

## County Planning Commissioner Urges Response to 2020 Census

### New Online Participation Sought From Public

By Abby Luby

Westchester County Commissioner of Planning Norma Drummond has been making the rounds lately highlighting the need for residents and communities to respond to the upcoming 2020 census.

Her appearances, including an Oct. 28 presentation before the Pleasantville Village Board and last Wednesday evening at the North Castle Town Board meeting, was part of the county's ongoing educational outreach highlighting changes in the census and the importance of getting an accurate count.

"The final census numbers will determine how \$880 billion gets spent," Drummond said. "That amount gets divvied up based on the population and will fund many programs. This time, the government will have greater access to other government records such as social



Westchester County Commissioner of Planning Norma Drummond

security records, HUD records and post office records."

Census Bureau employees are required to take an oath of confidentiality stipulating

they won't share information with any other federal department, Drummond said. The issue made news when the Trump administration insisted that the citizenship question appear on census forms, fueling fears that it would depress responses among noncitizens and certain ethnic groups.

The U.S. Supreme Court narrowly decided against the citizenship question in June. When Drummond displayed an image of the Census 2020 form, the citizenship question was clearly crossed out. She said the purpose of the census, taken every 10 years since 1790 in years ending in zero, is to get an accurate count of the population.

"That question will not be allowed to be asked," she stated.

For the first time, 95 percent of Americans will not receive a form in the mail, but rather a letter inviting them to respond to the census online. The letter will have a code for responders to use when answering questions online. Letters will be mailed on Mar. 16, Apr. 8 and Apr. 20. Individuals can also respond by mail or

by phone.

"If you have not responded by the middle of April you are likely to be visited by a census taker," Drummond said.

She explained that if there is no response to the census invitations, census takers will talk to building managers, neighbors and ask questions such as how many people live in a housing unit. Citizens will have until July to be counted.

There are numerous advantages to online responses for the county, Drummond said, including quicker response time.

A concern was whether the online census filing might encourage criminal hacking.

Drummond explained that the U.S. Census Bureau has been reserving all of the URL websites that are similar to the Census 2020 website and has put several other significant security measures in place, she said.

Part of the educational outreach is establishing public areas, or "hubs," where people can respond online without using

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## Schulman, Zaino Outlast Democrats in Mount Pleasant Town Board Race

By Joan Gaylord

Republicans swept the Mount Pleasant elections on Tuesday, unseating the lone Democrat on the Town Board and maintaining its possession of town justice.

Though the Town Board races remained close last Tuesday night as precincts reported unofficial results, Jerry Schulman and Danielle Zaino emerged the winners. Running on the Republican, Conservative and Independent lines, Schulman received 4,221 votes while Zaino picked up 4,141. Democrat Hagadus-McHale finished with 3,786 votes and her running mate, Laura DiVenere, collected 3,623.

Meanwhile, longtime Town Justice Robert



Jerry Schulman and Danielle Zaino were the winners last week in the race for the Mount Pleasant Town Board.

Ponzini staved off a strong bid by Democratic challenger Elizabeth Smith, 4,197-3,872.

"I'm not disappointed as much as I am determined," said Hagadus-McHale. "If there

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## Mt. Kisco Voters Approve Additional \$4M Bond for Village's Firehouses

By Martin Wilbur

Voters in Mount Kisco last week supported a proposition by more than a 2-1 margin to authorize borrowing another \$4 million to help pay for the upgrade and expansion of the village's three firehouses.

After the proposition passed 1,166-558, the village hopes to go out to bid this winter and break ground early in the 2020 construction season at the Green Street firehouse, said Mayor Gina Picinich. The facility is home to the Union Hook & Ladder Co. and Mount Kisco Fire Rescue Police.

Bids and work will follow at the Mount Kisco Fire Department's two engine companies' houses, the Mutual Hose & Engine on Main Street and the Independent Fire Co. on Lexington Avenue, she said.

Picinich praised Mount Kisco

residents as "beyond extraordinary" for understanding the importance of improving the firehouses even though the village was faced with having to float another bond issue two years after the original vote.

"When faced with the facts and the information, they will make a decision to support those who support them," Picinich said. "As someone with the honor of serving this community, that is the part that stands out for me above anything else. The goodness of the people of our community can't be measured."

Earlier this year, officials learned that the \$10.25 million that voters approved in 2017 would fall far short to cover the original scope of work at the firehouses after a miscalculation by the project's architectural and engineering firm. There have also been larger-than-expected construction cost escalations.

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**Democrat Refuses to Concede...page 5**

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## County Planning Commissioner Urges Response to 2020 Census

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their personal computers. That would also help some older citizens who might be uncomfortable with the transition to responding online or who may not have a computer.

"We'd like to establish hubs like libraries where, for example, young people might volunteer to help senior citizens respond to the census," Drummond said.

The Westchester County Planning Department reviewed 370,000 housing units in the county and found 24,000 more housing units than the official count, Drummond said. She said her department reviewed how municipalities reported building permits and found seven municipalities had not reported those permits correctly. While she didn't identify those municipalities, she said they included two large cities, a smaller city, one town and three villages.

The Census 2020 educational staff is now working with school districts to establish Census Week in March during

which discussions with school boards are being encouraged, she said. The most under-counted group is children under five years old because they are not in school yet, Drummond said.

A review has been completed using birth certificates, which are used by school districts, to project new enrollment.

"Many people think because children are not in school yet they don't have to be listed on the census," she said.

Drummond explained that once the public understands what's at stake with the census, they will understand the importance of responding.

"If people knew that responding to the census meant more funding for their fire department or how the census impacts funding for hospitals, health care, ambulances, then they would respond," she said.

More information is available at [www.planning.westchestergov.com/census-statistics](http://www.planning.westchestergov.com/census-statistics).

## Mt. Kisco Voters Approve Additional \$4M Bond for Village's Firehouses

*continued from page 1*

The originally planned project would have required about \$18 million.

Picinich also lauded the volunteer firefighters and commissioners for balancing the emergency response needs of the community with the ability for average taxpayers to pay. The extra money will allow for the most important renovations and the expansion of the three facilities, even though multiple items from the original project have been excluded.

The available \$14.25 million will help the fire companies eliminate the "crushing hazard" volunteers face because there are only a few inches between the front and back of the apparatus and the inside of the front door and back wall inside the firehouses. There will also be ample room to incorporate cross-contamination and cancer-reduction measures after volunteers return from a fire.

"When we identified the error and we said what do you want to do, the decision-making was really driven by them," Picinich said of the fire companies and commissioners. "I think the choice to break off by \$4 million from the \$18 million and reduce the scope was them really saying we live here too, we're taxpayers here, too, we recognize that we don't want to put this burden, to overburden the taxpayers."

During an informational meeting last month, Village Manager Edward Brancati estimated that with approval of the additional \$4 million, village taxpayers would see a 3.52 percent tax increase in the 2020-21 budget. That would equate to a \$122 tax hike for the owner of an average residence in the village with a \$415,000 market value.

Based on projections shared with the public in October, each of the following two years would see a 2 percent tax increase while there would be a 1 percent hike for the ensuing years of the bond.

The village will be able to apply carryover from previous budgets because it has consistently been below the tax cap. Therefore, Mount Kisco is not expected to exceed the cap, Brancati mentioned.

### Village Board Election Totals

The Democratic slate of Picinich, incumbent Trustee Peter Grunthal and former village prosecutor David Squirrel, a first-time candidate, faced no competition in last week's election.

Picinich, who two years ago ran as an independent on the 4MK line with Trustee Isi Albanese, this time was re-elected as a Democrat. Albanese decided against running for re-election after serving one term on the Village Board.

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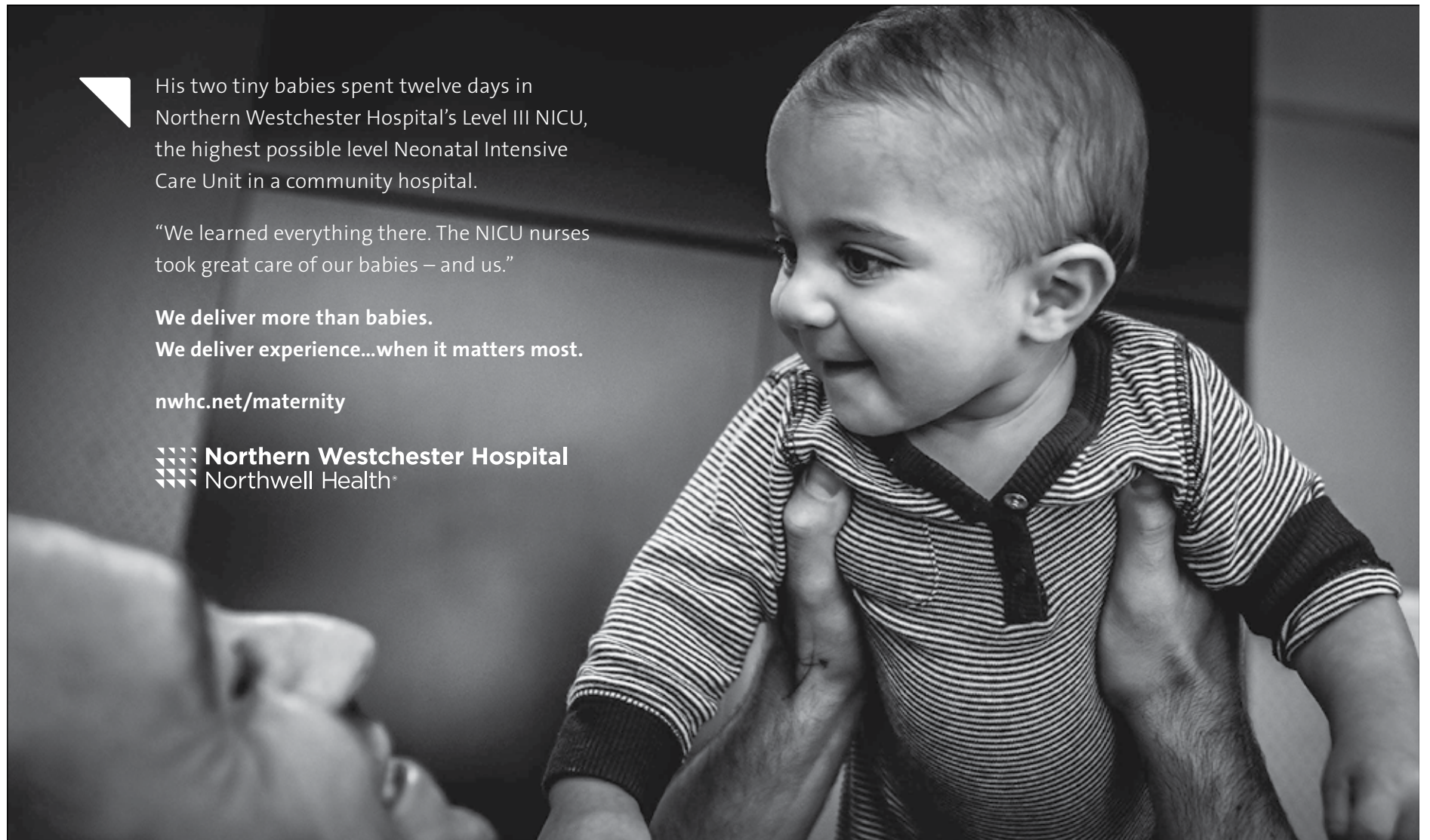
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# Pool Wins New Castle Supervisor's Race as Democrats Sweep Election

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Democrats guaranteed themselves a majority on the Town Board next year by easily sweeping their three Republican challengers in Tuesday night's town election.

Councilwoman Ivy Pool will make the transition to the supervisor's office in January after defeating Jim Smith, 3,111-1,525, according to Westchester County Board of Elections totals. Incumbent Councilman Jeremy Saland and Millwood Fire Commissioner Jason Lichtenthal collected 2,925 and 2,905 votes, respectively, finishing well in front of their opponents Lauren Levin (1,787) and Sean Maraynes (1,519), who joined Smith on the Team New Castle ticket.

"It was really a team effort and we had an incredible team behind us," Pool said moments after she and her running mates declared victory. "We are a slate of people who are friends in real life and who worked together to create a platform that we all stand behind, and then we had a team of focused volunteers that worked with us and for us."

She said that the victory also was a testament to their experience of having served the community.

Pool, who two years ago was

elected in her first run for office in a close Town Board race, said last week she was starting to prepare for the jump from council seat to supervisor, a step that she called "pretty significant." She planned to work with outgoing Supervisor Robert Greenstein in hopes of making a smooth transition.

Smith said the results closely mirrored the percentage of New Castle voters' party registration, which is something they were unable to overcome in a hyper-partisan political environment. However, he was happy with the campaign that he, Levin and Maraynes ran and enjoyed knocking on doors and speaking to residents about the issues facing the town.

"I'm really pleased with it," Smith said. "We worked really hard at it and stayed above the fray on things."

While not ruling out another run sometime in the future, Smith said he plans to continue attending Town Board meetings and staying involved with the town's issues.

Meanwhile, Saland, elected to a second term, complimented the volunteers who helped the ticket to a resounding victory.

"I'm excited about continuing, I'm excited about New Castle's future, I look forward to a new supervisor, and most importantly,

I look forward to serving the residents," Saland said. "There are a lot of great things to come."

Lichtenthal, who has attended meetings throughout the year, said he will get up to speed quickly and will be ready for January when he is sworn in.

"I understand the process that goes on, which is pretty helpful," he said. "We're just a great group of people that are going to be on this Town Board."

With Pool's victory, the three Democrats and Councilwoman Lisa Katz will have to appoint an interim board member in January to fill the council seat until a special election is held next November to determine who will serve the remaining year of Pool's unexpired term.

Saland said he and his ticket had expressed support during the campaign to appoint the third-place finisher in the council race to the vacant seat, a commitment he said he is prepared to honor.

Levin, who finished third in the council race, said she would consider serving the interim term if asked. Last week, she was still recovering from the defeat but had no regrets and was pleased with the campaign and the she and her running mates ran.

"I don't think there was anything else I could have done to change the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

From left, Jeremy Saland, Ivy Pool and Jason Lichtenthal were all smiles last Tuesday night after they easily won election to the New Castle Town Board.

results," Levin said. "I'm happy that I did it and I'm happy that I stayed aboveboard and out of the fray."

Maraynes said that with Greenstein having won three consecutive terms as supervisor and Councilman Lisa Katz having won twice on the Republican-backed Team New Castle, the Democrats were motivated and prepared to get out their vote and run a hard race.

"At the end of the day, the issue was voter registration," Maraynes said. "We talked to everyone for 10 months about what we're about

and local issues and keep the party politics away. I wish the other side did the same, but they didn't."

During the campaign, questions were raised about Smith's series of contributions in 2016 to Donald Trump's presidential campaign and inauguration. Their opponents took the opportunity to bring that out in public and dismissed Team New Castle's claims to nonpartisanship.

While Greenstein won three elections and Katz two while endorsed by the Republican Committee, they are registered Democrats.

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## Schulman, Zaino Outlast Democrats in Mount Pleasant Town Board Race

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is another opening, I will run for it. In the meantime, I will be looking for where else I can make a difference."

The only incumbent in the Town Board race and the first Democrat to be elected to the board in 30 years, Hagadus-McHale had won a special election last November to fulfill the remaining year of former councilman Mark Rubeo's unexpired term. Rubeo was appointed to serve as the other town justice last year. This year's election was for the full four-year term.

Hagadus-McHale noted that she had more Democratic votes than her opponents on

the Republican line, but it was the votes her opponents received on the Conservative and Independent lines that put them over the top. Schulman received 772 votes on those two lines while Zaino got 747.

Last year, when there was a gubernatorial election and the congressional mid-terms, turnout was high, helping to propel Hagadus-McHale to victory with more than 8,300 votes.

First-time candidates Schulman, a registered Conservative, and Zaino gave much of the credit for their victory to the town's Republican Committee.

