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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 610

**Fox Lane
Defeats
the Bears
in Lacrosse**
See Sports

New Castle Looks at Revised Law to Allow Gas Leaf Blowers in Fall

By Martin Wilbur

Revisions to New Castle's proposed leaf blower legislation were unveiled last week that would allow gas-powered units to be used during the fall but would prohibit their use from June through September.

Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) members Tracy Stein and Rand Manasse presented findings to the Town Board last week to seek a compromise following a contentious public hearing last fall. The originally-proposed measure would have prohibited all gas-powered blowers by May 2021 and would have prohibited the use of any leaf blower, gas or electric, from May 15 to Sept. 30.

Most Town Board members have said they would like to follow the lead of a growing number of communities throughout Westchester and the United States in cutting down on carbon emissions

and noise but also wanted to address concerns from landscapers and large property owners who argued that electric blowers aren't strong enough to replace gas-powered machines.

Stein said that while some models of gas-powered blowers have reduced levels of carbon emissions, they are still a menace to the environment.

"The SAB believes that a law to address gas leaf blowers, a machine driven by dirty fossil fuels, is a concrete, important and accepted way for a town to seek to reduce emissions consistent with our mission," Stein said.

There would be exemptions not only for town and school recreation fields but for golf, swim or tennis clubs or facilities owned by homeowners' associations.

Elimination of gas-powered blowers

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North Castle Board Split on Mariani Gardens' Latest Housing Plan

By Martin Wilbur

A fifth version of a residential housing plan for the site of Mariani Gardens in Armonk was unveiled last week as North Castle Town Board members appeared split on whether the project is appropriately scaled.

Representatives for applicant 45 Bedford Road LLC presented the latest iteration of the proposed luxury rental development, reducing the number of units from 50 to 43, bedrooms from 93 to 76 and removing residences from the deed restricted area on the Maple Avenue side of the property.

There is also a 20 percent reduction in floor-area ratio and a slight contraction in building coverage and parking spaces at the four-acre property. Additionally, all basements and living space have been

removed from the FEMA floodplain, a key sticking point in the last plan.

"We think that this is a much-improved plan and in response to the issues that had come up," attorney Mark Miller said on behalf of the applicant.

Mariani Gardens is seeking a zoning change from the Nursery Business (NB) zone to a specialty Residential-Multifamily-Downtown Armonk (R-MF-DA) designation. The Town Board is also being asked to consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that was updated last year.

At last Wednesday evening's public, project engineer Rob Aiello highlighted the key changes. There would be four four-bedroom units instead of five in the so-called A Building, home to the largest

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One Fine Day



The sun shined bright on Playland last Saturday for its annual May opening attracting more than 8,200 visitors to the park, the largest opening day turnout in seven years, according to the county. Despite recent controversies, all of the rides passed inspection by the state Department of Labor by last Friday and were ready for the first day of the new season. For more coverage about the park, see page 5.

Mt. Pleasant Vigilant North 60 Doesn't Detract From Hamlets

By Sean Browne

Mount Pleasant officials want to be certain that the proposed North 60 biomedical project will be properly coordinated with the ongoing work to update the town's Comprehensive Plan.

Last Tuesday, discussion on the Comprehensive Plan resumed at the Town Board's work session. Envision Mount Pleasant, the name of the nine-member committee of residents that is helping the town to update the document, is looking to submit a draft update to the Town Board for review in the weeks ahead.

Meanwhile, Fareri Associates' proposed \$1.2 billion North 60 project calls for more than two million square feet of biotech and research facilities, a 100-room hotel and retail. The public hearing

on the scoping document is scheduled for the June 6 Planning Board meeting.

Pat Cleary, Mount Pleasant's planning consultant, who has been working with representatives for the North 60 project, said the developer's team has been amenable to working with the town to make sure the highly anticipated project on 60 acres leased from Westchester County doesn't conflict with the town's goals for its hamlets.

He said Ferrari Associates has thus far been sensitive to officials' concerns regarding the need for growth in Mount Pleasant's three hamlets. Re-energizing the business centers in Thornwood, Hawthorne and Valhalla with mixed-use projects has been identified as a priority. That is also being emulated to an extent in

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New Castle Looks at Revised Law to Allow Gas Leaf Blowers in Fall

continued from page 1

during the four months in New Castle would save about 135 metric tons of carbon in a year, equivalent to taking 29 cars off the road, according to SAB research.

Worries that the leaf blower legislation would turn off prospective home buyers in New Castle have not materialized in other communities, Stein added.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said it's possible the law would have a beneficial effect and bring new families to town.

"Being a green town is actually going to attract some people," Greenstein said. "If anybody is not going to live here because

we have a ban on gas blowers in the summer, I say, 'See ya.'"

Stein said there are 14 municipalities in Westchester that have leaf blower restrictions on the books and many others in California, Massachusetts, the suburbs of Chicago and Washington, D.C.

"If it's sustainable in other communities it can be sustainable here even if it has to be tailored for this town," said Councilman Jeremy Saland.

Councilwoman Hala Makowska said she had concerns that the cost could hurt some homeowners, particularly those on larger properties. Some people can afford

more to landscape their property, but not everyone.

"If it's \$25 a month (extra), \$30 a month, it's great," Makowska said. "But if it ends up being sort of significant to people, that has to be a concern."

Concerns that it would take longer to clean a property and end up costing more haven't materialized in other communities, Stein said. Property owners can leave the grass clippings on their lawn during the four-month period, which is healthier for the grass, she said.

Manasse said that the landscaping companies in municipalities that have passed similar laws have competition with each other and would adjust.

It was pointed out by one resident that officials should consider getting rid of the exemptions. If the law is good then there won't need to be exemptions, it was argued.

"The original intent was that playing fields could be exempt but we didn't feel we should be affecting a game or the health of somebody on a field like that by keeping leaves on that field," Manasse said.

Donald Benz, a landscaper who has an extensive number of customers in New Castle, said having to use two sets of different blowers would be financially problematic. Electric leaf blowers, which could cost \$500 each without batteries and chargers, are still much weaker than the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

New Castle Sustainability Board member Tracy Stein, left, addresses the Town Board last week on a revised version of proposed revisions to the leaf blower law. A public hearing is likely for June 11.

gas-powered units.

He suggested the town outlaw the high-powered gas blowers that workers put on their backs and allow the smaller hand-held models.

"You do need them to a certain point in the summer," Benz said. "As a professional, there's curb appeal, you need to blow. Some of my customers want that and that's their expectation."

The Town Board is expected to vote Tuesday night to set a public hearing for June 11.

If eventually approved, the law would take effect next June 1, allowing the town and SAB time to educate residents on the change.

Coldwell Banker Pleasantville to Hold Sneaker Drive for Animal Rescue

Coldwell Banker's Pleasantville office will be holding a used sneaker drive during Pleasantville Day this Saturday, May 18 to raise money for Paws Crossed Animal Rescue in Elmsford.

Coldwell Banker will earn money for each pair of gently worn, used and new sneakers collected. GotSneakers, a social enterprise, will issue funds in compensation for the collected sneakers. All proceeds will then be donated to Paws Crossed Animal Rescue. Anyone can help by dropping off their gently worn, used and new sneakers/athletic shoes at the Coldwell Banker tent at

Pleasantville Day.

GotSneakers is a unique fundraising initiative that asks communities to reach into their closets, not their pockets. All donated sneakers are redistributed throughout the GotSneakers' network of small business partners throughout Haiti, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ukraine. GotSneakers works with micro-entrepreneurs helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Learn more about GotSneakers by visiting www.gotsneakers.com.

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County Officials Declare Playland a Safe Park as Season Opens

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive George Latimer and other Westchester officials led media members and county lawmakers on a tour of Playland two days before last Saturday's 2019 opening to punctuate that the park is clean and safe.

The tour was scheduled as the Latimer administration has been publicly sparring with Standard Amusements, the entity which signed a 30-year agreement to run the park. On Apr. 28, Latimer announced that he was terminating the deal because of breach of contract on Standard Amusements' part. The matter may end up in litigation.

It also came five days after an article published in the New York Post that cited a March 2018 report commissioned by Standard Amusements stating that there was a high risk of food-borne illness at Playland.

"We want to give you and the public the absolute assurance that what you're going to see is clean, is healthy and ready to go," Latimer said at the start of the tour.

County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said every concession stand at the park is inspected by the Department of Health. CulinArt, which has the contract for most of the food stands at the park, also has safety inspectors.

In more than eight years in her current post, Amler said that has not been a problem. She said that food inspectors evaluate how

the food is handled and whether the workers follow proper precautions, including make sure they wear gloves.

"In the eight years, we have never had a food-related complaint inside the park, and so I can tell you with all confidence that the food is safe," Amler said. "I eat here, I bring my grandchildren here."

During the tour, there were food samples provided as well as access to the food storage area. CulinArt first arrived at Playland about 20 years ago, said Ron Hutcheson, communications director for the firm. He said the report referenced in the Post was from inspections done during the winter when the park and its food stands have been shuttered for months.

"Remember, that report, the inspectors that did that report, (it) was commissioned five months after this place closed down for the summer, and then was released a good two months before it opened up," Hutcheson said. "So they're doing an inspection about food safety when there was no food safety going on, no food serving going on."

Pater Tartaglia, deputy commissioner of Westchester County Parks, said that for Saturday's opening all rides were inspected by the state Department of Labor. Before the start of each season in May.

By the following day, the county provided a packet showing that all rides had passed state inspection, he said.

There is always an electrician and



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer greets Playland patrons at the gate on Saturday, the first day of the park's 2019 season. Two days earlier county officials provided the media with a tour to refute allegations that the park is unsafe.

mechanic on hand whenever the park is open to replace parts and troubleshoot problems, Tartaglia noted.

"If the rides do not make it in the inspection for one reason or another, if a part needs to be replaced that day, it (the ride) won't open until it's replaced," Tartaglia said.

At the end of each season, most of the rides are disassembled, he said.

There are seven original landmark rides at Playland, including the Dragon Coaster, the carousel, Derby Racer, Old Mill, the whip and the Kiddie Coaster, one of two landmark rides in the kiddie park.

As the 91-year-old Playland opened last

weekend and looks forward to another summer, Latimer said with the right help the park can regain much of its allure and draw bigger crowds.

This year there will be the return of concerts and town days along with laser light shows. Other promotions will also be scheduled.

On Monday, the county reported opening day attendance of 8,228, the highest first-day turnout in seven years.

"We have a safe park," Latimer said. "We're trying hard to market it. We don't have all the answers. We're working with a significant capital need. Most importantly, we believe in the park."

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No. Castle Board Split on Mariani Gardens' Latest Housing Plan

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units, which is closest to Bedford Road.

The B Building, in the area of the current glass greenhouse, would contain 16 units featuring a combination of flats and duplexes.

In the newest proposal, the C Building, the largest structure on the property and closest to Route 22, would have 23 apartments consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom units, including the

project's five affordable units. Aiello said although the building's footprint would be unchanged, there would be significant changes to the front of the building to reduce the mass.

The height of the B and C buildings have also been trimmed. The B Building would measure 30 feet, 6 inches to the midpoint of the eaves, just six inches above the current maximum allowable height in the NB zone, while the C Building would be

reduced about three-and-a-half feet from just under 40 feet at the roof's midpoint, Aiello said.

Town Board members and most public speakers have been concerned about the project's density and mass so close to the Bedford Road Historic District. While all board members said they appreciated the efforts of the developer to address their concerns, there was disagreement about whether the project's size was appropriate.

"I'm just having a very, very tough time with it," said Councilman Jose Berra. "It's a small decrease of the number of units and you could say that the decrease didn't occur in the one-bedrooms, it occurred in the bigger units, but 43 isn't anywhere close to really what I'm thinking is appropriate here."

During a joint Town Board-Planning Board work session in March, some officials believed that a reduction closer to 30 units would maintain the existing building coverage and floor-area ratio.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said 43 units was the applicant's initial proposal, which was too dense.

"If someone said to me what number would I be more comfortable with on this parcel, given it's a gateway, given it's a historic district, I would say probably 30, maybe 35 units," DiGiacinto said. "I don't think a majority of the board agrees with me but I just still feel it's a little too dense."

The remaining three board members were more agreeable with Councilman Barry Reiter voicing the most support. Taking the buildings out of the deed restricted area near Maple Avenue was a big consideration, he said.

"As far as the size of the existing buildings compared to what you want to put there, I have no problem with it," Reiter said. "I think it's a good project, it is workable, there's a lot of open space now, you've reduced the height of the structures."

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he likes the newest changes, including softening the architecture of the buildings.

Most of the handful of speakers opposed the latest plan. Co-town Historian Sharon Tomback said not only is it adjacent to the historic district but the applicant currently doesn't have the necessary water or sewer capacity and it could cause a traffic nightmare.

"It makes me really sad that so many people spent so many volunteer hours putting together the Comprehensive Plan and now, well, it's okay, we're just going to change it and we're going to customize it to this applicant," Tomback said.

The Town Board adjourned the public hearing to a future date but agreed to refer the application to the town and county planning boards for their feedback.

Mt. Pleasant Vigilant North 60 Doesn't Detract From Hamlets

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the North 60 plan.

"We are making great progress on both fronts," Cleary said. "The biggest thing that we the town have to make sure (of) is that this project (North 60) doesn't sap away anything from our town or our Comprehensive Plan."

Last week, Cleary told officials that the town has its own experts to match each of Ferrari's consultants so there is roughly equal expertise representing both sides.

"If they hire a marketing guy, we will then hire a marketing guy, same goes for a traffic worker," Cleary said. "A lot of this really is complicated stuff so we need

our own eyes for it. They are paying for it so it's no cost to the community."

Another major concern connected to North 60 is its impact on traffic on Route 9A. So far, there has been consistent communication with the state Department of Transportation.

While the relationship between the town and Fareri Associates has been strong, Cleary said it's important that the town remains vigilant to protect its interests.

"We have made it very clear that we don't want anything that is going to drain away from our town," said Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi.


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P'ville Schools Makes Pitch for \$8.9M Infrastructure Bond

By Martin Wilbur

There may not be a contested school board race in the Pleasantville School District but there are two propositions of consequence for residents to weigh next Tuesday.

