



FREE

Serving Mount Kisco, Pleasantville, Chappaqua/Millwood/New Castle, Mount Pleasant, Armonk/North Castle & Briarcliff

January 7 - January 13, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 644

Cuomo Vetoes Mount Pleasant's Hotel Occupancy Tax

By Joan Gaylord

Mount Pleasant officials learned last week that Gov. Andrew Cuomo vetoed the legislation that would have allowed the town to impose a 3 percent hotel occupancy tax on the town's lodging facility.

Though no reason was provided by the governor's office, the action set off a flurry of finger-pointing in Mount Pleasant. Some officials accused the governor of denying the town a critical revenue source while others saw most of the board culpable for failing to provide the proper level of support for the tax. Cuomo also vetoed similar bills passed by other municipalities throughout the state in the waning days of 2019.

A resolution approved by the Mount Pleasant Town Board early last year sought to add a 3 percent tax to the room rate for the hotel within the town's borders, revenue that would have gone directly into the town's

coffers. Currently, there is one hotel within the municipality, Comfort Inn & Suites on Route 9A in Hawthorne, with a second one planned as part of the North 60 development.

A press release distributed by Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi's office last Friday and posted to the town's Facebook page stated that the bill had received unanimous support from Town Board members when they passed the resolution last year.

Fulgenzi said he plans to re-introduce the hotel tax bill again this year and hopes his board colleagues will support the measure. Should the Town Board approve a new resolution in the coming months, state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) has already said that he would work to move it through the Senate.

While support on last year's Town Board for the tax was unanimous, a comment on the town's Facebook page from former

continued on page 2



Oh Baby!

The maternity team at Phelps Hospital Northwell Health delivered its first baby of 2020 at 2:14 a.m. last Wednesday. Sandra Gomez of Sleepy Hollow gave birth to a second daughter, Samantha, who weighed in at 8 pounds, 4 ounces and is 21 inches long. Pictured with mom and baby is older sister Lizbeth. Mom and baby are doing well. Dad was unable to be at the hospital at the time the photo was taken, but was on his way.

Westchester Synagogue Draws Hundreds to No Hate, No Fear Service

By Martin Wilbur

As thousands marched Sunday in New York City to fight against the growing scourge of anti-Semitism, a Westchester synagogue held its own No Hate, No Fear interfaith service that drew hundreds of worshipers to its sanctuary.

Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown welcomed an estimated 500 people through its doors to participate in prayer, songs and words of inspiration and to pledge solidarity to combat hate. Clergy and worshipers from the synagogue and an array of churches, temples and mosques in the area attended the hour-long service under a heavy police presence.

Rabbi David Holtz said unlike other horrific events, including the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh in October 2018, there was something worse about recent events because there has been what amounts to an

escalating pattern of attacks large and small, including the deadly violence at a kosher market in Jersey City, N.J. last month and the recent Hanukkah attack in Monsey.

This time it requires the community to do more than pray together, he said.

"This is a moment for us together to think and pray and to actually think about actual steps," said Holtz. "Thoughts and prayers only go so far. We then need to figure out what to do."

Temple Beth Abraham's Past President Allison Fine, who with Holtz co-organized the event, said that more uncertainty and despair today has seemingly contributed to the spike in hate crimes.

To tone down the rhetoric, Fine said everyone needs to welcome and invite the stranger into their lives so there can be more interaction between people with differences.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Several hundred people from a variety of religious backgrounds crowded Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown Sunday to participate in an interfaith service to combat the growing tide of anti-Semitism and hate.

Furthermore, schools play a key role in not only teaching students what to learn but how to learn, including helping them distinguish

truth from misinformation, Fine said.

Finally, she supported the idea of "public

continued on page 2

D'

JANUARY SALE!

Save 10%-50%

ALL in-store items, nothing is held back.

This is a very special sale, it only happens twice a year.
If you miss this January,
you will have to wait until August for these dramatic reductions!

D'Errico
JEWELRY

Scarsdale | Mount Kisco
D'Errico JEWELRY.com 914.864.2688

Cuomo Vetoes Mount Pleasant's Hotel Occupancy Tax

continued from page 1

Democratic councilwoman Francesca Hagadus-McHale recounted how she had moved the bill for approval but it took about 30 seconds for another board member to second the motion and that action was taken "reluctantly."

During last fall's Town Board election, the state Republican Committee had used Hagadus-McHale's support of the tax as part of an inflammatory mailer distributed to local voters. The mailing charged that she supported "raising taxes."

In her Facebook comment, Hagadus-McHale stated that the hotel tax was the only time she had supported a new tax in her year on the board. Hagadus-McHale lost the election to her Republican challengers Jerry

Schulman and Danielle Zaino.

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) said he had sponsored the bill in the Assembly in 2018 and again last year but was unable to get push it through the legislature without the support of former senator Terrence Murphy, a Republican. Murphy had philosophically been opposed to virtually all tax increases, Abinanti said.

With the election of Harckham, they had worked to bring the bill to a vote. Abinanti said he has not discussed the veto with Cuomo. However, Abinanti spoke of how the Republicans want the extra revenue but refuse to support the hotel occupancy tax in public. He said that they "sabotaged" the effort.

"Republicans want to have it both ways,"

Abinanti said. "They are being duplicitous and that is bad public policy."

Fulgenzi said last week that Murphy was against all taxes. However, he said Murphy saw this tax differently as it would not be imposed on Mount Pleasant residents.

When asked about the campaign mailer, Fulgenzi maintained that it was produced by the state Republican committee, not the local committee.

"Everything in that postcard was factual," Fulgenzi said of Hagadus-McHale's support for new taxes before conceding that the entire board had supported the measure.

Harckham said Cuomo had not signed any hotel tax bills throughout the state that had passed the legislature in 2019.

Harckham said if the Town Board wants

to approve the resolution again, he would return to Albany this session looking to get it done.

"I was disappointed," Harckham said. "This really would have helped Mount Pleasant."

This isn't the first time that controversy has followed Mount Pleasant's attempts to get the hotel occupancy tax enacted. In 2016, the town passed a resolution asking that the tax be approved by the legislature for them. At that time multiple Westchester communities were approved for the hotel tax but the Mount Pleasant resolution never came up for a signing by Cuomo because it didn't make it to the Senate floor after passing the Assembly.

Westchester Synagogue Draws Hundreds to No Hate, No Fear Service

continued from page 1

moderators" in communities whose role will be to introduce different communities, and have them share their stories and lives.

Fine and Holtz lamented how synagogues and many houses of worship are now forced to hire armed security guards. Holtz said that it was wrong that any house of worship or public gathering place needs to have that level of security but it has become necessary.

"This can't be our new normal," Fine said. "But the only way for it not to be our new normal is to fight for the day when we never have a guard here."

An array of dignitaries also attended the service. Among them was Westchester County

District Attorney Anthony Scarpino Jr., who said the county has launched the Westchester Intelligence Center, which shares information, including social media monitoring, with the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and other law enforcement agencies.

Scarpino said while Westchester has had its share of anti-Semitic incidents and hate crimes that have coincided with the national spike, working with all of its law enforcement partners has thus far been relatively successful in preventing a larger attack. But constant vigilance is required. That's particularly important because incidents of hate appear to feed off each other, he said.

"There is no indication, though, that we in

Westchester have any operating group that has demonstrated anti-Semitism," Scarpino said. "We have individuals, there may be followers, there may be a lone wolf possibly, but we continue to monitor them to avoid that to the best of our ability."

State Sen. David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown) said he has introduced several measures to address intolerance, including introducing age-appropriate curriculum from the youngest grades through high school to discuss hate and the symbols that are used. Additionally, he is demanding greater accountability from social media companies.

Carlucci also wants to see a detailed database of all hate crimes to see if there are patterns

and hot spots to have a better understanding of what's happening. It's a proposal that has been championed by Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner.

"We can't wait for Washington, we can't wait for another state," Carlucci said. "We're New York, we're 19 million people, we have the most diversity in the country and if we're going to fight hatred, we have to do it."

In his parting remarks, Holtz said the time has come for everyone individually to contribute toward fighting anti-Semitism.

"Go forth and change the world," he said.

Last weekend also saw the toppling of a menorah and vandalism of two churches in Yorktown.



Considering a Breast Reduction? What you need to know about the procedure and results...

Ask the Doctor

Michael Rosenberg, MD, FACS
Vice President,
Surgical Services
Associate Medical Director
Northern Westchester Hospital

Find out if breast reduction
surgery is right for you, visit
nwhplasticsurgery.org.



**Northern Westchester
Hospital**
Northwell Health®

400 East Main Street | Mount Kisco, NY
(914) 666-1200 | nwhc.net

Q: What motivates women to want breast reduction surgery?

A: The reasons women want breast reduction surgery are physical, emotional and cosmetic. Because breast tissue isn't held back by muscle or bone, its weight sits on the upper back, neck, and shoulders, often causing chronic pain. Exercise may be painful and difficult, and decreased activity can lead to weight gain. Large breasts often droop, causing breast tissue to sit on the upper chest skin, creating a moist, covered area prone to infection and undesirable skin changes. Young women with large breasts often feel they don't fit in. Heavy breasts that droop can make it difficult for you to wear the clothes you like.

Q: Who is a good candidate for breast reduction surgery?

A: A woman who's in general good health with realistic expectations. She must be a non-smoker, because smoking constricts the blood vessels, which can cause poor healing and bad scarring. She should be true to herself – the decision to reduce breast size should not be driven by a partner, friends or family.

Q: What happens during surgery?

A: The three basic components are: lifting of the nipple/areolar complex; removal of breast tissue to reduce size; and tightening of the skin envelope. Breast reduction surgery takes two-and-a-half to three hours. You go home the same day or the next morning.

Q: How should I choose a surgeon?

A: Look for a board-certified plastic surgeon highly experienced in this particular surgery. At NWH, we take careful measurements, drawing out a plan before we start surgery because dimensions change when a woman is lying down.

Q: What should I expect right after surgery – and long term?

A: At NWH, just before completing surgery, we do something special: Just before completing the procedure, we inject a long-acting local anesthetic for good pain control for the first one or two days. Scars are hidden and fade with time. Three to four percent of women initially experience some loss of sensitivity in the breast, though some women have a degree of permanent loss. About 80 percent of women who've had the surgery are able to successfully breastfeed.

Resident Calls on County Board to Rescind Pay Raise; Threatens Suit

By Martin Wilbur

A local resident plans to petition the Board of Legislators to repeal a resolution that raised county lawmakers' salaries by more than 50 percent and has threatened to sue the county claiming the raises are illegal.

Anthony Futia of North White Plains and Robert Schulz, an Albany County resident and founder of the tax protest organization We the People Foundation, said they were prepared to submit Monday a petition for redress to all 17 county legislators because they argued that the salary increase violated the New York State constitution.

Futia said he and Schulz were heading to White Plains Monday afternoon to deliver the petition and he would attend the Board of Legislators meeting Monday night in hopes of raising the matter with the lawmakers during the public comments portion of the meeting.

If they are not provided with a reasonable explanation, they would sue Westchester County, although that is a step they would like to avoid.

"We figure why waste our time and the county's money because it's going to cost them to respond to this," Futia said. "If we can have them rescind the law, and while I'm them, tell me why I'm wrong at that meeting."

At the heart of their argument, they point to Article III of the state constitution, which they said prohibits legislators from altering their salaries for the term for which they have been elected. Since the raises were, Futia contended.

"We just want them to follow the law but they don't," Futia said. "Most of them don't even know the law."

Westchester County legislators approved a 52 percent pay raise for themselves by a 10-6 vote when they approved the 2020 budget in early December, hiking their pay from \$49,200 to \$75,000. The move was characterized by some residents and taxpayer advocated in the county as brazen considering it was voted on after Election Day, although most speakers at the public hearings focused on other issues.

Schulz said since the legislators had approved the pay raise after Election Day that constituted a change for the term for which they were elected. In order for it to be legal, he said, the raises would have had to wait until Jan. 1, 2022.

"It's important that we defend the constitution, the state constitution, against a government, intentionally or not, whenever it violates it," Schulz said.

However, County Attorney John Nonna Monday refuted their arguments. First, Article III of the state constitution refers to state legislators, not county lawmakers,



North White Plains resident Anthony Futia contended that the Board of Legislators violated the law by voting late last year to give themselves 52 percent pay raises for 2020.

apply, Nonna mentioned.

A permissive referendum would have required a county resident who wanted to challenge the law to file a valid petition within 60 days of the law's passage containing signatures from at least 10 percent of the number of Westchester residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election.

Jason Chervokas, the Board of Legislators communications director, said Monday that he was unaware of a petition having been submitted. He said Monday evening's meeting was a reorganization meeting and was unaware of any other business that will be entertained.

Futia and Schulz also said they were going to file a similar petition with the Harrison Town Board and also threaten legal action after the board approved a nearly \$30,000 raise for Supervisor Ron Belmont.

Futia said the excessive raises for elected officials have become a problem across the state, including the pay hikes for the governor and state legislators.

"(Westchester) just received the sales tax and they saved \$1 million to bring down the tax levy and now they're spending half a million dollars on their salaries," he said. "It doesn't make sense."

Nonna said.

Second, the county charter does require that a legislators' pay raise be subject to a permissive referendum if the decision was made during the same term for which they had been elected, he said. But since the raise was approved in 2019 for the 2020-2021 term, the mechanism that would trigger a permissive referendum does not

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878 • advertising@theexaminernews.com

Customer Satisfaction Always Tops Our Menu!

"We treat our customers like family. Quality of service in the restaurant business is essential to our success. We view The Westchester Bank as part of that family. It's refreshing to get that kind of attention from a bank."

