleasantville police with new teen drivers, who learn



Several hundred runners are expected this Saturday morning to participate in the ninth annual Tina's 5K Run/Walk in Pleasantville. The race, in memory of 17-year-old Tina Gambino, a Pleasantville resident who died unexpectedly in 2004, supports scholarships and other programs geared to help teens in the community.

safe driving habits and increase their awareness about the organ donor program. Before her death, Tina had volunteered to be an organ donor. Her organs were donated to four different people to keep them alive.

The organization also schedules visits to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Maria Fareri Children's Hospital to provide food for patients and their families and staff who find themselves away from home on Thanksgiving.

In addition, the Tina Gambino Sportsmanship Award presents \$1,000 to a high school senior selected by the high

school's athletic department, as Tina was a soccer player.

"For the past few years the Pleasantville girls' soccer teams have supported the foundation with bake sales, memorial soccer games and volunteering at the 5K, Gambino said. "It's heartening to know people in the community have embraced the foundation's principles."

This year, the Pleasantville fourth-grade girls' soccer team, part of the Westchester Youth Soccer League, will be holding a bake sale and operating a lemonade stand before the race at the high school on Saturday. Money raised by the team will benefit the

foundation's scholarship program.

A volunteer team from Love Hope Strength Foundation will be on hand to sign people up for the bone marrow registry, which requires a cheek swab. A lifesaving bone marrow donation was made in 2018 from someone who registered at Tina's 5K in 2013, according to the Tina Shaina Gambino Memorial Foundation website.

The children's Fun Run and a relay race around the high school track before the race had to be eliminated. Gambino said the start time of the Ragamuffin Parade was moved up to 11 a.m. and it was no longer possible to have so many events at once. Gambino is encouraging children to participate with their parents by walking or strolling the race route.

Also, the foundation opted against providing 5K t-shirts to participants. Organizers decided instead to hand out reusable tote bags in the spirit of helping the environment, Gambino said.

About 50 high school and middle school students are volunteering to help with registration and offer water and healthy snacks during the race and at the finish.

"It's such a wonderful day for this community," Gambino said. "The 5K is also a time for so many parents to interact with one another. Many of Tina's friends continue to come to the 5K. Some are now married, some have children. It's really a reunion and a way of reconnecting."

Online registration, which is open until Oct. 23 at noon, can be completed by visiting www.zippyreg.com/online_reg/index.php?e=1244. Donations may also be made through the site. Same-day registration on Saturday is from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m., with the race beginning at 9 a.m. at Pleasantville High School, located at 60 Romer Ave. in Pleasantville.

For a map of the race route, visit www.tinagambino.org.

Open for Business



A year after the Bedford Playhouse reopened its doors following a renovation and playing host to the arts, music, film and special events, the next phase in its development has been realized. The Playhouse Café recently launched, serving a menu full of monthly and seasonal offerings. The café churns out made-to-order fresh food from its expanded menu, including healthy soups, salads sandwiches and more. There are also homemade pizzas, slow-cooked chicken quesadillas and roasted seasonal veggie and goat cheese salads. At the helm is café manager Keelin Maniscalco, right, who spent many years at Susan Lawrence in Chappaqua. The café opens at 9 a.m. daily and closes at the end of programming.



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Editorial

Mt. Kisco Desperately Needs Firehouse Upgrades Outlined in Bond

On Nov. 7, 2017, Mount Kisco residents went to the polls and overwhelmingly approved a \$10.25 million referendum to improve and expand the village's three firehouses.

It would have been fair to assume that 102 weeks later, ground would have at least been broken on one or more of the facilities.

That's not what happened. Not only hasn't work begun but last February the Village Board was blindsided by an almost unfathomable series of square footage miscalculations made by the architectural and engineering firm H2M. The bungled estimates only surfaced once the bids were returned and the money the village had been authorized to borrow by voters was grossly inadequate.

By then it was clear that not only wasn't the village and the fire department getting the project that had been advertised for the amount of money officials thought was needed, but more money was required – a lot more.

It would be easy for frustrated voters to lash out against the village and give a big thumbs down against the latest \$4 million referendum. However, that would be foolish, compounding the already well-documented mistakes and while solving

nothing. The fire companies would see only the bare minimum of the most urgent infrastructure upgrades if the proposition is defeated.

There would still be inadequate space for the modern fire trucks and volunteer firefighters would still be endangered by a "crushing hazard" with only inches to spare between the trucks and the interior walls of the firehouses.

It still wouldn't take into account that without the extra \$4 million the companies would be unable to properly decontaminate their gear after returning from a fire, exposing the volunteers to a heightened cancer risk. That would be unconscionable when there's an opportunity to address that issue.

While it's understandable the public may be angered at the prospect of having to shell out more money, voters should keep this in mind: Had H2M done the most rudimentary part of its job correctly, the \$10.25 million bond two years ago would likely have been \$4 million to \$5 million higher.

Fire commissioners, department leadership and village officials should be commended for striking a compromise. Instead of asking for another \$8 million – the price for the original project has

been inflated further by escalations in construction costs – the fire department included the most important features and stopped at the midway point between the original bond and what would be needed to fully fund the initial scope of work.

As voters ponder their choice, the Village Board must continue to keep the pressure on H2M. The firm has already agreed to limit its compensation based on the \$10.25 million bond regardless of what happens on Nov. 5. Mayor Gina Picinich has said that the cost of the extra design work will also not be included. The board must also keep the public informed of the progress of the concessions that H2M is making to the village.

Mount Kisco residents (and those who live in the portions of Bedford and New Castle that are serviced by the village's fire department) benefit from having one of the largest volunteer fire departments in the area. Like most communities with volunteer departments, it would cost millions more to pay for the service.

When the public goes to vote, it should keep in mind that for the men and women who volunteer, they put their lives on the line. The least the community can do is provide facilities that make their task a little easier – and a lot safer.

Letters to the Editor

Briarcliff Schools Looking for Participants for Facilities Committee

Recently, the Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District conducted a Building Conditions Survey (BCS). The BCS is a state-mandated intensive review of our school facilities, infrastructure and grounds conducted by architects and engineers in consultation with district administration. A presentation of this survey's findings was provided to the Board of Education at its Sept. 25 meeting and it was determined that significant updates and renovations are needed.

It is with great optimism regarding the future of our school program and facilities that the Board of Education has resolved to make an all-call to solicit community participation on a Facilities Planning Committee. Together with representatives

from all three schools and district administration, this volunteer committee will prioritize the findings and plan the next steps to address the items identified in the BCS. The recommendation from the committee will be presented to the Board of Education.

The work performed will ultimately be approved by the board and may require financing through the issuance of a bond. The goal of this committee is to ensure that our facilities are safe, secure and consistent with our educational priorities.

Committee members must live in the school district and be available to attend a minimum of six meetings between November 2019 and January 2020 and monthly meetings through the end of the

2019-20 school year.

If you are interested in serving on the district's Facilities Planning Committee, please take the time to fill out an application. The application can be accessed by visiting www.briarcliffschools.org and completed online. If you prefer to complete the application in person, copies will be available in the Todd Elementary School main office. All applications must be received by Friday, Nov. 1.

Thank you in advance for considering participation in this important community endeavor.

Kenneth Torosian, President
Briarcliff Manor Union Free School
District Board of Education

Public Can Take Advantage of Early Voting Starting This Weekend

At last!

For the first time in the history of New York, we can vote early. Voters need not take time off from work, and people who need assistance getting to the polls have more days to make plans for someone to drive them there. It's great!

This year is our first chance to make sure that early voting is enacted securely,

properly and equitably for all New Yorkers. The more people who take advantage of early voting will help counties to identify improvements so we can get ready for the 2020 presidential election as smoothly as possible.

A thank you to the activists who have worked tirelessly and relentlessly to make this happen.

Let's take advantage of what we have been given. It's a gift.

The dates for early voting are Saturday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 3. For locations and hours, visit www.VoteEarlyNY.org. For issues and support, call 866-OUR-VOTE.

Karen Sevell Greenbaum
Croton-on-Hudson

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Valhalla Teacher Makes Strides Involving Students in Cancer Fight

By Martin Wilbur

On Sunday, Koula Paloungos was at Manhattanville College's campus with family, friends and work colleagues for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

This Friday, it won't just be other adults but a district full of students that will be part of a fundraising and awareness drive to combat breast cancer.

Paloungos, a second-grade teacher at Valhalla's Virginia Road School, and her son, Antonis, an eighth-grader in the district, will see most of the students participating in Valhalla's inaugural Go Pink Day.

The idea for the effort was initially raised by her son, who learned of an 11-year-old girl in Albany who more than two years ago reached out to the American Cancer Society to find out more about how her peers could help in the fight against breast cancer.

That was the start of the Real Kids Wear Pink movement and Paloungos' son thought their school community could do the same.

"He said 'I think we can actually do something here in Valhalla' because it's a very small-knit community, Valhalla," said Paloungos, a North White Plains resident. "So he started his team and we spoke to our superintendent and the principals. The PTA got involved, they made t-shirts – 'Real Vikings Wear Pink' – so they're basically doing a Pink Out Day at the schools, K-12, and each child, it's whoever wants to participate."

Participation is not mandatory, but for those who want join in, everyone brings a dollar from home to be donated to the

American Cancer Society, she said. Paloungos anticipates that more than 90 percent of the student body along with the faculty, staff and administration will take part.

