

Proposed Valhalla Assisted Living Plan Faces Stiff Traffic Hurdles

By Ed Perratore

Mount Pleasant Planning Board members were highly skeptical last week over a proposal for an assisted living facility on Grasslands Road in Valhalla because the area is already prone to severe traffic congestion.

What was meant to be a preliminary discussion of Brightview Senior Living LLC's plan following a referral from the Town Board, took on all the appearances of a turbulent public hearing. The proposed facility would serve 170 residents with units for independent living, assisted living and memory care.

The community would be located across the street from Westchester Community College's west entrance and bordering Kensico Cemetery, less than a half-mile east of the often-jammed intersection of Bradhurst Avenue, Knollwood Road and Grasslands Road.

Representatives for Brightview, which has built or has been approved for more than 50 projects in eight states, described the project as "the continuum of care for senior



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

Diego Villareale, a civil engineer for JMC Site Development Consultants, presents the proposed site plan for Brightview Senior Living's assisted living facility on Grasslands Road, during last week's Mount Pleasant Planning Board meeting.

residents."

The applicant is asking the town for a zoning change from residential to the OB-5

(Office Business) zone. The town code today does not allow for assisted living facilities in combination with independent living.

The facility would be built on eight acres of a subdivided 10-acre property. The current owner would retain the two remaining acres and continue to live at the site, which would remain a residential parcel.

But the developer faces a number of hurdles, most notably traffic and density.

For a facility this size, the town code requires 3,500 square feet per unit, allowing for up to 99 residents, not 170. If the project were to use the full 10 acres, the density limit would not apply.

The project's most formidable challenge, however, is whether to allow more development on a stretch of Grasslands Road that already sees more than 10,000 vehicles a day, according to a state Department of Transportation (DOT) estimate.

"Ten acres that dense at this site, with that road? That's a little nuts," said Planning Board Chairman Michael McLaughlin.

Steve Marker, Brightview's development director, made the case for the proposed size and scope of the project. He cited data from the Census Bureau's ongoing American

continued on page 2

Chappaqua Democrat Eyes Nomination for 17th Congressional District Seat

By Martin Wilbur

A Chappaqua resident is on the verge of becoming the next candidate seeking the Democratic nomination to vie for Rep. Nita Lowey's congressional seat.

Jo-Anna Rodriguez-Wheeler, who has volunteered on campaigns stretching back to the Senate runs of Geraldine Ferraro and Hillary Clinton and was a Bernie Sanders delegate in 2016, said she will likely make a formal campaign announcement within the next two weeks.

"I just thought it's time for me to actually give voice to a lot of the stories on the campaign trail," said Rodriguez-Wheeler, 49, who moved to Chappaqua with her husband about a year ago and has three sons between 12 and 25 years old.

If she officially declares, Rodriguez-

continued on page 4



JESSICA PASCHKES PHOTO

Jo-Anna Rodriguez-Wheeler is looking to join the field of Democrats vying to replace Rep. Nita Lowey.

County Celebrates With Re-opening of Renovated Miller House

By Martin Wilbur and Abby Luby

After more than 20 years, Elijah Miller House/Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains re-opened its doors on Monday with the county holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark completion of a \$3.5 million restoration project.

The 1738 Rhode Island farmhouse at 140 Virginia Rd. was used by George Washington during the Battle of White Plains. It was home to Anne and Elijah Miller, who raised their family there. Elijah Miller and the couple's two sons were killed during the Revolutionary War.

"They say that victory has 1,000 parents, and indeed, what today represents is the combination of talent and commitment by so many different people that no single person can take credit," said County Executive George Latimer.



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer speaks during Monday's reopening of Elijah Miller House/Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains.

The ceremony was held on the 243rd anniversary of Washington's arrival at the house during the battle. The patriots had been retreating from the British, when

continued on page 4

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Proposed Valhalla Assisted Living Plan Faces Stiff Traffic Hurdles

continued from page 1

Community Survey, showing how the gross number of seniors in Westchester County is expected to more than double over the next five years.

"Every 65 seconds, a senior develops dementia, and one in three seniors dies with a form of dementia," Marker said. "The care we provide in our communities allows these residents to live at their fullest capacity in a safe environment."

Attorney David Steinmetz, representing Brightview, said the site is "actually quite a good place for its low-traffic use."

Steinmetz decried the concerns over the site's density as arbitrary. He argued that

Mount Pleasant's 99-resident limit on 10 acres comes merely from another application with which the town has amended the zoning, referring to the proposed 92-unit assisted living facility on a 10.45-acre parcel on Zeiss Drive in Thornwood.

"There's no magic in the acreage," he said. "It's just that a previous applicant asked for 10 acres in its application."

Diego Villareale, a civil engineer from JMC Site Development Consultants in Armonk, who represents the applicant, detailed the wraparound driveway, landscaping and lush gardens in the facility's proposed design. He noted that green space would account for 55 percent of the eight acres. All construction,

Villareale added, would be easily within the setbacks noted in the town code. Parking would exceed requirements.

He also presented results of a traffic analysis using trip-generation estimates from the Institute of Transportation Engineers for this type of facility.

"Senior living uses, when you look at them on a case-by-case basis, are low generators of traffic," Villareale said.

He projected that the community would generate an additional 34 trips during the peak morning period.

"During the peak hour, Grasslands Road will see anywhere between 1,400 and 1,500 vehicles," Villareale said. "So we're looking at 17 vehicles coming in and 17 vehicles coming out."

The proposal also recommends adding a traffic signal to the intersection where the access point for the facility and the college meet at Grasslands Road.

McLaughlin, however, was not impressed.

"All of the wonderful (descriptions) and pretty language tries to avert our eyes from the fact that you don't fit," McLaughlin said. "You're looking for something that's too dense, more dense than we allow, in a place that is already horrendous."

Also voicing objection were two residents who promised to bring many more neighbors for the eventual public hearing.

"Adding another traffic light might help the people coming out of the college, but it ain't going to help nobody traveling on Grasslands Road because you sit at the light

(at Bradhurst Avenue and Knollwood Road) that gets backed up past the other senior living place," said Glenn Accocella, a 30-year Bradhurst Avenue resident. "Traffic in that area is terrible, terrible. Especially Grasslands Road."

Another nearby resident, Sean Quigley, said traffic is already out of control in the neighborhood, and the proposed addition of the North 60 complex just north of Westchester Medical Center would compound the already existing problems.

"It took me seven minutes, taking my daughter and her girlfriend to Valhalla High School, just to get out of my street – at 7 in the morning," Quigley said. "Seven minutes sitting at a stop sign, Armand Place and Bradhurst Avenue."

While Quigley acknowledged that more senior living communities are needed, he said "There is a place for everything. That is not the right place."

Planning Board members also were skeptical. They directed town planning consultant Pat Cleary to craft a note to the Town Board voicing their significant concerns about traffic.

"While we do think the continuum of care discussion is a valid idea – and we probably need it somewhere in the town – at that particular site, there's grave concern regarding the traffic on that road," said Planning Board member James Collins. "That issue needs to be solved before we can discuss this type of facility being proposed."

Pleasantville HS to Host All-Day Blood Drive on Nov. 4

Having enough blood donors has turned into a daily struggle to keep up with demand. While the majority of people will have a blood transfusion at some point in their lives, only 3 percent of eligible donors actually donate.

Pleasantville High School and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps are once again teaming up to sponsor an all-day blood drive on Monday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Pleasantville High School, located at 60 Romer Ave. in Pleasantville. Whole

blood and red cell units will be collected. Blood donors from all towns are welcome to come and lend their help.

To schedule an appointment to donate, call 800-933-2566. For questions regarding eligibility, (including travel, medications, last donation, etc.), call 800-688-0900.

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Q: During what ages should I have annual mammograms?

A: Starting at age 40, this screening tool saves the most lives. There is no defined upper age limit to stop mammography. The incidence of breast cancer increases with age: 30 percent of invasive breast cancers occur in women over the age of 70. We recommend that annual screenings continue as long as the patient is in otherwise good health and willing to undertake additional testing if an abnormality is detected.

Q: How do I benefit from advanced breast cancer screening technologies?

A: The latest mammogram screening technology is the **3-D mammogram** (digital mammogram with tomosynthesis), which lets us see through tissue and find more cancers than does a standard digital

mammogram. Another newer technology is the **supplemental screening ultrasound** for dense breasts, which helps us evaluate dense breast tissue and masses seen on the mammogram by letting us distinguish between solid and cystic tissue. The **breast MRI** can be used to screen women at high risk for breast cancer due to genetic factors, family history or previous high-risk findings, or used as an additional tool to look for further abnormalities in women recently diagnosed with cancer. Advanced imaging technologies are offered at Northern Westchester Hospital's women's imaging sites in Mt. Kisco and Yorktown.

Q: Should women with dense breast tissue receive special screenings?

A: About 40 to 50 percent of women have dense breast tissue. There are two components of breast tissue: fatty tissue and fibroglandular tissue. Fibroglandular tissue appears white on a standard mammogram, as do tumors, so tumors can be obscured. If you have dense breasts, ask about supplemental screening with a breast ultrasound. This technology increases detection by a rate of approximately four cancers per 1,000 screenings over that achieved by a standard mammogram.

Assisted Living Plan Moves Closer to Approval in Thornwood

By Ed Perratore

The Mount Pleasant Planning Board closed the public hearing last week on the proposed 92-unit assisted living community on Zeiss Drive in Thornwood, moving a step closer to site plan approval.

The project's remaining critic is the owner of the neighboring Rose Hill Shopping Center on Columbus Avenue, down a steep 30-foot slope from the 10.45-acre parcel in question.

Shelbourne Healthcare Development Group LLC, which operates upscale senior living communities throughout the country, received town approval for a zoning amendment last year that would allow assisted living in the town's Office Business (OB) zone. Since February, the developer has sought to allay concerns from nearby residents and Westlake Associates LLC, the shopping center's owner.

The proposed three-story facility would accommodate as many as 99 residents and would include a memory care unit serving residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

James Ryan, a principal at JMC Site Development Consultants in Armonk, detailed efforts to address the town's concerns. In response to a board request to determine whether a traffic signal might be needed on Columbus Avenue, Ryan said that the firm's traffic analysis indicates that it isn't necessary.

"This is a low-volume user; assisted living properties typically are," he said.

As for any concerns about straining the town's emergency services, Ryan quoted a letter from Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

Vincent R. Castaldo, Westlake Associates managing partner, speaks of his concerns at last week's Mount Pleasant Planning Board about Shelbourne Healthcare Development Group's assisted living application for Zeiss Drive.

Oliva containing two conditions the chief said would minimize impact on first responders. First, "a qualified medical individual" should be on site at all times to respond to any residents' medical issues, which would reduce the chance of unnecessary calls. Second, the facility should contract with a private ambulance service. The developer agreed to comply with both conditions.

A handful of neighbors who have

been in touch with the developer and its representatives attended the Oct. 21 public hearing.

The party most concerned about the proposal, Westlake Associates LLC, was still skeptical of the developer's assurances.

"I've taken the position that, seeing that this probably is going to go through, let me find out what I can do to protect the one thing that's important – the Rose Hill Shopping Center," said Vincent R. Castaldo, Westlake Associates' managing partner.

Castaldo's concerns center on drainage, a problem the shopping center has recently had at its northern end, even before Shelbourne's application. One issue relates to the type and the composition of the retaining wall behind the new facility, a detail that will not be addressed until Architectural Review Board analysis following site plan approval.

He also criticized the plan to clear 512 of the site's roughly 1,500 trees.

"If you cut down 500 trees, you're going to have collateral damage, and you're probably going to be reaching from the 500 to the 600 area," Castaldo said. "When those trees come down and that land is cleared, what happens to the drainage? What is your method to curtail that drainage instead of drowning the shopping center?"

Castaldo condemned plans for drain lines and areas dedicated to stormwater retention as inadequate.

"What I have here now is a site improvement that does not really take care of its water," he said.

Ryan replied that JMC has fulfilled

obligations in terms of submitting a full stormwater management plan to Town Engineer David Smyth.

"We'd had indications from him that it was acceptable, but we can go back to Mr. Smyth to make sure that we've memorialized everything correctly on the plan," Ryan said.

Christopher Borello, a resident of nearby Foxwood Lane, cited several concerns which have apparently been resolved, although he wanted the details in writing. He said he wanted to be assured that the planned detention basin would hold water for a couple of hours at the time, then be water-free and that the developer expected to do far less blasting than initially expected.

What he felt more uneasy about, however, was the changing appearance of the property. Borello said he wants neighbors to be notified of plans for tree planting and to be able to monitor the progress afterward.

Board Chairman Michael McLaughlin assured Borello that all of the neighbors' concerns would be memorialized – some in the approved resolution as conditions with others in the final plan itself.

Before the hearing was closed, McLaughlin noted that the application was likely headed for approval once Smyth and the building department weigh in once more.

He directed planning consultant Pat Cleary to craft a resolution contingent on the support of engineering and building departments.

The board did not say when a vote on final approval may be scheduled.

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Chappaqua Democrat Eyes Nomination for 17th Congressional Seat

continued from page 1

Wheeler would be the fourth Democrat to line up to contest the nomination. Assemblyman David Buchwald, state Sen. David Carlucci and Rockland attorney Mondaire Jones are already in the field.

Rodriguez-Wheeler said she had previously been contemplating a primary challenge against Lowey, primarily because of her early hesitancy as to whether to

support an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. Once Lowey announced on Oct. 10 that she would not seek re-election to the seat she's held since 1989, Rodriguez-Wheeler consulted her family and thought it was the right time to enter the fray.

She also said she was inspired after reading the book "Represent: The Woman's Guide to Running for Office and Changing

the World."

Rodriguez-Wheeler, who started out as a receptionist and now owns a small business with her husband, said the issues people cared about while she was on the Sanders campaign trail are still relevant a few years later — protecting the environment, education, healthcare and jobs.

She estimated that she would need to raise about \$3 million to run a competitive

race.

"I have been very methodical about rolling out because I think it's more important to build a base of support rather than going out there to make a huge, splashy announcement," Rodriguez-Wheeler said.

Born and raised in Manhattan, her mother immigrated from the Dominican Republic at 19 and her father came to New York from Puerto Rico. Rodriguez-Wheeler is familiar with Westchester and the areas that currently comprise the 17th Congressional District, having visited Playland as a child during summers and FDR State Park in Yorktown with school groups.

Last week, Westchester County Democratic Chairman Reginald LaFayette said that he is aware of Rodriguez-Wheeler's interest but knows little more about her. There are likely to be additional candidates who may announce their intentions to run for the seat as well, he said.

