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February 5 - February 11, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 596

## Greenstein Won't Seek Re-election as New Castle Supervisor

### Makowska Also Decides Against Running Again

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein announced Monday that he will not seek a fourth term this fall.

Greenstein, 51, a registered Democrat who ran and won three times for supervisor on the Republican line, said he knew following his 2017 victory that it would be his last race. He said he made a commitment to spend more time with family and he wants to focus on other obligations.

"We have done so much together. With the updated Comprehensive Plan, infrastructure and streetscape improvements and zoning changes that we are currently working on, we have positioned downtown Chappaqua and Millwood to grow and prosper," Greenstein said. "I am proud of what we accomplished at Chappaqua Crossing. I will admit that it

will be hard to walk away. I enjoy getting things done and I do feel like there's more to do."

Councilwoman Hala Makowska, who is in her fourth year on the Town Board after having served as fire commissioner with the Millwood Fire District, will also bow out at the end of 2019.

"I started a new career and it's time-consuming and I think there are lots of people ready to step up to the plate," Makowska said when reached Monday afternoon.

The announcements came as candidates must make earlier decisions on whether to run because of the election reform measures approved by the state legislature last month that pushed up the petitioning period and filing deadlines. Any primary would be scheduled for the fourth Tuesday in June to coincide with the federal election calendar.

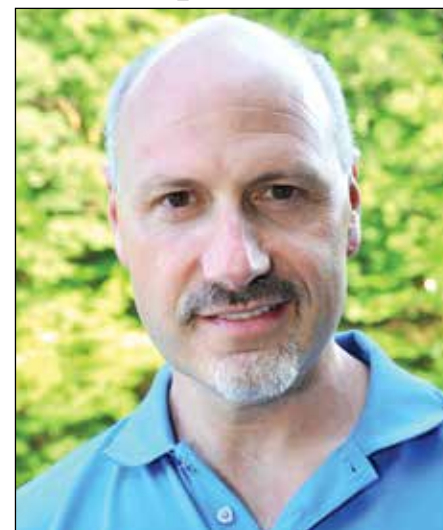
Greenstein said in addition to the progress made on larger issues under his leadership, he was also happy that he was able to vastly

improve communication with the public. He established an electronic newsletter that was e-mailed to residents who signed up for it and he has been a prolific contributor via social media.

"Projects come and go but we always needed local government that communicates and is responsive," Greenstein said. "That, I think, is a major role of local government and what I'm also proud of it. I hope I encouraged other people to run."

Although New Castle voter registration is overwhelmingly Democratic, in 2013 his Team New Castle ticket, which consisted of Councilwoman Lisa Katz and former councilman Adam Brodsky, broke the Democrats' stranglehold on the Town Board. Katz is also a registered Democrat while Brodsky was unaffiliated.

Town Republican Committee Co-chair Warren Gottlieb and a couple of Town Board colleagues who were reached Monday said they weren't surprised with his



New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein will call it quits after three terms.

decision.

Gottlieb said that Greenstein gave his all to the role and figured he would likely

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## Mount Kisco Abandons Two Proposed Locations for Cell Tower

By Sean Browne

Mount Kisco officials last week dropped from consideration the potential siting of a cell tower in one of two locations in the village after intense negative feedback from residents vehemently opposed to the plan.

Mayor Gina Picinich said at the start of the discussion at the Jan. 28 meeting that the Village Board wanted to "continue the conversation" about placing a cell tower on either Rolling Ridge Court or at Leonard Park. By the end of the discussion, the board scuttled the proposal.

Homeland Towers, a company that provides wireless infrastructure solutions to meet the needs of municipalities, communities and cellular carriers, talked to officials late last year regarding installation of a tower. Cellular service is weak in some

areas of Mount Kisco, an issue that still must be addressed, Picinich said.

"There is a need for more consistent cellular service in some of the southern areas of the village," Picinich said. "And we also need to set up the cellular infrastructure for our future because there is an intensification of use and an intensification of need."

The board had asked Homeland Towers to submit a report with the results of a balloon test it had conducted to help its members gauge the approximate height of the tower and what screening would be necessary.

Attorney Robert Gaudioso, representing Homeland Towers, said that the balloon test was completed at the two locations in December. At Leonard Park, the proposed

*continued on page 4*

## P'ville Proposes Local Law to Ban Marijuana Sales in Village

By Jade Perez

The Pleasantville Village Board proposed a local law last week that would ban the sale of marijuana and marijuana products should the state move forward with legalization.

As Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature move toward making recreational marijuana legal in New York this legislative session, strong opposition has surfaced in Pleasantville with the intent to protect children.

The board's proposal, unveiled at the Jan. 28 work session, was met with immediate praise from the public, including Pleasantville STRONG leader John Mueller, who said that is the response the community envisioned.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-

Alter added that the draft law is an excellent step forward.

"The exponential exposure to another vice to young kids is really hard," Fox-Alter said. "Between internet access, getting it in all kinds of devices, the vaping that they're seeing now, the normalization of lots of vices out there is a dangerous road to go down. And the (more) we can do to create protective factors for our kids, the better off it is. So I thank you for the proposed resolution."

While many who attended last week's discussion are in favor of a prohibition, some expressed concern. Resident Henry Leyva said if the state approves legalization of recreational marijuana and rejects the local law then it doesn't help the village.

"It does not. There is the risk of

*continued on page 2*

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# Greenstein Won't Seek Re-election as New Castle Supervisor

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leave at the end of this year. The committee has also made a commitment that it will continue to operate in a nonpartisan fashion and will look to field a full slate of strong candidates regardless of political affiliation.

"One of the things that Rob really did well was that he was extremely responsive and accessible," Gottlieb said. "That's a big deal."

Although Greenstein had a reputation

for abrasiveness, particularly early on in his board tenure, Councilwoman Ivy Pool, a Democrat who ran on the opposing ticket in a tough 2017 campaign, said in the 13 months she's been on the Town Board, Greenstein has been welcoming and has served as a mentor.

"Rob is somebody who brings incredible passion, he's worked very hard and he's been laser-focused on getting results for people in this town and I greatly admire that about

him," Pool said.

Councilman Jeremy Saland, the lone board member whose term is expiring this year and will run for re-election, said he was grateful to have served with Greenstein.

"I commend Rob for having the courage to stand tall for his convictions and make the sacrifices necessary to put the residents of New Castle first," he said. "I haven't always agreed with Rob but that is of little consequence when you work together and

roll up your sleeves to best figure out the path forward for your community."

Greenstein, a proponent of nonpartisan local elections, said he would only run for office again if he felt he could make a positive difference. He said has no intention to pursue the Board of Legislators seat being vacated at the end of this year by Michael Kaplowitz.

## P'ville Proposes Local Law to Ban Marijuana Sales in Village

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preemption," Mayor Peter Scherer confirmed. "But I certainly feel it's the logical step to take now."

The proposed law comes about a week after the Pleasantville Board of Education approved a resolution that opposes retail marijuana sales.

While the final form of any state legislation is unknown at this point, current drafts would allow counties and cities of at least 100,000 to opt out of allowing retail sales. However, smaller municipalities may not get that choice.

If the resolution were to get overridden, Leyva said the village should explore regulation through zoning, which would enable local officials to specify areas where dispensaries or commercial operations can function.

Although Pleasantville does have the right to zone where retail sales would be acceptable, the draft law states that the small size of the village's 1.8-square-mile commercial district would make it virtually impossible to keep it away from walking routes used by children, and schools and other locations populated by youngsters.

"Many communities say draw a 1,000-foot radius around schools, child-oriented facilities, churches, daycare centers, etc.," Scherer said. "By the time you draw all those circles there's not much left."

However, Scherer added that if Pleasantville is unable to opt out of retail sales, he would support pivoting toward zoning restrictions.

Jay LaCapria was one of the residents who questioned whether the board has a backup plan to mitigate marijuana's potential

harmful effects.

While there is no specific plan, Trustee Joseph Stargiotti said policing marijuana would be no different than alcohol.

Police Chief Eric Grutzner noted that the department expends a great deal of resources partnering with Pleasantville STRONG and local schools to educate children on illegal substances.

"This is something we take very seriously," Grutzner said. "We are committed to protecting the kids and making sure we are doing everything we can."

Scherer said he plans to attend a Feb. 11 state legislative meeting in Albany to lobby for municipalities to opt out of retail sales.

The village's draft resolution asks state lawmakers to make the legal age for purchase 25 years old rather than 21; requiring that purchasers display two forms

of identification with at least one containing a photo; barring the sale of marijuana that is edible or can be vaped since these forms are attractive to minors; requiring retail outlets be licensed by the state; requiring licenses to be subject to permanent revocation for a single violation and the offense to be a felony; and requiring that THC levels be limited, regularly tested and identified on child-safe packaging along with guidance on doses and risks.

Pleasantville's proposed local law also requests the state to reaffirm municipalities' right to regulate marijuana sales through zoning to minimize negative impacts on children, that review and debate include testimony from independent experts, and that the state legislation be removed from the governor's executive budget and be a stand-alone law.

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# New Castle Boards Approve Opening of Life Time at Chap Crossing

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle approved a revised Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) last Tuesday night without dissent that will enable Life Time health club and two other establishments to open at Chappaqua Crossing.

The Town Board voted unanimously while the Planning Board passed its resolution 3-0 following the conclusion of the public hearing. Both boards were satisfied that developer Summit/Greenfield's traffic plan during the anticipated three-month construction period will mitigate as much congestion as possible and ensure public safety.

Construction is scheduled to resume Feb. 15 and last until about May 17.

"We agree to the opening of Life Time fitness and Pet Value and Fidelity Investments," said the town's traffic consultant Lou Luglio. "We agree that it could be permitted to open without significant traffic impact beyond what would be there during construction, regardless."

Along with the 40,000-square-foot Life Time, Pet Valu will occupy 3,330 square feet and Fidelity Investments will utilize 5,250 square feet. Once the three additional businesses open, about 91,500 square feet of the eventual 120,000 square feet of retail space will be occupied at Chappaqua Crossing.

Life Time is scheduled to open this Friday at 5 a.m., the company announced last Thursday. It will be open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

No definitive dates have been announced for the other two businesses. Pet Value is expected to open shortly while Fidelity Investments is eyeing a March opening, according to Summit/Greenfield representatives.