Pleasantville School District voters are being asked to consider a \$51 million school budget for 2019-20 as well as an \$8.9 million infrastructure bond that would make much-needed upgrades in all three school buildings.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said if voters approve the bond there will be no tax impact for residents. The \$788,562 annual debt service from the new bond would replace the identical debt that is being retired for the 2020-21 school year originating from the district's 1995 and 2011 propositions, she said.

"As stewards of (the district) it's our responsibility to be mindful of the capital needs all the time and the board takes that very seriously," Fox-Alter said. "And this year we are aware of it and there are a significant number of capital needs that are beyond our ability to include in the school district budget."

The funds would pay for enhanced security at the entrances of Bedford Road School and the middle school and high school by creating more secure visitor lobbies with separate greeter windows.

At Bedford Road School, improving the HVAC system with humidifier controls and replacing the Building Management System (BMS), which controls the HVAC apparatus, needs to be done, Fox-Alter said. The humidifier controls will improve air quality while the school's original BMS has come to the end of its useful life, she said. Bedford Road School opened in 2003.

The other improvements are recoating the building's metal roof to extend its life and minimize rust and renovating the library and computer room that would add more flexible seating and accommodate changing technology needs, Fox-Alter said.

Pleasantville Middle School would see an upgrade of its electrical service to meet its technology and air quality needs; removal of asbestos in its 1954 and 1968 classroom floors and hallways; replacement of the first-floor windows on the south side of the building; and renovation and expansion of the occupational and physical therapy room.

At the high school, expansion of the electrical panels and replacement and upgrade of some of the windows in the 1972 wing is slated to be done; repairs to the cupola; replacement and upgrade of the 1929 cast iron roof drains above the auditorium; and removal of the asbestos in the auditorium flooring.



Safety vestibules at each of the Pleasantville School District's three school buildings is part of the May 21 \$8.9 million proposition the district has on the ballot.

received has been in support of the bond.

"The bottom line is these needs are not going away," Fox-Alter said. "They're here, we've basically deferring them down the road and when that happens, though, in addition to not replacing these things, it makes these things subject to cost and escalation."

Voting on the bond, budget and uncontested school board race will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Pleasantville Middle School multipurpose room.

Improvements at two district facilities would also be funded through the bond, Fox-Alter said. There would be regrading, resurfacing and drainage work on the tennis courts and new fencing would be installed with access openings for the public.

The grass field on Middle School Drive would be regraded and outfitted with irrigation and top soil so it can be repurposed to serve as a physical education station and athletic field.

According to the district, the debt projections are based on an annual 3.75 borrowing rate, although the current market rate is closer to 3 percent.

Fox-Alter said the feedback she's

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Full Slate of Candidates Vie for Chappaqua Board of Ed Seats

By Martin Wilbur

Three challengers have turned out this year to take on the two incumbents in next week's Chappaqua Board of Education election. Hilary Grasso, Leah Heiss and Cailee Hwang are on the ballot in hopes of serving the district while incumbents Warren Messner and Jeffrey Mester seek another term.

The top two finishers will win seats on the board.

In addition to the election, there will be the budget vote and two propositions on the ballot. One proposition will ask permission to transfer \$1.35 million from the unassigned fund balance to the capital fund to upgrade the security at the entrances to the district's three elementary schools and two middle schools.

The other proposition asks voter approval to move \$190,000 from the fund balance of the district's lunch fund toward improvements at the Robert E. Bell Middle School cafeteria. The remaining \$200,000 for the work will be taken from the operating budget each of the next two years.

Voting will take place at the Horace Greeley High School gymnasium next Tuesday, May 21 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Hilary Grasso

Grasso, one of two challengers making her first run for the board, has wanted to find a way help the district. For the past 15 years Grasso, 40, has had wide experience as an education attorney, representing the New York City Education Department, Westchester school districts, charter schools and parents.

A common issue that Grasso said she hears in Chappaqua schools is how to find the right balance between inclusion and differentiation in classes. Grasso said the district needs to support all learners while also meeting everyone's needs.

"One thing I have heard at any school level, whether it's elementary, middle or high school, is parents' concerns that these needs aren't necessarily being effectively balanced," she said.

Grasso is a proponent of introducing foreign languages to students in elementary school rather than waiting to middle school. She said an increasing number of districts have been incorporating language into their curriculum earlier.

"I just think introducing children as early as possible to foreign language, it's easier to learn it later on, even if they (the student) ultimately switch the language that they're studying," Grasso said.

A more thoughtful use of technology in education should also be explored, Grasso said. She would like technology to augment the teacher's efforts rather than it taking the place of strong instruction.

Grasso said she has been impressed with the district's strong fiscal position, which allows it to have greater flexibility. Keeping small class sizes is one of the tangible advantages that has made Chappaqua a top district, Grasso said.



Jeffrey Mester

Advocacy for fair funding is also a role that the board should play. Grasso said the funding formula lumps Westchester districts with those farther north instead of with New York City and Long Island, thereby hurting many districts.

"I do think issues like that is worth our advocacy," she said.

Professional development is one area that Grasso believes could be ripe for service sharing with other districts, although the district needs to prevent losing local control.

For special education students, the district should continue to evaluate its support services for the wide variety of needs.

Grasso said the district has done a strong job with school safety issues and the enhancements through the first proposition would be helpful. At the high school, however, she said the district needs to balance the safety concerns without changing the culture of the school or the open campus, she said. Perhaps hiring a school resource officer in addition to the New Castle police officer would be beneficial, she said.

The district has done a good job since the drama teacher scandal but must be mindful that the students' well-being is always top priority.

"The lines of communication have clearly been updated and amplified since the incident but I think the most important thing is to have a community and a culture where the children are our first priority and their safety and security and their health go beyond their education," she said.

Leah Heiss

Heiss, 42, is making her second run for the board, having made an unsuccessful attempt two years ago. She returns because as a mother of four children from grades there should be a perspective on education in the younger grades.

"I feel like I could bring a different point of view than those on the board right now," she said. "I have younger children than all of them (currently on the board) and I have four kids. We're going to be in the school district for the next 10 years so I have a strong vested interest in making the school



Hilary Grasso



Leah Heiss

district as good as it can be."

While Chappaqua has a well-earned stellar academic reputation, Heiss said there also needs to be more attention paid to those students who are slipping through the cracks, which is not well-publicized. Greater effort needs to be made to address that issue by ensuring there is proper support so every child can achieve their potential.

She is satisfied with the safety and security of the district's buildings. In light of the episode regarding the former drama teacher, the best policies and procedures aren't foolproof.

"I think that the most effective thing that the school district has done is to start educating our children about how to protect themselves, but I think the most important thing keeping our children safe are the conversations we're having at home," Heiss said.

Chappaqua has also managed to come through the recent heavy turnover in administrators, she said.

Heiss, the chair of the Special Education Committee at Roaring Brook Elementary School and Bell Middle School, has been impressed with the district's finances under the stewardship of Assistant Superintendent for Business John Chow. She said Chappaqua must protect its assets by advocating on behalf of itself, which will help many other districts as well.



Cailee Hwang



Warren Messner

The district has been careful to stay on top of its infrastructure improvements, although Heiss said she has been disappointed that the implementation of the project from the 2016 bond have been slower than she would have preferred.

Cailee Hwang

A six-year Chappaqua resident, Hwang's passion is education and her run is a way for her to contribute.

"I want to stay connected to the world, to the community, to adults, to the things that matter to me most and education, children, not just my own but the children that my children spend time with," said Hwang, 41, who has extensive professional background in education.

So much of successful education is the teacher and the student making a connection that inspires the child to learn, Hwang said. She also stressed that taking the time to read with children at home is a critical component to learning.

As a Korean-American, Hwang would also like to see foreign languages introduced in elementary school. She said English is her third language and learning foreign languages earlier in childhood is an asset.

From her perspective, Hwang sees Chappaqua handled well from a fiscal standpoint. She would rely on the expertise of Chow since finance is not her area of skill.

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Three Familiar Faces Contest Two Seats for Mt. Pleasant Board of Ed

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant School District voters will have a choice next week of two incumbents and a former trustee to fill the two Board of Education seats that are up for election this year.

Vying for the three-year terms that begin July 1 are sitting board members Vincent Graci and Christopher Pinchiaroli. Joining them on the ballot is Thomas McCabe, who's looking to return to the board following his defeat last year. Prior to last spring's election, McCabe served the previous six years.

Voting on the election and on Mount Pleasant's 2019-20 \$64.2 million budget will take place next Tuesday, May 21 at Westlake High School from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Vincent Graci

With his first term nearly complete, Graci said he is pleased with the leadership of the district under first-year Superintendent Dr. Kurtis Kotes and is looking for additional progress in the years ahead.

Graci said Kotes has had the ability to bring people together throughout the district, establishing relationships with teachers, staff, students and parents. The transition to a new leader for the district has been better than expected, Graci noted.

"I feel like the district is in a great place and the future is very bright and I hope I continue to be part of it," he said.

Graci, 53, a criminal defense attorney, described Mount Pleasant's program academic program as excellent. Nevertheless, he believes there is still room for it to develop into one of the best school districts in the region by providing a more rigorous curriculum by encouraging students to try more courses and programs.

One area Graci said he would like to fix is the athletic fields. He's a supporter of artificial turf to allow more events and more students to participate in sports. The condition of the fields has periodically forced teams to play at alternate sites.



Christopher Pinchiaroli

However, Graci would want to evaluate costs before committing to that project.

"That is probably the best way to go, but again, I'd have to see the numbers, what's possible," he said. "Maybe not everything is turf but I'd like us to have fields that are safe."

Graci has been satisfied with how the administration is overseeing the items from the \$39.6 million infrastructure bond from October 2016 and how it addresses new facilities issues as they arise. A long list of improvements is scheduled for completion this summer at Columbus Elementary School and the high school.

He is also confident that the district has done everything it can to ensure the safety of students and staff inside the district's buildings.

On fiscal issues, Graci said the district has been well-run given the limitations imposed by the state.

Thomas McCabe

It's very straightforward why McCabe is looking to return to the board a year after he was ousted – he enjoys working with the schools, faculty and administration.

"I enjoyed putting some of my business experience and my passion for education to good use for the community," said McCabe, 56, a sales director.



Vincent Graci

Having had three children go through the district – his two younger kids are still attending district schools – McCabe said the Mount Pleasant program is strong. He would like to see more "project-based learning," where students are trained in school to apply knowledge gained outside the classroom.

McCabe also mentioned that he wants to ensure that students are able to take advantage of the entire school experience – music and art, athletics and other extracurricular activities in addition to academics.

"I'm telling you I see kids who want to be part of the whole experience," McCabe said. "I support that and do it for the right reasons, not to put a plaque (up) or something, but to constantly support the kids and have them do what they want to do because it will help them succeed in life."

McCabe also gave Kotes high marks in his first year as superintendent, which has given the district a boost.

As members of the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association, the district should strongly advocate on issues such as equitable funding, McCabe said. In reality, however, local school boards are the lowest governmental rung, he said.

Easing outdated or obsolete regulations



Thomas McCabe

is imperative to have schools reach their potential.

"Take the handcuffs off of us and let us use our knowledge, our experience, our capabilities, our passion for education in our local school districts," he said. "That's what we're supposed to be doing."

While the district already does much service sharing with other schools, McCabe said Mount Pleasant could take greater advantage of online learning opportunities.

The district continues to move forward with its infrastructure improvements in funds derived from the 2016 bond. For a district that has a strong participation rate in athletics, upgrading the fields, including strong consideration for artificial turf, will be imperative, he said.

"That's important for a community, that's important for education," McCabe said. "So I think supporting these programs, including possibly new field upgrades, you can't possibly upgrade fields that are being utilized nearly every day, nearly every weekend."

Chris Pinchiaroli

Pinchiaroli is the veteran on the Mount Pleasant Board of Education, now finishing his fourth term. It's a role that he

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Obituaries

Theresa Vaccariello

Theresa Vaccariello of Thornwood died on May 8 at Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne.

She was 92.

Vaccariello was born on May 13, 1926, to the late George and Therese (nee Otti) Lorenz in Thyrnau, Germany. She loved playing bingo, knitting, line dancing, ShopRite and Kohls.

She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Thomas Vaccariello, in 2011; her beloved grandson, Victor Vaccariello, Jr.; and four brothers, George, Willie, Joe and

Herman Lorenz. She is survived by her loving sons, Thomas (Winnie) Vaccariello of Thornwood and Victor Vaccariello of the Bronx and her two sisters-in-law, Helen Lorenz and Terry Sapienza.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on May 10. A funeral Mass was held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne on May 11 followed by interment.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Ave., Hawthorne, N.Y. 10532, would be appreciated.

Charles Lehmkuhl

Charles William Lehmkuhl of Hawthorne passed away on May 2.

He was 77.

Lehmkuhl was born on Sept. 6, 1941, to the late William and Anna (nee Genesky) Lehmkuhl in Yonkers. He worked for New York Presbyterian Hospital in White Plains as a psychiatric technician. Lehmkuhl proudly served his country in the U.S. Army.

He was predeceased by his wife, Jane (nee Bittner) Lehmkuhl, last year. He is survived by his daughter, Susan (Harley) Lehmkuhl-Church, of Hawthorne; one niece, Jodi (Doug) Margolis, of

Hawthorne; his nephew, Peter (Debbie) Reagan, of Lake Carmel; and his great-niece and nephews Brianna, Joseph and Peter. He was predeceased by his sister, Marion.

A private burial will take place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne. A celebration of Lehmkuhl's life will be held on Saturday, May 18 at 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Ossining.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lehmkuhl's name to the Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne would be appreciated.

Richard Kersten

Richard H. Kersten, former longtime Pleasantville village trustee, died peacefully in his home on Friday, Apr. 26, after years of living with cancer. He was 79.

Born on May 9, 1939, in Summit, N.J., "Dick" graduated from Chatham High School, attended Princeton University and received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Newark College of Engineering.

He married his high school sweetheart, Doris, in 1964 and they were loving partners for 55 years. They settled in Pleasantville in 1969, when he started a job in field engineering with IBM. He enjoyed 29 years with IBM, connecting people with machines and systems. He was known for his problem-solving skills and excellent customer service.