JOE QUARTARARO
Proprietor
Le Jarden Du Roi



Joe Quartararo
Proprietor
Le Jarden Du Roi

John Tolomer
President & CEO
The Westchester Bank



The Westchester Bank

Banking Made Personal®

MAMARONECK
305 Mamaroneck Ave.
(914) 315-2486

MT. KISCO
51 S. Moger Ave.
(914) 752-4262

OSSINING
240 S. Highland Ave.
(914) 502-4421

RYE BROOK
800 Westchester Ave., 4th Fl.
(914) 368-0987

THORNWOOD
994 Broadway
(914) 984-5446

WHITE PLAINS
464 Mamaroneck Ave.
(914) 290-6330

YONKERS
1900 Central Park Ave.
(914) 337-1900

Member
FDIC

TheWestchesterBank.com



COMMERCIAL LOANS • COMMERCIAL MORTGAGES • CREDIT LINES • BUSINESS CHECKING • MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS



**Overwhelmed Caring
for your Loved One?
Call us today!**



**When Experience Counts
Count on Experience**

Home Care Licensed by NYS Dept. of Health
Owned and operated by registered nurses

Services Include:

Home Health Aides • Companion Care
Dementia Care • Senior Housing Options
Home Management • Medication Management
Customized programs to fit your needs



Elder Care
Staffing Solutions

Please call for a free consult today: 914.265.4299
Visit www.ecstaffingsolutions.com for more information

WE BUY
GOLD, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS
SILVER, WATCHES & SILVERWARE



Thornwood Jewelers
A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

968 Broadway Thornwood (ShopRite/CVS Shopping Center) 914 741 1920

Nominations Sought for 2020 W'chester County Public Health Awards

The Westchester County Board of Health is seeking nominations for the 2020 Public Health Service Awards. The board wants to recognize adults, young people and nonprofit programs that demonstrate creativity and commitment in their efforts to improve public health in Westchester.

The board encourages community leaders, healthcare professionals, educators and residents to nominate worthy people or programs by Feb. 11 using the nomination forms at www.westchestergov.com/health.

"Talented and selfless people work hard every day to make our communities healthier," said Dr. Robert Baker, president of the Westchester County Board of Health. "By nominating these volunteers for recognition,

you can help inspire others to join our efforts to promote and protect public health in Westchester."

The Dr. Harold Keltz Distinguished Public Health Service Award is presented annually to a person or community-based organization whose efforts have made an extraordinary contribution to the public health of Westchester residents but who is not professionally engaged in public health work.

The J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award is an annual award to a student up to 21 years old for his or her creative contribution to public health in Westchester. The award was created in 2014 in memory of J.R. Tesone,

a Board of Health member with a lifelong commitment to Westchester children.

The board also will highlight the compassion, creativity and commitment demonstrated by a select group of nominees, who will be named public health honorees.

These awards will be announced and presented in April to spotlight National Public Health Week. The honorees and their achievements will be featured on the health department's web pages. Recent youth winners have promoted youth awareness of the dangers of vaping, advocated for restrictions on tobacco sales, promoted awareness of the opioid crisis on campus or increased sustainability

and Earth Day programming, advocated for children affected by cancer or created an app to foster communication between teens with type 1 diabetes.

Adult volunteers were recognized recently for promoting awareness of mental health and addiction among young people, promoting the construction and preservation of affordable housing and advocating for comprehensive mental healthcare for low-income residents. Nonprofit programs also have been selected for their work to reduce health disparities, improve health literacy and improve access to care.

County Health Dept. Receives State Grant for Immunization Reporting

The Westchester County Health Department will receive an incentive grant that recognizes its partnership with healthcare providers and parents in protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The department will receive the maximum award of \$87,095 for exceeding expectations in reporting by its Immunization Action Program and Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program.

"It is gratifying to me to see our staff acknowledged by the New York State Department of Health for their dedication to the important goal of increasing immunizations," said Commissioner of Health Dr. Sherlita Amler. "We also owe our success to medical providers and parents who partner with us to protect newborns and all children from vaccine-preventable diseases."

Through outreach, follow-up and office visits

with pediatric practices, the Immunization Action Program works to increase childhood immunization rates countywide and to ensure that healthcare providers administer the recommended vaccines in a timely fashion and record them in a state immunization registry. In pursuit of the program's goals, a nurse visited more than 100 pediatric and family practitioners to share best practices during the year.

The goal of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is to prevent the transmission of hepatitis b from an infected mother to her child during childbirth. Efforts include outreach to healthcare providers and to pregnant women with hepatitis b. The purpose is to assure that these newborns receive post-exposure treatment immediately after birth as well as two or more vaccines by the time they

reach six months of age, to protect the child from hepatitis b.

After assessing the pregnancy status of about 700 women with hepatitis b each year, the program tracks an average of 50 pregnant women and their newborns to prevent hepatitis b transmission.

Newborns infected with hepatitis b have a 90 percent chance of developing lifelong infection. Currently, there is no cure for hepatitis b, but completing the vaccine series provides more than a 95 percent chance of lifelong protection.

Hepatitis b is a highly contagious and serious viral infection of the liver. It can lead to premature death from liver damage, liver cancer or failure. It can be spread through contact with an infected person's blood, bodily fluids or through sexual contact.

**THE VILLAGE
BOOKSTORE**
EST. 1972

**Come browse our selection of
hand-selected books,
unique cards and more!
Open seven days a week.**

Ten Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NY
Across from the Burns Film Center

914.769.8322

staff@pleasantvillebooks.com

Bethel Springvale Inn

Westchester's Best Value in Assisted Living

Join Us for a Special Event

**Saturday, January 11
11 am - 1 pm**

62 Springvale Road, Croton-on-Hudson



When the Mobile Jewelry Repair Shop stops at The Springvale Inn!



- Do you need a ring resized?
- An appraisal?
- A new watch battery?
- Any other jewelry emergency?

Now's Your Chance!
(Reasonable rates apply)

914-739-4404 x2204

Stop by our Open House,
on 1/11/20 from 11 am - 1 pm!
Call 914-739-4404 x2204 to schedule a tour



62 Springvale Road, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 914-739-4404 — bethelwell.org

★ ROOFING ★ WINDOWS ★ SIDING ★ DOORS ★



**DON'T BE THAT
HOMEOWNER WHO WAITS
UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO
BUTTON UP THEIR HOME.
THERE IS STILL TIME.
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE
ESTIMATE BEFORE YOUR
HOME CATCHES A COLD!**

MIRACLE
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NO \$ DOWN
ON JOBS UNDER \$20,000

WC. Lic. #10415H99
P.C. Lic. #1817
YNK 307
H-12519-07-23-00



914★271★9119

2010 Albany Post Road, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners

**Visit our office & showroom to see the variety of products
on display, or we will bring the showroom to you**

Family Run. Owner Supervision on All Jobs.
Exceptional Quality and Service at Affordable Prices.

www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

★ SEAMLESS GUTTERS ★ LEADERS ★ REPAIRS ★

★ ROOFING ★ WINDOWS ★ SIDING ★ DOORS ★

Mt. Pleasant Expected to Decide on Valhalla Field Lights

By Joan Gaylord

As the new Mount Pleasant Town Board settles in, near the top of its list will be resolve the controversy stemming from a proposal to install lights at Pat Henry Field in Valhalla.

The issue has divided residents who live near the South Kensico Avenue facility and has become a recurring topic at board meetings for much of the past year.

Town Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said last Friday that he expects a deciding vote to be taken this month.

Kensico Little League has proposed the project, which they say will allow the league to host evening games and provide the young players with what they have described as the "thrilling" experience of playing under the lights. South Kensico Avenue residents, however, have consistently spoken out against the proposal, citing safety and quality-of-life concerns.

In a letter sent to the Town Board last week, Kensico Little League representatives stated that it has done its "best to be good neighbors with the residents of South Kensico Avenue." They called the situation "disheartening" and the residents' actions "disgraceful" and their arguments "propaganda."

The league cited its 67-year history of working with the town to provide recreation for generations of children and characterize the neighbors' actions as "hateful intolerance."

League representatives said they consider

Pat Henry Field to be the league's home field and has assured the board that the league would cover all costs associated with the installation of the lights. Situated between the residential South Kensico Avenue on one side and the railroad tracks and Bronx River Parkway on the other, the park is owned by Westchester County and leased to the Town of Mount Pleasant.

In what former councilman Nick DiPaolo once described as "a handshake agreement," the field is reserved for use by the Little League.

Last October, South Kensico Avenue resident Elizabeth Kantor spoke on behalf of the neighbors and presented the detailed results of a study as well as a survey conducted among the residents. She said their primary concerns include the potential danger to pedestrians as a result of the anticipated traffic increase during evening hours. South Kensico Avenue does not have sidewalks or streetlights.

Furthermore, Kantor said that in four of the seven places measured, the two-lane street is less than 20 feet wide.

The neighbors also pointed to the infringement upon their quality of life. That would likely be caused by the lights and the added noise as a result of the increased use of the field.

In the weeks and months since the initial presentation, South Kensico Avenue residents have spoken during nearly every public comment period at board meetings and have continued to challenge the proposal. They have shared blueprints for

the field that show plans for additional trees to be planted. However, those plans have not been fulfilled, they said.

At the Dec. 10 meeting, they challenged the presence of a truck as well as three shipping containers parked at the field. When Fulgenzi said he was unaware of the containers, Mark Stefanov held up copies of two letters he had written to the board last June asking them to investigate the situation.

In the ensuing weeks, Fulgenzi said he visited the field and called for the truck to be removed but said the containers could stay as they were necessary to store the league's equipment.

Then on Dec. 17, South Kensico Avenue

resident Michele Stefanov was one of several neighbors who reminded the board that the Little League had proposed the installation of lights in 2011, but town officials had denied the request. She asked what had changed since that initial decision.

Fulgenzi said last week he appreciated the inconvenience the lights would cause for the people on the street. However, the board must also take into consideration the advantages an enhanced facility would bring.

"I have over 400 families loving the recreation for their kids," Fulgenzi said. He suggested the first season the residents would find it to be an imposition. "After that, they won't notice."



Important Women

Jacob Burns Film Center Board President Janet Maslin, left, interviewed Greta Gerwig, director of "Little Women," following a recent screening of the film at the film center in Pleasantville.

ED CODY PHOTO

MY VISION IS 2020

THE FOLLOWING ARE
MY CLIENT'S SUCCESSES SINCE
JAN 1ST 2019:

72 Grandview Avenue, Pleasantville

28 Tamarack Way, Pleasantville

125 Bedford Road, Pleasantville

145 Locust Road, Pleasantville

514 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville

121 Oak Drive, Pleasantville

2 Apple Tree Close, Chappaqua

16 Dorchester Drive, Scarsdale

1201 Half Moon Bay Drive,

Croton-on-Hudson

11 Gilbert Park, Ossining

702 High Meadow Lane,

Yorktown Heights

IN CONTRACT:

96 Pierce Drive Pleasantville

787 Old Sleepy Hollow Road EXT, Briarcliff Manor

Looking back is nice. Looking forward is better. Historically low interest rates and other positive economic indicators are fuelling buyer's confidence for the coming housing market in 2020. So, if you're planning to sell your home, don't hesitate to schedule an appointment with me.

As a realtor with over 20 years of experience,

I can easily help you navigate the complexities of the housing market.

*To successfully sell your home, you'll need
all of these marketing tools from a full service broker:*

Comparative Market Analysis • Professional Staging
Professional Photography • Professional Copywriting
Comprehensive Internet Marketing

By combining these services with the right pricing strategy, I have helped countless clients to fully take advantage of today's real estate market.

C. 914.714.4470

O. 914.769.2950

daniel.tuck@cbmoves.com

Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage

1 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570



www.danieltuck.net

Real Estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Dec. 28: A complainant reported driving past three pedestrians on Sarles Street at 12:56 p.m. when one of the pedestrians,

described as a male wearing a blue jacket and black pants, struck her vehicle with his hands. The responding officer reported information gathered from all parties involved. The complainant only wanted to

Police Charge Two Men with Burglarizing Mt. Kisco Pharmacy

By Martin Wilbur

Two men who had been charged last week in connection with an attempted burglary of a Katonah jewelry store were also arrested for allegedly stealing prescription medication from a Mount Kisco pharmacy.

Westchester County police detectives arrested Kevin Alvarez-Soto and Hugo Lopez-Ramos, both 19 and residents of Main Street in Mount Kisco, following the recovery of a large quantity of medication.

Police said on Dec. 16 shortly after 10 p.m. they received a report that Robert Jacobson Surgical Pharmacy at 359 Main St. may have been broken into. Officers found that one of the pharmacy's window had been broken and a search of the premises was conducted.

The pharmacy owner subsequently advised investigators that prescription medication was missing from the store.

As a result of the investigation, Alvarez-Soto was arrested on Dec. 27 and Hugo Lopez-Ramos was arrested on Dec. 28. Both men were charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree criminal

possession of a controlled substance. About 750 pills that were taken during the burglary have been recovered, police said. Detectives continue to investigate some additional missing medication that was also taken during the burglary.

"I commend our detectives for this successful investigation," Police Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said. "It is important that we keep these kinds of prescription medication off our streets."

The two men had also been arrested in the early morning hours of Dec. 26 for their role in trying to burglarize 27K Jewelers on Katonah Avenue in Katonah. Both suspects were apprehended a short time later at the Katonah Metro-North station and taken into custody.

The suspects were subsequently released on bail in connection with the Mount Kisco pharmacy burglary.

Both men were arraigned at Mount Kisco Justice Court for the pharmacy burglary and released on their own recognizance. They were scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.

document the incident.

Dec. 29: An E-911 caller reported at 8:59 a.m. an active fire in the boiler room of a location on Byram Hill Road. The call was successfully transferred to 60 Control. The responding officers reported that Armonk Fire has determined that the incident was caused by an oil burner backfire.

Dec. 29: A caller reported at 5:23 p.m. that a dog was running in the roadway on Banksville Avenue. The dog was described as a beagle with a collar. While the responding officer was canvassing the area, the owner called headquarters to report the canine is back at the residence.

Dec. 30: An officer on patrol advised of a large pothole in the right southbound lane of Route 22 between Old Orchard Street and the Rye Lake Bridge at 11:02 a.m. The

state Department of Transportation was notified and advised it will be responding.