Luglio, who evaluated the developer's construction and traffic plan during the past week, said there would be four phases of construction. Phase A would see construction from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during installation of new drainage and a retaining wall on the west side of Route 117 near the intersection of Roaring Brook Road, he said.

During that work, there would be a single lane open for traffic, with a flagger stationed before the construction zone along Route 117 at both the northern and southern ends, Luglio said. During that phase, the right turn lane from southbound Route 117 onto Roaring Brook Road will be closed.

The bulk of that phase is expected to occur during the weeks of Feb. 18 and Apr. 15 when the nearby Horace Greeley High School is not in session, said Luglio. There will be also be extended construction hours during those two weeks until 6



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

New Castle's town and planning boards granted Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield its revised Temporary Certificate of Occupancy allowing fitness center Life Time and two other businesses to open.

p.m., although New Castle police will have latitude to close construction early if the area becomes too congested, Luglio said.

During final repaving, projected for late April, the Phase A configuration will also be in effect.

Weekend work is scheduled on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Phase B will be similar to Phase A except that the right turn lane will be in service, Luglio said.

A Phase B(i) will see one 10-foot travel lane in each direction and the southbound turn lane open onto Roaring Brook Road.

Similar to Phase A, Phase C will also have only one lane open for northbound and southbound traffic and use flaggers but the work will shift to the east side of

Route 117.

David Walsh, asset manager for Summit/Greenfield, said the phases do not progress in a sequence from A to C, but differentiate the four types of traffic patterns depending on what work is being done.

Councilwoman Hala Makowska said she was concerned that with Route 117 being the primary route to Northern Westchester Hospital that emergency service vehicles could get stuck when there is a single lane in operation.

New Castle police Lt. James Carroll said with an officer stationed near the intersection and flaggers present, it should operate satisfactorily.

"It's something we deal with, not all the time, but we're familiar with it," Carroll said. "Once the flagger sees us, they're all trained to shut down the oncoming traffic and close it down both ways. They get us through."

A condition in the resolution for the revised TCO mandates that the applicant and emergency services representatives meet no later than Feb. 9 to review the traffic and construction scenarios.

Makowska also questioned about what would happen if there is critical failure of the intersection.

Luglio responded that for Whole Foods, which opened along with Chase Bank on Dec. 15, there was high anticipation for its debut. A fitness club such as Life Time is

*continued on page 6*

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# Mount Kisco Abandons Two Proposed Locations for Cell Tower

*continued from page 1*

tower would have been 130 feet tall, and 100 feet at the Rolling Ridge Court water tower.

Both locations would have needed an access drive and required the removal of 25 trees.

Guadiso tried to assure the board that a tower in either location would provide sufficient cell service for residents who live in Mount Kisco's southern portion regardless of their carrier.

But that assurance did little to change the minds of residents who voiced their displeasure about the proposals. John

Stockbridge, a resident who lives near the border of Marsh Sanctuary and the water tank where the Rolling Ridge Court tower was proposed, said he has enjoyed what the sanctuary offers. Stockbridge said placing a cell tower there would ruin the landscape.

"With a sanctuary like this is you are on trails, you are looking at nature and you are a part of the environment," Stockbridge said. "To have a cell tower in there very visibly doesn't make much sense to us. We are not trying to deny people coverage, we are trying to preserve a sanctuary."

Residents from the Mount Kisco Chase

Homeowners Association addressed the board with their objections to a cell tower at Leonard Park, which would be in close proximity to their houses. Louis Tarnomia, who lives at Mount Kisco Chase, characterized a cell tower at the park as a "misstep."

"No one wants to have an eyesore literally towering over them in their backyard," Tarnomia said. "I have heard from countless neighbors in the past month who are worried about their neighborhood being transformed and scarred by a 100-foot tower."

Residents also worried that a cell tower

would have a negative impact on their property values.

Michael Holden, another Mount Kisco Chase resident, was concerned that village residents wouldn't benefit from the tower.

"When I looked at the new materials it showed that 75 percent of the benefits of improved coverage goes to residents of New Castle and Bedford, not Mount Kisco," Holden said. "One hundred percent of cost goes to residents, homeowners and taxpayers of Mount Kisco with barely a quarter of the benefits. That is not a good trade in my opinion."

The board acknowledged that Holden's claim was accurate, something that was not mentioned by Homeland Towers in its report to the board.

In all, more than 10 residents addressed the board last week, all strongly averse to a cell tower.

The board agreed to short-circuit discussion and consideration about a cell tower at the two locations.

However, Picinich interrupted the crowd's cheers with a warning about the issue.

"We still have a problem and we don't have a solution to that problem," Picinich said. "I do not know how to resolve this problem at this time. Intensification of use is going to create less viability and we still need to find a solution to that."

## 15th Annual EagleFest Returns to Croton Point Park Feb. 9

As bald eagles descend upon the Lower Hudson Valley during their winter migration, come to the 15th annual Teatown Hudson River EagleFest this Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Croton Point Park.

Celebrate the return of this magnificent bird with live bird-of-prey shows, educators with viewing scopes observing wild eagles, children's activities, food trucks and more than 25 environmental organizations, all in heated tents.

EagleFest is organized by Teatown, a nonprofit environmental education center and nature preserve. The region's renowned bird-of-prey experts will present the

majority of the programming, with a lineup that includes raptors for up-close viewing, live flight demonstrations and talks and presentations.

Confirmed presenters include:

Bill Streeter, director of the Delaware Raptor Center, who has more than 30 years of experience as a raptor rehabilitator, falconer and educator. He will be joined by his bald eagle, Benson, and other birds of prey.

Brian Robinson, a master falconer who has been providing wildlife education programs for more than 25 years. His programs focus on the resiliency of birds

of prey and other wildlife across New York State, with an emphasis on the Hudson Valley.

James Eyring, assistant director of the Pace University Environmental Center for the past 35 years, is an environmental educator, master falconer and naturalist specializing in birds of prey.

Pre-sale tickets are \$22 (for ages 12 and up), \$13 for children (six to 11 years old) and free for children five and under. Tickets sold at the venue the day of the event are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. To purchase presale tickets, visit [www.teatown.org/eaglefest](http://www.teatown.org/eaglefest).

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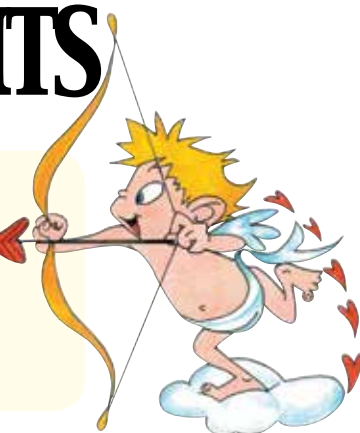
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# Man, Woman Indicted in Connection With Chappaqua Home Invasion

By Martin Wilbur

Two suspects who had been arrested for allegedly participating in an October Chappaqua home invasion were indicted on multiple felony charges Thursday in connection with the incident.

Mirabai Sheridan, 44, of the Bronx and 78-year-old Philip Budin of New York City were arraigned before Westchester County Court Judge Susan Caccace in White Plains.

The indictment alleges that on Oct.

24, 2018, at about 12:30 p.m., Sheridan and Budin spotted their potential victim at DeCicco's & Sons in Millwood and followed the woman to her Pond Hill Road home. Carrying a bouquet of flowers, Sheridan approached the door of the house and pushed her way in while armed with a gun.

Authorities said that she forced the victim to the floor and restrained her hands and wrists with plastic ties while stealing property from the house. Sheridan then fled in a car driven by Budin. Authorities did not elaborate what items were stolen from the house.

A child was also home at the time of the invasion, police said.

New Castle police and investigators from the Westchester County district attorney's office investigated the robbery. On Nov. 14, 2018, Sheridan and Budin were found in Mamaroneck following another potential victim from a supermarket. Police pulled them over and the pair was arrested. A gun was found in the car they were driving.

Both suspects were charged with first- and second-degree robbery, second-degree attempted robbery, fourth-degree conspiracy and criminal possession of a firearm, all felonies. An additional felony charge of tampering with physical evidence was also brought against Budin.

In addition, Sheridan faces two misdemeanor counts of attempted tampering with physical evidence and endangering the welfare of a child.

The suspects are due back in court on Feb. 6.



Mirabai Sheridan and Philip Budin are facing multiple felony charges related to the Chappaqua home invasion in October.

## New Castle Boards Approve Opening of Life Time at Chap Crossing

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membership based and will not generate the volumes of a supermarket, he said. Luglio estimated perhaps a 10 percent increase in traffic.

"There might be a couple of days where you might have some critical failure but for the most part it would just be a construction (site)," Luglio said.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said if patrons find they can't get to Life Time they will stay away until construction is over since the club offers monthly membership. Councilwoman Lisa Katz added that most of the peak times for the facility – early morning and after work in late afternoon – will not coincide with the construction

schedule.

After the vote, Summit/Greenfield President and CEO Felix Charney thanked town officials for their efforts. Charney said when difficulties arrive, he and his team will be responsive.

"I'm particularly grateful that you want to work with us, and with that in mind, something will go wrong," he said. "I hope I'm not back here before you until we have the (Certificate of Occupancy) because this is a lot of work, it's very stressful, it hard on the tenants, it's hard on everyone else. I'm very grateful for your cooperation."

Once construction is completed, Summit/Greenfield will apply for the Certificate of Occupancy.

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# New Castle to Study Opening Lower King St. to Two-Way Traffic

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are exploring the possibility of turning lower King Street into a two-way street as part of the town's effort to help revitalize downtown Chappaqua.

The Town Board told traffic consultant Lou Luglio of Saw Schwartz Engineering they would like him to conduct an analysis of the proposed change and whether it could improve downtown traffic circulation.

Board members said no decisions have been made, but with the anticipated completion of the downtown Chappaqua streetscape later this year that will bring other changes to the hamlet, there's an opportunity to examine the feasibility of two-way traffic on lower King Street. Other changes include installation of a traffic signal at South Greeley Avenue and King Street and elimination of the slip lane feeding traffic from South Greeley heading east onto King Street.

Lower King Street is the block from South Greeley Avenue to Allen Place.

