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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 599

## Multi-Million Dollar Mistake on Mount Kisco Firehouse Estimates

### Design Firm Admits Error in Calculating Space

By Martin Wilbur

Miscalculations by the architectural and engineering firm retained by Mount Kisco to design the expansion and renovation of the municipality's three firehouses have left officials scrambling to determine how to move the project forward.

The Village Board recently learned that the estimate from H2M architects + engineers of Melville, N.Y. was off by about \$1.6 million for the Green Street firehouse renovation. The largest reason for the variance was that the company based its projection on 9,345 square feet of space instead of more than 13,000 square feet. The Green Street facility is where the Union Hook & Ladder Co. and Mount Kisco Fire Rescue Police are based.

Additional mistakes calculating space at the Lexington Avenue firehouse, home

to the Independent Fire Co., and the East Main Street facility that houses the Mutual Engine & Hose Co. were also made, acknowledged Veronica Byrnes, an assistant vice president for H2M. The extent of those errors and how much more it may cost the village have yet to be revealed, Mayor Gina Picinich said on Sunday.

"It was a mathematical error in our estimate and that's really the biggest issue that caused the error in the cost estimate," Byrnes said. "If we would have had the correct square foot total our estimate would have been about \$5.2 million."

Voters approved the \$10.25 million referendum in November 2017 to pay for small additions and for infrastructure upgrades at the three firehouses. Picinich said H2M's glaring mistake occurred before the vote was held.

Bids received by Feb. 1 for the Green Street work revealed that the lowest

*continued on page 4*



The Green Street firehouse, one of Mount Kisco's three firehouses scheduled for upgrades following the approval of a 2017 referendum. The Village Board may now have difficult decisions ahead because of botched cost estimates by the architectural and engineering firm.

## New Castle Hit With \$20M Federal Lawsuit in Arrest at Meeting

By Martin Wilbur

The Chappaqua resident who was arrested last year outside a New Castle Planning Board meeting after he was ejected from the room recently had a \$20 million federal lawsuit filed against the town on his behalf.

Will Wedge is seeking compensatory and punitive damages of \$10 million each stemming from the the Jan. 16, 2018, incident where he uttered a profanity during a discussion on the controversial Sunshine Children's Home expansion project at that night's meeting. Defendants also include the town's police department and the responding officers, Sgt. Kelly Close and Sgt. Mary Hansen.

Wedge's attorney, Robert Berkowitz, said the case will prove that the police

were at fault for escalating the situation.

"The evidence will show that it was a clear overreaction by the Town of New Castle police force for the event that took place," Berkowitz said.

During public discussion, Wedge argued before the Planning Board that the town had failed to conduct proper oversight of the Sunshine Home, which was found to have done unauthorized work on its Spring Valley Road property a couple months earlier.

In response, the attorney for the board that night, Jennifer Gray, refuted Wedge's assertion, saying the town hadn't abdicated responsibility in supervising the applicant and the project. At that point, Wedge called out from his seat bull----.

*continued on page 6*

## Mt. Pleasant Begins Local Review of North 60 Biomed Project

By Sean Browne

Representatives for Fareri Associates, the developer of the proposed \$1.2 billion North 60 biotech project near Westchester Medical Center, outlined the initial stage of their plan to the Mount Pleasant Town Board last week.

"Everything that happens from today on is the official beginning process for the Town of Mount Pleasant," DeLuca Group President Neil DeLuca said of the highly anticipated project. "It's real now and we want to be as open and transparent as we can be."

The Town Board will have to grant the applicant a zoning change for the multi-use project before the Mount Pleasant Planning Board can begin site plan review.

Kevin Molnar, director of design at Gateway Development Group, another representative for Fareri Associates, said the proposed site plan would include three million square feet comprised of retail, medical offices, biotech and research facilities, a living science center and a hotel. The hotel would have 100 rooms.

Most of the space – 2,144,000 square feet – would be used for biotech and research facilities.

Molnar said there's the possibility of siting a plaza at the center of the development.

"This plaza is going to be a place for community entertainment," Molnar said. "We envision designing the buildings to project a movie on a

*continued on page 6*

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Gina's miracle wasn't beating colon cancer. It was having a baby at the same time.



# Pool to Run for New Castle Supervisor, Leads Democratic Ticket

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Councilwoman Ivy Pool will run for town supervisor later this year, leading a Democratic ticket that will also feature incumbent Councilman Jeremy Saland and Millwood Fire District Commissioner Jason Lichtenthal.

The town Democratic Committee's announcement on Monday came one day before the opening of the five-week period to collect signatures for the nominating petition.

Pool, 40, who was elected to the board in her first run for public office in 2017, said her love of the community and her commitment to public service along with the supervisor's post being an open seat this year helped her make the decision.

"I'd love the opportunity to apply the skills and the experiences that I have to serve in my community," said Pool, a Chappaqua resident. "Over the past year and change I've really cherished the role that I have on the Town Board and I look forward to being able to serve in an even deeper capacity as town supervisor."

Although having served only 14 months to date on the board, she said she isn't a political novice. Currently a management consultant advising nonprofit organizations and government agencies, Pool previously served in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration leading a \$500 million program to

improve benefits access. She also served in former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration in a variety of roles.

Pool would succeed three-term incumbent Supervisor Robert Greenstein should she be victorious in November. Greenstein and Councilwoman Hala Makowska each announced earlier this month they would not be seeking re-election.

Saland, 44, a criminal defense attorney, said the ticket has enormously diverse experience professionally and in public serves. He called Pool "the most studious, diligent and hardworking" individual he's encountered and believes they have a strong ticket against likely Republican challengers.

"Regardless of who they may be, I look forward to engaging them in a respectful discussion on the issues that New Castle faces now and in the future," said Saland, who was elected to his first term in 2015.

Lichtenthal, 45, was appointed to the Millwood Fire District's Board of Commissioners three years ago to fill the vacancy left by Makowska after her election to the Town Board. He has since won two elections in his own right, the race for the last year of Makowska's term in December 2016 and a year later for a full five-year term.

He compared the managing of a fire



New Castle Councilwoman Ivy Pool will be part of a ticket that includes Councilman Jeremy Saland, right, and Millwood Fire District Commissioner Jason Lichtenthal.

district favorably to the town except on a smaller scale.

"I worked on lots of campaigns, I value public service very highly and I want to make an impact in a way I couldn't make as a cheerleader for candidates," said Lichtenthal, a senior vice president and chief information officer for an insurance company.

Democratic Committee Co-chair Jane Silverman praised each of the three candidates, remarking how they have impressive accomplishments in both their careers and in public service. She said she "couldn't imagine a more

qualified ticket."

Silverman said that Pool was well-versed on all issues as soon as she was seated on the Town and has formed an outstanding working relationship with Saland. She added that Lichtenthal has been highly regarded for his service as fire commissioner.

"I believe this ticket will push for things that will be good for the town while keeping us fiscally sound," Silverman said.

Meanwhile, the town's Republican Committee is prepared to announce their ticket by late this week or early next week, said its co-chair Warren Gottlieb. He said there will be a formidable team to oppose the Democrats, which will make for robust debate.

"I think the town will benefit from having a vigorous, and as far as I'm concerned, a very civil election cycle," Gottlieb said. "We're very much committed to civility. We very much want it to be about the issues."

The Democrats also announced Monday that it was endorsing Yorktown resident Vedat Gashi for county legislator to replace Michael Kaplowitz on the Board of Legislators, Douglas Kraus for town judge, Robert Prisco and Michael Tawil for County Court and Wayne Humphrey and Maryanne Scattaretico-Naber for Family Court positions.

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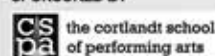
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# Multi-Million Dollar Mistake on Mount Kisco Firehouse Estimates

continued from page 1

responsible bidder came in at \$5,910,000 – \$5,636,500 for construction costs and \$273,500 for cash allowances.

The pre-bond estimated construction costs were pegged at \$4,032,300 but when H2M did the calculations in preparing the bids, the construction estimate mushroomed to \$5,000,262, Byrnes said.

Other factors have increased the cost at Green Street as well. Pile foundations are now needed at the site, which will cost an additional \$150,000 to \$250,000, because of poor soil conditions, Byrnes said. Using the preferred Project Labor Agreement (PLA) will also inflate the cost by an undetermined amount, she said.

Estimates for the price per square foot

before the vote were \$350. In the bid that was received, the cost came in at \$396.

For now, the board is taking no action on the bid until it can learn whether any portion of the higher cost can be covered by H2M's errors and omissions insurance. The board has 45 days from when the bids were opened to vote to accept or reject.

Picinich and the board had harsh words for H2M last week. The mayor said the variance in price estimates per square foot would have been able to be absorbed had there been proper calculations because of the 20 percent contingency built into the bond.

She also said that there has been no explanation as to how H2M made the error.

"There's been a real challenge that's been presented, and in all honesty, this was so easy to get right and we could have planned for it," Picinich said. "We could have tried to plan for it, and without the accurate information we can't do what was promised to get done."

At the Feb. 20 board meeting, Trustee Peter Grunthal was incensed that the firm was apparently treating the matter "as business as usual." He called H2M's mistake "a royal screwup" and pressed the firm to take financial responsibility.

"It took us years to get to the point to put a referendum to the public to spend a considerable amount of money and raising

taxes because we need the firehouses to be upgraded, and now, we end up in this situation when you're basically saying to us you've got to pull back," Grunthal told Byrnes.

Trustee Jean Farber said that the village plans to speak to the firm's insurance carrier.

Byrnes said steps can be taken to trim costs, including going from a PLA to using Wicks Law contracting.

"We have to address some of the value engineering options, whether it's reducing some of the square footage in the buildings without compromising any of the design," Byrnes said.

However, the firm's partners will need to be consulted if any other course of action is taken, she said.

Picinich said that the village hopes to upgrade the three facilities in a manner consistent with what had been talked about leading up to the November 2017 vote.

"We all want to deliver the outcome that was planned," Picinich said. "At this point, it appears that the only way to do that is to find additional funding. That means we have to generate additional revenue or cut back on other projects. My personal view is that we cannot put the additional burden on the taxpayers."

The board plans to discuss the issue at its Mar. 4 meeting.

## Serious Players



At the February Westchester Table Tennis Open, which took place last weekend in Pleasantville, Austria's Robert Gardos, center (#52 in world ranking), defeated Korea's Tae Hoon Kim, second from left, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6, taking home the \$2,000 grand prize. Earlier, Gardos defeated Kai Zhang, a 2017 Pleasantville High School graduate, in a thrilling five-game semifinal. There were 167 players who competed in the Westchester Open.

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# North County Trailway to Receive Upgrade Over the Next Year

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive George Latimer announced an \$8.7 million commitment to make improvements to the 22-mile North County Trailway, a paved multi-use path that has been popular for cyclists and pedestrians.

The money for the trailway, which runs from Eastview at the Greenburgh-Mount Pleasant border northward to the Putnam County line, was recently appropriated by the Board of Legislators from a larger pot of capital projects for 2019.

"This is an investment that's important not only to the people who use it but it's a statement about Westchester County maintaining the assets that it has and valuing the assets that it has," Latimer said at a Feb. 22 press conference on the trailway in Mount Pleasant.

