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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Murder-Suicide Shakes Pleasantville

By Martin Wilbur and Abby Luby

Less than a week after the Village of Pleasantville was left reeling from the loss of an entire family in a shocking murder-suicide, the community is trying to cope with the tragedy and understand how it could have occurred.

Last Thursday, Chuan-Kai Liu, 46, who was often referred to and known as Tom, apparently stabbed his son, daughter and wife to death before using a knife to kill himself, Police Chief Erik Grutzner said last Friday.

Liu's wife, Dorothy, 42, seven-year-old son Tennyson, a second-grader at Bedford Road School, and four-year-old daughter Adeline were found in the brown shingle front-porch colonial house at 57 Romer Ave. The house is less than a block from the high school and is also near Pleasantville Middle School.

"We lost a friend, we lost a student, we lost a soccer player, we lost a mom, we lost a babysitter's care," said Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter. "All of us in this 1.7-square-mile community are touched by what happened and are dealing with this tragedy."

The family moved from Queens to the

house where the killings took place in October 2016. Police are not aware of any history of domestic violence. No motive has been determined, although police are investigating statements from witnesses describing the father as "under a considerable amount of stress," Grutzner said. Authorities did not describe the nature of that stress.

For nearly the past year-and-a-half, Liu worked for MUFG as a financial crimes project manager, according to his LinkedIn page. Most of his professional background was in the financial industry, having worked for Lehman Brothers from 2000 to 2007 and Credit Suisse from 2007 to 2017. Liu graduated from Stony Brook University in 1998 with a Bachelor's of Science in Information Systems.

But there were few answers as to what could have driven Liu to murder his family and kill himself last week.

"Throughout the entirety of this investigation the only information we've had about this family is that they were a wonderful involved set of parents with two incredibly active and amazing children," Grutzner said.

The crime that police suspect occurred does have a term; familicide is a type of murder or murder-suicide in which a perpetrator quickly kills multiple close family members, then kills themselves.

Police did not reveal where in the house the bodies were found. Late last week, extended family were in the midst of traveling to the area, including some from overseas, and authorities chose to keep that information private, Grutzner said.

It is not known how long the family had been dead by the time police arrived, although the autopsy report could provide clues, the chief added.

"Some of the information that we have gotten about this family leads us to believe that this community will be in shock if we don't explain to some small degree that there were factors at play," he said.

Westchester County police assisted in the investigation.

When school personnel noticed



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Police investigators work outside the Romer Avenue home last Friday where all four members of the Liu family were found dead in a murder-suicide.

Tennyson Liu's unexplained absence last Thursday, attempts to contact the family were unsuccessful and police were called at about 1:50 p.m. to pay a visit to the house. When no one responded, officers entered the home through an open window to discover the bodies.

Fox-Alter said those systems are in place in large part because Pleasantville does not have district transportation and many children walk to school.

Mayor Peter Scherer said last Friday was an "extraordinarily tough day."

"We cannot imagine the grief they feel and the grief they feel is shared in lots of ways throughout the community," Scherer said of the extended family.

"It's a good place that's suffering right now and we'll get through it," the mayor later said, referring to how the community has rallied under the most difficult of circumstances.

Village officials expect prayer vigils to

be arranged in the days ahead. Fox-Alter said high school students have expressed a desire to hold a candlelight vigil. A vigil had initially been scheduled for Sunday night at the circle outside the high school but was postponed.

In an interview with The Examiner, Fox-Alter noted how staff at all three of the district's schools were available throughout the day last Friday, joined by accredited APA psychology counselors, clinical staff and interns from Northwell Phelps Hospital, the Break the Hold Foundation and the district. Last Saturday morning, Bedford Road School was also open for community members and families who needed counseling.

"We had a comprehensive team ready and available to individually speak and counsel teachers, staff, students and parents," Fox-Alter said. "We had an extra presence in the hallways and office staff

continued on page 2



The house on Romer Avenue where the bodies of the Liu family were found last Thursday in an apparent murder-suicide.

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Murder-Suicide Shakes Pleasantville

continued from page 1

were also available to meet with kids.”

Before students arrived last Friday morning, school officials prepared for individual counseling with students, the superintendent explained. A room was set up where students, teachers and parents could come to seek advice. Teachers were also advised to carefully observe students’ behavior.

Last Friday morning The Examiner

spoke with two women in Pleasantville about the tragedy. Neither wanted to provide their name.

With tears in her eyes, a parent of a Bedford Road School student said her child was a good friend of Tennyson. The woman’s child was looking forward to celebrating the boy’s birthday with him soon.

“Sad. Horrible,” another woman said. “I heard the mother was a wonderful person.”

Bedford Road School Principal Peggy Galotti communicated to parents by e-mail Friday morning.

“Pleasantville is an incredibly special community,” Galotti’s note concluded. “Through their sorrow, our residents will come together to surround one another with love and kindness. Our district stands ready to assist in any way possible.”

It hasn’t just been school and village officials rallying to support the heartbroken community. Key Food Marketplace, which had its grand opening following major construction, donated fruit and cheese platters to Bedford Road School for teachers and counselors after supermarket owner Richard Grobman arrived in town.

Fox-Alter said in an e-mail to parents Friday that the community “will support each other with kindness, compassion and care.”

The superintendent provided an article from the National Association of School Psychologists on discussing grief with children and adolescence. That article can be found at www.hufsd.edu/vault/assets/pdfs/resources/sesss/2012/sesss_grief_tips_for_parents.pdf.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer, center, addressed the media last Friday during a briefing with Police Chief Erik Grutzner and Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter.

Community Responds to Pleasantville’s Tragedy

By Abby Luby

The moment a crime is committed, it ripples out to the community, the world.

Taking innocent lives, especially the lives of children, is incomprehensible to us all and moving on can seem impossible.

Each moment becomes a question. Why did he do it? What small switch snapped to become a horrific act of violence? Could it have been prevented? What were the signs? Were there any signs?

For reporters covering multiple fatalities such as the ones last week in Pleasantville, there is often a disconnect between the urgency of getting the facts out to the community and digesting one’s

own personal sense of alarm, sorrow and hopelessness. Similarly, school and government officials put their feelings aside to do their jobs. But at some point, one leaves the harsh world of reality and surrenders to the emotional impact of a horrific murder.

Since last week, the Pleasantville School District and village have again become the strong, resourceful backbone of the community. It is a community that always manages to come together under a dark cloud of tragedy and prove their strong sense of resiliency to build another layer of strength, much needed in the world of unanswered questions.

Abby Luby covers the Village of Pleasantville.

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Mt. Pleasant School Trustees Open Review for Fields Upgrade Bond

By Ed Perratore

Mount Pleasant school officials took the first step toward the much-needed renovation of athletic facilities at Westlake high and middle schools last week by voting to studying the ambitious plan's potential environmental impact.

The Board of Education approved resolutions at its Dec. 4 work session to initiate the review that is required under the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and to declare itself lead agency for the process. District officials are looking to place a referendum on the ballot in the spring.

The board's wish list is something residents have long demanded, judging from the intense responses at a public forum the board hosted last January.

Should voters eventually approve the referendum, the district hopes to install two new multi-use artificial turf fields; expand and resurface the existing track; put in a sand slit drainage system for the existing softball, baseball and soccer fields; and install field lights, two scoreboards, paved walkways, four dugouts, three bullpens, bleachers, fencing, building lighting and public-address speakers. There would also be a storm-water pre-treatment system for the campus.

However, the board has much work to do before the matter goes to the voters. "Parallel to the SEQRA investigation and pending its outcome, the board will be contemplating a proposed scope of work to be included in the bond resolution," said Superintendent of



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

One of the fields at the Westlake High School and Westlake Middle School campus currently used for athletic programs. A variety of improvements have been proposed for the Mount Pleasant School District's fields, including the installation of artificial turf.

Schools Dr. Kurtis Kotes. "And I purposely say proposed. By the time the public votes on it, and if you anticipate there's a successful vote, you've really only voted on a maximum amount to be spent on the proposed work."

"By the time we go to bid and the bids come back in," he added, "how they come back really, finally, determines how much of that work can be completed."

Following the public presentation of the proposed work at this Wednesday evening's Board of Education meeting, trustees will deliberate the project's final scope and decide

how much money they are prepared to ask voters to bond. The district's architect, LAN Associates, will make that presentation.

If the bond is approved, the district would hope to complete the upgrades by spring or summer 2022, Kotes said. The district would have to wait for the state Education Department to approve the plans before work could begin. If the board tried to finish sooner, the overall price would likely rise.

"It would be too aggressive to say that we would be able to be completed by 2021; I just think that timeline is too tight," Kotes said.

"Realistically, we want to have favorable bids so the prices come back a little bit lower and we're able to complete more of the intended scope of work."

Eventually, the community should like what it sees.

"This would be a step in the right direction that would be not only a resource for the school for programs," he said. "Because there are many (local) groups that use our athletic facilities, it would be a resource for the community at large as well."

Kotes said if the district does schedule a vote for a referendum it will not be the same day as the annual budget vote and Board of Education election, which this year is Tuesday, May 19.



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Mt. Kisco, County Extend Community Policing Contract for Five Years

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco has agreed to extend its police services contract with Westchester County for another five years, continuing the arrangement that began between the village and the county police in mid-2015.

County Executive George Latimer signed the new Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) at Village Hall last Thursday morning with Mayor Gina Picinich, other Mount Kisco officials and police brass looking on, including members of the county force who regularly patrol the municipality.

Picinich said it was an easy decision for the village to sign on for another five years because the service has been outstanding while saving Mount Kisco an average of about \$500,000 a year.

"We've received very forward-thinking strategies on public safety. We also get extra resources that include the most recent technology," Picinich said. "In addition, we have trained officers, true professionals, who have become an integral part of our community."

On June 1, 2015, 24 members of the old Mount Kisco Police Department were consolidated into the county police in one of the most significant service-sharing moves in Westchester. The mayor said it was "a bold and controversial" decision at the time but the county police have provided highly effective community policing. The village has received more patrols, greater expertise and participation from the county for special events, such as the Cops and Cones program in the summer, where residents attend a block



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer signs the new five-year Intermunicipal Agreement to provide police services to Mount Kisco through 2024. The Village Board is expected to ratify the agreement next week. Mayor Gina Picinich, left, looks on along with village trustees Jean Farber and Peter Grunthal and members of the county police force.

party-type event in the parking lot near the Green Street firehouse, and Coffee with a Cop.

Under the terms of the new contract, which takes effect Jan. 1 and continues through 2024, Mount Kisco will pay about \$6.3 million in 2020 with 2 percent cost escalation in each of the following four years, Picinich said. Meanwhile, the county will provide increased foot patrols, creating a more visible presence in the community, a dedicated youth officer and at least one officer on duty at all times who is fluent in Spanish.

There will also be visits to Neighbors Link, the senior center, Mount Kisco Elementary School and the Boys & Girls Club.

The Village Board is expected to approve

the contract at its next meeting on Dec. 16.

Latimer said he is grateful that negotiations for the new contract have been completed and that the successful partnership between the village and the county will continue.

"This shared services agreement is a tremendous example of how collaboration and shared services can create both significant savings and improved levels of service," Latimer said. "Mount Kisco, quite simply, has more police protection than previously and at a lower cost than maintaining a municipal police department. That's a winning formula for the residents and taxpayers of the village."

County Legislator Kitely Covill (D-Katonah), whose district includes Mount

Kisco, said she couldn't be happier with the arrangement.

Chris Calabrese, the chief inspector for the county police, said despite the high-quality policing and cost savings, the village needed to be convinced that the arrangement would work long term.

"One of the things that local police departments and local governments are afraid of is they lose that sense of home," Calabrese explained. "The individual police officers, that sense of community that they have in their jurisdictions, and we have successfully made the community ours."

Latimer said that the county stands ready to assist other municipalities in service sharing agreements, although he acknowledged that most other communities are happy with their local police. A few communities have also been exploring merging their local departments, he said.

Both Latimer and Picinich applauded their predecessors, former county executive Rob Astorino and former mayor Michael Cindrich, for their decisions in advancing what Picinich called "a bold and controversial" decision at the time.

The village and the county had been in discussions for close to three years after the proposal was first explored until the initial IMA was signed.

"At the center of effective community policing is building trust and establishing relationships," Picinich said. "To that end, the county has truly been extraordinary partners for the village."

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New Castle Explores Options to Replace Mt. Kisco Fire Coverage

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are exploring alternative fire services for the town's property owners covered by the Mount Kisco Fire Department as those taxpayers brace for a substantial tax hike largely because of the village's firehouse referendum.

During New Castle Comptroller Robert Deary's budget presentation last week, it was revealed that the town is studying whether it is feasible to have the 1,385 parcel owners in the Northern Fire Protection District covered by the Millwood Fire Company or the New Castle Fire District.