Much of the effort is being planned and run by student government with the help of teachers and administrators, Paloungos said. They have already hosted a variety of events and fundraisers to promote the Pink Out to support her and all breast cancer survivors.

For the 25-year veteran teacher who recently celebrated four years of being cancer-free following a double mastectomy, the support from the school community has been an integral part of her recovery.

"It's been 25 amazing years and that's why I brought my son here for kindergarten," Paloungos said. "It's just the community, my family, my work family. It really helped me overcome this journey. I was never alone."

Parental and teacher involvement has been critical to the success of the campaign, said Anna Trocino of the American Cancer Society.

"From approvals with school administration, supporting fundraising efforts, inclusion of all students in the Real Kids Wear Pink movement, these parents and advisers are showing how to build a community that fights back against breast cancer," Trocino said.

Paloungos, who was also joined by her son for Sunday's walk at Manhattanville, said she began participating three years ago in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event, after she was placed into early survivorship. Initially, Paloungos needed checkups every three months, then every six months. Now she goes every year.



Students in grades K-12 will participate this Friday in Valhalla's Go Pink Day to raise money for breast cancer research. Inset: Longtime Valhalla teacher Koula Paloungos, with her son Antonis, who was the inspiration behind starting a Go Pink Day in the district.



guidance to help people reduce their risk and comprehensive patient support to patients and their families.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women. This year, 17,490 women in New York will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 2,460 residents are projected to succumb to the disease.

For more information, visit the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org. To learn more about the Real Kids Wear Pink campaign, visit www.realkidswearpink.org.

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Keeping Up With the Garbage is Often a Very Tough Business

By Michael Gold

For the vast majority of Pleasantville residents, when they think about garbage, if they think of it at all, it's to get rid of it.

The origin of the word garbage is "uncertain," according to Google. Nobody wants to even own creation of the word.

But its existence in our lives is brief. When it's gone, it's gone.

There's no need to think of it again until garbage disposal day comes the next week.

There are four men in Pleasantville who think about garbage constantly. They work three days a week picking up thousands of garbage cans and dumping the trash into a compacting truck and two days a week picking up paper, cardboard and plastic.

These men go out in blazing heat, when the trash bakes and stinks from soaring summer temperatures. They're out there in soaking rains and the biting cold in the darkness of February mornings. They're witnesses to silent snowfalls and wind blowing through the trees.

The workers pick up the cans we leave out for them and dump the garbage in their truck, where a compactor compresses, compacts and crushes each bag tightly.

Angry dogs can confront them in yards where the men have to do backyard pick-

up. About twice a year, a dog will bite one of them.

Aerosol cans in the garbage may spray chemicals on the workers when the bag containing the can is crushed in the truck's compactor.

Sometimes cars are parked in the way of the trash receptacle and the workers can't get to it. Or it isn't there at all and the owner complains that the garbage wasn't picked up.

If there's six inches of snow on the ground, the workers can't wheel their cart to get to the can. The wheels need hard ground to rotate.

Also, every week, some out-of-towners dump their mail in village street cans. Once the men found a bag of concrete in a village can. It took two men to get the bag out of the can.

"It's a very tough business," said Jeff Econom, superintendent of Public Works for the village.

The garbage goes to a private plant in Peekskill, called Wheelabrator Westchester. There, more than 2,000 tons of daily household and business trash from Westchester County is used to generate 60 megawatts of electricity, which is sold to the local utility. That's equivalent to supplying 63,000 homes with power,

Wheelabrator Westchester's website states.

Paper, cardboard and plastic go to a Westchester facility in Yonkers, across the highway from Costco, Home Depot and Stew Leonard's, where it is separated and sold for recycling to private companies.

"Westchester makes money selling paper, cardboard and plastic," Econom said.

The job is exhausting, according to Econom. To help with homeowners who don't put out their garbage in time, Econom has given the men phones with cameras. They can take a picture with a time stamp that can prove there was no garbage out at pick-up time.

Also, for out-of-towners who dump their mail in the village, Econom calls them up and tells them to come to the Department of Public Works headquarters at 1 Village Lane to get their garbage.

"It's not fair to taxpayers," Econom said of the weekly dumping.

The Pleasantville Police Department also keeps an eye out for non-residents putting their trash in village cans.

Econom is candid about the challenges of the job. "You need a strong stomach."

He's very thankful for the crew he has. "I have a great bunch of guys. They do a



Pleasantville's Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Econom.

helluva job."

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has published op-ed articles about the environment in the New York Daily News and the Albany Times-Union. He has written four books, including "Consumer Culture is Consuming Us" and "God in Crisis - The Destruction of the Environment and its Consequences for Our Relationship With God."

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The Times They are a-Changin'

Historically low interest rates and other positive economic indicators are fuelling buyer's confidence in today's housing market.

For example, new findings from a National Association of Realtors® survey show that more than half of Americans believe that now is a good time to buy a home. Unfortunately, with many financial experts forecasting a recession, we don't know how long this buyer's market will last. So, if you're planning to sell your home, don't hesitate to schedule an appointment with me. As a realtor with over 20 years of experience, I can easily help you navigate the complexities of the housing market.

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Byram Hills Senior Taps Into Experience to Create 5K for Autism

By Martin Wilbur

Reese Tateo has had a wealth of firsthand experience in helping someone with autism.

Tateo's younger brother Morgan was found to be autistic when he was a young child. When she reached middle school and her mother went back to work full-time, her parents needed her to make sure she was home after school to take Morgan off the school bus and look after him.

So it's fitting that Tateo, whose father is an avid runner, has organized the inaugural Armonk for Autism 5K that will be held this Sunday morning in Armonk.

"I just thought it was such a good idea to get all these people together for this cause," she said.

The race, which steps off at 8:45 a.m. at 111 Bedford Rd. near Wampus Brook Park and Elide Plaza, follows a route onto McDonald Avenue, Wampus Avenue, School Street, Route 128, Leisure Farm Road and Cox Avenue. It then reverses direction at the midway point and heads back to the starting line.

Tateo, a senior this year at Byram Hills High School, said the race's proceeds will benefit her school district's special education programs but also help the public understand autism a little better.

"So the race has two purposes – to raise money for the (district's) department of special education and it's also to spread awareness," Tateo said. "If you see somebody acting differently, it's not like

they're lower than you or something, but that's the way they are. They're different."

Tateo put all of the elements of the event together – establishing Armonk for Autism as a nonprofit organization, contacting the Town of North Castle to set up the logistics and a route, reaching out to Superintendent of Schools Jen Lamia and creating the race's website. She hopes it will be an annual event even after she heads off to college next year.

Her parents, Elena and Danny, said they have been immensely proud of Reese for many years. While some children may have bristled at the need to watch their younger sibling, especially since caring for Morgan, who is now in seventh grade, hasn't just been about being home but required very close attention, Reese never complained, her father said.

That was true even after it forced her to relinquish participation in extracurricular activities or sports or hanging out with her friends. She also couldn't use the afterschool hours to do much studying.

Danny Tateo said Reese would rise every school day at 4:15 a.m. to complete her homework before heading off to class.

"We admire her, we both do, because she had every right to be bitter and resentful," he said.

But that's not how Reese saw things. She said she always had a very close relationship with her brother and they have regularly played together from the time both were quite young.

In fact, Reese said she would sometimes



Reese Tateo and her younger brother Morgan, who is autistic. Reese has created the Armonk for Autism 5K, which will have its inaugural running this Sunday, and will donate all proceeds to the Byram Hills Special Services Department.

help Morgan with schoolwork that was at a higher level than what he was learning in class.

"It didn't teach me patience but it gave me patience, which has definitely helped me out at school tutoring or being a (teacher's assistant) for a computer science class," said Reese, an honors student who is currently going through the college search process. "When they don't understand something, I think back to when I helped my brother and (when) he really didn't get something."

Her mother, Elena, said while there may have some reservations at the start about entrusting the afterschool care of their son to Reese, they quickly saw that she was more effective than most adults.



Reese Tateo, left, also volunteers for "Achilles" to guide blind autistic kids and adults in Central Park.

"She's the best at it but, of course, it was a lot of responsibility for her," Elena said.

Runners can register online at www.armonkforautism.org for \$35 in advance or \$40 for same-day sign-up. There will be small cash prizes for the first three male and female finishers. A Kids Dash for children four to 14 years old will be held at 8:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.armonkforautism.org.

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So, who judges the judges?

For the past 24 years, Bob Ponzini has served as Town Justice of Mount Pleasant. He's won praise for his hard work and integrity. But he needs your vote to continue his work.

Judge Bob Ponzini has jurisdiction over all felony and misdemeanor arrests, from arraignment through indictment on felonies, and through the trial for all misdemeanors and violations.

A Tough, Fair Judge

Bob also holds hearings and trials in civil cases, with and without juries, and conducts settlement conferences.

His court hears cases from quality of life infractions, to assault, drunk driving, and murder.

Observers credit Judge Ponzini with the ability to be tough and fair, using his considerable life experience to move cases along while providing justice *and* treating everyone in his courtroom with decency and respect. That's rare.

An Innovative Leader

Bob Ponzini helped introduce video conferencing to local courts, saving time and money on transportation, while maintaining prisoners' dignity.