Pleasantville Police Department

Dec. 29: Report of a larceny on Washington Avenue at 9:40 a.m. An unknown party went through a resident's unlocked vehicle sometime overnight and stole about \$10 worth of change from the center console.

Dec. 29: Report of annoying phone calls made to a Hobby Street residence at 8:50 a.m. The party who was making the calls complained that the residence had annoying Christmas decorations.

Dec. 31: A Hillview Drive resident reported at 1:09 p.m. that they didn't like the way the trash was being removed from the front of the residence.

Bedford Lions Club Coat Drive Continues Through Jan. 10

The Bedford Hills Lions Club is sponsoring a coat drive that kicked off during the tree lighting ceremony at the Bedford Hills train station on Dec. 7.

Clean and serviceable coats may be donated in the Lions Club container located in the Bedford Town House

until Jan. 10. The collected coats will be donated to the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah. Community organizations are asked to join in for this needy cause.

For more information, contact George Rosamond, president, Bedford Hills Lions Club at 914-907-5693.



PLAN TODAY FOR TOMORROW
SALVATORE M. DI COSTANZO, ESQ.
a partner with the firm Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP.

January Fireside Chat

Join us for our informal chat, and take away helpful estate planning tips...

ALL ATTENDEES will receive a sample of local organic honey personally harvested by Mr. Di Costanzo.

TUESDAY
JANUARY 28, 2020
6PM-7:30PM

**Elder Law, Estate Planning
& Special Needs Planning**

SALVATORE M. DI COSTANZO
MAKER, FRAGALE & DI COSTANZO, LLP
2074 CROMPOND ROAD • YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY
Reserve your Complimentary seat (914) 245-2440 or
www.PlanTodayforTomorrow.com/upcoming-events

To help you enjoy the later years in life, **Salvatore M. Di Costanzo, Esq.**, a leading elder law attorney, and his colleague, **Joanna C. Feldman, Esq.**, will share their knowledge on how you can successfully manage your financial and healthcare needs and those of your loved ones, and will answer questions about estate planning, Wills, Trusts, Medicaid and long-term care planning, special needs planning, guardianships, and other areas of interest.



GRAND PRIX
NEW YORK RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

SPINS BOWL

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

BAR / BAT MITZVAHS

PRIVATE LESSONS

FUNDRAISERS

FIELD TRIPS

CORPORATE EVENTS

333 North Bedford Road | Mount Kisco, New York

gpony.com | info@gpony.com | 914-241-3131

County to Hold Playland Job Fair This Saturday at County Center

Westchester County will be hosting a Playland job fair this Saturday, Jan. 11 at the County Center in White Plains from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On-the-spot interviews will be conducted for the first 300 candidates to arrive. Salaries start at \$13 an hour.

"There is no better place to embrace the spring and summer than with a rewarding job at Playland Park," said County

Executive George Latimer. "Working at Playland can be enjoyable for people from a wide span of age groups, from high school and college students to senior citizens. Playland employees not only earn money, they also help to enhance the experiences of the amusement park's hundreds of thousands of visitors each year."

Positions to be filled include cashiers, ride operators, lifeguards, park management, Kiddyland ride operators, EMTs, mechanics, custodial staff, IT technicians, human resources and marketing interns and painters. Playland's seasonal employment runs from April through September.

Although no prior experience is required for most positions, prospective employees should have a positive attitude, enthusiasm, good communication skills and the ability to work a flexible schedule.

Applicants must be at least 16 years old. Some positions require applicants to be a minimum of 18 years of age. Applicants under 18 who plan to complete their application prior to the job fair must have the form signed by a parent or guardian to be considered for an interview. Those under 18 who wish to complete their application onsite at the job fair must bring a parent or guardian to sign the form in order for an

interview to take place.

Eligible applicants who may wish to enroll for direct deposit must bring a voided blank check or a bank-issued direct deposit setup form that includes routing number and account number printed on the document.

To apply during the job fair, bring a completed application, a valid photo identification, Social Security card and contact information for three references. Applications can be obtained by calling 914-813-7010 or by visiting www.PlaylandPark.org, where an application can be downloaded or submitted online.

Harckham, Galef Call on NRC to Host Meeting on Indian Point

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) and state Sen. Peter Harckham have called on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in a letter dated Dec. 13, to hold a meeting that is open to the public in the Town of Cortlandt to address the closing of Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC).

Indian Point's closing, scheduled for April 2021, will have a profound impact on the Village of Buchanan, Town of Cortlandt, those who work at the plant and the community as a whole. As Indian Point moves from being an energy generator to entering decommissioning, there are many unknowns that the community is likely to encounter.

The NRC has hosted meetings for elected officials for years, providing updates on plant operation and safety. At such a time of transition, having this meeting open to the public will ensure everyone is on the same page.

"The complex effort of decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power facility requires a thoroughly transparent process of communication and sharing of pertinent information between all of the stakeholders, especially the impacted communities," Harckham said.

"Any reluctance to engage fully in this communication process risks being interpreted by the community as a lack of good faith. This is why I am urging, along with Assemblywoman Galef, that the NRC begin to hold open meetings with the community as soon as possible to address growing concerns on a number of issues relevant to the facility's closing."

To date, Galef and Harckham have not heard from the NRC as to whether they will discuss Indian Point's decommissioning process with the community.

All Roads Lead To PLEASANTVILLE

Total Value
Get more, without paying more!

Total Convenience
Easy to get to from everywhere!

Total Service
Caring, Award-winning service!

The Ultimate Combination for Customer Satisfaction

Pleasantville Ford, Inc. Prestige Imports

a division of Pleasantville Ford Inc.

914.769.1800

44 & 47 Pleasantville Road

Pleasantville, NY

www.pleasantville-ford.com

The Center of Westchester County

In Business for over 50 years!
Come See Why!

twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

Find us on **Facebook**

Search for **EXAMINER MEDIA**

914-864-0878

advertising@theexaminernews.com

www.theexaminernews.com

Obituaries

Lucy Basile

Lucy Basile of Pleasantville, a dedicated mother and wife, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Jan. 3 due to complications related to Parkinson's disease. She was 81.

Basile was born on Oct. 31, 1938, to Bridget and Alessandro Comunale in the Bronx, and was the youngest of six children (Pasquale, Daniel, Elizabeth, Salvatore and Samuel, all whom are deceased). As a young teen, she met her husband, Frank, and wed in 1959 and had four children, Frank Jr., David, Christina and Lisa.

She is survived by her four children and nine precious grandchildren, Nicole, Laura, Matthew, Caitlyn, Brendan, Mikayla, Nathan, Marisa and Samantha. Basile was predeceased by her husband.

Basile was committed to her savior Jesus, her family and church family. She is also remembered for her mastery of making authentic Italian food, which she learned from her mother.

Visitation by family and friends was at Pleasant Manor Funeral Home in Thornwood on Jan. 5 for a celebration of Basile's life. A



Lucy Basile

funeral service was held at Harvest Time Church in Greenwich, Conn. on Jan. 6. She was laid to rest with her beloved husband, Frank, at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Putnam Valley.

If you wish to make a donation in Lucy's memory, the family suggests donating to the Parkinson Foundation at www.parkinsonfoundation.org.

Elaine Brown

Elaine Brown, aka Nana to all who knew and loved her, passed away comfortably on Dec. 31 at 91 years old at the home of her daughter, Stephanie Spiegel, in Chappaqua.

She was born at Hunts Point Hospital on May 2, 1928, to Mary (nee Mary Warschaw) and Abraham Isaac Gordon and grew up on Macombs Road in the Bronx. After high school, Brown registered for a nursing program but had to stop attending after becoming very ill with pneumonia. From there, she learned bookkeeping skills at her father's coat manufacturing company in Manhattan and used them her entire life. She re-connected and married her childhood friend Samuel Brown on Dec. 26, 1948, during a snowstorm, where she had to take the subway to her own wedding, which she did with humor and calm.

Samuel and Elaine lived in Bayside, Queens, but eventually settled in Jericho, N.Y. They adopted two children, Owen and Stephanie, from the Louise Wise agency. After a long wait, becoming a mother twice was the thrill of Elaine's life. Her children became the light of her world.

Elaine and Samuel were business partners always: first opening an insurance and real estate business together in Bayside, then opening three card and gift shops on Long Island, and finally working together at the Center for Professional Development in New Jersey. Brown, who was sharp and competent, became the head bookkeeper and helped open an office in Amsterdam. Eventually, she and Sam moved to Boca Raton, Fla. to open a company office there.

Once retired, they moved to Westchester to be near their six grandchildren. They moved to Old Farm Lake in Chappaqua, and after Sam's passing, Elaine moved to Woodcrest Village in Mount Kisco. She loved the community of people there and the

friendships she made.

Nana mostly lived for her grandchildren, Ben, Marissa, Michelle, Aimee, Andrew and Dylan. She played an integral part in every aspect of their lives, and they loved and worshipped her beyond words.

Brown became an avid volunteer at both the JCCA's Pleasantville Cottage School, working with abused and neglected children, and at Northern Westchester Hospital, where she worked in the cancer center, the gift shop and eventually in the Transitional Care Unit (TCU), which she helped open. She loved giving of herself to others. Since she loved soup, she was beyond touched when the TCU staff threw her a party with all kinds of soups that was called "To a Souper Volunteer."

In her spare time, Brown enjoyed playing Words with Friends, reading books and The New York Times, watching "Jeopardy!" and the news, discussing politics and being on her phone and computer. Most of all, she loved texting, talking to and spending time with family, extended family and friends. She was also the "emoji" queen.

To know Elaine was to love her. People gravitated to her incredible warmth, wit and caring nature. She was a role model of grace and dignity. And as her own doctor said to her caregiver before her passing, "you will never meet a finer woman." She was strong, wise and the self-proclaimed "everlasting optimist," always looking to the bright side of life. Nana will be missed beyond measure by all who knew and loved her.

Thank you to Hospice of Westchester and Putnam and her end-of-life caregivers Doreen Scott and Josephine Petriello who took such wonderful care of her. Donations in her name are being accepted by the JCCA, 120 Wall St., 20th floor, New York, N.Y. 10005 or at www.jccany.org.

William O'Connell

William O'Connell of Thornwood passed away suddenly on Dec. 31. He was 25.

O'Connell was born in the Bronx on Dec. 12, 1994. He was the beloved son of William and Gloria O'Connell (nee Jerussi); the loving brother of Julia; and the cherished grandson of William O'Connell and Eleanor Allen. He is also survived by and leaves behind to cherish his memory many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Will was also predeceased by his loving grandparents, Bartholomew and Gloria Jerussi.

Visitation by family and friends was at Pleasant Manor Funeral Home, Inc. in Thornwood on Jan. 4 and Jan. 5. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 6 at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne.



William O'Connell

Vincent Lazzaro

Vincent Lazzaro, 92, of New Rochelle peacefully passed away on Jan. 2.

Lazzaro was born Jan. 1, 1928, to Mary (Grillo) and Joseph Lazzaro and was brother to the late Victoria Caruso. In 1952, he married Connie (Vallone) Lazzaro, the love of his life for the past 67 years. For many years, he provided for his growing family as a produce manager. He worked at Shopwell, A&P and Food Emporium where he took pride in his creative fruit and vegetable displays for his customers.

Vincent, Vinny, dad and grandpa were just a few of the names this incredible man lived up to. He was a brave soul and a veteran, which aided in his hard exterior to most. Deep down he was kind, compassionate, supportive, empathetic and loving to all of us. We honor all the beautiful things that he contributed in his generous long life with us.

He co-raised a stunning family with

Connie, and loved and cared deeply for all seven of his children, their spouses and many grandchildren. His love flourished in his flower and vegetable gardens where he meticulously pruned and in his man cave/hobby craft room where his attention to detail blossomed.

It is with a heavy heart we all have to say goodbye for now. Keep dancing your way to heaven dad/grandpa as we know you have family and friends to catch up with.

Visitation will be held at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Friday, Jan. 10 from 2 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11 at Holy Innocents Parish in Pleasantville at 10:30 a.m. He will be laid to rest following the funeral at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

Contributions may be made in his memory to www.parkinsonfoundation.org.

Taghkanic Chorale Welcomes New Singers at Rehearsals for May Concerts

The Taghkanic Chorale, under maestro Jason Tramm, invites new singers to join rehearsals for the May concerts, featuring Mozart's "Requiem" with a full 25-piece orchestra, Beethoven's "Elegischer Gesang" and Ola Gjeilo's "Sunrise Mass."

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Jan. 7 for performances on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. All January rehearsals are open, with no obligation to join.

The Taghkanic Chorale is a group of avocational singers who love to make music together. The chorale welcome singers of all ages, vocal ranges and

skill levels.

Rehearsals are Tuesday nights from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the KSDA Church, located at 1243 White Hill Rd. in Yorktown Heights, near the Route 202 Exit off the Taconic Parkway. Rehearsals are fun and educational, balancing musicianship and collegiality.

The Taghkanic Chorale is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization that serves enthusiastic singers and concertgoers from Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland and Orange counties. For more information, call 914-440-3596 at visit www.taghkanicchorale.org.

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews

Mt. Kisco's Squirrell Relishes Challenge of Serving in New Capacity

By Martin Wilbur

When David Squirrell was sworn in on Dec. 2 as Mount Kisco's newest village trustee, it was one of the lower profile changes in local government.

Squirrell had no challengers for his nomination or in the general election and moved quietly into his seat on the board.

That doesn't mean he's unprepared for the challenge or unfamiliar with the village. Squirrell, 55, a criminal defense lawyer who is currently the chief attorney for Putnam County Legal Aid, served as the deputy village attorney/village prosecutor for five years until about three years ago.

He's also had time from when it was obvious that he would be the next trustee, replacing Isi Albanese who declined to run for a second term, until he was sworn in last month to get himself up to speed. However, Squirrell acknowledged there is a learning curve.