"I'm honored by all the support we

received," said Zaino, a lifelong town resident as well as a former student of Schulman's in high school. "I grew up here. This town has my heart."

Schulman said the committee did a superb job of organizing and directing their efforts. The results brought a few surprises, he said, such as not pulling stronger in Pleasantville where he has lived for 34 years and raised four children. He said he would leave it to those with more campaign experience to determine why.

"I'm happy that people see me as someone they can trust," he said.

Schulman said he believes his years of

experience as a Mount Pleasant School District administrator will serve him well on the Town Board, citing the need to work collaboratively and to listen to all sides before making decisions. Now retired, Schulman said he will regularly draw upon those skills when he takes the oath of office in January.

As a first-time candidate, DiVenere said she saw the campaign as a very good experience despite the outcome. She said meeting and interacting with so many town residents, people she would not have crossed paths with otherwise, was a positive outcome of her effort.

Though the 198 absentee ballots that have not yet been counted will not affect the outcome, Hagadus-McHale said on Saturday that she has not formally conceded the election, citing campaign irregularities.

She said she has reported these incidents to the state Board of Elections, which included offers of rides to the polls and lunch for voters and using an official town mailing list for the distribution of campaign fundraisers.

"There's no reason to rush," Hagadus-McHale said, noting her term runs through the end of the year.

Republican Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi was uncontested in his re-election bid.

In a proposition to make the highway superintendent's post an appointed position, voters chose to maintain the status quo by a nearly 2-1 margin, 4,799-2,599.

Highway Superintendent Richard Benkwitt and Town Clerk Susan Marmol were also unopposed.

## Gashi, Covill Win County Legislator Races; Dems Increase Dominance

Democrat Vedat Gashi comfortably defeated former Yorktown supervisor Michael Grace Tuesday night to represent District 4 on the Board of Legislators.

Meanwhile, one-term incumbent Kitley Covill easily turned back Republican challenger Gina Arena to return to her District 2 seat.

Gashi, also a Yorktown resident, received 8,468 votes to Grace's 5,939, according to the Board of Elections. His victory comes a year after he unsuccessfully sought to win the 94th Assembly District seat, losing to Kevin Byrne.

He will succeed longtime County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz, who decided not to run again for re-election after representing the district for the past 22 years.

District 4 includes parts of Yorktown and Somers and the Town of New Castle.

In District 2, covering the county's

northeastern municipalities, including Mount Kisco, Covill trounced Arena 8,386-4,852, to win a second term.

The results, along with a victory by Democratic Peekskill City Councilman Colin Smith over former Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina and Ruth Walter holding a 2 percent lead over Republican incumbent Gordon Burrows, guarantees the Democrats increase their dominance on the Board of Legislators to at least 14 seats and quite likely to 15 of the 17 seats.

County Executive George Latimer said while Westchester has become increasingly Democratic over the past generation, the lopsidedness of Democratic officeholders in the county has accelerated the last three years as a backlash to the election of President Donald Trump.

"Every time he opens his mouth and says something rude and insulting, in Westchester — they may love him in Alabama — but it turns people off in Westchester County," Latimer said. "And frankly, there are good Republicans who lost (last week) because of Donald J. Trump."

He said he will work with the two remaining members of the Republican caucus on the Board of Legislators, Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount

Pleasant) and David Tubiolo (R-Yonkers), and pledged to treat them and their ideas with respect.

Cunzio and Tubiolo were in two of the 12 districts that had uncontested races for county legislator.

— Martin Wilbur



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# Hagadus-McHale Delays Concession, Levels Charges of 'Irregularities'

By Ed Perratore

Mount Pleasant Councilwoman Francesca Hagadus-McHale refused to concede defeat last week while reporting "irregularities in the campaign" to the state Board of Elections.

"I want it to be on record: I'm appalled," she said last Wednesday evening at the Town Board work session, one night after she fell 355 votes shy of re-election, according to Board of Elections results.

She indicated that she will concede after the absentee ballots are counted on Nov. 19.

Hagadus-McHale was the subject of a state Republican Committee mailer that targeted her as "too radical." The mailer, she claimed, was too specific in town politics to have come from the state Republican Committee.

"I think it came from the town. I think it came from board members and it was paid for by the New York State Republican Committee," said Hagadus-McHale. "Only board members would be privy to evidence that they could distort."

But what made her contact the Board of Elections were two other concerns. One was related to a May 17 political fundraiser at Tesoro D'Italia restaurant in Pleasantville; the other, an offer to transport voters to polling places.

She charged that fundraiser organizers used a Town of Mount Pleasant official mailing list to invite town employees to the dinner.

"Of course, I received it because I was

on the Town Board. It's like, you've got to be kidding me, your boss can't invite you to his fundraiser," she said. "It was sent out, using personal e-mail, by (Councilman) Nick DiPaolo and (Supervisor) Carl Fulgenzi. They used their personal e-mail to send it out, but they used everyone's Town Hall address, so it goes to every employee."

Second, a mailer from the New York Republican State Committee offered to transport anyone for free who needed a ride to the polls, starting with early voting on Oct. 26 and continuing through Election Day.

"We're happy to help and provide a complimentary lunch," the mailer stated while providing a phone number to call.

"They're not allowed to offer anything in kind to people, such as offering a complementary lunch," Hagadus-McHale said. "So I reported that as well."

During her year on the board, the councilwoman said the board's four Republicans have been very cordial, but she suspects that work sessions continue beyond adjournment.

"By and large, most of the board has been very cordial to me, and I've worked very well with them," she said. "(But) I start to leave, and everybody stands up, getting their car keys. I get in my car and drive by the window, and they've sat down again. They could be talking about anything, but they're not supposed to be doing that."

Fulgenzi refuted most of Hagadus-McHale's charges. He said the Town Board had nothing to do with the mailing targeting her.



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

Mount Pleasant Councilwoman Francesca Hagadus-McHale, pictured here during last Wednesday's work session, will wait to concede her election defeat.

"That came from the committee, not from me or the other candidates," he said. "I told her last night (Election Day), the first time I saw it was when I received it in the mail."

Regarding the use of official e-mail to send out fundraiser invitations, Fulgenzi categorically denied it.

"I never use town e-mail to communicate

anything that's of a political nature," he said.

The invitations, from the personal e-mail accounts of Fulgenzi and DiPaolo, went to a mix of work and personal e-mail addresses, and some of the work addresses were sent to town or village employees.

"There are a lot of town employees who wanted to be at different fundraisers that we had," he added. "They're not only fundraisers, they're social events."

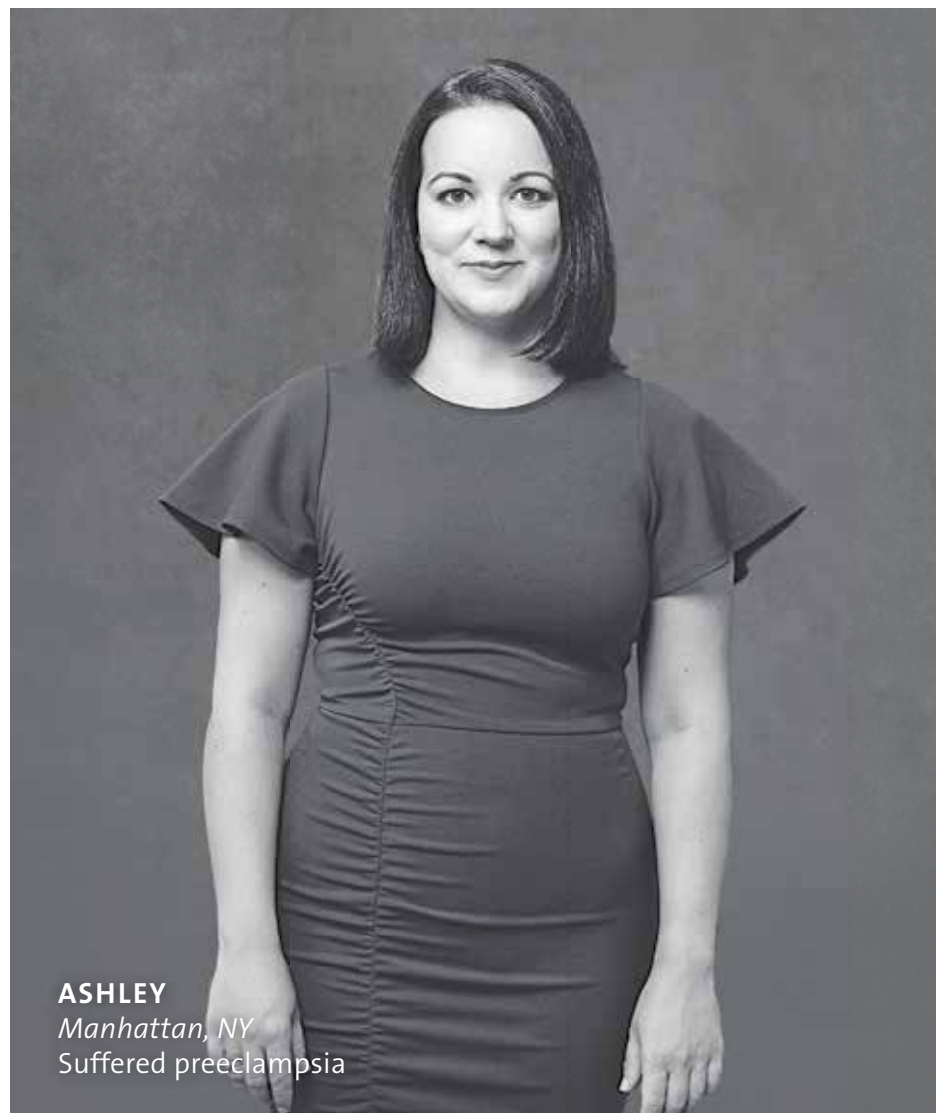
The offer of a meal along with transport to the polls, Fulgenzi admitted, was a mistake, though not a single meal was paid for.

"After (the mailer) was printed, we were advised that we can't do that, and we made sure that we did not buy lunch for anybody," he said. "We know from the past, you don't go around buying people things to try to get them to vote for you. That's not the way it's supposed to be."

Fulgenzi denied Hagadus-McHale's last criticism, that meetings appear to resume after adjournment.

"Unfortunately, when a meeting is over, Francesca leaves," he said. "There are times when I'm there, locking doors or chatting about something. It's not a town conversation after the meeting is over. I can't stop a councilman or councilwoman from asking me a question, and it could be totally unrelated."

"(Hagadus-McHale) can stay as long as she wants," Fulgenzi said. "Nobody closes the door, anything like that. But believe me, I'm not there to stay all night—I have a long day there."



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# Land Trust, No. Castle to Partner on 63-Acre Open Space Purchase

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of North Castle and the Westchester Land Trust (WLT) are preparing to purchase an environmentally significant 63-acre parcel on Byram Lake Road from a private property owner to maintain as open space.

The property, owned by Vito Errico and sometimes referred to as the Children's Preserve, would be acquired mainly through a state Water Quality Improvement Program (QWIP) grant that has been submitted by the land trust, said

WLT President Lori Ensinger.

Bordered on one side by I-684, to its north lies Byram Lake Reservoir and the Meyer and Butler preserves, she said. The property would be part of a 700-acre corridor of unfragmented land that contains highly varied species of plants and animals as well as high-quality sand and gravel aquifers that produce large volumes of water, Ensinger said.

She said since about 90 percent of the town's drinking water is derived from aquifers, preservation of this parcel is of crucial importance to North Castle.

"So for those two reasons, habitat corridor, habitat connectivity and drinking water protection through preservation of sand and gravel aquifers, this project rose to the top of Westchester Land Trust criteria," Ensinger said.

Furthermore, a 2003 study by the town's Open Space Committee rated the parcel fifth out of 34 properties for importance of drinking water protection.

If the grant is obtained, it would pay for about 85 percent of the purchase price, which was not revealed. Town Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the town was ready

to contribute about \$200,000.

A decision by the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on the grant application is expected by Dec. 15, Ensinger said.

Schiliro said the town has had its eye on the property for years but needed another organization to help secure it as open space. Although the town and WLT are waiting to hear from the state regarding the grant, he said it was important to let the public know of the intentions to acquire and maintain the land as open space.

"We're always looking to make an effort to preserve or acquire open space where we can and sometimes there's a financial obligation for the municipality to do that," Schiliro said. "To me, this will be well worth helping you acquire the property."

Councilman Stephen D'Angelo said he drives past the property every day and has hoped it could be preserved, particularly after a couple of applications were submitted for the land, which got a cold shoulder from the town.

"It's truly an amazing piece of property and we're beaten down a couple of bad uses of the property over the last eight years, and it's really great to be able to work with the land trust and preserve this as is," he said.

## North Castle Proposed 1.39% Tax Hike in \$35.5M 2020 Budget

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle's \$35.5 million tentative budget for 2020 would trigger a 1.39 percent tax for residents next year but will remain far below the tax cap.

Contractual increases in the town's union contract, hikes in healthcare costs and an increase in Building Department staff and in the administrator's office account for some of the additional spending, said North Castle Town Administrator Kevin Hay.

Officials are also budgeting to replace two Highway Department trucks, two police cars, a vehicle for the Building Department and a truck for the Parks & Recreation Department, he said.

The proposed paving budget has also been increased from \$900,000 to \$1 million for next year and \$131,450 is earmarked for expansion of the children's room at the Armonk branch of the North Castle Public Library, according to Hay.

Total spending is proposed to rise by about \$964,000, in the general, highway and library lines.

Despite the spending increase, the town would be nearly \$1.1 million under the maximum allowable tax levy for 2020, which includes \$341,793 that North Castle is permitted to carry over from Fiscal Year 2019, under the state's formula.

Taxes on the average North Castle homeowner with a home at an \$850,000

market value would rise by \$80 to \$3,344.

Hay said last week that it is expected that the town's fund balance in the general budget will be about \$10.5 million, about \$260,000 more than the end of last year.

On Oct. 30, Supervisor Michael Schiliro said that the town retained its AAA bond rating from Moody's, in part because of the robust fund balance and manageable debt.

The Town Board has scheduled to open the public hearing on the budget at its next meeting on Nov. 20. The hearing is likely to be adjourned until the board's last scheduled meeting of the year on Dec. 11, where it is expected to be adopted.

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# Latimer Seeks \$1M Tax Levy Cut in 2020 County Budget

By Neal Rentz

For the first time in nine years and for only the second time in the last 19 years, a Westchester County executive is proposing a reduction in the property tax levy.

George Latimer discussed his proposed \$2.1 billion 2020 spending plan on Nov. 8 that would cut the levy by \$1 million.

"This is an important day for the people who live in Westchester County," Latimer said.

Latimer is recommending cutting the tax levy to \$569 million next year. If the proposed cut is approved by the Board of Legislators, the size of the tax rate decrease would vary based on the equalization rates and assessment roles of each municipality, he said.

Spending is proposed to rise by \$200 million. Some of the higher expenses include state-mandated criminal justice reform, which requires additional spending for the district attorney's office, information technology, labs and research and the Public Safety Department, Latimer said. Additional spending is need to borrow for capital projects, rising employee health insurance costs and to cover new employee contracts, he said.

The proposed spending plan does not borrow for expenses such as employee pensions and tax certioraris or the use of "one-shot" revenues, he said.

A major reason for the ability of the county to cut the property tax levy is the

Property Taxpayer Protection Act, which raised the sales tax on Aug. 1 from 7.375 to 8.375 percent, equalizing the tax in all of Westchester's municipalities. The action had bipartisan support from local and state governments, Latimer said. He had pledged to keep property taxes flat for 2020 and 2021 if the county was approved for the sales tax hike.