Latimer said work, which recently started near the southern end, will include complete rehabilitation of the trail's surface, including full-depth asphalt where required and a top layer in other areas, and root removal and pruning of trees along the route.

Other tasks include rebuilding and reshaping swales to direct water away from the trail's surface, cleaning or replacing culverts to improve drainage and various safety enhancements, including the replacement of nearly all of the fencing along the trail. Wayfinding signs will also



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County officials and members of bike clubs participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking in Mount Pleasant last Friday after County Executive George Latimer announced an \$8.7 million improvement project for the North County Trailway.

be introduced at various points along the route.

The Board of Legislators' expenditure also includes \$300,000 to pay for the design of planned improvements for the South County Trailway, which runs from Eastview southward to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. That work will commence shortly after the North County Trailway is completed next year.

Work on the trail is expected to take up to 14 months to finish, said Kathy O'Connor, commissioner of the Westchester County Parks Department. She called the trailway one of the county's "most prized possessions."

"We are thrilled to death that this project is getting off the ground," O'Connor said.

In addition to work on the trails, some of the parking lots at various points will also

be revamped, she said.

There will be closures of the trail in sections as work progresses, according to O'Connor. She urged the public to check the county's social media posts when the closure of a section is scheduled. The county will also be posting signs when a section is slated to be shut.

Last Friday, representatives of several biking groups attended the press conference to support what they described as the county's long overdue commitment to do the work. Christine Schopen, president of the Westchester Cycle Club, said the project is critically important because the trail is a great resource for the county and its residents.

"It's a destination for a lot of people," Schopen said. "We're really proud of it. It's beautiful. We use it all the time."

Bill Dennison of the Yonkers Bike Club said using the trailway is a great way to take in Westchester County.

"We want to thank you very much for doing this, especially the folks from the DPW, who maintain the trail all the time," Dennison told county officials. "They do a great job."

The North County Trailway was built along the Putnam Division railbed of the former New York Central Railroad. The line provided freight and passenger service between the Bronx and Putnam County from 1881 to 1958.

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## Mt. Pleasant Begins Local Review of North 60 Biomed Project

*continued from page 1*

weekend night and the community can come out to see it. Maybe a small coffee shop, perhaps a farmers market as well."

Another possible feature would be a biotech education center that children could use, he said.

"Where a school district couldn't afford to put in a series of wet labs for a small student body, this building might be able to work as a BOCES-type building," Molnar said.

Construction would be divided into multiple phases, according to Molnar. There would be up to 500,000 square feet built during Phase 1, which would include some of the retail space, medical offices, biotech research labs and the hotel, he said. Work for the first phase would begin along Hospital Road. Site planning for the rest of the project would still need to be worked out, Molnar said.

Construction for the first phase would take five to six years to complete.

Town and county officials have remarked how North 60 could be a transformational project for the county, potentially making Westchester a noted biotech hub. On Jan. 10, County Executive George Latimer and John Fareri signed a 99-year agreement leasing the 60 acres owned by the county.

In April, 2017, the Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously approved the lease. However, with the election of County Executive George Latimer later that year and the change in administrations, the process was delayed, DeLuca said.

"When County Executive Latimer came in, he promised [John] Fareri and me that he would thoroughly vet that contract," DeLuca said. "It took him the better part of 10 months, he did his due diligence and he approved it."

Fareri Associates and its representatives will formally speak to the Town Board at its Feb. 26 meeting.

## New Castle Hit With \$20M Federal Lawsuit in Arrest at Meeting

*continued from page 1*

Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood immediately told Wedge to leave the meeting room. When Wedge apologized but refused to leave, the police were summoned from their downstairs headquarters to escort him out.

Following a discussion between Wedge and the officers in the lobby, they ushered him down the staircase to the lower level at Town Hall.

Moments later Wedge could be heard yelling while he was being handcuffed just outside the Town Hall doors. According to the suit, "as plaintiff William Wedge reached the downstairs lobby he was shoved towards and through the doors of the premises by New Castle Police Sergeant Kelly Close. Once outside, plaintiff William Wedge was tackled and propelled to the ground by New Castle Police Sergeant Kelly Close. As a result of this incident, plaintiff William Wedge sustained numerous injuries, including but not limited to injuries to his shoulder and a broken thumb."

John Walsh, the attorney representing the town in the case, called the suit "a rather mundane matter." He said Wedge became "belligerent" and "uncooperative" with police.

"Why he wants to take it out on police, I'm not really sure, but he didn't want to be escorted out of the building by police officers, I suppose," Walsh said. "Most people just cooperate and walk out quietly and peacefully."

He brushed aside Wedge's arguments that seeks \$10 million each in compensatory and punitive damages saying that it has "no bearing on reality, whatsoever."

Wedge was charged with two counts of harassment, resisting arrest, obstruction of governmental administration and disorderly conduct. On Feb. 7, he pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a violation. He was fined \$250. The remainder of the charges were disposed of.

Berkowitz said the plea could compromise a few of the actions that are outlined in the lawsuit, but wasn't prepared to speculate which ones could be jeopardized.

The actions listed include deprivation of civil rights, excessive force, malicious abuse of process, failure to intervene, municipal liability, false arrest, false imprisonment, assault, battery, malicious abuse of process and intentional infliction and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

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# North Castle's Community Park to Have Restroom Facility

By Martin Wilbur

Visitors to North Castle's IBM Community Park will experience some welcome relief by late spring or early summer.

The North Castle Town Board agreed two weeks ago to buy and install a pre-fabricated building containing restroom facilities for the general public. The structure, containing four bathrooms, will be sited either next to the pavilion, which is the preferred choice because of its central location in the park, or parallel to the sports bubble.

Town officials voted on a resolution that included a \$166,633 purchase price for the facility. Before approving the resolution, the board trimmed a few extraneous features, decreasing the price by about \$8,000, said Supervisor Michael Schiliro.

It is anticipated that the town will have to wait two to three months before the structure from CXT Concrete Buildings of Hillsboro, Texas can be shipped. A pad will have to be laid down before the building arrives. Personnel from the town's parks, highway and water and sewer departments will collaborate to prepare the site.

The key question is whether the town will be able to accommodate the 75,000-pound building adjacent to the pavilion, which would be of greatest convenience to the most park patrons. However, the path to that site may not be able to accommodate the crane that will be lifting the building

onto the pad that would in place.

Karl Hinrichs, chairman of the town's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, said the path is about 11 feet wide but the vehicle is about 10 feet.

"The site by the pavilion is nice but we've always expressed the concern, can we get it there," Councilman Stephen D'Angelo said.

The building will come with the plumbing and utilities intact, said the town's former recreation supervisor Matt Trainor. Plumbing and electric will need to be hooked up once the building arrives, he

said.

About four or five years ago the town had to remove the old restroom facilities and park-goers have had to make do with port-o-johns.

Town officials are hoping that the building could be in place and ready for use by Memorial Day weekend or shortly after that.

Recreation Appointment, Hearings This Week

In another Parks and Recreation matter, the Town Board is expected to appoint

Jennifer Giusti to the position of acting superintendent of recreation and parks at its meeting Wednesday night.

The board will also hold hearings this week on Brynwood Golf & Country Club's request to switch their proposed residential units from fee-simple to condominium taxation and on the multifamily housing development at Mariani Gardens on Bedford Road in Armonk.

Wednesday night's meeting is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

## A Hearty Welcome

The Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed the Cuddy Law Firm, PLLC, last Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the firm's offices at 400 Columbus Ave. in Valhalla. The Cuddy Law Firm specializes in special education and special needs planning. Chamber President Tom Milliot presented Vice President Adrienne Arkontaky with a Certificate of Recognition offering congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the community.



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# Obituaries

## Jack Burton

Jack Burton, a former English and film study teacher at Horace Greeley High School, died Jan. 4 from metastatic colon cancer.

He was 82.

Born in Rochester, Burton attended Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) on scholarship for two years intending to be a mechanical engineer. Instead, in 1955, he transferred to SUNY Albany and completed his bachelor's in English and speech in 1960. While at Albany, he taught at Arthur Murray Studio where he met his first wife and taught ballroom dance throughout his life. He earned the first master's in fine arts in stage direction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1962 despite a bout with tuberculosis.

Primarily a teacher, Burton worked at Onteora High School, Kingston High School, Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. and at Moorhead State College in Minnesota, directing numerous high school, college and community theater productions of opera, musical theater and plays as well as directing the Miss New York State pageant (Miss America preliminary) for three years over the course of his career.

From 1970 to 1983, he taught English and film study at Horace Greeley in Chappaqua. After leaving Greeley, his work at RIT provided enough credits to be certified to teach AP physics, general physics and physical science from 1983 to 1998 at Broadneck High School in Annapolis, Md. From 1989 to 1998, he was the school's Science Department chairman and assisted with the design of the new science wing.

He retired from teaching in 1998. Over the next 20 years, he held numerous volunteer positions at his church in



Jack Burton

Washington, D.C., taught homebound students, performed as General George Washington for a local special events company and wrote film curriculum for Journeys in Film, a company providing materials on popular films for classroom use.

Burton is survived by his wife, Doris, of Davidsonville, Md.; three children from his first marriage to Georgina Dodd Burton, Pamela Moore (Steve) of Chapel Hill, N.C., Gregory (Erin) of Rosendale, N.Y. and Antony (Jackie) of Pleasantville; and three grandsons, Connor, Ryan and Jacob.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Mar. 23 at 2 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 301 A St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Chesapeake at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Md. 21122 or to the Historic Preservation Fund of St. Mark's Church.

## John DeSanto

John Francis DeSanto of Sarasota, Fla. and formerly of Pleasantville died Feb. 12. He was 91.

DeSanto was born in New York City, the son of Margaret (Avolin) and John T. DeSanto. He grew up in the Bronx and graduated from St. Francis of Rome, Mount St. Michael High School and Manhattan College. He was a United States Army veteran.

The majority of DeSanto's career was spent at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, from which he retired in 1982 as assistant director of personnel. From 1982 to 1986, he served as vice president and personnel director of the Long Island Rail Road. For many years, he also taught business classes at Pace University and the University of Connecticut.

In 1977, the United Nations approached him to consider a one-year assignment teaching at the East African Management Institute in Arusha, Tanzania. Following his sabbatical working for the United Nations, he returned to the Port Authority while simultaneously consulting on assignments for the Harvard School of Advanced International Studies in

Thailand, Pakistan and Brunei. All of his teaching experiences allowed him to indulge his love of shared knowledge and international travel.

DeSanto was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Patricia A. Farricker. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Mary Morphew DeSanto; John and Patricia's children, Mary Pat McNally (William) of Sarasota, Fla., John F. DeSanto, Jr. (Christine) of New York City, Stephen E. DeSanto (Leslie) of Aberdeen, N.J. and Margaret Hobbs (Russell) of Spring, Texas; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; Mary's children, Jerry Morphew of St. Leo, Fla. and Terri Dye of Indianapolis; her six grandchildren; and her two great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank all the caregivers in the Carroll Center at The Glenridge at Palmer Ranch for their loving and dignified care over the last 18 months. Their devotion to John's care is greatly appreciated.

A memorial Mass was held at St. Thomas More Church on Feb. 25. Interment followed at Sarasota National Cemetery.

