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November 26 - December 2, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 638

## Mount Kisco Selects Developers for Downtown Mixed-Use Projects

### Village Signs Letter of Intent to Enter 99-Year Lease

By Joan Gaylord

The Mount Kisco Village Board drew one step closer to bringing new mixed-use development to downtown by approving two developers and an architectural firm for the project.

Trustees voted 4-1 to sign a letter of intent to potentially enter a 99-year lease with New York City-based Gotham Organization, Inc. and Charter Realty & Development of Greenwich, Conn. to develop a project called Kirby Commons.

The development would take place on the current parking lots on South Moger and North Moger avenues. Beyer, Blinder and Belle would be the architect.

The firms were selected from a Request for Proposal process that was opened earlier this year. Last week's action allows the village to publicly disclose the firms they hope to work with.

The issue of using municipal-owned property to help re-energize downtown was one of the key pieces in the updated Comprehensive Plan that was adopted last winter. However, Mayor Gina Picinich cautioned that this is only a first step.

"It's an extraordinary offering that doesn't exist across northern Westchester and it doesn't exist in Mount Kisco, so it's

*continued on page 2*



### Look of a Champion

MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The Pleasantville School District and the village honored the Pleasantville Panthers girls' soccer team's Class B state championship with a parade followed by a ceremony at the high school auditorium. The team's 25 players and the coaching staff were on stage and received frequent loud cheers from the near capacity crowd that filled the auditorium. For coverage of the event, see page 5.

## Westlake Athletic Field Upgrades Could Be Put to Vote By Spring

By Ed Perratore

The Mount Pleasant Board of Education has heard, loud and clear, community complaints about the dismal condition of its high school's and middle school's athletic fields – and has sketched out the necessary steps to improve them.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kurtis Kotes sent out a Nov. 15 letter to the community detailing the next steps to be taken toward establishing goals to put a referendum on the ballot. He wrote in the correspondence that he anticipated that the district was eyeing a bond issue to send to voters next spring.

At the board's meeting last Wednesday, Kotes went into more detail, stating that to initiate the process the district has to begin the state environmental review. He expected the board would start that process at its



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

This field at Westlake High School and Westlake Middle School marred by compacted soil with patchy grass is one of the Mount Pleasant School District's athletic facilities that could be in line for an upgrade.

Dec. 4 work session.

"We hope also to have a presentation by the district architect, at our regular business meeting on Dec. 11, on what the board is

*continued on page 4*

## P'tville's Depew St. Project Removes Retail to Limit Buffer Incursion

By Abby Luby

New plans for the proposed Depew Street project were presented to the Pleasantville Planning Commission last week that responded to the board's request to reduce incursion into the nearby wetlands buffer.

Architect Philip Fruchter of Papp Architects in White Plains showed the board several renderings that exclude the 4,500-square-foot retail component on the ground floor. The new building is pulled back from the small pocket wetland just to the north.

The new plan places the building as close as 20 feet away from the wetlands; however, the village's wetlands regulations stipulate a 50-foot buffer requirement. The commission had asked developer David Mann of Lighthouse Enterprises in White



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Architect Philip Fruchter of Papp Architects points out changes last week to the Pleasantville Planning Commission for the proposed building at 52 Depew St.

Plains to redesign the building so the footprint would fall outside the triangular-

*continued on page 4*

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# Mount Kisco Selects Developers for Downtown Mixed-Use Projects

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a unique opportunity for housing and it's a unique opportunity to fill a hole that really needs filling in in our community and in northern Westchester," Picinich said.

She said the action taken at the board's Nov. 18 meeting is not a lease or an agreement but "a declaration that we have picked the partners we would like to work with."

Village Attorney Whitney Singleton said the next step would be to formalize the process. Representatives from the firms that have been selected will need to do their due diligence, including obtaining a site access agreement and providing financial information to the village, he said.

No financial terms were discussed or released by the village last week.

The preliminary proposal would call for 51,600 square feet of ground-floor retail space and 217 rental units, with 15 of those units reserved for tenants earning 90 percent of area median income.

The South Moger Avenue lot building would be four stories, contain 113 residences, 38,000 square feet of retail space, 368 parking spaces and various amenities for residents.

The building on the North Moger Avenue lot would be five stories with 104 units, 13,600 square feet of retail, 522 parking spaces, a 3,100-square-foot community facility for cultural events, rooftop green



Renderings of the proposed mixed-used development at the South Moger and North Moger parking lots in downtown Mount Kisco.

space and residential amenities. The new buildings would be constructed of brick, wood and metal.

Parking would be in multilevel garages in portions of the existing lots and include 336 spaces for commuters.

Calling the proposal "a huge leap forward," Trustee Peter Grunthal said the project would bring new vitality to the village and help stop what he called the revolving door of businesses in town. Mount Kisco has been plagued with large swaths of empty storefronts, although most recently the vacancy rate has been declining.

"This offers the potential for tremendous economic development," Grunthal said.

Trustee Karen Schleimer, who heavily criticized development of the parking lots at the time of the Comprehensive Plan adoption, cast the dissenting vote. She blasted the process, which she said was "rushed," and that there was a lack of attention to detail, especially parking. She said it appeared that the village would need to maintain the parking facilities.

"This will change the face of Mount Kisco forever," Schleimer said. "We can't afford to get it wrong."

Picinich said the apartments would offer

"quality rentals" that are currently missing in the northern Westchester market. She said there would be four types of units in the South Moger Avenue building – one- and two-bedroom apartments and one and two bedrooms with dens ranging from 800 to 1,340 square feet. The North Moger building would contain studios and one- and two-bedroom units that are slightly smaller.

Projected market-rate monthly rents would be between \$2,667 and \$4,355 on the South Moger site and from \$1,880 to \$3,160 for the North Moger building.

Gotham Organization, Inc. has built about 35,000 apartments, mostly in New York City.

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# Newest Candidate Jumps Into 17th Congressional District Race

By Martin Wilbur

Another candidate has entered the race for the Democratic nomination in the 17th Congressional District.

Chappaqua resident Adam Schleifer, most recently an assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting fraud cases, announced his candidacy to succeed Rep. Nita Lowey for the seat. Lowey will be retiring at the end of her current term.

A product of the Chappaqua School District, Schleifer helped represent the government in the college admissions scandal that broke earlier this year.

"I have battled predatory lenders and fraudsters, those who have tried to cut the line and get ahead of hardworking families, criminals that flood our streets with dangerous weapons, and those who think their profits are more important than the health of our children and our planet," Schleifer said through a prepared statement.

After graduating Horace Greeley High School, he earned a degree in philosophy and government at Cornell University and went on to Columbia Law School. Schleifer served as a federal law clerk then went to work as a litigator for Wachtell Lipton, Manhattan law firm.

Before serving in the U.S. attorney's office, he was a special associate counsel for the New York State Department of Financial Services where he helped investigate and lead enforcement efforts against predatory lending practices.

Schleifer, 38, jumps into a crowded field of Democratic hopefuls that is expected to continue to grow. Schleifer is the sixth confirmed candidate vying for the party's nomination in the predominantly Democratic district. There are other candidates who have filed paperwork but have not officially announced their candidacies.

He joins Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains); state Sen. David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown); Mondaire Jones an attorney from Rockland County; former

Obama administration official Evelyn Farkas, also a Chappaqua resident and Horace Greeley graduate; and Sleepy Hollow resident Allison Fine.

All of the candidates that have entered the race have lauded Lowey's contribution to the district in her 16-term career.

However, on Monday, Jones, the only candidate who entered the field before Lowey announced her retirement on Oct. 10, blasted Schleifer's emergence into the race, arguing that neither the country nor the 17th Congressional District needs more millionaires or billionaires. Jones chided the newest candidate for being the son of Regeneron founder and CEO Howard Schleifer.

He said that it's "surreal that a

billionaire from California thinks he can buy this election" when the country needs to address issues such as student debt.

"Adam Schleifer was raised by a father worth \$1.4 billion. I was raised by a single mom who needed to work multiple jobs to provide for our family, even as we relied on food stamps and Section 8 housing," Jones said.

The congressional primary will be held next June.

Federal prosecutor Adam Schleifer, a Chappaqua resident, announced Monday he is joining the field of Democratic hopefuls to succeed Rep. Nita Lowey.



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## P'ville's Depew St. Project Removes Retail to Limit Buffer Incursion

*continued from page 1*

shaped buffer. The board suggested tapering the ends of the building.

"This is certainly the direction we were asking for you to address and we appreciate that," said Planning Commission Chairman Russell Klein. "You have shortened the building by about 12 feet but I personally hoped for more of a removal from the wetland buffer area."

Previously, there was 1,752 square feet of incursion into the buffer. The new design reduces that to 955 square feet.

The Planning Commission had previously suggested removing the retail because it wouldn't be viable in the

predominantly residential area.

The original plan called for 4,500 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 73 apartments. Under the original design, the three-story building would have had 11 studio apartments, 49 one-bedroom units and 13 two-bedroom units upstairs. The new plan has 74 units but several of those are smaller.

The commission had also requested the units have terraces to give the building a townhouse feel.

"The building is smaller and six units have been affected by pulling the building back," said Fruchter, who showed the commission a rendering of the structure

with terraces. "We've reduced the square footage by creating these terraces."

Attorney Kate Roberts of Zarin & Steinmetz, representing the applicant, further explained the changes.

"The units themselves got smaller but 74 units makes this [project] financially feasible," Roberts said. "It's the amount the client needs to make this project work."

Klein said he still wanted to see space between the edge of the building and the wetlands buffer, perhaps as much as 20 feet.

"What I was looking for was the building to be tapered off at the corner," he said. "The goal is to reduce the impact on the buffer and the northwest corner of the building is at issue."

But Mann said that kind of change would be too costly.

"And it would not be marketable," he said.

Mann said the plan also eliminates second-floor amenities in the newly-configured building.

Previous revised building designs that Mann considered less marketable and the costly cleanup of the petroleum-contaminated soil, likely a result of the LaDuca auto repair shop that had been at the site, has created what Mann said are "hardship issues."

In June, the Planning Commission requested that the financial information be put into writing and provided to the commission for review. Klein again asked for that material.

"We require a financial analysis to demonstrate the hardship and we've asked for that but have yet to receive it," he said.

Because retail space is no longer part of the project, the application needs to be reviewed by the Pleasantville Zoning Board of Appeals.

"We will be asking the zoning board for a full variance from the commercial requirement," said Roberts. "We are hoping to have the Planning (Commission's) positive recommendation before we go to the zoning board in early December."

## Westlake Athletic Field Upgrades Could Be Put to Vote By Spring

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considering in terms of the scope of work," Kotes said.

Based on what has been seen so far, the superintendent said the board has an idea of what it wants to get done and how to get there.

"As we get closer to the presentation in December, we'll be able to codify exactly what that work will look like," he added.

During a special meeting at Westlake High School last January, residents decried the condition of the athletic fields, which they considered substandard and embarrassing,

and to plead for artificial turf. Others asked for a press box along with lights to hold nighttime events.

In recent seasons, some games have been forced to be moved to alternate sites because of field conditions, community members said at the meeting last January.

Kotes pledged that residents would be kept apprised of school officials' decisions.

"We're still in the planning phases," he said. "But we will be sure to make every effort to communicate, every step of the way, what the board is contemplating."

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# Pleasantville Honors Girls' Soccer Champs With Parade, Ceremony

By Martin Wilbur

No one was going to rain on the Pleasantville Panthers girls' soccer team's parade on Sunday.

Despite a cold and wet afternoon, community members lined the streets of Bedford Road and Romer Avenue and packed the Pleasantville High School's auditorium to honor the newly-crowned Class B state champions.

"It's such a difficult feat to accomplish," said Coach Chris Osterhoudt. "Obviously, it's always a dream of coaches and teams to get to this point but (winning) the section is like the number one goal, and then you never know from there. I never thought we would, but what a great feeling it is."

