



Mt. Kisco Seeks Civic Space, Affordable Housing for Kirby Commons

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials are weighing an amendment to the zoning for the site of the proposed Kirby Commons downtown mixed-use project that would provide the village with added amenities and the developers with additional benefits.

A public hearing opened last Monday on the updated agreement that would require Gotham Organization, Inc. and Charter Realty & Development to provide 2,300 square feet of interior civic space and 15 affordable units for the project that would be built at the South Moger and North Moger parking lots. In return, the builders may reduce the setback for any public parking garage to 30 feet and increase maximum building coverage from 80 to 90 percent and development coverage from 90 to 100 percent.

Mayor Gina Picinich said it was important for the Village Board that there be a permanent home for the Mount Kisco Arts Council, which would be the main use

for the interior civic space proposed for the North Moger side of the development. The arts council has had exhibits at several pop-up locations in vacant storefronts downtown.

Additionally, officials wanted to see 15 affordable units available out of the proposed 217 apartments that would be built, although there is no requirement for developers to provide those lower-priced units in the village.

"We want to ensure that what is put on those lots, that any mixed-use development is what we want, is aligned with what our vision was," Picinich said of the adjustments. "We were very specific in the RFP and the offerings that came back to us."

The original Request for Proposal with Gotham and Charter included a provision that the developers replace 100 percent of all existing public parking spaces that now exist in the two lots in exchange for an additional story and 10 feet of maximum building height, with 10 feet of setback



An artist's rendering of a portion of the Kirby Commons plan.

if the entire building façade facing Main Street is within 75 feet of the street.

The building plan for the South Moger lot presented when the proposal was unveiled last year would be four stories and contain

113 apartments and 38,000 square feet of ground-floor retail. The proposed North Moger lot building would be five stories high with 104 units and about 13,000 square

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Death of Young Police Officer Shocks Pleasantville Community

By Abby Luby

The Village of Pleasantville was stunned last week at the sudden death of 25-year-old Nick Hansen, who died on Oct. 1 at his Pleasantville home.

Hansen had been serving as an officer in the Town of Bedford Police Department, which he joined in 2018. A cause of death was not publicly revealed.

His father, Dean, said all his son wanted to do was follow in his footsteps and become a police officer from the time he was a little boy. The elder Hansen spent 23 years in law enforcement, first for the White Plains Police Department and later the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"All he wanted was to follow in his father's footsteps and become a police officer, and he did it and he did it good, and I can't say how proud I am of him," the elder Hansen said. "The community, the support is unbelievable."



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The family of Bedford police officer and lifelong Pleasantville resident Nick Handsen hold a photo of him during a rally for police in Valhalla last Saturday. Hansen, 25, passed away at home on Oct. 1.

Hansen was born on June 15, 1995, in White Plains. Soon after he graduated from Pleasantville High School in 2013, he

worked in the Mount Pleasant Highway Department. Hansen went on to receive his associate's degree in criminal justice and law enforcement administration at Westchester Community College.

At last Tuesday's Pleasantville Board of Education meeting, Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter expressed sympathy on behalf of the school district for Hansen's family, particularly his mother, Vikki Hansen, who is a staff member for the district.

Board of Education President Larry Boes said the district is grieving the loss of a former student who was lost at such a young age.

"Any time a person as young as Nick passes away, it's tragic and heartbreaking," Boes said. "It's particularly heartbreaking when it's a child of a beloved staff member. The board sends our heart out to the Hansen family and we support Vikki at this terrible time."

Hansen was an avid cook and motorcycle enthusiast. Dean Hansen said his son bought the family house in Pleasantville. He was planning to marry his longtime girlfriend, Amanda Shkreli, his father said.

He is survived by his parents, and his brother, Matthew Hansen, of Pleasantville; his maternal grandfather, Richard Palmieri, of Hawthorne and his paternal grandparents, Henry and Carol Ann Hansen of West Palm Beach, Fla.; uncle Richard (Dawn) Palmieri Jr. of Patterson; and several cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, JoAnn Palmieri. He also leaves behind his cat, Risotto.

A wake was held at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Oct. 6, followed by a funeral Mass at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne the next day. Hansen was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

Donations may be made to the Westchester BLUE Foundation at westchesterblue.org.

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.



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Mt. Kisco Seeks Civic Space, Affordable Housing for Kirby Commons

continued from page 1

feet of retail, along with the civic space.

Last week, several speakers voiced points of concern with the changes and the project in general. Conservation Advisory Council Chairman John Rhodes said he is wary of the project potentially having more development coverage and less no additional green space.