"We're doing things that other towns are doing to revitalize the town," said Supervisor Robert Greenstein. "It's all part of a big scope. There are little teeny pegs in it but it's all part of the big thing. We're taking steps. Increasing the traffic



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Traffic consultant Lou Luglio will be studying whether lower King Street in Chappaqua can function as a two-way street.

flow downtown is one such step. All we're doing is studying right now."

There is the belief that during the evening rush hour from about 4 to 7 p.m. when Metro-North trains bring commuters home, shoppers avoid lower King Street. Once on lower King or Allen Place, a driver must continue past the train station and swing around the circle onto Woodburn Avenue, which is usually backed up after a train arrives.

It would allow motorists to park on Allen Place and then come out through lower King Street, avoiding the potential congestion. Drivers parked at the train

station could also have that option.

Councilman Jeremy Saland said he avoids visiting lower King Street during rush hour because he doesn't want to get stuck in traffic. If other residents are doing the same it could be hurting businesses.

"If I had access and could get in and out and not have to circle the entire train station, I would be a lot more inclined to park my car and go do something," Saland said.

Luglio said that in order to have two-way traffic there would need to be parallel parking rather than the currently angled spaces along the north side of lower King. Each travel lane would be 12 feet wide along with the eight-and-a-half-foot parking lane.

The loss of about 10 spaces on lower King Street would be offset by a change to perpendicular parking on Allen Place, Luglio said.

"We obviously can do it and you have the room to do it and between the two areas there is really no loss of parking spaces, although people would have to walk a little more," he said.

Two lower King Street merchants, however, were highly skeptical that the change would be an improvement for their businesses.

Vinny Milazzo, owner of Chappaqua Village Market, and Scattered Books owner Laura Schaefer said that a change to a two-way street has the potential to hurt their stores.

At Scattered Books, Schaefer said she hosts many children's parties and parents are not going to want to park on Allen Place to walk their young children into her business. Currently, many of her customers use the angled parking spaces, which have frequent turnover. Fewer spaces on lower King Street will likely mean customers won't stop, she said.

"I would rather have the 16 spots on the street than 25 around the corner because this plan will kill me," Schaefer said.

Milazzo told officials that he typically has about six to eight deliveries a day. At some point, trucks are likely to block traffic and there could also be a truck going in each direction around the turn where lower King meets Allen Place.

"I'm going to have more traffic in front of my store," Milazzo said. "They'll be in front of my store trying to get out."

Luglio said he will provide the town an estimate of how much the analysis will cost. The Town Board will likely schedule further discussions.

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# Obituary

## Joseph Hart

Our dad, Joseph V. Hart, 91, a Hawthorne resident for 60 years, passed away on Jan. 27.

Hart was born during the Great Depression in Manhattan (Yorkville) on Feb. 8, 1927. The son of Bella and Larry Hart, he was the second of four children – along with Willie, Theresa and Grace. He grew up in a musical family. His father made his first guitar by adding strings to a cigar box. He became a well-known jazz guitarist and toured with the Big Bands and got to play with some of his idols, including Dave McKenna and Bobby Hackett. During this time, he also wrote musical compositions, among them “People, Places and Things.”

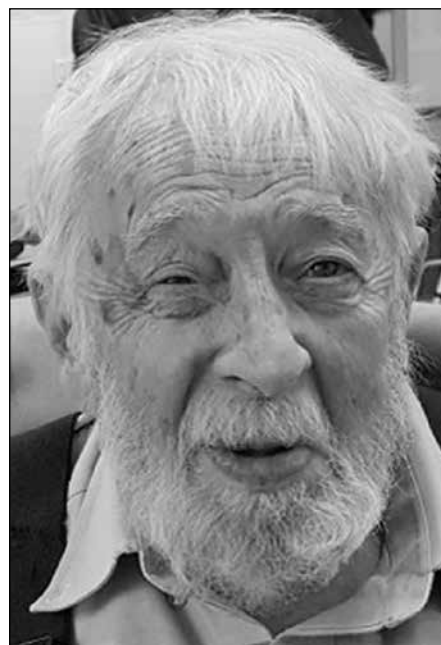
Hart attended Cardinal Hayes High School and served in World War II on Patrol Torpedo boats in the Pacific. He then joined the NYFD and volunteered to be one of the founding members of Squad 1. The squad was created to increase the number of rescues and reduce the number of multiple alarms in Harlem and the South Bronx. At one time, the squad responded to 400 to 500 fires a month, without air packs or protective gear, the busiest firehouse in the United States. Hart rose to become lieutenant and he, as all his comrades, rescued dozens and dozens of families and children who would have otherwise perished. This gave him great satisfaction, although he did not

believe he was exceptional in any way.

In 1953, he married his great love, Joan Greene. They purchased property in Hawthorne for \$600 and together, with his sister, mother and aunt, built their home with their own hands with the aid of the local milkman and handyman, John Groth. They remained there until their passing, raising five children – Eileen, Michael, Joseph, Christopher and Kathleen. He is also dearly loved by his grandchildren, Hudson, Katie, Spencer and Patrick.

In 1967, due to numerous injuries he received in the line of duty, Hart underwent spinal surgery. The orthopedist removed the wrong disc and fused it in the wrong direction. Dad became bedridden at age 38, with chronic pain, bilateral sciatic neuritis and arachnoiditis and retired from the fire department. He underwent subsequent spinal surgeries at New York Presbyterian but that did not provide relief. For over 40 years the Neurological Institute recommended that he be paralyzed from the waist down, as they felt that no modality would provide sufficient pain relief. He always declined the offer.

Fortunately, neither mom nor dad became bitter and angry due to what life dealt them. Mom was also disabled and bedridden for 10 years due to a medical error. She passed in 2006. Together they remained upbeat, optimistic, thankful,



Joseph Hart

joyful and hopeful, a great gift to all of us. Due to their strength of character, they both considered themselves blessed. How they chose to react to life taught us a great lesson and kept us sane and grateful.

Our dad was a great fellow. Nothing made him happier than helping others – bringing joy as a musician, working to defeat the enemy during World War II, saving lives as a firefighter and answering the call to help

strangers, neighbors, friends and family. It is no exaggeration to say that even as disabled he was at 91, he would have somehow risen and rendered assistance to anyone in need.

The wake was at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Feb. 1. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Feb. 2 at the Church of the Magdalene in Sleepy Hollow.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be happily accepted for the Joan Hart Memorial Scholarship at Westchester Community College, awarded to a student in need. The address is Westchester Community College Foundation, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla, N.Y. 10591.

Donations to the Lorraine Greene Lee Foundation would also be appreciated. Our cousin Lorraine died in the South Tower on 9/11. She had the opportunity to evacuate but stayed behind assisting others. The fund donates to children's charities that Lorraine supported. The address is Lorraine Greene Lee Memorial Foundation, 2 Blueberry Lane, Leonardo, N.J. 07737.

Also consider doing something our parents did their entire lives – help someone in need – with a smile, an encouraging word or by listening. Kindness and encouragement are in great need. It will make your day. Happy Days Magee! to dad and mom as they trip the light fantastic! We love them dearly – and now they are together again watching over us still.

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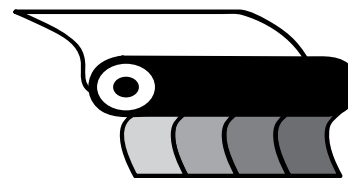
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# NWH's President and CEO Seligman to Step Down at Year's End

By Martin Wilbur

Joel Seligman, who has led Northern Westchester Hospital for nearly two decades, announced last week he is stepping down as its president and CEO at the end of the year.

Seligman, 66, stressed he is not retiring but wants to move onto a less stressful job. He plans to remain involved in the healthcare field, although that role won't be as an administrator.

"We're in a very good place with Northwell (Health) and our team is very stable," Seligman said last Friday. "We've gone through this transition process, and not that we're ever done with it, but we're done with so much of it. At some point there's got to be change. I've been here what will be 19 years and I'll do some other stuff."

The longtime hospital administrator, who spent about 17 years at Mount Sinai Hospital before coming to Northern Westchester, alerted the hospital's Board of Trustees of his decision on Jan. 24. Northwell Health, with a large pool of potential candidates to draw upon from its ranks, will take the lead in the search for a successor, Seligman said. The Northern Westchester Hospital board will likely appoint a committee to help narrow the field of applicants.

It is hoped that the new CEO will be hired and on the job before Seligman leaves.

"Ideally, we will have at least three, four months to work together and take this person around in the building and then outside the building," he said.

Seligman said that when he arrived at Northern Westchester he was given the challenge of taking a very good hospital and moving it forward. He said that challenge has been exciting and rewarding.

But the team at Northern Westchester also had to adjust its mindset as healthcare and the role of hospitals have evolved, he said.

"We need hospitals that have great critical care and take care of patients during the course of their years and provide the sophisticated hospital-based medicine and the surgery that takes care of really sick people," Seligman explained. "That's been the mission. That's the strategic plan, to continually become more sophisticated and get good at that stuff."

As an example of how that service has grown, in 2000, Seligman said there were two or three doctors overnight in the Emergency Room. Today, there is a full shift of ER doctors, two sets of



Joel Seligman

hospitalists and critical care specialists, an anesthesiologist and an obstetrician available 24 hours a day.

Northern Westchester, which is home to about 1,600 employees, including 400 nurses and 700 doctors with privileges, also continues its patient-centered vision of making the hospital a model experience, something it has long been

noted for.

Seligman noted he remains committed to the task at hand in 2019, with an ambitious agenda that includes improving patient and staff engagement, new facilities and programs and seeking a cardiac cath lab approval from the Department of Health.

"Northwell has been incredibly supportive of me in this role, and has in no way encouraged me to step down," he said. "But I am at an age where it's now or never to make one more career move, so it's now."