"I used that period of time to educate myself as much as I could," Squirrell said. "The mayor and the other board members did their best to make themselves available to me and I did my best to take advantage of that."

One of the top issues that Squirrell and the rest of the board will face is the development proposal of the village's North Moger and South Moger parking lots

calling for more than 200 apartments and 50,000 square feet of retail space between the two sites. While Squirrell hasn't formed a full opinion on the proposal from Gotham Organization, Inc., he did say that at first glance the plan is consistent with the updated Comprehensive Plan and the zoning changes for the parcel.

However, he said whatever form the final project takes must be advantageous for the village as a whole. Squirrell urged the public to get involved with their questions and concerns because what will happen at those two sites amounts to a crucial juncture in Mount Kisco's history.

"The only way to communicate those concerns is come to the meetings and participate because speaking for myself and I'm sure I'm speaking for the rest of the board, if in fact this development is consistent with what is allowed under the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning changes, it has to be done in a manner that is good for the entire town," Squirrell said.

Squirrell said the presence of Neighbors Link in the community and the efforts of his colleagues and predecessors have helped to bring a more welcoming environment to one of the more diverse municipalities in the area.

Events such as the Food Truck Festival, development of the old Sidewalk Sales Days into the three-day SeptemberFest



The Mount Kisco Village Board's newest trustee, David Squirrell, took his seat on the board last month after winning his first term in an uncontested election.

Having raised a son in the village, Squirrell also sees the continued enhancement of recreation programs as an important community resource. He met many of his current friends during youth sports at Leonard Park and other venues where parents would become acquainted with one another, he said.

Squirrell said maintaining a robust prevention program against drugs, alcohol and vaping and continuing the strong relationship between the village and the county police is also critical to maintaining a healthy population.

Squirrell, who has lived in the village since the early 1990s and was married last summer to his wife, Melissa, said he would like Mount Kisco to retain its unique characteristics that has made it a destination for residents and visitors for generations.

But balancing that with a vibrant business district and having a village where shoppers can park and walk will be key in moving Mount Kisco forward.

"Each town in Westchester has its personality but there's a unique personality, I feel, of the towns that grew up around the train stations and I think Mount Kisco's size has allowed it to maintain a lot of its original personality," Squirrell said.

and the recent holiday festivities help bring residents together who might not otherwise intermingle, he said.

"Having these community events and encouraging everybody to participate is absolutely essential for the continued integration" in Mount Kisco, Squirrell said.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Your Daily Examiner News Fix

Exami Blast

Visit **TheExaminerNews.com** to subscribe to Examiner Media's FREE, daily e-mail newsletter

Get the latest headlines from:

The Examiner

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The PUTNAM
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner



SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

ATTENTION STUDENTS & PARENTS



Opportunity is Knockin'!

ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT? ARE YOU THE PARENT OF A STUDENT?
DO YOU KNOW A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO WANTS TO EARN \$2,600 THIS SUMMER?

Paid Summer Internship Position Available

The New York Press Association Foundation is sponsoring a paid summer internship at this newspaper for a qualified undergraduate student.

Any student currently enrolled in a recognized program of undergraduate study is eligible to compete for an internship with a net \$2,600 stipend provided by NYPA. Applicants must attend college during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Hurry! Application deadline is **March 1, 2020.**

New York Press Association
NYPA
FOUNDATION

Application forms available online at:
www.nynewspapers.com

click on **NYPA** click on **Internships**

To advertise in The Examiner,
call 914-864-0878

or e-mail
advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

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

Examiner
MEDIA

also publishes

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

The PUTNAM
Examiner

To inquire about paid
subscriptions, email
subscriptions@theexaminernews.com
for pricing and other details

PO Box 611
Mount Kisco
NY 10549
914-864-0878
www.TheExaminerNews.com

Letters Policy

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 mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.



Member of

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

Editorial

Mt. Pleasant Hotel Tax Veto Clearly the Wrong Move By the Governor

It's one thing to oppose or veto legislation based on principle. It's quite another to make policy decisions based on whim.

Such is the case with the veto of Mount Pleasant's latest bid to get a 3 percent hotel occupancy tax signed into law.

The tax, which has become a popular request around the state in recent years to help generate a new revenue source, levies an extra 3 percent charge on guests at lodging facilities, money that goes directly to the municipality. Since the guests are rarely local residents and innumerable communities around the United States impose the tax, it's a convenient way for municipalities to pocket some additional funds.

The catch in New York State is that only cities, not towns and villages, are able to impose the tax on their own. Towns and villages need enabling legislation from the state after the local board has approved a resolution. If approved, it then must be

signed into law by the governor.

What is more perplexing than why cities deserve that discretion and not towns and villages, is how Gov. Andrew Cuomo has handled the individual requests over the past four or five years. In late 2015, he vetoed the legislation for a group of Westchester municipalities, including North Castle and Harrison, and several other communities. Then a year later he turned around and signed the legislation into law for those towns and about a dozen other municipalities throughout the county.

A few years ago it was argued that imposing the tax would hurt hotel operators. But that hasn't turned out to be the case.

Maybe it seems like small potatoes for Cuomo, or maybe it's his way of getting local governments to comply with whatever he wants, or maybe with such a backlog of bills this year he doesn't have the time to delve into why the tax is important for

towns that need to pave roads and have strong recreation programs.

This year Mount Pleasant was one of a group of towns across the state that were denied by Cuomo. There may be a good reason for his latest flip-flop, but it's apparent to no one. Perhaps all of a sudden, he doesn't like new taxes. The most cynical might point out that Mount Pleasant is one of the few Republican-dominated towns in the area, and the governor is looking to stick it to them.

Whatever the rationale may be, it's wrong. In Cuomo's time in office, the state has failed to tackle meaningful mandate relief, its roads are a mess and state elected officials voted themselves pay raises. Meanwhile, municipalities are forced to search for loose change.

To deny a town a hotel occupancy tax without a clear reason is a small and petty move from a leader we should expect more from.

Guest Column

Policymakers Must Recognize the Realities of Public Safety

A new world of public safety is upon us. One that has been brewing for many years and directly affects each and every one of us and our families.

In 2019 alone we have seen a number of legislative proposals and enactments that have threatened the sanctity of public safety. From the temporarily sidelined HALT legislation seeking to curb custodial management methods in jails, to the sweeping changes in bail reform effective Jan. 1, these well-intentioned policies are being improperly implemented and dangerously compromise law enforcement's ability to protect and promote public safety.

Take bail reform, for example. It seems in the haste to enact such change, the reforms appear to have been implemented with very little thought on the impact on public safety. The new laws will essentially eliminate pre-trial detention and cash bail on nearly 90 percent of misdemeanor and nonviolent felony arrests. This means criminal defendants will be given desk appearance tickets, released on their own recognizance and be expected to voluntarily return to court. Judges can no longer consider a defendant's criminal history or whether he or she poses a danger to the community. Not surprisingly, many are now clamoring for a rollback of these reforms.

With these changes in bail reform, jail populations will be significantly lowered initially. With the reduced populations will come a knee-jerk reaction to question minimum staffing levels. For example, on Nov. 25, during the Board of Legislators' Budget & Appropriations Committee meeting, county Corrections Commissioner Joseph Spano fielded many questions about minimum staffing standards; the main focus of the inquiries focused solely on saving money.

Staffing minimums are set by the state Commission of Corrections because they are deemed to be, at minimum, what is necessary and required to maintain not only safe jail operations and the security of all jail constituencies – inmates, officers and civilian staff – but the general public. Staffing is based on operational needs dictated by fluctuations in a number of factors, including increases in officer duties inside or outside the jail facility and the needs of the inmate population, especially those with mental health issues.

There can be as many as a dozen constant observation posts in a 24-hour period. Broken down and simplified, this equates to a single officer per inmate on three shifts for up to 72 hours, if not longer, based on mental health evaluations, quarter-hour documentation and daily monitoring, increased inmate programs and services, the need to ensure there is no forced overtime and workforce attrition.

Add to this the unknown long-term impact of bail reform and a potential increase in the population of sentenced inmates moving forward, there is no question that current staffing levels are necessary.

Corrections officers' work is not limited to just providing security within jail cells. There are many multifaceted roles we play in preserving public safety. For example, the Westchester Department of Corrections, celebrated its 50th

anniversary this past year, has been a vanguard among correctional institutions



By Neil Pellone

in the provision of rehabilitation and re-entry programs. There are currently 32 programs offering inmates a variety of tools, strategies, therapies and skill development opportunities that ensure an inmate's successful transition back into the community in a way that reduces risk of recidivism.

These programs are provided onsite at the Westchester County Jail under the watchful eye of

corrections officers who not only provide inmate escort to and from the programs, but also ensure a safe, non-violent environment for inmates and civilian instructors in which the programs can be administered. Without corrections officers providing integral safety and security, the goals and objectives of these programs, which ultimately protect and promote public safety, could not be met.

I implore our policymakers to visit the Westchester County Jail. Come learn about how the Department of Corrections, a nationally accredited institution offering exemplary inmate programs, operates. Learn about what we as corrections officers do to make this institution a success. Ours is a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year job that ensures public safety. Come learn about our training, the duties we have both inside and outside of the jail and how we perform them with the utmost professionalism while risking injury and illness to ourselves every day. After all, our safety depends on it.

Neil Pellone is president of the Westchester Correction Officers Benevolent Association.

Pleasantville, Westchester to Expand Opportunities to Compost

By Michael Gold

Pleasantville is presenting a new composting education program for the public on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant Public Library on Bedford Road.

The event, "Pleasantville Recycles: Find Out How, Why, When and Where," will discuss the ease of composting and comes as Pleasantville's composting program has grown, with about 80 people participating now.

As Pleasantville expands its composting efforts, a private company will be opening a site this year to accept 5,000 cubic yards of food scraps annually, including Pleasantville's, in northern Westchester.

Additionally, Westchester County is conducting a food waste study. Lou Vetrone, deputy commissioner, Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF), said the study is expected to be released imminently.

"Once the study is final and we have assessed the findings, the county will determine the best way to assist our local municipalities, businesses and residents in addressing food waste," Vetrone stated in an e-mail.

The county is also exploring ways to reduce the amount of food wasted within Westchester. PleasantvilleRecycles, the village's recycling committee, reported solid progress with food scrap recycling.

"The first week we had 10 participants. Now we have 80 participants," said Dan Turner, a PleasantvilleRecycles member. "We're filling six or seven bins a week."

"Each week we keep increasing the number of people participating who are dropping off food scraps and composting material," Turner said. "We're very encouraged. We've sold over 100 (composting) kits. That exceeds our goal."

"PleasantvilleRecycles is moving more toward re-use," said Village Trustee Nicole Asquith and Village Board liaison to the committee.

She wants the composting program to keep growing.

"I want to expand composting to drop off (food scraps) several days a week," Asquith said.

Scarsdale has composting drop-off six days a week and a household pick-up day, on the same day as trash pick-up.

Pleasantville is expanding composting because it has several advantages, Asquith said. Food has a lot of water, and since Westchester County incinerates its waste, it's harder to burn wet materials, she said.

Also, composting reduces the waste stream, which saves the village and county money on trash disposal fees. Additionally, composting returns carbon to the soil.

"Food scraps are turned into 100 percent



MIRIAM GOLD PHOTO

Nadya Hall, community environmentalist at Teatown Lake Reservation, which is working with the Town of Ossining on a food scrap recycling program. Municipalities throughout the county, including Pleasantville, have been establishing and expanding composting opportunities.

nutrient-rich soil," Turner said.

The Town of Ossining is also exploring composting. Funding from the state Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) 2018 Municipal Food Scraps Reduction, Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Programs, Ossining will be establishing a pilot program for all town residents, including those in the villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor, according to the town's website. The municipality will be partnering with Teatown on education and outreach.

Currently, the food scraps from Westchester County are trucked to Kingston, Ulster County, or New Milford, Conn.

That can change sometime in the spring. A new composting facility is under construction now in Cortlandt Manor, said Braeden Cohen, co-founder of Sustainable Materials Management, Inc. (SMM), the company building the site.

Cohen said the company is working hard to open as soon as the spring.

The facility will be at 1 Bayview Rd., adjacent to the Cortlandt Department of

Public Works and across Peekskill Bay from the Wheelabrator waste-to-energy plant in Peekskill, Cohen said.

"We're generating one quarter million tons of organic waste in Westchester," Cohen said. "We'll (SMM) be the first ones in Westchester to do food scrap recycling."

Food scraps will be dropped off by SMM's customers, then turned into compost.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), wasted food is a growing problem – and an untapped opportunity. In 2017, almost 41 million tons of food waste were generated, with only 6.3 percent diverted from landfills and incinerators for composting. The EPA estimates that more food reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in everyday trash, constituting 22 percent of discarded municipal waste.

Nadya Hall, community environmentalist at Teatown Lake Reservation, which is working with Ossining on its food scrap recycling program, said "composting is about making a choice to be mindful of our impacts on the Earth. We have a responsibility to current and future generations to live a more sustainable lifestyle."

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has published op-ed articles about the environment in the New York Daily News and the Albany Times-Union. He has written four books, including "Consumer Culture is Consuming Us" and "God in Crisis – The Destruction of the Environment and its Consequences for Our Relationship with God."

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

Words of the Month Club. The words for the first quiz of 2020 come from the book, "The Cabinet of Linguistic Curiosities" by Paul Anthony Jones. The book is "A Yearbook of Forgotten Words," and features a "curious or long-forgotten word of the day, picked from the more obscure corners of the dictionary." See how you do with these selections from the January entries in the book.

1. pontitecture (n.)

A) a prefab house

B) the building of bridges

C) the design of ships

2. translunary (adj.)

A) relating to moonlight

B) seasonal

C) beyond the moon

3. eucatastrophe (n.)

A) a fortuitous event

B) a missed opportunity

C) a correctable mistake

4. sheep's-eye (v.)

A) to look amorously at another

B) fool someone

C) follow closely

5. alamodic (adj.)