During the ceremony, community members took every opportunity to loudly



JOSHUA MURPHY PHOTOS

The community packed the Pleasantville High School auditorium to pay tribute to the girls' soccer team and their accomplishment of winning a state title.

cheer the team's 25 players. Osterhoudt, Athletic Director John Bauerlein and the four captains, Lauren Drillock, Avery Manna, Allison Portera and Analese Picart, spoke of the long practices that started in mid-August and the hard work that contributed to a 20-1-2 season.

They also mentioned the dedication and their commitment to one another as a key intangible that helped propel the team to the first girls' state soccer title in school history.

"These girls behind me and next to me are family," said Picart, a junior. "From Aug. 19 to Nov. 17, spending each and every day with my best friends is an experience like no other. Our season went as long as it possibly could and I am grateful for it. As hard as it is to say goodbye, we look forward to next year as we strive to win more championships."



Sunday was a time for members of the Pleasantville High School girls' soccer team and the community to smile during the parade and ceremony celebrating the Panthers' Class B state championship.



Above: Members of the championship team marched through the village during the parade to commemorate their accomplishment.

Left: The entire village felt a sense of Pleasantville Panther pride.



Bauerlein said there are other qualities besides athletic talent that made the team special. In addition to success on the field, each one of the players has at least a 90 average in the classroom.

But it was something he noticed on the

sidelines of the championship game in Cortland that stood out.

The team had been dominant for most of the season – they outscored their opponents 81-12 – but when they faced a 2-0 deficit at halftime, it was the players who spoke up, not the coaches.

"They spoke how they cared about one another, how they knew they had this and

*continued on page 6*

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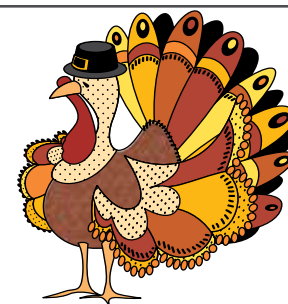
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## Bedford to Survey Community About Potential School Closings

By Erin Maher

The Bedford School District will roll out a survey in January to gauge community sentiment on the district's Long Range Facilities plan that introduced the possibility of closing two of the district's elementary schools.

To address the issue, school officials retained Interactive Inc., a national evaluation firm, to explore ways the district could utilize its space with a smaller student population. In October, Interactive Inc. and the district held four community forums to educate the population on the process.

Next, the district will conduct the survey, that will be available through the mail or completed online in the two-week period of Jan. 8-22. On Feb. 10 and 11, the board will hold additional community forums where trustees plan to present to the public its costs, three-year budget estimates and a report the community.

Interactive Inc. plans to present its recommendation to the board in March, with plans for the board to adopt the final Long Range Facilities plan by June.

Since the announcement, parents and members of the community have consistently spoken out against the closing of any schools during Board of Education meetings.

David Menken, a Bedford Village resident, said at last Wednesday's board meeting that he opposed any closures, noting that his children went to the district's elementary, middle and high schools.

"I'm encouraging the board to keep schools open because these schools, especially in Bedford, in Pound Ridge, the schools form the basis of the community," Menken said.

Trustees are expected to finalize the draft of the survey at its Dec. 11 meeting.

In September, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Manno outlined the district's long-range plan, which mentioned the options of keeping all five Bedford elementary schools open or closing one or two of the schools. Currently, the district operates Mount Kisco Elementary, West Patent, Bedford Village, Bedford Hills and Pound Ridge elementary schools, all serving grades K-5.

One factor cited in the exploration of whether to close up to two elementary schools was the district's 10-year enrollment projections, concluding in 2028. There were 1,384 students in grades 9-12 in 2018, but projections forecast 997 high school students by 2028. Districtwide enrollment has fallen from 4,367 students in 2013-14 to 3,915 last year.

## Pleasantville Honors Girls' Soccer Champs With Parade, Ceremony

*continued from page 1*

how they were not going to quit and how they weren't going to let another team physically beat them up in the second half, and they achieved their goals," Bauerlein said. "They went out there, scored three goals and won that state championship."

Principal Joe Palumbo and Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter pointed out the outpouring of support from the community.

"I do believe that coming together the way you did allowed you to overcome adversity in the final game," Palumbo said. "I'll tell you right now, the feeling is mutual with the love in the room."

Local elected officials presented the team with proclamations from each of their levels

of government. County Legislator Margaret Cunzio told the team that Westchester County recognized the team with its own day and planned to include everyone's names on the County Center jumbotron. State Sen. Peter Harckham invited the team to Albany when the legislature is back in session in January.

The message to the team was to take the lessons from this season's experience and apply it in the years ahead.

"Make sure you take away the skills that you learned here – determination, perseverance, worth ethic, your drive and, of course, the passion that you have not only for this sport but in life in general," Cunzio said.

## Mt. Kisco Lions to Collect Food Items at Dec. 6 Tree Lighting

The Mount Kisco Lions Club is asking community members who are coming to the annual Christmas tree lighting outside the library on Friday, Dec. 6 to bring a non-perishable food item to the event. All donations will benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry and other local charities. The ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. outside the Mount Kisco Public Library, which is located at 100 E. Main St.

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# Excavation Key Hurdle for Chap Crossing Town Home Basements

By Martin Wilbur

A revised plan that would include basements in the 91 town homes proposed for Chappaqua Crossing is one of the key issues New Castle town officials must resolve before agreeing to an updated site plan.

During a joint work session involving the town and planning boards last Tuesday, there didn't appear to be objections to the concept of basements but concern was raised about the excavation that would be required. Members of both boards expressed reservations that the volume of dirt that would have to be stored on site or trucked off site could create an untenable situation.

Since Toll Brothers, the luxury home building company retained by developer Summit/Greenfield, plans to build the 91 units in stages dictated by market conditions, there were worries voiced last week that the site could be a construction zone for years.

"It seems to me, anyway, that the conversations have evolved and we've gotten to the point where we've gotten a certain level of comfort (about the basements)," said Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood. "We're not

there yet because we still have to get this information about how it's going to work with the cut and fill and the construction and the sequencing, but it seems to me that somehow, some way, that we can deal with that issue."

Planning Board member Thomas Curley said a workable sequencing plan is critical since 91 1,000-square-foot basements with excavation reaching 10 feet would yield more than 900,000 cubic feet of dirt.

"It's the equivalent of taking two acres of land and digging down 10 feet and that's just a lot of dirt," Curley said. "If you add up the number of trucks that's a problem. That's like a thousand trucks that are going to have to move off this property."

Representatives for Toll Brothers said much of the dirt would be reused on the site, including for construction of the loop road.

The joint meeting was held to discuss the changes a week before the opening of Tuesday evening's Town Board public hearing on whether to revise the Multi-Family Planned Development Preliminary Development Concept Plan (MFPD PDCP) that it passed in 2015. The Town Board must agree to a series of requested changes in Summit/Greenfield's petition that was submitted to the town earlier this

fall.

Several of the eight other changes outlined in the petition, including the reduction in the length of the driveways, an increase in the square footage of each unit, the increase in footprint and floor area and increasing the area of disturbance from 19 to 21 acres, did not appear to be problematic to the two boards. If the Town Board agrees to adding the basements, the changes to the driveways, average unit size, footprint and floor area and disturbance would automatically be created.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he understands Toll Brothers' insistence on the basements because it makes the units far more attractive.

"Basically, I think the basements are fine and if we can limit them to no bedrooms that's what we'll do," Greenstein said. "The fact that empty-nesters are going to live there, they're either going to want the space for recreation or storage or both, I think basements are very important."

There had been previous concerns from members of both boards that adding basements could lead to some residents converting the space to a living area. Last week, the attorney for the Planning Board, Les Steinman, recommended that

a prohibition against using the basements as living space should be written into the deed restriction and also be required by the Homeowners Association.

It also is expected that Chappaqua School District representatives will attend this week's public hearing to address the expected bump in schoolchildren generated by the townhomes.

Another issue that needs to be resolved is preservation of the Thomas V. Wright House, the 1850s farmhouse used by Reader's Digest that is deteriorating. Members of both boards have reached consensus to see the structure preserved.

James Fitzpatrick, Toll Brothers' division president in New York, said that his company is committed to preserving the exterior of the house but the interior would have to be repurposed in order to make the structure usable.

Greenstein said that Town Historian Gray Williams has objected to that plan because the interior is of far greater historic significance.

Tuesday's public hearing is during the New Castle Town Board's regularly scheduled meeting at Town Hall that is set to begin at 7 p.m.

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# P'ville Program Details How to Help Teens With Mental Health Issues

By Abby Luby

The all-male audience listened closely to Colleen Griffin Wagner last Tuesday evening. About 45 men gathered in the Pleasantville High School cafeteria for Dads Night for Youth Mental Health and were eager to know how to connect with youths suffering from a variety of mental health illnesses.

"We've always struggled with getting dads out," said Brian Halloran, who founded Break the Hold (BTH) Foundation last year after his 19-year-old son committed suicide. "As you learn more about it [mental health issues], you realize it touches everybody. We get calls from parents saying 'My son's friend said this and what should we do?'"

Break the Hold and PvilleCares, a free biweekly drop-in family support group that helps families deal with youth and young adult substance abuse, addiction and mental illness, co-sponsored the event.

Wagner's presentation focused on how to recognize and what to do when confronting someone with mental health issues. She said fathers, uncles, grandfathers, brothers, coaches and friends represent a critical group who could intervene and support a youngster who is enduring difficulties. The outreach was to appeal to fathers or male relatives and teachers who are often left out of the loop.

Several hands went up when Wagner asked how many are in contact with children.

"You're the people that are right there to help," she said. "You can be the person a kid comes to. You can be a changemaker."

Wagner, a former village trustee, is a professional mental health counselor and a certified instructor for the National Council for Behavioral Health. She related a story of a 10-year-old boy from Ireland visiting his dad in Pleasantville years ago during the summer. The boy showed clear signs of desperation but nobody understood what those signs meant. Wagner learned that soon after returning to Ireland he committed suicide.



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Colleen Griffin Wagner, a mental health counselor, led a presentation last week for more than 40 men about how to recognize the warning signs of mental illness and what to do.

Wagner said classes on recognizing warning signs are as essential as CPR training.

"We cannot leave all the kids that are having issues to social workers or mental health help counselors; there are not enough to go around," she said. "What I've learned over the years is the more we know, the more comfortable we are in intervening."

Wagner noted the following facts:

- One in four children before the age of 18 will have mental health issues, most of which develop during adolescence;
- One in five will experience a mental health issue or crisis;
- 17.1 million youths under 18 have had a psychiatric disorder, more than those with cancer, AIDS and diabetes combined; and
- 50 percent of mental health issues are established by the age of 14 and 75 percent by age 24.

"What kids don't do is they don't tell us when another kid is in trouble," Wagner said. "That's the stigma we need to wipe away. When I talk to kids in schools or in group meetings, I tell them 'Would you rather have

a mad friend or a dead friend?'"

There are techniques for adults to practice in order to reach friends of teens and adolescents displaying abnormal behavior. During the 90-minute presentation, Wagner addressed the signs of a youth who is at risk and how to deal with a potential suicidal youngster. She gave brief explanations of various illnesses, such as Attention Deficit Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, eating disorders, anxiety, post-traumatic stress syndrome and self-harming.

Wagner said normal indicators of depression are sadness, being subdued or quiet or having little energy. But with youngsters suffering from mental illness, it's anger and impulsiveness.

"We think they are acting out, but they're not," she said.

Seeking help for those who are troubled is essential. If a teen who typically visits your house seems off, engage them or speak to a parent, but don't let it slip by, Wagner said. If an adult sees a youngster acting differently, she urged the audience to engage with them verbally.

"You can start a conversation with 'I've noticed that...' or 'Want to walk with me right now?' You do not want to focus on their changing behavior," Wagner said. "You don't want to 'fix' them. Also, giving praise when deserved goes a long way."