"There's still time for that, for people to lay out their options," LaFayette said.

Other Democrats who have filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) but have not formally announced their candidacies are Luz Awilda Morena-Casanova of Yonkers, Lola Osoria and David Katz.

On the Republican side, Josh Eisen of White Plains has also filed with the FEC.

The primary for congressional candidates in New York is next June. The presidential primary in New York is scheduled for Apr. 28, 2020.

County Celebrates With Re-opening of Renovated Miller House

continued from page 1

Washington came upon the property and set up his command post, said Cynthia Kauffman, co-founder and president of Daughters of Liberty's Legacy, one of the many residents who fought for the house's restoration and for it to remain on its original site.

Westchester County has owned the property since 1917, but in the 1990s the deteriorating house was eventually closed to the public. Nearly 10 years ago, the county came up with a plan to refurbish and move the house to Kensico Dam Plaza, where there could have been easier access but that plan never moved forward.

The house languished with a blue tarp on its roof for several years until the restoration was approved. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Town of North Castle landmark.

"We can travel to Boston or travel to Virginia and it's still our collective history,

but when it's actually in your backyard, you realize that it happened here and that if I had lived 250 years ago in the house I live in, there would be soldiers in my house," Kauffman said. "I think it brings history much more to life when it happened in the place where you live, in your own community."

The project also included the construction of a roughly 500-square-foot visitors center at the site.

The county approved \$1.3 million toward the work in 2010 and pitched in another \$700,000 last year. Most of the remainder of the expense came through a series of grants, including \$250,000 from Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains).

"Many years and many people were involved in this effort," Buchwald said. "It's so gratifying to be at a point where we can spread the joy of all that work culminating in a great moment of history in its own right."

"I have to say a huge thank you to my

constituents for their patience, their support, their voices, that's what helped us get to this point," said County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant), whose district includes the site.

Latimer said that the project finally happened because of people in the community who kept fighting for its restoration.

"This building is not just an historic building that we want to honor, this is not just a building that was collapsing and we made a commitment to reestablish it, this building tells you something about the man, George Washington, that he was here, and it's about the Elijah Miller family who owned this pre-Revolutionary house," he said. This house is about the American spirit."

Daughters of Liberty's Legacy will hold the first public program at the site on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. which will include the history of the house and of colonial times, Kauffman said.

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Harckham Announces \$250G State Grant for Millwood Park Upgrades

By Martin Wilbur

State Sen. Peter Harckham officially announced last week a \$250,000 state grant for the Town of New Castle that will help pay for the renovation of Millwood Park.

Joined on Oct. 22 by town officials at the site on Route 100, Harckham said he has been prioritizing parks and public spaces for the \$6 million in State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) grants his office has been distributing to communities throughout his district.

"Parks are what makes northern Westchester such a unique and wonderful place to live," he said. "They enhance the quality of life. This is where we have our sense of community where families get together with other families, special events, for athletic events, for town events, a host of things. And this is a very important facility to the hamlet of Millwood."

The town plans to resurface the baseball and softball diamond and the tennis courts, install lights for the field and courts, buy new playground equipment and make various site upgrades. Town Board members on hand for the announcement said the town would commit at least \$250,000 of its own money toward the project.

Councilwoman Lisa Katz said one of the reasons why families move to town and to Millwood is because of the recreational opportunities available.

"So to know that we can really utilize this family space, this field, to add lighting to improve the playground, is really a boon to



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

State Sen. Peter Harckham, surrounded by members of the New Castle Town Board and the town's Recreation & Parks Department, visits Millwood Park to announce a \$250,000 grant toward improvements to the facility.

our community, and we really appreciate this money so much, and I know all of our Town Board members and our Rec Commission and department really appreciate this money and will put it to good use to help to improve our Millwood hamlet and to make it a first-class facility," Katz said.

An important extra benefit to the Millwood

Park improvements is that it will bring more people to Millwood, which will also boost economic development in the hamlet, said Councilwoman Ivy Pool. Another Millwood project that is expected to be done next year is the extension of the hamlet's sidewalks, she said.

While the town is prepared to invest at



The baseball/softball field at Millwood Park, which is slated for an upgrade as part of a refurbishment of the facility.

least \$500,000 between the grant and its own money, it remains uncertain how much of the planned work may get done. The initial estimate this summer for the lights at the park was about \$400,000, although officials said they have been exploring less expensive options to complete that part of the project.

Katz said the town is committed to improving Millwood Park and will do as much as possible now and, if necessary, complete the project as soon as possible afterward.

Ike Kuzio, superintendent of the New Castle Recreation & Parks Department, said the improvements are needed because the field at Millwood Park is used seven days a week from April until November. Having lights at the facility would allow for more flexible scheduling since the fields see so much action, he said.

"This is big for us," Kuzio said. "This will be a huge help."

Kuzio is hopeful that work could begin at Millwood Park next year.

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Mt. Kisco Awards \$486G Bid for Filtration Plant, Pump House

By Joan Gaylord

The Mount Kisco Village Board last week voted to award a five-year contract for the operation of the Byram Lake Water Filtration Plant, Byram Lake Pump House and Leonard Park to SUEZ Water Environmental Services, Inc.

Presenting the recommendation at the Oct. 21 board meeting, Village Manager Edward Brancati, called it "the lowest responsible bid."

Of the three proposals the received by the village, the selection had been the recommendation of the town's consultants, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. It totals \$486,459 per year.

While cost was a factor in the selection, Brancati noted that SUEZ had not submitted the lowest bid. However, the company has been operating the plant and has proven itself to be effective at meeting all the town's needs, he said.

The differences of the costs reflected by the proposals was not great enough to justify a change, Brancati mentioned.

The village had issued a request for proposals, which allowed it to define the services needed. Brancati noted the company's experience, appropriate certifications, the knowledge and size of its staff as well as the positive relationship the Mount Kisco officials have already established with SUEZ as the reasons for the selection.

Village Bond Rating Update

The Village of Mount Kisco received an Aa2 rating from Moody's Investors Service, which called the town's credit position "very good" and "slightly higher" than the median of U.S. municipalities.

Announced by Village Manager Edward Brancati at the most recent meeting of

the Village Board, the report said the key factors for the rating include a "healthy financial position," a sizable tax base and mid-range debt and pension liabilities. Brancati noted that these strengths existed despite the constraints of a state-imposed 2 percent property tax cap as well as flat state aid.

"This doesn't happen overnight," Brancati said. "It is a team effort."

Among those who deserve credit, he said, is Village Treasurer Robert Wheeling.

"We do what we always do, we look for ways to save," Brancati added.

Bedford Schools Super Announces Medical Leave

Bedford Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Manno announced in an e-mail Sunday evening that he's taking a medical leave.

"Over the last few years, I have come to love BCSD – the faculty and staff, our community and families, and most of all the students," Manno stated to parents and other district community members in the e-mail. "Unfortunately, I need to take some time away from this special place for medical leave."

Manno did not provide further detail about his medical condition.

He has designated Dr. Joel Adelberg, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, as the acting superintendent of schools, as per Board of Education policy.

"BCSD is an outstanding school district with a capable and dedicated faculty and administration," Manno said. "I am confident the district will be in good hands during my absence."

On Monday afternoon, the Board of Education tried to reassure parents that the district is well-equipped to handle Manno's absence.

"We know this is an outstanding district with dedicated and capable faculty and administration," the board wrote in an e-mail to the school community. "We are confident Dr. Adelberg and the entire team will continue to provide exemplary support to our BCSD community, especially our students, until Dr. Manno returns."

Manno took the helm at Bedford in 2016 arriving from positions he held in districts in Burlington County, N.J. At the time he took over, Bedford had recently gone through difficult fiscal times. The year earlier, the district was forced to cut more than 50 positions to balance the budget.

News of Manno's leave comes at a tumultuous time for the district. District officials are wrestling with the possibility of closing multiple elementary schools amidst a decline in student population.



Bedford Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Manno abruptly announced last weekend that he will be out on medical leave.

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Obituary

Lillian Macdonald

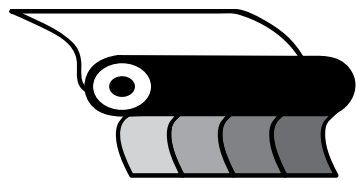
Lillian Eira Macdonald died Oct. 27 at her home in Yorktown Heights. She was 101.

Macdonald was born on Feb. 27, 1918, in Tarrytown to James and Eira Calli. She graduated from Pleasantville High School in 1935. She married Godfrey James Macdonald on July 11, 1942. He predeceased her in 1998.

Macdonald worked as an administrative assistant for the Bank of New York in Pleasantville and retired in 1980. Once retired, she spent more than 30 years in

Fort Pierce, Fla. enjoying golf, bowling and the activities of the community she lived in.

Macdonald is survived by daughters Sandra Baron (Kenneth) of Mamaroneck and Jean Macdonald of Vero Beach, Fla.; two sons, Alan (Roseann) of Croton-on-Hudson and Bruce (Marcy) of Wilton, Conn.; four grandsons, Keith Baron (Julie) of Denver and Cory, Ian and Noah Macdonald of Wilton, Conn.; and a great-granddaughter, Lilliana Baron.



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Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Oct. 18: An officer reported witnessing a property damage motor vehicle accident in the DeCicco's parking lot on Maple Avenue at 10:12 a.m. The officer reported that the information was gathered and a summons was issued to the operator of one of the vehicles. The second vehicle was parked and unoccupied. Information was left on the windshield of the parked vehicle.

Oct. 18: Report of an 11-month-old child locked in a vehicle on Thornewood Road at 2:25 p.m. The responding officers arrived with Armonk Garage. The matter was adjusted and the child checked okay.

Oct. 18: A party arrived at headquarters with fireworks at 8:21 p.m. The individual requested the fireworks be destroyed. A property receipt was filed and the items were secured in temporary evidence.

Oct. 18: An employee at Tauk Kitchen on Main Street reported at 11:46 p.m. that there's an intoxicated customer at the exterior of their establishment. The party is described as an older white male wearing a red sweater and blue jeans. The responding officers located the subject in the Armonk Square parking lot and provided him with a courtesy transport to his residence.

Oct. 19: A complainant reported at 7:38

p.m. that she is the dog sitter at a Round House Court house and her vehicle was broken into while parked in the driveway. She stated that her driver's side window was smashed and her handbag was taken. The responding officer took photographs and owner and witness depositions were secured.

Oct. 23: A caller reported at 4:12 p.m. being out with an elderly woman who was sleeping in her vehicle at the La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive and requested that an officer check on her welfare. The responding officer reported that the party checked okay.

Oct. 23: Report of a large rock in the roadway on Round Hill Road at 6:31 p.m. The responding officer cleared the roadway.

Pleasantville Police Department

Oct. 20: Report of a disturbance on Broadway at 4:52 p.m. A third party stated that they spotted a loud confrontation between a male and a female. The responding officer reported that the parties checked okay.

Oct. 21: A 33-year-old Pleasantville woman backed her car into a fire hydrant on Clinton Street at 12:02 p.m. The woman's car suffered a flat tire but the hydrant was not damaged.

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P'ville School Safety Plan Deemed Robust Following Lockout

By Abby Luby

An Oct. 8 threat by one student at EF Academy to another at the Thornwood boarding school forced officials at the Pleasantville, Mount Pleasant and Valhalla school districts to enact lockdowns as a precaution.

At the Oct. 22 Pleasantville Board of Education meeting, district officials detailed the review of Pleasantville's response.

"All three schools acted appropriately as per the maturity and age level of the students," said Pleasantville High School Assistant Principal Gregg Fonde, a member of the District-Wide School Safety Team. "Originally when the police department communicated with Superintendent Fox about a potential threat, the safety plan was put into effect and all three buildings were put into lockdown."

A lockdown is when activity inside the school continues as normal but no one is allowed to leave or enter the building.

"In the high school, students were free to go from one class to another or go to the

restrooms," Fonde explained.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter, whose office is located behind the high school, said there was heightened supervision in the hallways and at all major entrances.

"The police acted with an abundance of precautions," Fox-Alter said. "They didn't believe that there was a threat to our schools and campus but until they got more information, they felt [a lockdown] was a good precaution."

She said that a group of high school students who were out of the building for a school-related activity were told to report to a confidential location until the lockdown was lifted.

Pleasantville Middle School Principal Donald Marra made an announcement about the lockdown over the loudspeaker.

"I really wanted to let students know what was going on," Marra told trustees. "I reminded them what a lockdown was, that there wasn't a direct threat and nothing was happening within our school community, but law enforcement outside of our community told us a lockdown was best

for our safety. I told students they could move about inside the building but they couldn't go outside (for) recess or P.E."

Peggy Galotti, principal of Bedford Road School, the district's elementary school, said she alerted the staff but the children had no knowledge of what was going on.

"That was because they weren't leaving the building anyway. If it had been recess, all children would have been brought inside," she said.

Parents were notified through the school messenger service and were told that their children were unaware of the lockdown.

"I alerted them that it would be on the news and assured parents if they should have any trouble navigating how to speak with their child [about the lockdown] that our psychology team was ready the next day to do that," Galotti said.

She also called parents of students who had to leave early to tell them the lockdown was in effect.

"They needed to hear my voice tell them that we were all okay; however, they can't come and get their child at the usual time because we were in lockdown," Galotti

added. "That was not written in any plan but I felt it was my place to call. I went with my gut."

The nearly four-hour lockdown ended a little after 4 p.m.

Fonde said there was a staff meeting across the district to review the effectiveness of the actions taken. Galotti said she followed up with her building level safety team to discuss what else could have been done and if there were any questions. The issue was scheduled to be addressed at her school's next staff faculty meeting, she said.

In his debriefing with the middle school's safety team, Marra said the situation presented an opportunity for those responsible for building safety to explore ways to tighten procedures. Marra said parents thanked him via e-mail for initially alerting them about the lockdown.

"It gave us a different opportunity to communicate with parents," he said.

The recently revised district safety plan is available on the district's website but each building level safety plan is kept confidential for safety reasons.

Guiding Eyes CEO Gets New Running Guide Dog

President and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Thomas Panek, is celebrating this National Blindness Awareness Month (October) with a brand-new guide dog.

Blaze, a two-year-old yellow lab, is an official graduate of the organization's Running Guides program.

In his downtime as "top dog" at Guiding Eyes, Blaze can be found training alongside Panek with his four children at their high school track and field. Panek hopes to pass on his love of health and fitness to youth who are blind and sighted.