A) essentially similar

B) quick to react

C) extremely fashionable

6. griph (n.)

A) illegible writing

B) a brainteaser

C) firmness of spirit

7. spike-bozzle (v.)

A) to waste valuable time

B) sabotage

C) over celebrate

8. fedifragous (adj.)

A) promise-breaking

B) united as one

C) deeply felt

ANSWERS:

1. B. The building of bridges

2. C. Located beyond the moon

3. A. A sudden and unexpected fortuitous event

4. A. To look amorously at someone

5. C. Extremely fashionable; voguish

6. B. A puzzle; a brainteaser

7. B. To sabotage; to ruin or render ineffective

8. A. Promise-breaking; oath-violating

When details, service
and price matter..

Discover the difference at

Pleasant Manor
Funeral Home, Inc.

575 Columbus Avenue, Thornwood, NY 10594

914 - 747 - 1821

www.pleasantmanorfh.com

Trusted, Compassionate
Care for Three Generations

Family Owned And Supervised

Patrick J. McNulty Sr. • Patrick T. McNulty
Patrick J. McNulty Jr. • Daniel J. McNulty

Patrick J. McNulty Jr.

Daniel J. McNulty

Is it Okay to Fall in Love With a Realtor?

Have you ever fallen in love with a realtor? It's very possible, you know.

As a long-term realtor, I am reminded of the time when I was sitting in my office near the desk of a colleague who was talking with a client on the phone. After she related all the hurdles she had managed to negotiate that day in assuring a successful transaction for her client, she asked, "So, do you love me yet?"

Surely, all of us realtors want our clients to love us, not just for the money we can help make for them, but the satisfaction that comes from knowing we've negotiated a minefield in a process where almost anything can go wrong. Finding the right house or the right buyer, marketing a property that may need work, negotiating the selling price, getting an accepted deal, clearing the inspection, the title search, the more stringent mortgage requirements and the closing itself can be riddled with peril.

If there were to be a Match.com kind of service linking clients with realtors, the client would find that psychological profile of realtors would make them a likely catch, at least from a business point of view. They tend to be hardy in nature, outgoing and capable of responding to any kind of situation. In both ragingly good markets and those that are depressed and depressing, realtors can be a homeowner's

or buyer's best friend.

It's both the trying times and the moments of glory that bond realtors with their clients and vice versa. After all, there's a lot at stake, considering that a home is the biggest purchase most of us ever make. In that process, the realtor can come to know the most intimate details about their clients, their familial relationships, their financial status, as well as their preferences about how they want to live. Clients usually share with their realtors all the hard truths of their past and the eager hopes of their future life. And in the present, they spend a

lot of time together.

If realtors are representing sellers, they share the creative process of marketing a home and the debriefings that follow every showing. If they represent buyers, they travel all over the countryside with them. The glue of either relationship is a lot of hand holding.

These relationships can be extremely loyal and long-term, with case histories lasting from the purchase of a young couple's first home to that same couple making a transition from their last home to assisted living, all with the same realtor who has grown old with them.

So it is no wonder that after a successful transaction we will see an agent agonizing over an appropriate closing gift to give the

client, or a special delivery package will arrive at the realtor's office from clients to their special hero or heroine.

Yes, occasionally there can be a spat. Looking at both sides of that possibility, when a relationship goes bad between a realtor and a client, polls have shown the killer of the love affair is usually related to communication. Most frequently, complaints among sellers come when they don't hear from their realtors as often as they would like.

When realtors complain about their seller clients, it is usually about their refusal to price a house according to its market value. The realtor in this case feels that they will put in all the work and not get the expected result of a sale.

There's even the scenario of unrequited love, and that would be when sellers attempt to sell a home on their own (called a FSBO). Most realtors will say that is tantamount to representing one's self in court or removing one's own appendix. More specifically, lack of a realtor can deprive a seller of this kind of relationship where essential guidance and expertise is offered, resulting in a better offering price, even with the realtor's commission factored in, as statistics confirm.

But there are some very special moments in the client/realtor relationship that are just incredibly sweet. In one such case, a young couple with whom I had been working for a full year in finding their ideal first home asked if they could stop by my house to show me their newborn baby. I

felt as happy and pleased as if I had just become a new grandfather.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of Bill Primavera and his promotional talents to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

**get
NOTICED!**

**Advertise in
The Examiner.**
Call 864-0878 today!

Safe Haven Self Storage

**Got Stuff?
We've got space.**

safehavenselfstorage.com

FIVE LOCATIONS

- ACCESS TO YOUR UNIT 7 DAYS A WEEK
- WE SELL BOXES, CARTONS, LOCKS
- FULL INSIDE LOADING DOCK
- SAFE AND SECURE
- CLIMATE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

**NEW CUSTOMERS
50% OFF
FIRST 3 MONTHS***

*Restrictions Apply

**Happy
NEW YEAR**

A New Year Starts, the Old One Ends

CALL SCLAFANI ENERGY

We make warm Friends

Generators, complete high-efficiency heating and cooling systems now on our Winter Sale

Licensed, insured and bonded!

Quality guaranteed!

845 628-1330

sclafanienergy.com

Pleasantville Quintet Honored for Reaching Eagle Scout

By Martin Wilbur

Pleasantville celebrated five of its finest young men on Saturday afternoon during a special ceremony that saw the group attain the coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

Troop 12 members Owen McCarvill, Devin O'Neill, Edward (Ned) Huerster, Daniel DiFalco and Kyle Largey joined the list of those who have reached scouting's pinnacle at the Eagle Court of Honor at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church. All are high school seniors; four of the five will be graduating Pleasantville High School in June while DiFalco attends Kennedy Catholic High School.

The troop's Scoutmaster Emeritus Ira Promisel, who led the new Eagle Scouts for much of their scouting journey, said it's an inspiring accomplishment. He said they were a special group, something that was evident shortly after their transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

"It was a progression but you could see it I think from the time they started Boy Scouts," Promisel said. "That's when you could really see the leadership abilities and they just excelled. They're just wonderful, wonderful young men."

All five scouts put in intense efforts over the years to accumulate at least 21 merit badges and complete their Eagle Scout project in 2019 to be eligible for this year's ceremony. In fact, DiFalco and Huerster collected 27 merit badges to earn them bronze Eagle Palm awards while McCarvill obtained 34 badges, giving him a silver Eagle Palm award.



ED ELLIOTT PHOTO PHOTO

Pictured, from left, are new Pleasantville Eagle Scouts Kyle Largey, Devin O'Neill, Owen McCarvill, Daniel DiFalco and Ned Huerster along with County Legislator Margaret Cunzio at last Saturday's Eagle Court of Honor.

For Largey and Huerster, they were following in the footsteps of multiple family members who had preceded them as an Eagle Scout. Huerster's older brother and uncle and Largey's three brothers and three cousins achieved the rank.

"I wouldn't say it was pressure because Eagle Scout is a very high honor in Boy Scouts but I think it's something where you really want to push yourself," said Largey, who built two wooden tree benches at All Souls Cemetery for his project. "It does take a lot of work but it's a matter that any scout can do."

Similar to a few of his fellow Eagle Scouts, Huerster said the motivation to continue

scouting when many of his peers typically left to participate in other pursuits was because he enjoyed the experience so much.

"It sort of drew me in," said Huerster, who built an exercise trail at Mount Kisco's Fox Senior Center. "When I got started going on the trips, and stuff like that, it made me stay. It was a lot of fun. The camaraderie was a great time also. I enjoyed that."

Perhaps the biggest hurdle for each of the newly minted Eagle Scouts was completion of the community service project. McCarvill, who refurbished the trail near the Village Pool and Nannyhagen Pond, said the project, which requires the scout to enlist the manpower to get the work done, and the

scouting experience helped him become more assertive.

"I'm not a natural-born leader," McCarvill said. "It's shown me what it means to lead, how to lead, becoming a leader, basically, which is not one of my strong suits."

O'Neill's project, the painting of two murals at Pleasantville Middle School, allowed him to utilize his artistic skills. One mural featured the Pleasantville Panther, the school's mascot, something that had been missing from the school.

Like three of his four fellow Eagle Scouts, he started as a Cub Scout around first grade and kept at it because he enjoyed being around the group.

"It was just being with a lot of my friends because a lot of my friends, my closest friends at the time were doing it, and as they kind of stuck with it, I wanted to as well as we transitioned into Boy Scouts," O'Neill said. "It kind of grew from just hanging out with friends to me kind of learning new skills and striving toward something."

DiFalco didn't join the Scouts until he was in fourth grade, when he saw how much fun his younger brother was having. From the time DiFalco started, it was something he wanted to do as long as possible. He built two beds for the Pleasantville Community Garden at St. John's Episcopal Church.

"It was always something I loved, I was always going to do," he said. "There are definitely points along the way where I was a little nervous whether I was going to make it but it was always something I was striving for."

Check Out Our Great CD Rates!

6 Month CD

1.75%
APY*

2 Year CD

2.00%
APY*

Visit our Thornwood branch today for details!
Rose Hill Shopping Center, Thornwood, 914-769-8400
Linda Allen, AVP/Branch Manager

Apple Bank 

Established 1863 · Member FDIC

www.applebank.com

*Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) disclosed are effective as of 1/7/2020 and may be changed by the Bank at any time. CDs require a \$1,000 minimum balance to open and earn interest. Early withdrawal penalty may apply. CDs must be opened in person at an Apple Bank branch. Offer may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice.

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, Jan. 7

Reading With Tobie and Karen. Practice your reading. 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.

Teen Advisory Board. A group of teens in grades 6-12 who get together monthly and help come up with program ideas, books to purchase and things for the North Castle Public Library's Young Adult room. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East., Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. First Tuesday of every month. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Vision Board. Make vision boards for the upcoming year! Fill it with everything you want to focus on or are excited for in the new year. For students in grades 6-12. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Snowman Slam Game. Bring winter fun indoors with this game. Topple a stack of snowmen with a "snowball" and see if you can knock them all down. For children of all ages. (Children under five years old must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.) Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Current Affairs Book Club. "Confirmation Bias" by Carl Hulse will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Saw Mill River Audubon Nature Book Club. Participants will discuss "Ice: The Nature, the History and the Uses of an Astonishing Substance" by Mariana Gosnell. It's a long book but it's divided into distinct chapters, so feel free to read those chapters in which you are most interested, and then get out into the cold to look at the ice; you'll never look at it in quite the same way again. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail Kathleen_Williamson@msn.com.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Zumba Babies and Tots. A wonderful fun dance-and-play party for little feet. Age appropriate music and props are used to help children learn to love moving their bodies and dancing to their own rhythm. Singing and exciting activities will amuse delight and stimulate your child benefiting their cognitive, emotional and social development. For parents or caregivers and children one to three years old. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Eight-week session: \$120. Maximum 12 children per class. Every Wednesday. Info and registration: Contact Dance Emotions at 914-238-8974 or instructor Peggy at 914-960-4097.

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 Jan. 20). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

New Mommy and Daddy Meet-Up. Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. World Cup Nursery School, 170 Joan Corwin Way, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-238-4967.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Jan. 20). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Meditation Session. Meditation is one of the best tools to balance emotions, deal with physical and psychological distress and promote the peace of the present moment. Phelps Hospital's Family Medicine Residency Conference Room, (fourth floor), 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 11 a.m. Free. Also Jan. 22. Info: Contact Ellen Woods at 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

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 Jan. 20). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Mother Goose. Listen to stories and sing along with the librarian for a fun morning. The session incorporates picture books that focus on colors, shapes, letters and more. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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.mountkiscoliberalry.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.org.

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

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

"Newsies." Based on the 1992 movie and inspired by the true story of the 1899 Newsboys Strike, this is a joyful and entertaining musical capturing the strength that young people have when they join together and stand up against injustice. With a funny, poignant book by Harvey Fierstein and stunning music by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman, "Newsies" is a classic with the power to inspire. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 2 p.m. \$37 to \$59. Also Jan. 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit www.wppac.com.

Affordable Care Act Navigator. A trained navigator provided by the county Department of Health will be available to help people with choosing and signing up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and the state health marketplace. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Wednesdays from 2:30 to 7 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Appointment required. English only on Wednesdays. Appointments available in Spanish on Thursdays and Saturdays. Info and Wednesday appointments: 914-336-6026. Info and Thursday and Saturday appointments: 914-336-6935.

Science Lab. Become junior scientists and learn about different science topics through stories, crafts and experiments. For children four to six years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

LEGO Club. We provide the LEGOs, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for

students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-8041.

Young Adult Chess Workshop. Participants will learn how to play chess and the fundamentals of good chess play through the study of strategy and tactics. This will be facilitated through guided instruction and supervised play. For young adults in grades 5 and up. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd. Pleasantville. 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

Art Series: Picasso, the Mystique of a Master, Part I and Semester Intro. Start the winter lecture series off right with a look at what artists and topics are on deck for this coming semester. Take a look at Pablo Picasso and his life and work to complement this month's screening of the film "The Picasso Summer." 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.

Anti-Semitism: What We Face and How We Fight It. A discussion about the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and abroad and to learn about efforts to combat hatred. The discussion will feature Director of Government Affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center Mark Weitzman, Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. and Deputy Chief Planning Officer at UJA-Federation of New York, Hindy Poupko. presented by UJA-Federation of New York in Westchester and Westchester Jewish Council. All welcome. Temple Israel Center of White Plains, 280 Old Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Registration required. Registration: Visit www.ujafedny.org/wc-anti-semitism. Info: Contact Susan Scharf Glick at 914-385-2120 or e-mail glicks@ujafedny.org or Shirley Green at 914-385-2125 or e-mail greens@ujafedny.org.

Thursday, Jan. 9

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

Pleasantville Garden Club Meeting. Master gardener Kate Branch, a former school nurse at Bedford Road School where she was active in starting a school garden, will be the guest speaker. Branch will show how to transform your space by bringing nature indoors. A hands-on workshop

continued on next page

Beginners Baseball Clinic Looks to Make the Sport Fun Again

By Martin Wilbur

Baseball may be the national pastime but for many of those who love the sport it has admittedly lost its hold on younger children in recent years.