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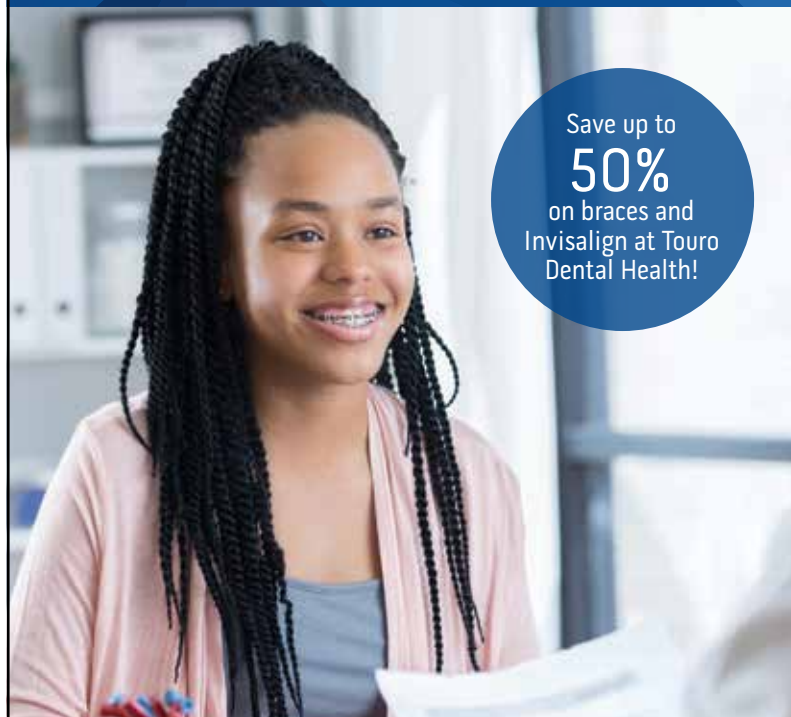
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# Police Blotter

## North Castle Police Department

**Jan. 25:** Report of an elderly man having sustained a fall in the parking lot at 99 Business Park Drive at 3:33 p.m. Armonk Fire Department Ambulance responded and transported the party to Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Jan. 26:** An officer on patrol reported that on Route 22 at 9 a.m. a vehicle bearing New York license plates was impounded due to an expired registration.

**Jan. 26:** Report of a disoriented 77-year-old man on Church Street at 10:56 p.m. The dispatching officer notified the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services for dispatch of Valhalla Ambulance and Paramedic.

**Jan. 28:** A complainant reported at 8:53 a.m. that there is a suspicious vehicle parked outside on Maryland Avenue. It has been parked there for three days and appears to have sustained damage. The responding officer reported that a

summons was issued.

**Jan. 28:** A party arrived at headquarters on Bedford Road at 11:38 a.m. to report that her vehicle had been hit and the operator of the other vehicle left the scene. A deposition was secured and the report was taken as a matter of record.

**Jan. 29:** An officer reported a missing No Left Turn sign on Church Street at 11:53 a.m. The state Department of Transportation was notified.

**Jan. 29:** The North Castle Highway Department turned in a set of keys to police at 4:01 p.m. that were found at Fox Ridge and Thornewood roads. An attempt was made to contact CVS because a CVS card was on the key ring but the company was unwilling to provide information or to contact the owner. The keys were logged into temporary evidence.

**Jan. 29:** Report of an incoherent and possibly intoxicated party on Whippoorwill Road at 4:28 p.m. An officer responded along with EMS. The party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**Jan. 30:** The village's DPW supervisor reported at 11:02 a.m. that for two days a 2006 Chevy Silverado with New York plates has been parked at meters on Manville Road and the meters have been found to have cardboard in the slot which have prompted them to display the "fail" notification. The responding officer reported that the cardboard appears to be consistent with a battery package inside the car. A summons was issued.

**Jan. 31:** A 54-year-old Mahopac man was arrested at 8:38 a.m. and charged with criminal mischief for recently rigging parking meters to display the "fail" notification.

**Jan. 31:** A caller reported at 9:58 a.m. that he is behind a black Toyota Highlander on Bedford Road that is being operated erratically. It is swerving and not stopping for red lights. An officer stopped the vehicle on Bedford Road and Ashland Avenue. The operator, a 57-year-old woman, was arrested and charged with DWI and transported to the hospital.

## Ex-Bedford School Bus Driver Gets Four Years for Sexually Abusing Child

A former Fox Lane Middle School bus driver was sentenced to four years in jail last week for sexually abusing a child.

Moscoso Arias, 23, of Brewster, had pleaded guilty in October to first-degree sexual abuse, a Class D violent felony for meeting a girl, who was 11 years old at the time, and fondling her inside his vehicle. He then sought to arrange another meeting with the child but was arrested.

In addition to his prison term, Arias was sentenced to 10 years post-release supervision and must register as a sex offender, according to the Westchester County district attorney's office.

Arias was arrested last May as he was going to meet the girl at the Shoppers Park parking lot in Mount Kisco. County police had staked out the parking lot after they notified the victim's family. Arias had sent the child text messages to arrange an encounter and showed up at the appointed time. However, Arias was met by police and arrested. The child was not present.

At the time of his arrest, Arias was a bus driver for the Bedford Central School District.

—Martin Wilbur

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## Editorial

### Prudent Municipalities Are Safeguarding Against Marijuana Sales

In the race to potentially join 10 states and the District of Columbia in legalizing recreational marijuana, New York State has thus far been delinquent in the most fundamental way.

Rolling out a major policy shift should always generate robust debate. Doing so with scant details is irresponsible.

It may be that legalizing recreational marijuana poses no additional public health or safety risks to minors or drivers or the public at large. Ultimately, it may be fairer to poor communities and communities of color. But in a country where it's a long and arduous process to get the next life-saving medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration, there is likely no one in Albany that can provide the necessary assurances right now.

That is why the rush to have this included in the 2019-20 state budget – something that should be separate legislation – is ludicrous by itself before you get into the legitimate debate on the issue. Are state officials really going to have answers to questions by the Apr. 1 deadline to pass the budget that can be brought forward for

public debate?

Just a handful of the concerns include:

What are safe levels of consumption?

Are there certain types of cannabis that are healthier or less harmful than others?

In states that have legalized recreational marijuana, has there been an uptick in driving under the influence that can be attributed to its use?

In states with legal marijuana, has there been a spike in use among minors and is there any correlation to minors using marijuana and a greater chance of becoming addicted to other substances?

And what is the logic behind allowing only counties and cities with populations of at least 100,000 the option to opt out?

That's just a start. Furthermore, a comment made by Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes should give policymakers pause. She told the Buffalo News last week that lawmakers are "only about 50 percent of where we need to be with the governor's proposal. A lot of conversations need to be had."

It is why three local communities that have started or are about to commence discussions on exploring regulations –

Pleasantville, North Castle and New Castle – should be commended for their actions. In fact, Pleasantville last week released draft legislation prohibiting marijuana sales, something that could likely be voided unless the opt out is expanded. Zoning would likely be the preferred route, but it provides a clear indication on the community's mindset.

Polls have shown strong support for legalizing recreational marijuana, by a roughly 2-1 margin statewide. That doesn't mean the state should approve it without completing its due diligence.

The apparent scramble to pass marijuana legalization is largely dictated by money and potential political gain, given the polls supporting legalization. In his State of the State address last month, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the state would reap \$300 million from the industry within three years.

If concerns of municipalities, school districts and others can be allayed by facts and quantifiable evidence, fine, then go for it and support legalization. Until then, it's not a risk worth taking.

### Parents: Store Medicine Properly to Avoid 'Candy Confusion'

Every year, about 60,000 young children in the U.S. end up in the emergency room after accidentally getting into medicines left within their reach. Medications and candy can often look, smell and taste alike — making it tough for kids to tell the difference between a gummi bear and a multivitamin, or an Altoid and an aspirin.

"It can be easy for young ones to mistake medicine left out on the counter for candy," said Dan Budnitz, director of the Medication Safety Program at the Centers for Disease Control and manager of its PROTECT Initiative. "With this in mind, it's important that parents and

guardians remember to safely store and keep medicines up and away, and out of sight and reach, from children."

Here are tips for parents and guardians to follow:

- As tempting as this can be, never refer to medicine as candy when giving to your child.
- Make sure all medicines are stored safely, up and away and out of sight. This includes at Grandma and Grandpa's house, too. Nearly one in five grandparents store their over-the-counter medicines and prescriptions in easy-to-access places. Remind grandparents and babysitters to take

the same precautions.

- Be prepared by saving the Poison Help number in your phone 800-222-1222 or text "POISON" to 797979 to save the information automatically.
  - Find more information and tips on safe medicine storage by visiting UpandAway.org.
- Keep your family safe and avoid "candy confusion" by always storing medicine out of sight and reach from young, curious kids.

*This article was reprinted by permission of statepoint.net.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank You to Everyone Who Donated to Operation Christmas Child

I am writing to thank Mount Kisco residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in Mount Kisco and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, collected more than 8.8 million shoeboxes in 2018. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2018, the ministry is now sending more than 10.6 million shoebox gifts to children suffering from poverty, natural disasters, war, disease and famine.

These simple gifts bring smiles to the faces of children around the world. Packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items, the gifts bring joy and are a tangible expression of God's love. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 157 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

It's not too late for people to make a difference. Though drop-off locations serving Mount Kisco shoebox packers are closed until November, anyone can still pack a personalized shoebox gift

online at [samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline). Information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found at [samaritanaspurse.org/volunteerwithOCC](http://samaritanaspurse.org/volunteerwithOCC).

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project; many do so year after year. These simple gifts send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

**Dana Williams**

**Media Relations Assistant Manager,  
Samaritan's Purse**



# Assembly Members Listen to State Budget Complaints at Hearing

By Martin Wilbur

The state Assembly's Westchester delegation heard a long list of requests last week for additional money and the restoration of funds for various initiatives from local officials throughout the county and representatives of organizations.

During a Jan. 31 budget hearing on the governor's executive budget at Greenburgh Town Hall, speakers raised a litany of issues, including the need for more money to improve state roads, greater equity in transportation and education funding and calls for the tax cap to be 2 percent or the regional Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is higher.

Mamaroneck Town Administrator Steve Altieri said Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposed budget that cuts Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding runs counter to limiting property taxes. Mamaroneck would lose about \$142,000 a year, money that would have to be recouped through property taxes or the elimination of services.

"Municipal services shape the quality of life in the community and are designed to provide for a safe and comfortable environment," Altieri said.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner said his town stands to lose more than \$400,000 in AIM, which represents a 1 percent tax increase.

But Feiner saved his sharpest comments

for the state's abandonment of maintenance of state roads. He called the condition of Route 9A "an embarrassment" and portions of Route 100 and Route 119 aren't much better. Feiner agreed with Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti's suggestion for the state to give local governments a fee to repave state roads in their jurisdiction because the Department of Transportation stopped improving most its thoroughfares about four years ago.