Another option is for the town to inquire about the possibility of receiving coverage for those residents from another neighboring community's department such as Yorktown or Bedford Hills, said Councilwoman and Supervisor-elect Ivy Pool.

"It was, quite frankly, feedback that we've gotten from our residents who are deeply concerned that Mount Kisco made an important decision regarding capital projects that will have a terrible impact on our residents, and our residents don't have the ability to vote or weigh in on the decisions being made," Pool said.

Deary said that for 2020, the district must pay an additional \$331,000. The town is using \$75,000 from fund balance to offset a portion of that added expenditure, he said.

Still, the average cost per parcel will rise in the Northern Fire Protection District from \$493.12 to \$690.80, a 41 percent increase, Deary said. By comparison, the annual per

parcel cost for 2016 to 2018 ranged from \$498.50 to \$479.24, respectively.

Mount Kisco is borrowing \$10.25 million for the referendum approved by voters in 2017 and next year another \$4 million passed by the public on Nov. 5. Additional funds were needed for a scaled-down project in large part because the village's architectural and engineering firm, H2M, bungled the initial estimates. Escalation of construction costs also played a factor.

The two other board members who attended last week's budget presentation, Supervisor Robert Greenstein and Councilman Jeremy Saland, were also outspoken about the sharp increase.

Saland said that Mount Kisco initially overcharged Northern Fire Protection District residents by \$57,000, contending that the village had failed to use the premium to offset the amortization costs of the bond.

He and Pool also voiced their displeasure that the town was formally notified of the increase by the village late on Friday, Oct. 4, after New Castle had finalized its tentative budget and sent the material to the printer.

"Safety comes first, and we recognize the need to modernize older firehouses," Saland said. "The issue is about fairly apportioning the costs of those upgrades, particularly when the New Castle residents who are being asked to pay substantially more don't even have the right to vote on how these tax dollars are being spent nor a wharf to dump their tea."

Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich said the village respects that the New Castle Town Board is looking out for the interests

of its constituents. She said that the two municipalities have partnered successfully to bring fire services to that district and hopes the village and the town can continue to work in a collaborative manner.

She referred questions regarding the timing of the notification to New Castle to Village Manager Ed Brancati. Attempts to reach Brancati on Monday were unsuccessful.

Greenstein said the Northern Fire Protection District, which takes in roughly 20 percent of New Castle's parcels, generally covers areas that are closest to Mount Kisco, including along Route 117 north of Chappaqua Crossing and along Route 133, west of Seven Bridges Road.

He said next year's Town Board would have to determine whether alternative service can be accomplished. An advantage to including the Northern Fire Protection District parcels for Millwood or the New Castle Fire District, Greenstein said, could result lower costs for existing property owners. But officials will have to make sure the volunteers are not overburdened, Greenstein said.

New Castle Fire District property owners are slated to pay \$438.59 per parcel next year while Millwood, which is paying off its new firehouse, will see its average cost at \$964.83.

Any change would not be made before 2021.

Fighting for His Life

Members of Mount Kisco's St. Francis of Assisi Parish and others turned out Sunday for a "J's Journey" fundraiser, which raised more than \$10,750 for Josue Ayavaca, shown above with his mother, Alexandra Matute. Ayavaca, a 12-year-old parishioner and religious education student, is undergoing chemotherapy for Stage 4 lymphoma. Once a typical seventh-grader who thought most about video games and soccer, Josue now fights for his life as his parents go through their savings to pay for his treatment. With community support and a gofundme campaign (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/ux9gg-js-journey>), the boy's family has a shot at meeting their expenses.



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Chap Crossing Neighbors Call on Town to Reduce Impacts of Town Homes

By Martin Wilbur

Neighbors who would be the most affected by the 91 town homes at Chappaqua Crossing recommended last week that New Castle officials relocate a few of the units to minimize impacts on their properties.

The comments came during the continuation of the public hearing last Tuesday evening held by the Town Board to consider developer Summit/Greenfield's petition to amend the project's Multi Family Planned Development Preliminary Development Concept Plan (MFPD PDCP).

Summit/Greenfield and luxury home builder Toll Brothers, which is building the town home portion of the project, is looking to add basements to all units and increase the number of three-bedroom units from

20 to 29. The remaining units will have two bedrooms.

As a result of the town's request for additional land surrounding the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center and Toll Brothers' plans to enlarge each of the units by about 1,000 square feet, Building U on the plans containing four units was shifted closer to neighboring homeowners on Bedford Road near Cowdin Lane.

"We had many years of proposals and discussion from the Chappaqua Crossing folks, it was approved and it's constantly coming back, constantly coming back for variances, one, two, three, five times, constant changes," said Robert Gursha, a Cowdin Lane resident. "It's constantly coming back and enough's enough."

Bedford Road resident William Bierce

asked the town and Summit/Greenfield to consider taking the four units and sprinkling them around the remainder of the East Village, which the proposed residential community is referred to, or create a separate building for them.

Another possibility that was raised during last week's hearing would be for Toll Brothers to take one or two of the units off of Building U and angle the corner of that structure to limit the visual impact on neighbors.

Bierce said between Building U looming over neighbors because it would be built close to a cliff, the impacts of having larger units and the likelihood of adding more students to the Chappaqua School District, Summit/Greenfield has been asking for too many concessions.

"They're trying to get maximum value without considering the considerable impact on Cowdin Lane, Annadale and Bedford Road and everything else," he said.

Projections call for the addition of 43 school-age children in the town homes. However, attorney Mark Weingarten, representing Summit/Greenfield said that number is likely too high since the town homes will be geared toward attracting empty-nesters. Toll Brothers has estimated that about two-thirds of the unit owners would fit into the empty-nester category.

In attendance at the hearing last week was the Chappaqua School District's Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman, Board of Education President Victoria Tipp and school Trustee Warren Messner. The district's representatives said as long as the town homes are taxed fee simple, as has been agreed to by the developer, it should not negatively affect the district.

"Whoever moves into this development, regardless of the number of children that are there, the district will support and will make adjustments, if necessary, to support the amount of children that are in that space," Tipp told the Town Board.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he expects the hearing will be closed Tuesday evening with the Town Board likely to vote on amending the MFPD PDCP at its final meeting of the year on Dec. 17.

Bronx Woman Sentenced in 2018 Chappaqua Home Robbery

A 45-year-old Bronx woman was sentenced last Thursday to up to eight years in jail for her role in the October 2018 armed robbery of a Chappaqua home.

State Supreme Court Justice Barry Warhit sentenced Mirabai Sheridan to eight year in state prison for first-degree robbery and one to three years for fourth-degree conspiracy, both felonies. Sheridan pleaded guilty to the two charges in August.

The sentences will run concurrently, according to the Westchester County district attorney's office.

On Oct. 24, 2018, at about 12:30 p.m., Sheridan and accomplice Philip Budin spotted their robbery victim at DeCicco's & Sons in Millwood, police previously reported. They followed the victim to her home in Chappaqua, and carrying a bouquet of flowers, Sheridan approached the door of the house, armed with a gun and pushed her way in. She forced the victim to the floor and restrained her hands and wrists with plastic ties. She stole property from the house and fled as Budin drove the getaway car.

New Castle police, county police and investigators from the Westchester district attorney's office followed multiple leads during the ensuing investigation. On Nov. 14, 2018, Sheridan and Budin were found in Mamaroneck following another potential victim from a supermarket. Police pulled them over and arrested them. Police found a gun in Sheridan's car.

Budin was previously sentenced to five years' probation and restitution.

--Martin Wilbur

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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

At Last. The calendar has brought us to December, the last month of the year. It seems appropriate that in order to celebrate the final month of the calendar year, the words in the quiz this week all contain the letter Z, the last letter of the alphabet. After completing the quiz, it may be a good time to catch some zzz's.

1. tizzy (n.)	A) a state of nervous excitement	B) a snicker	C) a small donation
2. aggrandize (v.)	A) to rouse to anger	B) make greater	C) cause trouble
3. brazen (adj.)	A) dauntles	B) shameless	C) powerful
4. schmooze (v.)	A) to form plans	B) pay respect to	C) converse informally
5. katzenjammer (n.)	A) a hangover	B) a predicament	C) a pushover
6. azonic (adj.)	A) audibl	B) unspecified	C) not local
7. mozo (n.)	A) an assistant	B) a deceptive action	C) know-how
8. fozy (adj.)	A) shrewd	B) spongy	C) lively

ANSWERS:

1. A. A state of nervous excitement or agitation
2. B. To make great or greater; increase; enlarge
3. B. Bold and without shame; shameless
4. C. To converse informally; chat
5. A. A hangover. Also; confusion or an uproar
6. C. Not restricted to a particular zone or region;
not local
7. A. Someone who helps with a pack train or serves as a porter; an assistant
8. B. Spongy; having a loose texture

Assisted Living Developer Pitches Town Board on Valhalla Proposal

By Joan Gaylord

Representatives from Brightview Senior Living LLC fielded questions last week from a more receptive Mount Pleasant Town Board on its proposed 170-unit assisted living facility in Valhalla.

The applicant has filed a rezoning petition to allow it to construct the project on Grasslands Avenue, across the street from Westchester Community College in Valhalla. A change from a residential plan to the OB-5 (Office Business) zone would be needed for the eight acres of the 10-acre property that would be used for the facility.

Brightview's pitch during the Dec. 3 Town Board work session was the latest step in the developer's efforts to advance the proposal. In October, the applicant's representatives appeared before the Planning Board, the lead agency for the project. Planning Board members voiced strong concern for the possibility of increased traffic that could be generated along the heavily traveled state road.

Steve Marker, development director for the Baltimore-based Brightview, and attorney David Steinmetz, said they had received a report from the Planning Board that they were in the process of addressing. Though the Planning Board expressed skepticism, Marker said they did not expect the facility to generate considerable traffic. Few residents would drive and the traffic would mostly come from employees during shift changes, which would occur at 7 a.m., 3

p.m. and 11 p.m.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi asked if Brightview would consider changing the start times of the shifts if a planned traffic study revealed such a move could alleviate congestion. Marker said Brightview would be open to that suggestion and noted that the plan calls for the lone driveway to the facility be located directly opposite the driveway for Westchester Community College.

"If we get approval, we would be more than happy to install a traffic light at that intersection," said Marker. Brightview would pay for the light, he said.

Fulgenzi said a traffic study would be essential, adding, "I hope it proves a light is necessary."

The supervisor also inquired about steps that could be taken to protect the property should Brightview obtain its approval but then decide to close the assisted living facility at some point in the future. Fulgenzi suggested the applicant agree to a deed restriction that would revert the zoning to residential use.

That suggestion prompted Councilman Nicholas DiPaolo to comment that a change of use, from a senior facility to some other purpose, could have a major impact on traffic.

Marker said he would consider a deed restriction for the property, but noted that Brightview is opening its 40th facility this month and has never closed a one in its 20-year history.

Brightview would also agree to pay for capital improvements necessary to provide

the building with adequate water. Located in an area serviced by out-of-district water, the developer agreed to cover the costs for any infrastructure upgrades, including a water main and water meters.

"For the water issue alone, this is a very important project," Fulgenzi said.

Marker noted that the Town Board had recently granted a zoning variance for another assisted living project, Shelbourne Healthcare Development Group's 92-unit proposal for Zeiss Drive in Thornwood. However, the two projects would be quite different, he said.

Brightview would offer a blend of independent living, assisted living and memory care services within the 170 units. Meanwhile, independent living is not a part of the Shelbourne project. Brightview would be planned so that residents could receive additional support as their needs increased.

"This is something you do not have in this town," said Marker, who added there is "a dearth of independent living accommodations in Westchester."

Councilwoman Laurie Smalley inquired about what it would cost to live at the facility. Marker responded that prices would vary. He said it would not be a "buy in" facility and there would be no deposit or equity. It would be structured with an annual rental that would include the living quarters and assisted care. He estimated it might range from \$4,000 to \$8,000 a month.

"Senior living is very expensive. Care is very expensive," he said.

His remark prompted DiPaolo to respond, "I know there is a tremendous need for the residents of our town and we want to make sure they can access it."

After the meeting, Bradhurst Avenue resident Glenn Accocella said he and some of his neighbors are worried that this proposal, along with other development pressures in close proximity to the site, would make already heavy traffic volume worse.

"It might be a good use for the area if it's not going to generate a lot of traffic," Accocella said. "They were there and tried to make everything sound great, that it's the greatest thing."

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.