"Justice Ponzini was observed a total of 12 times by nine monitors on eight different days. Monitors liked his **'professional'** manner, and characterized him as **'firm yet compassionate.'** ...

Monitors were **'impressed with the way [Justice Ponzini] handled juveniles.'** ... **'The Judge's use of community service in most Youthful Offender cases is to be commended.'**

Justice Ponzini explained the conditions of community service **'in great detail,'** but **'was very firm in telling them one violation would mean jail.'**

Justice Ponzini also appeared to be **'very efficient.'** On one occasion, a monitor observed him presiding for 5¼ hours with only a 15 minute break. There were at least 24 cases handled in this time, efficiently, competently, and justly ..."

Keep Bob Working For Us

This year, Bob Ponzini is running for re-election as Mount Pleasant's Town Justice, and voters of all political parties are once again supporting him because of his professionalism, strong ethics, and innovative leadership.

Judge Bob Ponzini is an experienced, dedicated and respected judge with a record of integrity and fairness.

Let's keep him working for us.



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Axial Theatre to Present 'Back to the Garden' Starting Nov. 1 in P'ville

What on earth was God thinking when he put forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden if he didn't want Adam and Eve to eat it?

Audiences attending the original play "Back to the Garden" soon will find out what was on God's mind. Or at least what's on the mind of award-winning playwright Albi Gorn, who has come up with his own fanciful answers, along with provocative questions worth pondering.

This imaginative, often humorous retelling of Genesis by the Hastings-on-Hudson resident, featuring all local actors – including Dawn Brown-Berenson of South Salem and Gail Greenstein of Katonah – has its Westchester premiere Nov. 1 at Axial Theatre in Pleasantville. It is co-produced by Axial Theatre and GoJo Clan Productions, the theater company of Gorn and Robin Anne Joseph, who is directing "Back to the Garden."

Follow Adam and Eve as they are expelled from the garden where they learn to fend for themselves in the wilderness that lies beyond. When they encounter the sometimes bumbling and often volatile inhabitants of civilization's dawn, they learn how to help these people in their struggle to survive and discover the truth about God's power – and their own.

The cast features Stavros Adamides as Wayfare; Robert Ansbros as Nomad; Jennifer Berry as Fecunda; Anthony Barresi Jr. as Serpent; Michael E. Boyle, Jr. as Shomein; Torian Brackett as Adam; Brown-Berenson as God; Marilyn Collazo as Nehebeth; Greenstein as The Guardian; and Maddy



ROBIN ANNE JOSEPH PHOTO

The cast of "Back to the Garden." Pictured from left, back row, are Robert Ansbros, Jennifer Berry, Stavros Adamides, Anthony Barresi Jr., Dawn Brown-Berenson, Michael E. Boyle Jr. and Marilyn Collazo. From left, front row, are Gail Greenstein, Maddy Murphy and Torian Brackett.

Murphy as Eve.

Gorn said the idea for the play was cultivated in the early 1990s, when he joined a women's study group at Temple Beth Shalom in Hastings-on-Hudson, where his wife, is the cantor. The purpose of the group was to interpret how women are depicted in the Bible, he said.

"I was the only man," Gorn recalled, "and I was taken by how these extremely well-

read women brought their own brilliant ideas to the stories of Eve, Lot's Wife, Sarah and Miriam. From that, I crafted two songs and two plays. One of those plays is 'Back to the Garden.'"

The show runs on weekends from Nov. 1 to Nov. 17. Performance times are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. A special option for groups attending the show is to schedule

a "talkback" discussion with the writer, director and cast after the performance at no additional charge. It can be arranged by contacting BackToTheGarden2019@gmail.com.

Axial Theatre's performances are at St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 8 Sunnyside Ave. in Pleasantville. Tickets can be purchased at www.BackToTheGarden.bpt.me for \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students.

For more information, visit www.GoJoClanProductions.com or www.AxialTheatre.org or e-mail BackToTheGarden2019@gmail.com.

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Hilltop Hanover Farm Slated to Receive \$875,000 From County

By Abby Luby

Westchester County Executive George Latimer told a crowded room at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center in Yorktown last Saturday that \$875,000 has been allotted in the county's 2020 Capital Budget to fund repairs, rehabilitation and improvements of buildings and infrastructure at the farm.

Hilltop Hanover Farm is a 187-acre county-owned crop farm and environmental center. The farming and educational classes are managed by the Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm, a nonprofit organization, in cooperation with the county.

Latimer explained that the budget the county operated on the first year of his administration had parameters pre-approved by his predecessor, Rob Astorino.

"We argued that we needed additional, non-property tax revenue and we received authority from the state to get sales tax revenue to compensate for resources we just didn't have," Latimer explained. "We got that authority and from that point forward we have a different financial structure for the county. We are beginning to make certain investments here at Hanover Hill, and in other places."

Latimer said the current proposed capital budget would be evaluated by the Board of Legislators and more or less money could

be added to the budget. His commitment going forward was to invest in venues such as Hilltop Hanover on a continuing basis.

Discussions on the capital plan budget precedes voting on the operating budget by about three weeks.

"We have the budget in place which will establish the operating and capital budget for this facility," said Latimer. "Much of what we have to do here has yet to be determined and we're here to get citizen's input before we finalize the budget. Between now and Dec. 9 the budget is in flux."

The challenge for the proposed capital budget is to match the revenue with expenses.

The public was invited to give comments on the farm's current needs and its future.

"First and foremost is that we want to keep this farm, but how do we sustain it?" asked Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert.

Gilbert suggested that the farm, with its spectacular vistas, could be a destination point or an event location for special occasions such as weddings.

"That would invigorate the Yorktown region," Gilbert said, adding that he could also envision expanding a partnership with the county through Westchester Community College (WCC). "We may be able to incorporate a satellite location for WCC's culinary and veterinary schools right here on the farm."



ABBU LUBY PHOTO

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left, and Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert at Hilltop Hanover Farm last Saturday.

Janet Hareckham, Hilltop Hanover Board co-president, said she'd like the farm to be a model public-private partnership for the county.

"As a county-owned farm, I'd like to broaden it to become a regional asset. We are part of a regional farm network," she said. "The use of farms is critical for saving the planet. Farms protect our water, farms give us food, encourage community and biodiversity – all things that are currently in jeopardy. This farm can be an incredible asset to future generations."

Dr. Joan Baseel is the new program coordinator for a veteran's program known

as Hilltop's Heroes. Baseel described how veterans were experiencing the farm as a way to rejoin the world.

"These veterans get to be outdoors and not only discover botany, but learn about the business of farming, harvesting and food preparation," Baseel said. "This is a rare place where we can offer a ton of experiences. It's a tremendous service."

Former Hilltop Hanover board member Helen Banks said she was glad to see the farm was in the budget but that \$875,000 only "scratches the surface." She advocated for four positions, including an education coordinator, to teach children throughout the year.

Many diverse ideas aimed at keeping the farm fiscally solvent for years to come, including building a hotel in Yorktown, were suggested.

County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) who is leaving the board at the end of the year, gave a brief history of the farm.

"This farm has been through good and bad times," Kaplowitz said. The purpose was always to educate about farming and the environment. Now a public private partnership can really work. I am confident and hopeful that this will go through the legislature and this facility will be fabulous."

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Avoiding a Horror Story When it's Time to Move

I have heard a lot of horror stories about moving and dealing with moving companies. I have personally experienced the best and worst of experiences in this realm.

I remember the time when I had accepted a job in Boston and the company that hired me agreed to pay for the move and even retained a mover that would pack for us. My wife and I did no preparation whatsoever, secure in the belief that the movers would pack all of our belongings. But when the driver from the moving company knocked on our door, we panicked when he said, "We can't pack!"

"But your company said you would pack," we replied.

Only after an exchange did we realize that the driver's Boston accent was responsible for us misinterpreting his "can't pack" for "can't park."

A while back, when I told my wife that I received a cold call from a moving company and agreed to meet with the owner for an interview because he seemed so nice, she went into panic mode.

"Oh, my," she said, "haven't you heard all the horror stories about movers?"

Before the end of the day, she had printed out 89, yes 89, online postings of moving story horrors, everything from drivers

showing up drunk or not showing up at all, to holding truckloads of furniture for ransom until inflated prices were paid to victims of a scam. Even we had experienced a couple of them ourselves. With one move, when the company did the packing for us, they unbelievably had thrown our hammer into the same box with our signed Tiffany candy dish, shattering the latter to bits.

By the time I had skimmed through all the postings, I was really anxious and prepared to ask many questions.

However, when Phil Derasmo of Advantage Moving & Storage Systems arrived, I felt at ease. Even though his direct marketing representative, the nice lady on the phone named Felice, had called from someplace in New Jersey, I learned that Derasmo was the president of the company and a neighbor, living in nearby Mahopac.

When I asked how long he'd been in the business, he said three generations, and it came with a story with real heart. His grandfather, Mario, started the business in the early 1950s by making arrangements with his neighbors in the Bronx to go down to the port in lower Manhattan in his open wagon to pick up their relatives who were arriving by boat from Italy.

"There were a lot of Italian immigrants coming over at that time, and they didn't come just with suitcases. They came with trunks," Derasmo said. "With many, maybe 2,000 or more, he was the first person they met when they got off the boat. He would charge them about \$25 to get them up to the Bronx, and it took about two hours because it included an impromptu tour of Manhattan. He then started moving people, a natural progression."