A technique called reflective listening – repeating back what is said – is also helpful and shows that you're a good listener, she said. Put away your cell phone, be accepting and reserve judgment.

Interspersed with the talk, three segments of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" were shown, a documentary by Kevin Hines, who is a friend of Wagner's. Hines attempted suicide at 19, jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. The film chronicles the impact of his attempt on others and his work as a mental health advocate since then.

Wagner spoke emphatically about connecting a troubled person with the right resources and following up. Westchester Medical Center is the closest hospital with a psychiatric unit and everyone should learn the hospitals that have detox centers.

There's also the Text Crisis Line: 741741. Last year the line received more than 100 million texts.

At the end of the meeting Pleasantville resident Chad Kraus told the group, "I'm coming from the perspective of wanting others to know you are not alone, and if there are people in this room that are struggling with their own kids, nieces or nephews or neighbors, I've been through it like Brian [Halloran], and number one, no one is alone. We have to stop the stigma. If ever you want to talk to a fellow dad in the community and get a dad's perspective, I'm happy to also help you."

Halloran said knowing how to react is the first step in opening a conversation and then informing the right people.

"We are the answers to the problems with the next generation," he said.

For more information, visit [www.bthbreakthehold.org](http://www.bthbreakthehold.org).

## County Receives \$100G Grant from Suicide Prevention Center of New York

On the heels of a successful suicide awareness and education campaign, the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to develop, test and refine a formal in-depth suicide review process.

The money is part of a \$340,000 grant funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) that is being awarded to four counties greatly impacted by suicide – Westchester, Suffolk, Erie and Onondaga counties.

The purpose of the grant, "Learning from Loss: Suicide Fatality Reviews for Effective Prevention Activities," is to conduct detailed reviews of suicide deaths to identify systemic patterns and to ensure accurate data collection by local medical examiner offices. The DCMH officially launched its Westchester Suicide Fatality Review Team last Tuesday with a presentation from Dr. Kimberly

Repp from Washington County, Ore. and other representatives from New York State.

"In order to further our efforts to reduce the number of suicide deaths in Westchester, we need to be able to look at these tragedies with a more critical eye," said County Executive George Latimer. "Experts have long believed that suicide deaths can be prevented, and with a focused Suicide Fatality Review Team in place, we can aim to lower the chances of suicide in Westchester."

"We are appreciative of the New York State Office of Mental Health for awarding us this opportunity to prevent suicide deaths in our county," said Michael Orth, commissioner of the county Department of Community Mental Health. "We have assembled talented partners to create our new-formed Suicide Fatality Review Team under the leadership of our medical examiner, Department of Health and

Department of Community Mental Health along with other critical stakeholders."

The model being implemented in Westchester is based on a program that was successfully rolled out in Washington County, Ore., where a multidisciplinary team with representatives from the medical examiner's office, healthcare providers, law enforcement, crisis workers, clergy and other community partners shared data during their reviews of suicide deaths. Washington County has seen the number of suicide deaths drop over each of the last three years the program has been in place.

For additional information on Westchester County's Suicide Fatality Review Committee, contact Michael Orth at 914-995-5225 or e-mail [mmo6@westchestergov.com](mailto:mmo6@westchestergov.com).



# Data Reveals No Speeding Issues on Valhalla's South Kensico Ave.

By Joan Gaylord

Speeding on South Kensico Avenue in Valhalla, the road leading to Pat Henry Field, is not the problem that some residents believe it to be.

This was the conclusion shared by Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul Oliva with the Town Board at its Nov. 19 work session.

Oliva said at the request of Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, the department had recently conducted a traffic survey of the narrow residential street. Concerns about speeding have been raised frequently by neighbors as part of the ongoing discussions surrounding the proposed installation of lights at the ball field.

Residents have contended that there will likely be a sharp traffic increase on the residential dead-end street if the lights are installed and the hours that the field would be in use are extended.

Oliva said that the department placed rubber strips on the pavement in front of 95 S. Kensico Ave. The equipment tabulates the number of cars that travel along the road and gauges the speed of each car. The speed limit for South Kensico Avenue is 30 miles per hour.

During the data collection period, from Oct. 4-15, no vehicles traveled faster than 40 miles per hour, Oliva said. Seven cars traveled between 36 and 40 miles per hour

and 3,212 cars traveled below the speed limit, including 85 percent of those vehicles clocked at no more than 24 miles per hour. Oliva said the time period included a Little League weekend tournament.

The results are similar to a study conducted in April 2018 during the Little League's spring season when 85 percent of the cars traveled at 25 miles per hour.

Oliva said the road has been given a "low enforcement rating," meaning that while police patrol the street, it is not a location where the department has had to dedicate officers to curb frequent speeding.

Fulgenzi had also asked the chief about car accidents on South Kensico Avenue. Oliva said he found no record of any accidents.

Councilwoman Laurie Smalley asked whether speed bumps might be appropriate for the road. Oliva said the town has a policy not to resort to speed bumps to avoid liability for damage to low vehicles crossing the bumps. He suggested the town possibly consider solar-powered speed signs that have been effective in reminding motorists to slow down.

Oliva said he was aware of the residents' concerns but the facts suggest South Kensico Avenue does not experience many problems.

"You can speculate, but this is the data," he said.



## In Pursuit

Parent Emile Last was chased by Hawthorne and Columbus elementary school students in the annual Mount Pleasant Education Foundation's Turkey Trot and Kids Fun Run on Nov. 17. The foundation raises money to fund enrichment programs requested by teachers in the Mount Pleasant School District.

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# P'ville Man Charged for Taking Sexually Explicit Photos of a Child

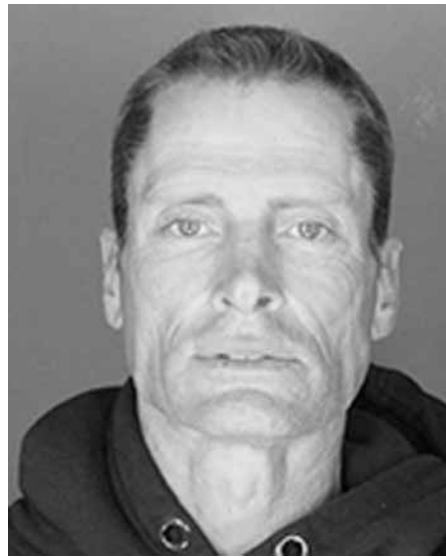
By Martin Wilbur

A Pleasantville man was indicted last week on 12 charges in connection with taking sexually explicit photos of a child, the Westchester County district attorney's office announced.

John Passaretti, 50, who also has a residence in West Palm Beach, Fla., was charged with 11 felony counts including two counts each of use of a child in a sexual performance; promoting an obscene performance by a child; promoting a sexual performance by a child; possessing an obscene performance by a child; and possessing a sexual performance by a child. Additionally, Passaretti was indicted on a single count of first-degree sexual abuse, a Class D felony, and endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor.

Passaretti appeared before Westchester County Court Judge Anne Minihan last Thursday and is being held on \$500,000 bail. His next court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 17.

The district attorney's office said that on Oct. 29, Passaretti was arrested by Port Chester police with the assistance of Pleasantville police, after a complaint was made that he may have photographed a young child in a sexual manner. The



John Passaretti was indicted on 12 counts, including 11 felonies, for taking and possessing sexually explicit photos of a minor.

incident was captured the day before in a home on a video camera system, often referred to as a nanny cam.

The High-Tech Crime Unit of the district attorney's criminal investigators assisted in the technology investigation.

## Police Blotter

### North Castle Police Department

**Nov. 15:** A caller reported at 10:37 a.m. that he lost his wallet in Stop & Shop on North Broadway, and when he went to customer service to inquire if it was found, all the cash was missing. The responding officer secured owner and witness depositions; a report will follow.

**Nov. 16:** An officer on patrol reported multiple chickens in the roadway on Morningside Place at 10:42 a.m. The chickens were corralled into the backyard of its owner; matter adjusted.

**Nov. 16:** An officer reported being on Route 120 with a disabled vehicle at 5:41 p.m. A computer inquiry revealed the operator's driving privileges were suspended. The vehicle was released to the registered owner at the scene and the operator was issued a summons for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

**Nov. 19:** An officer reported finding a New York license plate (HUP8734) on Washington Avenue at 12:48 a.m.

**Nov. 19:** An officer reported three garbage bags dumped in the cul-de-sac of Cooney Hill Road at 11:50 a.m. The North Castle Highway Department was notified.

**Nov. 20:** A complainant reported a deceased deer on the side of North Greenwich Road at 5:20 a.m. The state Department of Transportation was contacted for removal.

### Pleasantville Police Department

**Nov. 18:** A local resident reported at headquarters at 2:05 p.m. that her online account was hacked allegedly by a party that was known to her. The matter is under investigation.

**Nov. 20:** A Tompkins Avenue business reported at 12 p.m. that there were suspicious transactions. The case is under investigation.

## Support Connection Program for Men Dealing With Loss Set for Dec. 11

Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program, Men's Night Out: For Men Living With Loss, will be offered on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Travelers Rest in Ossining. The program is open to men who have lost a spouse or partner to breast, ovarian or

gynecological cancers. Spend a casual night out with good company and good food at a local restaurant.

To learn more about the evening or to pre-register, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. Pre-registration is required.

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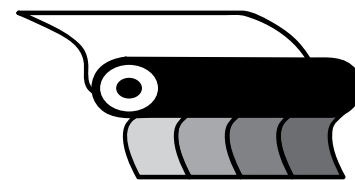
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# Armonk Ready to Welcome Frosty Home Again This Sunday

By Martin Wilbur

Frosty the Snowman is ready to make his journey home to Armonk this Sunday to be greeted by adoring crowds ready to usher in the holiday season.

North Castle is planning its biggest Frosty Day yet, the 10th anniversary of the annual celebration since the town claimed everyone's favorite snowman as its own. The song's lyricist, Steve Nelson, moved to Armonk a year after the hit song was first released in 1950 and remained in town until his death in 1981.

Robbie Morris, president of the Friends of Frosty, which organizes the event, said it's easy to understand why so many families in town, throughout Westchester and beyond circle the day on the calendar.

"The whole day is about kids and about having fun," Morris said. "It's not a religious thing. Everybody can come and enjoy and have a wonderful day."

This year, the festivities get underway at noon, a half-hour earlier than in past years. There will be about 50 activities throughout the hamlet, from miniature train rides and horse-drawn wagon rides to face painting, holiday ornament decorating, and cookie frosting. Children can also make their own Frosty the Snowman.

There are various musical groups that circulate throughout the downtown, including a kazoo band this year. The popular stilt walkers will return.

Morris said Frosty Day doesn't cost families much. The activities and the train

rides cost nothing and various merchants hand out free snacks.

"Everything's put on for free by the community," he said. "We've got sponsors to pay for all the other things, so it's really a fantastic deal."

For this year's renewal of Frosty Day, the town will welcome a special guest. Patricia Fenwick, who grew up in White Plains, was the inspiration for Nelson's lyrics, said Ed Woodyard, a member of the Friends of Frosty. As a young child, she made a small snowman after the first snowfall of the season but by the next morning she was in tears because it had melted, he said.

Fenwick's grandfather was Jack Rollins, Nelson's songwriting partner. Rollins told a young Patricia not to worry because the snowman will come back again someday. Her family contacted Frosty organizers about the connection and they will be making the drive from Ohio to attend.

"From those tears, Frosty's song and story have delighted families for about 70 years," Woodyard said.

The parade will step off at 4 p.m., proceed up Main Street to Maple Avenue and end at Wampus Brook Park for the tree lighting ceremony. This year some 50 organizations will be part of the parade, Morris said.

For those looking to warm up or rest their feet, stop by the Armonk branch of the North Castle Public Library, which will be showing a continuous loop of the Frosty movie from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Judy Willsey, the proprietor of Framings on Main Street, said her Frosty



Frosty the Snowman will be the star attraction for Armonk's 10th annual Frosty Day festivities, to be held this Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m.