"Some of our roads are so bad that milling and repaving won't do the trick. The roads have to actually be rebuilt," Feiner said. "Greenburgh roads that are state owned are in such bad shape that it probably will be cost prohibitive to do all the repaving in one year."

He said he would support a state bond issue, which would probably be needed to address the spiraling cost of road repairs that are needed.

Another transportation related issue saw Naomi Klein, the county's director of planning, ask for a greater increase than the proposed 7.2 percent across-the-board hike for downstate non-MTA transportation systems.

Klein said the Bee-Line Bus System is the second largest transportation system in the state behind New York City, carrying 27.3 million riders a year. However, Nassau County receives about \$12 million more a year in aid than Westchester.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Members of Westchester County's state Assembly delegation listen to comments from a wide range of officials and representatives of various organizations during last week's hearing on the 2019-20 executive budget.

"This glaring disparity must be addressed and if we can ... it will reduce the burden of funding the bus system that currently falls to the taxpayers," Klein said.

Pat Puleo, a Briarcliff Manor resident and president of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers, urged legislators to change the tax cap to 2 percent or the rate of inflation under the CPI, whichever is higher, and to repeal the 60 percent supermajority approval requirement for exceeding the cap. Instead it should be a simple majority.

Puleo said she and her colleagues are also irked that charter schools operate under more lenient rules.

"We're handing them a lot of our

money," Puleo said. "Maybe it would be nice if we had accountability (from them). Maybe if they had to live by the same rules the rest of us do - transparency and accountability."

Meanwhile, Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association Executive Director Lisa Davis also called for the same change to the tax cap formula because school districts and municipalities need to be certain what their revenues are going to be over the long term.

She said the current limits are unsustainable, particularly when the regional CPI was 0.12 percent a few years ago. That year seven of the association's districts had a negative cap.

Davis also said while the proposed increase in foundation aid in the 2019-20 executive budget may be 3 percent statewide, it is inadequate that the Westchester-Putnam region is scheduled to see just another 0.25 percent.

"This will really affect our programs and services and we do see an increase in diversity within our populations and we need to be able to address their issues," Davis said.

A similar hearing will be held by Westchester's state senators this Friday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library, located at 300 Tarrytown Rd. in Elmsford.

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# HQ Trivia Host Surprises Biggest Fan at Arc Westchester

By Jade Perez

As the host of HQ Trivia, the live trivia app and game, Scott Rogowsky is always on the go. However, Rogowsky was able to make time for one of his biggest fans.

At Arc Westchester's office in Hawthorne, the Harrison native made a surprise visit to program participant Samantha Makris last Friday afternoon.

Makris' initial reaction was pure excitement.

"This is an awesome, perfect day," she said.

In the hour that followed, Rogowsky presented Makris with a watch set, mug, baseball card, HQ stickers, t-shirts and a pair of socks to match his outlandish purple suit with colorful geometric shapes all over.

The two first met on Twitter, where Makris befriended Rogowsky. Since then, they have been messaging each other back and forth.

While Rogowsky, who is also a comedian, has a following of nearly 151,000 users and receives thousands of messages from fans, he was immediately drawn to Makris' impressive story.

Makris, 32, was born with cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus, in which fluid accumulates in the brain. As a result, she has undergone 42 brain surgeries, said her father, Peter Makris.



JADE PEREZ PHOTOS

Left to right, Peter Makris, Samantha Makris' father, Arc Westchester Executive Director/CEO Tibi Guzman, HQ Trivia Host Scott Rogowsky and Samantha Makris meet at Arc's offices last week. Makris, who has cerebral palsy, had reached out to Rogowsky via Twitter.

Makris currently lives in an Arc Westchester group home. According to Executive Director and CEO, Tibi Guzman, the organization focuses on empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and serves more than 2,000 children, teens and adults throughout the country.

Despite the adversity, Makris continues to persevere and inspire others like Rogowsky. She serves as the Arc's ambassador for the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley. One of its notable fundraising efforts is its Pull Tab Collection Program, which aims to gather tabs from aluminum cans and bring them to a local recycling



Samantha Makris and HQ Trivia Host Scott Rogowsky share a laugh during his visit to Arc Westchester in Hawthorne last Friday.

center, where they are melted and exchanged for money. These funds help toward the Ronald McDonald House's expenses.

Reaching out to individuals with special needs and challenges isn't new for Rogowsky. When he was a teenager he worked at a camp in Scarsdale and dealt with children with ADHD and autism. Rogowsky also as a longtime friend who has Williams syndrome, a condition that affects many parts of

the body and can include learning and intellectual disabilities.

"The work that she does with Arc and Ronald McDonald is a wonderful thing. I actually got the office at HQ to help chip in with some tabs," Rogowsky said of Makris. "I have some history with people with disabilities and knowing these types of kids, the families and what goes into it, it's beautiful."



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## A Winter Garden: Mind, Body and a Pile of Wood Chips

Before I moved to a maintenance-free condominium complex, my favorite duty as a homeowner was my garden work. Now, the staff plants and prunes my building's surrounding flora impeccably. Sometimes I have to restrain myself from asking the outside staff to let me help out.

When I did my own gardening, my wife loved to tell friends that all I needed to be happy was a big pile of wood chips. It's true. And what really made me happy, besides all the benefits wood chips bring to the garden, was the built-in physical fitness program it guaranteed by doing something practical, as opposed to 30 minutes of monotony on the NordicTrack.

As I tackled a truckload of wood chips, I was benefitting from both aerobic and anaerobic exercise. While the activity was not calculated on my diet and exercise iPhone app, I figured that it was at least as demanding as carrying wood or shoveling snow, which would burn about 350 calories for 30 minutes of activity. But I frequently lasted for a full hour of steady work, until I was sweating and feeling the burn.

And it was a total body workout. There was stretching when spearing my pitchfork into the pile, bending my knees to take the pressure of the weight off my back, lifting with my arms to

transfer the chips to my wheelbarrow, heavy duty weight pushing when I wended my way to the spot where the chips were to be deposited and more stretching and pulling as I adjusted the surface of the chips with a rake at their final destination.

What's great about this exercise plan was that there were no club fees involved. The chips are free, either from your municipality's environmental or recycling department or from a tree service provider with whom you're friendly.

Chips should be dumped where the pile won't be an eyesore to your neighbors. For many years I had dropped them between the far side of my garage and a tall stockade fence at my property line, but I always tried to spread them as quickly as I could to make sure it's not a blight on the property.

Once delivered, some people get alarmed when the chip pile starts to smoke a bit from the heat generated by decomposition, but it will never get hot enough for combustion. Another fear is that a layer of chips depletes the soil below of nitrogen, but that applies only to the uppermost layer, which actually helps retard weed growth. It's not enough to harm the plantings it surrounds.

Through the years, I found a number of uses for chips, but primarily they are for creating an insulating layer of natural material three to six inches deep around ornamental trees and, with less thickness, over my perennials and where I did my summer annual plantings. I should note that one year I was too generous with the chips and my perennials, the Black-eyed Susan, couldn't make it through the thick layer to bloom for a full summer. However, they came back the next summer when I reduced the thickness of chips.

Hostas and daylilies can leave rather ugly remains when they die down. I cut those to the ground, covered the clipped leaves and stems with chips and smoothed out the surface with a metal rake, which I always used rather than plastic because of its greater flexibility.

Besides the joy that a good pile of wood chips can provide for mind and body, there are so many aesthetic and practical benefits to using them for mulch. They include:

- Less labor in terms of weeding and time spent watering;
- Reduced need for chemical weed

killers or herbicides;

- Stimulated growth in that mulched trees grow faster;
- Reduced soil compaction;
- Nourishment of soil by adding nutrients through decomposition; and
- Increased earthworm population, which allows for better aeration.

Simply in terms of aesthetics, the annual use of chips helped me to sculpt my planting groupings at a high elevation, and the color of the chips blended more naturally into the informal garden.

My mind and body would always feel in full harmony with my garden's good looks by the time frost set in. Then, I returned to my NordicTrack until spring beckoned me to my planting schedule, my real outside workout. I miss it.

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 engage the real estate and promotional services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

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The Weekly Feature from Entergy

P’ville Business Reduces the Burden of Bringing a House Up to Code

By Martin Wilbur

Making sure your house adheres to current building codes can be a daunting experience, not to mention an expense that can often run into thousands of dollars.

But if you want to sell your home and get the work that needs to be done completed correctly, a year-old Pleasantville-based family business can help you accomplish that goal.

Brothers Timothy and Michael Lener, and Timothy’s wife JoAnn, are the partners of Get My C.O. They do all of the legwork to make sure hundreds of items that are in the code are followed. Once they know what needs to be updated, they can put the client in contact with their list of reputable contractors that undertake the required work rather than having a homeowner with little or no expertise search on their own.

“It’s super important to do the detective work and know each code

and know what the best path is for the client to get through this mindboggling process that it is,” said Timothy Lener, an architect that has worked in the area for 30 years and knows most of the building inspectors in Westchester.

“Sometimes we can resolve them within a couple of weeks, a few weeks,” he added. “Sometimes, however, it takes months because the (building) departments take a long time to process the paperwork and the permit and some clients may not be as motivated as others in getting some of the work done.”

Managing partner Michael Lener, who spent most of his career in retail before launching Get My C.O. with his brother and sister-in-law, estimated that about 90 percent of their clientele have been homeowners who are listing their house.

The familiarity that Timothy has with the code and building departments throughout the county allows them to evaluate and, if necessary, get the jump



Get My C.O. Managing Partner Michael Lener, left, with his brother Timothy Lener, an architect and Timothy’s wife JoAnn.

on any work that needs to be done before inspectors arrive, he said. It’s beneficial for clients to contact them who have just decided to put their house on the market.

“When they see our plan, they’re going to approve it,” Michael Lener said of building department personnel. “We’re going to give them more than what’s required, and when they come in (to inspect), everything is going to be up to code.”

In just over a year since the Leners launched Get My C.O., the most common safety issues they’ve encountered are bringing basements up to code by having enough light and ventilation, electrical upgrades and that handrails on steps are safe. Work related to energy efficiency

and insulation are also high on the list.