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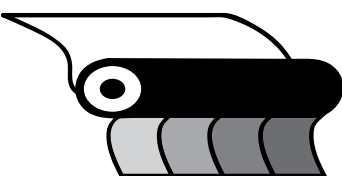
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Nov. 28: A caller reported at 11:28 a.m. that his daughter left her bag containing her telephone in a taxi the previous night and that the telephone was traced to a location on North Broadway. He stated that the telephone is currently visible inside of a vehicle parked unoccupied near the listed location. An officer reported that the telephone was returned to the caller who documented to police the loss of other property that was not located at the scene.

Nov. 28: Report of a road rage incident on Route 22 in the vicinity of the Moderne Barn at 12:40 p.m.

Nov. 29: Report of a male party with a head injury as a result of a fall on Main Street at 11:44 a.m. The county Department of Emergency Services' 60 Control was notified. The responding officer reported a transport to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Nov. 30: A complainant reported at 8:06 a.m. a larceny from her vehicle on Patriots Farm Court. Several items were reported found strewn about the roadway possibly belonging to her neighbors. The responding officer reported gathering information; a report to follow.

Nov. 30: A caller reported at 11:05 a.m. that both of her cars were apparently entered and rifled through overnight while parked on Round Hill Road. The caller stated that she had keys to a Main Street business and also a checkbook in one car, but isn't sure at this time if they are still in the car. She also stated that she has two parties today and doesn't know when she will be home or able to stop by police headquarters, but would call back later today.

Nov. 30: It was also reported and 3:08 and 3:12 p.m. that two additional cars were rifled through on Patriots Farm Court.

Dec. 1: Multiple callers reported a vehicle rollover on High Street at 1:41 p.m. A male was reported to be still inside the vehicle and unable to get out. The party was extricated by Armonk Fire Department personnel and transported with ALS to Westchester Medical Center. Two other vehicle occupants were transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Dec. 3: A party arrived at headquarters at 1:19 p.m. to report that she is receiving unwanted threatening messages from her boyfriend's ex-girlfriend. A deposition was secured.

Obituaries

Michelina Russo

This is written in loving memory of Michelina Russo who passed away at 8:12 p.m. on Nov. 27 with her family surrounding her. She was 93.

Born in Candidoni, Italy on Oct. 26, 1926, Russo was a 50-year resident of Chappaqua. She was an awesome and devoted wife, mother and grandmother (nonna) who was fiercely loyal and passionate about her family.

She studied to be a teacher at a university in Florence, Italy during the 1940s in spite of the war. After earning her teaching degree, Russo came to New York with her brother as a 22-year-old. There, she quickly adapted to life in New York City and trained herself to know English better than most people born and raised in the United States.

In 1963, she was married to her beloved husband, Dominick Russo, a mathematician with IBM who passed away in August 2008. They had two children who are twins, John Russo and Elizabeth Kienle.

Russo went on to become a teacher. She taught in a few schools including Manhattanville College, ran an Italian enrichment program in many schools and worked passionately to promote the Italian language and culture. She most notably directed and led an Italian program for children at Westchester Community College in Valhalla for more than 30 years. The classes were sponsored by IACE, an

Italian-American organization dedicated to teaching the Italian language and culture. Over the course of those years she attracted many students to the college, was held in high regard by many of the professors at the college who were affiliated with the program and earned accolades as she was adored by her students, teachers and parents.

Russo was also very religious and an active parishioner of The Church of St. John and St. Mary in Chappaqua where she taught religious education for many years and also sang in the church choir for more than 20 years. Her daughter, Elizabeth, sang with her for many of those years.

She will be tremendously missed by her son, John Russo, a national sales manager, and Elizabeth, who earned a graduate degree in teaching as well. She also leaves their beloved spouses and her four grandchildren, one from John and three from Elizabeth, whom she absolutely adored and loved and who will sorely miss her. Russo is also survived by a brother, who was very dear to her and will greatly miss her as well.

The wake was at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Dec. 7 followed by a funeral Mass at The Church of St. John and St. Mary (Little Church) in Chappaqua. The burial was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla.

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Christopher Phelan

Christopher Stacy Phelan of Hawthorne passed away peacefully in the presence of family members on Nov. 27 in his 67th year. He was in hospice care at Phelps Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

He was born to the late Colonel and Mrs. Christopher Sylvester Phelan (Elizabeth Brown Phelan) in Mount Kisco. He later lived and worked in numerous places in Westchester County, including Briarcliff Manor, Ossining, Mount Kisco, Pleasantville, Tarrytown and White Plains. He was a member of Asbury Croton United Methodist Church and the church's chapter of United Methodist Men. He volunteered at the national headquarters of The March of Dimes in White Plains.

Phelan had an extraordinary gift

for friendship. He was a pioneer and a peacemaker, a strong, kind and gentle man of integrity and humor. He loved swimming and bowling, camping and travel, music, Ireland and "Star Trek," the original series.

He is survived by his sisters, Kathleen Phelan and Sarah Phelan, of Hawthorne and by numerous cousins and many friends and mentors. He was deeply loved and will be sorely missed.

The family received visitors at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Dec. 6. The memorial service was on Dec. 7 at Asbury Croton United Methodist Church in Croton-on-Hudson.

The family suggests that memorial gifts may be made to a charity that benefits dogs.

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.

Study Recommends Key Improvement for Armonk Intersection

By Martin Wilbur

A recent traffic study for the Town of North Castle concluded that traffic congestion on Maple Avenue in Armonk can be reduced by changing one of the turn lanes at the intersection with Route 22.

The capacity analysis completed last month by Frederick P. Clark Associates concluded that by allowing drivers to turn left from both lanes from Maple Avenue onto northbound Route 22 would help traffic, said Director of Planning Adam Kaufman. Currently, the left lane allows drivers to turn left only while the right lane permits vehicles to either go straight onto Business Park Drive or make a right onto southbound Route 22.

Under the recommendation, the right lane would be changed to allow cars to turn left onto northbound Route 22 or to go straight onto Business Park Drive.

"The study, pretty conclusively, indicated that could be a rather significant benefit for traffic," Kaufman said. "It could prevent traffic from backing up into the Maple Avenue-Bedford Road intersection."

The only potential drawback that the F.P. Clark report identifies is that drivers wanting to make right turns onto Route 22 while the signal is red would be unable to unless that driver is the first car at the light, he said. Another option would be for drivers looking to travel south on Route 22 would be to head to Main Street.

Maple Avenue and Bedford Road is an intersection of high interest to town officials because during peak hours it backs up. In addition, it is the corner where the former Mariani Gardens is located. A 43-unit residential complex has been proposed for that four-acre property.

Eagle Ridge, another significant project proposed for the former IBM property on the nearby North Castle Drive, could also generate significant traffic in the area.

Councilman Jose Berra said he is encouraged by what the study uncovers and hopes the Maple Avenue-Bedford Road intersection functions at a higher level than at an E or F during peak hours.

"It's great that we have this improvement but there are actually warning signs here," Berra said. "We have some (intersections) at peak hours currently rated F and possibly go to an E. These grades aren't great, so we have to be careful in the future about additional traffic."

Kaufman said the improvement calculates the current traffic volume as well all of the current projects that have been approved or are being reviewed at their current densities.

A key task for the town is now to engage and convince the state Department of Transportation, which oversees Route 22, to consider the change, said Councilman Stephen D'Angelo.

Chappaqua to Host Airport Open House Jan. 22 With FAA Reps

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced last week that an open house with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Chappaqua regarding Westchester County Airport has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 22. The forum will be held at the New Castle Community Center, located at 10 Senter St., from 6 to 8 p.m.

The open house will include participation from HMMH, an environmental and transportation planning consultant, which recently completed a noise study for the county, airport officials and the FAA. The session will be an opportunity to learn more

about the study, air traffic procedures in the area and airport operations, in a more informal environment.

County residents are invited to attend at any point during the open house. Attendees will have the chance to speak one on one with a variety of experts, without formal presentations.

The open house was scheduled after hearing concerns from New Castle residents and officials in hopes of getting a better handle on the increased complaints that have surfaced in town and in neighboring communities regarding airport noise.



Helping Those in Need

A food drive and benefit radio show for the Community Center of Northern Westchester's food pantry was held recently at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco. From left, radio hosts Mark Jeffers and Dave Torromeo speak with Maryellen McLaughlin and Ellen Devey at the annual Clubhouse Christmas Spectacular. More than 815 pounds of food and \$950 in cash donations were collected.

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Key Food Celebrates Expansion With Grand Re-opening in P'ville

By Abby Luby

After years of planning and construction, Key Food Marketplace in Pleasantville has finally completed a newly remodeled and updated store.

"I'm thrilled that it all turned out so wonderful," Key Food owner Richard Grobman said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday. "Throughout the process, everyone in the village was very cooperative. We had planned to have the store done much earlier, but other stores needed to be worked on before this one."

The store expanded its footprint by adding another 1,380 square feet in the



ABBY LUBY PHOTOS

Key Food Marketplace held a ribbon cutting last Friday for its newly-remodeled store in Pleasantville. Pictured with Key Food owner, Richard Grobman, center, are co-owner Ira Gross and local dignitaries.



The remodeled Key Food in Pleasantville is 1,380 square feet larger.



back that extended the meat storage and food prep areas. According to Pleasantville Building Inspector Robert Hughes, Key Food first submitted plans in 2014-15, but the village considered the expanded store too large and rejected the proposal.

Plans for a smaller addition were submitted in 2017 and approved. Since then the remodeling has taken place in

stages and the store was kept open while the work was being done.

More space was also created in the front of the store to accommodate the new, high-tech cash registers and the deli and produce areas are also larger.

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer said he remembered the store in the 1980s when it used to be Grand Union. The

supermarket has always been a mainstay for the village.

"It was 2001 when this became Key Food and today I'm happy to see the store go through this extraordinary transformation."

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MSNBC's Mimi Rocah to Run for Westchester DA

By Pat Casey

On the Dec. 4 edition of MSNBC's "Morning Joe," Scarsdale resident Mimi (Miriam) Rocah announced her intention to run for Westchester County District Attorney.

That same day, on her Twitter account, Rocah said, "It's time for people to get off the sidelines and fight for what they believe in. That's why I've made a huge decision – I'm running to be Westchester's next District Attorney."

As a Democrat, Rocah's run will force a primary in 2020 against incumbent Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., who was elected in 2016.

On the "Morning Joe" segment, Rocah, who had been a U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York for 16 years, said that less than 24 percent of prosecutors in the United States are women. During her tenure in the Southern District, Rocah said she put



Miriam (Mimi) Rocah of Scarsdale announced her intention last week to run for Westchester County District Attorney.

away gun dealers, drug traffickers and child predators.

For the past two years Rocah has been speaking out about the rule of law, including what she described as the lawlessness of the Trump administration.

"We have a criminal in the White House," Rocah said. "We have a corrupt attorney general, who just today, it came out that he said, 'if communities don't give more respect to law enforcement, they will not get the protection of law enforcement.' That is their right and the law in our democracy."

"These are the kinds of hateful, frankly criminal messages, that are coming from Washington, and so I want to be a part now of what is happening on the local and state level pushing back against these policies of hate and this complete disrespect for the rule of law," Rocah continued. "And in Westchester County where we have sex trafficking and an opioid crisis – people dying from opioids every day – people are afraid to send their kids to school because of gun violence. These are the things that I can work on and also to help push back against the Trump administration."

Rocah, 49, lives with her husband David Brian Anders. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1992 with a bachelor's in American history. In 1997, she graduated magna cum laude and Order of the Coif from New York University School of Law.

Since April 2010, she has been co-chief at the White Plains Division Criminal Justice Fellow at Pace Law School and a legal analyst at NBC News and MSNBC.

Bet Torah Nursery Opens Registration for Fall 2020 Classes

Registration for Bet Torah Nursery School is underway for families wishing to enroll their children in preschool programs for next fall.

Two-, three- or five-day morning classes are offered for two-year-olds from 9:30 until 11:45 a.m. Children in the 3s and 4s program meet Monday through Friday from 9:15 a.m. until noon. A toddler separation program, Kitah Katan, is also offered.

Bet Torah Nursery School is located at 60 Smith Ave. in Mount Kisco. Parents wishing to arrange a tour of the school or to receive information about the program may call the office at 914-666-7595.

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Letters to the Editor

Officeholders Must Not Be Bribe With Hefty Pay Raises, Benefits

We all hear of the fake news at the national and international level of government and business. They're the ones telling us not to trust the media, and the media reports this as if it is news, making the public more confused and less trusting.

One thing that continues to make the people distrust our government is when we are told that unless our elected officials get raises, we will only have affluent, powerful people seeking public office. Regular people will no longer be able to afford to run and we won't attract the best and the brightest.

This is a lie proposed by those in office to get raises and has little bearing in fact. If this is true, we should toss out the whole lot, because they've been working for these paltry sums for decades and continue to run for re-election.