Museum exhibit consisting of photos and memorabilia dating back to the 1950s has been moved to the library. During the past year, a collector of children's book illustrations contacted the Friends that he had the original Little Golden Book Frosty the Snowman illustrations. Those are on display at Framings.

"He lent them to us and I framed them and they're all hanging in our window," Willsey said. "They're just incredible. It's

that 1950s children's book illustration style."

For those planning to attend this year, the town will be closing off the one-block stretch of Main Street from Bedford Road to Maple Avenue to vehicular traffic for the duration of the event.

Town Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the one-day celebration takes a year's worth of effort from a legion of volunteers throughout the town.

"It takes a lot of work to get sponsors and supporters and volunteers and it is one of the coolest things I've ever participated in," Schiliro said.

For more information on Frosty Day, visit [www.armonkfrosty.com](http://www.armonkfrosty.com).

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# Report: County Needs 11,000 More Affordable Housing Units

Westchester County Executive George Latimer released the county Planning Department's Housing Needs Assessment, which revealed that the county needs over 11,000 more units of additional affordable housing to match demand.

At a Nov. 19 press conference, Latimer said that affordable housing is a contributing factor to a well-functioning county. The assessment was done to establish data for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Westchester, he said.

"This assessment is not a fair share housing allocation plan; it does not assign any number of units to specific municipalities. The assessment looks at the county's history of housing policies; lays out the methodology for data analysis; provides findings on a wide variety of demographic, housing stock and housing affordability issues; and provides recommendations, including best practices from across the country, to help the county move forward in addressing its affordable housing needs," Latimer explained.

The assessment used a standard statistical approach viewing Westchester County as a whole and with a separate look at the municipalities.

Findings of the assessment include:

There are 345,885 housing units in Westchester, with 81 percent of the housing units in the county built before 1979.

The City of Yonkers has the most housing units with 82,562 while the Village

of Buchanan has the fewest with 864. Of the county's units, 62 percent are owned, just under the 63 percent national average.

There are 2,476 public housing units and 13,092 Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher units.

There are 34,221 Emergency Tenant Protection Act (ETPA) units in 1,773 buildings in the county; 141,570 households (41.4 percent of the total number in the county) are living in homes and apartments that are paying more than 50 percent of their income toward their housing costs.

There is a significant shortage of housing for extremely low-income renters, people with disabilities, seniors, large families and the homeless. In particular, families and individuals who face intellectual and developmental disabilities, who need specialized housing with services, are not being adequately served.

There are 89,839 people living in poverty in Westchester (9.4 percent of the total population).

The greatest growth in population is in the 85 and over cohort (the towns of Lewisboro and Pound Ridge have 232 percent and 202 percent increases, respectively), between 2000 and 2017, demonstrating the need for senior housing.

The combined population of the five largest cities represent 46 percent of the total population in the county.

The 30 to 44 age group shows decline, which may mean there aren't enough

affordable housing options for young families.

More people commute into Westchester to work than those who live and work in the county; the majority of commuters (58 percent) drive alone to work.

There is no municipality where the market rate rent for a 2-bedroom unit is affordable to households earning the local hourly renter wage; the greatest monthly gap, at \$1,823, is in the Village of Pleasantville. Municipalities with gaps over \$1,700 are in the City of Peekskill, the Town of Bedford and the Village of Port Chester.

There are only three municipalities where the HUD FMR is affordable to households earning the local hourly renter wage – the Town of New Castle, and the villages of Bronxville and Pelham Manor.

The Housing Action Council found that 68.6 percent of households seeking housing under the housing settlement were already living in Westchester; there were 9,260 applicants for 395 affordable rental units in development – a ratio of 23 applicants for every unit of rental housing.

The finding that 50.7 percent of all owner households earning between 30 percent and 50 percent of the county's Area Median Income (AMI) are severely cost-burdened should not be a surprise, the report noted, but the conclusion that 22.9 percent of households earning between 80 percent and 100 percent of AMI might be (when one considers that a family of four

at 100 percent AMI earns about \$117,100 in Westchester County). It is important to note that these households have housing but they cannot comfortably afford it.

Similarly, the assessment concludes that 2,556 households in the county live in substandard housing. The assessment also found that 4,523 households are severely overcrowded.

The total number of new affordable housing units needed, according to the assessment, is 11,703. This represents the total number of Westchester households that are severely overcrowded or homeless, as well as the non-Westchester Homeseeker registrants.



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## Guest Column

### Make Small Business Saturday More Than a One-Time Event

By Quint Studer

This Saturday, Nov. 30 is Small Business Saturday®. Starting in 2010, American Express designated this day – the Saturday after Thanksgiving each year – to encourage people to “shop small.”

The financial services company reports that since the commemoration began, “Consumers have reported spending an estimated \$103 billion across all Small Business Saturdays combined.”

As a community revitalization expert, I welcome every chance to shine a spotlight on the small businesses and local entrepreneurs who make up the economic engine of most small and mid-size towns and cities. Days like Small Business Saturday can help business owners get face time with customers who might not normally shop there. And consumers get to see what they might be missing – the personal connections and experiences they may not always get from online or big-box retailers.

Still, shopping small and local can and should be more than a symbolic once-a-year event. Anyone who wants a stronger, more vibrant community needs to support their small businesses every day. They are the key to economic revitalization. They play a vital role in creating the “sense of place” that gives a community its competitive advantage.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses create

two out of every three net new jobs in the private sector. What’s more, over half of all Americans work for or own a small business.

There’s a symbiotic relationship between residents and small business owners. They really need each other. Small businesses provide jobs and keep the dollars circulating locally. Their owners have an active and personal interest in the well-being of the community. They live there. Their kids go to school there. They care about what happens.

When wealth is created, business owners are more likely to turn around and reinvest in the community.

In fact, small businesses have a far more important role in their communities than ever before. The old “pillars” – big institutions like banks, hospitals, media outlets and other businesses – are no longer locally owned. The executives who work for them play a critical short-term role in the community, but often they’re not there for the long haul. It’s no longer a given that they’ll retire there. So small business leaders must step in to fill this leadership void.

A few decades ago, the owners of these pillar businesses were committed to keeping their communities vibrant. They knew their economic health depended on it. But now that the owners of these former pillars live elsewhere, they just don’t have the same intimate connection to the community.

It makes sense for small businesses to take the lead in pulling communities out of the economic slump many have been in

for years. When communities are vibrant, there are more high-paying jobs and people can afford to shop. Quality of life improves. There’s more money for schools and programs that lift people out of poverty. Everyone wins.

Many small businesses have made their commitment to their local community part of their brand. This is what customers want. The more chaotic and uncertain the world becomes, the more people crave a safe and stable home base. This is a huge trend, and it’s taking place all over America.

This is how the small business owner can compete with the mega-retailers. Create an experience for your community. Citizens will know they’re being looked after, and they will want to do business locally. This can become your competitive advantage. Take care of the community, and it will take care of you.

The bottom line? Don’t shop locally only on Small Business Saturday. Do it every chance you get, all year long. A purchase from a small business owner is an investment in your community. Who better to support than those who are working so hard to create a better future for everyone?

*Quint Studer is the author of The Wall Street Journal bestseller “The Busy Leader’s Handbook” and a lifelong businessman, entrepreneur and student of leadership. He has worked with individuals across a variety of industries to help them become better leaders and create high-performing organizations.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Councilwoman Should Take a Lesson in Political Graciousness

After 15 years in local politics, including election wins and a loss, I believe one of the most important lessons I have learned is to always be gracious in victory or defeat, irrespective of the final vote margin. Unfortunately, it appears that Francesca Hagadus has yet to learn this lesson.

Hagadus’s letter in last week’s Examiner (“Fulgenzi, Mt. Pleasant Republicans’ Denial of Mailer is Shameful”) reeks of sour grapes. She blames her Town Board colleagues, a supposed lunch offer and a singular mailer for her defeat. She chides her opponents and questions whether they knew and approved

of that mailer.

Despite the musings in a recent Examiner editorial, the mailer appeared to be fact-based. Hagadus vocalized support for two tax increases (hotel and sales), called federal law enforcement officials “thugs,” “goons” and “Brownshirts” on social media last year and defended the so-called right of sex offenders to vote in elementary schools in 2018. To my knowledge, she has not refuted the assertion that she has yet to visit the Highway Department since taking office and serving as its Town Board liaison.

Hagadus claims these facts were part of

a nefarious smear campaign against her. Ironically, this very paper rebuked her own “Washington-style” politics in the waning stages of last year’s election.

Put simply, the 2019 campaign is over and the time for governing begins anew. Mount Pleasant taxpayers have spoken and their decisions deserve to be respected. From one non-victorious candidate to another: Be gracious and carry on.

**Anthony Amiano**  
**Valhalla**

### Mt. Kisco Chamber to Launch Buy Local Program This Saturday

Studies show that every dollar spent locally generates twice as much for the local economy. Think of it as a sustainability program for your community. Buying local creates jobs and more jobs help the money flow back into the community for the growth of other businesses, additional tax revenues and charitable endeavors. Buying local benefits everyone.

The Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce announces a new initiative that shares exciting special offers, promotions,

new product announcements, programs and events through its new Buy Local program. Participating chamber-affiliated businesses will have the opportunity to share monthly offers related to their product or services for access by the public with the new All Things Kisco Buy Local Card that begins distribution starting on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30, at locations throughout the village.

“Our goal is to promote doing business where your heart is and help keep the

local economy healthy,” said Loretta Brooks, co-executive director of the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce. “The program will highlight special offers for savings and introduce new services to the local community.”

At the launch of the program, this Small Business Saturday and going forward, the latest current offers can be viewed on the chamber’s website at [www.mtkiscochamber.com](http://www.mtkiscochamber.com)





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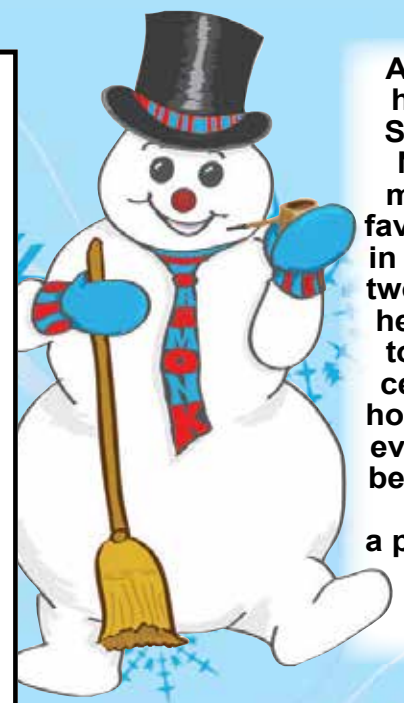


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# A Primer on How to Go About the Business of Decluttering

As a realtor, I find that one of the more difficult subjects to discuss with a listing client is clutter – or rather decluttering.

Outside of my real estate business, I have only occasionally dipped into the world of decluttering because I have relied on my wife Margaret, a natural neatnik and a supremely organized person, to keep our home in order.

Still, that doesn't mean I shouldn't lend assistance to her, or at least learn how to not get in the way. Over the years, some of the advice to the organizationally-challenged has changed, and some has reappeared in a new form many times over.

Back in the 1980s, cleaning expert Don Aslett published "Clutter's Last Stand," one of the most popular of his many titles. Aslett's claim to fame was to communicate the techniques and tools of a professional cleaner to the average homemaker so that she (or – shocking for the time – he!) could clean faster and more economically. His advice on clutter is to toss it, and his book is filled with inspiration on overcoming the internal resistance to doing so.

In the 1990s, organization expert Julie Morgenstern took a gentler approach in her book "Organizing from the Inside Out." Much of the basic advice is the same, but she advises that once the clutter-



By Bill Primavera

clearing dust has settled, you examine your life and interests when deciding where the things in your life should go.