Today, Derasmo's company is highly advanced with a contingent of trucks and warehousing and the most technically sophisticated website, which takes the guesswork out of calculating the cost of a move by moving your browser over a map of the country.

"That's the biggest problem with some companies in the business today, getting a straight answer about what the bottom line is with cost when you do comparative shopping among several movers," Derasmo said. "With our company, you just go to our website and our cost calculator can take you anyplace in the country and you'll know what the basic cost will be." Visit www.advantagemoving.com and check it out.

But as technically advanced as Advantage may be, the personal touch that its president offers, along with just a few other representatives who deal directly with

customers, is actually disarming.

When it was time for my wife and me to move four years ago, I called Derasmo. I knew I was dealing with an honest, straight shooter when we were going through the rooms of our house. My biggest concern was my paintings. I was trying to calculate what it would cost to package our paintings and framed prints which we've collected over the years. He simply said, "Why go through that expense? I'll give you some big boxes with separators, either cardboard or bubble wrap, and package them up, and why not move them yourselves? It will save you a lot of money."

Derasmo told me that 75 percent of his business comes from personal referrals. I can understand why. His information kit gives the names and telephone numbers of people in my community I can call for recommendations.

Check out Advantage's website even if you're not planning a move soon. But if you are, call 800-444-0104.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



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'Screenagers,' Panel Discussion Focus on Teens Coping With Stress

On Sunday, Oct. 13, the Foundation for Bedford Central Schools and the Bedford Playhouse co-hosted a sold-out screening of "Screenagers: Next Chapter," a documentary about building stress resilience skills in teenagers.

In addition to funding innovative academic initiatives across the Bedford Central School District, the foundation brings content and dialogue about issues impacting children's development to the community.

There were many practical takeaways from the film and the panel discussion that followed. The panel was comprised

of Fox Lane High School Principal Dr. Brett Miller, Assistant Principal Jason Spector, licensed child psychologists and community parents Dr. Ari Kellner and Dr. Jessica Welt and students Thomas Barbera, Jules Crespi and Sammie Schwartz.

Spector noted that there is much less privacy for teens today. Even when high school seniors are accepted to college, they hear about it on their phones at school. The emotional rollercoaster of the teenage years is made more dramatic by having a phone. Plus, it becomes a tool to use when winding down instead of picking up a book because it's convenient and



FOUNDATION FOR BEDFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PHOTO

The panel discussion following an Oct. 13 screening of the documentary "Screenagers: Next Chapter" at the Bedford Playhouse.

often placed on the bedside as an alarm for morning.

One of the tips from the film: "There is an art to validating our teens' feelings effectively. Work to tell them you see and appreciate the challenge of what they are feeling, and try not to follow it with

statements such as, 'Oh don't worry, it will get better.'"

For information about the Foundation for Bedford Central School's work, volunteering opportunities or to donate, visit www.foundationbcs.org on Instagram at @FoundationBCS or on Facebook.

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A collection of US dollar bills, including \$100 and \$500 bills, are scattered around the top corners of the advertisement, framing the central text.

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A Voice Over the Ages: Asenath Nicholson and the Great Hunger

Here's a name that doesn't roll off the tongue every day when discussing things Irish – Asenath Nicholson.

Yet I found myself recently at the Kaufman Music Center on Manhattan's West 67th Street listening to a musical production by Donnacha Dennehy based on this woman's written description of the horrors that befell Ireland during the cataclysmic period of 1845 to 1852, when Ireland suffered through what many call the Great Famine. The production starred Katherine Manley and Irish sean nós singer Iarla Ó Lionáird.

Famine or Hunger? A reader recently pointed out the Irish preference is to avoid use of the word famine. It is no genuflection to political correctness. Famine exists in a land where no food is available. In Ireland in the years we speak of there was plenty of food, enough, some sources say, to have fed the population eight times over.

But food for export nourished the laboring classes who toiled in England's mills and factories, stoking the fires of the Industrial Revolution and making Great Britain the envy of the world. Meanwhile, the native Irish

were left with empty bellies, as they suffered through An Gorta Mór, which in Irish means "The Great Hunger."

In Ireland, millions died and millions more emigrated, reducing the population by almost half and stoking the Irish diaspora for at least the next two generations. While many people on both sides of the Atlantic chose to ignore events in Ireland at the time, a few brave souls stand out as beacons of humanity.

Mrs. Nicholson, an American teacher and adherent of the Protestant Congregationalist faith, was definitely

one. In her fifties, she traveled twice to Ireland, recording in great detail the life of the poorer classes she met there.

Her first visit began in 1844, just before the advent of the Hunger, when she walked through every county save one, and documented her initial experiences in Ireland in a book titled "Ireland's Welcome to the Stranger." She returned to Ireland in 1846, the second year of the disaster, and, often working completely by herself, distributed food and clothing, as well as Bibles, to the destitute she encountered.

This last act was a move which did not

endear her to her mainly Roman Catholic constituency, who initially suspected that her motive might be to convert them to Protestantism, a not unheard-of notion at the time.

These searing experiences were documented in a latter book, "Annals of the Famine in Ireland in 1847, in 1848 and 1849," published in 1851. Through her efforts and correspondence to American newspapers, great awareness was raised regarding the plight of the Irish. Relief efforts from the United States provided great respite to the starving. If you want to delve into her first-hand reporting, you can find the 'Annals' at archive.org/details/annalsoffaminein00nich/page/n6. It makes for surprisingly fascinating reading, as she begins to understand more deeply the Irish character and spirit and the true extent of the tragedy that has befallen these proud people.

A recent book on the subject, "Compassionate Stranger: Asenath Nicholson and the Great Irish Famine," by Maureen O'Rourke Murphy, drew great reviews in The Irish Times and warrants a place on the reading table. Another valuable site for further research on this and any other topic is www.libraryireland.com, which has a phenomenal



By Brian McGowan

search capability unearthing practically anything one might be interested in.

Had more people in places of authority listened to Asenath's urgent pleas would far fewer have died in this unnecessary event? Likely. And how sad that man-made hunger still stalks the earth, where the sharp-edged tool of starvation continues to be wielded by those with a cold heart and a calculating mind.

Asenath, who died in 1855 in Jersey City, was also known as an early adherent of a vegan diet and popularized the food regimes suggested by the Rev. Sylvester Graham, to whom we owe today's Graham cracker. Now there's a connection to Ireland that few would suspect!

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx, and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M).

To see more of his writing on "things Irish," follow his blog Rethinking Irish at www.rethinkingirish.com.

Irish Eclectic

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. 22

Creative Writing with Joe Wallace. Get excited about writing. Interactive games and activities that foster self-expression and increase your confidence as a writer. 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.

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

DIY Marbled Fall Leaves. Create your own beautiful fall leaves using shaving cream. For children of all ages. (Children under five years old 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.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday. 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. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Liederabend: An Evening of Song. A program featuring soloists in a Liederabend – music for voice and piano. Soloists are Rebecca Farley, soprano; Gön Halevi, countertenor; Chance Jonas-O'Toole, tenor; Paul Augustine, baritone; and Matthew Lewis, piano. The program features solos and ensembles, including music of Dowland, Purcell, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss, Weill and Bernstein. Followed by a reception. The Church of St. James the Less, 10 Church Lane, Scarsdale. 7 p.m. Free; a suggested \$20 donation is welcome. Info: 914-723-6100 or visit www.stjamescarsdale.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. 23

All Access Healthcare: New Models in

Employer Healthcare Coverage. A panel discussion on how employers can engage directly with healthcare providers. Topics include providing better health outcomes for employees, eliminating fragmented care which causes high costs and ways to save costs. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 455 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. 8 to 10 a.m. WCA members: \$35. Non-members: \$45. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.westchester.org.

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

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. 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. 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 Whipoorwill 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.mountkisco.library.org.

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

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Happenings

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Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 30. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

“The Virgin Suicides.” Like the book, Coppola’s film tells the story of the five Lisbon sisters, tight-knit siblings in 1970s suburbia, who are eventually driven to suicide by the stifling, borderline-cruel control of their parents. Featuring gorgeous, ethereal cinematography from legendary lensman Ed Lachman and scored by iconoclastic French duo Air, this film instantly cemented Coppola as an “it” director for turn-of-the-century American independent cinema. Part of the Adapted Page to Screen series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 p.m. Members: \$18. Non-members: \$23. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.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.

Elton John and Tim Rice’s “Aida.” An epic tale of love, loyalty and betrayal, with an exhilarating Tony and Grammy Award-winning score by Elton John and Tim Rice. An enslaved Nubian princess, Aida, finds her heart entangled with Radames, an Egyptian soldier who is betrothed to the Pharaoh’s daughter, Amneris. As their forbidden love blossoms, Aida is forced to weigh her heart against the responsibility that she faces as the leader of her people. Aida and Radames’ love for one another becomes a shining example of true devotion that ultimately transcends the vast cultural differences between their warring nations, heralding a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 2 pm. \$37 to \$59. Also Oct. 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or www.wppac.com.

Pumpkin and Gourd Sale. Come celebrate the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco’s 18th sale. There are pumpkins 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 on Wednesdays through Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 6 p.m. Info: 914-666-5014 or visit www.mountkiscochurch.org.

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.mountkisco.library.org.