Those people, just elected in November 2019, ran with the understanding of what the salary was. Are we to assume that everyone who won local and county offices was either rich or far from the best possible candidate?

People don't run for office for salaries or

benefits, they run to make a difference. No matter what people get paid, people with a strong desire to do good will continue to run for office, hold office and do the best job they possibly can.

Most of these jobs are part-time positions, that when initially established, were expected to be held for short periods of time, and then officials would return to the private sector and newly-elected people would take their place. These were never intended to be permanent, lifetime posts, yet these part-time positions have healthcare, pensions and good pay for part-time work.

Our state officials are now the highest paid in the nation and our county and local officials have pensions and healthcare for life after serving relatively short times in government. There is no private sector job that offers more.

If we want the best people to serve, we don't have to bribe them with benefits and high pay. We have to create an environment where they can do their jobs, where they

have the respect of those who elect them and where we have trust between officeholder and constituent. Elected people should be of the people, not a class. That was clearly not what our founders wanted; it shouldn't be what any of us want.

In an ideal world, state officials would reject their pay increases and the county officeholders would stop theirs before they go into effect. Those funds could be used to help those most in need across this county and state. Those citizens and residents need it far more than those in elected office.

Let's tell the truth and reestablish honesty. Suggesting that our current officials are less than, simply because they don't get paid through the roof or they're already more than decent benefits aren't enough, is fake news sowing distrust and uncertainty with the electorate and that spells disaster heading into the 2020 elections.

Robert Kesten
South Salem

Flaws Remain in State's Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

How much longer will it be until candidates running for office can stop chasing down big money in order to run their campaigns instead of spending time with their voters?

Sadly, the system devised by the New York Public Campaign and Finance Election Commission will not accomplish its goal unless the legislature convenes in a special session this month in order to strengthen the commission's report before its provisions become law.

Here are two of the biggest problems with the report:

1. Limits on individual campaign contributions are too high, between two and six times for congressional and presidential campaigns, still giving well-funded special interest groups influence on our elections.

2. Matching funds for small donations would only be available for citizens within a candidate's district. Any New Yorker should be able to qualify to donate.

Campaign finance reform should increase the power of small donations, thereby encouraging the participation of ordinary people. By limiting big money influence,

candidates would be freed up to devote time getting to know their constituents.

I, for one, would find it encouraging to know that a candidate motivated by a sincere desire to serve the public interest would not be "knocked out of the running" for lack of sufficient funding. New York's historic goal will fall short unless the legislature takes action to address the commission's shortcomings.

Karen Sevell Greenbaum
Croton-on-Hudson

Latimer on Target for Proposing Tighter Term Limits for County Exec

Hats off to County Executive George Latimer for proposing improved term limits legislation in Westchester.

I wholeheartedly agree that the county of Westchester (and all levels of U.S. government for that matter) would benefit greatly from a steady rotation of leaders serving in elected offices, and I strongly concur with Latimer that "...term limits prevent government officials for serving for more than a specified

number of terms to bring fresh perspectives to government and to ensure responsiveness to voter demands." Also, "longtime office holders can often become more interested in serving their own re-election interests than serving the interests of the people they represent, and challengers with new ideas are at an unfair advantage when running against incumbents with higher name recognition" and "...restricting the service of lawmakers

through term limits prevents politicians from amassing too much power and removes the intense focus (in) politics and places it back on policy."

I wish him much success in the efforts to amend the term limits legislation.

Anthony Futia Jr.
North White Plains

Armonk's Main Street Stores Didn't End Window Painting Tradition

In light of what's going on globally and in Washington, I must say this is terribly trivial. However, in Armonk, we have

Halloween window painting for the kids. I believe it's organized by the Byram Hills Preschool Association. This year no one contacted most of the Main Street businesses to participate. The day came and went, and lo and behold, the windows in Armonk Square and quite a few at DeCicco's and up at the Town Center were painted. Lots of activity, lots of kids.

In the three days following the annual event, I had no less than four customers ask me questions like "Have you gotten tired of the kids painting your windows?" One woman said, "I painted your window about 15 years ago. Why aren't you doing

it any more, is it just too much for you?"

I want it to go on the record that Framings, Joseph Richard Florals, Manny's Unisex Haircutting, LaGravinese Jewelers and Stile really wanted to participate. We are not "Bah humbug" or have become burned out. We miss the kids and the fun of that event.

Won't someone please put us back on the list?

Judy Willsey
Owner, Framings
Armonk

Correction

In last week's article about the efforts of Robin Chwatko and her family on the Draw for Paws program, it incorrectly stated that Swim Across America was an effort of the American Cancer Society. Swim Across America is an independent event that raises money for cancer research. The Examiner regrets the error.

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Looking Behind the Numbers at Why Americans Move

Do you ever think about the homes from your past? I do, quite frequently. Maybe because I'm a realtor, I think about all the homes I've lived in often. Either that or maybe I'm just an oddball.

I remember once when I asked my older sister, who moved quite frequently because of her husband's job, whether she ever thought about the homes she's owned formerly.

"I live in the present," she proclaimed. "I'm always happy where I am and never think about my old homes, either fondly or with regret."

I thought she was devoid of sentiment, but then maybe she's smarter than I.

I definitely think about my former homes. After having reached a certain maturity, I've had the opportunity to live in a number of them. A person in the United States is expected to move 11.4 times in a lifetime. Let's see, by count, I've lived in, what do you know, exactly 11 homes, not counting a temporary summer home when my father took our family with him for a temporary work assignment.

For 2012 and 2013, the most recent statistics on moving I could find, 28 million Americans 15 and older moved, 11 percent of the population in that age group. But when you take a closer look at the statistics, you see there's a lot more



By Bill Primavera

to it than age. The wealthiest individuals are the most likely to stay where they are: 7 percent of Americans with an annual income of \$100,000 or more moved, compared to 13 percent of those earning \$50,000 or less.

As one of the most mobile countries in the world, Americans are known for their seemingly constant relocations. Let's look at how many times the average person moves in a lifetime.

Whether changing jobs, upsizing their homes or just looking to try a new neighborhood or city, Americans seem to always be on the move.

In fact, between 2012 and 2013, again the most recent statistic available, 35.9 million people moved, including children.

According to the statistics, once the average person reaches the age of 18, they are likely to move at least another 9.1 times in their remaining lifetime compared to just 2.7 more moves once a person reaches 45 years old.

Why are they moving?

The 2013 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau finds that the most common reason to move is related to housing (48 percent). Another 30.3 percent of moves were family related, while job relocations made up 19.4

percent. Other reasons caused 2.3 percent of moves in the United States.

In general, many people move due to a need to upsize or downsize their homes. Whether their family is growing or their children are going off to college, moving in to larger or smaller houses to accommodate such situations makes up a majority of moves in the United States.

The average American holds his or her current job for an average of 4.6 years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Therefore, it's possible that after about five years a person will land a new job in another city or state, necessitating a relocation.

Also, life changes such as marriage or retirement are major causes for relocations. Both of these life events cause a person to move to homes more suitable for their needs.

For a variety of reasons, people may want to change their neighborhoods. Maybe they received a large increase in salary and want to relocate to a more upscale neighborhood, or maybe their child is changing schools. It's also possible that their current neighborhood is changing

either socially or economically, and so moving seems right for them. Regardless of the reason, changing neighborhoods is a common motive for American moves.

In my own case, it was a job change that yanked me out of the city – yes, I didn't want to leave – to suburban living, which I eventually came to prefer). But once here, I stayed in the same house for over 40 years. My next move was to downsize from a 3,900-square-foot, three-level colonial to a 1,780-square-foot modern condo on one level, ready for retirement living.

I strongly doubt that there's another move in my future, so it's a good thing that I'm very happy where I am in a home that fits just right.

Bill Primavera, a Realtor® who writes or a writer who sells real estate, is associated with

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



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Board of Legislators Approve \$2.1B County Budget for 2020

By Neal Rentz and Martin Wilbur

The Board of Legislators approved Westchester County's 2020 operating, capital projects and special districts budgets Monday afternoon, which includes a \$1 million reduction in the property tax levy.

By a 15-1 margin, lawmakers passed the \$2.1 billion operating budget that adds \$10 million to the county's fund balance. That money is derived from the revenue that's been generated by increasing the county sales tax last summer.

The approval also provides raises of 52 percent to the members of the 17-member board next year from \$49,200 to \$75,000.

Following last week's public hearing in White Plains, where most speakers were from non-profit organizations, the budget strengthens services for Westchester families, especially in the area of child care, including increased support for the county's Invest in Kids programs. There's also more funding for nonprofit organizations which provide early childhood support programs.

The budget includes an increase in the reimbursement rate paid to child care providers, to make it easier for parents to find affordable child care and easier for providers to recruit and retain qualified workers.

The 2020 operating budget also increases money available for eviction prevention programs, expanding legal help

for those facing eviction in Yonkers, and extending that support to Mount Vernon, Ossining and Peekskill. The programs help people remain in their homes, saving the county money by keeping families out of the shelter system.

There's additional help for legal services for domestic violence survivors and for community health centers and criminal justice reform.

The capital budget commits \$20 million to support the creation of new units of affordable housing. It also continues efforts begun last year to accelerate various infrastructure improvements, including the repair and improvement of county roads, bridges, parks and refuse and wastewater treatment facilities.

"We began the legislative term with a goal of stabilizing the county's finances while continuing to provide essential services to the people of Westchester," said Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains). Today we're passing budgets that do just that – reducing the property tax levy, replenishing the county's fund balance, providing new revenue to local municipalities and school districts, investing in our children and enhancing services for the people of Westchester. These budgets reflect our commitment to sound financial management and to our social values."

Representatives of various nonprofit organizations spoke at last Wednesday's budget hearing, some thanking county

government for increased funding while others requested additional support.

White Plains resident Tyler Jupal, a member of the Family Services of Westchester's Senior Youth Council, asked lawmakers to provide funding for the agency, which provides programs for teens.

"We are the future," he told the board.

Cindy Kanusher, executive director of the Pace Women's Justice Center, thanked legislators for the additional 8 percent it is slated to receive next year for its legal services program. The center is seeking to open an office in northern Westchester because it would be more accessible to residents in that part of the county than the White Plains office, she said.

Robert Roth, president of the Board of Directors of ArtsWestchester, was one of several speakers who asked legislators to provide adequate funding for the arts. Funding for the arts "is an economic multiplier" that stimulates economic growth, Roth said.

Allison Lake, executive director of the White Plains-based Westchester Children's Association, thanked the legislators for providing an additional \$200,000 for the county Youth Bureau's Invest in Kids program. The program is for the under 21 at-risk population in 11 Westchester communities.

Deborah Porder of Indivisible Scarsdale was one of the few speakers to take on the controversial 52 percent salary hike



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Deborah Porder of Indivisible Scarsdale spoke in opposition to salary increases for county legislators and commissioners during the public hearing on the 2020 budget that was held on Dec. 4 in White Plains.

proposed for county legislators and 26 percent increase for county commissioners. Though the state approved an increase in the county's sales tax from 7.375 percent to 8.375 percent in most municipalities that went into effect Aug. 1, Porder said there is no assurance that extra revenue will continue in the future.

A loss of that revenue would make it difficult to pay for the proposed raises after next year, she said, calling the decision "maybe not such a great idea."

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ATLANTIC BRASS QUINTET

Friday, December 20, 2019 – 7:00pm – All Saints' Chapel

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This advertisement is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

That Guy in the Commercial? He's Going to the Olympics

You may recognize Eric Holtz from the Montefiore testimonial about his shoulder surgery. But the story just got way better.

BY DANA WHITE

The 30-second commercial was in heavy rotation all summer. Closeup on a middle-aged guy, very fit, with a shaved head, a soul patch and serious swagger. He lifts weights, throws pitches, swings a bat, while his voiceover describes the orthopedic surgery that saved his baseball career 15 years earlier: "At 39, I had a SLAP tear and ripped off my biceps tendon. Never pitch again? Yeah, right. I went to Montefiore Orthopedics and begged Dr. Levy to get me back on the diamond. At 41, I was drafted to play pro ball."

While compelling, the TV spot left millions of viewers scratching their heads: Who drafted a regular guy over 40 to play pro ball?

That would be Israel. In 2006, after a year of rehabbing from the surgery with his typically insane work ethic, the 6'1" Eric Holtz was drafted to play for the new Israel Baseball League (IBL). He was a baseball-obsessed married father of three from White Plains with a women's clothing business moonlighting as a hitting coach at Manhattanville College. The IBL lasted a year, but the connections he made in Israel paid off bigtime down the line. In 2017, he was named manager/coach of Israel's national baseball team. In September, the "blue and white" advanced to the Africa/Europe Qualifying Event in Italy—and won it all, earning a berth at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The *Jerusalem Post* called it a "miraculous accomplishment.... Manager Eric Holtz brought old-fashioned baseball to life, playing games one at a time."