Starting as a web forum participant in the early 2000s, Marla Cilley grew an immense and loyal internet following through her system of changing habits via "baby steps," cleaning by zones a little bit each day, and lovingly accepting one's own organizational imperfections. To her, "clutter cannot be organized" and she places great importance on tackling even a bit of it regularly each day.

A later organizing guru is Marie Kondo, whose 2014 book, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing," was a worldwide bestseller, and whose next book, "Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up," was equally successful.

If you take only a superficial glance at her KonMari Method, it seems to be about folding and arranging clothing and other items into mesmerizingly neat and tiny arrangements. Kondo is featured in many hypnotic YouTube videos demonstrating this aspect of her method, and you will probably learn a tidier way to fold shirts from her, if nothing else.

Her system goes well beyond that,



however, ultimately focusing not as much on what to discard, but on choosing what to keep based on how much joy it brings you. It even gets downright mystical. For example, in Kondo's second book, to determine whether or not a series of books gives you joy, you may want to arrange them in a stack and hug it to see how it makes you feel. That's a little far out, even for me, but her passion certainly has had an effect on people.

Among her more pragmatic pieces of advice, she advises the opposite of Cilley's "FlyLady" approach of baby steps. When decluttering, pick one category, scour your entire home for items in that category and sort through them all at once. Seeing all 12 of the similar shirts, for example, will make it easier to know which are your favorites, and the lift from completing the task will be a reward in itself.

The recurring thread in all this advice seems to be that clutter will not make you happy, and whatever does make you really happy is not clutter. I may not reach my wife's levels of neatness, but I have certainly felt the pleasant effects of letting go of old things as my life and my interests change.

Now is as good a time as any to begin the process again.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)) His real estate site is [www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com](http://www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076 or e-mail [williamjprimavera@gmail.com](mailto:williamjprimavera@gmail.com).



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# Armonk's Whippoorwill Hall to Host Comedy Benefit for St. Stephen's

By Martin Wilbur

When Jane Condon was approached by her friend, Cathy Gates, about performing in a benefit comedy show for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Armonk, there was little hesitation.

Condon, a longtime comedian, lives just over the border in Greenwich, so not only would it be convenient but she thought that her humor would easily translate to the crowd in a neighboring community, albeit in a different state.

"I've been on a number of TV shows. I'm over in Greenwich. I think I can speak Armonk," Condon said.

Condon will headline an evening of comedy on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Whippoorwill Hall that also features fellow Boston area native Kathe Farris. Rabbi Joshua Strom from Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Armonk will be the master of ceremonies. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Gates, a vestry member at St. Stephen's, said she and other parishioners at the church were looking for a fresh and fun angle for a fundraiser to help support teen programs and bring aboard a youth coordinator at the church. Friends with Condon since their children attended the same preschool together, Gates reached out to Condon to see if she was receptive to the idea.

"I think we were trying to think of something that will lift the spirit of everyone because, as they say, laughter is good for you and a church is in the business of lifting spirits and caring for people," Gates said.

"So it goes hand in hand with our mission."

Condon, a veteran comic who has appeared on "The View" and "The Today Show" among her television appearances and has performed innumerable shows, including an off-Broadway production, said she couldn't turn the idea down. Armonk, she figured, would be right in her wheelhouse, performing for the 40-something suburban crowd.

Characterizing herself as a "cleanish comedian," she said that suburban moms are an underutilized resource on the comedy circuit.

"I mostly do theaters," Condon said. "I do more theaters than clubs. Comedy clubs, the audiences are more young people in their twenties dating. Who wants to listen to your mom? My son corrected me and said 'Everybody has a mom, mom.'"

Condon also has no qualms sharing the bill with a rabbi. For her, it makes perfect sense to have Rabbi Strom open for a benefit for an Episcopalian church. Actually, he and Fr. Nils Chittenden, the church's rector, are friends.

"Every rabbi that I have ever known was very funny," she said. "We have him open. Then Kathe Farris. It's unusual to have two moms on a three-person show, but it's special to have two moms. She has girls, I have boys, so we pretty much cover the landscape."

Condon grew up in Brockton, Mass. outside of Boston, the youngest of four children. Craving attention, as she put it, Condon honed her humor at home. While she always thought she was funny, Condon said she was no better than the ninth funniest person in her high school graduating class.



Jane Condon will headline the special comedy night on Dec. 7 at Whippoorwill Hall to raise money for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Armonk.

For a period of time, she tried to be taken seriously. Condon worked as a journalist, then traveled to Japan and wrote a book on Japanese women. But she was bitten by the comedy bug and started appearing at clubs years ago.

Condon said her sons love the idea of her performing, and she even lets her husband attend one of her shows every year.

Most of all, there is nothing better than live comedy, she said.

"My job is to just make people forget, to get them out of their own little world and I invite them into my world," Condon said.

Tickets for the show are \$50 for adults and \$35 for students. There are some premium seats for \$95. For tickets and more information, visit [www.ststephensarmonk.org](http://www.ststephensarmonk.org). Whippoorwill Hall is located at the North Castle Public Library at 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East in Armonk.

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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Nov. 26

**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. Info: 914-273-3887.

**DIY Paper Roll Turkey.** Create the centerpiece for your Thanksgiving dinner with these adorable turkeys. For children of all ages. (Children under five years old must be accompanied by a caregiver.) Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

**Current Political Developments and the Prospects for a Peaceful Settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.** Representatives of the Israeli & Palestinian Civil Society are scheduled to speak. Temple Israel of New Rochelle, 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, New Rochelle. Doors open at 7 p.m. Event at 7:30 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome; RSVP requested. Info and RSVP: 914-235-1800 or e-mail Howard Horowitz at [howardh@horowitzresearch.com](mailto:howardh@horowitzresearch.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. 27

**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.

**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, 170 Joan Corwin Way, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-238-4967.

**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. Info: 914-366-3937.

**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](http://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](http://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. Wednesdays through Dec. 18. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

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

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Joe Praino and Friends.** Praino is returning to Westchester for one night and one show only. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughlounge.com](http://www.lucyslaughlounge.com).

## Friday, Nov. 29

**Black Friday Weekend Holiday Market.** Explore Lyndhurst Mansion transformed into an extravagant wonderland of holiday splendor. Visitors can walk the mansion at their own pace without a guided

tour and experience the wonderland of holiday vignettes. Also, browse the new holiday market featuring more than 60 local and regional makers and artists, perfect for those looking to find holiday gifts. Hot food and beverages will be available for purchase in the pop-up café. There will also be holiday card photo ops and seasonal activities for the whole family to enjoy. Lyndhurst Mansion, 635 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults: \$24. Seniors, students, military personnel and AAA members: \$22. Children (under 16): \$16. Also Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Info: Visit [www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org).

**Pack Chat for Kids.** This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Kids will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves as they are out searching for prey as they prepare for the birth of this year's pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 1, 15, 29 and 30 at 11 a.m. and Nov. 30 and Dec. 8, 14 and 28 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-763-2373 or visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.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).

**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. 30 and Dec. 14, 27, 28 and 31 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 1 and 7 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Family Lego.** Drop-in playtime. For adults with kids. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Evening Howl for Pups of All Ages.** Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why November is a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. All guests will be served weather appropriate treats. Please bring

flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Pleasantville Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** Sponsored by the Pleasantville International Association and the Hiawatha Masonic Lodge. The Masonic Lodge, 283 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Westchester's Winter Wonderland.** Celebrate the holidays close to home. A one-of-a-kind holiday experience featuring Santa's Village, amusement rides, unlimited skating on an outdoor ice rink (skates included), the Winter Wonderland Holiday Circus, food and beverage options and a dazzling light show. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 5 to 10 p.m. \$20. Children (under 3): Free. Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 4 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 22. From Dec. 23 through Jan. 4, 5 to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 4 to 10 p.m. on weekends. Closed Dec. 24 and 25. Info and tickets: Visit [www.winterwonderland.com](http://www.winterwonderland.com).

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Kaitlyn Murphy Show.** Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughlounge.com](http://www.lucyslaughlounge.com).

## Saturday, Nov. 30

**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.

**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.

**Holiday Train Show.** Looking for a fun experience this holiday season for you and your family? Enjoy zooming freight cars, flashing bells, tooting whistles and more at one of our most popular events. A thrill for all ages. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Members and children (under 2): Free. Non-member adults: \$10. Non-member seniors and students: \$9. Non-member children (2-12 years old): \$8. Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 15. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille.** Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them

*continued on page 22*



# Nonprofit, Masons Partner to Reprise P’ville Christmas Tree Sale

By Abby Luby

After last year’s unexpected cancellation of its popular Christmas tree sale, the Pleasantville International Association (PIA) is returning to sell trees and wreaths starting this week.

The popular sale, a major fundraiser for the organization, will take place at the Pleasantville Hiawatha Masonic Lodge, located at 283 Manville Rd., beginning this Friday, Nov. 29 from 5 to 8 p.m. There are also early bird hours on Friday starting at noon.

Previously held at the United Methodist Church on Bedford Road, there were rumors of the church’s insolvency last year when it was suddenly canceled. Then in June, the congregation officially disbanded and PIA was unable to receive permission to hold the sale at the church this year.

“People in the community were very upset because the tree sale had become a fixture in the community,” said Jackie Burton, a PIA member.

PIA’s Ambassador Program works in tandem with other organizations such as the American Field Service (AFS), The Experiment in International Living and Interlocken and Youth for Understanding. Launched in 1977, PIA has long been known for promoting and partially funding foreign travel for Pleasantville High School students and participating in student exchange programs. The nonprofit supports students wanting to experience life abroad and to

carry out specific service projects in a different culture.

Students have always been referred to as “ambassadors” in the program.

“When students come back, they are required to share their experience with students in the middle and high schools,” said Burton. “They put together a detailed presentation with pictures and share what was important to them about their trip with the community.”

Burton’s son, Ryan, traveled to Thailand between his junior and senior year with help from the PIA program. Her husband, Tony, is an officer at the Masonic Lodge and suggested the two organizations collaborate. Raising money from the sale is critical for PIA, which provides potentially life-changing experiences for its participants.

One of the first students to enroll in the program was Pleasantville resident Jay Sullivan. A generation later, his four children followed in his footsteps.

“This experience has an enormous impact on students’ lives, many of whom have never traveled alone outside of the country,” Sullivan said. “It’s an eye-opening experience.”

He recalled when his son, John, returned from his trip to China, his other son, Sam, wanted to visit Ghana in West Africa.

“Sam had two homestay experiences, one in the capital of Accra, and the other in the countryside,” Sullivan said. “He became hooked on travel.”

He studied Arabic in college and spent a



Pleasantville High School student Ryan Burton, foreground, who visited Thailand last year through the Pleasantville International Association, surrounded by students to whom he was teaching English. The organization is partnering with Pleasantville’s Masonic Lodge to bring back the Christmas tree and wreath sale this year, a key fundraiser.

semester in Jordan living with a family. He joined the Peace Corps and taught for two years in a remote village in the mountains in Armenia.

“Not bad for a kid who didn’t like to wander too far afield. We credit it all to his PIA experience,” Sullivan said.

He said his family has also hosted an

exchange student from Germany.

“It was a terrific experience for our family,” Sullivan said. “We got to know him and he got to know our community.”

Other students sign up for cooking tours in southern France or language emersion programs, Burton said. There is also a political leaders tour where they meet with politicians and tour government buildings, she added.

Last summer, PIA ambassadors visited Thailand, Costa Rica and Ecuador. One of those students that PIA helped fund was Pleasantville High School junior Ella Agabob, who went to Ecuador.

“I wanted to travel to a country I wouldn’t have gone to for a vacation, someplace that was a little less touristy,” she said. “The home stay allowed me to fully immerse in their culture and the son and daughter were around my age. Even though we live so far away... because of the internet, we found we had similar tastes in music.”

Burton said a recent PIA meeting uncovered that about a dozen teens are strongly interested in traveling this year or next.

During the tree and wreath sale, the Masons will be offering child fingerprinting, a service they provide to parents for free. Santa will be on hand to take photos with children at various points. Hot chocolate and baked goods will be available.