"Blaze has big paws to fill, but on his second birthday this month, he is looking every bit as capable as Gus (his former guide dog)," Panek said. "Maybe even a little faster running around the track."

Panek's last guide dog Gus, an eight-year-old yellow lab, retired at the finish-line of the 2019 New York Half-Marathon, the first guide dog ever to officially participate in a New York Road Runners Race.

"I am looking forward to continuing my journey inspiring health and wellness for the blind with my new guide dog Blaze," he said. "This year, I turn 50, and my lifetime goal is to run a sub-five-minute mile, 400 yards at a time, with each of my four children. I have my new guide dog to keep me moving, to blaze the trail and get us to that next finish line."

"Recently, the first man to finish a sub-two-hour marathon, Eliud Kipcho, proved that no human is limited. My mantra is that no blind human is



President and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind Thomas Panek "Blazes" the trail with a new running guide dog.

limited. Running with a dog is as close as we can get to a fountain of youth," Panek continued.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind has graduated more than 8,000 guide dog teams since its founding in 1954. All services provided to the recipients, who are blind or visually impaired, are provided for free. Specialized training and a lifetime of veterinary support for the guide dog teams is second to none.

The organization relies entirely on donations and a community of over 1,400 volunteers located throughout the United States.

For more information, visit <https://www.guidingeyes.org>.

Vision Impaired Residents Try New Universal Voting Machines

Early voting began in New York for the first time on Saturday. Despite the many improvements in access, people with disabilities often face difficulty reaching the polls.

The Westchester Council of the Blind New York (WCBNY) is encouraging the visually impaired to make sure they get out and vote.

As part of its REV UP (Register, Educate, Vote Use your Power) campaign, the organization hosted dozens of local residents at the Greenburgh Public Library to demonstrate the new generation of universal voting machines, which allow people with disabilities to vote on the same machines as all other voters, leveling the playing field.

Under the current system, visually impaired voters or those with other types of disabilities are forced to vote on different machines, often without adequate support.

The result is that voters with disabilities can be denied equal access to the polls and in some cases are disenfranchised.

"Not that long ago, the only choices were the absentee ballot or asking someone to help us fill out the ballot," said Maria Samuels, WCBNY president. "Thanks to universal voting technology, people with blindness, reading disability or limited mobility can make their votes matter at the polls like everyone else, privately and independently."

At the Oct. 15 REV demonstration, voters were able to test the experience of using the ExpressVote XL, a new voting technology that provides audio voting, enhanced lighting, larger font on the touchscreen ballot and braille. It also provides seating, a movable screen and even a device that lets a voter make choices by blowing into a tube, for those who have limited or no mobility.



Voters test out new universal voting technology, which allows the visually impaired and other voters with disabilities to use the same machines as all other voters. The demonstration was held at the Greenburgh Public Library on Oct. 15.

"Universal voting machines are critical to ensure that every voter has equal and fair access to the polls in order to exercise this fundamental right in our democratic process," said Judd Ryan, vice president of Election Software and Systems (ES&S). "We have the technology to allow everyone to vote on the same platform. Other states are using it successfully and now it is time for New York to adopt the most modern voting technology so that no one is discouraged or prohibited from voting."

The machines produce a paper ballot for voters to review and approve their choices to ensure security.

In addition to features that help voters with disabilities, the universal voting technology can display the ballot in whatever language a voter chooses, or the jurisdiction is required to offer. This eliminates the need for lengthy ballots with multiple languages in small fonts, which can be difficult to read.

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Editorial

Gashi the Choice to Represent District 4 on Board of Legislators

From the day Michael Kaplowitz announced he would be leaving the Board of Legislators last winter, it seemed that District 4 would be at a bit of a disadvantage, at least to start.

The 22-year lawmaker had built up such a strong reputation on both sides of the aisle – a rarity at any level of politics these days – that any successor was going to have his or her hands full from the time they took the oath of office.

That task now falls to Democrat Vedat Gashi or Republican Michael Grace, both of Yorktown, their party's nominees to pick up the mantle for constituents in New Castle and portions of Somers and Yorktown.

Gashi ran for public office for the first time last year, losing a race for the 94th Assembly District to Assemblyman Kevin Byrne. Meanwhile, Grace is two years removed from his six-year tenure as Yorktown supervisor. Earlier in his career, he served as Yorktown Town Attorney.

Despite Grace's obvious edge in public office experience, it is our hope that Gashi can win his first contest and be a quick learner, using the level-headed approach

that was one of Kaplowitz's hallmarks in this politically diverse district.

Gashi, who came to the United States with his family from what is now Kosovo, embodies the American Dream. With little to their name at the time of his family's arrival, Gashi graduated college and law school. He was an intern for eventual Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and was a legal adviser to his native country's prime minister.

Therefore, Gashi has all the tools needed to get up to speed quickly on the issues. He recognizes that the county was left in fiscal distress with depleted reserves and a downgrade in the bond rating, which necessitated the sales tax increase that went into effect Aug. 1.

Gashi seems ready to do his part to help the county find a solution to the aircraft noise and to tackle the growing sewer dilemmas in each town in the district.

However, this race is as much about some of Grace's outlandish positions on issues as it is about Gashi. No one was rejoicing at the sales tax hike, but Grace seems to be in

denial about the deteriorated fiscal picture the county has been facing, making the state comptroller's fiscal stress list for the past two years. Grace's belief that a fund balance that fell by about 50 percent in a decade is more than enough and that taxes can never be raised is folly.

While Gashi may not have had many answers at his fingertips about the airport noise issue, which, by the way, has also been affecting Yorktown residents, Grace seemed to be unconcerned about its impact.

Finally, his opposition to the county's Immigrant Protection Act doesn't make sense. During a pair of interviews, he repeatedly linked a pair of rapes where undocumented immigrants were accused to the IPA. The legislation, signed into law in early 2018, does not cause suspects of violent crimes to be sprung from jail. Instead, it prevents county resources, including law enforcement, from being expended to assist federal authorities.

Whatever early learning curve Gashi may face is more than offset by Grace's outdated and ineffectual strategies to address complex problems.

Covill Obvious Pick to Earn Second Term to BOL's District 2

In 2017, Kitley Covill swept into office along with County Executive George Latimer, helping the Democrats gain a supermajority on the Board of Legislators.

For District 2 voters, which includes Mount Kisco, Bedford and several other northeastern Westchester towns, there really is a clear-cut choice in this year's election – Covill should be emphatically returned to office against her Republican opponent Gina Arena.

A lawyer from Katonah, Covill has been a reliable and consistent voice of reason in her nearly two years in White Plains. She preaches responsibility with the taxpayers' money, has been a fighter for the county's parks, particularly Merestead and Muscote Farm in Somers, and water quality improvements. (Covill is hopeful that a state Supreme Court justice will soon allow the county to ease some of the limitations placed on the site when the land is bequeathed to the county.)

Those aren't the most titillating issues on a day-in, day-out basis, but fiscal prudence, recreational opportunities and preservation and water quality should never be compromised in

Westchester or anywhere else.

Covill has also been a champion of common-sense environmental regulations, in addition to water quality improvement, with her support of the county's ban on Styrofoam that is scheduled to go into effect at the end of the year.

She also has shown to have her ear to the ground. Although she was the primary author of the county's Earned Sick Leave Law, she ultimately voted against the measure because she had heard from too many of her district's small business owners that it would place a hardship on their operations.

It also hasn't been beneath Covill to perform some daily grunt work. When she heard that a traffic sign on Route 117 in Bedford was missing and causing a potential hazard, she picked up the phone to alert the state DOT. The sign was replaced shortly afterward.

If re-elected, Covill wants to focus more on addressing the opioid crisis with the county's Department of Community Mental Health and Westchester police.

Arena, a Somers resident, deserves kudos

for providing competition in an ever-increasing inhospitable environment for Westchester Republicans. The mother of eight children who works in the county's medical examiner's office, Arena has been an advocate for people with autism and those suffering from opioid abuse, situations she found herself in with two of her children.

Unfortunately, it appears that Arena did not have time to do much brushing up on county issues in preparation for her run. While she identified the high cost of living and decried the sales tax increase this summer as impediments to families, she also criticized the lack of mental health services available.

She also didn't have much knowledge on the issues surrounding Westchester County Airport, which is a major issue, not just around the airport.

In the end, Covill is head and shoulders above the competition and her constituents should look forward to what she can achieve in a second term.

Letter to the Editor

Approving Mt. Kisco Firehouse Bond is Essential for the Village

On Nov. 5, the citizens of Mount Kisco will be asked to vote on a bond that will add \$4 million to the already approved \$10.25 million in order to provide the necessary funds to upgrade the needs of the existing firehouses.

According to the estimates, the average householder will pay an additional \$10 a month to support this new bond. All of this will make the existing firehouses better able to support the equipment and activities necessary to provide the men and women who serve the community.

For those who have always taken for granted fire protection, many may not realize

how fortunate we are to have people who are willing to spend their time training, answering the call to a fire and then actually raising the funds necessary to provide their own equipment – including the fire trucks that arrive at the location of a fire. Mount Kisco owns the buildings, but the equipment is the property of the members of each of the firehouses. The equipment currently in place is substantially larger than that which existed when the houses were built. And the trucks alone can cost more than \$500,000.

So when the opportunity presents itself to approve the additional bond request, think of

what it might add to the tax assessment to pay salary and benefits for a staff of firefighters (24 hours a day), provide living accommodations for them and the need to still modify the existing buildings.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the current volunteers and those who have gone before them. We could not even buy fire insurance without them, and our personal safety would be in question. Thank them by approving the additional bond. It's a bargain.

Patricia Rosafort
Mount Kisco

Editorial

Pool, Levin, Saland the Choices in Deep and Talented New Castle Field

New Castle residents are in an enviable position this year. They choose between two strong slates of candidates, each filled with highly capable people qualified to shepherd the town at a crucial juncture in its history.

That is not always a given in local elections. Residents should feel fortunate that regardless of which combination of candidates emerge victorious next Tuesday night the town will be in good hands.

The Democrats are led by supervisor candidate and current Councilwoman Ivy Pool, who is running with incumbent Councilman Jeremy Saland and Millwood Fire Commissioner Jason Lichtenthal. Jim Smith heads the Republican ticket, joined by challengers Lauren Levin, a Downtown Streetscape Committee member and former Chappaqua-Millwood Chamber of Commerce vice president, and attorney Sean Maraynes, whose family roots stretch back more than 50 years in Chappaqua.

All of the candidates, in one way or another, have identified the most critical issues that must be addressed during the

next few years – invigorating downtown Chappaqua; having downtown co-exist with Chappaqua Crossing; addressing Millwood’s needs, including sewers; and alleviating noise for residents whose lives have been upended by the air traffic to Westchester County Airport.

Certainly, there are other challenges. On some of these issues there isn’t widely divergent views; it’s more about nuanced differences in approach.

What it comes down to is trying to discern which candidates have the most achievable results for New Castle combined with their life experiences to determine who should fill the supervisor’s office and two Town Board seats.

Using those standards, Pool, Levin and Saland receive the narrowest of nods in this year’s election.

Since winning a council seat two years ago, Pool has been an impressive contributor to the Town Board, having been able to dive into issues large and small with a very short learning curve. Perhaps that has something to do with her public

administration background and having worked in the administrations of former New York City Mayor and Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Over the next two years, she will need to bring that expertise to an even higher level.

Pool has promoted her ticket’s support in what they call the Chappaqua Hamlet Reinvestment Act, a series of four initiatives designed to help the downtown. That includes the façade grant program that will require money to be used from the \$1.5 million from Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield instead of the Chap Line, the pedestrian and bike path to connect downtown with Roaring Brook Road.

It’s a fair question to ask whether that program is just window dressing for a much larger challenge. But there could be money left over to apply toward the Chap Line. Moreover, at this snapshot in time, there’s not a clear-cut answer about how much the Chap Line would cost or whether the town can clear hurdles negotiating with Metro-North or the residents whose properties

would need to be encroached upon.

Not to be overlooked, Pool has displayed adept skills to steer clear of the pitfalls that creep up on a politically split board. While the current board has generally worked well together, it has had its moments of controversy and personal conflicts.

Smith has had an impressive career in his own right and is no doubt qualified for the job. He has a wealth of experience on issues from energy and security to having been the chairman of a small-town planning board in Sullivan County. His enthusiasm to attend most of the Town Board meetings as well various committees is worthy of admiration.

Smith’s considerable research into the airport noise issue is eye-opening and he could be a formidable voice alongside the town’s recently retained expert.

There really isn’t all that much to separate Pool and Smith, with the notable exceptions of how to use the \$1.5 million from Summit/Greenfield. The tie-breaker goes to Pool for having already served on the board.

Continued on page 12

Hagadus-McHale, Schulman Experienced Voices for Mt. Pleasant

A year ago, Francesca Hagadus-McHale pulled off an eye-opening victory. She became the first Democrat to win a Town Board seat in Mount Pleasant since the late 1980s.

For her efforts, Hagadus-McHale gets to do it again, running for a full-term in the upcoming local election.

The task for her and running mate Laura DiVenere will be formidable this time. Not only is it an odd-numbered year, where turnout typically dips, but they are up against a pair of solid Republican candidates, longtime residents Danielle Zaino and Jerry Schulman, each running for office for the first time.

At any level of government, there needs to be checks and balances, including in Mount Pleasant. In recent years, whether it’s because of one-party rule or the comfort of being able to do things the same way for so long, there have been persistent complaints of lack of

transparency.

That’s not just from political opponents, but from some residents who neighbor several projects around town and learn the details of an application far along in the process. Perhaps it would help if the town posted the work session agendas online, in the same place as Town Board meeting agendas. Often, that is where the items are initially discussed.

Therefore, since Hagadus-McHale has had just less than a year under her belt and has comported herself well in that time, it is recommended that she get a chance at a full term and be accompanied on the board by Schulman.

Hagadus-McHale last year and again this time around has made transparency a central theme of her campaigns. She has also undertaken a good-faith attempt – cynics might call it politically motivated – at including

the villages of Pleasantville and Sleepy Hollow to feel more a part of the town. Bringing in local students to honor their accomplishments at board meetings has been a nice touch.

It has been troubling that there has been no discussion, or at least not a quick public update, on the town’s Comprehensive Plan update process. Hagadus-McHale is a supporter of mixed-use development where feasible and the North 60 project.

Schulman, who many people in town know from his years as an educator and administrator in the Mount Pleasant School District, promises to be a welcome, experienced and reasoned voice on the board. He supports improved sidewalks and lighting and mixed-used development in the hamlet centers provided there is adequate parking.