Life Lessons

Most days you can find Holtz behind his desk at Game On 13, his elite training center in Elmsford. Holtz's big personality is somewhat subdued. The soul patch has grown out to a salt and pepper stubble. That and his shaved head make him a double for Bruce Willis from certain angles. At 54, he's mulling over a big year—the commercial, the Olympics, the wedding of his oldest child Jordan—and perhaps wondering what his present "whole crazy world" holds.

"I had no idea I was going to be on TV every night," he says, mean-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM

While Holtz's commercial was airing last summer, he was leading Team Israel to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

ing it. "I had no idea I was going to be on 11 billboards and in magazines and newspapers. I get it every day playing baseball: Oh, you're the Montefiore guy! But I don't want to lose focus on what I do. I'm just Eric, head coach of Israel baseball. Owner of Game On 13. It doesn't change anything."

His jam-packed office reflects his 24/7 commitment to baseball—and his entrepreneurial know-how. There are jerseys for the Fury and Lady Fury, his 13-team youth league, and one of his signature Holtz wood bats, made in upstate New York. The wall behind his desk is covered in photographs and motivational sayings and a photo of Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth, an homage to his late father, who told stories about watching the two legends play at the old Yankee stadium. Samson, Holtz's massive Bernese mountain dog and "best buddy," is collapsed on the floor like a small mountain to be stepped over. Samson is in the Montefiore footage as well, frolicking with Holtz in the cavernous batting cage area. Dozens of T-shirts and jerseys with college logos hang high on the walls, signifying schools where the kids that train here have gone on to play. Coaching and motivating young people to be their best is his favorite part.

"Not everybody's going to be a professional player, but the game teaches you to work hard and be part of something bigger than yourself—part of a team, a culture. It teaches you about life."

The Boy from the Bronx

Holtz calls his business Game On 13 because that's his lucky



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC HOLTZ

Team Israel celebrates the victory that won the squad an Olympic berth.

number, the one on his jerseys throughout his own playing career. It started in the Bronx, where Holtz was born. He lived in Co-op City with his parents, Philip and Rosalind Holtz, and his older brother Steven. His dad was an accountant who passed his love of baseball down to Eric. He played catch and got on the floor to hold his son's feet in the correct batting stance. But Philip Holtz also suffered from polycystic kidney disease and required dialysis three times a week. "I played catch with my dad until he got too sick to," Holtz recalls. "It was a lot to ask of

a guy to take me to the park and play with me, because he was exhausted. But he always did."

After Holtz's father passed away at age 51, baseball filled a void. Two of his Little League coaches, both Puerto Rican, "almost adopted me as their own," including him in holidays and family vacations, "to make sure I wasn't alone." (His brother Steven, a retired attorney, "is not a baseball guy.") His father had been religious, and at age 13 his mother and a relative took Eric to Jerusalem for his bar-mitzvah at the Wailing Wall "out of respect

for my father." Holtz went onto attend New Rochelle Academy, where he was a varsity shortstop and pitcher.

In college, he butted heads with his coach. During the season, he left school to attend the funeral of a close friend who died in a car accident. "When I came home, the coach told me to clean out my locker. I'd let my teammates down. He didn't want me. I didn't pick up a baseball again until I was 35."

Back in the Game

Fortunately, there were softballs to pick up. After getting a two-year degree in physical education, Holtz entered the apparel industry in marketing and sales. When he wasn't traveling the world for a women's clothing line — doing well enough to buy his own co-op in Hartsdale at the age of 21 — he was playing in several fast-pitch softball leagues in the city. He showed up for his own wedding in 1991 with three broken ribs from sliding into second. His fiancé told him to suck it up and smile for the photos.

"We should have frequent flier miles at the hospital," says Traci Holtz today. "He's always breaking something, coming home with a big raspberry on his leg." The two met in summer camp as kids and reconnected when working in the fashion industry. Traci now works as an administrator in the Mount Pleasant Central School District, overseeing student support services. "Being his wife is accepting that baseball is a big love of his life; it's part of the package."

Holtz honed his natural coaching talent on his own kids. All three were standouts at Valhalla High

School and have played in college: Jordan, 26, at Bucknell University; daughter Sydni, 22, at NYU; and Brett, 20, at Columbia University, where he's a junior. According to Holtz, all this diamond time kept his kids "away from video games and helped get them into great schools."

For Sydni, a pediatric oncology nurse at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, playing ball was a given. "From the moment I can remember anything, we have been breathing baseball and softball. I don't think we had a choice necessarily. Baseball is important to my dad because of losing his father when he was young.... The bond between us with the sport didn't compare to any other sport we tried."

But Holtz's sour college experience gnawed at him. In the year 2000, at age 35, he signed up for the first of several trips to New York Yankees Fantasy Camp in Tampa, Fla., where regular people pay to play and hang out with real live retired Yankees. The experience "rekindled my love and my passion for baseball." He got into age-group open league baseball and started "killing it" as a third baseman/pitcher. "I'm making the All-Star game every year, playing against kids half my age. It came back quick. I got so enthralled with it, the more I did it, the more I wanted to do it. Before you know it, I was going to Florida and Puerto Rico with travel teams, looking for more and better competition. I was playing so much I hurt my shoulder. I was broken."

A Stitch in Time

For repairs, Holtz went to a good friend and softball teammate: Dr. Martin Levy, an orthopedic surgeon at Montefiore. "I talked him into fixing me. He said, 'Why don't you just stop pitching and play first base?' And I said 'Marty, I'm not ready for that! I've got a lot more life left in me!'" Levy did the surgery. Little did they know that years later, "I'd be contacted to do a feel-good story for Montefiore," says Holtz. Doctor and patient also starred in "Eric's Story," a short film that ran on the YES Network. "Without that surgery later in life, none of this would have happened."

Sometimes life takes a lucky hop. After his rehab, an old friend told Holtz about this new venture called the Israeli Baseball League. "I said, 'There is no baseball in Israel. None. Zero.'" The IBL was the quixotic dream of a millionaire Boston bagel maker who wanted to bring baseball to his spiritual homeland. They were having tryouts in the Berkshires. Holtz went "on a goof." He made the six-team league as a player/coach for the Bet Shemesh Blue Sox and spent two months playing in Israel, which has only one lighted field.

He got \$2,000 for the season



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC HOLTZ

"Eric is one of the most positive people I've ever met," says Team Israel pitcher Jonathan de Marte.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC HOLTZ

The banner says it all.

and a wise-cracking star turn in a documentary about the league called *Holy Land Hardball*. But his pro debut paid off in other ways. In 2013 he was a hitting coach at Westchester Community College when a former IBL teammate recruited him as assistant coach to America's 18 and under team in the Maccabiah Games (a.k.a. "the Jewish Olympics"). Team USA won gold, and in 2017 Holtz returned as head coach. They won again, this time with son Brett playing first base. The next day, Peter Kurz, President of the Israel Association of Baseball, hired Holtz to coach the Israeli national team. "Eric is dedicated, a true mensch, high energy, a great motivator," says Kurz. "We needed a guy like him."

Ascending to a New Level

Baseball remains a tough sell in Israel, a country the size of New Jersey with only 1,000 players. "Baseball requires patience, and the Israelis are not a patient people," Holtz explains. "When you're a kid you could wait five innings and not have a ball hit to you. Soccer and basketball are nonstop. Israel is not the baseball mecca of the world, but we have proven a lot of people wrong so far. We can compete with anybody out there."

Most of Team Israel's players are American Jews who played college and professional ball. Because they have to be Israeli citizens for Olym-

pic competition, Kurz arranged for all of them to obtain citizenship in Israel, a process called Aliyah, Hebrew for "ascending."

"Eric and I met a year and a half ago and I laid out the plan," Kurz explains. "I told him how I intended to bring American Jewish players on Aliyah. How we needed to win three tournaments in eight weeks in order to reach the Olympic qualifiers. How we could do well if our pitching held up, and how we could reach the Olympic Games in Tokyo. He looked at me like I was crazy, but immediately bought in because he has that crazy streak as well." Combined with the addition of six former MLB players, Team Israel had never been stronger.

The roster includes local legend Jonathan de Marte, the 2010 and 2011 New York State Gatorade Player of the Year from Yorktown Heights. He played for the University of Richmond and for independent leagues before Holtz recruited him for Team Israel. "Eric calls and says, 'I've watched you play for years, but I had no idea you were Jewish!'" says de Marte, who calls Holtz "one of the most positive, uplifting people I've ever met. He reminded us every day what we were playing for, who we were playing for, how it's on the international stage with all these eyes watching us. Thanked us for the effort we were putting in. He makes you feel your worth."

Close to the Heart

Throughout their march to

the Olympics—Bulgaria, Lithuania, Germany, Italy—Holtz was flying back home to run Game On 13 and squeeze in his own game time. The training center has become a home base for Team Israel players like pitcher Gabe Cramer, a Stanford graduate who plays on an L.A. Dodgers' minor league team. Cramer says that for what Holtz lacked in professional baseball experience as a manager, he made up for in passion.

"Eric is very outspoken. He wears his emotions on his sleeve. He was able to rally the team and make us feel like we were all chasing a common goal."

Holtz wears his emotions elsewhere, too. In 2011, his mother's death prompted him to leave the apparel business and open Game On 13. "Her journey through pancreatic cancer is what made me change my career and do something I love every day, because you're not promised tomorrow." He pulls down his shirt collar to reveal two faces tattooed on his chest. "My parents are with me everywhere I go."

Philip and Rosalind Holtz were with their son as he led Team Israel to win after win in Europe. Holtz remembers how, "whenever the Israeli national anthem played, my hand was covering both of my parents." His voice breaks, his eyes mist up. "I was thinking of how proud they would be."

Echoes of History

In early September, Team Israel arrived in Bonn, Germany, for the European Championships days before the 47th anniversary of the 1972 Munich massacre, where Palestinian terrorists murdered 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team. They were the first Israeli athletic team to compete in Germany since 1976. One team member's grandparents had survived Auschwitz.

"The experience transcended baseball," Holtz recalls. "Looking

around and understanding that 70 years prior I would've been killed just for being there. To compete against Germany and beat them on their soil was kind of life changing for me." Israel won a close and emotional game 5-4, before appreciative German fans. Holtz holds up the game ball, the only one he kept.

With a gleam in his eye, Holtz recounts the pep talk he gave on the team bus in Italy, with the Olympic Games on the line. "I pride myself on being incredibly even keeled during the game. Now, pregame? Postgame? I'm a lunatic. Five minutes before we got to the stadium I stood up and said, 'Gentlemen, there's nothing left to say. If you take care of business today, we leave the hotel as a baseball team and we come back as Olympians.' And the bus erupted." They trounced South Africa 11-1.

Next Stop, Olympic Podium?

Holtz calls himself "a proud Jew, but I'm not religious. My religion is being good to people." He's fallen in love with Israel, and is thinking about living there someday, Traci willing. She is proud of her husband yet unfazed by recent events: "That's the way it's always been with Eric. You never know what's going to happen next." She attributes his success in part to his playful spirit. "He's still that boy on the street, ringing all the doorbells, saying, come on everybody, let's play!"

And doors are opening. Since winning a spot in the Tokyo Olympics, Holtz has met the Israeli ambassador and started a public speaking business, talking to synagogues and men's groups about baseball and life. The Jewish Broadcasting Service has invited him to a menorah-lighting for Chanukah. In November, Westchester Community College gave him an award for his contributions to its team. A few weeks ago, Peter Kurz gave him a call. "He said, 'Hey Holtz, you ever hear of the Washington Nationals?'" The World Series Champions had invited Team Israel to play a training game in Florida in February. With only six baseball teams playing in Tokyo, there's a good chance Holtz could add an Olympic medal to his memorabilia wall. Suddenly, that commercial needs a sequel.

"My whole life I've prided myself on being a good person and treating people the way I'd want to be treated. I think it worked in my favor this year, being hard-working and passionate and helping people set and achieve goals. I think some of mine came to fruition as well."

Writer Dana White lives in Ossining.

Happenings

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10

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. Also Dec. 17. Info: 914-273-3887.

DIY Sled Ornament. Get into the spirit of winter fun with your own sled ornament. 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 recommended; walk-ins welcome as supplies last. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

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

Current Affairs Book Club. "This Land is Our Land" by Suketa Mehta will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Women Reading Women Book Club. "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate will be discussed. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. New members welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail denisedauriasommer@hotmail.com.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 11

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 (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info and registration: Contact Dance Emotions at 914-238-8974 or instructor Peggy at 914-960-4097.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday through Dec. 18. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

The Student Show. Includes selected student works from Visual Arts classes. Drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic design and digital media will be featured. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Building gallery, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Dec. 13. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. plus 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 12. Info: 914-606-6835 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/gallery.