Kersten placed a high value on community, immersing himself in his role on the Pleasantville Village Board for 19 years. In addition, he actively served as a Presbyterian elder and as a member of the Pleasantville Rotary Club. People speak of his kindness, energy, generosity and interest in mentoring others.

Throughout his life, Kersten had a passion for kites, photography, skiing, hiking and numerous construction projects (some unfinished). His zest for life encouraged him to take on one project after another, always with a "can-do" attitude. In his later years, he led a quieter lifestyle – consuming



Richard Kersten

a mystery novel every day or two, perhaps adding a game of dominoes and always enjoying his favorite butter pecan ice cream, even up until his next-to-last day.

Kersten leaves behind his loving wife, Doris; daughter Karen, son-in-law Doug Hellikson and grandchildren Vera and Roy of Oakland, Calif.; son Ted and daughter-in-law Clare of Brooklyn; sister Katherine Wallman of McLean, Va.; sister-in-law Janet Huston of Scotia, N.Y.;

and many dear nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

The family wishes to give special thanks to Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam. They also extend warm and loving appreciation to aides Vaughn and Richmond, whose steady, calm presence was a blessing.

Friends are invited to greet the family at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home at 418 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville on Friday, May 17, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 18 at 4 p.m. at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dick's name may be made to the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund or the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 201, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570. For online condolences and to view his Book of Memories, visit www.beecherflooksfh.com.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

May 3: Multiple callers reported two horses walking in the roadway on Whippoorwill Road at 3:46 p.m. The responding officers reported that horses returned to their stable. Matter adjusted.

May 4: Report of a loud party on Denim Place at 8:02 p.m. The responding officer stated that he spoke to the homeowner who was having a party and agreed to lower the music.

May 6: A traffic light malfunction was reported on Maple Avenue at 3:14 p.m. The caller stated that the traffic light was possibly cycling too rapidly. The responding officer confirmed the condition and reported assisting with traffic control. The North Castle Highway Department was advised.

May 6: A caller reported at 11:07 p.m. a noise complaint coming from Room 106 at La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive. The employee spoke with the room guest advising her that she

had to leave the premises and she did not comply. The responding officer reported that the guest was leaving upon his arrival.

May 7: Report of a damaged mailbox on Skyview Drive at 12:14 p.m. The responding officer filed a report.

May 8: A caller reported couches discarded on McDougal Drive at 8:58 p.m. The North Castle Highway Department was notified.

Pleasantville Police Department

May 4: A 38-year-old Yonkers man was arrested following a traffic stop on Bedford Road near Opperman's Pond at 8:35 p.m. The man was charged with vehicle and traffic law violations.

May 7: Report of a larceny at 7-11 on Bedford Road at 6:14 p.m. Several items were stolen at some point in the past including fuel injection cleaner, sunglasses and Clorox disinfectant.

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Miller House Restoration to Cost \$1.5M More; Completion By Fall

By Martin Wilbur

Restoration of the 281-year-old Elijah Miller House/Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains will cost Westchester County an additional \$1.5 million but is currently on target for completion late this year.

County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant) appeared at the North Castle Town Board meeting last week to update the public about the project, which required the extra funds. The unanimous vote by the Board of Legislators pushes the cost of the restoration to about \$3.3 million.

Cunzio said there was more grading and site work needed at the Virginia Road site than first anticipated. That will ensure that the flow of water will not compromise the structure, she said.

Another change was to remodel one of the house's upstairs bedrooms to be historically accurate while the other bedroom will be open with Plexiglas panels so visitors would be able to peer inside the walls and see how it was constructed, Cunzio explained.

There was also a major problem with the house's front porch, she said. The contractor and workers were expecting that underneath the porch's wood boards would have been a stone foundation. Instead, they simply found stones lined up

next to each other.

"That in itself was a little disconcerting because we were actually shocked that the roof had held up because the posts go directly into the porch from that roof," Cunzio said.

Despite the obstacles, the hope is to have the restoration completed by November, she said. The weather will play a factor in how quickly the work can be finished, although trying to finish in time for the Nov. 3-4 anniversary of the Battle of Miller Hill during the Revolutionary War may be a stretch.

Cunzio said that the blue tarp that had been covering the roof for several years after the house was closed and the target of much derision among those who wanted Miller House saved has been removed.

Daughters of Liberty's Legacy (DOLL), a local nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving local history, has also received permission to film the progress at the site, she said.

Historical architect Jonathan Levy, who is overseeing the project, has been on site every day, Cunzio added. There is plenty of activity on the grounds on a regular basis.

"It's really been a labor of love," Cunzio said. "With Supervisor (Michael) Schiliro's support initially beginning this project, just to sit down and have a conversation with the Town Board, it's really been something



Last April, local and county officials, including North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro, far left, County Legislator Margaret Cunzio, second from left, and County Executive George Latimer, stood outside Miller House to announce the restoration project. It is scheduled for completion this fall.

that's been in the works for a few years. I'm just happy that it's moving forward very quickly now."

Schiliro said that he passes by the site regularly and it's satisfying to see that a piece of American history will not only be restored but appreciated for many generations to come.

"It's good to drive past that and see all

the work going on there and it's finally happening and we're going to have a beautiful Miller House for another 300 years," he said.

The Miller House served as the headquarters for George Washington during the Battle of White Plains in late October 1776.

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Three Familiar Faces Contest Two Seats for Mt. Pleasant Board of Ed

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cherishes because of its positive impact.

"You don't see immediate impact most of the time but you see longer-term impacts and that's what I would show to people," Pinchiaroli said.

During his dozen years, Pinchiaroli, 55, an attorney for a Manhattan insurance company, said programs have consistently moved forward, including high school students applying to a wider variety of colleges. Mount Pleasant students are now competing with the best students from around the region academically and athletically, he said.

"We really have seen tremendous things. I'm proud of that and would like to see it continue," said Pinchiaroli, who added that Mount Pleasant has benefitted from a strong first year with Kotes at the helm.

The district continues to assess the International Baccalaureate (IB) program in the middle school grades. A point of discussion should be whether it continues or does Mount Pleasant incorporate more of its own practices into the program, Pinchiaroli said.

The \$64.2 million budget the public will vote on next week is tax cap compliant. He said what Mount Pleasant is forced to do, similar to many districts, is start at the cap and hope to work back from there. Most of the fiscal decisions the district makes is dictated by Albany, Pinchiaroli said.

Mount Pleasant works with the New York State School Boards Association on advocacy issues but the state's policies have handcuffed what it can do.

"I'm in favor of any funding formula that Albany wants to come up with that ensures districts like (Mount Pleasant) have adequate funding, adequate predictable funding on a regular basis that the community has input," Pinchiaroli said.

Entering the summer, the district has completed about one-third of work from the October 2016 referendums. It is projected by September 2020 the work will be complete.

"We are doing work when we can but work happens every summer," Pinchiaroli said, "and from a financial perspective we're told things are running as expected in terms of cost."

ArtsWestchester's Biggest House Party of the Year Returns Thursday

Join ArtsWestchester's biggest house party of the year and enjoy an evening of food, fun and art featuring Chef David DiBari, restaurateur John Crabtree, "Restaurant Hunter" Rob Petrone and more than 20 of the area's hottest restaurants as they come together for this year's ArtsBash party this Thursday, May 16 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Family ArtsBash celebration will follow on Saturday, May 18 from 1 to 5 p.m., featuring a day of affordable, hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Festivities will take place throughout ArtsWestchester's historic building, located at 31 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains.

"The chance to explore ArtsWestchester's nine-story building filled with artists' studios and galleries while sampling food and drink from some of the lower Hudson Valley's finest purveyors is an opportunity not to be missed," said Petrone, the event's honorary chair and host and executive producer of "Restaurant Hunter" on Verizon FiOS1 News, Lower Hudson Valley. "The space is huge and fun to explore – yet there's this very personal touch to all of it. In the course of a few hours, you really feel like you get to know this creative community we have in Westchester through food and

art."

Throughout the building, open artist studios will provide a unique opportunity to interact with some of the county's most creative forces. The exhibition "Modern Families," which explores the diverse representations of "family," will serve as the party backdrop in the main gallery, featuring photographs by 11 artists, anchored by the work of Harlem Renaissance legend James Van Der Zee.

DiBari is one of Westchester's hottest chefs, fresh off the opening of his latest restaurant, Eugene's Diner & Bar in Port Chester. He is also the visionary behind The Cookery, The Parlor and The Rare Bit in Dobbs Ferry. Crabtree, meanwhile, is the founder behind the beloved Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant & Inn in Chappaqua. Together with Petrone, the three have been a driving force in rallying restaurateurs from throughout the county to celebrate the art of food.

The 2019 ArtsBash is a fundraiser to support the programs and services of ArtsWestchester. It is co-chaired by Karen and Andrew Greenspan and Pat and Jim Houlihan along with Petrone, DiBari and Crabtree.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.artsw.org/artsbash.

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Westlake Eighth-Grader's Concert Raises Money for Dog Rescue

By Martin Wilbur

Ella Borello combined her love for music and dogs to treat her an audience with a toe-tapping rock concert at Rose Hill Music in Thornwood last Friday evening.

Her efforts were more than just a good time for herself, fans of her group, the Darn Good Monkey Band, or her bandmates, which happen to be her brother William and sister Keira.

She will help to change a couple of lives as well.

As part of her eighth-grade Community Leadership Project at Westlake Middle School, Borello raised about \$1,500 for Golden Re-Triever Rescue, Inc., a New Jersey-based nonprofit which rescues Golden Retrievers from Turkey. Locally, the dogs are matched with adopted families with the help of Golden Re-Triever Rescue volunteer and Mount Pleasant resident Eileen McFadden.

"I really love dogs and I love playing music and it was a great way to put something together and it was a great project," Borello said. "It was just a great experience."

The plan was to raise about \$800, the cost of bringing over one dog from Turkey, McFadden said. There is also a \$750 to get a dog through customs. The family who is adopting the dog pays about \$800, she said.

The five-year-old female that Borello's concert raised money for has already been matched with a family and is scheduled

to land at Kennedy Airport on May 30, McFadden said. McFadden said Borello has named the dog Hope.

Overwhelmed shelters in Istanbul and a culture where it's routine for dogs to roam the streets have caused problems. Golden Re-Triever Rescue estimates that there are more than 150,000 homeless dogs in Turkey.

"They do spay and neuter them in Turkey," McFadden said. "They tag their ears with a cattle tag and they put them back out onto the street. They don't put them in shelters because there are too many."

The concert, with Borello on drums, Keira, 10, on guitar and William, 9, on bass, featured a dozen songs over the nearly hour-long concert at Rose Hill Music's 70-seat performance space. Their selections ranged from "Free Fallin'" by Tom Petty, "Rock 'n' Roll All Nite" by Kiss and several songs by the group Weezer. Ella was the lead vocalist.

Borello, who has attended music lessons with her siblings at Rose Hill for the past year and also takes classes at School of Rock, said she usually performs with friends but this was a great experience.

"That was amazing," she said. "It's different then to have a band with your friends, but it's different to be with our family, it's a different appreciation when you're together."

The event, which included a bake sale, raffle, 50/50 drawing and donations, was so successful that nearly twice as much was raised as anticipated, which will pave the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Ella Borello, second from right, and her sister, Keira, far left, and brother William, are presented proclamations by County Legislator Margaret Cunzio after their concert last Friday to raise money to adopt Golden Retrievers from Turkey.

way for a second adoption, McFadden said.

The idea for the concert came about after McFadden's husband, Drew, was one of a group of representatives from various local organizations at Westlake Middle School to talk to the eight-graders about volunteer and community service opportunities. He wore two hats that day – one for Golden Re-Triever Rescue and the other for the American Legion, which he is active with in Thornwood.

County Legislator Margaret Cunzio presented Ella, Keira and William with county proclamations while Eileen McFadden presented the trio with flowers



Mount Pleasant resident Eileen McFadden with two Golden Retrievers that she recently adopted from Turkey.

before their final two songs.

"You're changing the lives of these dogs one dog at a time and I want to recognize that," Cunzio said. "I think it's very important."

Their mom, Katie, said preparing for the concert – the crowd gave them a standing ovation – and the project was an outstanding experience.

"I love it," she said. "It keeps them close together. I don't know how long that lasts but for now it's great."



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We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwillbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

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Letters to the Editor

Malichio Would Balance Student, Taxpayer Needs on Bedford Board of Ed

This year we have a clear choice for the Bedford Board of Education in Joe Malichio. I have known him and his family for about 15 years. He has been an avid supporter of our town and the schools his children attend. He understands the importance of teachers and administrators who hold high standards for our profession and love the students they teach. He also knows that fiscal stewardship and oversight is the top responsibility for a trustee. We have found out the hard way what happens to our district and home values when we don't have strong leadership in the areas that matter most.

Nearly 28 years ago, my family and I moved to Pound Ridge in search of a small, bucolic town with a good school system. I had been an elementary school teacher in the area and researched a high school which would be relatively diverse and afford its students a quality education. We were very satisfied with the teachers and staff at Fox Lane, where our son graduated.

I want the same great options for new families who are considering moving here, but the stresses on homeowners here are much greater now – declining home values, coupled with high tax burdens, can only be somewhat

palatable with excellent public schools. We want Joe on that board because he feels the same way – and he isn't afraid to tell the truth.

Over the years, we too have been disappointed by the large increase in our school taxes without any clear indication that the schools became better for it. Joe Malichio can be a strong voice for our students and parents while also advocating for all district taxpayers. That's a complete candidate and hopefully future board member.

Pat Mutolo
Pound Ridge

An Asset to the Village, P'ville Rightfully Supports Farmers Market

A letter to the editor last week regarding the Pleasantville Farmers Market and parking ("Why Should Taxpayers Foot Bill to Manage P'ville Farmers Market Parking?") raises questions of community interest I'd like to address for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

The answer to the writer's question is simple: The Village of Pleasantville owns the farmers market. It is the village's market, not Foodchester's. Foodchester manages it for the village.