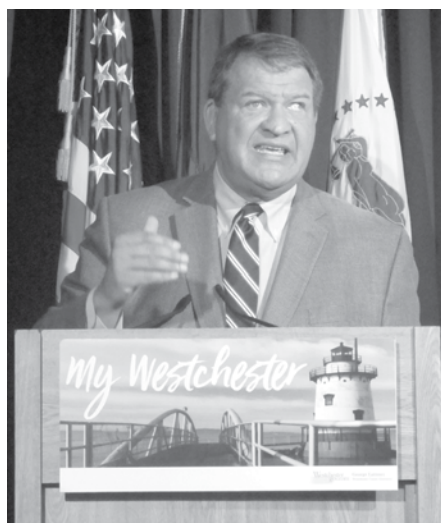
In addition to more sales tax revenue for the county, 20 percent of the sales tax will be shared among most of the municipalities and 10 percent will be distributed among the school districts, he said.

The Town of Greenburgh, for example, expects to receive \$3.2 million in additional sales tax revenue next year, Latimer said.

With the extra funds, Latimer is proposing to add \$10 million to the county's fund balance to bring the total to \$79 million, a 23 percent increase over the current year.

Latimer's proposed budget includes several spending initiatives. He is seeking to provide \$1.5 million in new housing and community development initiatives, including affordable housing programs to help residents move toward home ownership. He is also calling for an additional \$400,000 for environmental initiatives and \$150,000 toward ensuring an accurate count in Westchester for the 2020 census.

Additionally, the county executive is looking to create the position of a hate crime specialist and to set aside more funding for anti-bias training for schools,



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Westchester County Executive George Latimer discussed his proposed \$2.1 billion budget for 2020 during a Nov. 8 press conference in White Plains. Latimer proposed to cut the tax levy by \$1 million.

including colleges.

Latimer's budget would include an overall 3 percent increase for nonprofit organizations that have contracts with the county.

The budget also proposes to reduce the parent contribution for childcare from 27 to 25 percent next year.

"It is impossible for us to meet every need every year," Latimer said, adding he

wants the input of officials from various levels of government. "We can make these decisions together."

During the press conference, Latimer symbolically passed a copy of the budget to Board of Legislators Chairman Benjamin Boykin (D-White Plains). Boykin thanked Latimer for cooperating with lawmakers on fiscal matters.

"You've been transparent," said Boykin. "We appreciate that openness."

A message left last week for Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill) for his comments on the proposed budget was not returned.

The deadline to pass the county budget is Dec. 27.

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# Teamsters, Unions Protest Outside Millwood Lumber for Fair Wages

By Martin Wilbur

Close to 100 union members demonstrated outside Millwood Lumber last Saturday morning, accusing the company of failing to negotiate a contract with its workers who are now represented by Teamsters Local 456.

Representatives of several other units along with some elected officials protested outside the Route 133 business, arguing that Millwood Lumber refuses to pay wages and benefits that are commensurate with the region.

"For too long, Millwood (Lumber) has underpaid its workers, unwilling to offer them the area standards," said Louis Picani, president of the Teamsters Local 456, which represents workers in Westchester and Putnam counties.

"A company that prides itself on a local community-based model should pay what the other local employers are paying. Millwood advertises that it's a full-service lumberyard that has been meeting the needs of homeowners, builders and contractors in Westchester as well as the New York metro area for 75 years. That's 75 years of paying their works below-market wages, taking advantage of their workers."

Picani said there are about nine licensed drivers and yardmen who voted last February to have Teamsters Local 456 serve as their exclusive bargaining unit representative. In May, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) approved the workers' right to be represented by Local 456.

The two sides are still in negotiations,



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Louis Picani, president of Teamsters Local 456, leads members and elected officials in last Saturday's demonstration outside Millwood Lumber. About 100 members of unions from the building trades and other bargaining units stood in solidarity with the Teamsters, calling on Millwood Lumber to come to terms on a contract and pay the workers a fair wage.

Picani said, but Millwood Lumber has refused to agree to pay area standard wages. He said that all other lumberyards in the area, including some much smaller outfits, pay those wages.

He claimed that Millwood Lumber's parent company, US LMB, LLC, reported a profit of more than \$38 million in 2018, and the owner has homes in Italy and the Cayman Islands.

"These other reputable companies pay

the area standard wages and treat their employees with dignity and respect," Picani said. "There's no reason why Millwood Lumber can't do the same. These small mom and pop shops do not make \$38 million a year profit, (but) they're willing to sign on and pay their employees a fair wage."

Messages left for Millwood Lumber were not returned.

Chanting "enough is enough!" representatives from other unions vowed

to support their cause. Florence McCue, secretary and treasurer of the Westchester-Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO, said her organization represents 120,000 families in the two counties. They have good contracts because it's nearly impossible to live in the area without one, she said.

"We're here to let you know we will back you no matter what it takes," McCue said. "We will bring people to the table; we will bring people behind the scenes and we will bring people to the streets. So we are here with you and you will get a contract."

Weeks ago, the union brought an oversized inflatable rat that has been set up outside the business to bring attention to the workers' plight.

Several elected officials spoke during the roughly half-hour rally. State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro), whose district includes New Castle, said fairness is what the union is looking for.

"Everybody deserves a fair contract, fair wages, good benefits," Harckham said. "That's what we're going to fight for and I will be back anytime you need me here because what we're fighting for is respect and decency for all workers in Westchester."

"The people of the 93rd Assembly District stand with you and we will not rest until you get a fair contract, productive wages and recognition that you deserve," said Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains).

Picani said they will continue their demonstration until a contract that includes the standard area wages and benefits is delivered.

## WCC Announces New Transfer Agreement With SUNY Delhi

Westchester Community College (WCC) has signed a new comprehensive transfer agreement with SUNY Delhi, guaranteeing students who complete one of 19 associate degrees at Westchester a seamless transfer into one of 13 corresponding bachelor programs.

With this agreement, WCC students graduating from an associate program with a minimum 2.0 grade point average will be directly admitted into a bachelor program at SUNY Delhi. SUNY Delhi's nursing program requires a 2.8 GPA or higher and the veterinary technology program requires at least a 3.0 GPA. A maximum of 64 credits will be applied toward the completion of the bachelor's program at SUNY Delhi.

"This extensive agreement encompasses a very diverse set of academic programs, thereby allowing students from Westchester Community College the opportunity to transfer seamlessly into any one of our five academic schools at SUNY Delhi," said SUNY Delhi Provost Kelli Ligeikis. "The combined efforts of Westchester

Community College and SUNY Delhi will open doors and ensure long-term pathways for educational success for our students."

"Our main goal is to help students succeed. Expanding our transfer pathways with new agreements with four-year institutions helps our students move on toward promising opportunities in the classroom and the workplace," added WCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Vanessa Morest. "This is another step toward our mission to simplify and redesign the student experience. The agreement will make it easier for our students to achieve their dreams."

To encourage students to take advantage of the new partnership, SUNY Delhi will award two one-time \$1,000 SUNY Delhi/Westchester Community College Pathways Transfer Scholarships to a student who resides on campus and a student enrolled in an online program. The scholarships require each student to maintain full-time student status with a cumulative GPA of 3.0.



SUNY Delhi Provost Kelli Ligeikis, left, and Westchester Community College Vice President of Academic Affairs Vanessa Morest announced last week a new transfer agreement between the two schools.



# County to Announce Public Meeting With FAA; Prelim Report Issued

By Martin Wilbur

The county will soon hold a public session with representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to address concerns from residents in communities close to Westchester County Airport that noise levels have been on the rise.

Scheduling of the meeting, which is expected to be announced within the week, will allow citizens to speak one-on-one with FAA officials rather than through a more conventional Town Hall-style forum, said County Executive George Latimer. It is expected to be held in the Town of New Castle.

News of the impending meeting comes after the county's consultant, HMMH, released its preliminary Aircraft Operations and Noise Modeling Results on Oct. 23. The report showed that the number of average daily aircraft operations fell from 469 flights in 2013, to 450 in 2016 to 428 in 2018, the three years that were studied.

However, it also stated that the average daily number of noise events above 70 decibels increased in areas northwest of the airport, mainly Thornwood and Chappaqua, by two to three times during that same timespan.

The report showed that the use of Runway 16 for arrivals ticked up for both jet and propeller aircraft. Typically, arrivals

for Runway 16 come from a northwesterly direction.

Other factors considered were airfield layout, terrain, weather and aircraft performance.

Latimer said that while the county has control over the operations of the airport it does not have the power to make changes to air traffic and flight patterns. He added that he wants the noise study to be an effective representation of the noise at the airport.

"You've got to make the case and the case is not just numbers, it's also an analysis of what the problems are, and the fact that some individuals are so outraged by it that they want to sell their homes tomorrow, in some cases, (but) the next-door neighbor doesn't feel the same way," Latimer said. "There's got to be an ability to get consensus beyond just those who are already active."

He said if any changes need to be made, it will take political pressure applied to the FAA to make the necessary adjustments.

Peter Schlactus, chairman of the county Airport Advisory Board, said the board will delve into the report in greater detail at its December meeting. However, he noted that there is reason to believe that the complaints from some residents have been valid.

"There is ample evidence in what was presented to us, that despite this apparent reduction in the overall number of flights,



County Legislator Kitley Covill and Bedford resident Len Martello with one of two portable airport noise monitoring stations at Bedford Mews. The county also maintains 22 fixed stations.

that communities around the airport are or have been experiencing more and more noise impacts over the same period of time," Schlactus said.

Although commercial aircraft flights are down, Schlactus said the number of flights from fixed-base operators have increased, leading him to wonder whether the type of aircraft used by those companies have changed.

Last month, the New Castle Town Board fired off a letter to Latimer calling for release of the study's preliminary results and to quickly schedule the public meeting with the FAA. It also urged the county executive to take immediate steps for potential legal action against the FAA.

While the first two points have been or are in the process of being addressed, Latimer called preparing for litigation "premature." He said the county must first explore all non-litigation alternatives.

"We have to make sure when we go to court with the FAA, we have to make sure we have a strong case and a reasonable chance to win," Latimer said.

New Castle Supervisor-elect Ivy Pool, a co-author of the Oct. 8 letter, said the town's Airport Advisory Board is reviewing the HMMH preliminary report. She stated that the public meeting with the FAA will be "an important first step in opening the lines of communication" with the agency. Pool said she expected that additional conversations will be needed.

While the town understands Latimer's position that litigation should be a last resort, that request was to send a message.

"The purpose of our letter was to send notice to the county that we believe such drastic action may be necessary, particularly in light of the situation on Long Island where promises were made by the FAA to alter flight paths were ultimately not fulfilled," Pool said.

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# Chappaqua Craft & Gift Fair Set for November 16

The Chappaqua Craft & Gift Fair, now in its 35th year, will host 90 artisans and crafters who are eager to share their one-of-a-kind items for your holiday shopping enjoyment on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Robert E. Bell Middle School.

Admire the work of beautiful handmade pottery, unique handcrafted jewelry, handbags and luxury knits. Find gourmet

food, bath and beauty products and myriad other notable items.

Admission is free and vendor fees support PTA-run enrichment programs at Bell Middle School. Many vendors support the raffle with a gift item, with proceeds also benefiting the Bell PTA. Pizza Station will offer family-friendly food and Pleasantville Bakery will again offer "sweets and smiles" from Kemar "Q" Newell.

The Chappaqua Craft & Gift Fair is the largest fundraising event held by the Bell Middle School PTA and will also fund after-school programming and supplemental music and computer programs. The Bell PTA also offers scholarships for field trips, after-school programs and other support for families and students with financial needs. The PTA's funding of supplemental art and enrichment programs provides young people with outlets beyond academics and sports and offers them global insight and perspective.

Robert E. Bell Middle School is located at 50 Senter St. in Chappaqua. Parking is available across the street at the Chappaqua train station lot. For more information, visit [www.chappaquacraftfair.com](http://www.chappaquacraftfair.com).



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## Police Blotter

### North Castle Police Department

**Nov. 1:** A caller on High Street reported a utility pole fire at 7:38 a.m. The Armonk Fire Department and an officer were dispatched. The responding officer confirmed the condition and reported that the roadway was closed near location. Con Edison and the Byram Hills bus garage were advised.

**Nov. 1:** Fire department pager reported a female party experiencing a medical emergency in an unspecified parking lot on New Orchard Road at 7:11 p.m. The responding officer reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Nov. 1:** Report of a suspicious person on Custis Avenue at 10:36 p.m. A caller reported two intoxicated parties, a white male and a white female, hiding in a driveway. The parties were then spotted walking toward Hillandale Avenue. The responding officer located the individuals who were given a courtesy transport home without incident.

**Nov. 3:** A caller reported at 2:07 a.m. that she was having a dispute with her roommate at their Washington Avenue residence over the loudness of her television. Officers responded and reported that the matter was adjusted.

**Nov. 3:** An anonymous caller reported

a loud party on Washington Avenue at 8:17 p.m. The responding officer reported speaking to the owners who agreed to turn down the volume of the music.

**Nov. 4:** Report of an injured employee on Business Park Drive at 9:09 a.m. The caller reported a piece of equipment fell onto the individual. The caller stated that the party is alert and conscious but may have a broken leg. An officer was dispatched to the scene and 60 Control was notified, which dispatched Armonk Fire Department Ambulance to the scene. The subject was transported to Westchester Medical Center.

**Nov. 4:** A Byram Ridge Road South resident arrived at headquarters at 2:30 p.m. to report a possible sighting of a mountain lion in his backyard. The complainant was able to capture photos via the outdoor camera system. The information was forwarded to patrols.

### Pleasantville Police Department

**Nov. 5:** Report of damaged property on Washington Avenue at 4:57 p.m. The driver of a parked car stated that her vehicle was damaged from a fallen tree limb.

**Nov. 8:** A complainant arrived at headquarters at 12:43 p.m. to report fraudulent purchases and withdrawals from their bank account totaling more than \$1,600.

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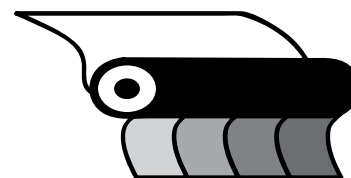


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# Ex-Obama Official Talks Immigration at Neighbors Link Program

By Martin Wilbur

For most of his life, Alejandro Mayorkas thought of himself as a refugee. His parents fled Fidel Castro's Cuba in late 1960 when he was about a year old to settle in Miami.

But Mayorkas, who served as director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and then deputy secretary of Homeland Security under President Barack Obama, had his perception change after he visited the Dadaab Refugee Camp in the desert near the Kenya-Nairobi border.

A facility that was designed to handle no more than 90,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, had about 300,000 at the time of his visit. Its inhabitants used paper or plastic bags as shelter from the sun, and when the sun set, it was pitch black because there was no electricity.

Mayorkas saw camp personnel interview a 17-year-old girl. When the girl was asked where she was born, she replied that it was at the camp.

"I said I'm not a refugee," Mayorkas remembered of his reaction. "I thought my father had to start over when he came here but he had the tools and the opportunity. These individuals may certainly have the capability but not the opportunity."

Mayorkas, an attorney, was the guest speaker at last Wednesday's annual Neighbors Link Luncheon in Purchase.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Alejandro Mayorkas, former director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and deputy secretary of Homeland Security under President Barack Obama, spoke at the Nov. 6 Neighbors Link luncheon.

Immigration, which has long been a hot-button topic, has taken on new meaning the past three years. His talk also came less than a week before the U.S. Supreme Court was scheduled to start hearing arguments on the future of the Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which the Trump administration is trying to end.

Mayorkas's life, and his motivation, has been largely influenced by the circumstances surrounding his family's story. His mother was a refugee twice in her life. She escaped Romania during World War II and landed in Cuba. Less than 20 years later was on the run again.

"I think of identity, I think of opportunity, I think of my parents, who really struggled to rebuild a life and I have been very driven because I feel as though I have an obligation to do what I do," Mayorkas said.

He said that because the United States is a country of immigrants, it is a nation of integration, not assimilation and making the newer arrivals part of everyone's lives is essential.

"It was that the individuals who come from different countries are not outside of us, but are very much a part of us," Mayorkas said. "They are equally a part of our institutions, our life, our fabric, the pulse of our neighborhood as are others, and that is why immigration is such an important force in the life of our country and in the life of those who come from places around the world."

Jeremy Malpartida, who worked his way up the billing department at CareMount Medical and is now a certified coder, is a

DACA recipient who will be awaiting word on the high court's decision.