The sale continues Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Christmas or until supplies are exhausted.

## THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**B Thankful.** Thanksgiving Day is more than baking and cooking, and of course eating all that baking and cooking. It is a special day for family and friends to gather together to celebrate, and give thanks, for the blessings they have received throughout the year. To perhaps help you be thankful, all the quiz words start with the letter B. Happy Thanksgiving.

1. **boon** (n.)

A) a wasteful action      B) favor      C) a source of harm
2. **bereft** (adj.)

A) lacking something needed      B) frenzied      C) constantly present
3. **beguile** (v.)

A) to attract      B) be excused      C) confuse completely
4. **bevy** (n.)

A) a hallowed spot      B) the best part      C) a large collection
5. **barefaced** (adj.)

A) having an innocent look      B) shameless and undisguised      C) markedly inexpensive
6. **burgeon** (v.)

A) to impose upon      B) suppress quietly      C) grow and flourish
7. **blazon** (v.)

A) to apply uniformly      B) be brilliant      C) proclaim
8. **benison** (n.)

A) useful aid      B) a spoken blessing      C) a legacy

- ANSWERS:
1. B. Benefit, favor, especially one that is given in answer to a request
2. A. Lacking something needed, wanted, or expected
3. A. To attract; cause to be enamored
4. C. A large group or collection
5. B. Shameless and undisguised; audacious
6. C. To grow and flourish
7. C. To publish widely; proclaim
8. B. A spoken blessing; benediction



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# Happenings

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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 Whippoorwill Rd. East. Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

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

**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. Also Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.library.org](http://www.mountkisco.library.org).

**Cooking With Rinku: Culinary Journeys of India.** The second session of a four-part series exploring the culinary heritage of India. Indian cuisine evolved over several centuries of influences and evolution. Consisting of several gastronomical regions, there is a surprise in every corner. Come explore with author and presenter, Rinku Bhattachayra and infuse your senses. This week, explore the food of western India, with a talk on grains, culture and the interesting rustic fare. The cuisine ranges from coastal specialties to the colorful cuisine of the desert. The author's "Instant Indian" cookbook will be featured. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Sessions continue on Nov. 30 and Dec. 12 and 14. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.library.org](http://www.mountkisco.library.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 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).

**The Smithereens.** Founded in New Jersey, The Smithereens have been creating electrifying original rock 'n' roll for four decades. Jim Babiak (guitar), Dennis Diken (drums) and Mike Mesaros (bass) grew up together in Carteret and lead singer, the late Pat DiNizio, hailed from Scotch Plains. The band's take-no-prisoners sound, reflecting their Garden State roots, has resonated with fans worldwide over the course of 17

albums and 2,500-plus live shows. They will be accompanied by special guest vocalist Marshall Crenshaw. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$45 and \$55. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusic hall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusic hall.org).

## Sunday, Dec. 1

**Pictures With Santa.** Come take your photos with Santa on an antique fire engine. A collection for new, unwrapped toys for the families at Ronald McDonald House will also be held. Hot cocoa and sweet treats will be available. Sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce and the Thornwood Fire Department. Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce Building, 801 Commerce St. Thornwood. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

## Monday, Dec. 2

**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.

**Keeping Memory Alive.** For older adults who are still in good cognitive condition and want to maintain their healthy brain. Learn about lifestyle factors that improve brain health. It is important for individuals to fire up their neurons often to keep a strong cognitive health. This new program will provide educational information, fun exercises and stimulating activities to maintain an active brain and keep it sharp. Phelps Hospital's fourth-floor Family Medicine Conference Room, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail [Vitality@northwell.edu](mailto:Vitality@northwell.edu).

**Baby Time.** A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-

and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

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

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

**DIY Wooden Ornament.** Bring the outdoors inside with a fun wooden craft. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome; registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

**Christmas Wreath Hands-on Crafting at the Library.** Why buy a Christmas wreath when you can make one that's one of a kind? Come make your own wreath to the envy of your neighborhood. All supplies provided. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

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

**"Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives."** A unique tale of a man embracing life's greatest mystery. Suffering from acute kidney failure, Uncle Boonmee has chosen to spend his final days surrounded by his loved ones in the countryside. Surprisingly, the ghost of his deceased wife appears to care for him, and his long-lost son returns home in a non-human form. Contemplating the reasons for his illness, Boonmee treks through the jungle with his family to a mysterious hilltop cave – the birthplace of his first life. Winner of the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer.** This

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

## Tuesday, Dec. 3

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

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

**Bridge for Beginners.** Sharpen your mind and enlarge your social circle by learning this fascinating game. You will learn the suggested rules of bridge through card playing. Moving at a comfortable pace, experience a passion for this game and stimulate your mind through the cards while meeting new friends. Led by Doris Paucaldo. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 10. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

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

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

**Drop-In Breastfeeding Support Clinic.** Join other moms and Certified Lactation Counselor Cabiria Dougherty at this drop-in clinic for breastfeeding concerns and questions big and small. This clinic is designed to lessen the pressure to perform that can arise from the usual hour-and-a-half home visits or 30-minute office visits, and afford time to observe more than one

*continued on next page*



# Thanksgiving: Time for Turkey, Football and Estate Planning

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is the holiday when the entire family, for better or worse, comes together. After the melatonin calms everyone's nerves, this a great opportunity for families to discuss sensitive topics that are often set aside for "some other time."

In some instances, the discussion might be driven by children encouraging family members to get the ball rolling on their planning. In others, it might be a recognition by the family that a loved one needs assistance due to the onset or progression of a cognitive impairment, which forces family involvement. Parents who are actively engaged in their planning should use this as an opportunity to bring their children into the loop.

Often, children are concerned that their parents have no plan in place, but to their surprise, they learn that their parents have already met with an attorney and have attended to their affairs. I find that many people prepare their estate planning documents, only to keep it a secret from their children and family. If you are a parent of adult children, it is a good idea to let them in on the secret. The administration of an



By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo, Esq.

estate becomes very difficult when those involved have no knowledge of the affairs prior to death.

If no planning has been done, you might suggest to your loved one that they should schedule a consultation with an elder law attorney to talk about preparing a last will and testament, Medicaid trust or revocable trust.

Too often, people are focused on the details of the specific planning techniques, rather than the goal of actual planning. For instance, do not try to explain the difference between a revocable trust and Medicaid trust to your family member.

Rather, explain the importance of memorializing their wishes so the family can carry out their plan and protect their assets if they become sick and require long-term care. This will make it easier for them to take the next step and schedule a consultation. If they continue to be reluctant, suggest they begin with smaller items such as preparing a power of attorney. This is a good way for them to dip their toes into the water.

In that same fashion, you might ask parents about their feelings if they one day need long-term care and

must spend a significant portion of their assets on it. The cost of such care would reduce the inheritance passing to their children. If this topic provokes any negative feelings, an adult child might suggest that they meet with an elder law attorney to discuss asset protection strategies, such as a Medicaid trust.

Where it is evident that a parent needs assistance due to cognitive impairments, be proactive and perhaps meet with an elder law attorney on your own for guidance and insight on potential solutions to ensure the well-being and safety of your loved one.

Remember, the goal is not to educate your loved ones, but to move the needle in the right direction by encouraging an atmosphere conducive to these sensitive conversations. Avoid telling them what to do. Rather, use real-life examples of other family members and friends.

Show your genuine concern for their well-being to guide them in the right direction.

*Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP in Rye and Yorktown Heights. He is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. Di Costanzo can be reached at 914-245-2440 or at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com). For more information, visit [www.plantodayfortomorrow.com](http://www.plantodayfortomorrow.com).*

## Happenings

*continued from previous page*

feeding in a relaxed and welcoming space. Latch assessments and suggestions for improved positioning and feeding outcomes are the main focus, but moms with babies at all ages and stages are welcome. Questions about pumping, weaning, solids and more are answered with evidence-based, current knowledge and judgement-free respect. Drop in any time. NUR Space, 596 Warburton Ave., Hastings-On-Hudson. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. \$30. Every Tuesday. Info: Visit [www.nurspace.com/nur-calendar/drop-in-breastfeeding-support-clinic-mf83s](http://www.nurspace.com/nur-calendar/drop-in-breastfeeding-support-clinic-mf83s).

**Happy Tea Hour.** Now's your chance to enjoy a full cup of loose-leaf tea. Enjoy a full cup of freshly brewed tea using the leaves left over from previous tea programs. This is a great way to savor the flavor a bit longer, explore the preferences of your palate and enjoy conversation centered around tea, without a formal program. Bring your own mug or use the paper ones. Bring your own snack. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Sign-up required. Info and sign-up. 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

**"The Triplets of Belleville."** The wildly creative animated story of a boy, his grandmother, his dog, his dream of winning the Tour de France and the eccentric music-hall stars from the 1930s who save the day won many awards for its score and was nominated for the Best Foreign Film Oscar. Part of the Caramoor at the Burns: Movies Musicians Love series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 and 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

org.

**Building the World of Harry Potter.** This architecture lesson helps children learn about city planning and encourages collaboration. Each participant will take a role in creating the World of Harry Potter with recycled materials. For children seven to 11 years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Free. Sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Public Library and presented by Knowledge to Grow On. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or at the library.

**Aromatherapy for Holiday Stress.** Tis the season to be jolly – well, sometimes. The holidays are a magical time of year but they can also be stressful, exhausting, frustrating and bring on colds as temperatures drop. Learn how aromatherapy and essential oils can help you manage holiday stress. Participants will make a roller ball of their choice to take home. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0038.

**DIY Clothespin Snowflake.** Get ready for winter with a glittering snowflake ornament that will brighten the darkest winter days. 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. Walk-ins welcome; registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

**Pet Adoption: Everything You Need to Know.** Open to anyone interested in or involved with the adoption process, including professionals, community members, expectant parents, adoptive or prospective

adoptive parents and adoptees. Come learn about the domestic adoption process and meet the staff of Forever Families Through Adoption (FFTA). FFTA is Hague accredited and authorized in New York and Connecticut. Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library, 1 Haseco Ave., Port Chester. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-939-1180, visit [www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](http://www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org) or e-mail [adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org](mailto:adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org).

**Community Sing-Along and Lighting Ceremony.** Co-sponsored by the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce and Pace University. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Tree Island, Manville Road and Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville. Events begin at 6:45 p.m. Lighting at 7:35 p.m. Free.

### Wednesday, Dec. 4

**Mind Games for Fun.** A fun way for seniors to stimulate various cognitive functions, including memory, problem-solving and focus. If you are having trouble remembering things or feel that you are easily confused, come join the fun. Phelps Hospital's Boardroom (C Level), 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail [Vitality@northwell.edu](mailto:Vitality@northwell.edu).

**"The Irishman."** Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci star in master filmmaker Martin Scorsese's epic saga of organized crime in post-war America told through the eyes of World War II veteran Frank Sheehan (DeNiro), a hustler and hitman who worked alongside some of the most notorious figures

of the 20th century. Spanning decades, the film chronicles one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in American history, the disappearance of legendary union boss Jimmy Hoffa (Pacino), and offers a monumental journey through the hidden corridors of organized crime, its inner workings, rivalries and connections to mainstream politics. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 and 7 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Knitting at the Library.** Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-864-8041 or [www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscopubliclibrary.org).