## Virginia Odell

Virginia C. Odell (Ginger) of Pompton Plains, N.J. and a longtime Mount Pleasant resident died peacefully on Feb. 16 at the age of 85.

Odell was the daughter of the late Dr. Chauncey B. Fry and Caroline M. Fry. She graduated from White Plains High School, Berkley Secretarial School, Westchester Business School and attended Mercy College and Pace University. She worked for IBM for 31 years, retiring in 1991 as a program manager for corporate contributions.

Odell was predeceased by her husband, Carlton R. Odell; two brothers, Karl E. Fry and Ronnie L. Fry; and two sisters, Carolyn J. Sieber and Pamela J. Johnson.

Survivors include her son, D.

Wayne Garrahy of North Carolina; her stepdaughter, Theresa S. Evans, and her husband, Randall, of Iselin, N.J.; a step-grandson, Geoffrey R. Evans, and his wife, Melissa; a step-great-grandson, Colin J. Evans; a step-great-granddaughter, Juliana C. Evans, of South Plainfield, N.J.; and three sisters, Elizabeth A. Simko of Lutherville, Md., Wendy L. Hughes of Henderson, Nev. and Cheryn A. Kwasnik of Danbury, Conn.

Odell's family will receive friends at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville on Mar. 5 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla at 11 a.m. followed by interment

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# Chappaqua Orchestra to Present Very Special Children's Concert

By Martin Wilbur

Barbara Yahr has spent much of her music career conducting orchestras around the country.

But it's been the other hat she's worn that has opened her eyes to the possibilities that music can bring to others. Yahr is also a music therapist, who has worked extensively with special needs children.

Years ago, she was fascinated when she became aware that children on the autism spectrum and others with various challenges, including some who were non-verbal, were able to relate to others listening and playing music.

"It sort of confirmed what I always felt, that music is a type of language, it's just a non-verbal language," Yahr explained. "The neuroscientists can explain all the real reasons, I guess, but music kind of takes up a big part of your brain, all of your brain, and it stimulates your emotions, your rational thoughts, your physical being, everything. It's part of why we all love music but for an autistic kid, for example, or for kids with lots of different problems, it really makes it possible to actually share something with people whereas language is very threatening."

On Saturday afternoon, Mar. 9, Yahr will be conducting The Chappaqua Orchestra in its next concert, "Together in Music," at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center.

It's an interactive family program that will also feature the performances of seven special needs children between seven and 16 years old, including four from the area. Some of the young musicians will be playing percussion while others will be performing on the piano, she said.

The roughly hour-long concert, in partnership with New Castle's Everyone Person is Connected (EPIC) Committee, will be conducive for children with sensory sensitivities so parents who might otherwise hesitate to bring their children to a concert are encouraged to attend, Yahr said.

Among the selections is a Rossini overture, a piece from Prokofiev, Bach and part of Stravinsky's "Firebird," she said. In addition, there will be an original piece from a local composer. There will be times when the audience will get up and stomp their feet but there will also be some quieter moments, Yahr said. About 50 musicians affiliated with the orchestra will be on stage.

"It's a very exciting thing for kids who work hard to be side by side with professionals and that to me is the whole concept," said Yahr.

David Restivo, executive director of The Chappaqua Orchestra, said the program is not just for the special needs community. It is one of the orchestra's traditional family



Barbara Yahr, will be conducting the next Chappaqua Orchestra concert featuring seven children with special needs on Saturday, Mar. 9 at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center. The concert is conducive for children with sensory sensitivities but anyone is encouraged to attend.

concerts and can be enjoyed by music lovers of any age, he said.

With her specialty in music therapy, Yahr, one of five finalists vying for the permanent conductor's position, was a natural fit to lead the concert.

"It's opened my eyes and just amount the amount of excitement for kids to have this opportunity to do this... is a wonderful thing," Restivo said. "It's great to see the excitement of the parents in that group and hopefully it gets out that the kids in that community will be able to participate in the concert."

Restivo said he hopes this program can be done annually or at least once every other year.

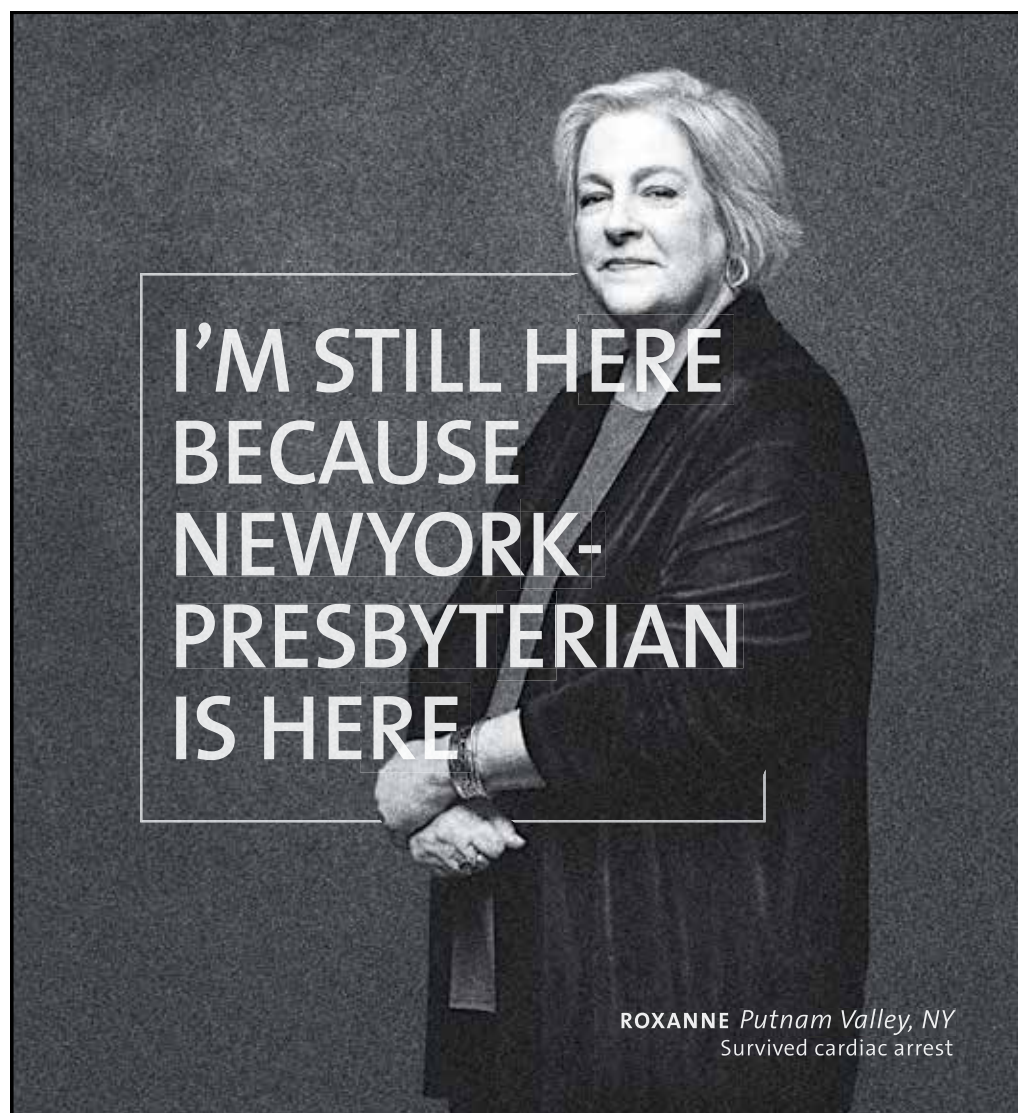
"We really need, we really hope people



come out for it because it would really make a difference for the concert, a nice, excited, supportive audience," Yahr said.

The concert is scheduled for 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each; children three and under can in for free.

The Chappaqua Performing Arts Center is located within the Chappaqua Crossing campus at 480 Bedford Rd. For tickets or more information, visit [www.chappaquaorchestra.org](http://www.chappaquaorchestra.org).



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# Connecticut Couple Pleads Guilty to North Castle Mail Thefts

By Martin Wilbur

A Connecticut couple pleaded guilty last Wednesday to charges of stealing mail from rural mailboxes in sections of North Castle and Bedford last year.

Shamaty Pacheco, 20, and Axel Zuniga-Loor, 25, both of Waterbury, Conn., each entered guilty pleas to fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, a Class E felony. County Court Judge Michael Martinelli accepted the pleas.

During January 2018, there had been several complaints from Banksville residents, according to North Castle police. In response, police canvassed the areas in question.

While on patrol on Feb. 1 at about 4:45 a.m., one officer observed several envelopes on the ground on Jackson Road and Piping Brook Lane. The envelopes appeared to have been recently removed and their contents emptied, police said.

Six minutes later, another patrol spotted a white 2007 Audi traveling slowly along Middle Patent Road. Police said an officer pulled over the car occupied by Pacheco and Zuniga-

Loor and noticed a large volume of mail addressed to numerous locations inside the vehicle.

There were more than 500 pieces, including mail from Bedford addresses, recovered from the car, the district attorney's office stated. It consisted of mail that residents had received and had not yet retrieved and items that had been left for the postal carrier to pick up.

Stolen mail included at least one credit card, checks, W-2 information and other items containing personal identifying information.

"This theft of mail from rural-style home mailboxes is another example of brazen criminals seeking to make easy cash and, potentially, using personal credit cards and lifting personal information to pursue identity theft," District Attorney Anthony Scarpino said in a statement. "We will continue to investigate and prosecute anyone who targets mail in Westchester County, whether from curbside mailboxes or those in front of residents' homes."

Sentencing was scheduled for May 22. The district attorney's office offered



Shamaty Pacheco and Axel Zuniga-Loor pleaded guilty to stealing mail last year in North Castle and Bedford.

the following tips to help residents keep their mail secure.

- Empty your mailbox in a timely manner.
- If you are away, either stop your mail or ask a neighbor to pick it up.
- Never leave checks in the mailbox

for pick up. Take the mail to a post office.

- Avoid sending cash, gift cards or money orders in the mail

More information regarding mail theft can be found at [www.westchesterda.net/crime-prevention/mailbox-theft](http://www.westchesterda.net/crime-prevention/mailbox-theft).

## Police Blotter

### County Police/Mount Kisco

**Feb. 16:** Police arrested a 31-year-old Bedford Hills man at 9:34 a.m. after he was found to be operating a vehicle without a court-mandated interlock device as well as possessing a fraudulent driver's license. The suspect was pulled over by an officer for failing to stop at a stop sign at Parkview Place and Route 133. He produced a Maryland driver's license that was subsequently determined to be fraudulent. It was also determined that the vehicle he was driving did not have an ignition interlock device, which he is required by court order to have in any vehicle he uses.

The suspect was booked at the county police precinct on Green Street and charged with second-degree forgery, a felony, and using a vehicle without an interlock device, a misdemeanor. He also was issued summonses for driving without a license and failure to stop at a stop sign.

He was arraigned in Mount Kisco Justice Court and released on \$100 bail pending a future court appearance.

**Feb. 18:** A village resident reported at 10:43 a.m. that a fraudulent loan application was filed in her name. An investigation is continuing.