During last Wednesday's program, he detailed how he was brought to the United States by his parents at seven years old. He now has two daughters, 9 and 11 years old.

"We need to do everything to keep this opportunity alive," Malpartida said.

Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Bracco said being on the frontlines of the immigration issue means that she and others have been eyewitnesses to "a greater level of inhumanity." Families, with members having mixed immigration status, are fearful that they or a loved one will be swept off the street, placed in detention and deported, she said.

"Just imagine if you were unlucky enough to have been born in a place where your child's academic education was over by the age of 10, wouldn't you do anything possible to change that?" Bracco said.

The Mount Kisco-based Neighbors Link serves about 4,000 immigrants a year. It helps them take English classes and to navigate the school system to help their children. It has also expanded its legal services to four attorneys to help them with immigration, asylum and citizenship issues.

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# New Castle Dedicates Holocaust Memorial in Downtown Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

With incidents of hate and anti-Semitism on the rise, it was Alexandra Rosenberg's vision to create a place in her hometown where future generations could learn about the horrors of the past and prevent them from recurring.

The New Castle resident, assisted by her friend and fellow town resident Stacey Saiontz, proposed to local officials the creation of a Holocaust memorial in downtown Chappaqua.

That vision became reality last Wednesday evening. In a ceremony attended by more than 200 residents, elected officials, several local Holocaust survivors and Chappaqua resident and former President Bill Clinton, the town unveiled and dedicated the monument near the gazebo on South Greeley Avenue. They were also joined by members of the student-run organization at Horace Greeley High School, Educate Now on Understanding Genocide and Hate (E.N.O.U.G.H.), which Rosenberg also created.

"In establishing the new Holocaust Memorial, the New Castle Holocaust & Human Rights Committee and the Horace Greeley Club E.N.O.U.G.H., we now have a platform to teach our children in the community the lessons of the Holocaust, to recognize the dangers of hate, the perils of indifference and the importance of taking action," Rosenberg said.

Saiontz, who like Rosenberg is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, thanked the town and the community for their support. The materials for the memorial and the landscaping were donated by Manzer Landscape Design & Development, and the town's Recreation & Parks Department helped prepare the site, she said.

The memorial consists of a stone with a plaque that includes the quote from Greeley student Matty Wasserman, "Although no one can change the hate that has occurred through our past, to not acknowledge it and understand it, we're forcing it upon our future."

A few weeks ago, about 750 daffodil bulbs



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

President Bill Clinton is flanked by New Castle Holocaust Memorial creators Alexandra Rosenberg, left, and Stacey Saiontz, following last Wednesday's dedication ceremonies.



The New Castle Holocaust Memorial.

were planted at the memorial as part of the Daffodil Project, a worldwide project to commemorate the lives of the children lost during the Holocaust. The project hopes to plant 1.5 million flowers across the world – one daffodil for every child killed.

The dedication was scheduled a few days before last weekend's anniversary of Kristallnacht, which occurred on Nov. 9-10, 1938. Kristallnacht is generally viewed as

the start of the Holocaust, when Jewish-owned business and synagogues across Germany were destroyed and thousands of Jewish men were taken from their homes, many never to see their families again.

Town Supervisor Robert Greenstein said that just over a year after 11 members of a Pittsburgh synagogue were gunned down and about a week after the FBI arrested a white supremacist for targeting a Colorado synagogue, it is more important than ever that communities find ways to educate and fight hate. Studies have shown that more than 40 percent of millennials have little to no knowledge of some basic facts related to the Holocaust, he said.

"An increasing percentage of the population is unfamiliar with the Holocaust; now more than ever it's essential that we educate all Americans about the dangers of hatred and the vital importance of standing up to evil," Greenstein said.

President Clinton lauded Rosenberg and Saiontz's efforts and urged the crowd to remember the importance of never



Holocaust survivor and Pleasantville resident Peter Somogyi lights the first of six memorial candles to remember the deaths of six million Jews during the Holocaust. The candle lighting was part of the program to dedicate New Castle's Holocaust Memorial last Wednesday night in downtown Chappaqua.

forgetting the victims.

"These people and their faith and their dignity, their right to live...deserve from the rest of us an honest and complete memory," Clinton said. "Passing that memory and that history along to every generation, and then the lesson that applies in every age, place and time to all human beings, people should never die because of who they are and what they believe – ever."

A bench was also dedicated at the site to the memory of the father of Inside Chappaqua publisher and town resident Grace Bennett. Her father, Jacob Breitstein, who died earlier this year at 97, was a survivor of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

"I would have hoped by the time he turned 97 that anti-Semitism would be a scourge that would be eliminated," Bennett said. "But it is not. There's been a spike in it and I've very concerned about it. I'm concerned by it every day and I make it my business to fight it as his daughter in his memory."

In addition to making the site a place for education and quiet reflection, the community plans to hold an annual event in the spring on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

## SPCA Reveals Plans to Rebuild its Animal Care Campus

The SPCA of Westchester in Briarcliff Manor announced plans last week to build a brand-new animal care campus at its current location through its Rescue Restore Rebuild Capital Campaign.

To date, more than \$8 million of the \$9.1 million needed for the project has been raised.

"This project is the culmination of the determination and talents of many people who believe in our mission," said SPCA of Westchester Executive Director Shannon Laukhuf. "On behalf of the animals we protect and care for, we are extremely grateful to our supporters who have already pledged to make a new and improved SPCA a soon-to-be reality."

The SPCA continues to seek support from the community to raise the remaining funds needed to break ground. A modern 27,000-square-foot building will replace multiple aged buildings currently on the SPCA's campus featuring many upgrades

including:

- Indoor dog habitats for increased comfort and outdoor day pens for the dogs' enrichment and exercise.
- Luxury four-story condos and multiple cage-free cattery areas to replicate home-like environments for cats and kittens.
- A state-of-the-art veterinary hospital.
- A large indoor space to serve as a training and enrichment center for dogs.
- A classroom for humane education presentations to local schoolchildren, youth groups and the popular Camp Critter day camp.

To take a virtual tour and learn more about the SPCA's Capital Campaign and how you can help, visit [www.SPCA914.ORG](http://www.SPCA914.ORG). To discuss gift and naming opportunities, e-mail [Shannon@spca914.org](mailto:Shannon@spca914.org) or call 914-941-2896 ext. 12.

Founded in 1883, the SPCA of Westchester is a no-kill animal welfare organization located



An Artist's renderings of the exterior and a portion of the interior of the new facilities proposed by the SPCA for its operations in Briarcliff Manor.

in Briarcliff Manor and is not affiliated with the ASPCA. Last year, the SPCA supported more than 4,000 companion animals through its many programs and services. The SPCA of Westchester is located at 590 N. State Rd.





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## Letters to the Editor

### Noise Situation at Westchester Airport Not as Acute as Portrayed

Last January, I wrote to The Examiner to respond to several comments made by those concerned about Westchester County Airport noise issues ("While Noise Complaints Shouldn't Be Dismissed, Airport is a Major Asset," Jan. 8-14, 2019). That letter specifically noted that airport traffic volumes are down from what they were in the 1980s and '90s and 2000s; that aircraft today are quieter in their operations than ever before; and that flight patterns have not changed in any material way for decades.

A consultant hired by Westchester County, HMMH, recently confirmed these facts at the October public meeting of the Westchester County Airport Advisory Board (AAB).

The consultant updated data from prior airport noise studies it conducted over a decade ago. Back then, it looked at noise levels in 1989, 1999 and 2005. The current report adds data for the years 2013, 2016 and 2018 to the earlier work.

Looking at the newly added data, and comparing it against its prior report, the consultant found that the airport continues to show steady and significant contractions in the noise contours surrounding the

airport in the period from the '80s, '90s, 2000s and today. Aircraft arriving and departing today are quieter than in the past, and their noise footprints (how far various noise levels spread to each side of the flight paths) are more compact than ever before. This was determined by analysis of data recorded 24/7 by a multitude of noise sensors located throughout the county.

For those who live northwest of the airport (in parts of New Castle, Mount Pleasant and North Castle), some of whom have argued that traffic patterns have changed and volumes greatly increased of late, the consultant confirmed that there have been no material changes in airport flight patterns in the 2013 to 2018 period reviewed. These flight patterns are basically the same as those reviewed by the AAB going back to at least 2005.

The total of annual flights in and out of the airport are trending downward with, roughly speaking, an average of about 500 to 600 operations a day in the years between 1990 and 2011, but with the average dropping to between 400 to 500 daily operations in the most recent years.

The consultant did find that weather (wind and cloud ceiling height) and operational

considerations did cause some annual fluctuations between how often Runway 16 was used with aircraft approaching from the northwest over Chappaqua and Mount Pleasant, versus Runway 34 usage with aircraft approaching from the southeast. Despite these yearly fluctuations the overall levels of traffic northwest of the airport are currently lower than in decades past, and are broadly in line with the overall trend of lower traffic levels at the airport.

What these data show is that the situation is nowhere near as dire as those who are most vocal about airport noise would have us believe, and the noise impacts of the airport are demonstrably getting better, not getting worse.

There's always room for some improvement, however, and I as a pilot and Pleasantville resident welcome thoughtful suggestions from the community to ameliorate some of the current effects of airport operations while also protecting the great economic and lifestyle benefits of having such a well-run airport in our county.

**J. Scott Dyer**  
Pleasantville

### Steps Should Be Taken to Prevent Election Fraud During Early Voting

The early voting that took place during the 2019 election was a big success in Greenburgh and in the rest of the county. However, some residents expressed concern about the eventual possibility of misuses, since poll watchers did not ask voters for any identification when they voted.

Unlike Election Day, when people vote at local places (election inspectors or other voters may know who lives in the community), anyone can vote at any early voting location. Election inspectors

have no idea who the voters are. All one has to do is sign their name. It's possible that someone can vote for a neighbor who doesn't want to vote, who is out of town or even who passed away – and they can get away with it.

I believe that the Board of Elections should come up with a plan to reduce the possibility of fraud taking place during early voting. Without additional safeguards, it is very possible that ballots will be cast in the future by people who should not be voting. We need to make sure that no one

ever questions the honesty of elections. We have had some very close elections in Westchester over the years (including races where both candidates received the same number of votes).

I do not want to discourage voting; I only want honest elections.

**Paul Feiner**  
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

### New York Raising Tobacco Sales Age to 21 Going into Effect

The legal age of sale of tobacco products and e-cigarettes in New York State will be raised from 18 to 21 this Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The American Lung Association applauds state lawmakers for passing the law, known as Tobacco 21, which will prevent and reduce tobacco use among youth amidst a national youth vaping epidemic and save lives.

Every day, close to 2,500 youth under 18 try their first cigarette and more than 400 kids become regular daily smokers. Two-thirds of 10th-grade students and nearly half of eighth-graders say it is easy to get cigarettes.

According to a National Academy of Medicine report, younger kids often rely on older friends, classmates and peers to buy their tobacco products. Because students typically do not reach 21 years old while still in high school, New York's new law is expected to greatly reduce the

number of high school students who have easy access to tobacco products.

New York's Tobacco 21 law received bipartisan support last spring, following a December 2018 announcement by the U.S. Surgeon General alerting the public that youth e-cigarette use had reached epidemic levels. According to the announcement, e-cigarette use increased by a staggering 78 percent among high school students from 2017 to 2018.

In new preliminary data from the National Tobacco Youth Survey, e-cigarette use soared by another 32 percent among high school students from 2018 to 2019, showing that 27.5 percent of high school users have used e-cigarettes in the last month.

Tobacco 21 is a policy being rolled out in states across the country in order to prevent another generation of Americans from becoming addicted to tobacco products and to suffer from tobacco-related

death and disease.

The New York Assembly passed the legislation in March, with the Senate following in April, and it was signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on July 16. To date, 18 states (including New York) and Washington D.C. have taken the important step to protect their kids against this threat by raising the minimum age of sale for all tobacco products to 21.

"With more than 28 percent of New York's high school students reporting use of tobacco products, there is no doubt that Tobacco 21 will make a difference for New York's younger generations," said Elizabeth Hamlin, director of advocacy for the American Lung Association in New York. "The grassroots movement that made this happen in New York also helped raise valuable awareness about the health impact of tobacco products on our young people and families."



## Guest Columns

### Do Immigrants Make Us Poor? The Evidence Suggests Otherwise

By Milton Steinberg

Our president has declared that immigrants steal Americans' jobs and social services and thereby make us poorer. It's one of the reasons the status of nearly 700,000 DREAMers hangs in the balance as they await a critical Supreme Court decision.

This treatment of immigrants is nothing new. When President Trump refers to immigrants as "thugs" or "animals," he is following a long line of rhetoric dating back centuries designed to stir our emotional fear and loathing of those who are unlike ourselves.

But emotions aside, what impact do immigrants actually have on our economy and our society? Data suggests that rather than hurting our economy, they may actually improve it.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is an imperfect but convenient indicator of the total wealth of our nation. While doing research for a talk at the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester last month, I noticed something interesting. There is a relation between our population size and our prosperity. We've been told for many years that the world is becoming overpopulated, so you might expect a larger population to make us poorer – fewer goods and services to be shared among more people. But in fact, GDP increases with population, not only in the U.S. but even in poor, overpopulated nations like Bangladesh.

The reason for this counterintuitive finding is that in the U.S., the largest source of GDP by far (68 percent) derives from consumer spending. The more

consumers spend, the more jobs are created to provide us with more goods and services. So, a larger population actually leads to more wealth.

We are the third largest nation (after China and India) with about 330 million people, so it would seem like a good idea for us to maintain this population in order to compete with China and other nations. But we can't seem to maintain our population on our own. Our fertility rate, about 1.8 children per woman, is below replacement rate (about 2.1). Yet our population continues to grow. And immigration is a big part of that growth, the growth that leads to more wealth.

How far should we grow? Surely, there must be limits. The European Union has a population of about half a billion people, a total land area little more than half that of the lower 48 states and a population density of 116 persons per square kilometer. Even if we were to increase our population by more than 50 percent, our population density would still only be about 62 persons per square kilometer. But it will be difficult to reach these levels unless we make it easier for immigrants to enter the country.

But aren't immigrants violent criminals? Not really. A study by the Cato Institute in Texas, where laws against illegal immigrants are firmly enforced, found that the conviction rates for illegal immigrants for all crimes was below that of native-born Americans. And conviction rates for legal immigrants were lower than those for native-born Americans. Other studies have shown no increase in crime rates among undocumented immigrants.

But don't immigrants cash in on our

social welfare without contributing to the economy? In a 2016 study, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reported that undocumented immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, collectively paying an estimated \$11.64 billion a year. And Time magazine indicated that the Social Security Administration (in 2010) reported \$13 billion in payroll taxes paid by undocumented immigrants who received \$1 billion in benefits.

Beyond simple economics, allowing more immigrants into this country is simply the right thing to do. As a member of Ethical Culture, a non-theistic religion of ethics founded in 1876 and espoused by the American Ethical Union (AEU), we not only violate the tenets of morality when we make it more difficult for asylum seekers to enter our country, we also negatively impact the future our children face by willingly stifling our nation's

economic growth.

The Trump administration may think it's helping our economy with its restrictions on immigration, but it may actually be doing significant harm. The facts and data are clear – immigrants make for a healthier society. In the past, our excellent universities and more hospitable immigration and visitor policies attracted the best and brightest from around the world to come to the U.S. to expand our science, build businesses and enrich our knowledge, our culture and our economy.

It's time to end these limiting and xenophobic policies – for the sake of our moral and economic well-being.

*Milton Steinberg is a professor emeritus at Marymount College at Fordham University and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Culture Society of Northern Westchester in Ossining.*

### High School Football is More Than Sport, it's a Community Gathering

Many people would agree that their years in high school were some of the best years of their lives – particularly those individuals who were members of a sports team or participated in other activities such as the marching band or debate team.