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 (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-238-4967.

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 through Dec. 20. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Meditation Group. 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. Practice mindfulness and learn how meditation can benefit your overall health and well-being. Phelps Hospital's fourth-floor Family Medicine Residency Conference Room, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 11 a.m. Free. Info: Contact Ellen Woods at 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

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 (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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 through Dec. 20. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.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 (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Wednesdays through Dec. 18. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 18. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

"Brokeback Mountain." Ang Lee's adaptation, set against the sweeping landscapes of the west, relays the epic love story of Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), ranch hands who meet in the summer of 1963. A cultural and box office sensation, the film garnered eight Academy Award nominations and three wins – Lee's direction, best adapted screenplay and best original score. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 p.m. Members: \$18. Non-members: \$23. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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

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. 2:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Wednesdays from 2:30 to 7 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 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.

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 (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1). Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Sharpie Mugs. Create your own mugs with sharpies. Make one for someone as a gift or keep it for yourself. Supplies provided.

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continued on next page

County Clerk Idoni Latest Official to Endorse Buchwald for Congress

By Martin Wilbur

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) was endorsed by Westchester County Clerk Tim Idoni last Thursday, securing the first county-wide endorsement of the race in New York's 17th Congressional District.

Since Buchwald's announced his candidacy in October, he has built a broad coalition of support across the district, having been endorsed by more than 40 former and current local officeholders.

He also remains the only candidate to have been endorsed by local Democratic parties in the district. Last week, Buchwald received the enthusiastic support of the Harrison and White Plains Democrats. The North Castle Democratic Committee previously endorsed him unanimously.

"I am excited to endorse David Buchwald as he runs for Congress," Idoni said in a statement. "Throughout his career, David

has worked hard to build relationships across the community and has been a leader we could count on at the state level to fight to hold Trump accountable, to protect women's healthcare, to pass laws to reduce gun violence, and to promote ethics in government. He's the advocate we need in Congress."

Raised in Westchester, Buchwald is a graduate of Yale and Harvard universities. He was first elected to the White Plains City Council. In 2012, he defeated Republican incumbent Robert Castelli to win 93rd Assembly District seat.

Since then, Buchwald has enacted more than 65 pieces of legislation, and has gained attention this year for his successful push to adopt a law allowing the sharing of New York State tax returns of top government officials, a law which President Donald Trump is now suing to block.

"I am proud to have County Clerk Idoni's support," Buchwald said. "He has devoted

his life to serving Westchester County, and he has been a conscientious and effective leader for us. Together, we have worked to promote electronic recordkeeping that saves taxpayers millions of dollars. I am running for Congress to fight for an end to gun violence, protect women's reproductive rights, restore the SALT deduction, and advocate for our Democratic values."

Buchwald is one of at least seven Democrats vying for the Democratic nomination in hopes of succeeding Nita Lowey to represent the 17th Congressional District. The other Democrats who have officially announced are state Sen. David Carlucci; Evelyn Farkas, an official in President Obama's administration and Chappaqua resident; Mondaire Jones, an attorney from Rockland County; prosecutor Adam Schleifer; Sleepy Hollow resident and woman's advocate Allison Fine; and Asha Castlebury-Hernandez.



Assemblyman David Buchwald has racked up more than 40 endorsements from current and former elected officials, including County Clerk Tim Idoni last week.

Happenings

continued from previous page

North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

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

DIY Winter Toilet Paper Roll Animals. These animals won't be hibernating this winter but instead they'll be decorating your space in the cutest way possible. 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 recommended; walk-ins welcome. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Art Series: Seurat. Let's revisit Divisionism. Seurat's preferred name for the style that he brought to international prominence and that most of us refer to as Pointillism. Look at the importance of various brushes and tools when it comes to putting pigment to surface. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Andre Kertész: An Artist's Life. Robert Gurbo, the curator of the André Kertész estate, will present this lecture on the photographer's life and work. Gurbo interweaves the photographer's work into the timeline of Kertész's complicated life story, offering his unique and personal perspective of a man Gurbo claims to have been obsessed with since he was 16 years

old. Kertész (1894-1985) was an undisputed master of photography. Widely seen as the father of photojournalism and street photography, he created much of the visual vocabulary of the medium that is still in use today. His groundbreaking contributions to photographic composition and the photo essay were an important influence on 20th century photography. Robert Gurbo worked with Kertész over the last seven years of his life and spent the past 38 years combing through the artist's archive. He has authored three books on Kertész. The Rye Arts Center, 51 Milton Rd., Rye. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.thegroundglass.org.

Men's Night Out: For Men Living With Loss. Open to men who have lost a spouse or partner to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancers. Support Connection invites you to meet and connect with other men by spending a casual night out with good company and good food. Travelers Rest, 25 Saw Mill River Rd., Ossining. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Thursday, Dec. 12

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

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story 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 through Dec. 19. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

Lifeline Theater Music Program. An outlet for unlocking the potential of children and adults with special needs through integrated arts and life skills programs. Drop in anytime and join founder Billy Ayres as he uses singing, dancing, creating plays, artwork and gardening to help participants realize their strengths and potential contributions to their communities. Ayres has created a technique called improvisational integrated music/drama. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Every Thursday and Friday (except Dec. 26 and 27). Info: Visit www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday through Dec. 19. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

vitality@northwell.edu.

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 (through Dec. 19). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Mixer. Come for free play and hang out with other toddlers and adults. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Dec. 19. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Storytime. For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

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

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

John Jay Homestead Holiday Tour. John Jay Homestead State Historic Site will offer holiday tours of the historic house. Tour John Jay's 1820s home in retirement and discover what the winter holiday season would have been like for Jay and his family. Period decorations, historic foods and

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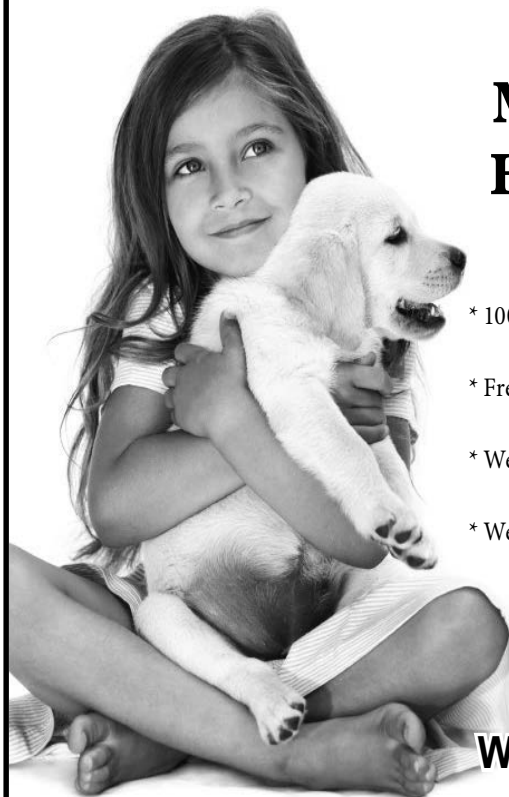
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Putnam Valley Town Board will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, December 11th at 5:00 pm. to hear comments on the use of a law regarding Bubblers, De-icers and Aeration Systems in Water. This meeting will be held at the Putnam Valley Fire

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The Exultancy of Nature Writer Alan Devoe

By Brian Kluepfel

Alan Devoe only lived to 46 years old, but by the time he shuffled off his mortal coil in 1955, he had left us a treasure of nature writing that some believe compares to Muir and other legendary chroniclers of our wild places.

This week I discovered "Lives Around Us," a classic study of his wild neighbors in Columbia County, N.Y.

I was thrilled to receive this book on inter-library loan through the Westchester Library System. It's a 1942 first edition. It still has the borrower's card inside the back cover. It is illustrated with woodcuts, for heaven's sake. Like many books I've received, it is a treasure of another age.

The writing makes it more so. Devoe's attention to detail shows that there is not always loneliness in the woods, if one pays attention. There is, as the title of the book implies, life all around us. The book, written in the darkest hours of World War II, allows a glimmer of hope when placing man in the context of all living species. We are part of a great cycle, Devoe repeats, and we can find some peace in observing our fellow travelers on the orb.

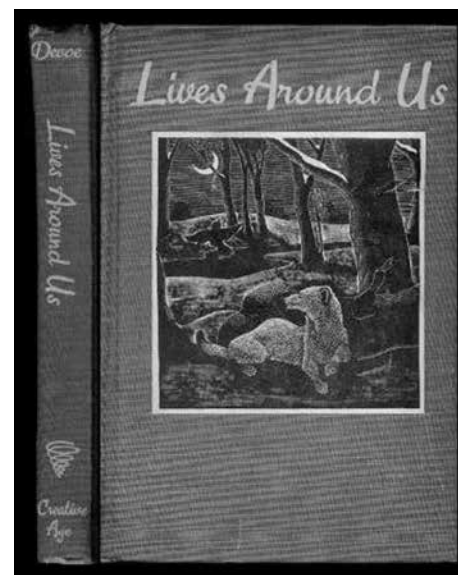
That being said, Devoe is unflinching in his critique of humanity in the chapter called Passenger Pigeon: Bird of Yesterday. His account of the unconscionable

slaughter of hundreds of millions of these beautiful blue-grey doves pulls no punches.

Unsparringly, he calls the wanton elimination of a species a "record of stupid human avarice and gluttony and blood-lust...That is the story of why the word 'pigeon' – that once meant hordes of shimmering wings, and a rushing, murmurous music in the American wild places – means now only a dingy fancier-bred bird that creeps on soot-stained feet around the grimy cornices of office-buildings."

His portrayal of the great horned owl is something else entirely. A fierce creature that requires neither friends nor fair winds, Devoe captures its savage beauty.

"There are not many birds that find the northern winter bearable...but...there is the great horned owl, feathered against the bitterest cold...a haunter in every season of the deep darkness of the loneliest woods, it has no needs but for solitude and blood. Its fierce wild spirit is not alien to the grimmest and darkest seasons



Alan Devoe's 1942 masterpiece of nature writing "Lives Around Us."

of earth...in harsh midwinter, as in summer, the great horned owl can contrive to keep its crooked claws stained with the coagulated blood of its victims. It needs no more than this to know contentment in its solitary place in the heart of the hemlock woods, and to utter its howling, quavering scream of dark exultancy.

"As it snaps (the skunk's) spines with its talons, it is as unheeding of their stench as it was of the falling snow in its birth nest, or of any other happening in the violent woods world of which its harsh spirit is disdainfully unfrightened."

I am almost ashamed to write anything after reading that. Devoe inspired, among other things, a bird club in his name in Chatham, N.Y. Thanks to those folks and to anyone who

keeps his spirit and marvelous writing alive.

Brian Kluepfel is the editor of the Saw Mill River Audubon newsletter and a travel writer for Lonely Planet publications, the world's best-selling guidebooks. You can follow him on Instagram and read his blog at www.brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com.

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TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY PUBLIC HEARING and Town Board Meeting December 11, 2019 5 PM at the Firehouse Pledge of Allegiance Public Hearing 5 PM Public hearing on the banning of all ice retardant devices and/or mechanisms.

Please be advised that the next meeting of the **Planning Board** will be held at

Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday December 16, 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 16, 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

Michael's Nursery Faces Resistance Over Truck Deliveries

By Ed Perratore

Michael's Garden Gate plant nursery in Mount Kisco has planned extensive renovation to its property, but one major part of the proposal – planning for deliveries – threatens to upend the project.

The business, located at 146 N. Bedford Rd. since 1963, received permits to improve retaining walls last spring. Now, it proposes to tear down a fire-damaged, two-story home on the property, behind Petworks, and replace it with a gravel parking lot for employees.

Michael's would also replace a 3,000-square-foot shed with one that is one-third smaller and does not encroach on neighboring properties.

Various changes, including to pergolas and fencing to conform to the village's setback regulations, are needed. The nursery hopes to reconfigure the parking lot to better accommodate parking and deliveries. Variances for some of the changes will be required.

Mount Kisco Planning Board members concentrated on concerns about deliveries at their Nov. 26 meeting.

"That is the major challenge, the tail that wags everything else," said Chairman Douglas Hertz. "Until that's solved, I hesitate to get too deeply into other issues because it's possible they will change completely."



ED PERRATORE PHOTO

The main office and greenhouse for Michael's Garden Gate on North Bedford Road in Mount Kisco.

The chief obstacle relates to the typical size of the trucks that deliver to Michael's, called WB-67s, 73-foot-long tractor-trailers. The Planning Board is adamantly opposed to these vehicles backing into the property.