**Feb. 18:** A Woodland Street resident reported at 6:40 p.m. that she received a suspicious phone call from a person who told her she needed to go to a local store and transfer money to an account

she did not recognize. She hung up on the caller and contacted police.

**Feb. 19:** At 8:49 a.m., a resident reported that his handicapped parking placard had fallen into a storm drain and could not be retrieved. He was provided with information on how to obtain a replacement.

**Feb. 19:** A motorist reported at 1:47 p.m. that his car was damaged by a hit-and-run driver while parked on North Moger Avenue.

**Feb. 20:** A 37-year-old New Milford, Conn. man was arrested at 1:25 a.m. and charged with aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a misdemeanor, following a traffic stop on the Saw Mill River Parkway near Route 133. He was booked at county police headquarters in Hawthorne and released pending a Mar. 7 court appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

**Feb. 20:** A village resident reported at 6:49 p.m. that she gave personal information to a caller who claimed to be from a financial institution. After becoming suspicious that the call wasn't legitimate, she hung up and contacted county police. The woman asked officers to prepare a report documenting the incident because she fears she might become an identity theft victim.

**Feb. 21:** A 40-year-old Yonkers man was arrested at 12:55 p.m. after surrendering to detectives at county police headquarters in Hawthorne. He was charged with first-degree assault, a felony, after he allegedly struck

another man, an acquaintance, in the head at 6:45 p.m. the previous day on the 200 block of Main Street during an argument. The victim was taken to Northern Westchester Hospital for treatment. The suspect left the scene but surrendered the next day. He was arraigned later that night in Mount Kisco Justice Court, where he was released on his own recognizance.

**Feb. 21:** Police responded to Carpenter Avenue at 6:59 p.m. after being notified that a medical alert bracelet had been activated at a residence. After officers knocked on the door and no one responded, they made entry and found a woman in her nineties lying on a bedroom floor. Officers helped her sit in a chair, then EMS personnel responded. The woman reported that she wasn't injured and declined additional medical attention.

**Feb. 22:** An Amuso Drive resident reported at 11:02 a.m. that the windshield of her car was damaged while the vehicle was parked at the complex.

### North Castle Police Department

**Feb. 15:** A caller reported an unresponsive female inside her vehicle on Sarles Street at 6:54 a.m. The dispatching officer successfully transferred the call to 60 control. The party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital by Armonk Ambulance with ALS on board.

**Feb. 16:** Report of an assault on

Business Park Drive at 6:59 a.m. The manager at La Quinta Inn reported that a party who was asked to leave the hotel last night has slept in his vehicle and is still on the property. Officers responded and requested an ambulance for an officer who injured his ankle while placing the party under arrest. Armonk Fire Department Ambulance dispatched.

**Feb. 16:** The manager at Stop & Shop on North Broadway reported at 9:30 p.m. that a suspicious party has been parked in the parking lot for over three hours. After employees approached the car, they noticed the driver was barely responsive and appeared to be sweating profusely. The driver eventually awoke and drove away, then began circling the parking lot repeatedly. The responding officer located the vehicle in the parking lot and arrested the party for DWI.

### Pleasantville Police Department

**Feb. 16:** Report of a domestic dispute on King Street at 1:15 p.m. The matter was an argument between a mother and a son. No further action taken.

**Feb. 19:** A party arrived at headquarters at 1:12 p.m. to report unauthorized use of credit and debit cards. An investigation is pending.

**Feb. 19:** Police were called to Country Club Lane at 6:59 p.m. on a report of an argument between two parties. No action was needed.





## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

# 64.1%

of youth with major depression do not receive any mental HEALTH TREATMENT.

*Mental Health America*

# 1 in 5

teens & young adults lives with a mental HEALTH CONDITION.

*National Alliance for Mental Illness*

# 5.13%

of youth report having a substance use or ALCOHOL PROBLEM.

*Mental Health America*

## Why Youth Mental Health First Aid?

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you **how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders**. This 8-hour training gives adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents (ages 12-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

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  - Depression
  - Eating disorders
  - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use.
- How to interact with an adolescent in crisis.
- How to connect the adolescent with help.

### WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

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- Camp counselors
- Youth group leaders
- Parents
- People who work with youth

### The course will teach you how to apply the ALGEE action plan:

- **Assess** for risk of suicide or harm
- **Listen** nonjudgmentally
- **Give** reassurance and information
- **Encourage** appropriate professional help
- **Encourage** self-help and other support strategies

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**Publisher**

**Martin Wilbur**  
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com  
**Editor-in-Chief**

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## Guest Column

### Updated Mt. Kisco Comp Plan Produces More Questions Than Answers

By Karen Schleimer

The Mount Kisco Village Board approved the Comprehensive Plan at its Feb. 4 meeting by a 4-1 vote. As the dissenting vote, I thought it was important to share the reasons for my decision.

The purpose of this plan is to determine the village's direction for the next 10 to 20 years. The last plan was approved in 2000. I was a part of that plan committee.

The updated plan does contain some wonderful recommendations and visions for the future such as creating better public spaces; developing streetscape plans; improving sidewalks; and good general statements on preserving and protecting the village's green spaces and other natural resources.

My concerns stem from the fact that the plan only covers a very small portion of the village. It only addresses issues in the downtown area, the Lexington Avenue corridor and Radio Circle. Nothing is said, suggested or discussed concerning the North Bedford Road corridor, Grove Street or any of the other residential neighborhoods. Many, or at least some, of these neighborhoods have situations ranging from streets that are too narrow for on-street parking with the lack of on-site parking.

Other issues include traffic, noise and excessive light issues. The plan fails to examine the potential future for these

small residential neighborhoods such as behind TJ Maxx, behind the hospital and behind the Mount Kisco diner or nearby Mount Kisco Elementary School and Maple Avenue. I am sure I have missed a few others.

As to what the plan does address, I cannot help but feel that the committee's vision of Mount Kisco in the future does not align with mine. There has been much talk of Mount Kisco as an "urban village." I am not sure I agree.

I feel that adding 40- to 50-foot buildings will change the character of Mount Kisco forever. Take a look at the size and scale of the new Win Development building across from the old Heller's shoe store. That is only two stories, not the four or five stories proposed for the Moger lots. The proposals for the North and South Moger lots are being recommended on the basis of a 99-year lease. Once this is done, there is no going back.

Adding 350 new residences to a village where traffic doesn't move without trying to alleviate these serious conditions ahead of time doesn't make sense to me.

Reducing parking requirements and fees where owners cannot provide parking does not bode well for being able to park with ease in our downtown, an area where we propose to encourage shopping and restaurant use.

Zoning changes have already been

made to 333 N. Bedford Rd. and Radio Circle to permit family recreation uses. The plan suggests a myriad of other uses for Radio Circle with no cohesive, well-thought out plan for development in that area.

The plan attempts to solve the problem of empty stores in the downtown by building more stores and increasing our population. There is no guarantee that either of these will solve the issues we currently have.

In an attempt to fix that problem, it will hurt today's residents by exacerbating the current traffic and parking problems; radically altering downtown with four- and five-story buildings and garage parking; devastating parking for commuters in a village that attracts many people because of the commuter parking in the South Moger lot; and presenting no specific meaningful plan for open space and environmental preservation, preservation of viewscapes, encouragement of trail system and preservation of wildlife habitats and corridors.

I don't object to the vision of Mount Kisco as the "Big Little Village," but I did not move here from New York City to live in an "urban village."

*Karen Schleimer has served on the Mount Kisco Village Board since 2012.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Mount Pleasant Will Do Everything It Can to Keep Marijuana Out

As town supervisor of the Town of Mount Pleasant, I will do whatever I have to do to make sure the use and sale of marijuana will be illegal in our town.

Our police chief, Paul Oliva, president of the Westchester County's Chief of Police Association, is vehemently opposed to the legalization of marijuana in any form, as is every police department in Westchester County.

For most of my adult life, we have been warned about the smoking of cigarettes, the abuse of alcohol and the

dangers and addictions related to both of these things. We are in the midst of an opioid epidemic, but now New York State, for the sake of financial benefit, will promote the use of a known mind-altering substance and gateway drug.

The implications are outrageous. Marijuana is being infused into gummies, which children have already ingested thinking they were actual candy and they have suffered the consequences. Medical benefits of marijuana are not fully substantiated

and do not have the approval that any other drug entering the market requires.

I'm sure we will be challenged, but if by restricting the use we can prevent one individual or one child from going down the road to addiction, it will be worth the fight.

**Carl Fulgenzi**  
Town Supervisor, Town of Mount Pleasant

### Latimer, Covill to Hold Forum in Bedford on March 3

County Executive George Latimer will resume his Coffee & Conversation meetings this Saturday, Mar. 3 at 10 a.m. at the Bedford Hills train station, located at 46 Depot Plaza in Bedford Hills.

Residents from throughout Board of Legislators District 2, which includes Bedford, Mount Kisco, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, North Salem and a portion of Somers, will be able to ask questions and

have a casual conversation on a wide variety of county issues. Free coffee will be provided.

For more information, call 914-995-2804.

**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



# P'ville Resident's Family Separation Documentary to Be Screened March 7

By Martin Wilbur

Many Americans were horrified last summer when they learned about migrants and their children fleeing their native countries being separated at the southern border of the United States.

That's when Pleasantville resident Andrea Garbarini decided to spring into action. She got into a car along with recent film school graduates Jacob Nemec and Dylan Franks, who are also Pleasantville residents, and traveled to the border town of McAllen, Texas to help the new arrivals and document what she saw.

She was inspired by an article she had read about the grassroots group, Grannies Respond, which had formed last spring in Beacon, Dutchess County, to protest the separation of migrant children and parents. Since its formation, Grannies Respond has turned into a national movement.

"I felt passionate about the issue of family separation," Garbarini said. "I couldn't imagine what it would feel like to come to this country seeking asylum, distraught, taking risks and possibly death to get here, and some of them spending every last cent that they have, and then they come to a country seeking asylum and then basically the children were separated from their parents."

Once Garbarini decided to make the trip, she, Nemec and Franks followed the

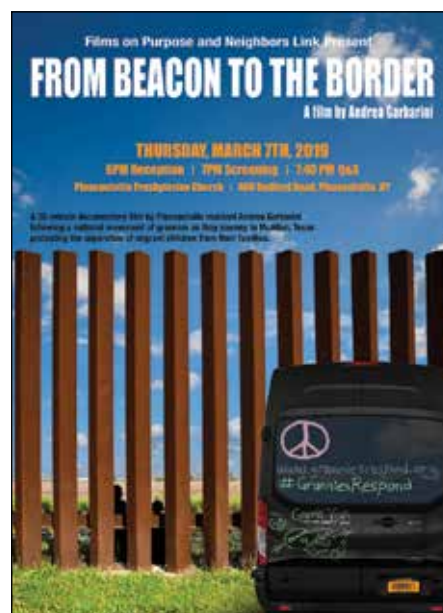
grandmothers in a van. Eight days later they arrived in McAllen.

What she documented during her time at the border is now a 35-minute documentary, "From Beacon to the Border." It will be screened next Thursday, Mar. 7 at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church as part of the next program for Films on Purpose. The Pleasantville-based organization, which Garbarini co-founded, screens films addressing social justice issues at local venues, followed by a panel discussion.