When police or other public safety personnel support municipally-owned events, such as the Fireman's Parade or Pleasantville Day, the cost is borne by the village because it is in the interest of the village and its residents that community events are safe and organized.

We do not, as a matter of policy or principle, ask those who are hired to run an event to pay for all the services that support the event's success. For example, teachers and administrators hired to run

a school system are not expected to pay for crossing guards. We also do not ask local churches, whose parishioners are aided by the presence of police officers directing vehicular and pedestrian traffic after services, to pay the police.

As for parking, here are the facts: There are eight parking lots within a five-minute walk of the farmers market, plus street parking; over 400 spots in all. But many treat the Memorial Plaza lot, which is closest and most visible, as if it were the only lot. This has led to frayed nerves and a safety issue when cars waiting for spots block the Memorial Plaza-Bedford Road intersection. We saw it as our role to bring this issue to the Village Board and administrator. In fact, the proposed solution was a result of two years of meetings with stakeholders. The market did not demand these resources, but rather suggested that a solution be developed for the benefit and safety of shoppers. Whatever the solution, we

believe a managed process will be better than the current situation.

The letter writer said that Foodchester is "commercially successful." This is patently untrue. A nonprofit market like Pleasantville's isn't even commercially viable; we take in less in revenue than the cost of our operations, and make up the rest through fundraising. Our 13-member board and over a dozen middle and high school interns contribute more than 3,000 hours annually in volunteer time toward logistics, music, kids, culinary and health programs, in-school programs, marketing, legal services, SNAP programs, partnerships to address local hunger and many other efforts. If we had to pay for even a small portion of the services provided by volunteers, we would cease to exist.

Our market is consistently voted as the Best of Westchester and anyone involved in village real estate will tell you that our market enhances the appeal of the village. Other municipalities marvel at the collaboration between the village, school district and Foodchester, which is sustained by a shared vision for collaboration and community-building.

We know the market isn't everyone's cup of tea, but we do our best to run the organization in a professional and responsible way, because we live and pay taxes here, too. You don't have to love or even attend the market, but to suggest that an event operator raising a public safety issue to the village that actually owns the market is unfairly foisting their financial obligation onto taxpayers is ignorant and unfair.

Pat Reilly

Former Mount Kisco mayor and 24-year Bedford Central School District employee

Peter Rogovin

President of Foodchester, operator of the Pleasantville Farmers Market

Cambareri, Staropoli Have the Qualities Needed to Serve on Bedford Board of Ed

I am writing in support of Jessica Cambareri's election and Beth Staropoli's re-election to the Bedford Central School District Board of Education.

Cambareri, a dedicated volunteer in every organization she belongs to, will represent the entire district. I have known Jessica for many years and have admired her enthusiasm, dedication and innovative ideas.

Staropoli has demonstrated her qualities of leadership and knowledge of curriculum, her budgetary expertise, her community involvement in her current role as school board trustee and formerly

as an administrator and educator in the district.

School board members must be dedicated, knowledgeable and involved in the many hours that are necessary to achieve goals. Cambareri and Staropoli will definitely represent every family in the entire district. Join me in supporting their election and re-election on Tuesday, May 21.

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Guest Columns

The Past Two Years Has Brought Positive Change to Mount Kisco

By Isi Albanese

I am writing to share my gratitude with the Town of Mount Kisco. It is with a heavy heart that I am announcing that I will not be running in the upcoming election. We have two good people who care about our community that will carry the torch. I will consider running next year, if I am needed.

I first came to Mount Kisco in 1968 as a 10-year-old living in a small apartment above my Uncle Angelo's house on Lexington Avenue. I learned a lot from my family over the years; they taught me about respect and love for family and community. I live my life by holding on to my values that I learned.

Today I can say that every decision that I have ever made is to always put God, family and community first. I am glad that I could give back to the village that embraced my family 51 years ago. I have goals for the rest of this year that I want to reach with the help of the Village Board and the community.

1. Continue the "adopt-an-area program" and to add another six areas this year. You can do your part by adopting an area or beautifying your front yard, storefront or just planting something. A little bit by a lot of people will be more impactful

than a lot done by a few.

2. Bring development downtown by putting people where the businesses are. I want to make sure developers will enhance our community by bringing experiential tenants and residents to enhance the downtown experience and help our business thrive again.

3. Continue to work on code changes that will make the approval process through our boards and Building Department run smoother and more efficiently. Get rid of any code that does not make sense for our community today.

4. Preserve our natural resources for future generations. Support our Conservation Advisory Council members and their efforts. They are the most selfless people and I learned a lot from them.

5. Continue to make Mount Kisco a close-knit community by bringing people together through events, street fairs, art festivals and Town Hall forums. I will continue to work with committees to help them succeed. You can make a difference by participating and letting your voice be heard.

6. Set term limits for elected officials.

I believe that you can accomplish a lot in eight years and new people with new ideas will bring positive change, if given the opportunity to step forward.

7. Create an Economic Development section on the village website that will have a tab called Why Choose Mount Kisco to Build Your Business? This will include demographics, links to available properties and zoning and a guide to bring applicants through our process. We also need "Why You Should Live in Mount Kisco" section.

I want to thank everyone for their support and believing positive change is good for our community. It was my pleasure to work on the Comprehensive Plan and it's fulfilling to see the plan becoming reality. I have seen a positive change in the employees at Village Hall; we have a team of passionate people that work hard and truly care about our community.

I can feel a difference in our downtown. The empty stores are starting to fill with the expectations of what it will be. Our citizens are engaged in our community and this will continue to fuel positive changes. I can feel the pride. Realtors have changed their attitudes and now believe that they can sell Mount Kisco

to potential businesses and investors.

We are getting so many compliments about our new Building Department process implemented by Inspector Peter Miley and his team. Solar is now permissible and we will have our first solar farm at the old landfill and another at Oakwood Cemetery. These will lead to others as well. It is a small step toward using more sustainable energy but more still needs to be done.

I ran for office to support Mayor Gina Picinich because I saw how much she cares about our community and her passion to bring Mount Kisco to its full potential. Please continue to give her all your support. I also ran for office because I saw a desperate need for positive change. Having a seat on the board allowed me to make a difference by bringing our visions discussed two years ago into reality.

It has been a great experience and the footprints we leave behind will last forever. I look forward to the next seven months. We will do our best to reach our goals for this great community. I love America and Mount Kisco most of all. God Bless you all!

Isi Albanese is a member of the Mount Kisco Village Board.

Caveat Emptor: Opaque Healthcare Pricing Plunges to New Depths

By Jonathan Cunningham

Recently I was in need of an MRI. From experience MRI prices vary but seemed to cost around \$1,000 for those with insurance. New Choice Health's survey of area MRI providers concluded about \$800 to be a fair price for my particular procedure.

My doctor sent me to a local hospital for my MRI. I checked their website, where they detailed the professionalism and quality of their service. Pricing was not discussed or disclosed, nor honestly did I think to ask given the fairly well-defined market pricing of MRIs.

My MRI was uneventful. The staff were, indeed, professional and courteous. I was in and out within an hour. There was nothing unusual about the experience except the bill I later received. The hospital charged me \$9,185 for an MRI. My high-deductible insurance plan included the hospital in its network and the bill was reduced to \$5,160 – all of which I am responsible for. That's a \$4,360 surcharge over what is determined fair.

The hospital contends it carries extra costs (they are required to staff the unit 24/7), so it needs to charge more than standalone or specialty operators. At no

time prior to the MRI and in the required consents was the cost of the MRI disclosed. Following the MRI, when I expressed my objection to the amount charged, hospital staff revealed the costs are disclosed on the webpage. When asked where, it took the person several minutes to locate it under the bill section. When I pressed why anyone who had not yet generated a bill would think to look there, she had nothing but an apologetic response.

What is clear is the hospital knows it is charging significantly more than market rates for an MRI. However, there is no clear warning of this on its website, and the hospital makes no attempt to advise the patient where cost information can be obtained. As best I can tell, there is also no effort to inform doctors in their network about this pricing disparity. My doctor was shocked and embarrassed when informed about this and has called the hospital president – so far without response.

I have not named the hospital because it appears this is a fairly common practice, particularly with hospitals and critical care facilities. After several weeks and repeated conversations, I

spoke with the hospital's head of patient advocacy as well as its CFO. Together they agreed to provide some relief. I cannot guarantee this will be everyone's experience. It should be unnecessary. In an effort toward greater transparency, I am sharing my experience and hope it serves as a warning and help for others.

Additionally, I invite state Sen. Peter Harkham, Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti and Gov. Cuomo to help form and champion fair legislation which requires providers and insurance companies to have more transparent pricing. Like most folks, I am willing to pay a competitive rate for an MRI (or any other service), but to be charged \$4,000 to \$8,000 more than fair market value without proper consent runs contrary to advocating for patient protections and reductions in medical care costs and allows the unsuspecting and vulnerable to be taken advantage of.

To the hospitals and others, the cost of these procedures should be disclosed to the patient and not buried on a website where one is unlikely to look. The current approach clearly indicates that the excessive cost of administering the service is being intentionally concealed

from the patient. This results in financial stress and harm for individuals and families.

I implore you to do the right thing and be far more transparent about your pricing. Do not wait to see if the state coerces you to do so. You will be viewed as a much better community member if you act soon and on your own.

Healthcare is confusing and expensive. Creating intentional opacity around pricing is wrong. In the case of MRIs, where patients often have a choice, where prices are well-known and competitive and where the service is substantially similar wherever you go, the pricing trap should not exist. It can easily be eliminated with proper disclosures.

To my representatives in Albany, this is a concrete, well-defined opportunity where you can make a positive impact for many of your constituents, and yes, a real contribution to improving health care costs in New York. This unfair, deceptive practice needs to change.

For now, my neighbors and friends, be warned.

Pleasantville resident Jonathan Cunningham is a former village trustee.

Food Truck Festival Ready to Park in Mt. Kisco This Saturday

By Martin Wilbur

If you're going to be in Mount Kisco on Saturday afternoon, make sure to bring your appetite.

This Saturday is the village's inaugural Food Truck Festival featuring eight different trucks and a wide variety of food to taste. The festival, which will be located in the area behind Village Hall from 12 to 6 p.m., will also include live music and games for the children. Admission is \$5 a person for everyone five years old and up.

Other than the admission, the food and drink is the only charge.

"It's like a new version of fast food or take-out," said Joanne Aquilino, Mount Kisco's superintendent of recreation said of the current popularity of food trucks. "I've noticed this popping up more and more at weddings and birthday parties. They're easy, they bring the whole meal to you and there's not a whole lot of work you have to do."

There should be something for everybody as trucks specializing in grilled cheese, crepes, dumplings, pizza, barbecue, burgers and ice cream will be on hand, she said.

The event will be more than just a gastronomical delight for visitors. It will also serve as a fundraiser to help pay for a new playground at Leonard Park, Aquilino said.

While the playground and new



The popularity of food trucks has prompted the Village of Mount Kisco to hold its first-ever Food Truck Festival this Saturday behind Village Hall. Proceeds will be put toward a new playground for Leonard Park.

equipment will take plenty of funding – perhaps as much as \$1 million – the department has been looking for ways to offset the cost. Aquilino said she has also been filling out and submitting grant applications to help fund the project. Work and equipment will likely be done

piecemeal.

"As people who look into these things know it's not inexpensive to come up with a new playground for our community and to make our playground a little more all-inclusive for everyone to be able to use," she said.

In addition to new equipment, there will also be a new surface and it will be wheelchair accessible.

Bringing a food truck festival was one of Aquilino's goals since she arrived in the village about three years ago. She has seen the popularity of the trucks rise and thought it would be a good way to promote community interaction.

Mayor Gina Picinich said events such as the Food Truck Festival or last year's SeptemberFest, which was an enhancement of the decades-old Sidewalk Sales Days, brings energy and excitement to downtown.

Other events this summer will include two concert series, one at Leonard Park and the other in the courtyard between Village Hall and the library on Main Street, and possibly a Jewish cultural festival later in June.

Since the festival will take extend form lunchtime until those who like to eat an early dinner, Aquilino said she hopes those attending will stay awhile and enjoy the festivities. She also hopes it catches on and is an annual event.

"It should be fun for the entire family," Aquilino said.

In the event of inclement weather, the rain date for the festival is Sunday. Check the village's website, www.mountkisco.ny.gov, for updates.

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Pleasantville Day Celebration is a Day for Everyone to Enjoy

By Martin Wilbur

Pleasantville is all about community and this Saturday is when the appeal of a small village will really shine through.

On Saturday is the annual Pleasantville Day celebration, a village event that entices residents of all ages for several hours of fun and sun (hopefully!) and to mingle with their neighbors and friends. It takes place on Memorial Plaza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more than 30 years, typically on the third Saturday of May, the crowds come out for what is more than a grand old street fair.

"The focus isn't on selling or making money, so it's really bringing out what's special and it's just a celebration of small village charm," said Ben Serebin, one of the Pleasantville Day organizers. "That's really our focus for the event."

For anyone who plans on coming, there is no cost to take in any of the activities, entertainers, games or attractions, only to eat and drink, Serebin said. And there will be plenty to take in.

Children will be able to spend time in the Kids Zone and try their hand at gaga, a Velcro wall, archery and crafts. There will also be storytelling and airbrush tattoos.

A rock-climbing wall, a bungee trampoline and an inflatable obstacle course will keep older kids and even



some adults busy for a while in the Adventure Zone.

Then there's entertainment for everybody, Serebin said. Among the favorites are the stilt walker and juggler and bubble maker, which are sure to draw large crowds. There will also be live music and demonstrations throughout the day along with the vendors, a wide assortment of local organizations and food to eat, including a pizza truck, he said.

"More engagement with the crowd,

that's the overall path we've been going," Serebin said. "Then we're still targeting little kids up until older adults."

Pleasantville Day is also about philanthropy. Serebin said that tips for entertainers are collected to donate to a local organization in the area.

Pleasantville Day is rain or shine, an important note given the recent rains and last year's soggy event. But with an encouraging long-range forecast as of Monday, Serebin is hopeful that perhaps a few thousand people will come out.