In many cases, team members become lifelong friends. Reunion parties are held from time to time as teammates return to remember the fun – more so than the outcome of games or events – they had participating in high school activities. Quite often, reunions for sports teams are staged during the highlight of each sports season – the state playoffs.

In November, there is nothing like the excitement of high school football playoffs in cities across New York and throughout the nation. While each team will be trying to advance to the state championship, the outcome of the games is only a part of the experience for those individuals in attendance. Why? Because the people in the stands at high school football playoffs are moms and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers, neighbors down the street, fellow students and longtime residents of the community. People in the stands know the players on the field. Win or lose, their support and love is always there.

There is no tradition in sports with the history of high school football. There are 30 rivalry games involving 60 high



By Karissa Niehoff



By Robert Zayas

schools that started before 1900 and continue today, the longest of which is Connecticut's New London High School and Norwich Free Academy, which have been playing annually since 1875. In Michigan, Battle Creek Central and Kalamazoo Central have been playing since 1896. In Massachusetts, the Wellesley-Needham Heights rivalry dates to 1882. And in Colorado, Pueblo Central and Pueblo Centennial have been matched since 1892.

Although there are more options for entertainment than ever before, there is still nothing to match high school football playoffs in the fall. With all the people attending games of the 14,247 high schools that play football, expect more than 10 million fans each week – easily the number one fanbase in the country.

As you attend high school football playoff games this year, remember

that the players, coaches and game officials deserve your utmost support, encouragement and respect. While advancing in the playoffs is the desire of each team, the ultimate objective of high school sports and activities is to have fun and enjoy these special years.

We urge you to continue to support the high school teams in your community.

*Karissa Niehoff is executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations and Robert Zayas is executive director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.*

## Letter to the Editor

### State Taking Necessary Steps to Combat Climate Change

In March, the United Nations projected that we only have 12 years until the damage done by climate change becomes irreversible.

Many feel helpless in the face of this looming catastrophe. How does one individual amongst billions create change? Truthfully, one person alone will not be able to solve our climate crisis. However, many people working together, combined with bold legislation will be able to make effective, positive change.

In New York State, we have committed to this concept with the Climate

Leadership and Community Protection Act, an historic bill that promises to

drastically reduce New York's carbon footprint. The bill, signed into law on July 19, promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state by 85 percent by 2050, along with requiring New York to get to "net-zero" carbon emissions, meaning that all carbon emitted must be offset by other means of carbon reduction.

In addition to this initiative, directed by the Climate Action Council, the Act requires that at least 35 percent of clean energy investment goes to disadvantaged communities and establishes a Climate Justice Working Group in order to provide specific help to these communities.

With this bill, New York is not only moving toward making a healthier planet, but leading the way. Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done.

To find out more about how we can all reduce our personal carbon footprints, please come to my Community Conversation on Climate Change on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Cortlandt Town Hall, located at 1 Heady St. in Cortlandt. Together, we can make a difference in our environment.

**Assemblywoman Sandy Galef  
95th Assembly District**

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# Pleasantville Salutes Local Veterans' Service



Pleasantville Boy Scout Troop 12 advances the colors during Monday's Veterans Day ceremony at the Memorial Plaza gazebo.



Minister Jim Brown delivers the closing prayer.



Teresa Brown sings "God Bless America" during Monday's Veterans Day ceremony in Pleasantville.



Frank Landi, vice commander at American Legion Post 77, addressed the crowd.



Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter.



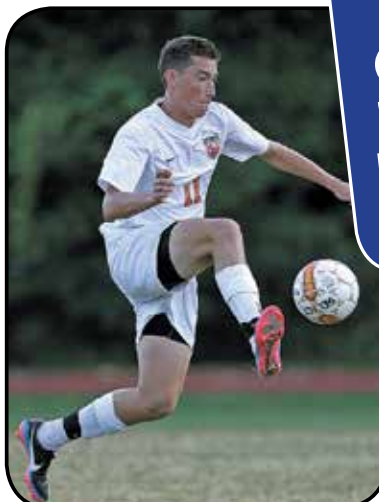
Local Boy Scouts participate in Monday's Veterans Day ceremony in Pleasantville.



Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti speaking at the Pleasantville Veterans Day ceremony.



Pleasantville High School Razor Edge Male Chorus sang "America the Beautiful."



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# New Castle Veterans Day Event Bridges Vet-Citizen Divide

By Martin Wilbur

About a year-and-a-half ago, Erica Dunne began interviewing local New Castle veterans to chronicle their thoughts and experiences on serving their country as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Dunne learned during the course of her interviews, which were done for the New Castle Historical Society, that 2019 was the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day, which was originally referred to as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of fighting in World War I.

The son-in-law of one of the local veterans that Dunne had interviewed reached out to her with an idea for another project. Zach Watson, an Army major who currently teaches at West Point, looked to get the general public and veterans more involved to help understand each other more effectively.

Monday represented the culmination of their collaboration with a special program at the Millwood Firehouse. Five active or former service members, ranging from a current West Point "yearling" to a 75-year-old veteran, spoke of their personal experiences serving in the military before an overflow crowd of other veterans, their families and interested community members.

"It was really supposed to be a community event because we wanted to spread information about Veterans Day and get the community more involved and be veteran focused," Dunne said.

During his opening remarks, Watson, who teaches international studies at the

U.S. Military Academy, spoke of the growing divide between the shrinking percentage of the nation's population that has served in the military and the vast portion of the general public that has little understanding of what veterans and military families face.

Today, there are about 20 million veterans in the United States, about 7.9 percent of the population; 50 years ago, half of the country's population was veterans, said Watson, a Chappaqua resident. He was hopeful that programs like Monday's Veterans Day event will be a small step in bringing together two of the nation's disparate subsets.

"I'm hoping that today's event can be part of a conversation for us to exhibit the patience and understanding and generosity of spirit that helps us to overcome the awkwardness we can feel when hearing these conversations so that we choose to engage them rather than avoid them," Watson said.

Gene West, a Vietnam veteran who went into the Army in 1969, said he grew up on the streets of Brooklyn. Despite seeing combat, he considered himself lucky to be given immense responsibilities at a young age in the Army.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to get me out of the subways in Brooklyn and (help me) become the leader that I am," said West, who earned a Purple Heart and other medals.

Another veteran, Christian Wyser-Platte, whose family escaped Nazi-occupied France when he was a baby, agreed that the training and responsibilities from his days in the U.S. Navy were advantages for him throughout his life. Having an entire unit work toward one goal was another.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Army Major Zach Watson leads a Veterans Day program featuring five active or former servicemembers who shared their experiences about the military.

"What the military gives you is a common cause with somebody and bonding," Wyser-Platte said.

The second half of the two-hour program featured a reception where members of the public could mingle and speak individually with the five featured veterans and other former servicemembers who attended.

New Castle Historical Society member and past president Suzanne Keay, who is Watson's mother-in-law, said he asked her and Dunne to be involved in the event.

"I personally think this program is an excellent opportunity to help everyone remember the true reason we have Veterans Day," Keay said.

Dunne, who has been a Girl Scout since

kindergarten, said her project helped her understand what veterans experienced, usually at a very young age. The majority of the more than 20 veterans she interviewed served during Vietnam while others were in the Gulf War or from Afghanistan or Iraq. She also spoke to two World War II veterans.

"The thing that stands out to me is how young these veterans were when they went into the service," Dunne said. "They were all of 17, 18 and many of these people had very limited basic training and they were thrown into combat situations or put overseas very young. Many of these people took their service and they used their skills and went on to become great people in different professions."

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# Non-profit Renews Fight Against Hunger on Sunday With Empty Bowls

By Martin Wilbur

Since co-founding the organization five years ago that is now called (914) Cares, Jessica Reinmann has been driven by a passion to help others in need in Westchester.

Whether it be the thousands of hungry families or the moms that have to choose between paying rent or buying diapers and adequate clothes for their children, Reinmann finds her volunteer work for the North White Plains-based (914) Cares has plenty of rewards.

"I often get the question: You work so hard and you don't get anything," Reinmann said. "I always say my work is selfish. I really feel so passionate about the fact that everyone deserves a chance and that Westchester really has a horrible cycle of poverty because it's so expensive to live here."

This Sunday, the organization will hold what is perhaps its signature event – the fifth annual Empty Bowls Westchester to be held at the Whippoorwill Club in Armonk from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event raises money for area food pantries. With the addition of Hope Community Services of New Rochelle this year, there are now seven organizations that will share in this year's proceeds.

Last year, organizers added Bread of Life Hope for the Hungry Food Pantry in Rye. The original list of beneficiaries that are still being helped are the Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville; the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah; Hillside Food Outreach; the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester; and the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry.

During the first four years, Empty Bowls

Westchester raised about \$420,000 to help these organizations, Reinmann said.

She said Empty Bowls is an international grassroots campaign where people in a community paint bowls and attend an event where a very simple meal – such as a bowl of soup – is served and each participant goes home with one of the painted bowls.

"It's supposed to remind them that for the rest of the year that there are these people in their communities who have empty bowls," Reinmann explained.

A key component of the fundraiser are the celebrity bowls, which are sold through a silent auction. This year Carrie Underwood, Peter Frampton, James Taylor, Bill and Hilary Clinton, Rachel Platten, Lin Manuel Miranda, Billy Joel, Paul Schaeffer, Rob Thomas and James Patterson are among the celebrities whose bowls will be available. Taylor has also agreed to have a signed guitar auctioned off.

One of the event sponsors, Whole Foods, has pledged 5 percent of all sales from Oct. 17 at the four Whole Foods locations in Westchester to be donated to the seven organizations.

Reinmann said another part of the effort that is gratifying is educating the many Westchester residents who may be largely unaware of so many needy residents so close to their homes.

"I spend a lot of time educating our



Members of the local community who attended last year's Empty Bowls Westchester event that raised money for area food pantries. Part of the evening is the silent auction of bowls that are signed by celebrities.

wealthy population about the poverty that exists right next door," she said. "I think it's very easy in communities like Chappaqua and Armonk and Briarcliff and going all the way down county to Scarsdale and Harrison, it's very easy to stay in your bubble."

For anyone interested in attending Sunday's event, tickets are \$175 each. To learn more about Empty Bowls, to purchase tickets or to make a donation, visit [www.914cares.org/empty-bowls](http://www.914cares.org/empty-bowls). You can also follow on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/emptybowlswestchester](http://www.facebook.com/emptybowlswestchester).

## Westchester Knicks Team Up to Fight Against Hunger



Members of the Westchester Knicks recently stopped by Feeding Westchester in Elmsford to unload 1,000 turkeys that will be distributed to needy families throughout the county in time for Thanksgiving.

Can you picture Thanksgiving without a turkey?

Many families across the United States and in Westchester face that reality as they gather at the table to give thanks.

Enter Stop & Shop's Turkey Express to save the day. It stopped at Feeding Westchester in Elmsford with a truckload of turkeys to make sure no one goes hungry this Thanksgiving.

Feeding Westchester is a tall order, so the Westchester Knicks were called in to assist. The team joined Stop & Shop and Feeding Westchester in unloading 1,000 turkeys in time for Thanksgiving. Stop & Shop generously donated the turkeys that Feeding Westchester will distribute to

its network of more than 300 partners and programs throughout the county.

For many, the need can be greater around the holidays and together the need will be filled for as many families as possible. Special guests Hudson and Marty the Robot, created by Badger Technologies, also joined the fun.

Stop & Shop's Turkey Express program will deliver more than 18,000 turkeys to hunger-relief organizations throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island this holiday season. Stop & Shop donated more than \$28 million in product and financial support last year to fight hunger and support individual food banks like Feeding Westchester.

## WCA to Name Interim President/CEO as Search Continues

William P. Harrington, chairman of the Westchester County Association (WCA), announced last week that John E. Ritacco, a financial services executive who was the former president and CEO of CMS Bancorp Inc., a publicly traded financial institution, will be appointed interim president and CEO of the organization effective Jan. 1.

Ritacco will remain in the position until a successor to William M. Mooney Jr., the current president and CEO, is found.

Ritacco will work with the WCA Board and staff as they continue to develop and advance policies and initiatives to foster smart growth and economic vitality in the region.

"John has been an active business consultant to the WCA for the past two years and has worked closely with Bill Mooney and the board," Harrington said. "So his taking the interim position is a terrific and natural fit if we have not identified a new CEO by the new year."

Mooney, longtime popular head of the WCA, officially retires Dec. 31. A seven-person Search Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Menkes, president & CEO of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and a key member of WCA's Executive Committee and Board of Directors, is in the process of conducting a comprehensive and inclusive search for the next leader of the WCA.

"The Search Committee wants to make their selection from a solid, capable, diverse pool of highly qualified individuals," Menkes said. "We will keep moving ahead as we begin our next chapter and prepare to meet the extraordinary opportunities afforded by



John Ritacco has been named interim president and CEO of the Westchester County Association, a leading business organization in the county, effective Jan. 1. He will remain in place until the WCA can find a permanent successor to William H. Mooney Jr.

a changing and dynamic business climate."

The WCA will honor Mooney, a giant in the regional business and banking communities, at their Annual Fall Leadership Dinner, to be held this Wednesday at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

All individuals interested in applying for the position of president and CEO of the WCA should e-mail [jritacco@westchester.org](mailto:jritacco@westchester.org) as soon as possible.



# Arc Stages' 'Blue Leaves' Tackles Serious Issues With Hilarity

By Martin Wilbur

It's sometimes difficult to find a production that is alternately hilarious and heartbreaking, but those who will attend Arc Stages' latest Community Stages production will experience the best of those features in a single two-act play.

"The House of Blue Leaves," a black comedy written by playwright John Guare that debuted Off-Broadway in 1971, is that story. It is set to open on Friday evening for the first of five productions over the next two weekends.

"It's very funny, actually, and you find yourself laughing and you're like, 'Whoa, I'm laughing at this but it hits you in the gut,'" said director Stephanie Kovacs Cohen. "It's poignant and sad and heartbreaking and I think that's what great comedy is and the cast does it very well. It's also what drew me to this piece. It has everything. It is extraordinary comedy and it is heartbreaking."

The story is set in Queens in 1965, on a day the Pope is set to visit New York. Artie Shaughnessy lives with his wife, Bananas, who is suffering from bouts of mental illness. Artie, whose full-time job is as a zookeeper but who still has dreams of making it big as a songwriter, spends time with his girlfriend Bunny.

None of these main characters are happy with their lot in life.

"The meat of the piece is that Artie and Bananas and Bunny are fighting so desperately to sort of fulfill their dreams of happiness and they keep missing," Cohen said. "Artie and Bananas are not happy



The cast of "The House of Blue Leaves," Arc Stages' latest Community Stage production, which is set to open this Friday evening for the first of five performances.

anymore and they so very much want to be, and they can't find that with each other anymore. So they're trying desperately to find it in different ways, and Bunny as well."

Claude Tusk, is one member of the 10-character cast playing a military policeman, said he views the story as a "Death of a Salesman for the artistic set." With the characters of Artie and Bananas in their forties, there is the sense that time is slipping through their fingers, he said.

While they have their own problems, Bunny has had a succession of careers and seems dissatisfied with every one of them.

"It's people who definitely have a dream and definitely see themselves as being very successful in whatever strikes them but they never get there," said Tusk, who has appeared in about seven or eight Arc Stages productions and has been involved in the organization since its early days at the Little Village Playhouse.

The fact that the play is set on a day where the Pope is arriving in New York City also has significance to the story, he said.

For those who grew up in a New York City apartment in the 1960s or '70s, or who remember visiting relatives who



A scene from "The House of Blue Leaves."

lived in one, Arc Stages was able to pick up various pieces of furniture to round out the set that feels as though you step back in time about 50 years.

Despite all the hijinks, Cohen said the show also highlights how differently society treats the mentally ill today compared to the 1960s.

"That, I think, is an extremely important and relevant part of this," she said.

The cast also includes Thomas Califra, Joanna VanTrees Cowitt, Adina Beth Dovman, Crystal Gonzalez, Lauren Harris, Mary Horoszkowski, Julia McCarthy, John Palacio, Arnie Toback and Jennifer Tulchin.