Then there is the requirement for carbon and smoke detectors on each floor and a smoke detector in every bedroom. Timothy Lener said all inspectors look for the detectors because they save lives.

In the last 35 years, the book containing the code has probably tripled in size, he said, making the need to retain a professional critically important. Many homeowners are surprised just how extensive building codes have become.

“They just don’t understand what they’re going to come across because codes have existed in New York State for almost 100 years now,” Timothy said.

There are instances when the plans of a house don’t match what’s on file with the municipality and the Leners are called to legalize the house. Very often a previous owner added a room and the larger area was never recorded in the files. They do all the detective work to prove that the house’s current occupant wasn’t responsible for the illicit construction.

Get My C.O. specializes in single- and two-family houses throughout Westchester. For anyone interested in exploring how Get My C.O. can help, the Leners will provide a free 30-minute initial consultation. For more information, call 914-727-0980, visit [www.getmyco.com](http://www.getmyco.com) or e-mail [copro.getmycol@gmail.com](mailto:copro.getmycol@gmail.com).

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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 5

**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 library.org](http://www.mountkisco library.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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastle library.org](http://www.northcastle library.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 library.org](http://www.mountkisco library.org).

**DIY Mailbox.** It's Thank a Mail Carrier Day. Make your own mailbox out of oatmeal containers and other materials. Bring an empty and clean oatmeal container (cylindrical) to the program if you can. For children six to 12 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E.

Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

**Winterscapes.** The first of six floral workshops held by Westmoreland Sanctuary throughout 2019 a series of highly successful Floral Workshop events. Each of the events will feature an informal evening of enjoyment, enrichment and hands-on involvement with discussions over wine and appetizers. Participating guests will create and customize their own arrangements with seasonal flowers provided to proudly take home for display. Westmoreland Sanctuary's Nature Center, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 7 p.m. \$25. Advance registration suggested. Info and registration: 914-666-8448 or visit [www.WestmorelandSanctuary.org](http://www.WestmorelandSanctuary.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. 6**

**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 (except Feb. 18 and 20). 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 (except Feb. 18, 20 and 22). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.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, HEAR, 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.

*continued on next page*

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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

**February Finds.** February is named after the Latin word februum, which means purification because it was a time for purification. In Finnish the month is called helmikuu, meaning the month of the pearl due to snow melting and refreezing on tree branches and looking like pearls of ice. Perhaps you will find a few pearls amongst this week's quiz words.

1. solitudinarian (n.)

A) slow movement of soil

B) a recluse

C) concern

2. connive (v.)

A) to form intrigues

B) bruise badly

C) come together

3. parious (adj.)

A) fraught with danger

B) narrow-minded

C) effective

4. tellurian (n.)

A) a high place

B) an upheaval

C) an earthling

5. adamantine (adj.)

A) adjustable

B) very serious

C) unbreakable

6. natation (n.)

A) a federation of peoples

B) the act of swimming

C) temperament

7. pertinacious (adj.)

A) stubbornly unyielding

B) relevant to the situation

C) combative

8. explicate (v.)

A) to hint at

B) investigate

C) explain

1. B. One leading a solitary or secluded life;

2. A. To form intrigues in an underhanded manner;

3. A. Fraught with danger; perilous

4. C. An inhabitant of earth; a terrestrial; an earthling

5. C. Unbreakable

6. B. The act or art of swimming or floating on water

7. A. Stubbornly unyielding; tenacious; persistent

8. C. To analyze and develop (an idea or principle) in detail; explain



# The Causes of Sciatica and What You Can Do About It

Sciatica is a very common symptom of injuries that brings patients into my physical therapy clinic. Sciatica is aggravation of the sciatic nerve, resulting in radiating pain from the low back, into the buttock and down the back of the leg.

This symptom can be caused by numerous conditions. I will review a few of the most common injuries that I see on a daily basis: bulging or herniated discs, spinal stenosis and piriformis syndrome.

The first common cause of sciatica is bulging and herniated discs. The spinal column is an alternating sequence of a solid bone (vertebra) and a softer disc. This alternating pattern allows for the spine to bend, straighten and rotate. The sciatic nerve is composed of nerve roots from five different levels in the spine, which means that compression at any of those levels can cause sciatica symptoms.

Bulging discs and herniated discs are very similar in the sense that a herniated disc is a more severe version of a bulging disc. A bulging disc occurs when the soft material inside a disc is pushed backward and compresses one or more nerves



By Dr. James H.  
Cassell IV

near where they connect to the spinal cord. The nerves that are compressed become aggravated and can give the patient pain sensations at any point along the nerve. Symptoms may include shooting, tingling, numbness or aching.

A herniated disc also compresses on the nerves in the low back, though the soft material within the disc tears through the more supportive outer layer rather than merely expanding it, as with a bulge. These symptoms are typically worsened when leaning forward or sitting because it pushes the disc material backward even more, increasing nerve root compression.

Another injury that frequently causes sciatica in my patients is spinal stenosis. Spinal stenosis occurs when the nerve root is compressed by bone as it leaves the spinal column. The nerves travel through a hole between the vertebra above and below it called a foramen. These foramina can become smaller, either from bone buildup, generally due to chronic overuse or injury, or due to the discs gradually wearing away and losing their height.

Symptoms are similar to a disc issue, as nerve roots are still being compressed; however, spinal stenosis tends to be aggravated with standing and leaning backward, as this closes the foramen space even further. Patients with spinal stenosis tend to report reduction in their symptoms when leaning forward, as this increases foramen space and reduces nerve compression.

Then there is piriformis syndrome. The piriformis muscle is a fan-shaped muscle that runs horizontally from the sacrum (the base of the spine) to the top of the femur (the leg bone). It runs deep to the gluteal muscles. The piriformis can cause sciatica because the sciatic nerve runs just underneath the piriformis muscle directly through the piriformis, or the piriformis muscle can sometimes split the sciatic nerve. If the piriformis becomes aggravated, it can compress on the sciatic nerve.

The piriformis muscle is an external rotator of the hip and a hip stabilizer and it works in conjunction with the gluteal muscles. If a patient has weak gluteal muscles, the piriformis may become overused and spastic or tight, causing

sciatic nerve irritation. This can be differentiated from the aforementioned injuries because piriformis syndrome doesn't typically change with low back movements.

All three of these injuries can be treated conservatively with physical therapy, chiropractic and massage therapy. With disc bulges and herniations and spinal stenosis, treatment would focus on stretching and massaging any tight muscles while strengthening the stabilizing muscles around the spine. Patients may also perform repetitive movements to try to push disc material into the correct location or to open the foramen further.

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Finally, piriformis syndrome is treated by stretching and massaging the piriformis and gluteal muscles,

while also strengthening the latter to reduce pressure on the piriformis.

*Dr. James Cassell is a physical therapist at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic in Armonk. For more information, Cassell can be reached at 914-202-0700 or at james.proclinix@gmail.com. You may also visit www.ProClinix.com.*

## Happenings

*continued from previous page*

**Preschool Storytime.** This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Feb. 18, 20 and 22). 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).

**Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break.** Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except Feb. 20). 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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except Feb. 20). Info: 914-273-3887.

**Mind Games.** A way for seniors to stimulate various cognitive functions memory, problem-solving and focus. If you are having trouble remembering things or feel that you are easily confused, come join the fun. Phelps Hospital Boardroom, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail [ewoods3@northwell.edu](mailto:ewoods3@northwell.edu).

**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.

**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 Whippoorwill 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. Info: 914-864-8041 or [www.mountkisco.org](http://www.mountkisco.org).

**Never Too Young to Start Assessing Your Cancer Risk.** A panel discussion on how family history and certain risk factors can increase your chances of getting cancer at an earlier age, along with alarm signs and symptoms to look out for and how to be properly screened. Phelps Hospital Auditorium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3470, e-mail [ewoods3@northwell.edu](mailto:ewoods3@northwell.edu) or visit [www.nevertoyoung.eventbrite.com](http://www.nevertoyoung.eventbrite.com).

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

**Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group.** Northern Westchester Hospital at Chappaqua Crossing, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Typically meets the first Wednesday of every month. Registration

required. Info and registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Art Series: Charles White.** Featured at Museum of Modern Art this winter, White's career over four decades has emphasized his commitment to creating powerful images of African Americans – what his gallerist and, later, White himself described as “images of dignity.” Using his virtuoso skills as a draftsman, printmaker and painter, White developed his style and approach over time to address shifting concerns and new audiences. 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).

### Thursday, Feb. 7

**Pleasantville Garden Club Meeting.** This month's program will feature Chris DalCeredo, an orthopedic program director at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains. He will demonstrate techniques that can help in your day-to-day gardening activities. DalCeredo will also talk about strategies for use of muscles and joints and even how pacing oneself can improve activities of daily living that can help you enjoy your gardening chores. All welcome. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church's social hall, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Membership meeting at 9:15

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**WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES** is currently looking to fill several open Medical Assistant positions across our practices. A Practice Medical Assistant will perform a variety of clinical office duties under the physician/

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EATON TAX SERVICE LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on 01/02/2019. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Eaton Tax Service LLC, 142 Mt Joy Pl, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**The name of the LLC is Goodbear Holdings LLC.** The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 20, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is **c/o 25 Bank St. Apt 214K, White Plains, New York 10606.**

**The name of the LLC is Goodbear Property LLC.** The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 20, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall

mail a copy of any process against the LLC is **c/o 25 Bank St. Apt 214K, White Plains, New York 10606.**

**DB PRINTING & PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS LLC**, Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY 9/26/2018. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC: **United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**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 SALE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER. CONQUISTADOR JY L.P., Pltf v. F & B FUEL OIL CO., INC. et al., Defts. Index No. 64165/2017.** pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated November 26, 2018 and entered on January 15, 2019, I will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, White Plains, New York 10601, on February 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., prem. k/a 12 a/k/a 10 Ludlow Street, Yonkers, N.Y. 10705 (Section 1, Block 161, Lot 9) Approx. amt of judgment is \$427,401.90 plus costs, attorneys' fees and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Barbara Lerman, Esq., Referee. JACOBOWITZ NEWMAN TVERSKY, LLP, Attys. for Plaintiff, 377 Pearsall Ave., Ste C, Cedarhurst, NY.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A LICENSE, NUMBER 1314249** for beer, wine, and cider has been applied for by Italiacorp LLC DBA The Pizza Shop to sell beer, wine, and cider at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at The Pizza Shop, 9 Mill Road, Eastchester New York, 10709, for on premises consumption. **Italiacorp LLC DBA The Pizza Shop**

**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.**



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# Girls' Night Out to Celebrate Heart Disease Survivors

The Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth)'s Girls' Night Out, a fun, invigorating evening celebrating women's triumphs over heart disease, will be held at the Doral Arrowwood Hotel and Conference Center in Rye Brook this Friday, Feb. 8.