Fun activities, entertainment, food and friends is what Pleasantville Day is about. The festivities take place this Saturday on Memorial Plaza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I love the entertainers," Serebin said. "That's really what I coordinate and organize. So the bubble maker, I think, is just amazing. The person who's on stilts who juggles is very impressive, so I enjoy that aspect of Pleasantville Day, and just getting a good vibe overall. That's what I love about it."

In addition to the Village of Pleasantville, Phelps Hospital Northwell Health sponsors the Adventure Zone activities and Kiwi Country Day Camp sponsors the Kids Zone activities.

Pleasantville Day will be held in place of the Pleasantville Farmers Market, which will return at Memorial Plaza on May 25.

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Tips to Protect Your Home While on Vacation

Many people are planning now for summer vacation travel. Not surprisingly, the Insurance Information Institute reports that the majority of home burglaries occur in July and August when many people are enjoying time off.

According to that same organization, nine out of 10 home break-ins could be prevented if homeowners would take simple steps to burglar-proof their homes.

Of all the years we lived in our historic home in Yorktown, we didn't invest in a sophisticated security system until we were ready to sell the house, feeling that it would be an added incentive for prospective buyers. Less than 20 percent of households nationwide have security systems. The rest of us must take other precautions to discourage break-ins while we're away from home.

How well I remember the discomfort combined with the relaxation of every vacation while we were traveling,



By Bill Primavera

especially if it were for more than a week. In the early days, I remember that we would call home and feel comforted to hear our answering machine just to know that everything was "still there." And when returning home, there would always be that anxious moment when we were turning onto our street and my wife and I would turn to each other and ask, "Is the house still standing?"

We had good reason to be Nervous Nellies, having sustained two break-ins when we lived in the city. We developed a litany of devices to make our home less appealing to burglars, combined with other ideas combed from other sources, some of which are really creative. For those who don't have security systems, consider the following steps.

Lock All Doors and Windows: This may seem unnecessary to even mention but 28 percent of all burglaries occur without having to use force to gain entry. Burglars simply find an unlocked

window or door, so be sure to double-check all the windows and deadbolt all exterior doors. Place a metal or wood dowel in the track of sliding glass doors. And, if you have a spare key hidden outside, make sure it's brought inside while you're away.

Hire a House Visitor/Sitter: It's well worth the investment to have someone pick up the newspapers or mail if you haven't had them temporarily discontinued, water the plants and, if you have them, take care of pets.

Invest in Timers: To make your house look lived in, utilize timers to have the lights go on and off at various times throughout the day.

Unplug and Disconnect: Unplug all electronics and small appliances that don't need to stay on while you're away. This will save electricity and reduce the risk of fire. Turn off your garage door opener so thieves can't open it with a universal remote. If you'll be away for a week or more, turn your hot water heater down and consider turning off the water to sinks, toilets, dishwasher and washing machine to avoid possible flooding.

Don't Close Blinds: Leave them and

curtains open. If something valuable is visible through the window, move it.

Light Up at Night: If you have outdoor lighting, make sure that your timer turns it on while you're away.

Maintain Your Lawn: If it's an extended trip and you normally maintain your lawn yourself, arrange to have a service take care of it while you're away.

Leave Your Car in the Driveway: Or invite your neighbor to pull in and out of your driveway to keep activity going on during the week.

Don't Leave a Voicemail Message: Don't tell the world you're away by leaving a message to that effect on your voicemail.

With these precautions in place, you will feel more relaxed while away enjoying yourself.

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

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Mt. Kisco Weighs Participation in Food Scrap Recycling Program

By Sean Browne

The Mount Kisco Village Board last week introduced the possibility of establishing a food scrap recycling program for its residents, while at the same time Westchester County is exploring whether a countywide initiative would be feasible.

Trustee Peter Grunthal said the program, which would be voluntary, would allow village residents to bring their food scraps to Mount Kisco's recycling center. Once there, they would be brought to a facility to be transformed into nutrient-rich compost.

If approved, Mount Kisco would join other towns in Westchester, including New Castle, Bedford and Scarsdale, that have established a food scrap recycling program.

Grunthal said because so much food is thrown out the program could significantly reduce the amount of garbage produced by the village and brought to landfills, which could eventually save money.

"The result of this is a very rich compost which is being used increasingly in some communities," Grunthal said.

Participating households would be able to buy a small or large starter kit, which includes a countertop pail, a roll of 25 compostable bags and either a medium or large bin. The kit with the medium bin is estimated to cost \$20 while the kit with the larger receptacle would be about \$25.

Although Mount Kisco officials would like to participate, the Board of Legislators is exploring a county-wide program, which would make a local program redundant. County Legislator Kitley Covill (D-Katonah), who appeared with Mayor Gina Picinich Saturday morning at the Mount Kisco Public Library at a forum to address local issues, said the county has recently undertaken a study that is expected to be completed by October regarding its feasibility for all of Westchester.

Scarsdale was the first municipality in the county to launch the program in early 2017. Grunthal, who traveled

to Scarsdale to observe that village's operation with members of the Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council, noted how successful it has been.

To participate, residents would take their leftover food and enclose it in an airtight plastic container. The contents of that container would be dropped off at a food scrap recycling center, which for Mount Kisco would most likely be at the village's Public Works facility on Columbus Avenue, according to Grunthal.

It would be a voluntary program, Grunthal stressed; however, he said it

should be heavily promoted throughout the town.

Grunthal estimated that the program would cost about \$2,500 for the village.

While this would be a residential program, Trustee Jean Farber suggested having the village's restaurants participate.

Picinich and Trustee Karen Schleimer said they would like to know how many people might participate if Mount Kisco established a food scrap recycling program. Schleimer recommended asking residents through an online

survey or posing the question through the town's water bill.

The village is seeking feedback about their potential interest in the program through its Facebook page or by e-mailing Assistant Village Manager Kenneth Famulare at kfamulare@mountkisco.ny.gov.

For more information and the type of food scrap items that would be accepted, visit the village's website at www.mountkisco.ny.gov.

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.



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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.

Tuesday, May 14

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.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Galaxy Butterfly. Create a colorful galaxy butterfly craft using the blotto painting technique. For children five to 11 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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.

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

Current Affairs Book Club. "Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress" by Stephen Pinker will be discussed. Discussion will be led by R. Daniel Vock. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

History and Biography Book Club. "The War That Killed Achilles" by Caroline Alexander will be discussed. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-669-5161 or www.keelerlibrary.org.

Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779.

Author Talk. Local authors Lynda Cohen Loigman and Lara Dearman read from their new books "Wartime Sisters" and "Dark Sky Island," respectively. Jacob Burns Film Center 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Free.

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, May 15

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 May 27). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Yoga for Toddlers. Introduces children to basic yoga poses and mindfulness while keeping it fun with games. It will be taught by certified yoga instructor Karen Savir. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel or yoga mat. For children two to five years old. Caregiver supervision is required. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Rd., North Salem. 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Also May 15 and 22 and June 5. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-669-5161 or visit the library.

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 May 27). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

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

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Every

Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or 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. Info: 914-273-3887.

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.

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. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Support Group for Families in Recovery. Mountainside Chappaqua now offers this family support groups to those who have been impacted by a loved one's addiction. These sessions are designed to provide family members with the recovery and support services they need to heal in tandem with their addicted loved ones. For parents, spouses, children, friends and others whose loved ones have struggled with drug or alcohol misuse. Group members are encouraged to share their stories, setbacks and successes with those who have encountered similar challenges. Mountainside Chappaqua, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Meets the third Wednesday of every month. Info: 800-762-5433.

Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz. "The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will host a special screening of this documentary produced and directed by Barry Avrich. It tells the fascinating story of Ben Ferencz, the lead prosecutor in the Nuremberg

trials and the last surviving prosecutor and lifelong advocate of "law not war." All 22 Nazi officials tried for murdering over a million Jews and Ferencz went on to advocate for restitution for Jewish victims of the Holocaust and later for the establishment of the International Criminal Court. Post-screening discussion with Avrich and Elizabeth Little, senior adviser, Ferencz International Justice Initiative, Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Jewish Community Center of Harrison, 130 Union Ave., Harrison. 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info: 212-983-0825 or e-mail northeast@ushmm.org. Registration: Visit www.ushmm.org/events/prosecuting-evilharrison.

Author Talk. "Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World's Fastest Clipper Ship." Author Steven Ujifusa writes the story of a handful of cutthroat competitors who raced to build the fastest, finest, most profitable clipper ships to carry their cargo to America. A 2012 top 10 Wall Street Journal author, Ujifusa has a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. He has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning and NPR. New Castle Town Hall, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Art Series: William Bliss Baker. For such a short life, Baker left an incredible footprint. Coming to artistic fruition at the tail end of the Hudson River School period, Baker's landscapes were evocative, detailed, mesmerizing and lauded as brilliant in their detailed presentation of the natural world around us. 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.

Author Talk. Local author David Rocco will discuss his book "The Indestructible Man: The True Story of World War II Hero 'Captain Dixie.'" A Q&A will follow his presentation and copies of the book will be available for sale. Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theater, 53 Croton Ave., Ossining. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-941-2416 or www.ossininglibrary.org.

"On Her Shoulders." Nadia Murad, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize last year, is a member of the Iraqi Yazidi religious minority who survived a 2014 massacre and then sexual slavery at the hands of ISIS. Telling her painful story at the United Nations, in soul-baring media interviews and in meetings with government officials, she is a calm and relentless beacon of hope for her people, even when she longs to put aside her monumental burden and have an ordinary life. An exceptional, award-winning documentary about a formidable

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Fourth-Grader Overcomes Stroke to Return to Playing Field

By Abby Luby

Little Leaguers are known to brave wayward fast balls, aching elbows and ankle sprains, but few have had to fight paralyzing strokes.

Victorious in that battle despite his age is fourth-grader Rocky Serrano Jr., who last July suffered a stroke that paralyzed his entire left side. Brain surgery was the only hope to restore full movement followed by several months of rehabilitation.

Last Saturday, Rocky showed how far he has progressed since last summer, throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at the spring homecoming varsity Fox Lane baseball game at Fox Lane High School. A crowd of high school players, coaches and parents enthusiastically cheered him as he walked to the mound.

One night last July, Rocky woke up with excruciating head pains. It would be the beginning of a 10-month nightmare for him, his parents, Marival and Rocky Serrano Sr., and older sister Allison.

"It was terrifying to learn that your son has internal bleeding in his brain. He had to be under constant surveillance in the ICU," recalled Marivel Serrano. "We didn't know if he would survive the night."

Rocky's paralysis on his left side was from head to toe, caused by what is known



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Rocky Serrano Jr. fires first pitch before last Saturday afternoon's Fox Lane High School baseball game — 10 months after a stroke temporarily paralyzed him on his left side.

as an arteriovenous malformation, an abnormal connection between arteries and veins.

"But after his surgery, the very next day he started walking and I couldn't believe it," said Marivel Serrano. "You never

really stop worrying, you take one day at a time."

His father said ProSwing of Mount Kisco was key to getting Rocky active again. "They gave him one-on-one lessons which helped him enormously," Rocky Serrano Sr. said.

As Rocky Jr. pulled on the black and red Fox Lane Jersey with the number 13 below his name, he said he was glad to be playing baseball again. A few weeks ago, Rocky fired his first pitch in a game for his team in the Bedford Hills-Katonah Little League.

"I didn't think I would ever play any sports," he said. "I learned to never stop believing in your dreams."

Also being honored at Fox Lane with a special surprise banner was Coach Matt Hillis for recording 300 wins as Fox Lane baseball coach. Hillis high-fived Rocky Jr. before Saturday's game and recalled when he first learned about Rocky's stroke.

"I saw a post on Facebook about Rocky and was touched by the story, especially how he overcame such adversity," Hillis said.

Today we are being graced with his presence and having him wear our jersey as he throws out the first pitch. We're looking forward to the day Rocky plays with us."

Applicant Reduces Size of MTA Cell Tower on Mt. Kisco's Mountain Ave.

By Sean Browne

The applicant for the proposed larger MTA cell tower on Mountain Avenue in Mount Kisco recently outlined for village officials two changes to its appearance during resumption of the public hearing.

Representatives for Crown Castle, the applicant of record for the taller tower which is seeking a special permit from the Village Board, said the modified structure will now be 109 feet tall, five feet shorter than originally planned. Previously, there had been concern from residents as well as Trustee Karen Schleimer that the tower would be too tall and be an eyesore for the neighborhood.

David J. Kenny of Snyder & Snyder LLP, the attorney for Crown Castle, said the shorter tower was in response to those concerns.

"If we reduce the height but still maintain the necessary height for the MTA's antennas that they need that might be a visually better pole for the people," Kenny said.

Kenny also explained to the board that the tower was supposed to be twice as thick as the existing 86-foot tower on Mountain Avenue. However, now the tower will only be six inches thicker.

The tower would provide the MTA with better emergency communications service and accommodate all four major cell phone carriers. The existing tower only carries AT&T and T-Mobile.

Furthermore, the facility will be fully compliant with FCC rules and regulations for radio frequency admissions, Kenny added.

Despite the modifications, a pair of Mountain Avenue residents said they remained displeased with the proposal. Margaret Ormond said the town failed to adequately notify the area's residents. While she learned of the proposed tower through her water bill, most people don't read the literature that accompanies their bills.

Jim Ormond said he is concerned that even though the tower may be slightly shortened it will be problematic because it's larger than the existing tower.

"The issue right now is that the existing tower is within the tree line, if you are on Mountain Avenue you don't see it," he said. "I am concerned that 28 feet is enough that you will see it from Mountain Avenue."

Crown Castle is scheduled to appear next Tuesday, May 14 before the Planning Board.