For the third time in 14 screenings, Films on Purpose will partner with Neighbors Link. Garbarini will be joined by Neighbors Line Executive Director Carola Bracco and one of the grandmothers in the film for the discussion.

Garbarini said during her time at the border, from late July into August, Grannies Respond brought backpacks filled with basic supplies, including food and toiletries, and distributed them to the migrants. They have now established what they call an "overground railroad," where they head to bus stations on the United States side of the border and hand out supplies.

Many of that are allowed enter with potentially credible asylum claims are now being dropped off at the bus stations with virtually nothing. Once there, most still have long journeys to meet their sponsor



Films on Purpose, the Pleasantville-based organization that screens films addressing social justice issues, will have its next screening next Thursday.

families somewhere in the United States, Garbarini said.

She called the bus stations "the new Ellis Island."

"It's so sad," Garbarini said. "They show up with little plastic bags. They have nothing and they spent all their money to get here."

Kathleen Williamson, another Films

on Purpose co-founder, said one of the purposes of the event is to help local residents understand what they can do to help new immigrants. A good place to start is to volunteer for the Mount Kisco-based Neighbors Link, Williamson said.

"I can't believe the journey these people take just to find dignity, respect and a better life," Williamson said.

This is the second time Garbarini has been involved in the making of a documentary. In 2011, she co-produced "From the Ground Up" with three other 9/11 widows whose firefighter husbands were killed at the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

This time, however, Garbarini was responsible for the film's direction and production.

"What I hope (the viewers) take away is a better understanding of immigration, issues that face us, knowing that it's, I think, it's always the right thing to show empathy, compassion for your fellow human being and try to put yourself in their shoes," Garbarini said.

There will be a reception at 6 p.m., an hour before the screening. It is free and the community is invited. The Pleasantville Presbyterian Church is located at 400 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, visit [www.filmsonpurpose.org](http://www.filmsonpurpose.org).

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# Photog's Exhibit Offers Perspective of New Tappan Zee/Cuomo Bridge



David Rocco's exhibit featuring images of the old Tappan Zee Bridge and the new Mario M. Cuomo Bridge are on display at the White Plains Public Library through Mar. 22.

Photographer, historian and author David Rocco will present a pictorial essay of the ongoing construction of the New Tappan Zee/Mario M. Cuomo Bridge during a reception this Saturday at the White Plains Public Library at 2 p.m.

As a photographer of the scenic Hudson Valley and beyond, Rocco has photographed some of the most important and historic restoration projects in the region. He is currently known for his stunning photographs documenting the construction and

completion of the new bridge. These photos have been exhibited recently at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak, the Warner Library in Tarrytown and street festivals in Sleepy Hollow and Nyack.

In addition to the White Plains Public Library display, additional exhibitions are also scheduled for this year in Peekskill, Tarrytown and Ossining.

Over the years, Rocco's work has been published in a wide variety of noted publications, and his photo images on the "Damage and Destruction of

Hurricane Sandy" have been exhibited at the ArtsWestchester Gallery in White Plains and The Museum of the City of New York. Some of these photos have been entered into the New York City permanent records.

A self-taught photographer, Rocco has captured the images of historic restoration projects throughout the Hudson Valley for nearly two decades. Since 2013, his prized photos have focused on the New Tappan Zee Bridge, and his vantage points of it are unlike any others. Rocco has traveled aboard

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David Rocco

helicopters, trains and boats to capture the new bridge's construction and the original bridge's demolition in more than 10,000 action and progression shots.

His photos of the overnight removal of the original Tappan Zee Bridge's truss section were taken at 3 a.m. as the Left Coast Lifter, a \$50 million floating crane built to assist in the eastern span replacement of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge before being transported to the Tappan Zee project, moved the section across the Hudson Line railroad tracks in November 2017.

Rocco has been a longtime volunteer and organizer of many charitable, cultural, historical and environmental initiatives in the local and regional area. Shortly after retiring from his career as a carpenter with the New York City Housing Authority, he volunteered his time in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center.

Rocco has lived in Yorktown Heights with his wife, Ruby, since 1995. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

The White Plains Public Library is located at 100 Martine Ave. in White Plains. The exhibit will be on display until Mar. 22 during library hours.



# My Doctor

## told me to take a seat

**“I tell families to eat meals together for health benefits that go beyond nutrition.”**

- Dr. Samantha Lowe

Eating together has nutrition, health, social and mental benefits you don't get dining alone. Children may improve self-esteem and communication, as well as develop overall better eating habits. That's why pediatrician Dr. Lowe tells parents in addition to regular preventative care for their children, try and find time to sit down and eat as a family.

To hear more from Dr. Lowe, visit [wphospital.org/family](http://wphospital.org/family)

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## Noise at Home: Options to Consider for a Peaceful Existence

Frequently I've been asked by buyer clients to show them homes in a quiet neighborhood or homes that are far from a busy road.

The most important thing they seek in their home life is peace and quiet. While some people can live happily with the most extraordinary noise surrounding them, others seem to be more sensitive to lesser extraneous sounds, such as passing cars.

And if you live in an apartment or condo, there are the sounds that come through ceilings and walls that can be an issue to the more sensitive ear. Some noise you can do something about, some you grin and bear it and some you just get used to.

My first apartment in New York was in a new building that wasn't soundproofed. Upstairs there was a young child who would run back and forth on uncarpeted floors. I complained to the mother bitterly every time it got out of hand. That neighbor, whose name I still recall, got so sick of my complaints that she sent her tough boyfriend down to threaten me. The only real solution to the problem was to walk out on my lease and find an



By Bill Primavera

apartment with no one above.

When I bought my first home in Brooklyn Heights, I found that it sat directly over the A train subway line. Visiting dinner guests would sometimes have a look of mild panic when the rumbling train barreled through below. We loved the house and learned to accept the noise. In fact, when the transit workers went on strike for a week, we missed the sound that lulled and vibrated us to sleep at night.

When I moved to Westchester, it was late summer and I couldn't fall asleep the first night because of noise that one would never find in the city: the drone of katydids. By my second season here, I was welcoming the sound like a lullaby.

Those of us who live in a single-family home expect to be spared the kind of noise pollution that one might face in an apartment, co-op or condo with common walls. But we have all of the outdoors to carry annoying sound waves: lawn mowers, leaf blowers, cars and trucks.

If the whoosh of cars annoys you, it can be abated by installing a solid fence along the street. The regular

four-foot fence will help deflect some of the sound. Also, thick evergreen bushes help. Another device is outdoor water, either in a fountain or a waterfall incorporated into a swimming pool.

Another effective technique to lessen noise from a busy road, often used in apartment and condo developments, is the creation of a high dirt berm with plantings.

It is estimated that as much as 90 percent of outdoor noise comes through windows and doors. Good insulated windows are the best defense to prevent outdoor noise from becoming indoor noise. As much as 75 to 95 percent of extreme outdoor noise, such as living next to a major traffic artery, can be eliminated through the use of soundproof windows that are added as an extra layer inside of a regular window.

The noise outside that had always annoyed me most was the persistent barking of dogs. If you live in a neighborhood long enough this annoyance can come in waves, depending on the dogs that come into and out of the lives of nearby neighbors.

In Yorktown, we have a code that invites us to complain to the code enforcement officer if barking lasts more than 15 minutes. I have taken advantage of that code rather than

having a face-to-face confrontation.

If you live in an apartment, co-op or condo, the concern is whether the ceiling and floor insulation are sufficient. There's a reason why many units for sale are promoted with such phrases as "no one above or below" or "end unit with only one shared wall." But if you find that you're sharing too much of your neighbors' personal lives, there are companies that sell soundproofing wallboard for more privacy.

Another option is to create white noise or more pleasant distracting noise to take the edge off the irritating noise. I have a sound effects device that I would take with me on road trips when I had to stay in hotels near busy highways. It creates the sound of ocean waves, waterfalls, rain and a variety of other sounds that soothe my environment.

Instead of covering your ears, you can make your own privacy by addressing sound pollution creatively.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)). To take advantage of these dual areas of expertise, you can engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale. Just call 914-522-2076.

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# My Doctor told me to be fresh

**“One of the most important things my patients can do is eat what’s in season.”**

- Dr. Ellen Lestz

Nutrient-dense food choices help strengthen immunity and protect against colds and other viruses. That’s why Dr. Lestz, pediatrician, says that along with regular checkups, one of the best things you can do for your kids’ health is to improve their diet by eating food picked fresh and in season.

**To hear more from Dr. Lestz, visit  
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## The Weekly Feature from Entergy

### Mimi's Brings the Independent Coffee House to Mount Kisco

By James Miranda

Coffee is tradition in Ethiopia and no one knows this better than Selamawit Wieland-Tesfaye. Her grandmother's coffee tree in the backyard sowed the seeds for her business, Mimi's Coffee House, in Mount Kisco.

The 38-year-old, also known as Mimi, grew up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where her and her grandmother often grew and picked coffee beans off the tree. The beans were washed, roasted, grinded and brewed into coffee.

"Coffee is like a big thing in Ethiopia, they drink it three times a day," said Wieland-Tesfaye, who settled in Mount Kisco after arriving in the United States in 1995 and now lives in Irvington. "But I just grew up with drinking coffee and knowing a lot about coffee, and then once I got a job, I just liked the whole social aspect of it and getting to know people that are coming there every day."

Her first 15 years in America were spent working in the restaurant business – first at Crabtree's Kittle House in Chappaqua and then at the old Winston's Coffee House in

Armonk. Her Ethiopian roots mixed with her work at Winston's spawned a vision of owning a coffee house one day, but stiff competition, including from the chains, saturated the market at the time.

Instead, Wieland-Tesfaye opted to open an Ethiopian restaurant in 2010 called Lalibela at 37 S. Moger Ave. since there weren't any authentic Ethiopian restaurants in Westchester.

The idea of opening a coffee house, however, kept percolating. She noticed that her customers at Lalibela continuously mentioned that there weren't any independently owned and operated coffee shops in Mount Kisco. A space connected by a hallway to Lalibela opened in 2015 and remained vacant long enough for Wieland-Tesfaye to jump at the opportunity.

"(It) stayed empty for a couple of years; but I remember coming to work every day thinking, oh my God, if somebody rented that space and took the sign down how disappointed I would be," said Wieland-Tesfaye. "I want it to be a place for where the community can come to meet a friend, you

can go on your own and read a book or get to know people there."

She opened Mimi's Coffee House on Jan. 14, offering everything that you can find at a coffee house – fresh-ground and roasted coffee, handmade food and baked goods. It caters to everyone's want and need and also offers certain types of milk and cream such as hemp, oat, almond, soy, regular and half-and-half. There is also crossover between Mimi's and Lalibela, which Wieland-Tesfaye believes makes her coffee shop stand out from the others.

"There's nothing around, for at least half of Westchester, so this is a really good location, but you're either all the way down to Pleasantville or you're in the city at Irving Farm," said Shira Adler, a South Salem resident. "I think that, especially in this day and age, economy and culture, it's incredibly important to support local, small businesses."