Great Books. “Rectatif” by Toni Morrison will be discussed. Led by Martha Alcott and Sally Scudo. New Castle Town Hall Conference Room A, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Art Series: Clementine Hunter. This African-American centenarian artist saw numerous changes in her more than 100 years of living. Famous for her paintings of plantation life, Hunter was active as a folk artist for over 40 years. Self-taught, she was the first African-American artist to receive a solo exhibition in the state of Louisiana. The program will also look at folk art and self-taught artists. 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.

Wing Nite for Men Only. Open to men whose lives have been affected by a spouse or partner going through breast, ovarian or gynecological cancers. Relax and have a night out with the guys. Enjoy good food as well as the company of others who understand how you feel. Travelers Rest, Route 100, Ossining. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

REPAIR Meeting. The Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race will feature acclaimed journalist and author David Margolick. Focusing on his book, “Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock,” Margolick will describe how he has grappled with stories that reveal unknown sides of our nation’s fraught racial history. ‘Elizabeth and Hazel’ is a study of the principal figures in the iconic photograph from the 1957 school desegregation crisis. Followed by a Q&A. Snacks will be served. All welcome. Trinity Episcopal Church, 7 S. Highland Ave., Ossining. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: www.repairrivertowns.org or visit on Facebook.

Thursday, Oct. 24

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

Pelvic Floor Health: Beyond Kegels in the Chair. This workshop will empower women with a new awareness of their pelvic floor. Come learn the anatomy and physiology, the weakness, dysfunctions and techniques to relax, strengthen, balance and maintain optimal health. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info and tickets: Visit www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

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

Spooky Storytime. Songs and spooky stories. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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 (except Nov. 2). Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

DIY Popcorn Tree. These trees won’t shed their leaves this fall. Instead you will be adding to them with popcorn. For children of all ages. Children under five years old 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.

Lights on After School. Students can come for an action-packed evening of fun. Includes a do-it-yourself health dessert, graffiti art, STEM: Spooky Science, game room tournaments, relays in the gym, UPS road code and capture the flag. Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, 351 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. Grades K-5 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Grades 6-12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Free.

Westchester Residential Opportunities Dinner. This HUD-certified housing counseling agency and fair housing organization will honor Leah Caro, president of Park Sterling Realty. In addition to serving as co-chair of WRO’s board, Caro is chair legislative council and chair of New York MLS and is a past president of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors. The evening’s special guest is Korey Wise, one of the “Central Park Five” who was wrongly convicted in the Central Park jogger case in 1989. Exonerated in 2002 after spending almost 14 years in prison, Wise is an activist and advocate for criminal justice reform. Vintage Lounge and Restaurant, 171 Main St., White Plains. 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$75. Info and tickets: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wro-fundraising-dinner-honoring-leah-caro-tickets-70205459419>.

United We Rock. An event to benefit the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. This year’s honorees are Sherry Saturno of Tarrytown; Executive Director of Gina Avila of Yorktown Heights; Brendan Klein of Pleasantville; Michelle Nicholas of Mount Vernon; and Meghan Toolley of Brewster. Also being honored are members of the chief analytics department of IBM for its use of machine-learning techniques to identify key social service gaps to evaluate enhanced service delivery to specific populations. Includes a cocktail reception. Reid Castle at Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase. 6 to 8 p.m. \$65. Info: Contact Jamie Pessin at 914-997-6700 ext. 752 or e-mail jpessin@uwwp.org. Registration: Visit www.uwwp.org.

Opening Reception for “Abstract and Inspiration.” International award-winning artist Kenneth B. Dinkel presents

continued on next page

Fox-Alter, Scherer to Be Honored By P'ville Chamber of Commerce

By Martin Wilbur

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce didn't have to look very far to find deserving recipients of the organization's annual Appreciation Awards.

The chamber is recognizing village Mayor Peter Scherer and Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter for their many years of contributions to the community. They will be honored during Wednesday evening's chamber Appreciation Awards event at Pleasantville Country Club.

Chamber of Commerce President William Flooks said Scherer and Fox-Alter have distinguished themselves in their roles for an extended period of time and were a logical choice to be selected this year.

"They've dedicated the last many years, first Mary educating and helping all these students during the most difficult times and Peter has led the village well through thick and thin, with all the changes going on here, which is good, and we just think they deserved some recognition and we at the business chamber thought they were a couple of good people to recognize with our award," Flooks said.

Fox-Alter has been superintendent in Pleasantville since 2010 after rising through the ranks from classroom teacher and as an administrator. She has also served as



Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter and Mayor Peter Scherer will be honored Wednesday evening by the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce.



president of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents.

Fox-Alter said she was surprised when she learned that she would be the recipient of the chamber's award but believes it reflects the hard work of the roughly 500

people who fill a wide variety of positions to make the school district function effectively.

"I was humbled, honored and just surprised, very much surprised for their incredible recognition," Fox-Alter said. "I don't do this work in isolation, I do this

work as part of a team, a team that includes a Board of Education, a team that includes my administrative staff and my teaching staff. So I see this as a recognition as our work as a district."

Scherer, who is now in his 11th year as mayor, is not only a public servant but a merchant as well. He owns a graphic design business, which is located on Wheeler Avenue. He previously served as a village trustee before he was elected mayor in March 2009.

Flooks said the annual Appreciation Awards program is held in October every year for about the last 10 years and has been bestowed to people who have supported the community.

"We give it to recognize what people are doing for the village and what they're giving back and that's why we've picked people who have done things for the village short-term, long-term, whatever it takes to keep our village going," he said.

The Appreciation Awards event is being held this Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Unique Affair Catering at Pleasantville Country Club, located at 110 Nanahagan Rd. For more information or to see if there are still spaces available, visit www.pleasantvillechamber.com.

Happenings

continued from previous page

this exhibit. His works are in corporate and private collections in Asia, Europe, South America and the United States, including works owned by former Yankee Bernie Williams, Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard and the late director Jonathan Demme. This exhibit is dedicated in Demme's memory. North Castle Public Library's Friends' Gallery, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Nov. 9 during library hours. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Friends of Mount Pleasant Public Library Book Sale. The semi-annual sale begins with the Friends' Preview sale for members and continues through Oct. 29. Members can sign up online or join at the door. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free admission except on Oct. 28 when it's \$10 for the all-you-can-carry sale (Free to Friends). Continues on Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Oct. 27 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free leftover books to all on Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. while supplies last. Info and sign-up for new members: Visit www.fmppl.org.

Rocky Hills Garden Lecture: Dancing Through Borders. An illustrated talk by James Alexander-Sinclair, one of the foremost garden designers in the United Kingdom. Alexander-Sinclair has designed gardens from Cornwall to the Western Isles and from London to Moscow. He is also an award-winning writer and author of

"Gardener's World: 101 Bold and Beautiful Flowers." Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Tower of Power. Since its formation in Oakland, Calif. in 1968, this group has forged a reputation as a crack band of high-achieving musicians fluent in all realms of soul, rock and pop music with a sophistication and punch like that of a jazz big band. For their first album "East Bay Grease" in 1979, the interracial band became pillars and signatures of the Bay area music scene that included pioneering like-minded bands such as Sly & The Family Stone, Cold Blood, Graham Central Station, The Pointer Sisters and The Sons of Champlin, plus rock-oriented outfits such as Santana, Betty Davis and Journey. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$48, \$58, \$68 and \$78. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Friday, Oct. 25

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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 to noon. Free. Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

"Ghostbusters." A screening of the film in the Young Adult room. Snacks will be served. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Halloween Howl for Adults Only. Join ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr for the Halloween Howl. The ambassador wolves don't do tricks, but sharing a sunset howl is always a treat. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a spread of wine and cheese. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the center's critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves, too. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

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. 10. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "A Heart Elsewhere." From acclaimed director Pupi Avati, comes the story of Nello Balocchi, a 35-year-old teacher of Greek and Latin. He is invited to Bologna by his father, the owner of the Papal tailor's shop in Rome in hopes that Nello will find a soulmate and settle down to produce heirs to the Balocchi name. No one banks on the woman he ends up falling in love with opposition is everywhere. Nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes, this sweet romantic dramedy stars Giancarlo Giannini. In Italian with English subtitles. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Halloween Spooktacular. A DJ, magician, face painting and more to celebrate Halloween. North White Plains Community Center, 10 Clove Rd., North White Plains. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3000 ext. 49.

"A Doll's House Part II." Hudson Stage's production of Lucas Hnath's inspired comedic modern imaging of Nora Helmer's return 15 years after her shocking decision to leave her husband and children in Ibsen's world in 1879. She's back but why? And what will that mean for those she left behind? Whippoorwill Hall,

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday November 14, 2019, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York to hear comments as it pertains to Introductory Local Law No. 7 of 2019 to create Chapter 140 of the Code of the Village of Pleasantville concerning property maintenance. **Eric Morrissey Village Administrator/Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, NY**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday November 14, 2019, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York to hear comments as it pertains to Introductory Local Law No. 8 of 2019 to amend Chapter 98, Section 19 of the Code of the Village of Pleasantville concerning unsafe properties. **Eric Morrissey Village Administrator/Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, NY**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UPON PRELIMINARY BUDGETS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Putnam Valley for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020, have been completed and are filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York where they are available for

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Mayer, Stewart-Cousins Hold Town Hall to Review State Issues

By Neal Rentz

A 2019 Legislative Session Wrap-Up was conducted last week in White Plains by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) and state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers).