Bob Wasp, the applicant's engineer, presented two options for these trucks to enter and leave the property, which has driveways and curb cuts at the property's north and south ends. First, the trucks would enter from the south, pass in front of the greenhouse for unloading and exit through the north driveway. For this

option, both curb cuts would need to be widened – and no vehicles could be parked within the wide radius of the truck's path.

"The truck would intrude over the majority of the front parking spaces to make those turns," Wasp said.

For the second option, having the truck back into the north driveway, site parking would be unobstructed. But northbound and southbound traffic on North Bedford Road would come to a halt while the truck driver maneuvers onto the property.

"Neither layout is a perfect solution, but it does at least show the constraints we are faced with," Wasp acknowledged.

The village's consulting engineer, Anthony Oliveri of Dolph Rotfeld Engineering in Elmsford, had already detailed what Michael's generally needs to do for site plan approval, pointing to deliveries in particular. One is a stormwater management plan, which requires state Department of Transportation (DOT) approval to allow any runoff directed toward storm drains. Any increase in impervious area would need New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval.

Furthermore, any changes on North Bedford Road, such as curb cuts, would mandate DOT approval.

"The applicant's greatest challenge, however, is how the nursery can receive deliveries and still supply adequate

customer parking in the reconfigured front lot," Oliveri said.

The Planning Board was no more encouraging, quickly ruling out backing into the property.

"As we build more and more things, we really need to make sure that we're not creating sites that create lasting traffic problems for the village," Hertz said.

The first option was met with objections, since the nursery requires a certain number of parking spaces under the village code. Spaces should not need to be vacated when a delivery truck arrives.

Hertz suggested that the applicant explore whether the owner of the Boston Market property might allow an easement and altered curb cut. That would allow tractor-trailers making deliveries at Michael's to pass across that property's driveway, at a relatively narrow angle, to enter the Michael's property. This could obstruct less parking as trucks enter and exit.

Another option is to allow a certain number of Michael's customers to park on the north side of that adjoining property, near L'Anjou Patisserie Française and Domino's Pizza.

"You may have to entice them in some fashion," said Hertz, "but getting a functional site is really critical here."

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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, Ridgcrest Road (TM# 83.56-1-5, 6 & 7/File: 2018-0187)** The subject property consists of ±2.72 acres of land and is located on Ridgcrest Road and within the R-1 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single-family residence. **3. Fields, Harrison-15 Locust Glen Road (TM#73.1-44/File 2019-0202)** The subjects property is comprised of +/- 1.99 acres and is located on 15 Locust Glen Road within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a log cabin home on existing foundation. **REVIEW 4. 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. **5. Bryant Taconic Corp., 157 Bryant Pond Road (TM#74.1-60/File 2018-0179)** The subject property is comprised of +/- 2.817 acres and is located on 157 Bryant Pond Road within the CC-2 Zoning District.

The applicant is proposing to construct a pervious paver patio, outdoor freezer, relocation of refuse enclosure, landscape waterfall and signage for gas dispenser. The applicant requires an Amended Site Plan. **6. Patton, Rodman, 77 South Highland Road (TM#61.2-25/File 2019-0208)** The subject property is comprised of +/- 35.634 acres and is located on 77 South Highland road with the CD Zoning District. The applicant is seeking permits necessary to repair dam and remove sediment. A Major Grading Permit is required. **7. 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. **8. 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. **9. Cimarron Ranch Subdivision-75 Cimarron Road (TM#72.1-47, 72.1-50, 83.1-1& 72.19-1-29/File2019-0207)** The subject property consist of 380.85 acres of land and located on 75 Cimarron Road and within the CSD

Zoning District. The applicant is proposing a two lot subdivision. **EXTENSION 10. Juliano, Sam,-50 West Shore Drive (TM: 62.13-2-18 / File:2010-0073) APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11. Approve Minutes of November 4 & 18, 2019**

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Happenings

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candlelight help celebrate the season. In the gallery is a specially curated exhibition featuring holiday-themed artifacts used by multiple generations of the Jay family. John Jay Homestead State Historic Site, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 1 and 3 p.m. \$10. Seniors and students: \$7. Members and children (12 and under): Free. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 28. Info and tickets: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

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

John Jay Homestead Candlelight Tour. To celebrate the holiday season, these limited evening tours will lead visitors through John Jay's 1820s home to discover what the winter holiday season would have been like for Jay and his family. Period decorations, historic foods and other sensory experiences help celebrate the season. In the museum gallery is a specially curated exhibition featuring holiday-themed artifacts used by multiple generations of the Jay family. Enjoy refreshments in the 1930s ballroom, which features a 10-foot Christmas tree and holiday music. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 5 to 7 p.m. Adults: \$15. Senior, students and members of Friends of John Jay Homestead: \$12. Children: \$5. Also Dec. 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Advanced reservations required. Info and reservations: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Getting Comfortable With Data. A gallery tour of the "Dataism" exhibit with guest curator Lise Prown, followed by a hands-on activity. Get creative with making a simple data visualization of your own. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaronck Ave., White Plains. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Free. RSVP requested: Info and RSVP: 914-428-4220.

Craft Social for Adults. Mingle with your neighbors, enjoy some refreshments and make something cool to take home. This month, we'll be making teacup succulents. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

John Denver's A Rocky Mountain Christmas. Ted Vigil performs the music of John Denver with a look and sound that are unparalleled. He is widely considered to be the leading John Denver tribute artist in the world. Even Denver's lead guitar player Steve Wiseberg has called Vigil's resemblance to Denver "uncanny." Listen to the late artist's biggest hits including "Country Road (Take Me Home)," "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," "Annie's Song," "Rocky Mountain High" and many, many more. In this tribute, Vigil brings back the spirit of Denver's Rocky Mountain Christmas specials and more. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$29, \$34 and \$39. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

"Simply Theatre Does Christmas." Want to get into the holiday mood? Join The Armonk Players for an offbeat evening of merriment that is witty, funny and has twisted

tales about our favorite season. Experience the joy, the madness and the many facets and follies that make Christmas so memorable. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. Free (Donations cheerfully accepted). Info: Visit www.armonkplayers.org.

Friday, Dec. 13

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group. Alzheimer's disease is a life-changing experience for those who are diagnosed and those close to them. This support group provides a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system. Phelps Hospital, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

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

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

Music With Miss Laura. Stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. For children 18 to 36 months. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Keva Blocks. Come and build whatever your heart desires with our set of keva blocks. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Also Dec. 20. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

No Sew Fleece Blanket Craft. Make your own personalized, cozy no-sew fleece blanket. No sewing is required, no experience necessary, only cutting and tying. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Overbooked! (YA Book Club) This month, the young adult book club will discuss "The Language of Fire" by Stephanie Hemphill. For students in grades 6-12. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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.

Friday Night Films and Discussion: "Sleepless in Seattle." Post-screening discussion led by Carol Durst Wertheim. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "Cuban Fury." This 2014 English romantic comedy starring Nick Frost, Chris O'Dowd and Ian McShane follows an engineer who must revisit his past as a teen salsa dance champion in order to do well at work and impress his new boss. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

A.I.M: An Untitled Love. Be among the first to experience this production from award-winning choreographer and Purchase College graduate Kyle Abraham. This evening-length dance work is sonically rooted in R&B/Soul music, comprised of the catalogue of Grammy Award-winning R&B legend D'Angelo. It is a creative exaltation, centered on the often-overlooked love and unity that exists with the black community, danced by the company along with Abraham himself. PepsiCo Theatre, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$30 to \$70. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

"Holiday Stomp" With The Hot Sardines. A raucous, razzle-dazzle, classic jazz and swing holiday celebration. Featuring timeless holiday favorites and original tunes performed by the eight-piece The Hot Sardines. Fueled by the belief that classic jazz feeds the heart and soul, The Hot Sardines are on a mission to make old sounds new again and prove that joyful music can bring people together in a disconnected world. In the last two years, the group has been featured at the Newport Jazz Festival and the Montreal Jazz Festival, have sold out New York City venues and more than 150 tour dates from Chicago to London. They have also released two albums on Universal Music Classics to critical raves and a number one slot on the iTunes jazz chart in the U.S. and internationally. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$40 and \$45. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Westchester Photographic Society: "Show Us What You've Got." Members show images of their choice. For adults 18 years old and up. Westchester Community College's Technology Building, Room 107, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. (Use Parking Lot 11) 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-827-5353 or visit www.wpsphoto.org.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The delicious good time moves indoors for the winter. A great way to support regional agriculture and eat healthy, year-round with plenty of warm smiles and community

togetherness. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note the market is a dog-free environment. Indoor market continues through Mar. 28, 2020. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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

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. Also Dec. 15. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they celebrate the birth of pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves as well. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 27, 28 and 31. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Estate Planning Seminar. Michael A. Martin, Esq. of Martin Law, PC holds estate planning seminars throughout Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties. An educational session to inform patrons about estate planning, including living wills, healthcare proxies and powers of attorney in addition to nursing home issues. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

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

"It's a Wonderful Life." A holiday
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Pairing Cheese and Wine at an Artisanal Cheese Shop



By Nick Antonaccio

The popularity of artisanal cheeses in the United States has been growing over the past few years. Once the near exclusive domain of French restaurants throughout Europe, these cheeses have taken root in the United States.

Americans are developing their palates beyond their local supermarket and are seeking out cheese specialty shops.

Here in Westchester we have several choices. The newest one is in Pleasantville. Ivy Ronquillo, a local resident who realized her long-term dream in April, owns Second Mouse Cheese Shop at 357 Manville Rd., diagonally across from the Jacob Burns Film Center.

Recently, I sat with Ronquillo to gain her perspective on cheese as a specialty food and to better understand the underpinnings of her palate. We sat at a dining table, replete with a cheese board, in the sunny window, where customers can enjoy cheeses, charcuterie and prepared foods.

Here is a summary and excerpts from

my conversation with Ronquillo:

"As for types of cheeses, my palate embraces goat and sheep. Their range of texture and the flavor of the places of origin keep me experimenting as new offerings arrive at the shop. Goat cheeses with bloomy rinds and bold minerality are my favorites."

"Overall, I enjoy unique cheeses, those with their own personalities and traits. One of my favorite cheeses are Alpine cheeses. For my palate, they are buttery and nutty and pair so well with so many foods and wines. The artisanal cheeses of Switzerland consistently surprise me with their finesse, diversity and true expression of their place, their cheese terroir if you will. Try a Gruyere from one of the small producers in the Alps."

Ronquillo clearly has a passion for her profession, her shop, her employees and especially her customers. I've seen her signature smile and bubbly

effervescence each time a customer's eyes light up when they sample a suggested offering of a previously unknown artisanal cheese or charcuterie. And each encounter seems to fuel her passion and enthusiasm for the next customer experience.

"I have always been a strong advocate of local products," Ronquillo said. "Here at

the Second Mouse I have the opportunity to offer local cheeses with local wines. Many folks don't realize the bounty of the Hudson Valley, which is continuously gaining in popularity and esteem. I carry several outstanding cheeses sourced from the Hudson Valley and upstate New York. I typically pair them with a locally produced wine, which I offer in my shop."

We shared our opinions on pairing individual cheeses with wine. With Brie? Ronquillo: Chardonnay and perhaps an Albarino from Hudson Valley's Fjord Winery. Nick's alternative: sparkling wine.

We both agreed on these two wines. We also agreed that the overall go-to wine for many cheeses is sparkling wine. The acidity of the underlying grapes, coupled with the carbonation of the finished wine, are marvelous for cutting through the fatty coating imparted by cheese on your tongue and mouth, clearing your palate and setting it up for the next bite.

But how did Ronquillo develop her love of cheese? What inspired her to open a retail cheese shop?

Her passion for specialty foods developed as she followed a winding path with several diversions. She tried her hand in the corporate advertising world, but never lost her inner passion. She decided

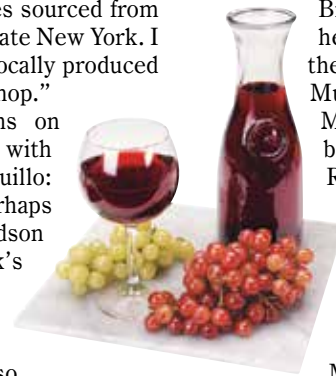
to enroll in culinary school, further fueling her desire.

She then worked in the kitchens of celebrity chefs, including Jean-Georges Vongerichten and Terrance Brennan (where she realized her love for specialty cheese), then followed her dream to Murray's Cheese Shop in Manhattan. After a side trip back to the advertising world, Ronquillo decided to venture once again into the world of cheese, working at a specialty cheese shop in Greenwich.

And 15 months later she opened the doors of Second Mouse, fulfilling her dreams of being an entrepreneur in the specialty foods market.