Tickled Pink



JEFF HARWITZ PHOTO

With pink baselines and Mount Kisco Little League players donning pink hats last Saturday for Mother's Day weekend, the Examiner-sponsored team joined the festivities to pay tribute to moms. There was also interleague play with two Bedford-Pound Ridge teams making the trip to be part of the celebration at Leonard Park. Bareburger hosted former Yankee John Flaherty, who signed autographs. Team Examiner battled Bedford Hills Jeep to a 0-0 tie.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Happenings

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young woman. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Bedford Chamber Concerts. The final concert in the spring portion of the Bedford Chamber Concert Series includes Pachelbel's Canon; Saint-Saens' trumpet septet; Anthony Newman's premiere of a Fanfare in E; and Bach's setting of the biblical canticle "Magnificat." Refreshments served at intermission. St. Matthew's Church Fellowship Hall, 382 Cantitoe St. (Route 22), Bedford. 8 p.m. \$45. Info and tickets: 914-522-5150 or visit www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

Thursday, May 16

Third Thursdays Bird Walk. Join naturalist Tait Johansson at this local migration hotspot for the second in a new series of bird walks. A great way to hone your birding skills and mark the passing of the seasons and birds. Maple Avenue, Katonah. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Susan at 914-302-9713 or e-mail info@bedfordadubon.org.

Castles of New Castle House Tour. The New Castle Historical Society brings back this event, one of the organization's primary annual fundraisers. It provides an opportunity to explore five exquisite homes in the town. The ticket will allow for a 15 percent discount at several New Castle restaurants the day of the event. All proceeds benefit the New Castle Historical Society. Starts at the Horace Greeley House, 100 King St., Chappaqua. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Members: \$50. Non-members: \$75. Docent: \$25. Tickets purchased on or after May 10 must be picked up at the Greeley House. Info and tickets: Visit www.newcastlehs.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. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Herb Society of America Spring Meeting. The annual spring meeting of the New York Unit of the Herb Society of America. The featured speaker is Dr. Kanchan Koya, author of "Spice Spice Baby," and a believer that spices can enhance your health and well-being. Also includes a luncheon, a plant sale and a Ways & Means table with a variety of garden equipment. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. Registration at 10 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Non-members: \$20. Info: e-mail herbsocietyny@gmail.com.

com.

Knitting Circle. This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except May 27). Info: 914-273-3887.

Lifeline Theater Music Program. An outlet for unlocking the potential of children and adults with special needs through integrated arts and life skills programs. Drop in anytime and join founder Billy Ayres as he uses singing, dancing, creating plays, artwork and gardening to help participants realize their strengths and potential contributions to their communities. Ayres has created a technique called improvisational integrated music/drama. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (except May 31) Info: Visit www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or 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.mountkiscoblibrary.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.mountkiscoblibrary.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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Family Storytime. Stories, songs, fingerplays and other activities. For children one to four years old and their siblings and caregivers. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.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.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

"2001: A Space Odyssey." Presented in a new 4K "un-restoration," Stanley Kubrick's seminal masterwork returned to cinemas last year in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Of this new version of the classic film, visionary director Christopher Nolan supervised its creation. Seeing this new version is like stepping into the past and experiencing it as audiences did in 1968. A must-see event. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Arts Bash. Enjoy an unforgettable evening of food from more than 20 top restaurants along with fabulous art and open studios. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 6 to 9 p.m. \$100. Info and tickets: Contact Ann Fabrizio at 914-428-4220 ext. 326, e-mail afabrizio@artswestchester.org or visit www.artswestchester.org.

Evening Howl for Adults Only. Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a spread of wine and cheese. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with Ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the center's critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves, too. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6:30 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

3rd Annual Tapas on the Terrace Ladies Night. An event for the Pleasantville Fund for Learning. 266 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20 (pay at the door). Info: Visit www.pvfl.org.

"Baby." The Armonk Players presents this play that earned eight Tony Award nominations including for best musical and best original score. Directed and choreographed by Tom Coppola, three couples on a university campus deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of conceiving a baby. Lizzie and Danny are college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; Nick and Pam are 30-somethings, having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and Arlene and Alan are middle-aged parents looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college when a night of unexpected passion leads to a surprise pregnancy. Whipoorwill Hall, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. \$20. Students (18 and under): \$10. Also May 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. and May 19 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.ArmonkPlayers.org.

Friday, May 17

Miss Keila's Jukebox. Children explore the world of music with instruments, props and even a parachute. For children six months to four years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Friday (except May 24). Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Alligator Affirmation Box Series. Design an alligator affirmation box. Inside the alligator's belly are loving and empowering words that can take you to another world of peace and harmony. This program is a two-part series to allow paint to dry. Children should attend both days. Day 2 is May 20 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. For children from seven to 12 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Intro to Chinese Brush Painting Workshop. For the beginner, learn the "four gentlemen" bamboo, plum blossom, wild orchard and chrysanthemum, which represent the four seasons. Focus on quality of strokes, color preparation, rhythm, movement, energy, composition and more. Experienced students will have the chance to explore traditional flowers, birds, animals, landscape and more. Let the spontaneous harmony and rhythm of Chi (energy) dominate and flourish. Learn and master the beauty of this timeless medium in no time. The first of two sessions. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 6 to 9 p.m. Members: \$98. Non-members: \$109. Workshop continues on May 24. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-738-2525 ext. 11, visit www.pelhamartcenter.org or e-mail info@pelhamartcenter.org.

Opening Reception for "Steady as She Goes." A solo exhibit of recent paintings by American artist Eugene Healy. The exhibit will include 15 recent works, on panel, canvas and paper. Inspired by such painters as Matisse, Vermeer, Richard Diebenkorn, Robert Rauschenberg, Hans Hoffman and

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Armonk Chamber Focuses on Education for 2019 Awards

The Armonk Chamber of Commerce is being honored this week an individual and an organization as its 2019 Citizen of the Year and Organization of the year.

Ira Schulman, a longtime Byram Hills Board of Education members and community volunteer, and the Byram Hills Education Foundation, the district's fundraising organization for special projects and programs that enhance students' education, were honored Tuesday, May 14 at the Whippoorwill Club in Armonk during the chamber's annual golf outing and dinner.

Schulman, an Armonk resident since 1987, has been a loyal volunteer and leader in many local organizations. He is the longest-tenured Byram Hills School trustee, with 20 consecutive years of service, including seven terms as board president.

He has successfully seen the school district through three major bond issues involving significant school construction and athletic facility upgrades as well as developing the succession plans for major administrative positions.

An avid sports fan, Schulman served as American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) coach and referee for 12 years, and for three years was regional commissioner. He has also served as Windmill Club president; counsel to Friends of the North Castle Public Library; vice president and advisory board member of Hope's Door; and a member of the Board of Trustees for Temple Sharaay Tefila.

Schulman has also been the "Voice of Byram Hills," with play-by-play sports commentary on Bobcat TV, and he took to the stage in the Armonk Players production of "Last Night of Ballyhoo."

When not volunteering, Schulman works on his golf game and is a partner at the national law firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP as head of its New York construction practice group.

The Byram Hills Education Foundation (BHEF), a nonprofit organization, has provided \$4.6 million in grants to the

Byram Hills School District over the past 25 years. It enables teachers and administrators to introduce creative programs and equipment beyond what is covered by the school district's annual operating budget. Since its inception, the BHEF has awarded more than 300 grants, which have had an impact on thousands of students.

Some of its most recent projects include funding a Wellness Initiative at all four district schools. This project partnered with the Foundation with Stanford University to design and implement policies and practices that improve student well-being, academic engagement and success. The project also added an interactive indoor play space and an outdoor obstacle course in the elementary schools; yoga, meditation and relaxation space in the middle school; and a lounge in the high school.

The BHEF has recently provided coding, robotics, engineering and 3D modeling as part of its K-12 Full STEAM Ahead Initiative, funded STEAM Labs and 21st century classrooms for the middle school and high school and enhanced school libraries in the elementary schools and middle school. These, among many other projects, have helped the school district remain at the top in academic excellence. Its two annual fundraisers generate



Longtime Byram Hills Board of Education member and community volunteer Ira Schulman is this year's Armonk Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Citizen of the Year. The Byram Hills Education Foundation was also named its Organization of the Year.

support from families, businesses and community leaders.



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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

We're British You Know. The words in the quiz this week come a Mental Floss feature "50 Old British Dialect Words We Should Bring Back." The words come from Joseph Wright's "English Dialect Dictionary." "Ranging from the bizarre to the useful, they all would make a brilliant addition to anyone's vocabulary." Perhaps a nipperkin (a small gulp) of your favorite cuddle-me-buff (beer) will be in order after finishing the quiz.

1. clomph (v.)

A) to do something clumsily

B) walk in too large shoes

C) coo like a dove

2. crumpsy (adj.)

A) short-tempered

B) unlucky

C) messy

3. slitherum (n.)

A) a thin slice of bread

B) a laughing stock

C) a slow-moving person

4. paddy-noddy (n.)

A) a sad story

B) a bedtime story

C) a tedious story

5. bang-a-bong (v.)

A) to sit a riverbank

B) fall heavily

C) tidy up quickly

6. dauncy (adj.)

A) ridiculous

B) looking unwell

C) exquisite

7. crinkie-winkie (n.)

A) a groundless misgiving

B) a difficult situation

C) stiffness in the legs

8. omperlodge (v.)

A) to yawn wearily

B) perform an unpleasant task

C) contradict someone

ANSWERS:

1. B. To walk in shoes that are too large for you (Central England)

2. A. Short-tempered and irritable (Central England)

3. C. A dawdling, slow-moving person (East England)

4. C. A long and tedious story (Lincolnshire)

5. A. To sit lazily on a riverbank (Gloucestershire)

6. B. Looking noticeably unwell (Ireland)

7. A. A groundless misgiving, or a poor reason for not doing something (Scots)

8. C. To disagree with or contradict someone (Bedfordshire)



Connecting People & Nature Since 1953

Upcoming Public Field Trips

All Mondays: Free Bird Walks at Local Hotspots, 7:30 am

2nd Saturdays: Brinton Brook Sanctuary Walk, 9:00 am

Special Spring Migration Early Bird Walks

Wednesdays, 6:00 am, until June 12

See website for locations. Free. No registration needed.

Upcoming Free Public Programs

Thursday, May 23, 7:00 pm

Public Program: Restoring Croton Point Grassland

Croton Free Library

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org for details & more events

and to learn about our eight local wildlife sanctuaries.

Happenings

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the Fauve painters, Healy is an abstract artist principally recognized for his color-drenched collage paintings of shore scenes of the eastern United States, especially the beach towns of Connecticut and Rhode Island, where Healy has lived for more than 25 years. Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, 37 Popham Rd., Scarsdale. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through June 29. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Info: 914-723-8738 or visit www.MadelynJordonFineArt.com.

Social Night. Join young adult friends for Select Human Services Friday Night Social. An unstructured social format which includes pizza, dessert and DJ entertainment. In an effort to secure Direct Support Professionals, registration closes the day before each event at noon. Select Human Services, 17-19 Marble Ave., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$25. Also June 14 and 28. Info and registration: Contact Linda Tibaldi at 914-741-6300 ext. 118 or ltibaldi@selecthumanservices.org.

Naughty But Nice: Pre-Code Hollywood. Film clips and 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.

Friday Night Film Series: "The Land of Steady Habits." Starring Edie Falco and Connie Britton, this poignant romantic comedy follows a suburban Westport man as he deals with life and his feelings of being trapped in his stifling, wealthy small town. He radically changes his life, cutting off old relationships and forging new ones, in the hopes that these actions will renew his lust for life. 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.

"Spring Awakening." The Lighthouse Youth Theatre's Protégé Group presents this musical, which won eight Tony Awards. The play explores the journey from adolescence to adulthood with a poignancy and passion that is illuminating and unforgettable. The landmark musical is an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality and rock 'n' roll that exhilarates audiences across the nation like no other musical in years. Suggested for audiences 12 years old and up. Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7:30 p.m. \$20 and \$23. Also May 18. Info: 914-741-4205. Tickets: Visit www.standingovationstudios.org.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Geno and Aaron. The duo that nobody (or everybody) wanted is finally coming to Lucy's! Aaron Berg and Geno Bisconte of "In Hot Water" on Compound Media. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and advance tickets: Visit www.lucyslaughs.com. Type in the promo code

Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

Gordon Lightfoot: 80 Years Strong Tour. After more than 50 years of hit song-making and international album sales well into the millions, this esteemed singer-songwriter is in some very exclusive company atop the lists of all-time greats. His incredible song catalog includes "Early Morning Rain," "If You Could Read My Mind," "Carefree Highway," "Sundown," "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," "Canadian Railroad Trilogy," "Beautiful" and "Rainy Day People." This is a special year for the legendary Lightfoot as his tour will feature his well-known hits as well some deep album cuts for his die-hard fans. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$48, \$58, \$65, \$78 and \$90. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Hudson Chorale: Psalms, Quartets and Waltzes. Hudson Chorale, the area's largest chorus, will present two performances featuring works by Johannes Brahms, Igor Stravinsky and Béla Bartók, composers who left us an unforgettable collection of songs spanning the 19th and 20th centuries. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$25 in advance. \$30 at the door. Info and advance tickets: 800-838-3006 or visit www.HudsonChorale.org.

"August: Osage County." An electric production of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning and multiple Tony Award-winning play. Directed by Axial Theatre Co-Artistic Director Catherine (Cat) Banks and co-produced by Stephen Palgon, one of Axial Theatre's founding members and president of the Emmy Award-winning "Star Crossed Pictures." St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$27.50. Seniors and students: \$22.50. Also May 18 at 3 and 8 p.m. and May 19 at 4 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.axialtheatre.org.

Saturday, May 18

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Locally-raised and produced food to the community creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. Chappaqua train station, Chappaqua. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through November. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Field Walk. Explore the meadow and woodlands surrounding Swan Lake and learn about native plants and invasive species. First meet at the Welcome Center. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville. 9 to 10 a.m. Free. Parking: \$6. Info: 914-606-7870 or visit www.nativeplantcenter.org.

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage

and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Celebrate Pinkster. A rousing recreation of the joyous historic holiday celebrating the arrival of spring. For the enslaved African in centuries past, it was a profound opportunity for family members and friends, many of whom were split off and spread out from each other, to come together. As in historic Pinkster celebrations, two grand events will mark the day. The first is the Pinkster Parade and the Game of Lies. After this elaborate ceremony of matching wits, the community crowns the Pinkster King. Later in the afternoon, the election takes place, which names the Pinkster Regent, who will be the King for the following year. There will be music, including African drumming and musical demonstrations directed by Master Drummer Neil Clarke and performances by Ghanaian native Maxwell Kofi Donkor (drums), Muhamadou Salieu Suso (kora) and Henrique Prince (fiddle). Additional activities include storytelling by April Armstrong and African colonial dance by Judith Samuel and the Children of Dahomey. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults: \$14. Seniors: \$12. Children (3-17): \$8. Children (under 3): Free. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.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.