The Democratically-controlled Senate, which holds 40 of the body's 63 seats, approved a wide assortment of legislation during its first year, local residents were told during the Oct. 16 forum at the Slater Center.

Stewart-Cousins said she and Mayer have been conducting town halls in the district, informing constituents about some of the major issues that were addressed in the most recent session.

"The idea is to make sure our communities know some of the things we were able to accomplish and hopefully understand that we are very, very committed to access, to hearing, to listening, to being available," Stewart-Cousins said.

The first action taken by the Senate last January was to reform the election process. One part of that reform is early voting, which will begin this Saturday, Stewart-Cousins said. Another was to combine congressional and state primary dates in late June. However, there is no fixed date for the presidential primaries.

The legislature also passed gun safety laws, Stewart-Cousins said. A new law is the expansion of background check days



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, left, and state Sen. Shelley Mayer discussed state issues at a town hall on Oct. 16 at the Slater Center in White Plains.

for gun purchases. Under the new measure, the background check time was expanded from a maximum of 10 to 30 days.

Ninety percent of those who seek to purchase a gun are able to do so within minutes following a check; however, the remaining 10 percent of potential gun buyers may have "red flags" arise during

their background check. Therefore, it takes longer to determine if those individuals should be allowed to buy a firearm.

Federal agencies, including the FBI, have indicated that it takes at least 30 days to complete a thorough background check for some gun purchasers, Stewart-Cousins said.

Another gun safety measure approved earlier this year is a gun buy-back program.

The state also approved the Child Victims Act, allowing people who were abused as children to have legal recourse against those who abused them, Stewart-Cousins said.

Lawmakers also approved legislation preserving abortion rights. Federal law contained abortion rights protections that New York State did not have, she said.

New state environmental regulations "have been hailed as being the most progressive laws with real serious target dates" to reduce greenhouse gases and the state's carbon footprint, Stewart-Cousins said.

Mayer, chair of the Senate Education Committee, touted achievements in education. An additional \$1 billion in education aid was approved for districts statewide.

Mayer said education aid is the largest portion of the state budget and New York City receives, by far, the most. Mayer praised Stewart-Cousins for creating a sub-committee on New York City schools "so that we are not fighting among ourselves."

"Every one of our districts deserves to have its kids have the best public education they can have," Mayer said. "And that is a commitment from everyone in our conference. This is the number one issue."

The legislature this year applied the *continued on page 31*

Happenings

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19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. \$40. Seniors and students: \$35. \$10 for students for remaining tickets 30 minutes before showtime. Also Oct. 26 and Nov. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 27 and Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. Info and tickets: 800-838-3006 or visit www.hudsonstage.com.

White Plains Comedy: Queens of the Compound. Some of the most popular female comedians who grace the Compound Media Network are coming together for a huge night of laughs. Comics Chrissie Mayr and Kerryan Feehan and Miss New York 2013 Joanne Nosuchinsky will be on stage. White Plains Comedy Club, 189 E. Post Rd., White Plains. 7:30 and 10 p.m. General admission: \$25. VIP: \$45. Info and tickets: Visit WhitePlainsComedy.com.

Halloween Marathon VI. Stock up on coffee and energy drinks so you can stay up all night for the sixth annual Halloween Movie Marathon. Hosted by Senior Programmer Andrew Jupin, don't miss out on this year's selection of restored classics, oddball gems and shocking new favorites. There will be 10 features playing across two screens. There will also be a costume contest and activities and the concession stand will be open all night. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Check-in at 8 p.m. Movies begin at 9 p.m. Members and students: \$50. Non-members: \$60. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Saturday, Oct. 26

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, the music series will feature Sarah Browne, a local singer-songwriter whose original music features tantalizing melodies matched with poetic and honest lyrics that offer a straightforward and unassuming take on life. 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.

Teddy Bear Clinic and Health Fair. Doctors and nurses from Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) will offer teddy bears and stuffed animals free medical checkups and demonstrate applying casts, sutures, X-rays and fixing boo boos. The program is designed to help lessen the fear that children may face when they have to be taken to a hospital or physician. Kids, parents

and teddy bears – dolls are welcome as well – will enjoy healthy snacks and games, including germ-buster, hand-hygiene, spin the wheel-of-nutrition, ambulance tours, tips from local police and health and safety lessons. Northern Westchester Hospital's first-floor conference room, 400 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.2019teddybear.eventbrite.com.

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. Info: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.

Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors. This engaging, interactive program of the library system's Westchester Seniors Out Speaking is perfect for anyone trying to navigate the complicated healthcare system for older adults. It will help those who already have Medicare, as well as people soon to be 65, planning their retirement or assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions. The workshop outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with health insurance provided by the government and private companies. Topics include original Medicare, Advantage

Plans, prescription drug plans (Part D), Medigaps (supplemental plans) and various cost-saving programs (MSPs, Extra Help, EPIC, etc.). Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome; pre-registration preferred. Pre-registration: 914-231-3236. Info: Visit www.westchesterlibraries.org/westchester-seniors-speaking-out.

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. 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.

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inspection by any interested persons at all reasonable hours. **FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley will meet and review said Preliminary Town, Highway, all District Budgets and Fire Department and hold a **Public Hearing thereon at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m. on the 6th day of November, 2019** and at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of, or against any item or items therein contained. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the Town Officers are hereby specified as follows: **Supervisor \$75,366.20 Councilpersons, four @ \$15,000.00 each Town Clerk \$67,910.54 Highway Superintendent \$94,873.48 BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: October 17, 2019**

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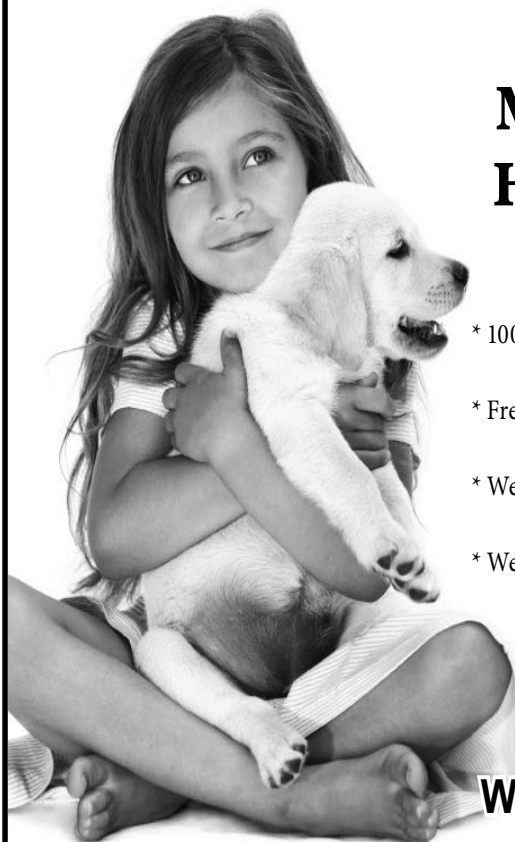
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Mayer, Stewart-Cousins Hold Town Hall to Review State Issues

continued from page 29

Human Rights Law to public schools, protecting job seekers and employees from discrimination; previously, it only applied to private schools in the state, Mayer said.

This year also saw approval of Erin's Law, named after Erin Merryn, who was sexually abused as a youth.

"She really did not know how to deal with it at the time because no one gave her the language and the information about how to talk about it," Mayer said. "Erin's Law will improve curriculum on the subject in the early grades."

She said the state should provide full-day pre-kindergarten in every district that wants it and the programs must be funded by the state. The issue is part of the education agenda for the next session, Mayer said.

There was additional library funding made available this year. Mayer said libraries have become "the civic centers of communities."

Both senators responded to residents' questions during the forum.

Bronxville High School sophomore Bethany Lee, an unpaid intern working in Stewart-Cousin's office, asked what the legislature would do about the epidemic of vaping injuries, particularly among

youngsters. She also asked the senators whether they would support legalization of the recreational use of marijuana.

Mayer said she has "very serious concerns" about vaping. School superintendents, guidance counselors and parents have expressed the same sentiments, she said. Three Senate committees are planning to hold a hearing on vaping, including her own committee, in Manhattan on Nov. 4, Mayer noted.

She also has grave concerns about recreational marijuana use.

Earlier this year, the legislature decriminalized the possession of up to two ounces of marijuana for personal use. Past convictions for marijuana possession

are being expunged from criminal records without the need to hire an attorney to make a motion to do so, Mayer said.

Stewart-Cousins said that Gov. Cuomo recently enacted executive orders restricting vaping devices and certain flavors. The legislature could codify the executive orders into law during the next session, she said.

The majority leader said there will be legalization of recreational marijuana use sometime in the future. There have been people harmed by the war on drugs, including personal marijuana use, she said.

Another resident asked the senators' opinions of allowing young women to take an HPV (human papillomavirus, a sexually

transmitted virus) vaccination without parental consent. Mayer and Stewart-Cousins said they opposed the concept. The matter has not been addressed in the Senate in formal legislation.

"I don't see this as a pressing issue," Stewart-Cousins said.

Resident Kat Fisher, an AARP representative, asked whether the lawmakers supported a bill to allow for the importation of prescription drugs from outside the United States to New York State. Fisher also asked what else they would do to combat high-cost prescription drugs.