The local aspect is what Wieland-Tesfaye captures. Nearly all of her products are purchased from Westchester businesses. She also plans on hosting events such as open mic nights and poem nights and she hopes to introduce a line of smoothies and Açaí drinks, juices derived from Acai berries.

"From the feedback I've gotten so far, the future is great and I'm happy to have the support and the love that I have from people that knew me from the restaurant or just came to the coffee shop and were very impressed," Wieland-Tesfaye said. "That's



JAMES MIRANDA PHOTO

Selamawit Wieland-Tesfaye serves a wide variety of coffee at her newly opened Mimi's Coffee House.

what I've heard was needed in Mount Kisco."

Mimi's Coffee House is located on 37 S. Moger Ave. in Mount Kisco. It's open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 914-864-1646 or e-mail [mimismk@gmail.com](mailto:mimismk@gmail.com).

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# ***Gullotta House Presents***

## **Escape from Sing Sing Charity Plunge**

### **Has Raised so far \$11,310**



Photo by Jim Drohan Jr.

**Donations are still being accepted at [www.gullottahouse.org](http://www.gullottahouse.org).  
Your donations at work are listed below:**

1) January- fire in Ossining helped w/food family

2) January- 3rd Thursday Free dinner for seniors - residents in need @Tarrytown Sleepy Hollow at Community Opportunity Center all are welcome fed 53 residents on going.

3) January-Tarrytown senior new car Battery

4) January-Sleepy Hollow resident Hardship 4 new car tires. Partnered w/ Corsi Tire

5) Croton family medical Hardship emergency oil delivery.

6) January - young man's electronics stolen out of gym locker at school, Gullotta House replaced it.

7) January-Ossining man's tragic death \$250 go fund me donation. R.I.P. Greg

8)February- Disabled Ossining resident Emergency

fuel Deliry- partnered w/Palisades Fuel

9) February -Presented 3 New Rochelle families facing Hardships \$2,100 \$700 each check. Partnered with Iona college and athletics Department from our Lift-O-Ween event.

Thank you again Steve Furman

10) February-Yonkers family who was burnt out of there apartment in December Gullotta House arranged and paid for transportation and lunch and a gift card to Iona college so the mom and 8 year could spend an afternoon with the athletes.

Thank you Steve Furman.10-B Gullotta House Served an supplied food 1 night for 15 Homeless residents at St. Ann's.

11)White Plains resident facing Hardship, provided food and Gift card and compassion, partnered with

Tarrytown Community Opportunity Center.11-B Donation \$600 to Sleepy Hollow Recreation youth Scholarship fund.

12) February- \$2,850 emergency support for Westchester family facing severe Hardship.

13) February- \$1,700 to Traveling homeless emergency shelter in Ossining, Briarcliff, Croton, Mt. Kisco.

14) February- \$500 To Young family in honor of Mr. Fred Young very unexpected passing great Volunteer in community. Family gave Check to St. Ann's Church. Fred's wishes R.I.P Fred.

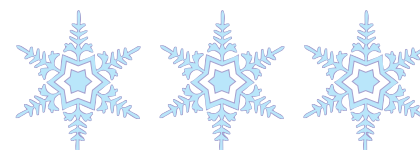
15) February- Presented check to Mr. John Crawford for \$250 to Baker Collyer Cheer. Holiday food Baskets for needy.

16) February - \$250 spot light Dance Scholarship in Yorktown to help young women excel.

17) February 20th taking Approx 120 Children for free with food vouchers to Westchester Knicks basketball game at County Center with Fan experiences and give-a-ways.

18) In May we will present scholarships for at least \$2,000 to Ossining High School students who have volunteered in the community and with Gullotta House and are going on to college.

This is only possible from your generosity and support.  
*Please donate today at [www.gullotta house.org](http://www.gullotta house.org)*





# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 26

**Drop in for Tech Help.** Receive help with any of your technology devices. PC, Google and Microsoft savvy volunteers will 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. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

**Reading With Tobie and Karen.** A program for school-age children. Tobie and Karen are with The Good Dog Foundation. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**English Conversations.** For speakers of other languages seeking to improve their English. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

**DIY Marshmallow Igloo.** Discover how Inuits and Eskimos live in igloos in the Arctic and create your own small igloo out of apples, marshmallows, honey or peanut butter. For children five to 11 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Space limited; registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

**Poetry Open Mic Night.** Come with one of your own poems to read, a poem you love or just come to hear some great poetry. Poetry based on Martin Luther King, African-Americans, peace, nonviolence or related topics is preferred. Hosted by Quantah Moor, with music by DJ Gatsby. Special guest poets Lynn and Judy Beville are accompanied by Lester Harper on bass and Art Bennett on flute. Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info or to participate: 914-483-9496 or e-mail [library@mlkwestchester.org](mailto:library@mlkwestchester.org).

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

**"You Were Never Really Here.** One of the films that's been mostly ignored by end-of-year chatter. This new drama from Lynne Ramsay provides only a stunning performance turned by Joaquin Phoenix – playing a hammer-wielding veteran with debilitating PTSD and a knack for tracking down kidnapped girls – but also the brilliant artistry from Ramsay. Despite much critical acclaim, the film

came and went from the cinema without much fanfare. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Joni 75: A Birthday Celebration:** Join an incredible array of singers and musicians who came together to honor one of the world's most remarkable artists, Joni Mitchell, on her 75th birthday. The hand-selected group of peers and protégés including Brandi Carlile, Glen Hansard, Emmylou Harris, Norah Jones, Chaka Khan, Diana Krall, Kris Kristofferson, Los Lobos with La Marisoul, Cesar Castro and Xochi Flores, Graham Nash, Seal, James Taylor, Rufus Wainwright and many others who paid tribute to the iconic artist, performing songs from all stages of Mitchell's life and career, across her entire catalog of 19 studio albums. The concert was captured over two nights in November 2018 by The Music Center at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, along with special behind-the-scenes interviews with the artists. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:35 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

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

## Wednesday, Feb. 27

**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. 9 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.

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

**New Mommy and Daddy Meet-Up.** Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your

baby. World Cup Nursery School, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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

**Adult Art Program: Acrylics Plus.** The group works in acrylics but also dabbles in other mediums. Facilitated by Nina Bertolino. Participants need to bring supplies from a list she provides. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays through April. Info: 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).

**Senior Benefits Information Center.** Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

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

**Bilingual Storytime.** Sing songs and read picture books in English and Spanish. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

**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. Every Wednesday. Also Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointment required. Info and appointment for Wednesday sessions: 914-336-6026. Info and appointment for Thursday and Saturday sessions: 914-813-5192.

**Nina Chanel Abney: Royal Flush.**

Abney is one of the most important young artists on the rise today. Born in Chicago in 1982, she tackles controversy – homophobia, race, politics, consumerism and inequity in a manner she describes as "easy to swallow, hard to digest." Her provocative yet spirited narratives on the social dynamics of urban life explode in her bold, flat, colorful paintings and collages, that are packed with symbols, numbers, words, emojis, figures and body parts – all informed by celebrity culture, video games, social media, hip-hop, tabloid news and the incessant 24-hour news cycle. This is Abney's first solo exhibit. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 12 to 5 p.m. Adults: \$5. Seniors (62 and up) and students: \$3. Members, children (under 12) and Purchase College students, faculty and staff: Free. Exhibit continues through June 30. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

**Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break.** Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.com](http://www.northcastlelibrary.com).

**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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Science Lab.** Become junior scientists and learn about different science topics through stories, crafts and experiments. There's a new topic every week. For children four to six years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://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 Mar. 13 and 20). Info: 914-864-8041 or [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

**Soul Voices: Lift Every Voice.** The 11th annual concert in celebration of Black History Month. In addition to the Soul Voices, the BFA Junior Acting Company will share spoken words highlighting black American stories of triumph and success. Purchase College's Recital Hall, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7 p.m. Free.

*continued on page 24*



# Fleeing Earls and Wild Geese: Tragic Heroes or Turncoats?

I was recently tinkering with my guitar and working out the notes to two lovely tunes in the repertoire of the internationally famed Irish band The Chieftains.

One is on a collaborative album between Galician musician Carlos Nunez and The Chieftains ("Brotherhood of Stars," 1997), titled "The Flight of the Earls" (track 10). The other tune I first learned from Bill Ochs, sadly no longer with us but a muse to many lovers of Irish traditional music. That one is called "Limerick's Lamentation," and a beautiful rendition of it is found on the album "The Chieftains Live," recorded in 1976 and released in 1977 (track 9).

Both are sad and plaintive tunes about tragic events in Irish history. But both are not about heroes. This issue considers the first event, "The Flight of the Earls." The event has a specific date: Sept. 4, 1607. On that day two people with great importance to the Irish, along with a large number of their followers, took ship from County Donegal in Ulster and headed for the mainland of Europe, never to see their homeland again and essentially abandoning their people to the mercies – or lack thereof – of the English.

## Irish Eclectic

Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone, and Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, had just a few years earlier submitted to English rule after spending the better part of a decade battling them. Allowed to keep their heads, their titles and portions of their lands, they at first submitted to English rule, but then soured under continued harassment.

Forced to live in greatly diminished state from what chieftains of their rank would have expected under the old Gaelic order, and perhaps deluded by the hope of raising support in Europe for an invasion of Ireland against the English, O'Neill and O'Donnell decided to leave. Doing this without their English king's permission was tantamount to treason and both men were stripped of their titles and remaining lands.

With their flight into exile, the ancient Gaelic order of life in Ireland disappeared, leaving the common people bereft of leadership, loyalty or direction and opening the way for the imposition of various "plantation" schemes, the most successful of which was the "Plantation of Ulster." The native Irish, mainly Catholics, were cleared from much of the Province of Ulster to make way for what were essentially colonists from Scotland

and England, Protestants all. The displaced natives became refugees, dispersed mainly in Connacht and Leinster, nursing a bitter memory of what fate had befallen them in the wake of their natural leaders' abandonment.

Effects of those times are perpetuated to this day in the partition of Ireland into two states, the 26-county Republic of Ireland in the south and the six-county state of Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, in the north. While a sometimes uneasy peace has prevailed since the Good Friday Accord was hammered out 20 years ago, the separation remains a bitter pill, more so now than ever before for completely different reasons than one might expect.

Northern Ireland, during the United Kingdom's controversial vote to exit the European Union (EU), voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU. Could a movement for Irish unification emerge from the Brexit imbroglio, as UK citizens in the north watch their southern neighbors in the Republic continue to reap the benefits of EU membership? Only time will tell.



By Brian McGowan

And the earls who fled so many years ago? By leaving they certainly saved their own lives and consequential fortunes. They took great wealth with them, these chieftains whose families had ruled their clans and lands for thousands of years, from the time the Celtic tribes first set foot in Ireland.

When they left, the people they had ruled over – who had relied upon them for protection, justice, guidance and wisdom – were left in a void, completely at the mercy of events well beyond their control.

Bold freedom fighters or crass materialists intent on saving their own skins? The jury is still out.

Coming soon: "The Wild Geese."

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at [brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com](mailto:brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com), or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). To see more of his writing on "things Irish," follow his blog, "Rethinking Irish," at [www.rethinkingirish.com](http://www.rethinkingirish.com).