Mount Pleasant resident John Fitzgerald, director of the Baseball United Foundation, is looking to reverse that trend by making baseball appealing to five- and six-year-olds, an age where many children are first introduced to sports but today have other more action-filled options available to them.

Every Saturday morning, he leads the Small Ball Indoor Baseball Clinic for Beginners with about a dozen children at the Columbus Elementary School gymnasium in Thornwood to teach them the basic skills of throwing, fielding, hitting and baserunning while making it fun for them at that age.

Rather than have the children stand around until it's their turn to bat or wait for a ball to be hit to them, there is emphasis on keeping them in action, breaking off into small groups to work on the sport's key skillsets along with plenty of running during each hourlong session. A session typically ends with a quick game of kickball.

"A lot of kids, either their dads didn't play or for whatever reason they're not just exposed to the game and then we throw them out there with uniforms, a glove and a bat and expect them to love it," Fitzgerald said. "That just doesn't make any sense."

Fitzgerald brings three members of the Briarcliff High School varsity baseball team to

each session. The high school players enjoy interacting with the young children and the children look up to the high school students.

To have baseball compete with the increasingly popular sports of soccer and lacrosse, Fitzgerald makes sure his clinic makes sense to children first starting to play along with teaching them the basic skills. He said because there are so many facets to the sport, there are many parents who notice that if their child's interest is waning after a few years, they'll quit the sport.

"What we see at the younger levels is an eight-year-old or nine-year-old's parents don't see him going in that direction they'll leave the game and they leave because it hasn't been fun for them for the first few years and they don't see themselves playing college baseball, which is fine," Fitzgerald explained. "But when I grew up you played because you liked the game and so we're trying to get more kids playing."

Using whiffle balls and plastic bats inside the gymnasium, Fitzgerald and the high school players will have the children practice hitting off a tee, then facing soft toss pitching. There is also emphasis on the proper way to throw and getting set and ready to field a ball in a very easygoing environment.

One of the more enjoyable activities is teaching the children how to run the bases, starting out at home plate and showing them how to advance from base to base.

Parent Giacomo Marchese of Hawthorne said for his six-year-old son, Marco, the clinic is a good introduction to get him acclimated



John Fitzgerald tosses a pitch to one of the children at his Small Ball Indoor Baseball Clinic. Inset: Briarcliff High School senior shortstop Anthony Mingoia oversees one of the children hitting off a tee.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

to baseball.

"He likes it and he's developing his skills," Marchese said. "It's giving him an opportunity to play and be trained."

Briarcliff High School senior Jared Kulman said he comes to the clinics to help out and give back to the sport and make sure there are kids interested in playing.

"A lot of the kids are switching to other sports," Kulman said. "It's good the kids

learn to play baseball because it sticks with you the rest of your life, not only playing but being around it."

Sessions run for five weeks at a time and is open to Mount Pleasant residents and those who live outside the town. A five-week session costs \$75 for town residents and \$90 for non-residents. The program is part of Mount Pleasant's town recreation programs.

For more information and to sign up for the next five-week session, which begins on Jan. 18, visit www.baseballunitedfoundation.org.

Happenings

continued from previous page

will take place for those who choose to participate. There will be a fee for materials. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Meeting at 9:15 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org.

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

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

Lifeline Theater Music Program. An outlet for unlocking the potential of children and adults with special needs through integrated arts and life skills programs. Drop in anytime and join founder Billy Ayres as he uses singing, dancing, creating plays, artwork and gardening to help participants realize

their strengths and potential contributions to their communities. Ayres has created a technique called improvisational integrated music/drama. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Every Thursday and Friday. 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.

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

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

org.

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

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

Pelvic Floor Health: Beyond Kegels in the Chair. Educational and experiential, this workshop will empower women with a new awareness of their pelvic floor. Come learn the anatomy and physiology, the weakness, dysfunctions and techniques to relax, strengthen, balance and maintain optimal health. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 16. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Mahjongg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Arts and Crafts. Paint, glue and color yourself something cool to take home. Each session will feature a different craft. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

northcastlelibrary.org.

Creative Writing. Meet up with other writers, share ideas and write stories. For students in grades 6-12. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 16. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Folded Paper Icicles. Shiny icicles can be found everywhere this time of year including at your home. Add these glittery creations to your house for a pop of color during the dreary winter months. For children seven to 12 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

Audubon Program: Exploring Bluebirds. Licensed bird bander Sandy Morrissey will share what she has learned about eastern bluebirds during the nine years she's collected banding data and during the 21 years she has maintained bluebird nesting boxes across Westchester County. Morrissey will also explore other questions about bluebirds. Co-sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Public Library and the Saw Mill River Audubon. Mount Pleasant Public

continued on page 16

Happenings

continued from page 15

Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 10

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

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.

Passport to Fitness for Kids. Get fit and learn dance moves from around the world with a fun Zumba class. For children four to six years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Friday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

Bingo. For children. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Full Moon Wolf Walk. Celebrate the first full moon of 2020 (aka the Wolf Moon) with wolves. While keeping warm by the outdoor fire pit, guests will enjoy warm drinks and likely the symphony of 40-plus wolves. Guests will learn about the history of wolves in the United States, their importance in a healthy ecosystem and the efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations. Also take a short moonlit walk to visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Zephyr and Nikai. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5:30 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Teen Movie and Pizza: "The Lion King." Snacks, beverages and pizza will be provided. For youngsters 10 years old and up; families welcome. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Registration suggested. Info and registration: E-mail CPaulsen@wlsmail.org.

Opening Reception for "2020 Vision." A group show featuring paintings by Steven Alexander, Daniel Anselmi, David Collins, Dana James and Josette Urso. Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 1947 Palmer Ave., Larchmont. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Feb. 22. Gallery hours are Tuesday through

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointment. Info: 914-834-8077 or visit www.kbfa.com.

Friday Night (and Saturday Afternoon) at the Movies: "The Farewell." A new-to-DVD movie will be shown on the big screen. In this film, a Chinese family discovers their grandmother has only a short time to live and decide to keep her in the dark, scheduling a wedding to gather before she dies. You may bring your own snacks. WJ. Vescio Community Center, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 7 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 11 at 1 p.m. Registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-941-7072 or www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "Dead in a Week or Your Money Back." Let's say you were about to retire and you just have one job left to pull off. Sounds easy – unless your client makes it very, very difficult to fulfill your final mission. This dark English comedy asks the age-old question "What makes life worth living?" Starring an incredible Tom Wilkinson, this film looks at issues of age, purpose, community and usefulness in quite a novel manner. 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.

Westchester Photographic Society: Ira Block – Defining Your Photographic Style Through Personal Projects. Block will speak about his photo book project – "Cuba Loves Baseball: A Photographic Journey." He will be highlighting the techniques and tips he had applied to make this photo book. Block will discuss the importance of having a personal project to sharpen your vision and photographic skills and walk participants through the various stages of photographing a story, capturing moments, deciding on the final images that advance your story and make it complete. For adults 18 years old and up. Westchester Community College's Technology Building, Room 107, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. (Use Parking Lot 11) 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-827-5353 or visit www.wpsphoto.org.

Broken Arrow: The Music of Neil Young. Returning for a second smash year, Broken Arrow perform Young's music featuring the rockin' electric Crazy Horse tunes and the more acoustic, pedal steel-driven country rock material. The band delivers these classic songs faithfully while taking them out on some jammin' excursions and tastefully tweaking some of the arrangements. Joe Mass nails Young's vocals perfectly and the harmonies are spot on. They bring audiences to their feet singing along and demanding encores at every show. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$25, \$32 and \$38. Info and ticket: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Saturday, Jan. 11

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The delicious good time moves indoors for the winter. A great way to support regional agriculture and eat healthy, year-round with plenty of warm smiles and community togetherness. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Please note the market is a dog-free environment. Indoor market continues through Mar. 28. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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

"Babe Ruth at Sing Sing." The Mount Kisco Historical Society presents this new documentary about an exhibition game that Babe Ruth and the New York Yankees played against the Sing Sing inmates on Sept. 5, 1929. The screening is followed by a Q&A with director Jim Ormond. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscohistory.org.

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

Coyotes: Behavior, Ecology and Coexistence. A special program about the local cousin to the wolf – the Eastern Coyote. Learn more about their biology and behavior and ways to reduce or prevent problems from occurring between people, pets and coyotes. After the talk, guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Music for Minis. Join Byram Hills High School students Nora and Edith as they explore different musical pieces and learn the basics of music in a fun and welcoming environment. For children in grades K-3. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Jan. 25. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Jewelry Medic. Do you need a ring resized, an appraisal, a new watch battery or assistance with another type of jewelry emergency? Jaymark Jewelers of Cold Spring has added the mobile jewelry repair shop to its services. The Jewelry Medic travels to homes, offices, gyms, coffee shops and other convenient meeting places throughout the area and offer reasonable rates on repairs. The public is also invited to participate in Bethel Springvale Inn's Open House which will be held simultaneously and include tours of the assisted living residence as well as refreshments. Bethel Springvale Inn, 62 Springvale Rd., Croton-on-Hudson. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: 914-739-4404 ext. 2204 or e-mail patricia.pelican@bethelwell.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.

Children's Story Readings. Acclaimed voice actor Alan Sklar will read "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry and "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Crafterday. Create your own Tic-Tac-Toe game to take on trips and car rides. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

Winter Wolves for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Youngsters will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role of wolves in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves; they're out searching for prey as their growing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Enjoy hot beverages in our woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Jan. 12 and 19 at 11 a.m. and Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Opening Reception for "Weather Report." Artists capture various states of climate and weather conditions and its effect on the Earth using various methods, media and techniques. Whether in realistic, impressionistic or abstract images, they create the mood, location and states of the forever changing conditions of the climate and environment. Mamaroneck artists group exhibition. Work in 2D and 3D will be on exhibit. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Snow date: Jan. 18. Exhibit continues through Jan. 25. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org.

Sunday, Jan. 12

Dylan Lauren Author/Speaker Event, Book Signing and Reception. Westchester resident Dylan Lauren, daughter of fashion mogul Ralph Lauren, will bring her sweet and exciting business story and talk about following her dream, life as a successful businesswoman, writing a book, her candy obsession and much more. The program will include an audience conversation and

continued on next page

A Sampling of the Best Menu Movers and Shakers of 2019

By Morris Gut

Here are several of the food and dining venues that really stoked my palate this past year.

La Bocca, White Plains. Chef/proprietor Tony Spiritoso has been a chef and restaurateur in Westchester for 35 years. A meal here usually begins at his signature antipasti bar loaded daily with tempting cured imported meats, cheeses and appetizing house-made salads. Spiritoso has brought his vintage bright red slicing machines along wherever he has been, and they sit ready to roll on the antipasto counter. And the wine selection is among the best in the county.

The dining room is strewn with artistic columns and serving pieces. There is banquette and table seating in the main 80-seat dining room, while the bar is often a perfect spot for networking with locals. There is a new wine room for private events for up to 60 guests. Spiritoso and his son-in-law Alessandro and the veteran staff will take good care of you. Look for fresh porcini and seasonal game meats, too.

Open seven days. La Bocca is located at 8 Church St. in White Plains. Call 914-948-3281 or visit www.laboccaristorante.com.

Alex's Bar & Grille, North White Plains. Alex Ahmetaj, a veteran of the restaurant-hospitality field, updated the menu at Alex's Bar & Grille offering big cuts of aged steaks and chops along

with generously served northern Italian/continental fare. The steaks could be called a bargain here. The staff brings years of experience and a European flair.

Customers enter the multi-section dining room through the inviting bar/lounge with its black industrial ceiling, banquets and soft lighting. It is a good networking spot. The dining room is split into cozy sections with white tablecloths, colorful deVilleneuve impressionist paintings and warming scones. Mediterranean clay-colored banquets and chairs complement wooden walls and plush beige curtained windows.

Check out such specialties as pan fried calamari with hot cherry peppers; Linguini alla Vongole, a delicious fresh Branzino prepared tableside; classic veal parmigiana; grilled prime filet mignon; prime New York sirloin steak; or the veal chop.

Alex's Bar & Grille is located at 577 N. Broadway in North White Plains. Call 914-358-1444 or visit www.alex577.com.

The 808 Bistro, Scarsdale. Marking its 10th year, this eclectic Italian-American eatery glows nightly in a rainbow of alternating colors. Glistening ceramic and metal tiles highlight the 50-seat dining room and ceiling. It's a Manhattan vibe and it's all kept properly casual.

Chef/owner Sal Cucullo Jr. is a Culinary Institute of America graduate who practically grew up in restaurants, working kitchens owned by his family as well as in



Orecchiette with sausage and broccoli rabe at La Bocca in White Plains.

venues of every stripe. He knows how to cook Italian, but for as long as I have known him his creativity has never been bound by culinary borders. He can knock out a delicious version of Grandma's Gnocchi in a basil-pomodoro sauce one moment, and prepare a decadent baked macaroni and cheese with chunks of lobster and shrimp, infused with truffle oil the next.

The 808 Bistro is located at 808 Scarsdale Ave. in Scarsdale. Call 914-722-

0808 or visit www.the808bistro.com.

Mughal Palace, Valhalla. Mughal Palace serves an all-you-can-eat Indian buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with more than a dozen selections, including salad, main courses and desserts with all the trimmings. The cost is \$15.95 per person.

Dinner is a la carte and begins at 5 p.m. Look for specialties such as Lasuni Gobi (cauliflower florets tossed with bell peppers, onion, garlic and green herbs); chicken barbecue kabab (marinated boneless chicken cooked in the tandoor oven); Lamb Bhuna (pieces of lamb cooked in a medium spiced sauce of bell peppers, tomatoes and fresh Indian herbs); and mango chicken (boneless chunks of chicken cooked with fresh mango, ginger, garlic and dry spices). A glass of lassi will help wash it all down. Don't forget the delicious house-made Indian breads to scoop up the sauces.