Stewart-Cousins said the Senate would continue to discuss the issue.

NWH to Hold Free Teddy Bear Clinic and Health Fair This Saturday

Doctors and nurses from Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) will offer teddy bears and stuffed animals free medical checkups and demonstrate applying casts, sutures, X-rays and fixing boo boos.

A free teddy bear clinic and health fair will be held this Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. The last tour departs at 11:15 a.m. and bilingual tour guides will be available to provide tours in Spanish. The event is held at NWH, located at 400 E. Main St. in Mount Kisco, in the first-floor conference center. (Park in the hospital's garage and enter through the main entrance.)

The program is designed to help lessen the fear that children may face when they have to be taken to a hospital or physician. Kids, parents and teddy bears – dolls are welcome as well – will enjoy healthy snacks and games, including germ-buster, hand-hygiene, spin the wheel-of-nutrition, ambulance tours, tips from local police and health and safety lessons. NWH will also provide information on its new Center for Healthy Living.

All children and teddy bears must be accompanied by an adult. The event is free but registration is required. To register online, visit www.2019teddybear.eventbrite.com.



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Happenings

continued from page 29

10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Halloween Party With Wolves! Join ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr for a Halloween party. The ambassador wolves don't do tricks but sharing a howl is always a treat. Holiday appropriate goodies will be offered to the guests and wolves! Guests will also potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves, too. Costumes strongly encouraged. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Oct. 27. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

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

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2." In the epic finale, the battle between the good and evil forces of the wizarding world escalates into an all-out war on the Hogwarts campus. The stakes have never been higher and no one is safe, but it's Harry who may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice as he draws closer to the climactic showdown with Voldemort. It all ends here. 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.

Halloween Carnival. A fun family event with games, crafts, prizes and food. Dress in your Halloween costume and get your picture taken. All ages welcome. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 12 to 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Chess With John Gallagher. Provides new and experienced students with a strong foundation in the rules and strategies to play the game of chess. For children six years old and up. Must be accompanied by an adult. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Nov. 2, 9 and 16. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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.

Crafter Day. An afternoon of crafting in the Children's Room. For children and their family to make a do-it-yourself craft as well as related books to read while making your special project. All materials provided. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Halloween Howl. Join ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr for the Halloween

Howl. The ambassador wolves don't do tricks but sharing a sunset howl is always a treat. Holiday appropriate goodies will be offered to guests and the wolves. Guests will also visit the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves, too. Costumes strongly encouraged. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children: \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Fundraiser. World-renowned mentalist Oz Pearlman to headline The Next Big Thing, a magical evening of art, cocktails, dinner and mind-bending entertainment to benefit the group's mentoring programs for youth facing adversity. Known for his 2015 third-place finish on "America's Got Talent" and for his appearances on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" and NBC's "The Today Show," Pearlman has become an audience favorite for his charisma, humor, charm and uncanny ability to read minds. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$175. Info and tickets: 914-937-3779 or visit www.BigsWestchester.org/events.

Rachael Kilgour and Her Crooked Heart. Kilgour is a Minnesota songwriter and performing artist whose sincere, lyric-driven work has been called brave and humane. The 2015 grand prize winner of the esteemed international NewSong Music Performance & Songwriting Competition and winner of the 2017 Kerrville New Folk Contest, she has been featured at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and by the ASCAP Music Cafe at the Sundance Film Festival. Common Ground Concerts 25 Old Jackson Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson. 7:30 p.m. \$20 to \$25. Info and tickets: Visit www.commongroundconcerts.com.

Friends of Music Concerts: Zlatomir Fung. Fung is the 10th recipient of the Friends of Music Performance Award, presented to a winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. He will perform with piano collaborator Richard Fu. Fung is a regular member of the Jupiter Chamber Players and has been a soloist with the Ann Arbor Symphony, the Boston Pops and the Lausanne Sinfonietta, among others. In March, he won first prize and the gold medal at Russia's prestigious XVI International Tchaikovsky Competition, where he performed with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic. Sleepy Hollow High School's Kusel Auditorium, 210 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 8 p.m. \$35. Info and tickets: Visit www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Stuck in the Suburbs. Kaitlyn Murphy is bringing a fun night of comedy with Riley Lassin, Shauna Lane, Andre Thompson, Brittany Brave and Marcello Hernandez. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.lucyslaughlounge.com.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Being Muslim in America. A program featuring Sabeeha Rehman, author of the memoir, "Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim," and a public speaker engaging in interfaith dialogue. The book was

short-listed for the 2018 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, received honorable mention in spirituality by the San Francisco Book Festival Awards 2017, and was listed as Top 10 Religion and Spirituality Books in 2016. The program includes brunch and the author talk. All welcome. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable nutritious food items to be donated to the Bronx Community College Food Pantry. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. 10 a.m. Requested contribution: \$18. RSVP: Contact Robin at Sisterhood@g-h-c.org. Info (including requested list of food to donate): Visit <http://www.g-h-c.org/paidup>.

Festifall. Crunching leaves and a crisp breeze will be the backdrop for this year's fall festival celebration. Families can take part in an exciting scavenger hunt, play fun games, meet the animals and enjoy live music by Native New Yorker Band. Also, dress for the costume parade. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early registration (before Oct. 27): Members--\$5. Non-members--\$10. Day of event: Members: \$8. Non-members: \$15. Info and registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Halloween Costume Carnival. Memorial Pool Complex, Leonard Park, Mount Kisco. 12 to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-3059 or www.mountkisco.org.

Adam Kent in Concert. Kent, the music director at the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation since 1990, will perform a solo piano recital of works by Chopin and Liszt. Works performed include the kaleidoscopic 24 Preludes of Chopin and Liszt's vibrant Spanish Rhapsody. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 12:30 p.m. Adults: \$20. Seniors and students: \$10. Children (13 and under): \$5. Maximum family donation is \$45. Info and tickets: 914-946-1660 ext. 6 or e-mail concert@cucwp.org.

Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors. This engaging, interactive program of the library system's Westchester Seniors Out Speaking is perfect for anyone trying to navigate the complicated healthcare system for older adults. It will help those who already have Medicare, as well as people soon to be 65, planning their retirement or assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions. The workshop outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with health insurance provided by the government and private companies. Topics include original Medicare, Advantage Plans, prescription drug plans (Part D), Medigaps (supplemental plans) and various cost-saving programs (MSPs, Extra Help, EPIC, etc.). North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome; pre-registration preferred. Pre-registration: 914-231-3236. Info: Visit www.westchesterlibraries.org/westchester-seniors-speaking-out.

"Anyone and Everyone." The Ethical Society of Northern Westchester will present a screening of this documentary about the "coming out" journeys of families of different backgrounds across the United States. Followed by a discussion led by David

Diamond, program specialist, Westchester Jewish Community Services. The Ethical Society of Northern Westchester 108 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-941-3544 or visit www.esnw.org.

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

Westchester Philharmonic Concert. Joining the Westchester Philharmonic for its season-opening concert are three artists who are changing the face of classical music. Conductor Eric Jacobsen (co-founder of The Knights and music director of the Orlando Philharmonic and Bridgeport Symphony), will guide the orchestra in a recent work, "Entr'Acte," by Brooklyn composer Caroline Shaw, the youngest-ever recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Jacobsen and the orchestra will then be joined by the astonishing violinist Simone Porter for Samuel Barber's exquisite and electrifying Violin Concerto. Purchase Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. Pre-concert discussion with the artists for ticketholders at 2 p.m. Concert at 3 p.m. \$36 to \$98. (A free rehearsal open to the public will be at 11 a.m.) Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit the box office from 12 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the day of the concert.

Monday, Oct. 28

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

Morning Shorts. "Lead Street Albuquerque" by Lucia Berlin will be discussed. Led by Rebecca Rogan. New Castle Town Hall Conference Room A and B, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Here We Are Together: Story Time for Children. 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. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

DIY Halloween Cupcakes. Decorate your own Halloween cupcakes and create a spooky cupcake holder to take a cupcake home with you. Cupcakes, decorations and other supplies provided. Food may contain nuts. Led by Lisa Elsner. For young adults. 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.

Secrets of How to Make Your Flight as Comfy as Possible

Being a travel writer, I've discovered some valuable secrets to ensure that every flight is comfortable in every possible way.

My Comfy Flight Secrets include my favorite traveling companion, other than my girlfriend, my Solitude WX1 noise-canceling headphones, which cancel engine drone, crying babies, chatty passengers and all other annoying sounds. When wearing them, I'm in my own private world. They're only \$69.99 and provide better sound than more expensive models. The free shipping code is TravelShipFree at www.solitudeheadphones.com.

Reserve your seat in advance even if you have to pay a fee. You don't want to be stuck in the middle seat. I sit up front so I'm first one out, or I sit over the wing where it's less bumpy if the plane encounters turbulence. I prefer window seats so I'm not disturbed by passengers with weak bladders.

I never check my bag. I bring my favorite carry-on luggage, Ricardo of Beverly Hills. It's super-light, has



By Richard Levy

amazing wheels and includes a port to charge your phone.