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**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CASA CORDOVA, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/16/19. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1251 Wilson Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEWCASTLE BUILDING INSPECTORS, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/2019. Office Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at: P.O. Box 99 Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THUMBS UP! ENTERPRISES, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 1/24/19. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to principal business address: 420 South Riverside Ave, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Purpose: Youtube Channel.

**FORMATION OF ETNA CAPITAL ADVISORS LLC FILED WITH THE SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 1/25/19.** Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Richard Imprescia, 1821 Casey Ct., Mohagan Lake, NY 10547. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DISTINGUISHED DESTINATIONS LLC** Filed with SSNY on 9/12/2018, Office: Westchester County, SSNY Designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Elli Travel Group, 1967 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful purpose. *continued on next page*



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# Make Sure to Guard Against a Powerless Power of Attorney?

The Power of Attorney (POA) and Statutory Gifts Rider (SGR) are two of the most important documents drafted by an elder law attorney. Deficiencies in these documents increase the likelihood of the need to commence a costly guardianship proceeding to be able to implement many common elder law planning techniques necessary to preserve assets.

While New York law provides for a statutory short form POA, the powers included in the statutory form are, unfortunately, insufficient when it comes to common elder law and estate planning techniques. Even where the POA is prepared by an attorney, if that attorney is not an elder law or estate planning attorney, it's likely that the form has not been properly drafted to include powers necessary to allow for the implementation of proper estate and Medicaid planning techniques.

In 2009 and 2010, the New York State legislature revamped the statute



**By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo**

that governs the POA. While the revisions are too numerous to discuss in this article, the most recognizable changes were the appearance of the POA form and the addition of the SGR.

The purpose of a POA is to give another person the authority to handle your financial and property affairs. The POA is effective immediately upon signing. The agent does not have to wait until you become incapacitated to act; rather, their authority and ability

to act is immediate. The powers found in a POA are largely administrative powers (i.e., the power to pay your bills or to open a bank account).

The purpose of the SGR is to authorize your agent to enter into transactions that are considered "changes in beneficial interest." (such as the power to make gifts in excess of \$500, the power to transfer assets to trusts and the power to change beneficiary designations) An SGR is a completely separate document that needs to be signed at the same

time as the POA. Many people are unaware that an SGR exists, and some erroneously have executed an SGR years after executing the POA, rendering the SGR ineffective.

New York State law permits modifying the POA and SGR, and the key to properly drafted and protective documents are in the modifications added by an elder law or estate planning attorney.

A POA should be modified. The primary modification is adding the power to create, amend, revoke or terminate revocable or irrevocable trusts. This power becomes imperative where an elder law attorney seeks to protect the value of a client's home and other assets when planning for Medicaid. There are many other modifications that an elder law attorney will use.

It is important to reiterate that the single most common oversight is the failure to prepare an SGR. The most common oversights in preparing an SGR is the failure to add modifications allowing the agent to transfer assets in unlimited amounts and transfer assets to himself.

Both of the above modifications

enable the elder law attorney to implement many techniques that create Medicaid eligibility. If you lose your capacity and the SGR does not allow the agent to transfer your assets, the SGR is relatively useless. Moreover, since your agent is usually the person that would be the recipient of the transfer (such as a spouse or child), not permitting the agent to make transfers to himself might necessitate using another family member or non-relative to receive your assets.

The failure to recognize the necessity of a POA and SGR is common. Once you commit yourself to an estate plan, however, having a deficient POA and SGR is unacceptable. If you do not have a POA and SGR or have documents without the modifications outline above, please contact us.

*Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP in Rye and Yorktown Heights. He is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. Di Costanzo can be reached at 914-925-1010 or at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com). For more information, visit [www.plantodayfortomorrow.com](http://www.plantodayfortomorrow.com).*

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*continued from previous page*

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**LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:** The name of the Limited Liability Company is Palmyra Holdings LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the New York Secretary of State on February 19, 2019. The office of the Company is located in the County of Westchester,

State of New York. The New York Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process in any action or proceeding against it may be served, and the address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process in any action or proceeding against the Company served upon him or her is **110 Marquand Avenue, Bronxville, New York 10708. The purpose of the business is any lawful business.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,** the Putnam Valley Town Board will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm. to hear comments on a proposed local law to adopt the Natural Resources Inventory thereby enabling management

and use of natural resources for present and future residents. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the Putnam Valley Town Board will be conducting the regular work session Town Board Meeting. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD** Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 02-14-2019

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# Happenings

continued from page 20

Info: 914-251-6700.

**Art Series: Henry Ossawa Tanner.** Tanner was one of the first African-American artists to gain international acclaim during the 19th century. Tanner moved to Paris to study in 1891 and was hailed by French critics and artists as a tremendous talent. 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](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Creative Teen Hour: Earbud Holders.** Create cool earbud holders. All materials will be provided. For students 12 years old and up. Hosted by North Salem High School student Gabriella. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 7 p.m. Free. 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Aaron Berg.** Berg made his Comedy Central debut on "This is Not Happening" in 2016 and has made two appearances on AXS TV's "Live at Gotham" as well as an appearance on "Big Jay Oakerson's "WYFD?!" on Seeso. He will also be appearing in Comedy Central's Roast Battle Season 2 in 2017. Berg is also half of the weekly show "In Hot Water," which can only be viewed on [compoundmedia.com](http://compoundmedia.com). He is also an author and has two books out currently. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and advance tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughs.com](http://www.lucyslaughs.com). Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

## Thursday, Feb. 28

**Heart Health Fair.** Blood pressure screenings, discussions on nutrition and healthy food choices, managing stress, American Heart Association information and creating a realistic exercise plan. Includes giveaways and refreshments. Bethel Springvale Inn, 2042 Albany Post Rd., Croton-on-Hudson. 9 to 11 a.m. Free. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: 914-739-4404 ext. 2204.

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

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

Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Lifeline Theater Music Program.** An outlet for unlocking the potential of children and adults with special needs through integrated arts and life skills programs. Drop in anytime and join founder Billy Ayres as he uses singing, dancing, creating plays, artwork and gardening to help participants realize their strengths and potential contributions to their communities. Ayres has created a technique called improvisational integrated music/drama. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Visit [www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html](http://www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html).

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

**Pre-K Storytime With Craft.** Stories, songs and a take-home craft. For children three to five years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Read to Rover.** Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 5 to 6 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberal.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberal.org).

**"I Am Cuba."** Designed to be Cuba's answer to Eisenstein's propaganda masterpiece, "Battleship Potemkin" and Godard's "Breathless," this wildly chaotic 1964 celebration of Communist kitsch mixes Slavic solemnity with Latin sensuality. Its four stories explore the seductive, decadent and marvelously photogenic world of Batista's Cuba, deliriously juxtaposing images of rich Americans and bikini-clad beauties sipping cocktails poolside with scenes of ramshackle slums and the hungry people who live in them. Initially not seen in the

U.S. for decades and now newly restored, this film is one of the great discoveries in cinema. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 and 7 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**SAT Prep Class.** This eight-week class will combine the test-taking strategies taught at top test prep companies as a means to achieve your desired score. It will help students learn to strategize for each section of the SAT, focus on math and English to be prepared on test day and to gain confidence to help achieve your goals and set you on the right path. North Castle Public Library, 10 Clove Rd., North White Plains. 5 to 6 p.m. Free. Meets for eight consecutive Thursdays. Space limited; registration required. Info and registration: 914-948-6359 or at the library.

**Great Books Forum Series.** Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children" will be discussed. Led by Professor Elise Martucci. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail Professor James Werner at [james.werner@sunywcc.edu](mailto:james.werner@sunywcc.edu).

## Friday, Mar. 1

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

**Explore Osmo.** Children explore, learn, create and interact with digital games in a whole new way. For children in grades 3-5. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

## Opening Reception for "Strange Legacy: New Paintings By Janna Watson."

Watson is a young Canadian artist who has quickly made an impression on the contemporary art scene. Her abstract compositions and energetic brushstrokes possess an elegant and powerful vitality. A masterful colorist, Watson juxtaposes analogous colors against "difficult" and disharmonious hues resulting in a taut and carefully balanced abstract works. She creates energetic, often precarious tension with her deliberate and confident marks and the spontaneous drips and gestures that are artifacts of her intuitive process. Watson paints on birch panel, often letting the wood grain become another active element in her composition. Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 1947 Palmer Ave., Larchmont. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues

through Apr. 20. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointment. Info: 914-834-8077 or visit [www.kbfa.com](http://www.kbfa.com).

**It's Good to Be the King: Mel Brooks.** Film clips and a discussion with Philip Harwood. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Friday Night Film Series: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."** Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn and Sydney Poitier star in this 1967 classic film on race, family and communication when a young white woman brings home her African-American fiancée. 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](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

**Alan Parsons Live Project.** Parsons, an 11-time Grammy-nominated legendary music icon and sonic master of progressive rock, is known for concept albums (including adaptations of Poe and Asimov books) with a revolving cast of musicians. Released in 1982, "Eye in the Sky" was the Alan Parsons Project's greatest success. The title track landed high on the charts and the album went platinum. Parsons has been leading the way regarding technology, blending tech with art for his craft as a recording engineer and producer and performer. Compiling years of expertise into his book (and DVD set), "The Art & Science of Sound Recording," he has created a work unlike anything else available in the marketplace. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$58, \$78, \$88 and \$98. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.com](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.com).

## Saturday, Mar. 2

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** The Pleasantville Farmers Market is the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, voted "Best of Westchester" five years in a row (2014-2018). A delicious good time each Saturday. Pleasantville Middle School cafeteria, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Mar. 30. The outdoor market returns Apr. 6. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

**Totsaver Program.** A class that includes the pediatric component of the American Heart Association CPR for Family and Friends. Due to the physical demands of the class, pregnant women in their third trimester may wish to consult their

continued on page 26



# Luck of the Draw

SUNDAYS AND THURSDAYS IN MARCH



Receive 1 Free Scratch-off  
for your chance to win up to  
**\$25,000 CASH!**

**EMPIRE CITY**  
CASINO



Must be 18 years of age or older to play New York Lottery games or wager on horses. Please play responsibly.

# Happenings

*continued from page 24*

physician for advice on participation. A CPR handbook is mailed out upon registration. Hoch Center for Emergency Education, 755 N. Broadway, Suite 200, Sleep Hollow. 9 a.m. to noon. \$55. Info and registration: 914-366-3698.

**Chappaqua Farmers Market.** Locally-raised and produced food to the community creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also Mar. 16. Info: Visit [www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org](http://www.chappaquafarmersmarket.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 Whipoorwill Rd. East. Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Open Art Studio.** All supplies are provided to create your own artwork. For children four years old and up; with parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public

Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. First Saturday of every month. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberal.org](http://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](http://www.addie-tude.com). Call or visit website because classes are subject to change.

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

**Hoff-Barthelson Music School Master Class Series: Jerome Lowenthal.** Lowenthal, an American pianist, played the New York premiere of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the New York Philharmonic. He is a recipient of prizes in many international competitions and has appeared with major orchestras in the U.S., including Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Cleveland and Minnesota. He premiered contemporary works by Rochberg, Capanna, Reise and Rorem and performed in duo recitals with Denis Brott, Itzhak Perlman, Ronit

Amir and Ursula Oppens. Lowenthal, a Juilliard School faculty member, is a regular participant in international chamber music festivals and has made numerous recordings of concerto and chamber music repertoire. Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Free. Space limited; reservations strongly encouraged. Info: 914-723-1169 or visit [www.hbms.org](http://www.hbms.org). Registration: E-mail [hb@hbms.org](mailto:hb@hbms.org).