**YA Chess Workshop.** Participants learn how to play chess and the fundamentals of good chess play through the study of strategy and tactics. Facilitated through guided instruction and supervised play. For young adults in grades 5 and up. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

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

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



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## LEGALS

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #2-2019 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley duly adopted Local Law #2-2019 on November 13, 2019, a Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in the General Municipal Law 3-c for the fiscal year of 2020. **Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 11-20-19**

**NOTICE FOR BIDS The Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley will receive bids for the following: ASPHALT LAID IN PLACE; HOT ASPHALT; COLD PATCH; BASINS; GRATES; FRAMES WITH LIDS AND RISERS; CRUSHED ITEM 4; WASHED CONCRETE SAND; BANK RUN; TOP SOIL; CRUSHED STONE; LIGHT STONE; GUIDE RAIL; LIQUID MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE; PIPE** It is mandatory that all bidders complete the form referring to Sections 103a and 103d of the General Municipal law. Specifications, forms and other information available from the Superintendent of Highways. Bids will be received until **DECEMBER 10, 2019 at 02:00 PM.** All bids are returnable to the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York 10579. Please put "HIGHWAY BID" on your bid envelope. The Town reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in or reject any or all bids. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Sherry Howard Town Clerk Town of Putnam Valley Dated: November 21, 2019**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF 2020 PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN/DISTRICT AND HIGHWAY BUDGET PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the 2020 Preliminary Town/District and Highway Budget was adopted as the final budget on November 13, 2019, as per Town Law Section 109. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the salaries adopted of the Town Officials are hereby specified as follows: Town Supervisor \$ 75,366.20 Councilpersons, four @ \$15,000.00 each Town Clerk

*continued on next page*

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continued from previous page

\$ 67,910.54 Highway Superintendent  
\$94,873.48 Sherry Howard Town Clerk  
Dated: 11/14/19

To All Interested Parties, Coming  
this January, 2020, there will be 3 seats  
available for the Parks and Recreation

**Commission.** The Parks and Recreation  
Commission serves primarily as an  
advisory board to the Parks and Recreation  
Department. Typically, the Commission  
will meet once a month to review certain  
aspects of the department including, but  
not limited to programs, projects, spending

and community relations. The board has  
always been made up of a diverse group  
consisting of qualities such as; local business  
owners, financial experts, people with  
athletic backgrounds and people with arts  
backgrounds. If you are interested, please  
submit a resume and a letter of interest to  
Supervisor Sam Oliverio at Soliverio@  
putnamvalley.com or mail to 265  
Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley,  
NY 10579. If you have any questions  
you can contact Frank DiMarco at  
fdimarco@putnamvalley.com or call my  
office at 845-526-3292

Please be advised that the next  
meeting of the Planning Board will be  
held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake  
Road on Monday December 2, 2019 for  
the purpose of considering the following  
applications: Regular Meeting Start Time:  
6:00pm **AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING**  
The following public hearings have been  
scheduled for December 2, 2019 at 6:00PM  
(or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions  
permit) at the Putnam Valley Town Hall,  
265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley,  
New York, 10579. All interested parties are  
invited to attend and will be heard. A copy of  
the application materials and plans may be  
inspected during normal business hours at  
the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town  
of Putnam Valley Town Hall. 1. **Filho  
Residence, - 135 Bell Hollow Road (TM#  
51.-1-4/File: 2019-0190)** The subject  
property consists of + 19.2 acres of land  
and is located on 135 Bell Hollow Road and  
within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant  
is proposing to construct a swimming pool  
and terrace. A Site Development Plan, Major  
Grading and Wetland Permit and Wetland  
Mitigation is required. 2. **Perez, Octavio,  
Ridgecrest 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 Ridgecrest Road and within the R-1  
Zoning District. The applicant is proposing  
to construct a single-family residence.  
REVIEW 3. **Gan, Roy, - 560 Oscawana  
Lake Road (TM# 62.-1-37&38/File:  
2019-0206)** The subject property consists  
of + 3.58 acres of land and is located on 560  
Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-3  
Zoning District. The applicant is proposing  
to construct a single family residence on an  
existing parcel where a dilapidated residence  
will be removed. A Site Development Plan

and Major Grading permit is required. 4.  
**Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana  
Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7.12/File2019-  
0196)** The property consist of +/- 10.3 acres  
of land and is located on Oscawana Lake  
Road and within the R-2 Zoning District.  
The applicant is proposing to construct a  
Fire Station building +/-30,000 sq.ft. in size,  
with well and septic system, 127 parking  
spaces, stormwater management facilities  
and related site improvements. 5. **Putnam  
Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corp.  
(TM# 72.20-1-7.11/File2019-0204)** The  
applicant is proposing an amended site plan  
for improvements to allow shared access  
and parking with proposed fire station on  
adjacent property. The Planning Board will  
consider adopting a resolution declaring  
intent for lead agency for the Fire House and  
Ambulance Corp. project. **EXTENSION  
5. Juliano, Sam,-50 West Shore Drive  
(TM: 62.13-2-18 / File:2010-0073)  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6. Approve  
Minutes of November 4 & 18, 2019**

Notice is hereby given to interested  
parties that a Public Hearing will be held  
by the Putnam Valley Zoning Board of  
Appeals on Thursday December 5, 2019  
at 6:30 at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana  
Lake Road for the purpose of considering  
the following petitions and requests  
together with all other matters that may  
properly come before the Board at this time.  
**AGENDA New Application 1. Putnam  
Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps., 218  
Oscawana Lk. Rd, 72.20-1-7.11; R-2  
Request lot coverage variance, and variance  
for additional road frontage. 2. Putnam  
Valley Fire Department, Oscawana  
Lake Rd., 72.20-1-7.12; R-2 Request  
variance for fire station cupola height,  
building and retaining wall side setback and  
sign size and illumination. An interpretation  
of the Zoning Code to determine whether  
variances are needed for stormwater outlet  
structure, refuse enclosure, sign setback  
and retaining wall heights. Request variances  
that are required from interpretation. 3.  
Krugman, Samuel, 22 Twilight Lane,  
62.11-1-44; R-3 Request front yard setback  
variance for construction of new screened  
porch. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF  
PUTNAM VALLEY ZONING BOARD  
OF APPEALS WILLIAM MASKIELL  
CHAIRMAN****

continued on next page

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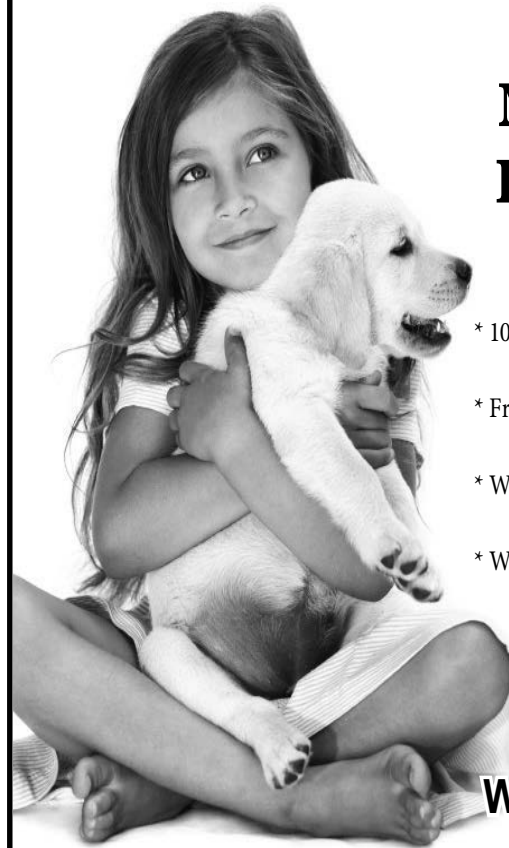
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# The Internet's Impact on Our Lifestyles – and Wine-Buying Practices



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember when the internet was a novelty? That new site, Amazon, had just gained widespread popularity for selling and shipping books to your doorstep, at a 30 percent discount. Now, Amazon has embedded itself in the very psyche of

conducting our lives.

If I think back to the “good old days,” before there was Amazon Prime and others of its ilk, before Apple became the ultimate enabler in 2007 of managing our lives according to their business model, I remember the tactile nature of a shopping experience, when we wore out our shoe leather, not our keyboard or keypad buttons.

At the breakneck speed with which the internet has consumed our lives, who can predict what lies ahead. A short 12 years after the introduction of the iPhone, a Yogi Berra quote seems prescient: “The future ain’t what it used to be.”

When I apply this smartphone phenomenon to my personal life, I reminisce

of the meaning of commerce before the ubiquitous and all-consuming stranglehold of today’s technology.

Here’s my singular perspective:

1. Shop local? The plaintive call to support our neighborhood establishments becomes more difficult each year. Increasingly, we have no reasonable choice but to use our keypads, rather than our shoe leather, to wend our way through our shopping chores.

2. Use of our smartphones has been evolving. How many of us use the telephone feature as our primary contact with the outside world? Our “smartdevices” have created new alternatives to communicate with each other. While I’ve evolved from telephone to e-mail to texting as my primary mode of communication, today’s young generation has leapfrogged past me, relying more and more on Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp and several select platforms I’ve never heard of.

3. Dine at your favorite restaurant with friends and family? No need to do so in 2019. The online prepared-food industry penetration into our lives is rising at an astonishing rate. In the past, it was simple: pull that dog-eared menu from the kitchen drawer, call your local eatery, wait 20 minutes, then drive to pick up your order.

Here’s today’s gamechanger: bookmark

your list of favorite restaurants on your device, order directly from their clickable menu and then select a home delivery app option. A few clicks and your favorite food is digitally processed and delivered to your door.

4. It wasn’t so long ago that our primary source for purchasing wines was our local retail shop. More and more I see this buying pattern transitioning to a virtual experience. A few of the numerous alternative resources available include:

a) Wine apps that offer you curated offerings available with a simple “purchase” click.

b) A plethora of online wine clubs offering their suggested selections, delivered to your door automatically every month or quarter. Just provide your credit card and you will be constantly stocked with the club’s favorite wines.

c) Flash sale sites continue to proliferate. How can you turn down an offer to order a highly-rated wine (typically, the site’s unilateral rating) at a significant reduction in price (according to the site’s unconfirmed statistics)? In case you forget to check in daily on the site’s offerings, they e-mail you a friendly reminder of their daily specials. If you are judicious, these sites can be a fine

source of worthy wines. If you are able to be judicious.

d) Direct-to-consumer sales are on the rise, as are the offerings. In the old days, the only outlet for many small producers was direct sales to consumers. The rub was

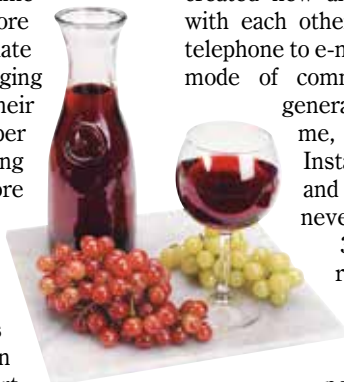
the high cost of shipping. Today, that barrier has been significantly reduced. Consumers have the opportunity to enjoy a fine Napa Cabernet Sauvignon from a small producer of less than 100 cases at a price, including shipping, that allows the producer

to compete with wines available in other consumer channels. And that’s outside of the Amazon Prime network.

I’m still a holdout for the physical interaction of securing my purchase, when possible. I prefer shoe heel clicks rather than mouse clicks. Join me in stemming the tide of digital dominance.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 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.

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# ExaminerSports

## VIKING CONQUEST

### Valhalla Volleyball Team Captures the State Title

What a weekend it was for the Valhalla volleyball team up in Glens Falls. Just one day after winning all six of their games against the three other Class C state semifinalists in pool play, the Vikings dethroned the two-time defending champion Portville Panthers from Section 6 on Sunday afternoon, winning the state title three games to one.