Despite the town doing well fiscally, Schulman also called for zero-based budgeting

to justify every expense, a practice he is accustomed to from the schools.

His overall experience in working with varied constituencies in the district gives Schulman the nod over his running mate. Zaino, who was a student of Schulman’s at Westlake High School, is every bit as promising as a potential board member as he is. However, given the dynamics of this town government, it is essential a sometimes-competing voice is on the board.

DiVenere should be commended for her participation to round out the Democrats’ ticket. However, she did not appear to be particularly comfortable or have a basic working knowledge of some of the issues.

She did identify that the town needs to address its senior housing shortage, a topic that must be included whenever Comprehensive Plan discussions resume.

Letters to the Editor

Smith’s Principles Makes Her the Right Choice for Mount Pleasant Justice

It is election season, that time of year when voters decide which candidates share our values and beliefs.

Elizabeth Smith, candidate for Mount Pleasant Town Justice, stands firmly with, and has the backing of, organized labor. Liz is the vice president and trustee of her union. She is endorsed by a number of organizations including the New York State Building and Construction Trades Council of Westchester and Putnam and the New York State Supreme Court Officers Association. Her unqualified support of labor is clear.

Elizabeth’s printed material, her palm card, her lawn signs and even her name

badge prominently display the union “bug,” demonstrating her use of a union printer. The union bug, however, is notably absent from her opponent’s literature. No support for labor there.

At a time when the labor movement is under attack, we must stand in solidarity with those that will uphold their commitments. Not only is Elizabeth highly qualified and a dedicated servant in her community, she stands by her principles and stands up for union workers. The choice is clear.

Bruce Campbell
Mount Pleasant

Pleasantville Officials Must Re-Think Civic Space Plans After Survey Results

I write in response to the article in the Oct. 22-28 Examiner about the results of the informal survey conducted by former Pleasantville village trustee Jonathan Cunningham regarding the proposed downtown renovation project (“Survey Results Mixed on Memorial Plaza Civic Space Project”).

Many thanks are due to Mr. Cunningham for conducting the survey, which was a public service. A key takeaway is that 52.5 percent of respondents oppose the project, with 38.7 percent being supportive. Those opposed were overwhelmingly concerned about cost and loss of parking (over 70 percent in each category.)

With these numbers in mind, I was surprised to see comments from a resident stating that she saw the results as positive for the project. And, I was surprised to see Mayor Peter Scherer stating only that he wasn’t surprised by the results and “it’s all useful data.”

The results are hardly a ringing endorsement of the downtown renovation project and call out for a thorough and far-reaching review, if not scaling back of the plans.

J. Scott Dyer
Pleasantville

Law Mandating Rear-Facing Car Seats for Young Children Starts Nov. 1

A new regulation to increase the safety of young passengers by mandating rear-facing car seats in most instances for children under two years old will go into effect this Friday, Nov. 1.

The law is designed to protect the child's head, neck and spine from injuries that are more likely to occur when in front-facing seats. Similar laws are in place in California, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining), the sponsor of the bill in the Assembly, noted that while most bills take about seven years to pass both houses and get signed into law by the governor, this legislation was passed in a record time of one year. State Sen. Joe Roback (D-Greece) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

"The support Sen. Roback and I received from AAA was critically helpful in getting this legislation passed," Galef said. "I hope to continue working together on legislation in the ongoing effort to keep our roads safe, especially for our youngest and most vulnerable passengers, whose safety in motor vehicles will be greatly increased as this legislation goes into effect."

When in a car crash, the best situation for a young child is for them to be in a seat that protects their head from moving independent of their neck. Having children less than two years old sit in rear-facing seats gives them optimal protection should there be a crash.

As of 2017, the leading cause for child deaths are motor vehicle traffic crashes. One-year-olds are five times more likely to suffer injury if they are in a forward-facing seat than in a rear-facing seat. However, with the proper restraints, fatal injuries decreased by 71 percent for children under a year old and by 54 percent for children between the ages of one and four. Additionally, infants and toddlers in light trucks have seen a decrease of 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.

In recognition of the significance of this legislation, AAA awarded Galef and Roback with the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award. They were presented with the award last November during the 54th annual Northeast Community Traffic Safety Awards.

Pool, Levin, Saland the Choices in Deep and Talented New Castle Field

continued from page 11

With Supervisor Robert Greenstein and Councilwoman Hala Makowska leaving the board, the more continuity the better with key issues in the balance.

If Smith were to fall short, he should be encouraged to stay involved in town affairs either on the political level or as a volunteer.

Since the candidates all pointed to the need to address downtown Chappaqua as one of the top priorities, the town would benefit from Levin's presence on the board. Having served on the chamber and the streetscape committee, she is well-versed in the challenges faced. Her idea to have a formal committee to work with downtown merchants should be pursued regardless of next week's results.

Saland has served admirably and passionately over the past four years. He has taken stands on a variety of issues that have raised eyebrows. He has skewered the utilities, introducing legislation for their unsightly double poles near the roadside. Saland voted against authorizing the bid for the downtown infrastructure and streetscape project because of what he described as lack of transparency. He also called on other board members to reject

former state senator Terrence Murphy's grant because of his opposition to the SAFE Act.

Whether you agree or disagree with those positions, his enthusiasm for the job and forceful personality would keep his colleagues on their toes the next four years.

It's too bad that there isn't a third open seat on the council. Lichtenthal is a deserving candidate who is attempting the same path as Makowska – via the Millwood Board of Commissioners. The town would benefit from a Millwood/West End voice, similar to four years ago. But with improvements already in the works and the other candidates being responsive to Millwood's needs, there is a little less urgency in that regard.

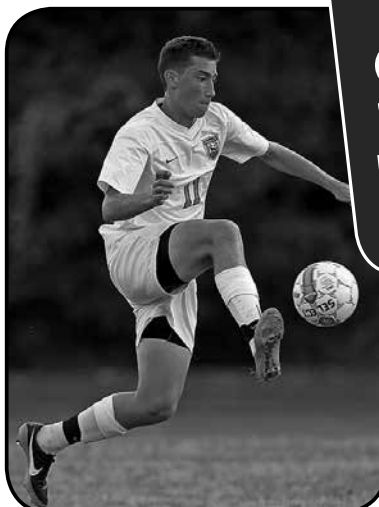
Maraynes' candor and forthrightness should be admired. He directly addressed his opposition to having downtown apartments and wanting the town to take a break from construction. While officials shouldn't rush into decisions, a more active approach is warranted at this time.

A wrinkle in this race is if Pool wins, the four board members in January would have to appoint an interim to fill the seat that she would be vacating until the next election.

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By Martin Wilbur



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A Local Halloween Trick-or-Treating Guide for Families

By Erin Maher

Ghosts, goblins and ghouls – oh my! Little witches and warlocks throughout the county are preparing to hit the streets for candy this Thursday for Halloween.

Whether you're new to your neighborhood or just want a new trick-or-treating experience, here is a list of suggested locations.

The Examiner crowdsourced areas and suggestions via social media, local police departments and town halls, used word of mouth and google maps and canvassed a few neighborhoods to compile the list.

When determining what would constitute a good trick-or-treating area, safety, walkability, decorations, local popularity and, of course, candy were considered.

Have a happy and safe Halloween!*

Armonk: Windmill Farms

Located off Route 22, Windmill Farms Road and the surrounding area boasts plenty of homes to visit. The neighborhood is not inundated with traffic and has wide roads for children to walk along. Stay along the roads that serve as a perimeter to Windmill Lake, including Maple Way and Upland Lane.

"I grew up in Windmill Farms and we always had a great Halloween," said former Armonk resident Jill Berman.

Bedford: The Farms Road

The Farms Road, off of Old Post Road near Bedford Ace Hardware, was overwhelmingly named the hot spot of the Bedford area. There are plenty of kids roaming the long, winding street, and the Bedford Fire Department brings its truck to the corner of The Farms



ERIN MAHER PHOTO

One of the houses decorated for Halloween on Pleasantville's Edgewood Avenue. The neighborhood is one of the best places in the area to go trick-or-treating.

Road and West Circle to light up the night for all the trick-or-treaters.

"The fire department lights up the street, and it's a very popular spot," said Sgt. Patricia McGraw of the Bedford Police Department.

Briarcliff: The Tree Streets

The neighborhood located off of Pleasantville Road between Route 9A and the Taconic Parkway, known as "the tree streets," is a popular Halloween haunt. The streets between Ash and Larch roads have sidewalks and houses within a few steps of each other.

Trick-or-treaters tend to start on Ingham Road, by Todd Elementary School. After

finishing Ingham, they cross over Pleasantville Road and continue to the streets between Ash and Larch.

Should you have accumulated too much candy, Briarcliff Center for Esthetic Dentistry is a candy drop-off location. Briarcliff native Dr. Michael Teitelbaum and his staff, located at 1312 Pleasantville Rd., will buy back candy from children for a dollar a pound, and then send the candy to American troops overseas.

This is the 17th year of Teitelbaum's effort, and according to his front office staff, the reception area overflows with sweets.

Families can drop off the candy up to three

weeks after Halloween. For more information, visit www.dentistspa.com.

Chappaqua: Downtown Chappaqua Merchants

Besides the hustle and bustle of regular business, downtown Chappaqua merchants host their own trick-or-treating event. From 1 to 5 p.m., trick-or-treaters can stop at the various shops located on North and South Greeley avenues, which is easily accessible via the Saw Mill. Merchants such as Villarina's Deli, Desires at Mikolay and Pizza Station all take part in the event.

Whispering Pines of Chappaqua, a flower shop, boasts an especially spooky storefront. Little ones are welcomed by pumpkins, witches and ghosts as they enter the store to get candy.

"The turnout is pretty spectacular," said Tina Brockhausen, an employee. "(It's) kids all day long."

Hawthorne: Marietta Avenue and Area

Off of West Stevens Avenue, the streets located between Marietta Avenue and Warren Avenue provide the perfect place to trick-or-treat. Four streets sit between, including Willis, Manhattan and Sherman avenues, with plenty of houses in the neighborhood.

"The area is flat," said Town of Mount Pleasant employee Jacqueline Abate. "Perfect for little ones walking."

Mount Kisco: Chase Homes

Chase Homes, which runs the entirety of Carlton Drive, is a long, winding street located off of Stratford Drive that can be

continued on page 16

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Putnam County

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Mahopac Public Library

668 Route 6, Mahopac
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 11 am
Thursday, November 14, 2019 5:30 pm
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11 am

Town of Patterson Recreation Center

65 Front Street, Patterson
Thursday, November 14, 2019 11 am
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10 am
Monday, December 2, 2019 2 pm

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For accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call 1-833-368-4619.

Westchester County

**Jefferson Valley Mall Community Room
(Next to Mall Management Office)**

650 Lee Boulevard, Yorktown Heights
Friday, November 1, 2019 5 pm
Friday, November 8, 2019 4 pm

White Plains Galleria Mall (Community Room)

100 Main Street, White Plains
Monday, November 4, 2019 5 pm
Friday, November 15, 2019 10 am
Friday, December 6, 2019 3 pm



The annual election period for MVP Health Care Medicare Advantage health plans is Oct. 15–Dec. 7, 2019. MVP Health Plan, Inc. is an HMO-POS/PPO/MSA organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MVP Health Plan depends on contract renewal.

Dental Tips for Children to Have a Healthier Halloween

With Halloween approaching this week, there are always a lot of questions from parents about candy for their children.

Candy during Halloween is unavoidable for most families, but there are certain recommendations that can minimize the effects that these sweet treats can have on your child's teeth.

When choosing candies that your children eat, try to remember they are not all equal in their potency for causing cavities. Hard and sticky candies tend to last longer in the mouth and are associated with a higher risk for causing tooth decay. A piece of chocolate is probably the least risky of all candies next to sugar-free varieties.

A lollipop or a chewy, sticky piece of taffy poses the highest risk. In addition, sticky candies or gummies tend to

cause havoc with orthodontic appliances such as braces or palatal expanders that many children have in their mouths. These candies tend to get stuck in the appliances and sometimes loosen them from the teeth.

Candy at this time of the year may not be completely avoidable, but parents can limit and control how much candy their children eat. The American Dietetic Association recommends having a plan in place for your family. Sort through your children's stash of candy and pick out their favorites; donating the remaining candy to organizations that make care packages for overseas military troops such as Operation Gratitude.

The proper timing of candy consumption is also effective at limiting its negative effects by allowing your child to have a

piece of candy after dinner when his or her salivary flow is still active. Saliva helps buffer the pH inside the mouth which protects teeth from the sugar.

Frequency is also a factor. A child who snacks throughout the day on carbohydrates of any type are more prone to the negative effects of sugar on their teeth than a child who has a limited snack window.

Substituting candies typically given out during Halloween with xylitol-sweetened candies, which come in many forms, is another great method for protecting children's teeth from too much sugar. Xylitol is a naturally



By Dr. Benjamin Dancygier

occurring sugar that does not have the effects that most sugars have on teeth and will, therefore, not cause cavities.

Lastly, make sure your child is properly brushing his or her teeth at least twice daily with supervision. Also, have them use a fluoridated toothpaste and drink lots of water.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!

Dr. Benjamin Dancygier is the founder and CEO of Valley Pediatric Dentistry with offices in Jefferson Valley and Hopewell Junction.

A Local Halloween Trick-or-Treating Guide for Families

continued from page 14
accessed via Route 172.

The road has only two entrances, which limits through traffic, and has plenty of doorbells for the kids to ring.

Pleasantville: Edgewood Avenue

According to Pleasantville resident Kerry Win, Edgewood Avenue is known as "the haunted house street." Residents go all out with decorations, and because so many children flock to the area, people throughout

the village donate candy ahead of time to residents there.

Stay in the triangle of Washington Avenue, Edgewood Avenue and Great Oak Lane, which has sidewalks.

Thornwood: Andrea Lane

The area behind Rose Hill Shopping Center is an ideal place to take trick-or-treaters. While Nannyhagan Road is a busy street, there are plenty of nearby streets that provide safe, well-lit areas for children. Take Swanson Drive and continue to

Orchard, Highland and Andrea Lane. These streets are lined with plenty of houses close together, making it more manageable for children. Make sure to be careful if crossing Westlake Drive, a busy two-way street.

Valhalla: Valhalla Park

Located off Legion Drive, this neighborhood is between Entrance Way and Wilson Avenue. Bordered by one main road, the traffic going in and out of the neighborhood is light, which makes it safe for families to walk through. There are

plenty of houses in the area, so bags can fill up fast.