The play has an intermission between the two acts.

It is scheduled to open this Friday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. and continue on Nov. 16, 17, 22 and 23. All performances, except for the 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 17, are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22 and \$28 each. For tickets and for more information, visit [www.arcstages.org](http://www.arcstages.org).

## Touro College of Dental Medicine Hosts Free Vets Oral Healthcare Event

In celebration of Veteran's Day, Touro College of Dental Medicine teamed up with the Ninth District Dental Association for its second annual Smiles for Veterans event, a day of free oral health care for veterans, military personnel and their family members.

More than 60 participants turned out for the festivities, which kicked off with a rendition of the national anthem by the college's a capella group, the Chromatic Scalars.

Veterans and their families enjoyed a breakfast reception with entertainment, giveaways and student-led educational activities aimed at encouraging good oral health practices. Practitioners from New York Medical College's new Family Health Center, located on premises, joined to offer blood pressure screenings, height, weight and body-mass index readings.

State Sen. Peter Harchham attended along with leadership from the New York State Dental Foundation (NYSDF) who provided support.

"Many people don't realize it, but our veterans don't receive dental care benefits through the government, unless they are 100 percent disabled or have service-related injuries to their mouths," said Dr. G. Kirk Gleason, chairman of the NYSDF Board of Trustees and a Vietnam veteran.

"In response to this, we've expanded our efforts over the last few years to bring accessible care to veterans in need, but more needs to be done and programs like this are so important."

"Giving back to our community, especially our veterans who have done so much for us all, is an important part of Touro College of Dental Medicine's mission," said Dean Ronnie Myers, D.D.S. "We want our students to leave here with a commitment to serve their communities, and this is an up-close opportunity for them to understand the needs of those with limited access to oral healthcare and the impact that they can make."

Madeleine Mass, a third-year dental student who participated in the event's planning, has a personal connection to the cause. Several members of her family have served in the military, from the Marines to the Coast Guard, and her boyfriend is currently in the Army.

"A lot of people don't know to how to use their benefits and there are lapses in insurance for many veterans," Mass said. "This free event is an opportunity for us to help the community and we're just happy to get people back on track for proper oral health care."

Toward this end, Touro Dental Health expanded its program this year to include



Veteran Richard Fonyi receives a free dental exam from two Touro College of Dental Medicine students for its second annual Smiles for Veterans program at the school in Hawthorne. More than 60 veterans took advantage of the service, which was provided to celebrate Veterans Day.

additional free treatment to participants through the end of the year. Special courtesy rates for veterans, military personnel and their spouses are also

available on an ongoing basis to help reduce the financial barriers that prevent many from seeking routine dental care.

**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



## The Joy – Yes Joy – of Fall Chores in the Garden

As a realtor, I am as interested in the responsibilities of the great outdoors as I am in indoor chores.

Alas, while I no longer am responsible for my garden since moving into my condominium, where a great team of gardeners keep the outdoor property shipshape, I remember with fondness my garden chores, which had always been particularly enjoyable in autumn, even more so than spring planting.

Autumn gardening can be very gratifying as deciduous trees and perennials start to yawn, preparing for a long winter's sleep, accompanied by that sweet smell that comes from plants releasing their chemistry and the crisp, clean sound of decaying leaves falling to the ground.

It all tells homeowners that they can rest for a few short months of shorter days, much like when the children are asleep. The only outdoor chore that remains is clearing the snow and ice.

While spring is probably everybody's favorite time in the garden, helping its rebirth after being pummeled by winter, I always liked fall for the finiteness of garden chores. When I pulled a weed, it stayed pulled and didn't replace itself with double the aggression. When I deadheaded perennials, I knew that I could take a furlough from assuring that they were



By Bill Primavera

properly fed and watered, but would welcome them back in spring after we had both rested.

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

My more creative joy came from choosing which mums I'd feature as the color transition from fall to winter. While you will see drifts of mum plants on some properties that have every color in the fall palate, I stuck to one color, two at the most.

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

My most gratifying fall job, as well as a good aerobic/resistance training exercise, was building up the mulch beds to make them look well-tended, as well as to keep the perennial roots from heaving. I would always ask my tree service to send me a truckload of wood chips if they were

very clean (no leaves) and process them into smaller chips. Truly, it's as good as expensive mulch. In fact, I like it better because it offers more texture and looks more natural to me.

Here are other garden tips at this time of year:

- Harvest any vegetables left on plants. It's important to pull out all of the crops because debris left over the winter can cause diseases to enter the soil and reappear the next spring.
- This is the time when you can add horse manure or compost to the soil, which allows plenty of time for it to break down.
- For those who like to bring houseplants inside, they should all be gathered into a shady area for a few days to get them used to lower light conditions.
- Perennials that are overcrowded or growing in a large ring with the center portion missing means that it's time to subdivide. You'll become popular with your neighbors if you share the excess. Cut back the remaining perennials to a height of three to six inches.
- Prepare for brilliant displays of daffodils,

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

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

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

Note that my advice from personal experience is in the past tense now that

I live in a condo. Oh, how I miss my garden, but giving advice is good therapy for me.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., a public relations agency ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://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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# Birding Costa Rica: If You Love Birds, This is Paradise

By Brian Kluepfel

Sometimes I travel for business. In some ways you could say a travel guide company pays me to eat, drink, hike and observe nature. In other ways you could say they pay me to be at long stretches without my wife, traveling on scorching, crowded buses and hardly getting a good night's sleep for weeks at length. I prefer to see the glass half full.

On Sunday, I was at a marvelous place called Casitas Tenorio in Bijagua, Costa Rica. I skipped the morning bird excursion because there was a nice combo of wind and rain, and I was quite tired. All valid reasons, me thinks.

So I got up later and sat on the porch with my breakfast. There I saw – not necessarily in order – a yellow throated toucan, a gaggle of boisterous Montezuma oropendolas, a yellow-throated euphonia, a lineated woodpecker and the pièce de résistance, a rufous motmot. My host Donald and his friends, Radu and Josey, were quite helpful in identifying and telling us more about these birds. You'd think that would be hard to top, and it will be. But there are birds everywhere in this country.

A morning after enduring a rather bone-jarring bus ride, I went out in Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, just a few miles from the Nicaragua border (which birds cross with impunity). These humid lowlands are a birder's paradise, and many come here

specifically to add to their life lists. Trolling the Rio Frio and nearby lagoons with my friend Chambita, we actually saw a lot of migratory birds that are just arriving from the northern climes – again, with impunity. But they're not earning JetBlue points like me!

We saw great egrets, snowy egrets, great blue herons, red-winged blackbirds and green herons – a personal favorite of mine from the Pleasantville pond. Chambita said one of the great blues was immature but I thought that was a bit judgmental.

Water birds abounded. We saw four species of kingfisher within about 20 minutes: An Amazon kingfisher, a green kingfisher, an American pygmy kingfisher and a ringed kingfisher. Their cousin, the belted kingfisher, is on its way from North America, probably arriving in December or so, just when the flights are most expensive.

Hidden on the river banks was a beautiful female black-headed trogon. There were a bunch of neotropical cormorants and anhingas (in Florida, it's called the "snake bird" for its manner of swimming with its neck just above the waterline), spreading their wings in the sun. Flitting around, fly catching and such, were a pair of beautiful mangrove swallows, a metallic blue, kind of like our house swallows.

On the way home to a well-deserved breakfast, we spied a pair of crested caracaras high in the treetops, black and white heads glistening in the



Brian Kluepfel, right, and his friend, Chambita, on a birding excursion last weekend on the Rio Frio in Costa Rico.

## For The Birds

sun. It was a nice way to end the trip and coast into dockside, just before the tropical sun got too hot and my stomach rumblings untenable.

As they say here in Costa Rica, Pura Vida! Brian Kluepfel is the editor of the Saw Mill River Audubon newsletter and a travel writer for Lonely Planet publications, the world's best-selling guidebooks. You can follow him on Instagram and read his blog at [www.brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com](http://www.brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com).

## THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**Fanfare For the Commons Man.** John Bercow recently stepped down as speaker of the House of Commons. According to Hansard, the official Parliamentary record, Mr. Bercow uttered his catchphrase "Order!" nearly 14,000 times. This week the quiz is composed of other words that Bercow used during his 10-year tenure. One hopes that this quiz will be easier than Brexit.

1. **rhapsodize (v.)**

A) to express enthusiasm      B) give thanks      C) call into question
2. **cerebral (adj.)**

A) marked by ceremony      B) unifying      C) intellectual
3. **denizen (n.)**

A) a general name      B) an inhabitant      C) initial progress
4. **gesticulation (n.)**

A) rule by elders      B) a deliberate motion      C) deportment
5. **beetle (v.)**

A) to hurry      B) happen      C) sidestep
6. **alacrity (n.)**

A) promptness in response      B) a warning notice      C) unsupported assertion
7. **chunter (v.)**

A) to show friendship      B) be done with      C) grumble incessantly
8. **jackanapes (n.)**

A) a versatile person      B) an imprudent person      C) meaningless speech

- ANSWERS:
1. A. To express great enthusiasm for something; B. To scurry or hurry (like a beetle); C. To mutter or grumble incessantly in a meaningless response; cheerful readiness
2. A. Promptness in response; B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse
3. A. To scurry or hurry (like a beetle); B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse
4. A. Promptness in response; B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse
5. A. To scurry or hurry (like a beetle); B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse
6. A. Promptness in response; B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse
7. A. Promptness in response; B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse
8. A. Promptness in response; B. An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place; C. Intellectual; instinct; intellectual less fashion; grouse



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**Free Public Birding Field Trips**  
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**Sat 11/30, 7:30 am:** Croton Point County Park

Visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org) for details & more events  
and to learn about our eight local wildlife sanctuaries.

# Happenings

Tuesday, Nov. 12

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

**DIY Apple Mason Jar Pencil Holder.** Keep track of your pencils as well as adding some pop to your desk with these fun apple jar pencil holders. For children seven to 12 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

**Bariatric Seminar.** This seminar provides valuable information about obesity, weight loss and surgical options. Dr. Forrester will be on hand to answer your questions about the process. Phelps Hospital's Atrium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Marypat Hughes at 914-269-1875 or e-mail mhughes10@northwell.edu.

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

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

**Current Affairs Book Club.** "The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics and the Law That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America" by Daniel Okrent will be discussed. Led by R. Daniel Vock. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

**History and Biography Book Club.** "The World Broke in Two" by Bill Goldstein will be discussed. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or www.ruthkeelermemoriallibrary.org.

**Women Reading Women Book Club.** "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan will be discussed. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. New members welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail denisedauriasommer@hotmail.com.

**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, Nov. 13

**Zumba Babies and Tots.** A wonderful fun dance-and-play party for little feet. Age appropriate music and props are used to help children learn to love moving their bodies and dancing to their own rhythm. Singing and exciting activities will amuse delight and stimulate your child benefiting their cognitive, emotional and social development. For parents or caregivers and children one to three years old. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Eight-week session: \$120. Maximum 12 children per class. Every Wednesday. Info and registration: Contact Dance Emotions at 914-238-8974 or instructor Peggy at 914-960-4097.

**Baby Time.** A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday (except Nov. 27). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Nov. 27 and 29). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

**Meditation Session.** Meditation can remove stress and replace it with a dose of inner peace. It's one of the best tools to balance emotions, deal with physical and psychological distress and promote the peace of the present moment. This session will help you practice mindfulness and learn how meditation can benefit overall health and well-being. Phelps Hospital's Family Medicine Residency Conference Room, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 11 a.m. Free. Also Nov. 27. Info: 914-366-3937.

**Preschool Storytime.** This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Nov. 27 and 29). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

**Mother Goose.** Listen to stories and sing along with the librarian for a fun morning. The session incorporates picture books that focus on colors, shapes, letters and more. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free.

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

**Bilingual Storytime.** Sing songs and read picture books in English and Spanish. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.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. Every Wednesday 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. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

**"Sometimes a Great Notion."** This adaptation stars Paul Newman (who also directed) as Hank Stamper, the oldest son of an Oregon logging family headed by Henry (Henry Fonda). Newman was hailed by Roger Ebert as "a director of sympathy and a sort of lyrical restraint," for his second turn in the director's chair. The film earned two Academy Award nominations. Part of the Adapted Page to Screen Series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 p.m. Members: \$18. Non-members: \$23. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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

**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.

**LEGO Club.** We provide the LEGOs, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-8041

**Knitting at the Library: November Knit a Hat.** November Knit a Hat. Stop by for the weekly knitting group and get instructions on knitting a hat. After all, winter is coming! Any donated hats will be sent to the Community Center of Northern Westchester. If you're not interested in a hat, or you're working on a different project, you're welcome to come. 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. Also Nov. 20 Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.org

**Treating Shoulder Pain in Athletes,**

*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.com.*

Weekend Warriors and Active Patients. Northern Westchester Hospital's leading practitioners will discuss rotator cuff tears; shoulder arthritis and shoulder replacement; anesthesia options for shoulder surgery; and physical therapy for managing shoulder problems and recovering from surgery. Northern Westchester Hospital's first floor conference room, 400 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Seating limited; registration required. Info and registration: www.2019shoulder.eventbrite.com.

**A Celebration of a Lifetime of Leadership and Achievement.** A special evening to honor William B. Mooney Jr. of the Westchester County Association. Dinner by the bite hand crafted by Abigail Kirsch, entertainment, video presentation and special guests. Dress in business attire. Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6 to 9 p.m. \$350. Info and registration: Visit www.westchester.org.

**Author Talk.** Peter Stark, author of "Young Washington: How Wilderness and War Forged America's Founding Father," examines how George Washington's colorful and dramatic early life made the man who shaped a nation. New Castle Town Hall, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

**Art Series: James Whistler.** Born in America, Whistler spent most of his time in England and is considered to be one of the preeminent artists of the Gilded Age, creating landscapes and portraits, oils and prints. 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.

**Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race (REPAIR) Book Event.** Former CIA agent Jeffrey Sterling will hold a reading and discussion about his new book "Unwanted Spy: The Persecution of an American Whistleblower." Sterling spent 8 years in the CIA, sued the agency for race discrimination, testified to the Senate on a mishandled covert Iran operation, then was accused and convicted of violating the Espionage Act. Sterling maintains his innocence. He served over two years in prison and his life has been irrevocably changed. Dennis D. Parker, executive director of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, will interview Sterling. Snacks will be served. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway, Tarrytown. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.repairrivertowns.org.

Thursday, Nov. 14

**Breakfast Club.** A series of breakfast meetings designed for seniors. Each program includes breakfast, a presentation on healthy lifestyles topic and a light exercise program to improve strength and balance. Also, a great opportunity for older adults to socialize with their peers. Phelps Hospital's cafeteria, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

**Baby Time.** A fun interactive lap-sit story

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# A New Era in Investing: It's Not Your Parents' Portfolio

In the 1970s, engaged investors would peruse the financial sections of the newspaper over morning coffee, researching investments they owned or those they were considering.

If they noticed an investment was experiencing a sudden shift in value, they might call their broker and have a conversation about the underlying causes of the shift. If there was a major issue, their broker would call the investors, and hopefully, adjust their portfolios.

But times have changed.

Not only has the methodology of investing changed, the reasons behind investing and the uses of investments have changed. Back in the 1970s, and even the 1980s, few investors had instant access to the stock or bond markets.

Today, we have cell phones, e-mail and apps that give immediate access to the markets. If there's a major market shift, especially in times of fairly routine instability, we know about it in real time and can respond accordingly.



By Kevin Peters

Furthermore, the economy of the 1970s was very different. During the early 1970s, the country faced rising interest rates and significant inflation. Today, it's the opposite. Interest rates continue to hover near historic lows. While inflation was at 11 percent in 1974, today it's running just under 2 percent.

What does that mean for investment strategy today?

Today, I believe it is critical for most individuals to diversify their investment portfolios based on class of assets, geography and economic sectors. Stay focused on cash flow and yield. For the time being, investors seem willing to dismiss international events that might otherwise disrupt the markets.