Open seven days. Mughal Palace is located at 16 Broadway in Valhalla. Call 914-997-6090 or visit www.mughalpalace.com.

Bon appetite in 2020.

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at gutreaactions@optonline.net.

Happenings

continued from previous page

Q&A with the queen of sugar offering a peek inside her life as the CEO of the iconic Dylan's Candy Bar. Guests will get a behind-the-scenes understanding of what it takes every day to run the mouth-watering empire. All guests will receive a copy of her book, "Unwrap Your Sweet Life," will Lauren will sign. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford. 1 p.m. Members: \$51. Info and tickets: Visit www.bedfordplayhouse.org.

Middle School Study Habits. Does your child struggle with developing good study habits, managing their time, taking notes effectively or using the best resources? For students in grades 7-10 and their parents and friends. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

FeederWatch. Learn about some of your backyard birds while identifying them at the feeders. Refreshments will be served. Cranberry Lake Preserve, 1609 Old Orchard St., North White Plains. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 1. Info: 914-428-1005.

Winter Wolves. Winter offers families a unique opportunity to visit the wolves during their favorite time of year. 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. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching

for prey as their maturing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Enjoy hot beverages in the woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Jan. 18 and 26 at 1 p.m., Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. and Jan. 20 and 25 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

21+ Book Group. "The Travelling Cat Chronicles" by Hiro Arikawa will be discussed. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. New members welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Carolyn at 769-9169.

"Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope." A screening and discussion of this documentary film that explores the impact of adverse childhood events. Co-sponsored by the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester, the Westchester Library System and the Briarcliff Manor Public Library, with special thanks to the Ossining Public Library. Ethical Society of Northern Westchester, 108 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org.

"Patriot in a Petticoat: The Life and Times of Ann Fisher Miller." A presentation about this historic figure

followed by a tour of the Miller House. Miller House, 140 Virginia Rd., North White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-428-1005.

Candlelight Harpsichord and Clavichord Concert. Dr. Sándor Szabó will present this enchanting concert which will include compositions by the most brilliant composers of the Renaissance, Baroque and Classic eras juxtaposed with exuberant works by the most notable composers of the 20th century. This encounter of past and present is sure to engage both intellect and emotion, as Szabó performs these masterworks written expressly for the Queen of Instruments, the harpsichord, and the most delicate of all keyboard instruments, the clavichord. The concert will be played on instruments built by notable American builder Zuckerman. Christ's Church Rye, 2 Rectory St., Rye. 3 p.m. Free; seating limited. Info and tickets: 914-967-1745 or e-mail sszabo@ccrye.org.

Study Skills Workshop. Does your child struggle with developing good study habits, managing their time, taking notes effectively or using the best resources? This informative workshop is for students in grades 7-10 and their parents and friends. C2 Education, 195 N. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Seating limited; registration required by Jan. 10. Info and registration: 914-362-1100, e-mail mount.kisco@c2educate.com or text 914-362-8495.

Salsa Social. Come and learn how to Salsa. A fun and exciting workout. Singles

or couples; no partner necessary. Josie's School of Dance, 42 Memorial Plaza, Level B, Pleasantville. 5 to 9 p.m. Intro lesson at 4:30 p.m. \$10 admission. Dinner: \$6. Second Sunday of every month. Info: 914-332-8670.

Hudson Valley Blues Society Presents: Tas Cru and His Band of Tortured Souls.

Tas Cru is truly a blues eclectic who refuses to let his music be bound to just one blues style. He'll swing you with a traditional shuffle, swoon you with a sultry ballad, lull you into a trance with deep hill-country blues and then rock your knobs off. If you want to be entertained, Tas is your guy. With a repertoire of more than 60 original songs from multiple albums and dozens of crowd-pleasing classics, this seasoned road warrior will give folks what they want, be it at a festival, concert or dance hall. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show at 7 p.m. General admission: \$20 (on first-come, first-served basis). VIP Seating: \$25. (In the event of bad weather, the show will be rescheduled and all tickets will be honored at that time.) Info and tickets: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pg/LucysLoungeNY/events/>

Afro-Cuban All Stars. After gaining international fame for reviving the classic sound of Cuban son, tres master Juan de Marco turn the Afro-Cuban All Stars into a sensational showcase for Cuba's most prodigious young musicians. While long revered in Latin American and Europe as a found member of Cuba's great son revival

continued on page 19

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the
next week's publication

ANTIQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-235-0302**

ATTORNEY/ LEGAL

LUNG CANCER? AND AGE 60+? You And Your Family May Be Entitled To Significant Cash Award. Call 866-951-9073 for Information. No Risk. No Money Out Of Pocket.

AUTO DONATIONS

DONATE YOUR CAR TO WHEELS FOR WISHES, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com

****COMIC BOOKS WANTED! TOP PRICES PAID!**** 30 years experience. Reliable and honest! Call or Text: 917-699-2496, or e-mail: smileLP@aol.com. Thanks.

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

HIGHEST PRICES PAID - Visit West-chester's Top Buyer for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins & Currency, Watches, Jewelry. Licensed, Professional, **No Appointment Necessary.** Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am-6pm, Mt. Kisco Gold & Silver, 139E Main Street. 914-244-9500

CABLE & SATELLITE TV

SPECTRUM TRIPLE PLAY! TV, Internet & Voice for \$29.99 ea. 60 MB per second speed. No contract or commitment. More Channels. Faster Internet. Unlimited Voice. Call 1-855-977-7198

EDUCATION/CAREER TRAINING

AIRLINE CAREERS Start Here - Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM for free information 866-296-7094.

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, our attorneys & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

FINANCE

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 866-979-0096 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

HEALTH

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. **CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-866-569-7986** Call Now!

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907

HELP WANTED

JOB OPPORTUNITY \$18.50 P/H NYC \$15 P/H LI \$14.50 P/H UPSTATE NY If you currently care for your relatives or friends who have Medicaid or Medicare, you may be eligible to start working for them as a personal assistant. No Certificates needed. (347)462-2610 (347)565-6200

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ARLINGTON INC. Custom Cabinetry, Kitchen & Bath Interior & Exterior Painting Power Washing, Repairs 914-557-6703 WC-14665-H03 www.arlingtonwoodworking.com

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 888-657-9488.

INTERNET AND TV

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$35/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

DISH TV \$59.99 for 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-800-943-0838.

MISCELLANEOUS

A PLACE FOR MOM has helped over a million families find senior living. Our trusted, local advisors help find solutions to your unique needs at no cost to you. Call: 1-800-404-8852

COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE, In-home repair/ On-line solutions. \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE! 844-892-3990

LEGAL NOTICES

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Planning Board will be held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana

continued on page 20

ELEVATORS • STAIR LIFTS • WHEELCHAIR LIFTS • RAMPS

• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks
New and Reconditioned Lifts

Stay in the home you Love!

Locally Owned & Operated

THE ALBANY
Lift Company
EasyLift Albany Division

(518) 393-2274 or (888) 558-LIFT

www.thealbanyliftcompany.com

Visit Our Display Center: 836 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110



Wheels For Wishes

benefiting

Make-A-Wish®
Hudson Valley



* 100% Tax Deductible

* Free Vehicle Pickup ANYWHERE

* We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not

* We Also Accept Boats, Motorcycles & RVs

Call:(914)468-4999

WheelsForWishes.org

* Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. To learn more about our programs or financial information, call (213) 948-2000 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org.

THE FAVORITE GIFT

- 4 (6 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Signature Seasoning Packet

\$218.92* separately

COMBO PRICE \$69⁹⁹

+ 4 FREE BURGERS

THAT'S 16 MAIN COURSES!

ORDER NOW! 1.866.749.2741 ask for 59104VSL
www.OmahaSteaks.com/cook31

*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. ©2019 Omaha Steaks, Inc. Exp. 2/29/20

Westchester Computer Club Navigates Evolving Tech Landscape

By Robert Marich

Years ago, local residents wanting product and basic user information for their personal computers would go to one of the 17 Radio Shacks blanketing Westchester County and other now-defunct specialty retailers.

If clerks didn't know or just made bland sales spiels, "after the salesperson moved away, another customer would walk up and volunteer advice," recalled longtime local computer aficionado Joe Bruno. "That's often how people learned about products and troubleshooting in that era."

Sharing expertise informally with unbiased and knowledgeable people is the mission of the Westchester PC Users Group (WPCUG), a local non-profit computer club that was established 38 years ago. The club conducts about 15 workshops a month, mostly in White Plains or Mount Vernon, which serve as sounding boards for practical knowledge regarding personal computers and mobile devices for both hardware and software. WPCUG's 170 members come from Westchester, Putnam and Fairfield counties and the Bronx.

"If you belong to the club, you get free telephone support from our knowledgeable experts," said Deborah Meisels, WPCUG vice president and a City Island resident. "Most of our workshops start with a Q&A session. So if you have a technical problem, you can ask in the Q&A and get help" tapping the expertise of workshop leaders

and members.

Meisels, a retired proofreader for professional publishers and organizations, said some workshop leaders taught technology at Bronx High School of Science and others work as computer consultants.

WPCUG has been through it all. Decades ago, concerns of local computer users centered around waves of destructive computer viruses and navigating the cumbersome PC operating systems of the era that frequently required professionals to set up.

Now plug-and-play simplicity has sparked a revolution of easy-to-use devices; smart phones and tablets are also part of the mix. With this progress, home computer users are now befuddled in different ways. It's a chore managing today's online world where computers are used for financial transactions, including banking and stock trading, to navigating overflowing personal content of vast troves of photos and e-mails.

Two well-attended WPCUG workshops on digital legacy illustrate the point that today's digital media is becoming the dominant recording medium in people's lives. The workshops were inspired by growing instances of disasters ensuing when people die or become incapacitated with no one able to access online financial accounts, assets and communications.

Advice included appointing a digital executor (a person separate from the overall estate executor); create a unified



ALLAN TURNBULL PHOTO

Westchester PC Users Group President Pierre Darmon, left, and Deb Meisels speaking at one of the computer club's workshops.

password manager; and print out passwords and financial records that are stored to be accessible to the digital executor.

Another critical topic is protecting personal information in digital media.

"Our private lives and private data are constantly at risk," cautioned WPCUG President Pierre Darmon, a White Plains resident. "People don't realize how much they are sharing."

The former career IBM employee operates a computer support and education consulting business, Westchester PC/Mac Solutions.

Bruno, a retired computer consultant living in Sleepy Hollow, agrees data security is a

top-of-mind issue for club members, noting that users increasingly find vulnerabilities don't come from their computers. Instead, the hackers break into non-computer devices connected to personal wireless networks that the ordinary person doesn't think of as dangerous entry points. These include internet-connected video doorbells, baby/nanny monitors, home climate controllers, smart TVs and motors for everything from garage door openers to roof vent fans.

"If any malicious individuals or organizations break into your network, once they're in, they can see anything that is shared on your network," Bruno said.

A solution is to connect such ancillary devices to their own, separate networks, which is achievable using multiple routers.

Many WPCUG members are older adults and retirees whose computer and tech experience goes back decades, before Microsoft introduced Windows and Apple Macintosh. For example, while working at a Veterans Administration hospital in the 1980s, Bruno pioneered using personal computers – then something of a novelty – for therapy to rehab patients.

WPCUG workshops occasionally touch on nostalgia. But members are mostly focused on mastering today's digital media and also looking out for what's on the horizon.

For more information on the Westchester PC Users Group, including workshop topics and locations, visit www.wpcug.org.

Happenings

continued from page 17

band Sierra Maestra, de Marcos first gained notice in the U.S. as founder of the Buena Vista Social Club. It was de Marcos who assembled Ibrahim Ferrer, Eliades Ochoa, Ruben Gonzalez and the rest of the crew for Ry Cooder when he came to Havana looking for illustrious old-timers. But de Marcos is just as interested in promoting Cuba's brilliant young musicians as in highlighting Cuba's senior talent. The All Stars not only features a rotating multigenerational cast, the group draws on both classic Cuban styles, like son and danzon, and contemporary dance rhythms like timba. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7 p.m. \$38, \$48 and \$58. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Monday, Jan. 13

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

Morning Bird Walk. Go birding with the Saw Mill River Audubon. Beginners welcome. Rain or shine. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way (Route 117), Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. Free. Meets the second Monday of each month. Info: Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Mommy and Toddler Yoga. Stretch and shine with your toddler during this playful introduction to yoga using games, songs, stories and more. For children one to four years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Also Jan. 27. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Book Discussion. Explore the nexus between important art and literature. Following a private tour of the "Sparkling Amazons" exhibition, participate in a discussion of Mary Gabriel's critically acclaimed book, "Ninth Street Women," now being developed into a television series. Includes tour and refreshments. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

Here We Are Together: Story Time for Children. Story time for children of all ages, from newborns to school age children; with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Monday (except Jan. 20). Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco library.org.

Theater Games With Arc Stages. Celebrate your child's innate self-expression. Your child will learn basic theater skills and self-confidence and will have loads of fun through guided theater exercises and playtime. For children in grades K-1. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

Robert the Guitar Guy. Play along to some of your favorite songs! From "Go, Go, Power Rangers" to "Baby You're a Firework," everyone is a musician here. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 27. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Dungeons and Dragons. Be part of a role-playing adventure. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 27. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Martin Luther King Craft. The great Dr. Martin Luther King was a peaceful man who inspired many. Join us and make a craft in his honor. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Monday Night Stitchers. Come and stitch with us! Any needlework is welcome. Share a technique, get instruction, advice and support or just hang out and work

on your project. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second Monday of the month. Info: E-mail Louann Rooney at rooneylm@optonline.net.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 14

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

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

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the
next week's publication

continued from page 18

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never
alone

Life Alert® is always
here for me even when
away from home.

One touch of a button
sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home

Life Alert®

Batteries Never Need Charging.

Help On-the-Go

FREE!
FIRST AID KIT
WHEN YOU
ORDER!