Dalyssa Hernandez, who grew up in Valhalla Park, recalled how much candy she used to collect.

"I remember having to stop at home in the middle of the evening to grab a second bag to fill," she said.

*Note: The Examiner is not responsible for any sugar highs or cavities your little ones may incur.



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Smith, Levin & Maraynes on the issues, for New Castle

Early voting has already begun and Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th. I am running for New Castle Town Supervisor and am asking for your vote. I am also asking for you to vote for my friends and neighbors Lauren Levin and Sean Maraynes for Town Council. We are your Team New Castle.

Over the campaign you have welcomed us into your homes and stopped us on the street. I wish every resident had the opportunity to see what we saw through this process. We saw a Town of amazing people with common interests and concerns; and so much unlocked potential as a community. We believe our Town is one of the best places to raise a family and to welcome your friends and family. We want to make it even better.

We would bring no pretense or ego to Town Hall. We do not have all the answers and welcome other views. We also are not

offering you a laundry list of plans and promises we cannot keep.

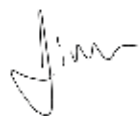
What we bring is a genuine concern and interest in continually improving our small town and serving your interests; and we believe we have the experience, expertise and leadership skills to deliver.

Putting aside politics, I think a balanced board is important; if elected, I would serve alongside Ivy who will remain on the board.

Lauren, Sean and I wanted to answer the most frequent questions we have heard while knocking on doors. These often went unaddressed in the public and online forums.

Our thoughts are below, but as always, we are accessible and welcome a conversation or an email: teamnewcastle@tnc2019.org

Sincerely,




Lauren Levin for Town Council; Jim Smith for Town Supervisor; Sean Maraynes for Town Council

How can you mitigate airplane noise? TNC Answers: Many towns face increasing airplane noise and it impacts quality of life and property value. We would aggressively attack this problem and believe it can be mitigated.

First, adequate data and analysis are needed to turn anecdotal concerns into an analytic work product. This should include actionable recommendations that can work for the county and FAA. Lauren recently partnered with the NC Airport Advisory Committee to find aviation counsel to assist. Second, you need political support starting at the local level, and especially including the federal representatives. Third, we must further engage the community around this issue, including increasing the number of households reporting noise and environmental concerns. Jim has helped source a 1-step system to log complaints that has resulted in more than 20,000 new complaints. Fourth, a dialog with the FAA should include all the above. The appointment of a new regional ombudsman is imminent and ultimately work with the FAA at the federal level will be required. Jim has worked for and opposite federal regulators and would bring that experience to this issue.

On our Chappaqua and Millwood Hamlets

What's happening in downtown Chappaqua? What about new Zoning?

TNC Answers: The construction is ending. Next is the formulation of a new formed-based zoning code. We are disappointed that this has not been more of an issue in the campaign and that draft zoning will be tabled until right after the election. This will be the biggest decision the new board will make and may fundamentally change the hamlet. Questions like building height and developing the train parking lots have been discussed. If elected we would take extraordinary steps to determine the will of the people for this significant change, including referendum votes where needed.

How can you revitalize the Chappaqua & Millwood Hamlets? TNC Answers: The success of both the Chappaqua and Millwood Hamlets as well as the commercial center Chappaqua Crossing is important because it increases the commercial tax base, offers lifestyle to residents, and helps increase property values town-wide. We strongly believe that all three commercial areas can be successful.

We believe a business not bureaucrat lens is needed; that means a focus on foot traffic and activity instead of fees, fines and taxes. We would create a Downtown Alliance to troubleshoot, coordinate events, and create a marketing plan to identify, attract and recruit new businesses. Leading towns take these steps and we can too. Lauren's experience is well suited to lead on this issue.

We also believe it is time to pivot to Millwood. In the short term we should promote Millwood as the recreational hub of our Town including the bike trail, parks and open spaces. We should feature these assets and also partner with proximate community resources such as Teatown Reservation. For the future getting a sewer solution over the goal line is essential for Millwood and surrounding communities.

Finally, while we believe the permitting process is robust in our town to protect our neighborhoods and the small town feel, it must be implemented in a more transparent and efficient way for both businesses and residents.

We created an Independent Party Team New Castle. We were endorsed by Serve America Movement (SAM)

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On Roads, Infrastructure & Safety

Can you pave our road?

TNC Answers: Roads must be paved more than once in a generation. Road paving has gotten better in recent years, but the program is still reactive and not proactive. It is important for many reasons: safety, impact on property values, and the budget impact. Roads paved on a more frequent schedule are significantly cheaper to restore.

The Town should go further and consider a bond for this purpose since interest rates are low and it would ultimately reduce annual costs.

More than more asphalt, we will examine staff count and other considerations for this plan to work.

Beyond potholes, how can we make our roads and Town safer?

TNC Answers: Residents deserve safe roads. In 2017, then candidate Ivy Pool promised a town-wide review of speed limits. We will see this through and address speed limits, dangerous left turns and inefficient traffic patterns. Speed limits matter for obvious reasons, but also to help reroute GPS navigated cars out of neighborhoods. Resident concerns about blind spots and other dangers require rapid attention. And we must look for better solutions to make the Roaring Brook Road-Metro North-Saw Mill Parkway intersection more efficient and safer.

Working with our Police Department, school districts, fire and rescue, and other stakeholders to assess and address safety concerns beyond our roads is a fundamental responsibility of the Town Board. As is preparing for emergencies, including storm preparedness. Unlike 2017 candidate Ivy Pool, we would deliver on updating the preparedness plan and importantly, ensure drills are conducted. We would also further enhance the relationship with ConEd like other communities have.

On Taxes, Property Values & Quality of Life

Can you lower the taxes?

TNC Answers: We would try. Staying under the 2% cap for annual property tax increases is not good enough, especially when inflation is as low as it is today. We must re-evaluate how we budget. For example, with increased revenues coming into the 2020 budget the question should not have been 'how do we spend it?' We should consider putting it towards taxpayer relief. The attitude of elected officials should be to spend time trying to reduce property taxes to make the Town more livable for residents and more attractive for new residents. Opportunities to reduce taxes include pushing back on state mandates in coordination with other towns and school districts.

We would consider property value impact with each decision.

Here's why you should Re-Elect Mt. Pleasant Judge Bob Ponzini

To put it simply: Bob Ponzini is tough and fair, hardworking and independent.

Independent organizations like the well respected Fund for Modern Courts called him "firm yet compassionate."

Among other things, they praised his work with juvenile offenders, commending Judge Ponzini's use of community service, while warning them "one violation would mean jail."

Prosecutorial Experience

As an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx, Bob prosecuted felony cases, handled appeals, and co-founded the Arson Task Force. He's no softie.

But he's smart. And an innovator.

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

Keep Bob Working For Us

Bob Ponzini is running for re-election as Mount Pleasant's Town Justice, and voters of all political parties – along with many notable labor and law enforcement associations – are 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.

Some of the labor & law enforcement groups endorsing Judge Bob Ponzini:



Building & Construction Trades Council



Westchester & Putnam



Serve America Movement



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The Necessary but Overlooked Importance of Doorknobs

As a realtor who has shown many homes in my 17 years in the business, I've opened a lot of doors and clutched a lot of doorknobs.

Except for those dastardly swinging doors which I never liked and think are one of the world's most dangerous inventions, every door needs something to grab on to in order to be opened and closed. It's that round or oval device that you rarely think about, even though you wrap your hand around it 100 times or more a day.

But especially after I read recently that there are about two million germs per square inch attached to the average doorknob and the experience of showing a buyer client too many houses during flu season, I became aware of every doorknob I touched and really started to scrub my hands down many times during the day.

Readers of this column know that I'm a movie buff and much of what I learned about home life started from make-believe home life in old movies. One of these was a Judy Garland film called "Presenting Lily Mars," which was an adaptation of a Booth Tarkington novel by the same name. It was a silly enough storyline with a subplot that really galled me involving Garland's younger brother who had a strange hobby of collecting doorknobs that he would steal from people's homes.



By Bill Primavera

Where was the moral compass of that Midwestern family, I thought, in dismissing the criminal behavior of that rascal as something cute, especially since it involved stealing an essential item in providing access and egress around the house?

The doorknob is an ingenious little device actually. The traditional knob itself has a bolt or spindle running through it that sits just above a cylinder, to which the spindle is connected. Turning the knob pulls the cylinder in the direction of the turn. The end of the cylinder is a latch that protrudes into a space that is carved out of the doorframe and prevents the door from being opened if the knob is not turned.

The mechanism is a little more complex than I'm describing here, but I'll leave further understanding to the technicians among us.

Interestingly, America didn't produce doorknobs or any hardware at all until after the American Revolution because of England's stranglehold on manufacturing and restrictive trade practices. The colonies were permitted only to supply the motherland with the raw materials needed to produce the finished manufactured products that would be sold back to us, including doorlatches, doorknobs and all other hardware used in this country.

After the Revolution, America's

ingenuity came into play and its agrarian society was soon to be balanced with rising industrialization. The first major invention influencing the production of doorknobs in America was the invention of the glass pressing machine, patented in 1826. It permitted the first truly decorative and mass-produced pressed glass doorknob made in America.

By Victorian times, the popularity of glass doorknobs was overtaken by the use of metals – iron, brass and bronze. But in 1917, during World War I, glass became wildly popular once more since all metals were allocated for the manufacture of planes and other wartime materials. Glass knobs remained popular through World War II, but by the 1950s, preference reverted back to metals.

Today, the choices are all but limitless in the styles and shapes of knobs and levers, as well as finishes to suit every décor. There's satin nickel, aged bronze, bright brass, antique brass, bright chrome, brushed chrome, antique pewter, distressed nickel, matte black, oil-rubbed bronze and satin stainless steel.

And how's this for a look into the future? The doorknob may disappear altogether. In Vancouver, businesses and residents must now install only lever-style door handles

on new buildings. While all existing homes, offices and businesses will be grandfathered, all new construction will require levers instead of doorknobs to accommodate those with physical disabilities who find doorknobs difficult to manipulate.

I am reminded of a personal story that relates to the fact that my wife Margaret's native language is Lithuanian. Within that ancient language are some quaint expressions that don't translate very well into English, but Margaret still unconsciously uses some of them on occasion.

For instance, if one were expecting to visit a friend but found no one home, the Lithuanian expression would be that you were able only to "kiss the doorknob."

Considering that there are two million germs per square inch attached to the average doorknob, that might be considered germ warfare.

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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NWH Launches ‘We Can Resist’ Anti-Vaping Video

“We Can Resist,” an anti-vaping public service announcement created by teenagers on Northern Westchester Hospital’s (NWH) 50-member President’s Junior Leadership Council, is being made available to media, schools, PTAs and community organizations.

The PSA, which is also available on YouTube, was funded by a generous grant from the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation.

The release of the PSA coincides with rising concerns about the dangers of vaping as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified more than 1,000 cases of vaping-related lung disease, with 26 deaths reported from 21 states as of Oct. 11.

According to NWH Chief Medical Officer Dr. Marla Koroly, the hospital has diagnosed five cases of vaping-related lung injury over the past few weeks, one of whom was a 17-year-old. The hospital has been working with its medical staff, the CDC and the New York State Department of Health in the identification and treatment of these illnesses.

“Although patients with vaping-related lung injury vape both nicotine and THC oils (tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana), it seems as though the illness may be related to additional chemicals that are put into THC oils,” said Koroly. “We urge parents to have honest and open conversations with their loved ones – especially teenagers – about their use of THC oils and the need to stop using them immediately.”

The PSA strives to educate young people by comparing big tobacco’s marketing of

nicotine to the recent marketing campaign around vaping. Many teens who would never consider smoking cigarettes believe vaping is safe and are shocked to learn that one Juul contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

The marketing campaign has been so successful that Juul sales to teenagers rose from \$200 million in 2017 to a projected \$3.4 billion this year. In fact, a survey released by the National Institute of Health in December 2017, found that one in three high school students tried vaping in 2016.

“We are very proud of our President’s Junior Leadership Council,” said Amy

Rosenfeld, the council’s community educator and coordinator who worked with the students to create the PSA. “They are outraged that Juul created a new generation of nicotine addicts and passionate in their efforts to educate their peers. We hope the ‘We Can Resist’ PSA will be a wakeup call for anyone who vapes.”

The PSA is the latest anti-vaping effort on the part of NWH’s President’s Junior Leadership Council. Two years ago, the prevalence of vaping so alarmed the council it recommended the hospital’s community health education and outreach department address the problem. The resulting program

– believed to be the only one of its kind – goes into high schools and middle schools to educate students about the hazards of vaping and conducts parent programs through school PTAs and PTOs to raise awareness of this growing health concern.

To date, it has visited every high school and middle school in the hospital’s catchment districts, conducting programs for more than 3,800 high school and middle school students and parents.

To view the “We Can Resist” PSA, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-caMT4C6NM>.

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://bit.ly/2Nk9g0D>



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Burns Film Center Executive Director to Step Down

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) in Pleasantville announced last Friday that Edie Demas is stepping down as executive director.

“After careful consideration with board leadership, I have made the difficult decision to leave the JBFC so that I may assume oversight and management of my father’s and now my family’s business in the Washington, D.C. metro area,” Demas said. “While this does not require a move, it does require me to have a regular presence in D.C.

“It has been my privilege to spend the last five-and-a-half years at the JBFC, working alongside an unparalleled team and sharing meaningful moments with a very special community. I look forward to all of the innovation, creativity and really great storytelling that is to come.”

Under her leadership, the film center completed a comprehensive, forward-looking strategic plan; implemented Tessitura, a ticketing, fundraising, customer service system; launched Creative Culture, a fellowship and filmmaker residency program; and deepened relationships with teachers and schools around the county.

The JBFC remains the most successful



Edie Demas

suburban arthouse theater in the country, screening over 400 films and welcoming more than 175 special guests annually. Demas has positioned the venue for continued growth and success as the JBFC approaches its 20th anniversary in 2021.

“We are grateful for Edie’s leadership at the JBFC,” said Board Chair Janet Benton. “Since her arrival in May of 2014, Edie has embraced the JBFC mission of film, education and community, looking toward the future growth and success of the organization. She has led with warmth, compassion, collaboration and inclusivity.”

JBFC board members will be engaged in the transition until an interim executive director is found.

Local Architectural Firm Honored for Excellence



The longtime Mount Kisco-based firm Grandberg & Associates Architects was honored for design excellence of the Towne Bus Building (pictured above).