You can view the video interview with Ronquillo on my show, "Pleasantville Raw," at the Pleasantville Community TV website www.PCTV76.org.

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 or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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Happenings

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classic for the whole family! Frank Capra directed this beloved story of desperate bank manager George Bailey (James Stewart) who contemplates jumping off a bridge on Christmas Eve. Clarence, his bumbling guardian angel, intervenes and shows George the good he has done in the world, setting him on the right path. Audiences adore this timeless 1946 film mainly for Stewart's touching performance, and also features great supporting turns from Hollywood legends Lionel Barrymore, Donna Reed and Gloria Grahame. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Also Dec. 15 at noon and Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcntr.org.

Drop in for Tech Help. Receive assistance with any of your technology devices. PC, Google, Microsoft savvy volunteers help with troubleshooting, downloading, Overdrive, Freegal, Hoopla or any other online service. First-come, first-served. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Cooking With Rinku: Culinary Journeys of India. The series continues by 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 session takes you to the southern part of India. We will discuss grains, culture and the Ayurvedic influences on Indian cuisine. Recipes from the author's cookbook "Instant Indian" will be presented. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Whole Music's Student Concert. Enjoy Whole Music's student concert, featuring performers of all ages playing and singing music in multiple styles, including classical, jazz and popular. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlibrary.org.

Westchester Community Orchestra's 2019 Winter Concert. Featuring virtuoso piano soloist Mira Armij Gill performing the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. The ensemble will also play holiday classics such as Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and selections from "The Nutcracker" by Tchaikovsky, along with pieces from Haydn and Strauss and a Chopin nocturne arranged by orchestra member Dean Surkin. Formerly the Westchester Amateur Musicians Orchestra, the orchestra is a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteer musicians, led by renowned local conductor William Eckfeld. Ethical Culture Society, 7 Saxon Wood Rd., White Plains. 2 p.m. Free. Info: Visit westchestercommunityorchestra.org or e-mail westchestercommunityorchestra@gmail.com.

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. 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 15, 29 and 30 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 28 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-763-2373 or visit www.nywolf.org.

Modern Medieval Voices. This all-female vocal trio brings the wondrous sounds of medieval chant and polyphony. A holiday program of music from the British Isles featuring beloved English medieval and Renaissance carols, including "There is No Rose," "A Virgin Unspotted" and "Green Groweth the Holly" (attributed to Henry VIII). Also included are new arrangements of some old favorites, including "In the Bleak Midwinter," "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "The Holly and the Ivy." The program will include new settings of medieval texts, including a commission by acclaimed British composer Andrew Lovett, "Winter Wakeneth," as well as the premiere of a setting by Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatk of the beloved Medieval poem "There is No Rose," sung in Sean Nos style to the tune of an ancient Irish folk-ballad "The Lamentations of Deidre." Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 2 and 5 p.m. Adults: \$30 to \$65. Children: \$15 to \$65. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

Dickens' "Christmas Carol." After a celebrated fall season performing Irving's "Legend," master storyteller Jonathan Kruk, along with musical accompaniment, returns to bring new life to the classic Dickens story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future and Tiny Tim in this Historic Hudson Valley production. Old Dutch Church, Route 9, Sleepy Hollow. 3:30, 4:45 and 6 p.m. Adults: \$25. Children (under 18): \$20. (Historic Hudson Valley members receive a \$5 per ticket discount.) Also Dec. 15. Info and tickets: Visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Christine Meehan Show. Meehan is producing her first show in Westchester. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.lucyslaughlounge.com.

Kids Night Out. Join in the fun. There will be pizza and ice pops and there will be gingerbread houses for a fun art project. Add in gymnastics in the 19,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility and a movie and what's not to love? Best of all, mom and dad get their very own night out. For children three to 12 years old (Younger children must be potty trained.) Membership not required. World Cup Gymnastics, 170 Joan Corwin Way, Chappaqua. 6 to 10 p.m. \$40 per child; \$35 for each additional sibling. \$5 additional if registering the day of the event. Info and registration: 914-238-4967 or visit www.worldcupgymnastics.com.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Festival Orchestra's Winter Concert. Bach's "The Art of the Fugue, BWV 1080," (his final composition); Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto in A, K. 622," (his final concerto) and Haydn's "Symphony No. 104, in D, Hoboken 1/4 London" (his final symphony)

will be featured. The concert will be under the musical direction of Jun Nakabayashi, who also orchestrated the version of The Art of the Fugue that the orchestra will perform. Clarinetist Pavel Vinnitsky, associate clarinetist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, joins the Festival Orchestra as guest soloist for the Mozart Clarinet Concerto. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 8 p.m. Suggested admission: \$20 for adults. Students may attend free. Info: 914-723-1169, visit www.hbms.org or -email hb@hbms.org.

Whole Music Concert. Come for the kickoff to The Armonk Players' new Music With Friends monthly concert and workshop series. Featuring a quartet of New York City's elite jazz players at this holiday kickoff party, including Isaac Raz, piano and vocals; Cynthia Soriano, vocals; Paul Baudry, bass; and Richard Morales, drums. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.armonkplayers.org.

Classic Stones Live! The look, the sound, the show! Front man Keith Call has all of the moves and swagger of Mick Jagger, and along with his partner in crime Bernie Bollendorf who portrays rock 'n' roll outlaw Keith Richards, they complete the duo hailed as "The Glimmer Twins." Their jaw-dropping resemblance to these two rock icons is simply amazing, but what truly makes Classic Stones Live! Unique is their musical prowess, attention to detail and the spot-on renditions of all of your favorite Stones classics. From the signature saxophone solo in "Brown Sugar" to the unforgettable backing vocals in "Gimme Shelter," every last detail has been accounted for by this eight-piece band. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$28, \$32 and \$36. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Cantata Sunday. This annual tradition continues as choir soloists and orchestra combine to present works by Bach, Monteverdi and Vivaldi. Jason Charneski will conduct. Rye Presbyterian Church, 882 Boston Post Rd., Rye. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-967-0842 or www.ryepc.com.

"From Group Home to Group Home." A presentation by John Maltby, co-director of the New York Housing Resource Center, part of the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation. The Ethical Society of Northern Westchester, 108 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 914-941-3544 or visit www.esnw.org.

Santa Visits the Rosen House. Jolly Saint Nick comes to fill the Rosen House with holiday cheer. The little ones will be in for an adventure with I Spy a Santa or Two in The Music Room, followed by a 30-minute concert of favorite holiday songs when Santa Claus will appear to delight the whole family. Santa's favorite snack – milk and cookies – will be served in the cloisters. Bring your cameras and begin the festive season with joy. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 12 and 3 p.m. Children: \$10. Adults: \$15. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or www.caramoor.org.

Winter Choral Concert. Under the direction of Lisa N. Meyer, the Community Unitarian Universalist Choir will present Franz Schubert's "Mass in G Major" as well as seasonal favorites with pianist Georgianna Pappas accompanying. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 12:30 p.m. Adults: \$20. Seniors and students: \$10. Children (13 and under): \$5. Maximum for a family: \$45. Info: 914-946-1660 ext. 6 or e-mail concert@cucwp.org. Tickets: Visit www.cucwp.org.

"Nutcracker Dream." A beautiful interpretation of the beloved holiday classic that premiered last season and delighted audiences young and old with its artistry and storytelling. Inspired by the work of Marius Petipa and Rudolf Nureyev, this production is a one-hour family-friendly adaptation of the seasonal favorite, created by world-renowned choreographer Carole Alexis and performed by Westchester's premier dance company, Ballet des Amériques. Professional dancers from Ballet des Amériques perform the featured roles of the ballet, while additional roles will be cast by audition among young dancers from across the area. Emelin Theatre, 153 Library Lane, Mamaroneck. 2 and 5 p.m. Adults: \$25. Children: \$20. Also Dec. 21 at 3 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 22 and 28 at 2 and 5 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-698-0098 or visit www.emelin.org.

Holiday Concert: "A Collective Christmas." Awaken your holiday spirit with a joyous concert from Collective Brass. Enjoy seasonal favorites such as selections from "The Nutcracker," new arrangements of ancient carols and even a singalong. A Christmas concert would not be complete without the Hallelujah Chorus. Ring in the season with this lively arrangement for the whole family. Lyndhurst Carriage House, 635 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. 3 p.m. \$15 to \$25. Info and tickets: Visit www.lyndhurst.org.

Poetry Reading. Five award-winning poets, all with extensive publication histories, will read. Poets include Elizabeth Burk, Ellen Devlin, Lynn Schmeidler, Kathryn Weld and James K. Zimmerman. A book signing to follow. Refreshments will be served. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or e-mail programs@mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Night of Light: A Reimagined Hanukkah Festival. A Hanukkah-themed concert by the world-renowned a capella group The Maccabeats. After the concert, Night of Light begins. Guests will walk along a lit path featuring handmade light sculptures which represent the different themes of Hanukkah – miracles and light – along with a sculpture called "Our Star of Hope" (Star of David) and a giant globe representing the Jewish value known as "Tikkun Olam" (Repairing the World). There will be a telescope observation of the night sky, fire pits with s'mores, hot cocoa and festive libations, latkes, chocolate tasting, a dreidel tournament, Hanukkah crafts and more! There will also be food trucks on site for purchasing dinner. Guests are encouraged to bring donations of canned food and/or unwrapped toys that will be distributed to our neighbors in need. Temple Shaaray Tefila, 89 Baldwin Rd., Bedford Corners. 5 p.m. \$18. Info and tickets: 914-666-3133 or visit www.shaaraytefila.org.

WBT Presents Heartwarming Christmas Tale for the Holidays

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

What better way to celebrate the holiday season than getting together with friends or taking family members out for an afternoon or evening of wonderful, live entertainment?

Visiting Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) in Elmsford is the perfect gift for that hard-to-shop-for person on your list. WBT's latest production, "It Happened One Christmas Eve," runs through Dec. 23.

The heartwarming story is about an infant left on the doorstep of an old brownstone rooming house in Brooklyn on Christmas Eve and the magic she brings to the lives of those who find her. The show features the book by Bob Fitzsimmons, original music and lyrics by Steven Silverstein and Barbara Campbell and musical arrangements by Silverstein.

The story unfolds over several Christmas Eves. Told in flashbacks, the story starts in 1989, then travels back to 1919, 1929, 1938, 1941, 1944 and 1952. Then it fast-forwards to 1989.

"There are many kinds of families and sometimes we create our own based on trust, love and hope," said Director Richard Stafford. "Our characters had faith and they trusted in each other. They believed in charity, not the showy kind, but the quiet kind that brings comfort to the soul. Isn't that what the spirit of Christmas is all about?"

There are plenty of storylines among a house full of interesting characters: an Irish cook, an English spinster, a Brooklyn showgirl who dreams of stardom, a proud

Boston poetess and two Romanian brothers. Their lives are changed forever when a baby is placed on their doorstep. That baby – they name her Dolly – grows in their love, a child of charity.

There are also plenty of songs, some familiar, some penned just for this show. From "Silent Night" and "Holly Jolly Christmas" to a bouncy "We Haven't Got Time for Christmas" that opens the show and a heartfelt "I'm All Alone in the World."

The cast features Devon Perry, who reprises her role of Dolly; Elliott Litherland as Buddy; Allyson Tucker as Millie; Jayson Elliott as Serge; Sarah Colt as Elizabeth; Michael Farina as Sigmund; Amy Griffin as Bridget; and Bonnie Fraser as Charlotte. Young Dolly will be played alternately by Haylie Shea and Delia Spiegelman.

The production is also choreographed by Stafford, who has been at the helm for several WBT productions, including "An American In Paris" and "Anything Goes." The musical director is Bob Bray; set design is by Steven Loftus; lighting design is by Andrew Gmoser; sound design by Mark Zuckerman; costume design is by Keith Nielsen; and wig design by Gerard Kelly. The production stage manager is Victor Lukas. As with all WBT productions, Lisa Tiso is the associate producer.

Dinner and show range from \$61 to \$91, plus tax, depending on the performance. Beverage service and gratuities are not included in the ticket price. Discounts are available for children, students and seniors at selected performances. Check the



JOHN VECCHIOLLA PHOTO

A scene from Westchester Broadway Theatre's current production of "It Happened One Christmas Eve," which runs through Dec. 23 at the Elmsford theater.

website, www.BroadwayTheatre.com, for special offers.

Show times: On Wednesday, Thursday and some Friday matinees, lunch is at 11:30 a.m. with the show at 1 p.m. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, dinner is at 6:30 p.m. with the show at 8 p.m. For Sunday

matinees, lunch is served at noon with the show at 1:30 p.m., and on Sunday evenings, dinner is at 5:30 p.m. with the show at 7 p.m.

For reservations, call 914-592-2222 or visit www.BroadwayTheatre.com.

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