Benefiting the WMCHHealth Heart and Vascular Institute, the highly-anticipated event will feature a delectable dinner and opportunities to purchase or win a variety of fashion, beauty and entertainment items and more.

Storytelling will be the evening's highlight as women cared for at Westchester Medical Center and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital share their dramatic and heartwarming stories of triumph over cardiac disease.

One of the many compelling stories is that of four-year-old Orianna, of Pearl River, Rockland County. Orianna was born with a congenital heart defect and underwent pediatric cardiothoracic surgery at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, using a one-of-a-kind, less invasive technique performed only by surgeon Dr. Khahn Nguyen at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

She was home with her family two days after surgery and is now a fun, vibrant "girly girl" who loves to dance and play dress up.

Other patients who will be featured include Esther, a 30-year-old mother from Merrick, N.Y. who was diagnosed with a condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and required a heart transplant last year; Irene,

a retired kindergarten aide from Newburgh who experienced trouble

breathing and was diagnosed with an electrical malfunction in her heart; Troy, a child life instructor from Harlem who suffered a stroke a few months ago; and Yvonne, a resident of Trumbull, Conn., who experienced a heart attack while doing yard work one weekend and woke up three weeks later in Westchester Medical Center's intensive care unit.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the WMCHHealth Heart & Vascular Institute, which is home to the Hudson Valley's most comprehensive cardiac care program. The institute offers a wide range of cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and vascular surgery

services to patients of all ages.

Girls' Night Out will be emceed by award-winning WCBS-TV news anchor Mary Calvi, who recently released a new book, "Dear George, Dear Mary."

To purchase tickets or to learn more about the event, call Jenna Macca at 914-493-5414 or visit [www.westchestermedicalcenter.com/GNO](http://www.westchestermedicalcenter.com/GNO).

Also, visit [facebook.com/WestchesterMed](https://facebook.com/WestchesterMed) for a sneak peek at the stories of the amazing women who will be honored.

Four-year-old Orianna, one of five heart disease survivors who will be recognized during this Friday evening's Girls' Night Out.



TERESA HORGAN PHOTO

## County Residents Asked to Participate in Health Survey

The Westchester County Department of Health and local hospitals have teamed up to launch a survey that asks county residents 18 and older to assess their own health as well as the health of their community.

Available in English and Spanish online and on paper from now through March, the anonymous survey seeks to identify the top-priority health issues for Westchester residents and their community, the most needed services and the largest obstacles that prevent access to care.

"Your participation can help shape the ways that the Health Department and

hospitals serve our communities," said County Commission of Health Dr. Sherlita Amler. "Community priorities change and the results of this survey will help us adapt to meet those changing needs."

The survey will be distributed to a diverse range of community groups and will be available in local libraries, hospitals, clinics and county offices. In late March, the county Health Department and local hospitals will meet with health and human services providers to elicit their input.

The survey results will be used by the county Health Department and local hospitals to help drive their community

service agenda for the next three years. Known as a Community Health Needs Assessment, the survey is required by the state Health Department and is an element in the Community Health Improvement Plan, which all local health departments must develop. The state requires that two priorities be selected, one of which must focus on health inequities.

If you're a Westchester resident, you can take the survey by visiting [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019WCHealthSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019WCHealthSurvey).

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**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.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday February 11, 2019 at 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY, at 8:00pm to accept comments on the Manville Road Corridor Improvement Project and Memorial Plaza Civic Space Project. Information about the projects is available on the Village's website [www.pleasantville-ny.gov](http://www.pleasantville-ny.gov). **Noreen Regan Deputy Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville**

**NOTICE 2/2019** Please be advised that the next meeting of the Putnam Valley Planning Board will be held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday February 11, 2019 for the purpose of considering the following applications: Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm **AGENDA SKETCH 1. Homeland Towers, LLC-** 265-273 Oscawana Lake Road (TM# 72.16-1-23/File: 2018-0186) The

subject property consists of + 12.1 acres of land and is located on 265-273 Oscawana Lake Road and within the CN Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to lease an area of the parcel in order to construct a 160 foot monopole with antennas, together with related equipment within a fenced compound. **2. Orentreich, David, 855 Route 301 (TM#39.-1-9/File 2019-0189)** The subject property consists of + 73.94 acres of land and is located on 855 Route 301 and within the PC Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 2,200 sq.ft. improvement to be utilized for equipment storage. Amended Site Plan approval and Major Grading Permit are required. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** 3. Approve Minutes of January 14, 2019

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# Happenings

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a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org](http://www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org).

**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 (except Feb. 19 and 21). Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except Feb. 18). Info: 914-273-3887.

**Bagels & Books.** "Fates and Furies" by Lauren Groff will be discussed. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 10:30 a.m. Free. Continues the first Thursday of each month through March. 914-669-5161 or [www.keelerlibrary.org](http://www.keelerlibrary.org).

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday (except Feb. 19 and 21). 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).

**Skin Creams Workshop.** Learn how to make your own coconut lotions for day and night. Great for yourself or as a gift. Completely natural. Each participant will have two skin creams to take home. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Sign up at the reference desk or call 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

**"Leaning Into the Wind: Andy Goldsworthy."** Whether painting vivid stripes down urban stairways with colorful petals, arranging massive boulders or walking through a hedge, Goldsworthy makes surprisingly moving work that's

focused on "the permanence of temporary objects and the temporality of permanent objects." Sixteen years after "Rivers and Tides" caught the world off guard with its meditative beauty, filmmaker Thomas Riedelsheimer has returned to Goldsworthy, exploring his work and the impact of the years on the artist himself. 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).

**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 Not Your Negro."** The long-delayed realization by master filmmaker Raoul Peck of James Baldwin's unfinished final project. Academy Award nominee for best documentary Feature, the film uses Baldwin's words and rich archival material to create a radical examination of race in America. Baldwin's friendships with assassinated leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. illuminate the decades-long struggles of American blacks. At this moment, when emboldened racists are gaining power and acceptance, this film is more important than ever. Followed by a panel discussion. Part of the Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series. Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave., Ossining. Seating at 6:15 p.m. Screening at 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.OssiningDocumentaries.org](http://www.OssiningDocumentaries.org).

**The Great Backyard Bird Count and Backyard Birding.** Ted Gilman, Audubon Greenwich senior naturalist, will present this engaging program about backyard birding, bird feeders and more. Find out how you can be part of the Great Backyard Bird Count from Feb. 15-18, counting birds at home or in area habitat. Co-sponsored by The Saw Mill River Audubon. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.gbcb.birdcount.org](http://www.gbcb.birdcount.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. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Detention!** With Dante Plus Friends. Dante Plush is bringing a big night of comedy – for teachers by teachers. With headliner Joe Fernandes plus Esther Chen, Brian Eldberg and Michael Salgarolo. 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.

## Friday, Feb. 8

**Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group.** Alzheimer's disease is life changing for those who are diagnosed and those close to them. This support group provides a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system. Phelps Hospital, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail [ewoods3@northwell.edu](mailto:ewoods3@northwell.edu).

**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).

**"I Wanna Be a Dancin' Man: Fred Astaire Solo."** Film clips followed by a discussion led by 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).

**"Birds of Passage."** From the Oscar-nominated team behind the genre-defying "Embrace of the Serpent" comes an equally audacious saga centered on the Wayúu indigenous people and the erosion of their tradition in recent Colombian history. Torn between his desire to become

a powerful man and his duty to uphold his culture's values, Rapayet (José Acosta) enters the drug trafficking business in the 1970s and finds quick success despite the tribe's matriarch Ursula's (Carmina Martínez) disapproval. Ignoring ancient omens, Rapayet and his family get caught up in a conflict where honor is the highest currency and debts are paid with blood. Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. Followed by a Q&A with director Cristina Gallego. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Friday Night Film Series: "99 Homes."** Single dad Dennis Nash is evicted from his home and desperation forces him to take a job that most people would find abhorrent. A cautionary tale on the difficulties faced by families as salaries shrink, jobs disappear and the housing market crumbles. Starring Andrew Garfield, Michael Shannon and Laura Dern. 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).

**Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Faculty Concert Series: Musical Potpourri.** An eclectic mix of musical selections, both familiar and new. Works to be performed include Charles Loeffler's Two Rhapsodies for Oboe, Viola and Piano; Johannes Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Haydn arranged for two pianos, Opus 56; Astor Piazzolla's exciting Libertango arranged for two pianos and cello; Wilhelm Killmayer's Five Romances for cello and piano; Mozart's Piano Sonata for Four Hands in G Major, K. 357; and original works by faculty member Jacob Friedman. Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Seniors (60 and up): \$15. Students: Free. Info and tickets: 914-723-1169 or e-mail [hb@hbms.org](mailto:hb@hbms.org).

**"Rent."** The Random Farms Kids' Theater will present this play written by Jonathan Larson about how these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves and conflicts, providing the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical. More than 50 local teens will perform in four different casts in eight shows over two weekends. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$20. Premium seating: \$25. Also Feb. 9 and 10 at 2 and 8 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit [www.randomfarms.com](http://www.randomfarms.com). Tickets will also be available at the door.

**"Dancing Lessons."** Arc Stages presents its next production, written by Mark St. Germain. The story centers on Ever, a young professor with Asperger's syndrome, who seeks the instruction of a dancer to learn enough about dancing

*continued on page 26*



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# Happenings

*continued from page 24*

to survive an awards dinner. Senga, the dancer, is recovering from an injury that may end her dancing career. As their relationship unfolds, they're both caught off-guard by the discoveries – hilarious and heartwarming – that they make about each other and themselves. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Also, Feb. 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. \$36. Seniors and students: \$28. Info and tickets: 914-747-6206 or visit [www.arcstages.org](http://www.arcstages.org).