Bethel Springvale Inn Open House. Discover the value of wonderful retirement living and services and amenities offered at Bethel Springvale Inn. Bring questions and join the discussion. Learn about quality assisted living at a great value which includes lowest monthly rates; spacious apartments; nursing services 24/7; three meals a day; housekeeping and laundry services; and a convenient location. Participants may create their own potted herb garden to take home and enjoy refreshments. Bethel Springvale Inn, 62 Springvale Rd., Croton-on-Hudson. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: 914-739-4404 ext. 2204.

Atka's Angel Celebration: A Birthday Bash in Honor of Atka. Join staff and volunteers to honor Atka's 16 wonderful years and celebrate what would have been

the 17th birthday of the center's most popular wolf. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will also visit Zephyr, Alawa, and Nikai and will potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit 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. Call or visit website because classes are subject to change.

Evie Blaikie: Holocaust Survivor. Surviving as a Hidden Child. Come and meet Blaikie, who will be speaking about her life and will have her book available for sale. There will be time for questions and answers after she speaks. For adults and children 10 years old and up. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Every Saturday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 3 to 4 p.m. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Pond Exploration. Use dip nets to get up close and personal with the aquatic critters that inhabit the pond and learn all about them. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

Opening Reception for "Structures." A solo exhibit from Jim Maciel, whose art history goes back to 1966 when he focused on studying art at a small college in Massachusetts. In 1975, Maciel moved to New York, which gave him the inspiration and motivation to start showing his work to the public. In 1978, he began showing his work throughout Westchester and is a proud member of the Mamaroneck Artists Guild. He works from photos that he has taken of old buildings and barns on his backroad travels. The paintings in his solo show are Sumi ink and watercolor on watercolor paper. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through June 1. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit www.mamaroneckartistguild.org.

continued on next page

Full Slate of Candidates Vie for Chappaqua Board of Ed Seats

continued from page 8

Hwang said the district ought to explore greater possibilities for sharing of services with other districts and also the town. She is also pleased that the district is doing everything in its power to ensure the safety of the school buildings' occupants. While a district can make improvements, school officials are moving ahead with all reasonable precautions, she said.

"I feel okay sending my three kids to school in the morning," Hwang said.

District officials continue to take measures in the years following the former drama teacher scandal to protect students and families, she said. Many of the changes in administration were a fallout from that, Hwang added.

Warren Messner

Finishing his sixth year on the board, Messner said he has enjoyed his time as a trustee.

"I want to do it because I want to continue to serve the community, the students, the district, the property owners," he said. "But I think the biggest thing is I want to complete some of the projects I've been involved with."

That includes the projects associated with the \$42.5 million facilities bond from 2016. Despite the contractor declaring bankruptcy earlier this year, the work is

currently scheduled to finish by the end of summer 2020, Messner said.

He said that the curriculum has the district positioned for 21st century learning with the development of the STEAM Lab. He agrees with encouraging more students to try AP classes.

"The decision I try to make is what's right for the kids and for the property owners," Messner said. "But the kids, if you want to take an AP class, I think that's great."

Messner would also like to evaluate and enhance the district's special education offerings.

Messner, 61, retired from IBM sales, marketing and finance, points to a financially well-run district that asks for what it needs but doesn't waste resources. When the schools need extra money, if officials make a valid case, he said he's confident the community would provide the funds.

Installing the security enhancements at the schools' entrances will help with the safety of the staff and students.

District officials have worked with consultants to make sure that students are also protected from predators after the former drama teacher scandal.

"I think we're in a lot better place than we were a couple of years ago," Messner said. "I think we opened our eyes and I think that

was a very difficult time for our district."

Jeffrey Mester

A 12-year trustee, Mester is seeking a fifth term but it wasn't an easy decision for him. He struggled before jumping in again.

"I decided to run again because I want to continue contributing my knowledge, my experience, my advice, my efforts and my time toward the betterment of our district," he said.

Mester said five areas that the district will be focusing on in its curriculum, as identified through the strategic planning process, are a review and revision of the district's assessment practices; K-12 social emotional learning curriculum alignment; K-12 academic program curriculum alignment; maximizing the utilization of instructional space; and the use of instructional technology as a tool to personalize learning.

Mester, a self-employed equities and derivatives trader, said he is proud of this year's budget with a tax levy of 0.94 percent, one of the lowest in Westchester and Putnam.

"We have also honored the commitment we made to the taxpayer of not increasing the tax levy because of the \$42.5 million bond that was overwhelmingly passed by the voters," Mester said.

Chappaqua also takes its role in

advocating for education funding seriously. The board has been a leader in advocating on behalf of Chappaqua and other districts, said Mester.

"It is a critical role we serve. We are continuously participating in and leading statewide advocacy," he said.

Short-term security enhancements at the elementary schools One of the Short-Term Task Force's recommendations was to increase the security at the entrances to the elementary schools by constructing "man traps" at every entrance, Mester said.

He said community feedback is sought whether a school resource officer or uniformed police officer at the high school would be more beneficial. There has been some disagreement in the community about which is more appropriate, Mester said. Furthermore, the district has a close working relationship with the New Castle police.

The district's embarrassment following the arrest of the former drama teacher, the board hired two nationally recognized experts to review policies and procedures and to make recommendations, which were accepted and implemented all of their recommendations, Mester said.

"I believe our policies and procedures are comprehensive and make clear our zero tolerance," he said.

Happenings

continued from previous page

Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Shauna Lane and Friends. One of the favorite local comics is headlining and bringing along some of her favorite comedians for a really fun show. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6 p.m. \$20. Info and advance tickets: Visit www.lucyslaugh.com. Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

"Blithe Spirit." Come for a dinner-theater experience with this high-spirited comedy presented by M&M Productions. This much-loved classic centers on an invitation to an eccentric medium to conduct a spooky séance but the evening takes an unexpectedly ghostly turn in this lighted-hearted, endearing Broadway smash hit by Noël Coward. Directed by Michael Muldoon, the cast is comprised of Kathy Files DiBiasi, Kate Gleeson, Kelly Kirby, Kurt Lauer, Elizabeth Mialaret, Melinda O'Brien and Larry Reina with stage management by Emmy Schwartz and Nan Weiss. Includes hors d'oeuvre reception, three-course dinner and lots of fun. Crabtree's Kittle House's Atrium Carriage Room, 11 Kittle Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. \$114 (includes gratuity). Info and tickets: 800-838-3006 or visit www.mmpaci.com, www.KittleHouse.com or brownpapertickets.com/event/4218688.

Choir Festival and Concert. Featuring

choral masterworks of Fauré and Vierne. The choir is comprised of singers from the greater Westchester area with a core of professional section leaders. Singers are welcome to participate. Matthew Lewis conducts this program, with David Enlow, organist. The Church of St. James the Less, Scarsdale. 7 p.m. Free but a suggested \$20 donation is welcome. Info: 914-723-6100 or visit www.stjamesscarsdale.org.

Songwriters in the Round. Come for an evening of singer-songwriters in the round with Joshua Garcia, Lisa Bastoni and Vincent Cross. Garcia is a folk singer-songwriter whose music and writing style draw from the influences of his musical heroes Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash. Following a ten-year break from music, Bastoni has returned with "The Wishing Hour." Recorded mainly in the wee hours of the night in the kids' play room, the album debuted as #1 most played on Boston's WUMB. In the past year, Bastoni has been selected to showcase at the New England Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) conference, as well as the Falcon Ridge and New Song Music/LEAF Festivals. Cross has performed for and shared the stage with a diverse range of artists. Common Ground Coffeehouse at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, 25 Old Jackson Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson.

7:30 p.m. \$18 to \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.commongroundconcerts.com.

Foreigner's Journey: The Premier Tribute to Foreigner and Journey. The music and energy of two legendary stadium rock bands comes together in one electrifying show. Bringing together the incredible sounds of two of the greatest '80s bands. Experience the rock ballads "Faithfully" and "Open Arms" along with rock classics "Cold as Ice," "Urgent," "Hot Blooded," "Feels Like the First Time," "Jukebox Hero," "Separate Ways," "Don't Stop Believin'" and many more. All songs performed as the originals were in their original key and pitch. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$25, \$30 and \$35. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Jazz Fest. Featuring the legendary jazz pianist Valerie Capers and her Trio, with bassist John Robinson and percussionist Doug Richardson, in an evening of jazz standards transformed by Capers' inimitable touch and style. The program also features a cameo appearance by saxophonist Alan Givens. Experience this one-of-a-kind artist in the acoustically resplendent architectural wonder of the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 8 p.m. Suggested

contribution: \$20 per person. Senior and students: \$10. Children: \$5. Maximum for families: \$45. Info and tickets: Visit www.cucwp.org/concert-series.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Hard Headed Comedy. Luz Michelle is bringing her hilarious brand of comedy back to Lucy's. Also includes Ashlee Voorsanger, Gary Hannon, Amanda Griffin and Andrew Woolford. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and advance tickets: Visit www.lucyslaugh.com. Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

Sunday, May 19

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they celebrate the birth of pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves as well. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also May 25 at 1 p.m., May 26 at 2 p.m. and May 27 at 11 a.m., Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

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Festival Celebrating Literature Coming to Sleepy Hollow on Saturday

By Jade Perez

The inaugural Sleepy Hollow Lit Fest this Saturday promises to be an event like no other for readers and writers of all ages.

The family-friendly festival, on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will feature events at eight venues across Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, as well as over 100 authors and artists taking part in free readings, panels, signings, performances and other activities.

Tarrytown children's author, David Nielsen, who came up with the idea for the festival, was inspired after visiting book festivals up and down the east coast over the last few years.

"(They) were well-run and a lot of fun. But I'd always felt that our region, particularly Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, had a historical connection to American literature that the other locations lacked," Nielsen said. "Washington Irving was America's first

internationally-renowned author. What better place to celebrate literature than in his backyard?"

The festival will mark the launch of an 18-month celebration of the 200th anniversary of the publishing of "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon," a collection of stories by Irving, which included "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

Nielsen noted that the Sleepy Hollow Lit Fest will be different from other festivals, but that there will be something for everyone.

"Our tag line is No Ordinary Literary Festival and we have taken that to heart," he said. "There are so many great, historic locations between the two villages and we wanted to incorporate as many of them as we could."

According to Nielsen, there will be creepy children's readings in the Old Dutch Church on Route 9; a presentation from African-American culinary historian Michael Twitty at Phillipsburg



Tarrytown children's author David Nielsen was the driving force behind establishing this Saturday's first-ever Sleepy Hollow Lit Fest.

Manor; music acts and a spoken-word open mic at Jazz Forum Arts in Tarrytown; and best-selling children's author Chris Grabenstein's "Inside Mr. Lemoncello's Library" presentation at the Warner Library in Tarrytown.

Other venues for the Sleepy Hollow Lit Fest include Patriot's Park in Tarrytown, which will host an Event Tent and

Vendor Village, selling food and various merchandise. There will also be at the park a cookbook talk with tastings, Dinosaur Storytime, Philipse History, prisoner works reflecting on Rip Van Winkle presented by the Words Beyond Bars Project, a Spooky Panel, and talk with a teenager who has been published.

The Hudson Valley Writers Center at the Philipse Manor Station train station in Sleepy Hollow, will host a robust lineup of authors and poets, including performance artist Karen Finley, a panel on "The Poetry of Witness" and an after-hours keynote from American-Ukrainian acclaimed poet, translator and professor Ilya Kaminsky at 7:30 p.m.

The Tarrytown Music Hall's new Music Hall Academy will offer a series of theatrical workshops by director Peter Royston around fairy tales with the help of some of the festival's picture book authors.

Scattered Books in Chappaqua is the festival's main bookseller.

For more information, including a complete list of events and participating authors, visit www.sleepyhollowlitfest.org. You may also e-mail inquiries to ask@sleepyhollowlitfest.org.

Harckham Names Neighbors Link's Bracco as Woman of Distinction

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) announced last week that Carola Otero Bracco, the executive director of Neighbors Link in Mount Kisco, has been selected as the 40th Senate District's Woman of Distinction for 2019.

She was honored at a ceremony on May 7 at the Legislative Office Building in Albany, along with more than 60 other honorees representing senatorial districts throughout the state.

Bracco leads Neighbors Link, an organization that helps integrate immigrants into the local communities. As a first-generation American born of immigrant parents from Bolivia, she understands the challenges that accompany the immigrant experience in America and is dedicated to inspiring healthy integration in the community. Bracco is bilingual and bicultural and is driven by her passion for empowering immigrant families and advocating for personal growth through education and economic development.

During her tenure, Neighbors Link has become a leader in designing, implementing and directing community-based, bilingual educational and cultural awareness training programs. Furthermore, with her guidance and leadership, the organization has quadrupled in size in 10 years and is strategically scaling the Neighbors Link model in communities that are ready to embrace our mission.

"Carola's life's work is both remarkable and desperately needed," Harckham said. "She champions important contributors to our communities by stressing education and providing job opportunities so they can better their lives and the lives of their families."

Before becoming executive director of Neighbors Link in April 2004, Bracco



Carola Bracco, executive director of Neighbors Link, is the 40th state Senate District's Woman of Distinction in 2019.

spent 12 years in financial management with General Electric, Ford Motor Company and Time Warner. She holds an MBA from Duke University and currently serves on the boards of the National Council for Workforce Education, Nonprofit Westchester and the New York Immigration Coalition.

"The work of Neighbors Link to integrate immigrants into our community is critical today," Bracco said. "Immigrants make such important contributions to our economy, our culture and our communities. I am grateful to Sen. Harckham for this recognition and for his recognition of the important work Neighbors Link does in New York."

Owner of Mt. Kisco Home Care Provider Recognized for Excellence

FirstLight Home Care, an award-winning provider of non-medical home care, recognized Westchester County owner Vincent McMahon as a leader of client satisfaction and quality assurance in the organization.