Bring an antibacterial spray and hygienic wipes. Once you're seated, open the dropdown tray and wipe it down thoroughly. There are more germs on it than a toilet seat. Also, wipe down the armrests, headrest and digital controls and avoid placing anything into the seat pocket since it's cesspool of germs. Bring the wipes when you go to the bathroom and wipe everything you touch.

Invest in a comfortable eye cushion or blindfold that won't crush your eyes.

Bring earplugs if you intend to sleep or read.

Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. I wear my warm-up suit so there's no belt choking my expanding waist. Also, make sure to travel in comfortable footwear. (I prefer sneakers.)

On long flights move around the cabin, stretching your legs and wiggling your toes to keep circulation surging and to prevent the rare but still-possible blood clot behind your knees.

Bring a water bottle and keep yourself hydrated; you'll feel more energized after the flight. If possible, avoid drinking coffee or tea since the water used is from the bathrooms and the machines aren't often cleaned.

The tip you may be most grateful for is to "cross-pack" with your significant other – placing half your belongings in each other's suitcase. This way if one piece gets lost or delayed it won't ruin your first vacation day.

Bring an inflatable neck pillow.

Take my favorite KIND energy bars if you're prone to getting hungry before cabin service starts. Order a vegetarian or kosher meal because they're more tasty than regular meals and served first. (Remember to order a special meal when booking.)

I always bring a sweater or long scarf because when you fall asleep your body temperature drops and planes can be cold.

Bring a pack of gum to chew to relieve

pressure on the ears when taking off and landing. Buy Refresh eye drops to keep your eyes well-lubricated since the air in planes is very dry. And don't forget ChapStick.

For the best deals on flights, download the Hopper app. It keeps sending you lower fares for your flight before you book

them. Occasionally, I treat myself to an upgrade on a long or overnight flight using credit card mileage points. This way I arrive refreshed and ready to hit the ground running.

And remember, make sure your passport doesn't expire within six months before or after your flight or you'll be turned away at the airport and your long-anticipated vacation will be ruined. Bon voyage.

Hastings-on-Hudson

resident Richard Levy is a former advertising "Mad Man" creative director and now a travel writer. He's also an inventor of innovative new products and is writing and illustrating a new children's book. You can contact him at RichardLevyTravelWriter@gmail.com.



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The Board of Education is soliciting community participation on a Facilities Planning Committee. Together with representatives from all three schools and District administration, this volunteer committee will prioritize the findings and plan the next steps to address items identified in the Buildings Conditions Survey.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please take the time to fill out an application online at the district website www.briarcliffschools.org or complete in person in the Main Office of Todd Elementary School.





HELP WANTED • CITY OF STAMFORD, CT TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM ENGINEER

Annual Salary Range: \$97,131 - \$124,584

POSITION: The City of Stamford is seeking a Traffic Signal Engineer to undertake all aspects of traffic signals, from inception through to operation. The successful candidate should have extensive experience in the field of traffic signal design, implementation and/or operation and will have achieved engineer status or significant experience.

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills and a strong awareness of signal design, construction, and management. The candidate will work as part of a traffic signal team, overseeing three field technicians and will be expected to demonstrate an ability to use their own initiative to deliver excellence on projects. An efficient and accurate working style with attention to detail is required, and flexibility in order to meet project requirements is expected.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES: In depth experience with traffic signal operation, design, and configuration. • Good knowledge of GridSmart design and operation • Ability to engage with the public and the ability to communicate and influence effectively. • Thorough knowledge of a wide range of ITS technologies, including GridSmart, Fiber Optic communication, VMS, and CCTV • Ability to apply management techniques and prioritize responsibilities to ensure work is accomplished by project deadlines • Proven ability to learn new skills and understand complex technical projects rapidly • Excellent problem solving skills and the ability to develop new and innovative ideas. • Ability to work as part of a team and to supervise, coach and mentor subordinates. • Familiarity with State and Federal design processes with respect to signal design.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science; Computer, Civil, Traffic or Transportation Engineering; or a closely related field and three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in the field of traffic engineering, one (1) year of which must have been in computerized traffic signal systems and control. NOTE: A Master's degree in one of the above noted fields may substitute for one (1) year of the general traffic engineering experience. Valid Driver's License.

Interested applicants are advised to submit a fully completed application form along with their resume, listing all related degrees, training and work experience. Incomplete applications or those submitted without a resume will be rejected. Applications of candidates who do not meet the stated position requirements will not be considered. **Position is open until filled.** Applications can be obtained at the:

City of Stamford,
Human Resources Division, 9th Floor
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut
or at
www.stamfordct.gov

The City of Stamford is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities and persons with disabilities.



HELP WANTED • CITY OF STAMFORD, CT CIVIL ENGINEER

Annual Salary Range: \$97,131 - \$124,584

POSITION: Under the general direction of the City Engineer or designee, performs supervisory and administrative work in inspection and permit issuance as well as performs plan reviews ensuring the compliance of local and state codes, regulations and practice concerning site engineering and site construction development and inspection in connection with the construction of capital, departmental, residential and/or commercial development projects requested of the department; does related work as required.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or a closely related field and seven (7) years of progressively responsible engineering experience in the field of site engineering, construction, and inspection.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: At time of application, possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license and possession of a valid Connecticut Professional Engineer's license. **Applicants must attach a copy of their license to the application.**

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION: Qualified applicants will be evaluated, scored and ranked on their level and quality of related experience, education and training documented on the application and application supplement. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested candidates should submit a completed Employment Application and Application Supplement "19-40". Please note: only properly completed and submitted applications will be considered. Applications of candidates who do not meet the stated position requirements will not be considered.

Position is open until filled. Application and application supplement can be obtained at the

City of Stamford
Human Resources Division, 9th Floor,
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Reviving the History and Wines of the Campania Region in Italy



By Nick Antonaccio

In previous columns, I've focused on a number of the 20 Italian wine regions, describing the history, culture and wines of each.

One of the regions that I've highlighted is one of my favorites – Campania – for its

backstory, its peoples and its wines. This week I'm beginning a multipart series on my personal journey to a specific area and specific town in Campania.

In the next few columns, I will be much more granular, focusing on the subregion of Avellino and the sub-appellations of Fiano, Greco and Taurasi. I'll conclude with a report on my trip to Cantine Ciani, a winery deep in Taurasi, in which I have recently invested.

My goal is to inspire you to sample the wines of greater Campania and for you to appreciate the inherent beauty of the region through these wines.

How ironic, in the 21st century, that a significant source of Italy's influence comes not from the cultural city centers

of its past but from those areas not known for their historic influence – wine regions. Not from the famous wine regions, but from the agricultural underbelly that has been feeding Italians for centuries, including Campania, the region just south of Rome which incorporates Naples, the Amalfi Coast and the southern Apennine mountains.

Before the Italian Renaissance, there were wines being produced here. Revered wines from Campania date back two millennia to Greek and Roman settlements. Then came a long period of neglect and the near extinction of grapevines which had been planted as early as 1,000 B.C.

The exodus of farmers to urban areas after the devastation wrought by World War II contributed to this demise. But things began to improve in the early 1990s. Winemakers from the north rediscovered the coveted volcanic soil and temperate climate

of the Campania region. They researched the history of the indigenous grapes and they began to experiment in applying modern techniques and technology to the production of wines from these ancient grapes. The result – a Southern Renaissance in winemaking that is just now becoming available in the United

States.

Today's Campanian winemakers are plying their trade with a distinct elegance and aplomb that sets them apart from previous generations.

What are they planting? What grapes from this forgotten agricultural paradise are creating a stir?

There are three white grapes and one red from Campania that have surged in popularity in the last 10 years.

Greco. It is the oldest cultivated grape in Campania. Its mild aroma and flavor profile make it perfect as a quaffing wine, but paired with a light seafood dish or a simple vegetable recipe, it seduces you with almond and pear aromas and flavor. This is the wine the Greeks cherished for its ideal balance between fruit and acid. Some wines never go out of favor.

Falanghina. If you like the Pinot Grigio of northern Italy for its aromatic bouquet and crisp palate pleaser, try this alternative. Bright and highly aromatic, it pairs well with Mediterranean white fish and light chicken and pork dishes.

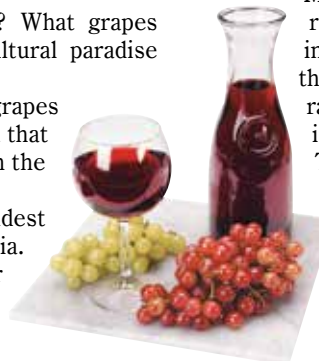
Fiano. In my opinion, this is the most interesting of the Holy Trinity of Campanian whites. It has an intensity not found in its brethren and is redolent of nutty and spicy aromas. Try it with shellfish; you may never go back to white

Burgundies.

Aglianico. This red grape is ascending to stardom next to its esteemed Italian brothers, Barolo and Brunello di Montalcino. An intense wine, rich in red fruit aromas, high in acid and tannins in its youth, this wine is made for aging. I rarely drink an Aglianico that is less than five years old. This is a wine I will place in my wine cellar, next to my Barolos and Brunellos, to enjoy with my young grandchildren on their 21st birthday.

Campania's winemakers are practicing their craft with Sprezzatura – the uniquely Italian art of effortless mastery. It's in their heritage and defines their destiny. Over the next several weeks, we'll get to know better my personal connection with the region, one winemaker in particular, and his wines.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is co-chair 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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