Take a goal-oriented approach to investing. Don't let emotion dictate your investment decisions.

If you're making good progress toward saving for a specific goal, it might make sense to make some modest shifts in the portfolio to reduce risk. Not giving in to psychological pressure caused by market

volatility can be tough, but riding out such jitters may be the best course of action. With our quick access to information, remember not to make snap, unresearched decisions.

Have kids? Consider investing for college. The cost of a college education has skyrocketed – soaring 1,375 percent since 1978. As a result, it's common for college graduates to be carrying tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt.

To help avoid their children graduating with crushing debt, many parents now open 529 college plans. If they begin saving early enough, the money can help them achieve their college savings goals. This investment vehicle didn't exist in the 1970s and '80s. It was created in 1996.

Also, housing costs are higher, compared to income, for the millennial generation, a generation with fewer assets than previous generations at the same point in their careers.

Today, homes across the country sell for roughly four times the median national income, while in the past few decades home prices were closer to three times the

household income. The median national rent rate has climbed 20 percent faster than inflation from 1990 to 2016.

An era of change is upon us, and the next generation of investors may have different priorities that will require a new approach.

Today, there is a trend toward what some call "responsible investing," generally referring to consideration of environmental, social and corporate governance factors as part of investment decision-making.

How does the corporation respond to climate change or to water management? How do they treat their workers? A couple decades ago, these issues were unlikely to be part of the investment analysis.

But knowledge is power, and with knowledge, future investors should be able to grow their assets for current and future needs with the same confidence and success as their predecessors.

*Kevin Peters is a financial adviser with the Wealth Management Division of Morgan Stanley in Purchase. He can be reached at 914-225-6680.*

## The Prudent Portfolio

The information contained in this column is not a solicitation to purchase or sell investments. Any information presented is general in nature and not intended to provide individually tailored investment advice. The strategies and/or investments referenced may not be suitable for all investors as the appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. Investing involves risks and there is always the potential of losing money when you invest. The views expressed herein are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, or its affiliates. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC, member SIPC.

# Happenings

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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 (except Nov. 28). Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except Nov. 28). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://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 (except Nov. 28). Info: Visit [www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html](http://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 (except Nov. 28). Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Osteoporosis Program.** For people concerned about bone loss and fractures. Physicians, therapists and dietitians meet to discuss risk factors, causes, proper body mechanics and medication options. Phelps Hospital's boardroom (C Level), 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail [vitality@northwell.edu](mailto:vitality@northwell.edu).

**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 (except Nov. 28). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Thursday (except Nov. 28). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Toddler Mixer.** Come for free play and to hang out with other toddlers and adults. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Nov. 21. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://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 (except Nov. 28). Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoblibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscoblibrary.org).

**Poets and Writers Series.** "Hamlet?" written and performed by Annie Saenger offers a unique interpretation of this classic play. This one-woman stage show uses humor, horror and confessional honesty to engage audiences while exploring the emotional nuances of the work in question. Saenger carves out a place for herself in one of the most beautiful, mysterious and misogynistic texts in the history of the English language. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 12:30 and 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6716.

**Studio Visit With Engels the Artist.** Haitian-born Engels the Artist, the museum's Fall 2019 artist-in-residence, and Patrice Giasson, Alex Gordon Curator of Art of the Americas, will welcome guests into the artist's studio for a special meet-and-

greet organized in conjunction with the 2019 (T)HERE Global Festival. Refreshments served. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 12:30 to 3 p.m. With museum admission. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.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 (except Nov. 28). Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoblibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscoblibrary.org).

**Pelvic Floor Health: Beyond Kegels in the Chair.** Educational and experiential, this workshop will empower women with a new awareness of their pelvic floor. Come learn the anatomy and physiology, the weakness, dysfunctions and techniques to relax, strengthen, balance and maintain optimal health. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Also Nov. 21. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Fall Paint Craft.** Children will paint and personalize their own fall- and Thanksgiving-themed napkin and pencil holders. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Also Nov. 21. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 4 or at the Children's Room circulation desk.

**DIY Cork Sailboats.** Sail away on the high seas with a tiny cork sailboat. For children of all ages. (Children under five years old must be accompanied by a caregiver.) Mount Kisco

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# Happenings

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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. (except Nov. 28) and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

**Social Security Educational Workshop.** For anyone 60 to 70 years old. Led by Paul Petrone, Social Security, retirement income and tax specialist. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0038.

**Gail Collins Author Event and Fundraiser.** Collins is most recognized for her work with The New York Times, which she joined in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an op-ed columnist. In 2001, she was appointed the first female editorial page editor. Her new book "No Stopping Us Now: A History of Older Women in America" is a lively, fascinating, eye-opening look at American attitudes toward age. Collins gives women reason to expect the best of their golden years. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Chappaqua Library. Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. \$35 (Includes a copy of the book.) Info and tickets: Visit [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**"The Learning Tree."** Celebrated photographer Gordon Parks was the first African-American to direct mainstream studio films. While he's best known for "Shaft," his film career started with "The Learning Tree," (1969) based on his semiautobiographical novel. His sensitive, evocative and beautifully cinematic portrayal of a young man coming of age in rural Kansas in the 1920s was one of the first 25 films selected by the Library of Congress for the National Film Registry. This 50th anniversary screening is presented in collaboration with The Gordon Parks Foundation. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**ABC's of Childcare Class.** For expectant parents to help prepare for your new baby's arrival. Topics covered include how to diaper and bathe a baby; equipment needed such as a car seat; crib safety; guidelines for safe sleep; newborn characteristics and appearance; general baby care and more. \$50 per couple, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the Phelps Hospital's Family Medicine Residency Conference Room, 755 building N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 7 to 9 p.m. \$50 per couple. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/abc-of-childcare-class-tickets-63767856375](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/abc-of-childcare-class-tickets-63767856375).

**Buddy Guy.** This blues legend and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer returns in support of his most recent album "The Blues is Alive and Well." The record is arriving on the heels of a spate of high visibility for the 82-year-old performer. At the 2016 Grammy's, Guy, picked up a trophy for Best Blues Album honoring "Born to Play Guitar." That same year, he hit the road for a U.S. tour opening for Jeff Beck. In addition to bringing the house down for a

recent sold-out performance commemorating the closing of New York City's B.B. King's Blues Club and Grill, he recently appeared on David Letterman's "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction." Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$78, \$88, \$118 and \$148. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

## Friday, Nov. 15

**1944-45: Musical Lights in a Darkened Sky.** Acclaimed pianist and lecturer Michael Boriskin leads a wide-ranging tour through some of the most iconic and remarkable music created during 1944-45 by a Who's Who of A-list composers, including Igor Stravinsky, Dmitri Shostakovich, Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Benjamin Britten, Bela Bartok, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk and others. Part of Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Great Composers Lecture Series. Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane. Scarsdale. 11 a.m. \$30. The school's student and parents of students: Free. Space limited; reservations strongly encouraged. Info and reservations: 914-723-1169, visit [www.hbms.org](http://www.hbms.org) e-mail [hb@hbms.org](mailto:hb@hbms.org).

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

**Music With Miss Laura.** Stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. For children from 18 to 36 months. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 to noon. Free. Every Friday (except Nov. 29). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Mount Kisco Senior Handmade Craft Sale.** Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 12 to 4 p.m. Free admission. Also Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Author Talk.** Marc Ferris, author of the acclaimed book "Star-Spangled Banner: The Unlikely Story of America's National Anthem," presents an engaging and entertaining musical history program that relates fascinating stories about the song and explores why, of all the options, this composition became the national anthem. Includes live musical performances of the tune's original version along with others considered for official status. Ferris has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, NPR, FoxNews, "CBS This Morning" and other major media outlets. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Overbooked (Young Adult Book Club).** "Pet" by Akwaeke Emezi will be discussed. For students in grades 6-12. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Opening Reception for "Specimen."** A one-person exhibition featuring seven new works from the ongoing series of intricate wall sculptures by Catherine Latson.

Careful observation of the natural world, boundless curiosity and patient dedication to craft are manifest in Latson's fantastical new creature/object sculptures, who is inspired by the complexities of organization in living organisms. The series explores forms that blur the lines between animal and plant, realism and fantasy, sculpture and specimen. While materials are simple (cotton embroidery floss and wire), construction is complex, entailing thousands of pieces and countless hours of whipping and knotting. Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 1947 Palmer Ave., Larchmont. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Dec. 21. Gallery hours Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointment. Info: 914-834-8077 or visit [www.kbfa.com](http://www.kbfa.com).

**Friday Night Film Series: "Anonymous."** Director Roland Emmerich brings to the screen the possibility that the Earl of Oxford, Edward De Vere, was in fact the writer of Shakespeare's works. With a powerhouse cast including Vanessa Redgrave, Rhys Ifans and Rafe Spall, this thriller is set against the backdrop of the succession of Queen Elizabeth I and the Essex rebellion against her. 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](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Westchester Photographic Society: Camera Scanning Your Archives.** Jack Reznicki, Canon Explorer of Light, will demonstrate his workflow on camera scans, using a camera, a soft light source consisting of a simple viewing box and some easy actions in either Photoshop and Lightroom (downloadable actions will be made available) to quickly process negative files into positive files. 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](http://www.wpsphoto.org).

**"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. 16 at 3 and 8 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. Info: Visit [www.GoJoClnProductions.com](http://www.GoJoClnProductions.com) or [AxialTheatre.org](mailto:AxialTheatre.org) or e-mail [BackToTheGarden2019@gmail.com](mailto:BackToTheGarden2019@gmail.com). Tickets: Visit [www.BackToTheGarden.bpt.me](http://www.BackToTheGarden.bpt.me).

**"The House of Blue Leaves."** A black comedy by American playwright John Guare about a zookeeper who dreams of making it big in Hollywood as a songwriter. Artie wants to take his girlfriend, Bunny, with him to Hollywood, but his wife Bananas is a schizophrenic destined to be institutionalized. A production by Arc Stages' Community Stage. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$22 and \$28. Also Nov.

16, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit [www.arcstages.org](http://www.arcstages.org).

## Saturday, Nov. 16

**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](http://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 Nov. 23. Info: Visit [www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org](http://www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org).

**Zumba Fitness.** Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

**Chappaqua Craft and Gift Fair.** Now in its 35th year, the fair will host 90 artisans and crafters who are eager to share their one-of-a-kind items for holiday shopping enjoyment. Admire the work of beautiful handmade pottery, unique handcrafted jewelry, handbags and luxury knits. Find gourmet food, bath and beauty products and myriad other notable items. Vendor fees support PTA-run enrichment programs at Robert E. Bell Middle School. Vendors support the raffle with a gift item with proceeds also benefiting the Bell PTA. Robert E. Bell Middle School, 50 Senter St., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. Info: Visit [www.chappaquacraftfair.com](http://www.chappaquacraftfair.com).

**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-

*continued on next page*



# Important Tips for Managing Diabetes at Home

By Joan Brown

One in four Americans 65 and up live with diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association. That makes it more important than ever to find ways to bridge the gap in diabetes control.

"Approximately one-third of our patients have diabetes in addition to their primary diagnosis," said Yael Reich, a nurse diabetes specialist with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY), who advises nurses on how to help patients and health plan members with diabetes manage their glucose levels. "This means our nurses are treating thousands of patients with diabetes on any given day."

As a registered nurse and diabetes educator with VNSNY CHOICE Health Plans, my colleagues and I know that every day people with Type 2 diabetes are warned by their doctors to monitor their diet and stay active to control blood-sugar levels and maintain their health.

We know how difficult it can be when they walk out the office door to follow the advice. When they get home, the kitchen shelves are stocked with processed foods, such as white rice and sugary cereals; it's difficult to find fresh or affordable produce in their neighborhood; and a regular fitness routine is something they never seem to get to.

Helping people better manage their diabetes and supporting them when lifestyle changes are needed is one of the most

important things I do as a registered nurse and care coordinator. We have conversations every day about how to apply doctors' orders at home and keep diabetes under control for those who are at risk or coping with the disease. These strategies may be helpful for you as well.

## Shop Smart

You've heard it before, but when shopping and planning meals for yourself or a loved one with diabetes it's important to remember:

- Eliminate refined sugar.
- Add fruits and vegetables to the diet. If you can't get fresh, frozen is usually better than canned (check labels for sugar and sodium).
- Not all fruits are created equal. Green means go for certain fruits; greenish bananas have less sugar than deep yellow ones and green apples are better than red ones. Avoid grapes and raisins, which are high in sugar.
- Stay away from white flour; choose brown rice and whole-wheat pasta instead.
- Avoid salt and fat in cooking; if you do use fat, olive oil can be a great substitute for less healthy fats like butter.
- Limit juices and avoid sodas
- Control portions and don't skip meals.
- Have sugary items such as orange juice or hard candy on hand at all times in case of an emergency dip in blood-sugar level.

## Focus on What You Can Have

As a caregiver for someone with diabetes, you can limit your role as naysayer by



involving your loved one in mealtime decisions and preparation. Remind them what they can have in addition to what they cannot. Offer meals that are roasted or sautéed in olive or canola oil rather than fried. Think spices rather than salt or sugary sauces. For a filling, healthy alternative dish, try legumes – lentils, chickpeas, beans – rather than white rice, which is high in carbohydrates.

There are plenty of diabetes-focused cookbooks that are full of helpful tips. Begin with the simplest one to avoid being overwhelmed.

Meanwhile, don't underestimate the power of reward. With portion control and safety in mind, someone with diabetes (and their caregiver) can indulge in a small treat now and then to celebrate a good week. Think a fun-sized candy bar. You may find, as our nurses often do, that once the good feeling of healthy eating takes hold, a couple bites of sweets go a long way.

## Steps in the Right Direction

The directive "get plenty of exercise" can

worry older people living with diabetes if it conjures up images of long jogging excursions or lifting weights at the gym. Instead, exercise can be part of daily life. A walk in the park or to the pharmacy or a stroll through the apartment hallways to get the mail all count. Take the stairs instead of the elevator, at least for a flight or two. Exercise can even happen in front of the television, with a series of leg lifts or arm circles done right in your chair.

## Head-to-Toe Care

Diabetes is a systemic disease that affects the entire body. Pay careful attention to vision, as diabetes-related damage to delicate blood vessels in the eye can cause problems. When caring for someone with diabetes, communicate often about how well they are seeing. And be observant. If your loved one used to read the paper every day but now leaves it untouched, ask about their vision and follow up with a doctor if necessary.

Solutions for healthier living begin at home. Speak with a health professional if you have questions or concerns about your risk for diabetes. With the right home care support, the tools for managing your blood-glucose levels are within easy reach.

To learn more about health plans that help elder New Yorkers live more comfortably, safely and independently in their own homes, visit [www.VNSNYCHOICE.org](http://www.VNSNYCHOICE.org) or call 1-855-AT CHOICE (1-855-282-4642).

*Joan Brown is a registered nurse for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York Choice Health Plans.*

# Happenings

*continued from previous page*

273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Practice SAT Exam.** A full-length exam, following the same protocols and guidelines as the official exam. Bring pencils and a calculator. Presented by C2 Education. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit the children's circulation desk.

**Bethel Springvale Inn Open House.** Are you or someone you know thinking about moving to an assisted living community? Do you worry that you can't afford it? Discover the tremendous value of wonderful retirement living, services and amenities. Ask questions and join the discussion. Learn about quality assisted living at a great value, which includes spacious apartments; nursing services 24/7; three meals a day; housekeeping and laundry services; and a convenient location. Bethel Springvale Inn, 62 Springvale Rd., Croton-on-Hudson. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: 914-739-4404 ext. 2204.

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

**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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Nov. 16. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://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. (except Nov. 23) and Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org).