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776



Includes FREE American Standard Right Height Toilet
Limited Time Offer! Call Today!

888-609-0248

Receive a free American Standard Cadet toilet with full installation of a Liberation Walk-In Bath, Liberation Shower, or Deluxe Shower. Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit: one per household. Must be first time purchaser. See www.walkintubs.americanstandard-us.com for other restrictions and for licensing, warranty, and company information. CSLB B962796; Suffolk NY 55431H; NYCHIC #2022748-DCA. Safety Tubs Co. LLC does not sell in Nassau NY, Westchester NY, Putnam NY, Rockland NY.

Discover the world's best
walk-in bathtub from
American Standard

5 Reasons American Standard
Walk-In Tubs are Your Best Choice

- 1 Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
- 2 Ultra low entry for easy entering and exiting
- 3 Patented Quick Drain® fast water removal system
- 4 Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard
- 5 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

\$1,500 SAVINGS

MADE IN USA

FREE IN-HOME EVALUATION!

DENTAL Insurance

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

FREE
Information Kit

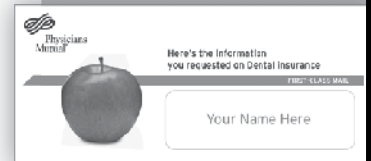
A less expensive way to help
get the dental care you deserve!

CALL NOW! **1-855-225-1434**

- ✓ Get help paying dental bills and keep more money in your pocket
- ✓ This is real dental insurance – NOT just a discount plan
- ✓ You can get coverage before your next checkup

Don't wait! Call now and we'll rush you a FREE
Information Kit with all the details.

Insurance Policy P150NY
6129



1-855-225-1434

Visit us online at
www.dental50plus.com/nypress

MB17-NM003Ec



Special Funding Programs For Necessary Home
Improvements Are Now Available, Apply Today.



Roofing | Windows | Siding | Insulation | Walk-In Tubs

Contact us today and our highly knowledgeable team
will be able to help discover the available funding
programs that will best fit you and your needs.

800-736-9629

NYImprovementFund.com

Lake Road on Monday January 13, 2019 for the purpose of considering the following applications: Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm **AGENDA REVIEW**
1. Bryant Taconic Corp., 157 Bryant Pond Road (TM#74.-1-60/File 2018-0179) The subject property is comprised of +/- 2.817 acres and is located on 157 Bryant Pond Road within the CC-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a pervious paver patio, outdoor freezer, relocation of refuse enclosure, landscape waterfall and signage for gas dispenser. The applicant requires an Amended Site Plan.
2. Gan, Roy, - 560 Oscawana Lake Road (TM# 62.-1-37&38/File: 2019-0206) The subject property consists of + 3.58 acres of

land and is located on 560 Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single family residence on an existing parcel where a dilapidated residence will be removed. A Site Development Plan and Major Grading permit is required.
3. Orentreich, David, 855 Route 301 (TM#39.-1-9/File 2019-0189) The subject property consists of + 73.94 acres of land and is located on 855 Route 301 and within the PC Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 2,200 sq.ft. improvement to be utilized for equipment storage. Amended Site Plan approval and Major Grading Permit are required.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 4. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2019



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT BUSINESS & FINANCE

Penfield Central School District seeks an experienced administrator to be the next Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance with the following qualifications:

- Leadership experience in a school setting.
- Successful experience with financial management and business operations.
- Master's degree or higher in business, financial management or related field.
- NYS Certification as School Business Leader/Administrator or School District Leader/Administrator.

Interested candidates please visit www.penfield.edu, click on the Job Opportunities and follow directions to apply.

EOE

Explaining the Dichotomy of Discerning Palates



By Nick Antonaccio

It's happened to all of us.

We're out to dinner with friends and one of them orders a bottle of red wine. When served, everyone at the table compliments your friend for his or her selection. But not

you. Even as it is poured into your glass, your senses relay a message to your brain: this wine is not pleasing. The color is too light, the aromas are off-putting and the temperature is too warm. Worse, the wine tastes like cherry vanilla cola.

You think you have a reasonable palate, able to discern good wine from plonk. What's wrong with these friends?

Conversely, when I order the wine, I look forward to opening friends' palates to a new experience, leveraging off the seasoned (refined?) palate I've developed over the years.

I anxiously pre-taste a favorite wine. Ah, sublime. All of my senses reverberate in a crescendo of color, aroma, taste and terroir. I wait for the reactions of my guests, expecting similar responses. But it's not to be. A tepid response at best, as each

'How is it that our palates are so discerning and unique?'

one patronizes me with terse comments. Someone corrals the wine server and offers to order the second bottle. Ouch. Here comes another pedestrian bottle to the table.

How is it that our palates are so discerning and unique? I've addressed this phenomenon multiple times at wine events I've conducted and in several Grapevine columns.

When we savor a glass of wine it is our senses of taste, aroma and, to a lesser extent, sight and touch that create a learned memory which is then triggered each time we approach a glass of wine.

The science of this process is rather ethereal to me. However, a few months ago I came across a TED Talk that pulled this all together.

Camilla Arndal Andersen, a neuroscientist with Danish company DuPont Nutrition and Biosciences, presented her research in a precise, concise manner, transforming a rather subjective phenomenon into an objective discourse. While her point of reference was coffee, it applies equally

well to wine.

Here are my heavily redacted quotes from her transcript. For the unexpurgated version, contact me.

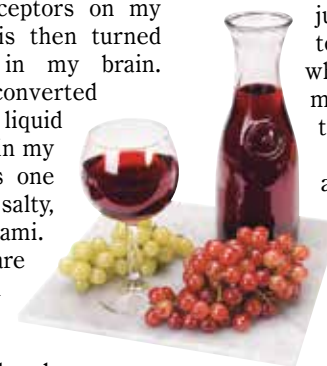
"When I drink a cup of coffee, I detect this cup of coffee by receptors on my body, information which is then turned into activated neurons in my brain. Wavelengths of light are converted to colors. Molecules in the liquid are detected by receptors in my mouth and categorized as one of five basic tastes. That's salty, sour, bitter, sweet and umami. Molecules in the air are detected by receptors in my nose and converted to odors. And ditto for touch, for temperature, for sound and more.

"All this information is detected by my receptors and converted into signals between neurons in my brain. Information which is then woven together and integrated, so that my brain recognizes that yes, I just had a cup of coffee, and yes, I liked it. And only then, after all this neuron heavy lifting, do we consciously experience this cup of coffee. And this is now where we have a very common misconception.

"People tend to think that what we experience consciously must then be an absolute true reflection of reality. But there are many stages of neural interpretation in between the physical item and the conscious experience of it. Which means that sometimes this conscious experience is not really reflecting that reality at all. That's because some physical stimuli may just be so weak that they just can't break that barrier to enter our conscious mind, while the information that does may get twisted on its way there by our hidden biases."

The next time you have a conflicting opinion with a friend on a particular wine and your reality is his or her perception or vice versa, don't fret. Wine is to be savored on many levels, both subjective and objective. Enjoy each experience.

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**

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine
American Craft

Fine Art • Sculpture
• Unique Gifts • Furniture
Home Accessories • Antiques
• Exquisite Jewelry • & more...

4 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville 914-741-6294
Open 7 Days —
Friday and Saturday until 8pm

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.



Not your AAverage pet store

For all your pet needs

Visit us at:

58 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville

(914) 747-4848

E-mail: aarvarkpet@verizon.net

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"The place to turn in your time of need!"

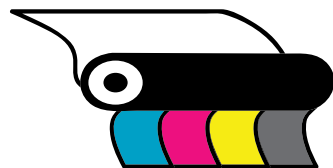
Personally Owned and Supervised By

William F Flooks, Jr. & William J Flooks
Proprietor Licensed Funeral Director

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

418 Bedford Road...Pleasantville, NY 10570...769-0001

www.beecherflooksfh.com



Trumbull
PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com

ExaminerSports

Valhalla Girls Fall to .500 With a Disappointing Loss to Haldane

By Andy Jacobs

With four straight victories to start the 2019-20 season, the Valhalla girls' basketball team was riding high back in mid-December.

But it's now been three weeks since the Vikings' last win and a string of losses have put a halt to any early-season momentum. The new calendar year did little on Saturday morning to reverse their skid as an 11-point fourth-quarter lead disappeared at Haldane High School in a 41-37 defeat at the hands of the host Blue Devils.

"I think we got a little tired in the fourth quarter," said Valhalla coach Stephen Boyer following his team's fourth consecutive loss. "You know, the girls play hard and scrap, but a few second-chance rebounds led to two big 3s, which brought them right back in the game."

The Vikings, leading by 10 points at the start of the fourth quarter, got a 3-pointer from Lauren Ally exactly two minutes into the final period to stretch their margin to 36-25. But they never scored another basket the rest of the way, and Haldane went on a four-minute 14-0 streak to seize control of the contest. Two key Viking turnovers in the final 90 seconds proved extremely costly before a layup by the Blue Devils' Molly Siegel with 22 seconds left all but sealed the outcome.

"They picked up their game intensity a little bit," said Boyer about the victorious Blue Devils. "You've got to give them credit. They started pushing the ball underneath the basket and started getting second-chance rebounds, which led to three 3s, I think, in about three and a half minutes. At our end of the floor, we had a couple of unforced turnovers, missed a couple shots in there."

Valhalla never trailed all game long until the Blue Devils' Shianne Twoguns connected on a 3-point jumper from the right elbow



Valhalla senior Shelby Sekinski drives past Haldane's Essie Florke in the second half of Saturday's game.

with 2:05 remaining in the fourth quarter during the pivotal 14-0 Haldane burst. The Vikings had begun by scoring the game's first six points, getting buckets from Katie Essig and Ally sandwiched around two free throws by Shelby Sekinski and managed to keep Haldane off the scoreboard for the first four minutes.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Twoguns and Bela Monteleone tied the game at 6-6 with two minutes to go in the opening quarter before Sekinski, who scored a game-high 18 points, provided the Vikings with an 11-6 lead heading to the second quarter by making a pair of free throws and then a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Sekinski scored the Vikings' first basket of the second period and their last six points of the half, leading Valhalla to a 23-15 advantage at the break. She tallied 15 of her points before halftime, but was held scoreless over the game's final 14 minutes, thanks mostly to Haldane's switch to a box-and-one on her in the third quarter.

A 3-pointer by Sekinski nearly two minutes into the second half opened up a 28-17 cushion for the Vikings, but that would be the last bucket of the day for the senior guard carrying the scoring load for Valhalla



The Vikings' Lauren Ally searches for an open teammate vs. the Haldane Blue Devils.

this season. Still, the third quarter ended with a trey from Ally, who finished with 10 points, and a put-back basket by Sophie Sproul that gave the Vikings a 33-23 lead.

Unfortunately for the Vikings, Sekinski barely touched the ball in the final quarter and they only managed to score on a free throw by Megan Lynch over the final six minutes. Haldane closed the game on a 16-1 run as the Vikings dropped to .500 this season.

"It's hard," conceded Boyer about trying to generate offense when his primary scorer is throttled by special defenses. "You know, she's great with the ball. We tried to run a few plays for her, but we still couldn't get her the ball."

One of those plays came in the final minute with the Vikings trailing 39-37. They came out of a timeout and attempted to inbound the ball to Sekinski near the midcourt line. But whatever was planned quickly deteriorated into a backcourt violation with 27 seconds left on the clock. Just five seconds later, the Blue Devils' Siegel provided her clinching layup that gave Haldane a four-point edge.

"We tried to get the ball to Shelby and it kicked off her legs," Boyer said about the Vikings' last real gasp. "I have to do a better job of getting her more comfortable without the ball and get the team more comfortable without her handling the ball all the time. Most teams have gone now to box-and-one the whole game. It makes it a challenge. Other girls have to step up."



Katie Essig connects on a shot from the left baseline during the first half of Valhalla's game at Haldane.

Despite the current losing skid, Boyer knows that with another bucket here and there, the Vikings' record could be much different. They were on the cusp of victory in three of their four losses.

"Our defense has to kind of keep us in the game, which it has, and eventually we'll get better offensively without the ball in Shelby's hands. Again, we play hard. We're in every game. Eight games and seven have been within four points. I have to do a better job of getting Shelby the ball, if I can, in clutch situations."



Valhalla's Sophie Sproul handles the ball near the 3-point line in the 41-37 loss to host Haldane on Saturday morning.



The Vikings' Jordan Williams dribbles up the floor in the fourth quarter of Saturday's road game.



Valhalla sophomore Megan Lynch is met in the lane by Haldane's Molly Siegel as she tries to get to the basket in Saturday's game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Senior guard Kaitlyn Ryan dribbles near midcourt during Briarcliff's road win over North Salem.



The Bears' Alana Lombardi drives the left baseline in the 50-37 victory over the North Salem Tigers.



Briarcliff center Jordan Smith scores an easy basket in Saturday's win over host North Salem.



Dylan Zednik, one of the three freshmen on Briarcliff's roster, grabs a loose ball in Saturday morning's victory at North Salem.

focus on
BRIARCLIFF
Girls' Hoop



Briarcliff's Bailey Zednik gets inside for a shot in Saturday's game.



The Bears' Ashley Fortunate races to the basket in Saturday's 50-37 victory over the Tigers.



Briarcliff head coach Don Hamlin directs his Bears to their seventh straight win this season, a 50-37 decision over host North Salem.



Briarcliff freshman Cat Carrafiello handles the ball near the top of the key in the Bears' win on Saturday.

Believe In Yourself.
Because a little effort goes a long way.



At Saw Mill Club we believe in you.
Together let's make 2020 your year.



Two incredible locations. One Amazing Experience.

Join Saw Mill Club and you'll receive membership to Saw Mill Club East for FREE.

Join today for \$75

Saw Mill Club
77 Kensico Drive, Mount Kisco
914-241-0797

Saw Mill Club East
333 N Bedford Rd, Mount Kisco
914-242-9760

www.SawMillClub.com



@SawMillClub #MySawMillClub