The Mount Kisco-based Grandberg & Associates Architects was honored with a design award from the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The firm, which has practiced in Mount Kisco for the past three decades, was honored at Le Chateau in South Salem on Oct. 17 by the institute’s Westchester-Mid Hudson chapter.

Firm president and owner Ira Grandberg said the award was for the Towne Bus Building, located on North Bedford Road in Mount Kisco. Towne Bus contracts with Bedford schools to

provide busing for the entire district.

“Our firm was honored to receive a design award for the Towne Bus Building,” Grandberg remarked.

It wasn’t the first time Grandberg & Associates Architects has been recognized for excellence. The firm, which is nationally recognized for its design of custom estates and residences, won an AIA Honor Award for its work on Winston Restaurant in 2014.

Currently, Grandberg & Associates is completing the new Charles Schwab office building in downtown Mount Kisco.

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THERE’S A WORD FOR IT A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

They’re Creepy and They’re Spooky. No, we are not talking about “The Addams Family,” but rather the quiz words for this week. It is hoped that these vocabulary words will help you get in the Halloween mood. So, if the spirit moves you, it is time to see if the quiz is a trick or a treat. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. dirge (n.) | A) fearful anticipation | B) a song of mourning | C) a warning |
| 2. macabre (adj.) | A) gruesome | B) somber | C) extremely cruel |
| 3. pallor (n.) | A) a haunted place | B) a dark covering | C) lack of color |
| 4. transmute (v.) | A) to shake violently | B) bring back to life | C) change in form |
| 5. baleful (adj.) | A) ghostly | B) threatening harm | C) cunning |
| 6. necromancy (n.) | A) an autopsy | B) fear of death | C) communicating with the dead |
| 7. phantasmagoria (n.) | A) hallucination | B) foreboding | C) an evil spirit |
| 8. diablerie (n.) | A) an agent of the devil | B) reckless mischief | C) a costume party |

- ANSWERS:**
1. B. A song or hymn of mourning as a memorial to a dead person
 2. A. Upsetting or horrifying by association with death or injury; gruesome
 3. C. Unnatural lack of color
 4. C. To change or alter in form, appearance, or nature
 5. B. Threatening harm; menacing
 6. C. Supposed practice of communicating with the dead, especially in order to predict the future; Also: sorcery or black magic in general
 7. A. A sequence of real or imaginary images like those seen in a dream; hallucination

Tell Albany to Protect Families and Caregivers at Nursing Homes

By Toni Langlais

My mother Lucy is 102 years old and has been a resident at St. Cabrini Nursing Home for almost five years.

Making the decision to place a loved one in a nursing home is complicated and stress-inducing for a caregiver and their family. For anyone who has been through the ordeal, you know how surreal the experience can be. The decision is fueled by angst, worry and loaded with emotion. After a lengthy search I found St. Cabrini Nursing Home and I am grateful I did.

To understand my situation better, I will begin by sharing a little about my parents. My mother and father raised my brother and me in the Bronx; they were married for 62 years. My father was a refrigerator mechanic and my mother a homemaker. Together, they were a perfect match and were always there to support me and my brother.

When my father passed away 12 years ago my mother moved in with me in Yonkers. Then seven years ago she had a fall and could no longer walk. Slowly I realized, I could no longer care for her.

After extensive consideration, I began searching for a nursing home.

As soon as I arrived at St. Cabrini, I knew this was the place to be mom's new home. The staff is warm, friendly and concerned for each resident. The recreation department is always planning outings, trips and activities for the residents. The staff treats each resident and their families with care and dignity. After a tumultuous, difficult decision to place my mother in a nursing home I felt I found a place that would care for her the way I would.

After we got mom settled in, I got to know the staff and other family members even better. I became a volunteer and I help out about four to five days a week. The community at the nursing home has become a second family to me and my husband who will soon begin volunteering as well. St. Cabrini is not only mom's home, it is mine as well.

My story is not unique. Anyone who had to make the decision to put a loved one in someone else's care knows how heart-wrenching that decision is to make and the relief that is felt when you find a place you trust. Thousands of New Yorkers across the state rely on nursing homes whether it be a mother,

father, aunt, uncle or family friend to provide them with high-quality care in a safe and comfortable environment, to offer them the same care we would if we could. Nursing homes are an essential part of our communities and an integral part of caring for our loved ones. Together we all depend on them.

Recently I learned that the New York State Department of Health is implementing a cut on Nov. 6 to cut the Medicaid reimbursement rate \$250 million. This cut will force St. Cabrini and every nursing home in the state to lay off workers – people I consider family – and to cut back on services my 102-year-old mother relies on. This is heartbreaking. I frankly just don't understand how this can happen.

For my mother, and for all of the residents that rely on nursing homes and their families, I urge you to reach out to your elected officials and let them know this cut is untenable. It is unfair. And it will hurt residents and families that need and rely on our state's nursing homes.

We need to protect our nursing homes so that they can continue to care for our loved ones – our families.

Toni Langlais is a Yonkers resident.

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Interested candidates should submit a completed City of Stamford Employment Application and Application Supplement #19-46. Applications can be obtained at

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Capital Campaign Launched for \$1.2M Maria Fareri NICU Expansion

The Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth) has initiated a capital fundraising campaign to support a multiphase, \$1.2 million investment project to expand and enhance the advanced-care services provided to families in the Isaac and Naomi Kaplan Family Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU) at the Network's Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

The RNICU provides care for the Hudson Valley's most at-risk newborns, including extreme low birth-weight babies, some of whom were born as early as 22 weeks gestation (compared to a normal 40-week pregnancy) as well as full-term babies with congenital disorders and rare diseases. Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is internationally recognized for saving and nurturing some of the smallest babies ever born including a nine-ounce baby in 2015 and an 11-ounce boy in 2018.

The project will add eight care areas to the RNICU, bringing its licensed bed count to 57, while maximizing safety, operational efficiency and family comfort.

"We are the only resource providing this level of advanced neonatal care in the Hudson Valley, an area of more than 6,000 square miles and 3 million residents," said Dr. Edmund La Gamma, chief of newborn medicine and director of the Regional Neonatal Center at Maria Fareri Children's

Hospital. "The daily demands of caring for babies in the Regional NICU are great, and this enhancement will enable us to provide the highest level of care to more newborns right here in the Hudson Valley."

Other project highlights include centralized bedside monitoring with specialized software to record and analyze patient data; new family waiting area, including secured storage spaces for families' belongings; new, upgraded nurses' station; and environmental upgrades including new furniture, windows and wall/floor surfaces.

The RNICU at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital works in close partnership with Westchester Medical Center's Maternal-Fetal Medicine Program, which, like the RNICU, is an advanced care resource for Hudson Valley community hospitals. The Maternal-Fetal Medicine Program cares for expectant mothers experiencing high-risk pregnancies that endanger themselves, their baby or both.

These collaborative services have garnered Westchester Medical Center/Maria Fareri Children's Hospital a Regional Perinatal Center designation, the highest provided by the New York State Department of Health. It is one of just 17 regional neonatal centers of its kind statewide, with community birthing hospitals around the Hudson Valley



Liam and Stephanie Brady share a microphone during the 2018 100.7 WHUD Radiothon for the Kids at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla.

transferring their most complex cases to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital's RNICU for care.

More than 700 critical-care cases are transferred or admitted to the RNICU annually, according to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital records, and the unit has one of the highest acuity (severity of illness) rates in the United States. Despite the complexity of cases, the RNICU maintains success rates equal to or above the national average among

similar, large regional neonatal centers*.

The community at large has the opportunity to play a hand in the health and well-being of the Hudson Valley's most at-risk babies through a supportive capital campaign launched by WMCHHealth.

A signature component of this philanthropic campaign supporting the RNICU project will be the 100.7 WHUD Radiothon for the Kids from Nov. 20-22. Throughout the three-day broadcast originating from the lobby of the hospital, 100.7 WHUD signature on-air personalities Mike Bennett, Kacey Morabito Grean, Tom Furci and Andy Bale will speak live with dozens of Maria Fareri Children's Hospital patients and families.

All proceeds from the event will support the RNICU enhancement project. In 2018, the community's support of the hospital through the Radiothon approached \$300,000.

Those interested in supporting the campaign for an expanded and enhanced RNICU at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital can do so by visiting Foundation.WestchesterMedicalCenter.com/NICU-Growth or contacting the Westchester Medical Center Foundation at 914-493-2575 or at foundation@wmchealth.org.

Happenings

Tuesday, Oct. 29

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. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Halloween Dirt Cups. Create your own spooky treat that is good enough to eat. 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.

Trunk or Treat. Come in costume. Decorating your trunk, which is optional, participating vehicles should provide a treat. You may also attend as a guest. North Castle Town Pool Parking lot, 3 Greenway Rd., Armonk. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free. RSVP required. Info: 914-273-3000 ext. 49 or e-mail recreation@northcastleny.com. RSVP: Visit <https://www.punchbowl.com/parties/eaa1a6c3ee084f58a3c7>

Opening Reception for "A Menagerie of Wonders." A solo exhibit of new paintings by Hunt Slonem. Slonem will debut 15 of his newest paintings on subjects for which he is best known - bunnies, butterflies and tropical birds. As an artist who has fashioned a distinctive, neo-expressionist style over a stellar 40-year career, Slonem continues to evolve his artistic practice, keeping his work

fresh and on trend while remaining true to his artistic roots. The artist will be on hand to greet the public. Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, 37 Popham Rd., Scarsdale. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Dec. 7. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Info: 914-723-8738 or visit www.MadelynJordonFineArt.com.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present. North Castle Public Library, 19 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.

Author Talk. In his new book, "My Creative Space," award-winning architect, author and educator Donald M. Rattner explains how simple and accessible techniques for shaping your home can boost creativity and spark innovation. Drawing on the latest research in psychology and productivity, Rattner offers a first-of-its-kind how-to guide for unlocking a

home's hidden power to promote insight and imagination regardless of size, type, style or location. Copies of Rattner's book will be available for purchase. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3 or at the registration desk.

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. 30

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

continued on page 26

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.

Happenings

continued from page 25

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

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

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. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

Spooky Tales. A riveting storytelling performance by April Armstrong to begin your Halloween weekend, followed by a special brew (hot cider) and other ghostly treats (cookies) served in the Summer Dining Room. Come in costume. Prizes given to all. For children three to eight years old. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 3 p.m. Children: \$10. Adults: \$15. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

Pumpkin and Gourd Sale. Come celebrate the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco's 18th annual 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. Also Oct. 31. 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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Fall Exhibition Opening Reception. Enjoy an evening with friends from the Purchase College campus and surrounding community while browsing the galleries filled with incredible works from each of the Fall 2019 exhibitions. Live music, light refreshments and engaging conversations with artists, curators and fellow art lovers. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 to 7 p.m. \$5.

Seniors (62 and up): \$3. Children (under 12), members and Purchase College students, faculty and staff: Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

Art Series: The Macchiaioli. Look at this galvanizing consortium of artists from Tuscany. These artists moved away from classical painting in Italy at the start of the mid-1800s. They tried to capture light, shade and color within a scene in new and beautiful ways. 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.

"End of the Century." In his feature debut, Argentinian filmmaker Lucio Castro crafts a consistently breathtaking drama centered on a chance sexual encounter between two men. What follows is a decades-spanning love story that is both epic and intimate, grandiose and delicate. Set against the backdrop of verdant summertime Barcelona, this film considers themes of transience, memory, love and regret with impressive dexterity and deep empathy. With introduction by programmer Saidah Russell. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Thursday, Oct. 31

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 2 p.m. Free. Every Thursday and Friday. 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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

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

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.

Halloween Organ Spooktacular. Dr. Sandor Szabo, interim organist and choirmaster at the Christ's Church of Rye, will perform a short organ concert featuring a spooky selection of well-known organ music, including "Toccata and Fugue" by Bach, "Dance Macabre" by Saint-Seans and "Toccata" by Böellman. A special treat will feature the ballet students of Ashlee Knapp Stewart, from "The Ballet Class" with a few selections from "Peer Gynt Suite" by Greg and "Flight of the Bumblebee" by Korsakov, all played on the church's magnificent three-manual organ with more than 4,000 pipes. Come in costume. All ages. Reception to follow. Christ's Church of Rye, 2 Rectory St., Rye. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-967-1749, visit www.ccrye.org or e-mail sszabo@ccrye.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.

DIY Wine Cork Pumpkin. It's the Great (Wine Cork) Pumpkin, Charlie Brown. Create your own pumpkin using old wine corks. No carving necessary. 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.

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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

National Theatre Live's "One Man, Two Guvnors." Fired from his skiffle band, Francis Henshall (James Corden, in a Tony Award-winning performance) becomes minder to Roscoe Crabbe, a smalltime East End hood, now in Brighton, to collect £6,000 from his fiancée's dad. But Roscoe is really his sister, Rachel, posing as her own dead brother, who's been killed by her boyfriend Stanley Stubbers. Holed up at The Cricketers' Arms, the permanently ravenous Francis spots the chance of an extra meal ticket and takes a second job with Stanley Stubbers, who is hiding from the police and waiting to be reunited with Rachel. To prevent discovery, Francis must keep his two guvnors apart. A pre-recorded broadcast. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$30. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

The Mavericks. The masters of country-Latin rock 'n' roll, born in the rich cultural mix of Miami, then tempered in Nashville's country hothouse, rode high in the country and rock charts of the 1990s with culture-crossing hits like "What a Crying Shame" and "All You Ever Do is Bring Me Down." Then they conquered Europe with the titanic feel-good party classic "Dance the Night Away" In 2004, The Mavericks went on hiatus while front-man Raul Malo explored new musical avenues. But since a 2012 reunion, this singular of bands has re-established itself as one of the most exciting and joyfully entertaining acts on touring and festival circuits across the planet. It's a reputation based on their irrepressible mix of country, Tex-Mex, rockabilly and Latino sounds, plus a riotously entertaining, world-renowned live show. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$48, \$68, \$78 and \$88. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Friday, Nov. 1

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.

ArtTalks. Curator-led exhibition tours. Bring your own lunch and chat with other art lovers for the first 30 minutes, then join a curator for an hour-long tour of Art Got into Me: Engels the Artist." Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase.

continued on next page

Westchester Extends Contract With Wheelabrator for 10 Years

Furthering Westchester County's mission to uphold its status as a regional leader in environmental management, the Department of Environmental Facilities has entered into a 10-year contract extension with Wheelabrator Westchester L.P.