The award was presented on Apr. 27 during a ceremony and dinner at the historic Midland Theatre as part of FirstLight's national conference in Kansas City.

FirstLight Westchester County is one of three franchisee teams nationwide to be honored for this achievement. More than 120 franchisees were evaluated based on a variety of criteria, including total revenue, quality of service provided and overall client satisfaction based on feedback gathered from third-party client surveys. FirstLight Home Care Westchester County offers a variety of companion and personal care services to Westchester residents and surrounding communities.

"FirstLight is an organization that puts serving people first," said Jeff Bevis, co-founder and CEO of FirstLight Home Care. "Vincent is committed to making positive changes in his community through excellence in client satisfaction and providing high quality service."

FirstLight caregivers help seniors and others in the area with many needs – from



Vincent McMahon, owner of FirstLight Home Care in Mount Kisco, was one of three of the organization's franchisees recently honored for client satisfaction and quality assurance.

personal hygiene and household duties such as cooking, cleaning and running errands to respite and dementia care. Visit www.Westchester.FirstLightHomeCare.com for more information.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 106 FISHER AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State

of New York (SSNY) on 03/05/2019. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **c/o Susan Lewkowitz, 670 White Plains Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10538, Ste 110. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 395 WYTHE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 4/1/19. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **395 Wythe Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11249. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE FEISTY WOMAN LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/27/19. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of any process to **602 Williamsburg Dr., Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KESTELOO VENTURES, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 4/5/19. 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: **1501 Half Moon Bay Drive, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Purpose: Internet Marketing.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF INSPIRED BY JESUS LLC. Articles of



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Organization were filed with the SSNY on 3/19/19. 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: **111 North Road, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LLC. THE NAME OF THE LLC IS **MARY DARRAGH MACLEAN LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on 4/16/2019. The County in which the office is to be located is Westchester. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail copy of any process against the LLC is: **Northwest Registered Agent 90 State Street, Ste 700 Office 40 Albany NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ORAINE PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 3/6/2019. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Oraine Photography, LLC, 406 Home-**

stead Ave, Mount Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

FORMATION OF ELMSFORD CHICKEN, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/10/19. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to **Ashish Parikh, 100 Menlo Park Mall, Ste. 500, Edison, NJ 08837. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF THE TAILORY, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/25/19. Formed in PA 2/18/14. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC on whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to **Anthony Lopes, 3901A Main St., Ste. 203A, Philadelphia, PA 19127. The office address in PA is 1105 Tyson Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111. Cert. of formation filed with Kathy Boockvar, Acting Secy. of State, 302 N. Office Bldg., 401 North St., Harrisburg, PA 17120. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE STYLE MIXX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of

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Ways That Families Can Choose a Camp at the Last Minute

By Jess Michaels

With time growing short until the end of the school year, are you regretting putting off summer camp plans for your child?

Don't worry, there are still some summer camps with availability. Here are some tips from the American Camp Association or New York and New Jersey on best ways to find a camp at the last minute.

Call the camp director

If you have a specific camp in mind, call the camp director and ask what sessions are still open and if there is space in your child's age group.

Try to be flexible. Maybe you had the month of July in mind for camp but try to be open to the second session of camp programs. This may mean changing around vacation plans or trips to see grandparents. The more flexibility you have, the better chance you have of finding the camp you want at the last minute.

Even with last-minute camp decisions, parents want to make sure they are doing their research and choosing the right camp for their child. Ask the camp director about the camp's philosophy and program. Does the philosophy of the camp match your family's? Does the camp offer a program that is of interest to your child? Do you feel that the camp



director is answering all your questions and happy to do so? You are forming a partnership with the camp director so you want to make sure you click with the director and feel comfortable leaving your child in the camp director's care.

Not sure where to start?

You can call the American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey at 212-391-5208 for free, one-on-one advice in finding a camp. Its camper placement specialist can help guide you

in your decision and help narrow down the many summer camp choices.

Talking to friends and neighbors is also a good way to find out about summer camps. But families should keep in mind that just because a camp is the right fit for a friend's child, it doesn't mean it will be the right camp for your child. Take their suggestions but make sure to do your own research. You know your child best.

Summer 2020

It's not too early to be looking for a camp for next summer. Looking this summer gives you the opportunity to go visit camps. Touring camps allows you and your child the chance to see what an actual day at camp will be like and see the lake, pool, bunks and activity areas.

Both day and sleepaway camps offer camp tours throughout the summer. A tour gives families a good feel about whether the camp is the right fit for their child, and if you decide to send your child the following summer, he or she will feel part of the decision process.

Looking early can help to plan financially

By touring camp the summer before and deciding on a camp almost a year before sending your child, you are able to plan financially. Some camps offer early bird discounts for registering early or payment plans, allowing you to pay for camp over the year. You can make camp part of birthday presents and holiday gifts over the upcoming year. Families can also inquire about sibling discounts for registering more than one child.

Jess Michaels is director of communications for the American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey and can be reached at 212-391-5208. Also visit www.acanynj.org for more information.



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New York (SSNY) on February 11th, 2019. Office in Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail process to **Nicole Hamilton-Wint, 3439 Fish Avenue, Apt 2C, Bronx, New York, 10469. Purpose- any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Nate The Dog Man, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 02/14/2019. The County in which the Office is to be located: Westchester. The SSNY is designated

as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: **415 South St, Apt 4A, Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF UNDERPINNED LLC. Art. Of Org. file with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/16/19. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon who process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **118. N. Bedford Rd., Suite 100, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF QUILT-STONES, LLC. filed with SSNY on 4/25/18. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **126 Kelbourne Ave, Sleepy Hollow, NY Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TIG & PEACH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/2/2019. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designed as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **545 Fowler Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE is hereby given to interested parties that a Public Hearing will be held by the **Putnam Valley Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday May 23, 2019 at 6:30 at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road** for the purpose of considering the following petitions and requests together with all other matters that may properly come before the Board at this time. **AGENDA Held Over 1. Correia, Carlos, 1135 Williams Street-84.-2-48; CD Request front yard setback variance and 280A variance for two lot subdivision. 2. Steger, Kurt, 330 Lake Drive, 83.66-1-**

2; LP Request lot coverage and side yard setback variance for detached workshop. New Application 3. Perez, Octavio, 55 Ridgecrest Road- 83.56-1-5,6 & 7; R-1& LP Request for side and front yard setback variance for the construction of a single family residence. 4. DiPillo, David, 370 Church Road,-73.13-1-25; R-3 Request side and rear yard setback variance for propane tank. 5. Martinez, John & Brandi, 54 Lincoln Road, 73.17-1-51; R-2 Request side yard setback variance for above ground pool. 6. Harris, Alex & Lindsay, 45 Lake Shore Road, 41.14-1-14; R-3 Request side and front yard setback variance and variance under Section 165-44 A (1) of the Zoning Code for height for entryway and mudroom addition. 7. Casar, Barbara, 39 Chippewa Road, 51.73-1-10; R-3 Request a side, rear lakefront and lot coverage variance for proposed deck. 8. Anderson, David, 48 Winnebago Road, 51.73-1-29; R-3 Request a side and front yard setback variance and variance under Section 165-44 A (1) of the Zoning Code for addition to existing residence. 9. Lennon, Patrick, 8 Oakdale Road, 51.14-1-23; R-3 Request side, front, rear yard and lot coverage variance for proposed new entryway. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WILLIAM MASKIELL CHAIRMAN**

NOTICE: Please be advised that the next meeting of the **Town of Putnam Valley Planning Board will be held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road on Monday May 20, 2019** for the purpose of considering the following applications: **Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING** The following public hearings have been scheduled for May 20, 2019 at 6:00PM (or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions permit) at the Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York, 10579. All interested parties are invited to attend and will be heard. A

continued on next page

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The Transformation of Traditional Wine By New Age Alchemists



By Nick Antonaccio

Over the course of the last decade many wines have gone through a transformation in style. They have become more fruit focused and higher in alcohol.

This is a radical departure from the past for wines such as Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. In the past, the dominant style that winemakers strove for was balance – a balance of acid, tannins, fruit and alcohol.

The overweighting of the fruit and alcohol components of wine has created a debate in wine circles on the cause and effect of this new approach. Consumers have mixed feelings about the result. Wine is a living, breathing organism that is highly sensitive to changes introduced during its creation and maturation. It is these changes that we will explore this week.

I often think of winemaking as alchemy: Mother Nature provides the raw ingredients and science adds a certain consistency to the formula. Combining these ingredients in a cauldron with a wizard's proprietary ingredients, this mixture is transformed into a hand-crafted creation, distinct unto itself. Taking a common product and transforming it into an altered state as "liquid gold" is a centuries-old endeavor – both in Merlin's laboratory and in winemakers' caves.

However, in the 21st century, an additional

element has been added to the alchemist's formula. It is from an unlikely source: the word masters. These power lords have invaded the denizens of winemakers worldwide, subtly and covertly changing centuries-old winemaking formulas with a sociological component of great power – the power of the pen.

Yielding influential opinions that are accepted by the consuming public at face value, these wordsmiths, the media, can force a winemaker's hand to alter a proven formula in order to appeal to changing consumer perceptions of wine.

How has the change in the balance of wine's components occurred?

First, Mother Nature's

influence in the vineyards has been compromised by changes in global climate. Growing seasons are becoming more variable as increasing temperatures may cause grapes to ripen more fully than in the past, increasing the levels of sugar (and the resulting alcohol in fermented grapes) while enhancing fruit flavors.

Second, science has introduced high-tech equipment that allows greater control over the steps in the winemaking process; this allows the alchemists/winemakers much more latitude in finessing their wines.

Third, alchemists are better educated and have a deeper understanding of the art of winemaking. Utilizing this knowledge permits them to

create a finite, personalized wine style.

Perhaps the most influential element is the fourth element – the fourth estate. Wine critics have created an aura of infallibility in the minds of a large segment of the public. Their opinions are dictums for producers, distributors, retailers and consumers. They have changed the style of a number of wines in the last decade, more so perhaps than any of the three elements mentioned above.

The debate continues over the merits or detriments to this changing style in 21st century wines. Advocates appreciate the enhanced fruit forwardness and the refined aroma/flavor profiles afforded by a winemaker's mastery of advanced technology and techniques. Opponents criticize the lack of sophistication and balance in recent vintages of their favorite wine. Where will this dilemma take us?

The future of wine style is in the hands of the alchemists. Will they be able to master the influences of climate change and science? Will they stand up to or succumb to the influence of critics? The consuming public will be the ultimate arbiter, each time we enter a wine shop and open our wallets.

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

You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine

Wine and Food Pairing Fundraiser Scheduled for May 24 in Thornwood

The Mount Pleasant Italian American Association will be hosting a wine and food pairing dinner on Friday, May 24 at the Thornwood American Legion from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The event will be hosted by Examiner wine columnist Nick Antonaccio and will serve as a fundraiser for the organization's annual scholarships. There will be selections from Prospero Winery in Pleasantville and grapes

you've never heard of from Thornwood Wines. Tickets are \$35 per person; attendees must RSVP by this Friday, May 17.

To RSVP, contact Emil Muccin at 914-582-6919 or e-mail emuccin@gmail.com. Mail payments can be made to the Mount Pleasant Italian American Association, P.O. Box 256, Thornwood, N.Y. 10594. The Thornwood American Legion is located at 52 Garrigan Ave.

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copy of the application materials and plans may be inspected during normal business hours at the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall.

1. O'Brien Family – 19 Cindy Lane (TM# 84.14-1-11/File: 2019-0193) The subject property consists of + 1.0 acres of land and is located on 19 Cindy Lane and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit, Site Development Plan to legalize a basement apartment. **SKETCH 2. Squeglia & O'Brien – 7 Stephen Smith Drive (TM# 85.-01-18/File: 2019-0192)** The subject property consists of + 3.33 acres of land and is located on 7 Stephen Smith Drive and within the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is seeking a Site Development Plan, Major Grading Permit and Wetland Permit, for pond restoration, pond spillway and tree removal and planting.

3. Lamanna Residence- 39 Roberts Drive (TM#85.5-1-37/File 2019-0194) The subject property consist of + 1.0 acres of land and is located on 39 Roberts Drive and within the R-1 Zoning District. The applicant is seeking an Amended Site Plan for deviating from previously approved Site Plan and increasing the paved driveway area. **EXTENSION 4. Reape / Ferreira- 64-68 Pleasant Road (TM# 83.65-1-37 & 35/File 2018-00182) 5. Juliano, Sam,-50 West Shore Drive (TM: 62.13-2-18 / File:2010-0073) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6. Approve Minutes of May 6, 2019

AT&T MOBILITY, LLC is proposing to construct an approximate 180.0-foot monopole telecommunications tower with an associated equipment compound located at Barnes Lane, New Castle, Westchester County, NY 10514 (N41° 10' 58.1" and W73° 48' 16.6" W). AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Action Section 106. Comments pertaining specifically to historic resources may be sent to **Impact7g, Inc., Attention Ms. Madeline Sarcone at 9550 Hickman Road, Suite 105, Clive, IA 50325 or call 515-473-6256. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIT SPORTS LOUNGE & GRILL LLC Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 04/11/2019. Off. loc.in Westchester CO. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process **Tracy Arce and Carlos Reyes, 234 North Ave New Rochelle, NY 10801. PURPOSE: Any lawful business.**

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY Town Board Meeting May 15, 2019 6 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance. 2. Department Reports 3. School Report 4. Legislators' Reports. 5. Presentation by Chris Kopf, O'Connor Davies, of the 2018 Audit for the Town. 6. Accept Town Board minutes from April 3, 10 and 17 and May 01. 7. Camp designated as parkland resolution 8. Approve Personnel for the Sunset Series 2019. 9. Authorization to sign MS4 Annual Report. 10. Discussion de-icer ordinance. 11. Set hearing for decibel level addition to noise ordinance. **Building Department** 12. Daily Fee Report - Summary **Parks & Recreation** 13. Personnel 14. Refunds **Districts** 15. Authorize Supervisor to sign contract for a Lake Oscawana fish survey. **Highway Department** 16. Driveway Opening Permit 17. Budget Transfers 18. Public Comment 19. Audit of Monthly Bills

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