"I'm concerned that these concessions are being written into the zoning law even before the negotiations have been completed, and also before the public has had a chance to comment on the draft plan and the agreement," Rhodes said. "At best, this is giving up negotiation leverage and I think that's a mistake."

Rhodes also questioned whether the proposal can be considered "contract zoning," which has been determined to be illegal.

Picinch said the additional building and development concessions actually revert to the current zoning, which a developer has the choice to use, rather than the form-based code that was approved early last year as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

Village resident and merchant Robin Bucu said she was concerned that with Mount Kisco suffering from empty storefronts, the village should concentrate on filling its empty commercial space first. Furthermore, the pandemic may permanently alter people's lives and work habits, and instead of wanting to live near the train station,

residents may look for more room.

"Who is going to want these spaces now with people not commuting into the city with the pandemic the way we used to," Bucu said. "People are leaving the city and looking for housing with green space instead of moving from an apartment in the city to an apartment in the suburbs."

Another resident, Planning Board member Ralph Vigliotti, said he believed the civic space should be in the building slated for the South Moger Avenue lot, which is in close proximity to Shoppers Park and restaurants downtown.

"I don't think we would take full advantage (of the downtown) if we had to go over to North Moger, park in the garage, get in the car then go downtown," he said.

Vigliotti also stressed that five stories on North Moger is too tall and "would totally destroy the viewscape."

Deputy Mayor Jean Farber, a member of the arts council, said she agreed with Vigliotti regarding possibly moving the civic space to South Moger.

"We want to bring people downtown and the South Moger lot would be so much more visible, so much more convenient for events, for art galleries, for any kind of classes," Farber said. "If there's any way of advancing that I think that's a wonderful idea."

The public hearing will continue at the Village Board's Oct. 19 meeting.



Why It's More Important Than Ever to Get Your Flu Shot – Now.

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Debra Spicehandler

Co-Chief of Infectious Disease
Northern Westchester Hospital

For more information
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While the start of flu season this year comes with heightened concerns about a potential double threat of COVID-19 co-infection, Dr. Debra Spicehandler, Co-Chief of Infectious Disease at Northern Westchester Hospital, is hopeful for a more favorable reality – especially if you get your flu vaccine as soon as possible.

Similarities and key differences between COVID and the Flu

Both viruses are transmitted by respiratory droplets – when someone sneezes, coughs, or even talks; or if you touch an object that someone with the virus has just handled. While COVID-19 is more aggressive, symptoms appear to be somewhat similar to the flu – fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffed nose, body aches, headache, fatigue and sometimes nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting. With COVID, the key points of difference include loss of taste and difficulty breathing.

Don't self-diagnose! Here's how you can protect yourself...

Because the characteristics of these viruses are similar, it's important to speak to your doctor about testing. If you mistakenly attribute your symptoms to the flu, you could risk spreading the coronavirus, which is more easily transmitted, to those around you.

Another way to protect yourself: Get your flu vaccine.

Getting your flu vaccine, coupled with the behavioral changes you've likely already adopted – including wearing a mask, social distancing, practicing good hand hygiene and staying home while you're sick – are crucial to reducing your risk of a potential double whammy.

Why you shouldn't skip the flu vaccine

If you're a fairly young and healthy person, you could get the flu and recover. But if you then become infected with the coronavirus, your immune system will be weakened and the impact of both viruses could be devastating. A flu vaccine adds another layer of protection against serious complications that may result from having both viruses.

Is the flu vaccine effective?

Each year, scientists monitor flu activity worldwide to determine which flu strains are likely to cause illness, then concoct a vaccine to match. Some years they get it right; some years, not so right. But even if the vaccine isn't a perfect match, if you do get the flu, you get a much milder case.

It takes about 2 weeks after vaccination to have full protection against the flu. So unless you have a life-threatening allergy to eggs, or have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome, get your flu vaccine now and encourage those you love to do the same.

I get my flu shot every year in September and it carries me through to May. Play it safe – protect yourself and those you love.

Legislators, Staff Test Negative After Lawmaker Contracts COVID-19

State of the County Postponed

By Anna Young and Martin Wilbur

At least 15 county legislators and staff members all reported having tested negative last Friday afternoon for COVID-19, a day after it was revealed that Legislator David Tubiolo (D-Yonkers) had tested positive.

Westchester County Executive George, who was exposed to Tubiolo and abruptly postponed his Oct. 8 State of the County address, was tested for COVID-19 on Thursday and reported later in the day that his test came back negative. However, he remained in quarantine.

Officials said Tubiolo tested positive for the virus after attending the Virtual Italian Heritage flag-raising event at the county office building in White Plains on Oct. 1.