**VoiceScapes Audio Theater: An Afternoon of Comedy and Drama.** Get ready to laugh out loud and be transported through very funny, short comedies and interesting dramas. The short plays are original and contemporary, using the acting skills of our talented company, featuring the award-winning book narrator and actor Barbara Rosenblat. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Hungarian Fire.** Hungary's deep musical roots in folk tradition had widespread influence on composers throughout Europe. Purchase College's Recital Hall, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 5 p.m. \$35 to \$62.50. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance.** A full

buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda and cash bar and music featuring the Susan and Gerard Band. The event will honor Mary May, Hibernian of the Year, Friend of the Hibernians Siobhan Moore and this year's Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshals Peter and Paul Hughes. Canned food will be collected to donate to a local food pantry in remembrance of the Great Hunger in Ireland. Hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 16. American Legion Post, 1 Legion Way, Mount Kisco. 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. \$75 per person. Children (under 12): \$25. Reservations requested. Info and reservations: Contact Ed Reilly at 914-666-7555 or [ereilly322@gmail.com](mailto:ereilly322@gmail.com).

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Maureen Langan.** Langan is one of the smartest, most fearlessly funny comics working today. Her exceptional wit and honest rants on life's absurdities make her a comedy standout at clubs, theaters and festivals across the U.S. Canada and Europe. She was named one of the "Ten Standout Stand-ups Worth Watching" by Backstage Magazine. Whether Maureen is lambasting celebrities, satirizing news or joking about her father, a garbage man, and her mother, a blessed Irish immigrant, she will make you laugh – and she will make you think. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford

*continued on next page*

## SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER CitiMortgage, Inc., Plaintiff, -against-

Shawnequa Alleyne, as Administratrix and Heir to the Estate of Gloria D. Albert a/k/a Gloria Downs Albert a/k/a Gloria Albert a/k/a Gloria Elizabeth Downs Albert, Dominique Albert a/k/a Dominique T. Albert, as Heir to the Estate of Gloria D. Albert a/k/a Gloria Downs Albert a/k/a Gloria Albert a/k/a Gloria Elizabeth Downs Albert, Lamont Albert, as Heir to the Estate of Gloria D. Albert a/k/a Gloria Downs Albert a/k/a Gloria Albert a/k/a Gloria Elizabeth Downs Albert, Anton Albert, Jr., as Heir to the Estate of Gloria D. Albert a/k/a Gloria Downs Albert a/k/a Gloria Albert a/k/a Gloria Elizabeth Downs Albert, David Albert, as Heir to the Estate of Gloria D. Albert a/k/a Gloria Downs Albert a/k/a Gloria Albert a/k/a Gloria Elizabeth Downs Albert if living and if any be dead, any and all persons who are spouses, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienor, heirs, devisees, distributees, or successors in interest of such of the above as may be dead, and

their spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residences are unknown to Plaintiff, United States of America, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York State Tax Commission, Diane P. Servello, Freddy Albert,

**Defendants.**  
**Index No.: 59337/2018**  
**Filed: 2/8/2019**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS**  
Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated.

**TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service; or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally deliv-

ered to you within the State of New York; or within sixty (60) days if it is the United States of America. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

### NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$73,000.00 and interest, recorded in the office of the clerk of the County of Westchester on April 12, 1999 in Liber 25465, Page 318 covering premises known as 187 Church Street, White Plains, NY 10601.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

### NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed

this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

**YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.**

Dated: **Bay Shore, New York, February 5, 2019, Frenkel, Lambert, Weiss, Weisman & Gordon, LLP**

BY: **Linda P. Manfredi**  
**Attorneys for Plaintiff**  
**53 Gibson Street**  
**Bay Shore, New York 11706**  
**(631) 969-3100**  
**Our File No.: 01-088099-F00**

### Legal Notice



# What to Do When You Have an Unfinished Bottle of Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

"What can I do with an opened bottle of wine if I don't finish it?"

I am (very) frequently asked this question. We all have encountered this dilemma (some less often than others). The good news is that you have several viable, reliable choices.

First, a bit of background. Wine begins to change as soon as the cork is removed from the bottle. Many wines improve when exposed to air; the aromas and flavors that have been tightly confined since bottling are released when they come in contact with oxygen. But most do not; they begin to deteriorate quickly.

Wine, in its most elemental form, is a fruit derivative and is perishable. It's just a question of time before oxygen accomplishes its dastardly deeds – oxidation and spoilage. Generally speaking, red wines will last longer than white and sparkling wines, wines with higher acid and tannins will last longer

than softer wines and wines with higher alcohol will last longer than those with lower alcohol.

Preserving wine is a worthy endeavor. The longer you can forestall or slow down the oxidation process, the longer the wine will retain its freshness. Here are three things you can do with an open bottle of wine: ditch it, preserve it or recycle it.

**1. Ditch the wine.** Stop. Pouring it down the drain is the least palatable, even though it may seem like the most expeditious. I never recommend this course of action. Instead, tightly cork the unfinished bottle and place it in the refrigerator. Cold temperatures induce a wine coma, slowing oxidation. Take the bottle out about 20 minutes before consuming to reach the proper drinking temperature.

When faced with an unfinished bottle at a restaurant, do not leave it behind. Instead, take advantage of New York's "cork-and-carry" law and bring it home for a nightcap or for the next day's meal. Carry it home side by side with your food doggy bag and voila, you can repeat your entire dining experience at home the next day.

**2. Preserve it.** Remove the oxygen that resides in the empty portion of the bottle. There are several ways to accomplish this.

One is to transfer the wine into a smaller vessel – less area for oxygen to reside equals slower oxidation. An empty 375-ml, half-size wine bottle is ideal. Better yet, if you know you're not going to finish a bottle at a single sitting, decant a portion of the wine into the 375-ml bottle before, not after, you consume it. This method will preserve wine for up to a week.

A second is to utilize modern technology. Several gadgets on the market successfully remove oxygen from an open bottle. One is Vacu-Vin. It consists of a reusable rubber stopper and a pump; simply place the stopper in the bottle neck and work the pump until you feel resistance. You've created a vacuum seal. I've used it and can confirm it works. It sells for \$10 to \$12.

A more esoteric preserver is Private Reserve, an aerosol dispenser containing inert gases that replace the oxygen in the bottle. A few squirts into the bottle and presto, a layer of gas sits over the wine. Perfectly safe, this gadget lasts for 120 applications and costs about \$10.

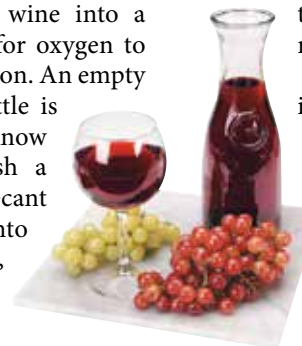
Beware of one thing: these wine

preservation methods all work and will enhance the life of your wine – generally for one to two days. Don't wait too long; the oxidation clock starts ticking as soon as the cork is removed.

**3. Recycle it.** Simply incorporate the wine into a favorite recipe as a marinade or use it to infuse rich flavors into sauces and soups. Wine can also be used as the base for a vinaigrette salad dressing. Let your imagination be your guide.

The next time you're tempted to force yourself to consume that last drop of wine in a bottle – stop. Cork it. There are many ways to enjoy that wine without compromising your first experience with it.

*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.*



You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine

## Happenings

continued from previous page

Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and advance tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughs.com](http://www.lucyslaughs.com). Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

### Sunday, Mar. 3

**Maple Sugaring Party.** The Greenburgh Nature Center continues its sweet tradition of maple sugaring. Featured events include sap collection demonstrations, depictions of Native American- and Colonial-style sugaring sites, porridge making, maple crafts and treats. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early registration (before Mar. 3): Members--\$5. Non-members--\$10. Day of event: Members--\$8. Non-members--\$15. Info and registration: Visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**The Happy Walk.** A short hike around the preserve to enjoy the beauty of the winter landscape. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

**Women, Power and Justice: The Road Ahead.** In commemoration of International Women's Day, the Westchester chapter of the United Nations Association will present this program featuring the amazing personal tale of Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, who was raised in Rwanda and

now represents her country as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. She is one of the many strong women in power bringing her once war-ravaged country back into the social fabric of the United Nations and the world. Followed by a special panel highlighting Westchester women blazing trails for justice and equality on a local level and a networking reception. Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave., Ossining. Registration at 1:30 p.m. Program at 2 p.m. Free Advance registration recommended. Info and registration: Visit [www.unawestchester.weebly.com](http://www.unawestchester.weebly.com).

**Adventures in the Neutral Ground: The Revolutionary War in Westchester County.** Westchester played a dramatic, sustained and crucial role in the Revolutionary War. The county was critically and strategically important throughout the eight years of the war. With photographs from historic sites throughout Westchester, this program offers a comprehensive view of the many people, places and events that shaped the war, and in turn, how the experience of war left its mark on the county and on American memory more broadly. Presented by Dr. Erik Weiselberg, principal historian for Revolutionary Westchester 250. Weiselberg holds a doctorate in U.S. history from the University of Oregon and has been a social studies teacher in Westchester for

nearly 20 years. Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Space limited; registration recommended: Info and registration: E-mail Karen Smith at [mail@briarcliffhistory.org](mailto:mail@briarcliffhistory.org). or contact Shelley Glick at 914-941-7072 or at [sglick@wlsmail.org](mailto:sglick@wlsmail.org).

**Opening Reception for "Modern Families: An Exhibition."** An exhibit that focuses the camera lens on the families we're given and the families we choose. Rarely exhibited group portraits by Harlem Renaissance photographer James Van Der Zee will be presented alongside contemporary photography that illuminates the diverse definitions of family in our community. Meet the exhibiting photographers including Tom Atwood, Gillian Laub, Barry Mason, Iaritz Menjivar, Ocean Morisset, Shayok Mukhopadhyay, Stefan Radtke, John Shearer, James Van Der Zee, Chris Verene and Sandra Wong Geroux. Light refreshments will be served. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through May 25. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 12 to 5 p.m. and Saturday 12 to 6 p.m. RSVP requested. Info: Visit [www.artswestchester.org](http://www.artswestchester.org). RSVP: E-mail [LHanley@ArtsWestchester.org](mailto:LHanley@ArtsWestchester.org).

**21+ Book Group.** "Wolf Hollow" by Lauren Wolk will be discussed. New members welcome. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Kathy at 914-769-9018.

**Chili Cook Off and Dinner.** Who makes the best chili in town? You be the judge. Everyone gets to vote. Beer and sangria available. Hot dogs for the kids. Competitors invited. St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. Contest starts at 4 p.m. Prize awarded at 5:15 p.m. Dinner immediately afterwards. Donation: \$15. Families: \$25. Info: Contact Drew McFadden at 917-798-6638 or e-mail [drewmcfadden@aol.com](mailto:drewmcfadden@aol.com)

### Monday, Mar. 4

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

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