Wheelabrator, the operator of the Charles Point Waste-to-Energy Facility that provides environmentally-safe disposal of waste in Westchester, has agreed to financial concessions that will result in an estimated savings of over \$17.2 million for the county. Additionally, the county negotiated for the ability to divert up to 62,500 tons of waste annually from municipal solid waste sent to Wheelabrator's Facility in Peekskill.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said:

"This 10-year contract extension will enable Westchester County to pursue a residential food scrap recycling program, which will help protect our county for future generations, create cost savings and allow for waste reduction," said County Executive George Latimer. "Since 2003, Westchester County has been able to reduce the amount of waste it delivers to the Wheelabrator

facility by over 25 percent, which translates to millions of dollars in savings each year to Westchester County residents."

"The county has been partners with Wheelabrator for more than 30 years and we look forward to continuing that relationship," added Vincent Kopicki, commissioner of the county Department of Environmental Facilities. "They have proven to be excellent stewards of the waste-to-energy facility and our partnership ensures that the county's residential waste is not landfilled but used to create clean energy."

Pursuant to the contract with Wheelabrator, the county, on behalf of the Refuse Disposal District, delivers the Refuse Disposal District's residential trash to the facility at Charles Point. The facility processes up to 2,250 tons of household and commercial waste every day.

The waste is transferred to utility-type boilers that recover thermal energy in the form of high-pressure steam. The steam-powered turbines generate 63,000 kilowatts of electricity an hour, enough to power about 67,000 homes. Additional

steam not required for electricity generation is marketed to a nearby commercial customer, White Plains Linen, for use as a clean, reliable and renewable energy source.

The Refuse Disposal District is comprised of 36 of the county's 43 municipalities. The 36 municipalities include 90 percent of the county's population.

Chappaqua School District Looks to Sell 20-Acre Parcel for \$3.5M

The Chappaqua School District is selling a 20.9-acre parcel it owns that would raise significant money for the district.

The six-lot property at the intersection of Buttonhook Road and Garey Drive is on the market for \$3.5 million, according to Andrew Wood of Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty's Rye brokerage, which has been retained by the district to sell the land. It has already been subdivided, Wood said.

Each subdivided lot has an approved pool site, access to municipal water and Board of Health approved septic.

"This is an exciting opportunity to build in a beautiful, quiet spot right in the middle

of Chappaqua," said Joanna Rizoulis, a Sotheby's agent and a 15-year resident of the hamlet. "We're honored to work with the Chappaqua School District in a transaction that will benefit the area."

The district is looking to sell the land as a package to a developer or to a prospective buyer looking to build one house on the entire property, Wood said. It is zoned two-acre residential.

The current tax bill on the land is \$18,988, according to the offering. A builder's is available upon request.

--Martin Wilbur

Happenings

continued from previous page

12:30 to 2 p.m. \$5. Seniors (62 and up): \$3. Children (under 12), members and Purchase College students, faculty and staff: Free. RSVPs appreciated: Info and RSVP: nma.rsvp@purchase.edu.

DIY Sugar Skull and "Coco." Celebrate the Day of the Dead with a sugary treat while watching the movie "Coco." 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. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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. Also Nov. 3 at 5 and 7 p.m., Nov. 8 at 6 and 8 p.m. and Nov. 9 and 10 at 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "Crooked House." This thriller, billed as a twisted Agatha Christie tale, features a spy-turned-

private detective who is lured by his former lover to catch her grandfather's murderer before Scotland Yard exposes dark family secrets. With Terrance Stamp, Glenn Close, Julian Sands and Max Irons. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Friday Night Films and Discussion: Women Directors. "A Dog's Journey" by Gail Marcuso will be screened. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Country Line Dance. Dancing followed by a complete dinner. All proceeds to go to the scholarship fund at Fox Lane High School and New York Boys' State. Moses Taylor American Legion Post 136, 1 Legion Way, Mount Kisco. 7 to 11 p.m. \$15 per person. First Friday of every month. Info: 914-241-0136.

NYC Comedy in the IRV. The show will feature Barry Weintraub, Erin Jackson and headliner Jon Fisch. Fisch is a veteran comic who has appeared on late night shows such as "The Late Show with David Letterman" and the "Late Show with Stephen Colbert." Jackson's career has been taking off the past year following her late-night debut on "Conan" and her repeated appearances on this summer's Comedy Central series "This Week at the Comedy Cellar." Long-time comic and television host Weintraub will be the MC. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Info and tickets: Visit www.irvingtontheater.com.

"Back to the Garden." An original, full-length play by award-winning Westchester playwright Albi Gorn. Follow Adam and Eve as they are expelled from the Garden of Eden and 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. Axial Theatre at St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Adults: \$25. Seniors and students: \$25. Also Nov. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m., Nov. 2, 9 and 16 at 3 p.m. and Nov. 3, 10 and 17 at 4 p.m. Info: Visit www.GoJoClanProductions.com or AxialTheatre.org or e-mail BackToTheGarden2019@gmail.com. Tickets: Visit www.BackToTheGarden.bpt.me.

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

Westchester Photographic Society: Women Picturing Revolution. Reclaiming and retelling history in a manner that is radical and necessary, Women Picturing Revolution examines not only the photographs but also the work of female-identifying photographers who document conflicts, crises and revolution in private realms and public spaces. Led by Lesly Deschler Canossi. For adults 18 years old and up. Westchester Community College's Technology Building, Room 107, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. (Use Parking Lot 11) 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-827-5353 or visit www.wpsphoto.org.

Saturday, Nov. 2

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. 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.

Totsaver Program. This class includes the pediatric component of the American Heart Association CPR for Family and Friends. Due to the physical demands of the class, pregnant women in their third trimester may wish to consult their physician for advice on participation. A CPR handy book is mailed out upon registration. Phelps Hospital's Hock Center for Emergency Education, Suite 200, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9 a.m. to noon. \$55 per person. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3698.

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.

continued on page 29

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LEGALS

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Planning Board will be held at **Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday November 4, 2019** for the purpose of considering the following applications: **Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING** The following public hearings have been scheduled for November 4, 2019 at 6:00PM (or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions permit) at the Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York, 10579. All interested parties are invited to attend and will be heard. A copy of the application

continued on page 30

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It's Time for Americans to Learn About the First Amendment

By Judy Patrick

The First Amendment isn't getting the appreciation and respect it deserves. Increasingly battered and misunderstood, it needs all the support it can get as divisive politics and advancing technologies drag us in new directions.

Many Americans don't even know the basics.

Of the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, 71 percent of Americans can name at least one, according to the 2019 State of the First Amendment poll by the nonprofit Freedom Forum Institute.

That's certainly an improvement over 2018, when a pitiful 60 percent of those polled could name at least one of the five freedoms. But consider this: Of the 1,007 Americans polled for the 2019 survey, just six people correctly named all five freedoms.

In case the pollsters call you next year: The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, the press, religion, the right to petition and the right to assembly.

Better yet: We all need to work harder at being citizens who understand our rights, our responsibilities, how government works and what we value.

These powerful First Amendment freedoms, for example, give us all the courage to be independent thinkers and to live our lives how we want to. They allow us to challenge authority in ways unheard of in so many other parts of the world. It enables the press to act independently, hold government accountable and tilt at the occasional windmill.

Gene Policinski, president of the Freedom

Forum Institute, said these freedoms help define who we are as Americans. For him, the First Amendment is the "blue collar amendment" because it's such a workhorse, going to work every day in a real down-to-earth way.

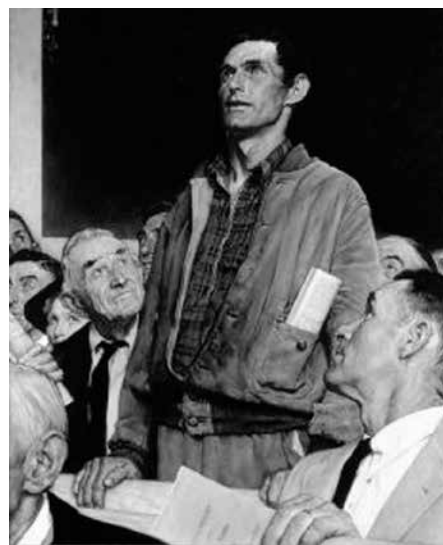
Yet confusion is increasing. More people in this year's survey incorrectly thought the First Amendment includes the right to vote (up to 14 percent from 2 percent in 2018) and the right to bear arms (up to 16 percent from 9 percent in 2018).

There is some good news. The poll did not find substantial erosion in trust in journalism with 72 percent of those polled agreeing that it's important for our democracy that the news media act as a government watchdog, down from 73 percent in 2018. Policinski, however, worries that result may be skewed, reflecting people's loyalty to their individual "information bubbles."

The emergence of powerful social media platforms has also muddied the waters; 65 percent of those polled agreed that social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter violate users' First Amendment rights when they ban people. They don't. The First Amendment's protections apply to the government, not private companies.

But the First Amendment presents us with all sorts of emotional and intellectual challenges. It's easy to support free speech when we agree with what's being said. It's far more challenging when we disagree or abhor what is being said, printed, painted, built or sung.

Indeed, the First Amendment has challenged us as a society as we have debated topics such as school prayer, flag



An image of Norman Rockwell's "Freedom of Speech" from 1943.

burning, printing classified information, curfews, the teaching of evolution, protests at military funerals, blue laws, Christmas displays in public parks and mandatory measles vaccinations.

The rhetoric around such issues can be alienating. An increasing number of us, for example, think the First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees (29 percent in 2019, up from 23 percent in 2018 and 2017).

Maybe we just need another Norman Rockwell for an idealistic re-boot.

In the 1940s, as the U.S. headed into what would become World War II, Rockwell's series of freedom paintings helped

Americans understand the freedoms at stake. His four iconic works captured parts of the First Amendment (freedom of speech and religion) and added the freedoms to be free of want and fear.

Despite President Franklin Roosevelt's oratory, the "four freedoms" he outlined in 1941 speech failed to resonate with the public in a meaningful way. For help, the White House reached out to the nation's artists and musicians.

"[Rockwell] wanted to interpret them in a way the average American could understand," said Stephanie Plunkett, chief curator of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass.

But it was a challenge. "The Four Freedoms are so darned high blown. Somehow, I just couldn't get my mind around it," Rockwell is quoted as saying.

But by using scenarios from real life in small-town America, did just that. Rockwell's "Freedom of Speech," featuring a man standing up and speaking up in a crowded meeting room, was based on an actual town meeting in Arlington, Vt. The man was a farmer unhappy with a school project that would increase his taxes.

"He gave his opinion, nodded his head and sat down," Plunkett said.

Rockwell's idealistic "Four Freedoms" have remained popular, both providing a sense of what led America to World War II and as underscoring ideals that remain important throughout in the world, Plunkett said.

Judy Patrick is executive vice president for editorial development at the New York Press Association.

Happenings

continued from page 27

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

Day of the Dead Conversation. The Mexican attitude toward death is one of acceptance and vibrant imagery. This next Death Café Westchester is a unique

opportunity to view and discuss the way death intersects with life, using art as a way of opening to a universal experience. Enjoy the work of local artists and use this time of remembrance in a positive way to honor loved ones who have died. Coffee and snacks provided. Ossining Arts Council Gallery at Steamer Firehouse, 117 Main St., Ossining. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.DeathCafe.com, e-mail DoulaEOL@gmail.com or visit on Facebook at facebook.com/DeathCafeWestchester.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they celebrate the birth of pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves as well. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Nov. 9, 16 and 29 at 2 p.m., Nov. 17 at 3 p.m., Nov. 23 at noon and Nov. 30 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Open Art Studio. All supplies are provided to create your own artwork. For children four years old and up; with parent

or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. First Saturday of every month. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.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.

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. 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.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

Hibernation, Migration, Adaptation, Oh My! Each morning the sun rises a little

later and dips lower in the sky. The shorter days of fall send a signal to every living thing in the forest that winter is coming. For forest animals, it's no easy task to stay alive through the winter. What would you do: migrate, hibernate or adapt? Each animal must make a choice. Meet some native animals to gain a better understanding on how they survive in winter and why. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Real Estate Market Trends. A panel discussion focusing on trends in today's market. Moderated by Jennifer Leahy, an accomplished leader in her field who has sold more than \$50 million in real estate this year alone. She was on "Million Dollar Listing" and has sold 50 Cents' home, among many others. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

Evnnin Rising Stars I. The Evnnin Rising

continued on page 32

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continued from page 28

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materials and plans may be inspected during normal business hours at the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall. 1. **Gjonaj, Chris- White Rock Road (TM#73.-2-30.1/File2019-0203)** The subject property is comprised of +/- 3.9 acres and is located on White Rock Road within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single family residence, driveway, septic system and well. **DECISION 2. Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7.12& 7.11/File2019-0199)** The subject property consist of +/- 10.3 acres of land and is located on Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing soil remediation of contaminated Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps. Properties. The remedial design project includes re-grading the unstable slopes and construction of a clean soil cover over the top of the contaminated fill. **SKETCH 3. Filho Residence, - 135 Bell Hollow Road (TM# 51.-1-4/File: 2019-0190)** The subject property consists of + 19.2 acres of land and is located on 135 Bell Hollow Road and within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a swimming pool, terrace and outdoor kitchen. A Site Development Plan, Major Grading and Wetland Permit is required. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 3.** Approve Minutes of October 21, 2019

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Putnam Valley has received a wetlands application from the following applicant: **WT 22/19 Rodman Patton 77 south Highland Road TM# 61.-2-25 WT23/19 Noah Levy**

280 West Shore Drive TM# 62.6-1-3
WT24/19 Charles Hunter 381 Peekskill
Hollow Road TM# 73.-1-66

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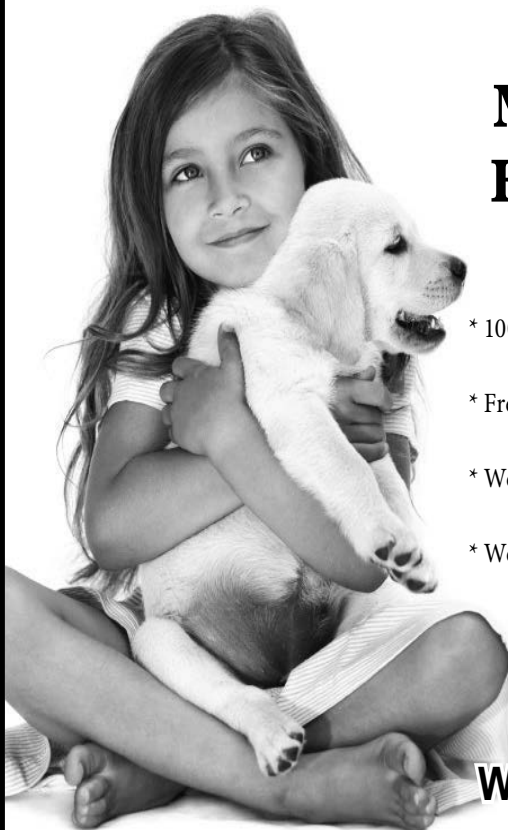
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H4922_Count4002_M Accepted 09082019

Happenings

continued from page 29

Stars program is an incubator for the next generation of leaders in classical music performance. In her 11th year as artistic director of the program, Pamela Frank will be joined by distinguished artist/mentors David Shifrin and Peter Wiley to work alongside young instrumentalists on the great chamber music masterworks. The culmination of a week of intense collaboration and musical discovery is an opportunity for the public to witness young musicians on their way to becoming legends themselves. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 8 p.m. \$25 to \$40. Students (18 and under): Free. Also Nov. 3 at 3 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

Sunday, Nov. 3

Annual Fall Tag Sale. New and used items, including men's women's and children's clothing, housewares, linens, purses, furniture, electronics, toys, books, CDs and DVDs and baby and sports equipment. Bet Torah, 60 Smith Ave., Mount Kisco. 12 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Also Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Blowout bag sale on Nov. 4 for \$5, \$10 and \$20 a bag. Info: 914-666-7595 or visit www.bettorah.org.