**"Mary Poppins."** See the original classic! The uneventful life of the Banks family changes forever when a nanny flies into town. Mary Poppins (Julia Andrews) along with cheery chimney sweep Bert (Dick Van Dyke) teach two lonely children how a spoonful of sugar and a lot of laughter can cure just about anything. These unforgettable dance numbers and songs are just the kind of supercalifragilisticexpialidocious things the whole family will enjoy! Winner of five Academy Awards, including Best Actress (Andrews), Best Song ("Chim Chim Cher-ee") and Best Visual Effects. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Children (13 and under): \$8. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Bugging Out.** Come learn about Earth's forgotten heroes: bugs! Get to meet some interesting insects and hear about the important jobs they do for the ecosystems such as pollination and decomposition. Get to go out and explore the local wildlife on a bug hunt, and complete a craft that will help make the community an oasis for these cool creatures. 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](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

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

**"The Lion King."** A screening of the 2019 release. North Castle Public Library's Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Discovering the Stories Within Us.**

Join storyteller Laureate Karen Sangaline Pillsworth as she shares her stories and invites you to share yours. Pillsworth will take you on an adventure showing how the tales that make up our lives are joyous, sad, funny and interwoven. Discussion at the end of the program will begin putting together your own story. Using memory exercises, we will find where you want your story to begin. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Evening Howl for Adults Only.** Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a spread of wine and cheese. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the center's critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves, too. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Jonathan Byrd and The Pick-up Cowboys.** This group is comprised of musical gunslingers, vaudevillian hucksters and old-fashioned tent revivalists. Between heartbreaking ballads and heart-lifting singalongs, the Cowboys entertain and get audiences involved in the show. Byrd is a

*continued on page 28*

# Suggestions if You're Dining Out on Thanksgiving Day

By Morris Gut

The traditional Thanksgiving meal is one of my favorite annual feasts. While many of us enjoy sharing it with family and friends at home, there are those who would rather leave the work to others.

If you have decided to dine out for Thanksgiving this year, there are some fine options but be sure to reserve your table early as not all restaurants will be open.

**Mulino's, 99 Court St., White Plains.** General manager Gimmy Cavagana and his staff will be serving traditional turkey with all the trimmings from 1 to 8 p.m., along with their regular menu of Italian classics. It is also the kickoff for their annual Holiday Fest which lasts through December. The lovely fountain garden is beautiful as is the lavish dining room and lounge.

Alternatives to turkey include their cold seafood platter, a wonder and fine to share, as is their decadent black linguine with baby lobster tails; plump tender rack of lamb served on the long bone; and delicate Dover sole finished off in the dining room. Perhaps for dessert you can have the wait staff prepare fresh zabaglione with fresh ripe berries.

Open seven days through the holiday season. Bring the whole family. The place sparkles right now. Valet parking. Reservations advised. 914-761-1818 or visit



La Piccola Casa in Mamaroneck is one of many restaurants to have a delicious and memorable Thanksgiving Day meal for those who don't want to cook.

[www.mulinosny.com](http://www.mulinosny.com).

**La Piccola Casa, 410 W. Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck.** Proprietor and self-taught chef Walter Ricci is originally from Peru and had an Italian grandfather. Over the years he worked many popular kitchens in greater Westchester, including

the former Umberto's in Rye and Giorgio's in Port Chester, which he ran for 10 years. The restaurant is housed in the landmark DeLancey House where author James Fenimore Cooper lived for a time across from scenic Harbor Island Park along Boston Post Road.

Ricci will be serving turkey with all the trimmings along with his new updated menu featuring many of his well-known specialties: Italian classics with concentration on the finest ingredients. By advance order he can also prepare Thanksgiving dinner for the whole family to take home.

The restaurant is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Free street parking. Reservations accepted. 914-777-3766 or visit [www.lapiccolacasa.com](http://www.lapiccolacasa.com).

**La Bocca, 8 Church St., White Plains**

Chef and proprietor Tony Spiritoso will be serving up a four-course Thanksgiving dinner. Main courses will include turkey, roast pork, stuffed Cornish hen and roast prime rib steak.

Spiritoso has been a chef and restaurateur in Westchester for 35 years. A meal here usually begins at his signature antipasti bar loaded daily with tempting cured imported meats, cheeses and appetizing house-made salads. He has brought his vintage bright red slicing machines along wherever he has been, and they sit here ready to roll on the antipasto counter.

The wine selection is among the best in the county. The dining room is strewn with artistic columns and serving pieces. There is banquet and table seating in the main 80-seat dining room while the bar is often a perfect spot for networking with locals. There is a new wine room for private events for up to 60 guests.

Spiritoso and his son-in-law, Alessandro, and the veteran staff will take good care of you. Look for fresh porcini and seasonal game meats, too. 914-948-3281 or visit [www.laboccaristorante.com](http://www.laboccaristorante.com).

**Additional Thanksgiving Options.**

Haven't made a decision yet? Here are more restaurants that are planning to serve on Thanksgiving Day: Crabtree's Kittle House, Chappaqua; City Limits, White Plains; Traveler's Rest, Ossining; Benjamin's Steak House, White Plains; Rivermarket, Tarrytown; Harvest On Hudson, Hastings-on-Hudson; Moderne Barn, Armonk; Dubrovnik, New Rochelle; Ritz-Carlton, White Plains; The Beehive, Armonk; and Mamma Francesca, New Rochelle.

*Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in Westchester for more than 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at [gutreactions@optonline.net](mailto:gutreactions@optonline.net).*

## Happenings

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preacher's son, a Gulf War veteran and an award-winning songwriter from Chapel Hill, N.C., known for literary outsider songs that have become campfire favorites. He shares the often-missed, always poignant tales of the small people that make the world such a big place. He is joined on drums by Austin McCall and musical renaissance man Johnny Waken on guitar, saw and mandolin. Common Ground Coffeehouse at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, 25 Old Jackson Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson. 7:30 p.m. \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door. Info and tickets: Visit [www.commongroundconcerts.com](http://www.commongroundconcerts.com).

**"Twelfth Night."** The Clocktower Players shake up Shakespeare with soulful melodies and R&B beats woven through an enchanting new musical adaptation of this classic. Featuring Shaina Taub's buoyant jazz-funk- and R&B-inflected score, this exuberant production is a joyful tale of mistaken identity, self-discovery and true love. Produced by Clocktower's Artistic Director Cagle McDonald and directed by George H. Croom with assistance from William Brosnahan and choreography by Jennifer Jonas Cahill. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. 7:30 p.m. Adults: \$35. Seniors and students: \$23. Also Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-591-6602 or visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

**Chouk Bwa.** From the countryside of the New World's first free black republic, Chouk Bwa performs stripped-down Haitian roots music – enthralling percussion, dance, call-and-response singing, work songs Vodou performances and Holy Week rara music.

Infused with the scent and sensibility of voodoo, it is music that refuses to obscure their homeland's deep African heritage. The group's music is a proud statement of Haitian culture of a nation that's know the hardest of times but whose spirit remains as tough as those ancient drums. PepsiCo Theatre, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$15 to \$30. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

### Sunday, Nov. 17

**Nature's Nurturers.** Have you wondered how birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals care for their young? This program focuses on parents and their offspring in the animal world. Explore the different classes of animals and how their care varies. Learn about maternal and paternal care in the wild. 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](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Opening Reception for "Mammals and Migratory Art."** Live animals are joyfully elevated by artists Roseanne Cerbo, James Dyekman, Sharon Falk, Michael Garber, Jocelyn Henry, Eric Laxman and Doris Shepherd Wiese, who seek artistic opportunities to emphasize the remarkable qualities of creatures observed in eastern surroundings. Curated by Audrey Leeds. Rockefeller State Park Preserve Gallery, 12 Phelps Way, Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Parking: \$6. Exhibit continues through Dec. 15. Gallery open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info: 914-631-1470 ext. 0 or visit [www.parks.ny.gov/parks/59/details.aspx](http://www.parks.ny.gov/parks/59/details.aspx).

[www.parks.ny.gov/parks/59/details.aspx](http://www.parks.ny.gov/parks/59/details.aspx).

**"When a Child Pretends" and "Values Go to School."** A screening of two documentary shorts by the Child Development Institute at Sarah Lawrence College takes a look at the social and intellectual benefits of pretend play in early childhood and the ways in which good values can develop and be encouraged in schools in grades K-12. Followed by a discussion led by Tricia Hanley, director of the Child Development Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. The Ethical Society of Northern Westchester, 108 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-941-3544 or visit [www.esnw.org](http://www.esnw.org).

**Sixth Annual Youth A Cappella Festival.** The Westchester Chordsmen and Mamaroneck High School's Music Department are co-sponsoring this annual event featuring 11 a cappella groups (male, female and mixed) from five Westchester schools that will perform, along with a brief concert by the Westchester Chordsmen Chorus. Schools represented are Pleasantville, Valhalla. Peekskill, Mamaroneck and Edgemont High Schools. Mamaroneck High School, 1000 W. Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck. 2 p.m. Free. Info: [www.chordsmen.org](http://www.chordsmen.org).

**Thalea String Quartet.** Formed in 2014 at the Zephyr International Chamber Music Festival in Courmayeur, Italy, the quartet has been praised for their "vibrant performance" and "sincere expressivity." The members are dedicated educators and bring their commitment to teaching and community engagement to their frequent educational and

community performances. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 3 p.m. \$25 to \$40. Students (18 and under): Free. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit [www.caramoor.org](http://www.caramoor.org).

**Stand-Up for Mental Health.** After a hilarious performance last season, headliner Joe Matarese, who has appeared on "America's Got Talent," "Letterman" and "Comedy Central" returns to The Emelin Theatre. A New Rochelle resident, he will perform with two of New York's top comics, Preston Gitlin and Daniel Laitman, to deliver back-to-back shows of raucous stand-up. The shows will raise awareness and support for The Mental Health Association of Westchester, which promotes mental health through advocacy, community education and direct services. The Emelin Theatre, 153 Library Lane, Mamaroneck. 7 and 9 p.m. \$30 to \$39. (\$5 of every ticket will be donated to The Mental Health Association of Westchester.) Info and tickets: Visit [www.emelin.org](http://www.emelin.org).

### Monday, Nov. 18

**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](mailto:tinacampbell@masternetworks.net) or drop in.



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is Thursdays at 5pm for the  
next week's publication

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### HELP WANTED

**JUDICIAL VACANCY, TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY.** With the election of Judge Gina Capone to the NY State Supreme Court, the Town of Putnam Valley will be faced with a judicial vacancy effective 1/1/2020. If you are interested in being appointed to the Town of Putnam Valley Justice Court, please send your résumé to Supervisor, Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley, NY 10579, or email [soliverio@putnamvalley.com](mailto:soliverio@putnamvalley.com). The Town will require that you are a Town resident, have a law degree and some judicial experience either as a law clerk or within the Court system itself. Interviews

will be held the first week of December. Deadline for submission of résumés is Wednesday, November 27th.

**TEACHER, CROTON-ON-HUDSON, NY.** Develop & implement a full Mandarin Chinese curriculum by designing lessons & assessments to educate middle-school students. Mail resume to J. Griffiths, Croton-Harmon Union Free School District, 10 Gerstein St. Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

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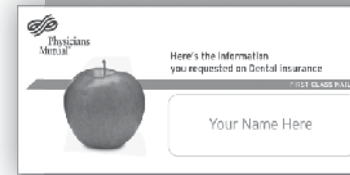
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### LEGALS

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Planning Board will be held at **Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday November 18, 2019** for the purpose of considering the following applications: Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm **AGENDA SKETCH 1. Perez, Octavio, Ridgcrest Road (TM# 83.56-1-5, 6 & 7/File: 2018-0187)** The subject property consists of ±2.72 acres of land and is located on Ridgcrest Road and within the R-1 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single-family residence. **2. Maiuzzo Residence, - 351 Wood Street (TM# 63.-4-12/File: 2019-0205)** The subject property consists of + 1.5 acres of land and is located on 351 Wood Street and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single family residence, driveway, well and septic system. A Site Development Plan and Major Grading Permit is required. **3. Fields, Harrison-15 Locust Glen Road (TM#73.-1-44/File 2019-0202)** The subjects property is comprised of +/- 1.99 acres and is located on 15 Locust Glen Road within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a log cabin home on existing foundation. **4. Cooper/Bier-23 Twin Pines Road (TM#74.-1-5/File 2019-0201)** The applicant is proposing to demolish and reconstruct a single-family residence. The subject property is located in the Three Arrow Co-op and within the R-3 Zoning District. **5. Orentreich, David, 855 Route 301 (TM#39.-1-9/File 2019-0189)** The subject property consists of +

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# Theme Suggestions for Your Holiday Dinner Parties



By Nick Antonaccio

It's that time of year again. Festive times with family and friends are on the horizon and we're ready to party.

One way to create a unique festive atmosphere is a variation on the traditional holiday dinner party.

Consider a wine and food gourmet gathering.

Let me preface this by stating up front that we've all suffered through a friend's idea of a "gourmet" dinner group, where everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite homemade food dish to "share good food and fun times." Unfortunately, one person's gourmet meal can be another person's gulag labor camp mystery meal.

Here's the antidote: introduce wine as a focal point of the gathering. When planning, base the food on a wine theme.

The theme may be a particular varietal (Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon), a particular region (Tuscany, Napa/Sonoma), a combination of the two (Cabernets from different regions around the globe) or any other unique theme someone conjures up.

*'...introduce wine as a focal point of the gathering.'*

(Grapes you've never heard of?)

The point is to have an underlying wine theme which your group can then build a food menu around. This is also a proven way to hone your skills of matching food and wine.

Here's an example of a tried and proven approach.

A group of our friends has participated in many variations of gourmet gatherings over the years. We decided on the wine-themed approach a number of years ago and have been able to sustain a successful, convivial and educational experience. For each gathering, one couple in the group is responsible for setting the theme. One of them selects (and controls) the food menu and another is responsible for the wine

selections. Other members of the group then receive their assignments: individual responsibilities for food preparation and, the twist, a committee approach to selecting the wines. (Increasingly these sub groups are mixed sexes.)

The wine committee meets as a group on the day of the gathering and ventures to a local wine merchant's shop to select the wines while the other members are toiling at home preparing the food dishes. One guideline: set a budget for the average price of a bottle, then select wines at the average price and, most importantly, at the opposite ends of the price spectrum. This will result in a broad range of tasting experiences. It also allows the spendthrift and the connoisseur in the group to coexist peacefully.

This approach exposes the overall group, at table, to a broad education in wine, including opportunities such as matching food and wine, how one varietal planted in different regions has unique characteristics in each locale or how to appreciate similar wines across a broad price spectrum. The process also functions as a venue for group dynamics: conflict resolution, ego sublimation and negotiating skills.

In anticipation of the gourmet gathering, one member of the wine committee is responsible for memorializing the wine selections by presenting a wine listing for each member. Use this as a guide to rate the wines, identify those you wish to purchase on your own and as a way to be able to wake up the next morning to refresh your memory of what was actually served the night before.

During the meal, members of the

committee present a wine, describing its attributes, why the particular wine has been chosen for the particular food course and soliciting opinions from the rest of the group.

What better way to expand your knowledge of wine than to meet with friends, enjoy good food and wine and engage in conversation? Speaking of conversation, it never ceases to amaze me how different the group dynamics function when wine is introduced into the mix. Unusual topics arise, hidden personality traits surface and long-withheld inner personal secrets are freely shared.

Bon appetite! May your holiday gatherings be joyful and convivial. Send me an e-mail seeking further planning advice or describing your gourmet experiences.

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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @ [sharingwine](https://twitter.com/sharingwine).



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73.94 acres of land and is located on 855 Route 301 and within the PC Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 2,200 sq.ft. improvement to be utilized for equipment storage. Amended Site Plan approval and Major Grading Permit are required. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6. Approve Minutes of October 21, 2019 7. Approval Planning Board 2020 calendar**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE;** at 5:00 PM on November 13th the Putnam Valley Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the Putnam Valley Town Board will hold their regular work session meeting. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 11-06-2019**

**Town of Putnam Valley Work Session November 13, 2019 5 PM** 1. Pledge of Allegiance 2. Public Hearing on Local Law #2 to Override the Tax Levy 3. Adopt the Town Budget 4. Adopt the Fire District Budget 5. Set public hearing on the de-icer law 6. Discussion regarding Horton Hollow Road.

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