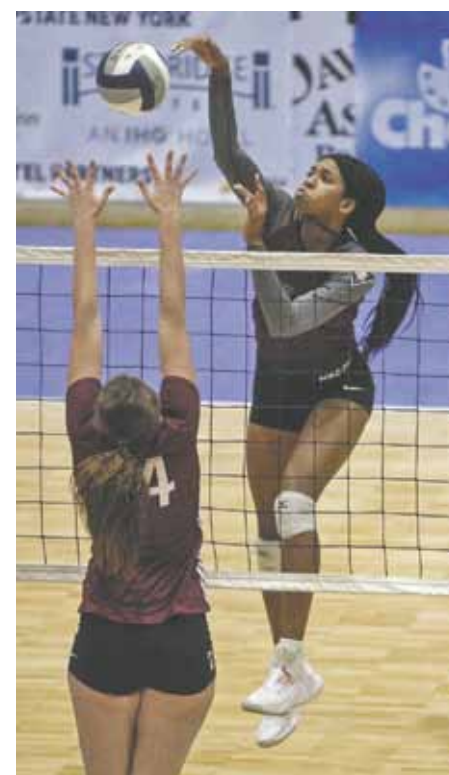
In earning the team's first-ever state championship, Valhalla was forced to come from behind. The Vikings dropped their opening game of the state final, but stepped up to take the next three by scores of 25-22, 25-16 and 25-13. Senior Jasmine Grant led the way for the Vikings and came away with most valuable player honors. Fellow seniors Linda Rossi and Stephanie Sicilian were chosen for the all-tournament team, and the entire Viking squad received a hero's welcome from the community when the team bus returned Sunday night after the long ride home.



The 2019 Class C state champion Valhalla Vikings pose together shortly after dethroning the Portville Panthers on Sunday afternoon up at Glens Falls.



Valhalla senior Linda Rossi bumps the ball during Sunday's Class C state final.



The Vikings' Jasmine Grant rises high above the net to put away the ball in the three-games-to-one victory over defending champ Portville.



Stephanie Sicilian sets the ball for her teammates in Sunday afternoon's state championship showdown with Portville.



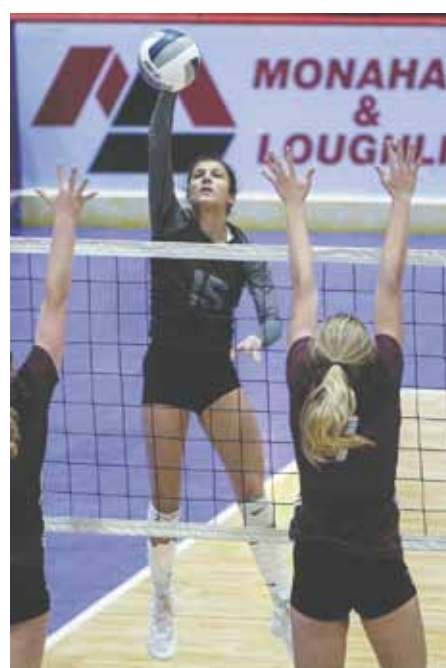
Tournament MVP Jasmine Grant shares an emotional moment with her father after leading the Vikings to the state title.



Senior Sofiah Pacheco proudly displays the Vikings' state championship plaque.



Valhalla players react after clinching the state championship by winning a third straight game against two-time defending champ Portville from Section 6.



Valhalla junior Sophia Cavallo sends the ball past a pair of Portville players in Sunday's state final.



The Vikings start their celebration of the Class C state title with smiles and tears on Sunday afternoon at the Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls.

VIC MCGHEE PHOTOS



# Valhalla's Bid for the State Title is Ended by Gouverneur

By Andy Jacobs

In the span of two months, they had transformed themselves from hapless to heroic. But as they stood together in a jagged line near midfield during a postgame ceremony on Saturday afternoon, with heads bowed and tears in their eyes, the players on the Valhalla football team were suddenly faced with the realization that their dream of a state championship had come to an end.

Just moments before, quarterback Michael Dawson's pass on the run in the final two minutes had been picked off by Gouverneur's Joseph Cummings, sealing the Vikings' fate and assuring Section 10's Wildcats a come-from-behind 14-11 victory in a Class C state semifinal playoff game at Middletown High School's Faller Field.

"I'm proud of them," said Vikings head coach Stephen Boyer afterwards, asked what he would soon be telling his dejected players in the locker room. "It's been a great season. It's a dream. They carried it as far as they could. We were one half away from the (Carrier) Dome. You know, sometimes you've got to give the other team credit."

On a day when Valhalla possessions were few and touchdowns were hard to come by, an 11-point Viking lead midway through the third quarter eventually gave way under the pressure of the undefeated Wildcats' relentless ground game. A two-yard touchdown run by Mitchell Tyler with just five and a half minutes remaining capped a 15-play, 66-yard drive that gave Gouverneur its first lead of the contest.

"They had the ball. We didn't have the ball much," said Boyer. "They controlled the ball and kept us off the field. I give them credit. This is what they do and that's their strength. We stopped 'em early on. Maybe got a little tired. They got some extra first downs and just kept the clock going."

For a while, though, it seemed the Vikings, who began the season with two losses and needed overtime in week three to start turning their fortunes around, would be the ones playing this Friday evening up in Syracuse for the state championship.

A 21-yard field goal by Elias Gonzalez on the final play of the first half broke a scoreless tie and then the Vikings turned the



Valhalla quarterback Michael Dawson gets set to release a long pass in the third quarter of Saturday's state semifinal against Section 10's Gouverneur.

clock back more than 30 years in the third quarter, evoking memories of William 'The Refrigerator' Perry, when sizable lineman Francesco Falco bulldozed his way into the end zone for a four-yard touchdown. Sammy Mussuto followed by turning a misplayed snap on the extra-point try into a two-point-conversion run and Valhalla took an 11-0 lead with 6:42 to go in the third period.

There's no telling if the eventual outcome might've been different had it not been for an accidental whistle early in the second quarter that negated Valhalla's block of a Wildcat field goal try. Falco had scooped up the ball with no one in front of him and, though he likely would've been caught from behind, the Vikings certainly would have had possession near midfield with some sudden momentum.

"They said inadvertent whistle, the play's dead and replay the down," said Boyer about the explanation he was given by the officials, one of whom had obviously confused the short field goal with an extra point. "Who knows, but one play didn't decide this game."

Even though the Wildcats' subsequent fourth-down bid for a touchdown was stopped a yard shy of the end zone, the botched call left Valhalla losing the battle for field position for the next five minutes until Mahari Davis Jr. picked off a deflected pass



The Vikings' Mahari Davis Jr. carries the ball in Saturday's state semifinal.

to thwart another Gouverneur threat with 3:43 left in the half.

"Our defense played great," said Boyer. "They've been averaging 41 points a game and we basically shut them down. You know, they scored 14 points. That's a credit to our defense and a credit to our defensive coordinator (John Consorti)."

The interception by Davis set the stage for Dawson, in the final minute of the second quarter, to complete a third-and-24 pass to Daniel Tammaro over the middle for 22 yards and then a Hail Mary toss toward the end zone that was snared in a crowd by Rahsean Melvin at the 4-yard-line. With 2.8 seconds on the clock, Boyer turned to Gonzalez to provide the first points of the game with his foot.

With possession to start the second half, Valhalla moved the ball 65 yards in 11 plays, the biggest of them being Dawson's 24-yard pass play to Tammaro on fourth-and-seven down to the Wildcat 7-yard-line. On first down, Falco picked up three yards. He then plowed into the end zone on the next play and, with Mussuto's two-point conversion, it seemed the Vikings were on their way to the Carrier Dome.

But the Wildcats responded with their own 65-yard scoring drive, finally getting on the scoreboard when Cayden Stowell twisted his way into the left side of the end zone from 13 yards out. Stowell soon darted off left tackle for the two-point conversion that cut the Valhalla lead to 11-8 with 1:51 left in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Wildcats not only grabbed the lead on Tyler's short TD run, they managed to keep the ball for the first nine minutes thanks to a squib kickoff that caromed right off the foot of an unsuspecting Viking and gave



Valhalla senior Sammy Mussuto fakes a pass as he runs into the end zone for a two-point conversion during the Class C state semifinal game.

Gouverneur an extra possession. Valhalla didn't get the ball again until there were only three minutes remaining.

Three incomplete passes and a false start soon left the Vikings facing fourth-and-15 at their own 7-yard-line. But Dawson still had a little magic left in his standout sophomore season. His long jump-ball pass was again brought down out of the sky by the leaping Melvin for a first down at the Valhalla 42. On the next play, Dawson connected with Tammaro once more for another first down inside the Wildcat 40.

Unfortunately for the Vikings, when Dawson then rolled to his right and threw on the run toward Melvin again, Cummings read the play and jumped in for the interception that put a halt to the Viking comeback bid. Gouverneur was able to run out the clock and stop Valhalla's memorable winning streak at eight games.

"I can look back on it," said Boyer about the final fateful pass that ended the Vikings' dreams, "but our kids just kept going, fighting, and I give them a lot of credit. It's been great for the program, great for the school and great for the community."



Valhalla senior Matt Caffiero bows his head in disappointment as the final seconds tick off the clock in Saturday's state semifinal loss.



The Vikings' Daniel Tammaro cuts across the field with the ball after catching a fourth-quarter pass from Michael Dawson in the 14-11 state semifinal loss to Gouverneur.



Rahsean Melvin of Valhalla watches the football hit the turf for a fourth-quarter incomplete pass against the Gouverneur Wildcats at Middletown's Faller Field.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS





The Quakers' Lily Schoonmaker tries to win a race for the ball in the Section One championship game.



Greeley players celebrate the goal by Isabelle Klein that lifted the Quakers to the Section One championship.



Talia Belowich gets set to pass the ball at midfield during the Quakers' win over defending champion Mamaroneck in the sectional final.



Isabelle Klein sets her sights on another goal for the Quakers.



The Horace Greeley field hockey team poses with the Section One championship plaque after defeating Mamaroneck in the Class A final at Nyack High School.

# HORACE GREELEY

## 2019

### New York State

### Class A Finalists



Kristen Graham moves the ball up the field in Greeley's 2-1 regional playoff win over Section 9 champ Kingston.



The Quakers' Natalie Laskowsik searches for an open teammate during the come-from-behind win over Kingston in the state tournament.



Stephanie Kasulka sends the ball up the field in the regular-season tie with Mamaroneck.



Grace Arrese scampers across the field to gain possession of the ball for the Quakers, who advanced all the way to the Class A state title game.



Sophia Rutman gets a step on the Fox Lane defense during the game hosted by the Quakers.



Greeley head coach Sandhu Sukhwinder had plenty to smile about as his Quakers reached the state final up near Buffalo.





Running back Michael Washington picks up some yardage as he carries the ball early in the season against host Greeley.



Alexandra Griffin moves up the field with the ball against visiting Horace Greeley.



Ensen Sgaglio heads for the finish line at the Westchester County Championships.



Meagan Moky runs in the league championships at Croton Point Park.



Aliya Sizer boots the ball away during a Fox Lane home game.



Claudia Hirsch follows through on a free hit during a midseason field hockey game.

# FOX LANE

## Fall 2019

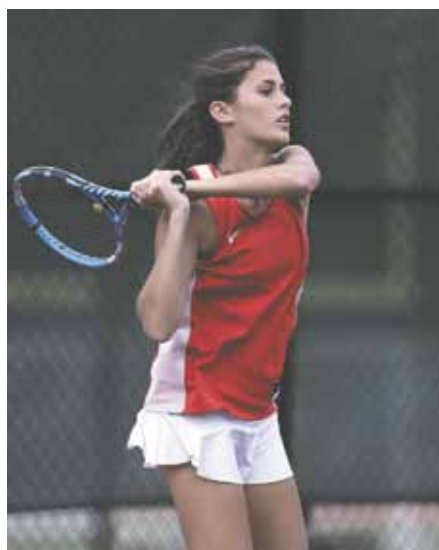
### *A Look Back*



The Foxes' Ryan Feeley scans the field as he controls the ball near midfield.



Quarterback Spencer Rowley runs with the football in the home game against Yorktown.



Tennis standout Leah Tuluca watches as her backhand return clears the net in a match at first singles.



The Foxes' Ally Waldman gets set to hit a backhand during one of her matches at second singles.



Emily Grasso competes in the 100 yard breaststroke at the sectional swimming championships.



John Kowalski gets set to pass the ball in the Foxes' home game against Scarsdale.



The Foxes' Marni Chernis (8) and Jada Singleton rise above the net together trying for a block.



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