Winter Birds. Explore the trails and see if you can spot any feathered winter residents. Many animals stay still to help them blend into the environment and hide from predators. Even brightly-colored birds, like cardinals, can blend in by keeping still. Get up close and personal with some of the birds and learn why they choose to migrate or adapt to winter life. Stick around until the end for feeding time with the birds of prey. Dress for the weather. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

21+ Book Group. "Carnegie's Maid" by Maire Benedict will be discussed. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. New members welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Carolyn at 914-769-9169.

Sonic Images: Chamber Music by Aaron Copland. A pre-birthday salute to an artistic icon and Music from Copland House's namesake, who helped to define what he called "a recognizably American musical idiom." Major works, including the Violin Sonata, Piano Quartet and Sextet. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 3 p.m. \$25. Friends of Copland House: \$20. Students (with ID): \$10. Info and tickets: 914-788-4659, visit www.coplandhouse.org or e-mail office@coplandhouse.org.

Opening Reception for "Dataism." Enjoy a unique exhibit presented by ArtsWestchester in collaboration with the Westchester Community College Center for the Digital Arts. From an ATM transaction to signing an online petition, an Instagram post to a Google search, interactions and choices are transformed into data points that are collected and stored by devices we carry. This exhibit brings together artists working in different media who find meaning in the data we make.

Meet the more than a dozen artists who are part of the exhibit. Light refreshments will be served. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Jan. 25, 2020. RSVP requested. Info and RSVP: Visit www.artswestchester.org.

"All Things Bakelite: The Age of Plastic." A screening of this joyous and provocative film about Belgian-born American chemist Leo Hendrik Baekeland, the "father of modern plastics." In 1907, he made one of the most transformative discoveries of the 20th century: Bakelite, the world's first wholly synthetic plastic. His discovery ushered in an explosion of new man-made materials that marked the beginnings of the modern industrial age. A Q&A with the filmmakers follows the screening. An exciting Baekeland/Bakelite display of vintage items and family heirlooms will be available for viewing at the event. The program is produced in partnership with the Bedford, Mount Kisco and New Castle Historical Societies. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford. 4 p.m. Adults: \$14. Seniors and children: \$12. Info and tickets: Visit www.bedfordplayhouse.org.

Lucy's Up Close and Personal Sunday Night Series: Slam Allen Band. The internationally renowned Slam Allen is a messenger of love. This dynamic entertainer uses the genres of blues, soul, R&B and a touch of rock 'n' roll to deliver powerful soul-stirring performances. Slam captures audiences with a voice that echoes Otis Redding, a guitar that immerses you in B.B. King and stage energy reminiscent of James Brown, all while captivating you with his original music. Includes a meet and greet, a chance to hear his stories and memories of R&B history. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$25 to \$35. Info and tickets: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-slam-allen-band-live-at-lucys-tickets-65745188629>.

Monday, Nov. 4.

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.

Smiles for Veterans. In honor of Veterans Day, Touro Dental Health will provide oral health screenings, x-rays and cleaning for veterans, military service members and their families as well as activities, entertainment and giveaways for all ages. Touro Dental Health, 19 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Patient registration required. Info and registration. 914-594-2700 or visit https://dental.touro.edu/news--events/events?tru_mbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D134183400

Blood Drive. Pleasantville High School

and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps are teaming up to sponsor an all-day blood drive. Whole blood and red cell units will be collected. Blood donors from all towns are welcome to come and lend their help. Pleasantville High School, 60 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Registration suggested; walk-ins welcome. Info (including regarding eligibility such as travel, medications, last donation, etc.): 800-688-0900. Registration: 800-933-2566 or visit www.nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood.

Keeping Memory Alive. Learn about lifestyle factors that improve brain health. Phelps Hospital's Family Medicine Conference Room, fourth floor, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail Vitality@northwell.edu.

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.

Design Election Day Signs. Design signs to put up in the library or home that will encourage people to get out and vote. For children three years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

A Celebration of the Life of George Puello. A celebration of the life and the immeasurable contributions of George Puello. Celebrate the music, the stories and the great love of our beloved "man in white." He had a life well lived doing what he loved – theater. He was an incredible talent – director, producer, musician, set designer, artist, educator, writer and composer. He shared his great knowledge and innumerable talents to a very grateful theater community. There will be an appetizer and dessert buffet prior to the performance and a cash bar. All proceeds will go toward the George Puello Scholarship Fund being established by his family. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Buffet at 6 p.m. Show at 7:30 p.m. \$25. Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or www.broadwaytheatre.com.

Just Write! A creative writing club led by published poet and librarian Mary Johnson. Come and write in a friendly, encouraging environment. Writers of all levels and new members welcome. Open to anyone 16 and up. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

Art All Day. Use the library's stuff and make your art. Children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

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

Short Films for Short People. Films based on beloved picture books. Children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

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

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

Senior Afternoon Cinema: "Defending Your Life." A sweet, witty and entertaining romantic comedy about a self-absorbed young advertising executive who dies in a car crash shortly after purchasing his long-awaited BMW. Next thing he knows, he is in Judgment City, where he is on trial to enter the afterlife. While he awaits his fate, he falls in love with the only other young person in town. Starring Albert Brooks, Meryl Streep and Rip Torn. Sponsored by The Knolls, a Bethel community. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 p.m. Members: \$10. Senior non-members: \$12. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Bridge for the Advanced Beginner and Intermediate Player. Learn what it takes to become a better bridge player – and have fun doing it. Classes offer a mini-lesson and in-class hands to bid and play. Led by Joel Gorel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

My Adventures at a 14th Century Winery Deep in Campania



By Nick Antonaccio

I've offered my research and opinions on the wines of the Campania region in several previous columns. My goal was to imbue in you the excitement and appreciation I've gained for these wines.

I've also selfishly regaled you with my enthusiasm for Cantine Ciani, an ancient winery 62 miles east of Naples, in which I have recently invested.

My ardor culminated a few weeks ago in a long-planned visit to the area and Cantine Ciani with my wife and our dear friends, the Russells. As I sit here at my keyboard, I feel rather ebullient, filled with a building sense of unabashed enthusiasm and a groundswell of irrational verbosity.

I encourage you to revisit my columns penned earlier this year as a backdrop to our visit. (E-mail me for copies.)

Here are several highlights of our visit to Cantine Ciani.

--Enjoying the facilities, including the aforementioned state-of-the-art winery and the modern event space and guest

rooms built over it. This winery dates back to 1378; to see it transformed left an indelible memory for me to cherish. I was able to capture, in a small fashion, the life of those before us.

--Arriving on the first day of harvest of the Fiano grapes, an engaging time at every winery operation.

--Meeting owner and winemaker Armando Ciani, his wife Rosita and their winemaking team, all immersed in the hubbub of harvesting grapes in the field into the wee hours of the morning, then transporting them to the winery for the crush. Although Armando was unable to share much time with us as he was flitting about his property, it was quite clear that he cherished the nine-generation family heritage at Cantine Ciani.

The annual harvest is a ritual he has carried on since childhood, first under the tutelage of his grandfather and father, then taking over the helm, first alongside his

siblings, then on his own. His dedication, enthusiasm and pride were captured in each conversation with him and in watching him engaged in the rigors of his winery.

--Standing in awe in the modern cellar housing dozens of stainless-steel tanks and oak barrels. A number of barrels

contain aging Aglianico wine, resting while developing the trademark fruit and tannins of the wine.

Other barrels, many brand new, are waiting patiently for the fermented juice of the current harvest of grapes. Today, Ciani produces about 2,500 cases of seven different wines, from Fiano, Greco and Aglianico grapes.

--Gazing at the glass-enclosed vestiges of the ancient structural walls of the original subterranean winery, preserved as a tribute to the many generations of winemakers who toiled and plied their trade in this hallowed space.

--Jogging on the winding ancient roads of the hilly terrain surrounding the winery and then in the Ciani vineyard, plucking a few clusters of ripening Aglianico grapes. I enjoyed their flavor as a new experience, knowing I most likely won't be drinking the fruit of these vines until the wines are released a decade from harvest.

--The weather. The weather? We woke up on our last day at the winery to clear blue skies and crisp, invigorating air. As the day progressed the weather was stable, with temperatures rising nearly 20 degrees, typical of this area of the

Apennine Mountains (and critical for the maturation of the Aglianico grapes).

As the afternoon progressed, I noticed a few dark clouds in the distance. Not to worry, I thought; the air was calm and the clouds were well off to the north. Wrong. In the next few minutes the dark clouds advanced to sit on top of us for 45 minutes, unleashing a torrent of driving rain, gale-force winds and a burst of hail. And just as suddenly as the storm had advanced, it moved on. Armando assured us the hail had not damaged the ripening grapes.

We left Cantine Ciani with a deep understanding of the rigors of managing a winery and the deep-rooted pride felt by those who laid the groundwork for this 21st century successor.

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



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Alvin & Friends Restaurant Marks 10th Anniversary

By Morris Gut

Artist, model, actor and consummate host Alvin Clayton and his wife and business partner Gwen Clayton, proprietors of Alvin & Friends Restaurant, are celebrating their 10th year in New Rochelle with doses of American Soul Food, a taste of the Caribbean and spirited jazz sessions.

With all the new development underway in The Queen City, Alvin & Friends has been a major contributor to New Rochelle's downtown revival. In coming months, an exciting roster of dining options and special events are planned at the restaurant.

Alvin & Friends has a sophisticated Manhattan vibe, yet it is casually cool. Trinidad-bred Alvin Clayton is a prolific artist and his colorful paintings dramatically line the walls. Big French doors look out onto Memorial Highway, vintage hanging iron and hemp lighting fixtures hang from high ceilings and a sparkling bar and community table highlight the bar/lounge area. There is always a piano in waiting on the floor. A friendly staff makes it all very inviting.

From head chef Reggie Taylor's kitchen come such great starters as the fried seafood basket, with catfish fritters shrimp, catfish strips served with fries and chipotle mayo; Caribbean chicken satay (spicy peanut punch sauce); Alvin's Famous Chicken Wings, naked or with a choice of house-made BBQ sauce, jerk sauce, tamarind sauce or rum punch BBQ sauce;



Weekends at Alvin & Friends features jazz performances.

or grilled polenta and portobella mushroom, crumbled goat cheese, rosemary and porcini truffle sauce.

Fresh crisp salads include the chopped Caesar, with fried black-eyed peas, parmesan and buttermilk scallion dressing; or quinoa and kale, which includes roasted beets, toasted almonds, goat cheese with lemon-caraway seed vinaigrette. Salads can be ordered with optional grilled chicken, fried tofu, shrimp or salmon.

Alvin's signature main courses include classic jambalaya, with rice, andouille sausage, tasso ham, blackened chicken, crawfish tails, Cajun spices and tangy Creole sauce; shrimp and grits; buttermilk fried chicken, (slow-cooked greens with smoked turkey and three-cheese mac and cheese); slow-simmered oxtail, with

coconut rice and peas and pikliz; bourbon glazed pork chop, (woodsman's apple-cranberry chutney, seasonal vegetables, coconut rice and peas); and barbecue ribs with three-cheese mac and cheese and spicy cole slaw. Individual pizzas and juicy burgers are also on hand. There are vegan specialties, too.

There is a popular leisurely Saturday and Sunday jazz brunch. A la carte specialties include: spinach salad; Mo'Bay Omelet (jerk shrimp or chicken, sweet plantain, peppers and onions); Salmon, Spinach and Goat Cheese Frittata; Eggs Benedict Caribbean-style, served with ham, bacon or smoked turkey bacon; Sweet Plantains Foster French Toast with caramel sauce; fried chicken and waffles with gravy; Salt Fish Cook Up, served with Trini fried bakes and ackee; and a Shark and Bake Sandwich. There are specialty cocktails galore.

Save that sweet tooth for flourless chocolate cake, Evelyn's Coconut Cheesecake, warm walnut brownie with vanilla ice cream and caramel or the mixed berry cobbler with vanilla ice cream.

Their Friday and Saturday night jazz programs feature local talent. The Sunday jazz brunch is a winning combination as well. A lively happy hour is offered Tuesday through Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m., featuring specially-priced cocktails. And check out Taco Thursdays.

Alvin & Friends Restaurant is located

at 14 Memorial Highway in New Rochelle, between Main Street and Huguenot Street, across from the New Rochelle Public Library, a short walk from the Metro-North station. The restaurant is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays from 5 to 10 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday from 5 to 11 p.m. Dinner main courses are \$14 to \$35.

Saturday and Sunday brunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs \$8 to \$25. Saturday and Sunday dinner is served from 3 to 10 p.m. Bar/lounge. Full take out. Private party facilities and catering. Live music schedule. Seasonal outdoor seating. Proper casual dress. Municipal parking. Phone: 914-654-6549. www.alvinandfriendsrestaurant.com.

Fall Hudson Valley Restaurant Week

Time to start making reservations. The fall edition of Hudson Valley Restaurant Week will take place Nov. 4-17. It's being touted as "the sequel" and it is an appropriate tag for this popular dining out promotion sponsored by The Valley Table Magazine. For additional information and an up-to-date list of participating restaurants visit www.valleytable.com/hvrw.

Morris Gut is a restaurant consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at gutreactions@optonline.net.



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,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut or at
www.stamfordct.gov

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