## Saturday, Feb. 9

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** Experience the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, voted "Best of Westchester" from 2014 to 2018. With nearly 40 vendors participating in the Indoor Market, the delicious good time continues each week. The farmers market is a dog-free environment. There will be seasonal vendors throughout December. Pleasantville Middle School cafeteria, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Mar. 30. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

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

**Exercise Workshop.** Learn how the benefits of exercise and nutrition help to prevent chronic pain and discomfort. Led by trainer Ramat Deleon-Nwaha. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberal.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberal.org).

**Victorian Valentine's Tea and Crafts.** Each year the New Castle Historical Society hosts this elegant afternoon of tea, snacks, crafts and a tour at the Horace Greeley House Museum. For children six to 12 years old. Horace Greeley House, 100 King St., Chappaqua. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$5 per child. Registration required. Info: Visit [www.newcastlehs.org](http://www.newcastlehs.org). Registration: Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**Lobo Love: A Valentine's Day Party With Wolves.** Show the wolves how much you love them by attending this Valentine's Day-themed program. Visitors will learn about mythology surrounding wolves, the important role of wolves in the natural world and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will also assemble "wolfy" valentines for the ambassador wolves and visit Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr

and potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Hot beverages served in the woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 10. Info: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.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.

**Tax Savings Opportunities Under the New Tax Law.** Tax filing season is almost upon us and this will be the first filing season under the new tax law. Tax attorney, certified financial planner and accountant Robert E. Mann, founder and president of Westchester Wealth Advisors, LLC in Rye Brook, will review some of the major provisions of the new tax law and explore a variety of tax-saving strategies. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Yoga Teachers Association Workshop: The Karma of Your Yoga Cues With Jason Ray Brown.** Examine common verbal cues about the pelvis and shoulder girdle and their ripple effect over time should a student continue to practice them for months or years to come. While it may be an appropriate cue for them today, will it continue to be a healthy cue over time or will it eventually lead to an imbalance and/or injury? How do you incorporate anatomical and bio mechanical information in a group yoga class without overwhelming students with language that they may not understand? Join Brown to explore the karma of the yoga cues offered in class and learn alternative strategies and cues to preserve the health of the hips and shoulders. Club Fit, 584 N. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. In advance: Members--\$45. Non-members--\$65. Walk-ins: Members--\$55. Non-members--\$75. Pre-registration: Visit [www.ytayoga.com](http://www.ytayoga.com). Info: Contact Lorraine Burton at 914-391-3389 or e-mail [ytacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:ytacommunications@gmail.com).

**Meet the Author.** Janet Garber, a local Westchester author, will discuss her multifaceted writing career and the story behind the books. Her appearance will include readings from her new book "The Paris Novel." Garber will be signing autographs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1:30 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberal.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberal.org).

**"Junie B. Jones the Musical."** Outspoken, precocious Junie B. Jones stars in a colorful, funny, fast-paced musical about new friends, new glasses, sugar cookies, the annual kickball tournament

and other various first-grade angst-ridden situations. Follow her adventures as she writes down the story of her life in her "Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal." This new musical is based on four volumes in Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones series of books, illustrated by Denise Brunkus and published by Random House. Chappaqua Performing Arts, Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 2 to 3:30 p.m. \$18.50. Info and tickets: Visit [www.chappaquapac.org](http://www.chappaquapac.org).

**"Liyana."** This spectacularly beautiful and touching film introduces five orphaned African children collaborating on a fairytale drawn from their darkest memories and brightest dreams. Then, the children's fictional character, Liyana, comes to life in innovative artwork that tracks her exciting quest to rescue her young twin brothers. Connecting the children's imagined world with the one they live in, the film weaves poetic documentary scenes with an animated story to create an inspiring tale of perseverance. This film is a tribute to creativity, the strength of the human spirit and the healing power of storytelling. Followed by Reel Talk with Jacob Burns Film Center Kids Film Programmer Emily Ohara. For children 10 years old and up. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2:30 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Children (13 and under): \$7.50. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Create Your Own Vision Board.** A vision board is a way to explore your ideas, thoughts and dreams. It is a tool to assist you in getting an idea about what you may want to focus on in your future. Have the space and time to relax and be creative and get all the tools to create your own board to take home. For teens 15 to 18 years old. North Castle Public Library's Young Adult Room, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Winter Howl for Adults Only: Mating and Dating.** Wolves are "mono-estrus," breeding only once a year during the winter months. Hence, Valentine's season is an exciting time for wolves in North America. This year the Wolf Conservation Center is hosting five critically endangered wolf breeding pairs. Learn about lobo love and enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Guests will also learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a wine and cheese spread before taking a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr. Also, potentially behold the center's endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves, too. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. \$20. Also Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**A Parisian Picture Gallery: 18th Century French Musical Portraits.** Ars Antiqua presents this program inspired by the age of Chardin, Boucher, Watteau and Fragonard whose paintings captured tiny moments of daily life and the faces of perfumed society. Composers took this painterly approach in their sonatas and chamber works, giving them fanciful titles and evoking the essence of a particular person or moment in time. Through the realistic musical imagery of Marais, we experience the horror of an 18th-century medical procedure while Leclair and Guillemain delight the ear with enchanting music that is spectacularly ornate and decorative. Followed by a buffet reception of French pastries and coffee. Church of St. Mary the Virgin, 191 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Concert at 8 p.m. \$35. Tickets available at the door. Info: 914-238-8015 or visit [www.ars-antiqua.org](http://www.ars-antiqua.org).

## Sunday, Feb. 10

**How Authors' Identity and Community Inspire Their Writing.** Why do writers choose the subject matter they do and how do those ideas become stories? Three award-winning young adult authors, Sheela Chari, Sayantani DasGupta and Veera Hiranandani, along with moderator and fellow author Jimin Han discuss how their personal cultural backgrounds have influenced their writing process. Other topics include why they enjoy writing for young people, where they find inspiration and how being part of the same writing group for many years has provided needed support. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St., Dobbs Ferry. 2 p.m. \$10 in advance. \$15 at the door (if any remain). Rids Riverarts.org/authors: \$5. Info and tickets: Visit [www.riverarts.org](http://www.riverarts.org).

**The Phil's Friends and Family Concert.** Teaming up with the world-renowned, Tony-decorated Savion Glover ("The Tap Dance Kid," "Bringin' Da' Noise, Bringin' Da' Funk," "Happy Feet"), the Westchester Phil and Maestra Rachael Worby have planned a unique and unforgettable collaboration of music and dance, with Worby offering a special "guided tour" through the music to delight audiences of all ages. Glover will perform the "Tap Dance Concerto," the only work of its kind in all symphonic repertoire, composed by mid-century master Morton Gould. Then flipping the calendar on its head with Vivaldi's Baroque masterpiece, "Four Seasons," Glover will perform an improvisational duet with the violin soloist, Philharmonic concertmaster Robert Chausow. Purchase College's Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. Pre-concert discussion at 2 p.m. Concert at 3 p.m. \$40 to \$97. Children 12 and under accompanied by an adult: Free. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).



# A Panoply of Wine Consumer Preferences and Profiles



By Nick Antonaccio

As I pen this column each week, I frequently come across surveys that attempt to capture a plethora of wine-related data and statistics. Given my career background in finance, I tend to pause, review, assess and draw an inference (rarely a conclusion) on the underlying trends and influences in this wine-centric research.

When I accumulate this data, themes for wine columns bubble into my consciousness. Recent columns that have germinated from this scouring of the internet have focused on millennials' drinking preferences, the standard deviation of the effectiveness of various corks as bottle closure and comparative grape harvest statistics.

As you may imagine, there are countless surveys and studies for which there is either a lack of space in this column or are so focused that they do not merit significant coverage. This week I've decided to regale you with several statistics on the drinking and buying habits of American wine consumers. In no particular order and without any overwhelming central theme, I present a subjective snapshot of the state of the American wine market.

An excellent source of wine consumer data comes from Dr. Liz Thach, Master of Wine, and Dr. Angelo Camillo, of the Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University. Each year they poll a hand-selected group to assess the mood and habits of American wine consumers. Herein, a selection of data culled from their most recent report, some verbatim:

1. What is the level of oenological knowledge of Americans? Fifty percent of the survey group profess intermediate knowledge, 15 percent as advanced and 3 percent as connoisseurs. The other 32 percent? They confess to knowing very little about wine. The United States is the largest consumer of wine in the world, yet nearly a third of the wine consumers in the study don't have a basic knowledge of wine. But maybe these are the abstainers among us.
2. So, how much do Americans consume? The FDA has set a safe guideline at two glasses each day for men, one for women. Fifty percent in the survey drink several days a week, 17 percent once a week and the remaining 33 percent less. Perhaps there is no statistical correlation between frequency and

consumption. (The FDA specifies daily intake, not cumulative. Abstaining for several days and then binge drinking is not within the guidelines.)

3. Do consumers favor sweet or dry wines? I was surprised by the responses. The survey questions were presented as a check-all-that-apply mishmash from which it is difficult to draw any objective conclusions. The responses: Those who prefer dry wines, 36 percent; sweet, 38 percent; and semi-sweet, 45 percent. Those red blends that are popular in wine shops are satiating America's sweet tooth.
4. When asked the factors considered when deciding which wine to purchase (check all that apply), here are the top five responses from survey participants. How do your decisions compare? Price: 80 percent; brand: 69 percent; varietal: 33 percent; country of origin: 33 percent; and rating score: 23 percent.
5. How much is spent on a bottle of wine? For home consumption, the sweet spot is \$11 to \$15, but for a special occasion it's \$50 to \$99. At a restaurant, the average is \$31 to \$45, although 31 percent order wine by the glass. Where do you fall on this spectrum?
6. When do consumers typically consume

a bottle of wine after purchase? Within 24 hours: 20 percent; within two to three days: 31 percent; and within one to two weeks: 39 percent. Another surprise for me. I assumed most consumers purchased wine for immediate consumption. Not so.

7. So what wines are Americans drinking these days? The 10 most popular wine varietals sold in wine shops last year (in order, by sales volume) were Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris, Red Blends, Merlot, Moscato, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, White Zinfandel and Rosé Blends. Quite diverse, I must say, with a few eye-openers for me. How do your preferences compare?

In our 21st century web-centric world, data gathering and usage influence our decision-making and opinion-setting. Why should our wine-centric choices and preferences be different?

*Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at [nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.*

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