Since learning of Tubiolo's test result last Thursday morning, the Board of Legislators has been working with the county Department of Health to trace and test all legislators and staff who had contact with him during the period of possible infection, said the legislator's Director of Communications Jason Chervokas. The identities of those legislators were not immediately known.

Tubiolo is doing well and has been isolating since learning of his positive result on Wednesday, officials said. He has been in contact with the county Department of Health and contact tracers to identify those he has been in contact with. Tubiolo was tested on Oct. 3.

"Unlike what we have seen out of officials in Washington, D.C., here in Westchester we believe in science, we believe in medicine and we believe in trusting their years of experience-based guidance," Latimer said last Thursday. "While it is disappointing, it is the safe and prudent move to postpone this speech."

Along with Latimer, Board Chairman Ben Boykin and Legislators Catherine Parker and Catherine Borgia also attended the event. Additionally, District Attorney Anthony Scarpino, state Sen. Shelley Mayer, Westchester County Clerk Tim Itoni and Director of Consumer Protections Jim Maisano attended the half-hour event where everyone appeared to be wearing face masks.

Members of the county's Planning Department, Veterans Affairs Committee and those representing various Italian organizations were also in attendance.

"There was a particular public event last week in which a number of individuals may have been exposed, so the potential exposure is a fairly large circle," Latimer said. "So we'll see if this comes to pass."

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) said Friday he tested negative for the virus. Harckham said he tested as a precaution because he had attended a Sept. 30 press conference in Ossining involving school superintendents, an event where Tubiolo was also on hand.

The Board of Legislators' offices were closed for deep cleaning, officials said, noting that Tubiolo was last in the office on Oct. 1. All legislators and staff who were in contact with him are being tested and the board is working with the Department of Health to ensure that

the appropriate protocols are followed for the health and safety of legislators, staff and the public, officials said.

The Department of Health is advising anyone who attended the Italian Heritage flag-raising event at the County Office Building to contact their doctor or the Health Department to discuss testing.

No date was announced for Latimer's rescheduled State of the County address. It had originally been postponed from April because of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Transmission Rates Steady

Despite targeted shutdowns in hard hit communities, New York State's COVID-19 transmission rates have remained relatively



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

steady during the past week.

From Oct. 5 through Oct. 11, results showed a daily infection rate from 1 to 1.4 percent.

The Mid-Hudson region, which Westchester and Putnam counties are part of, have consistently been the highest of the state's 10 regions, including largely skewed by the high positivity rates in Rockland and Orange counties.

However, on Sunday Westchester County reported a 2 percent rate – 107 positives from 5,332 overall test results. It was the first time the county had reported reaching 2 percent since June 4. The rest of the past week the daily positivity rate ranged in Westchester from 0.8 to 1.2 percent.

In Putnam County, the daily rates were as low as 0.4 on Oct. 9 and as high as 1.5 percent on Oct. 10.

Last week, Gov. Andrew Cuomo cracked down on "red zone clusters," areas as part of the state's Cluster Action Initiative. Specific areas of Rockland and Orange counties and Brooklyn and Queens were considered red zones, where positivity rates have soared.

"We're dealing with a very specific situation, which is the clusters," Cuomo said. "Overall, the state is doing very well. We have a sophisticated testing mechanism where we take, now, more tests per day than most states take per week. That allows us to do a very granular analysis."

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Candidate Forums in Short Supply This Election Season

By Martin Wilbur

The presidential debates aren't the only candidate forums that seem to have hit a snag this election season.

A majority of the League of Women Voters of Westchester forums leading up to the general election, which are typically held in October, have had to be canceled this year because of candidates' non-participation.

Kathy Meany, president of the League

of Women Voters of Westchester, said that seven of the 11 forums that were scheduled had to be called off because at least one candidate declined, withdrew or failed to respond to the League's overtures.

Meany said the disintegration of the forum schedule was likely coincidental.

"I don't think it has anything to do with the virtual environment," Meany said. "We ran the virtual candidate forums for all the primaries back in June, in addition to school

board (forums), and I have to tell you that they were so well-received. The feedback was positive. We were really delighted about that."

The League will press forward with four forums in Westchester, starting with the 17th Congressional District candidates on Tuesday night, Meany said. Forums for the 37th, 38th and 40th state Senate districts are still scheduled to be held next week.

Factors that are beyond the League of Women's Voters control appear to have played a factor, she said. For example, the organization was planning on holding a forum involving Democrat Mimi Rocah and Republican Bruce Bendish for Westchester County District attorney. But on Sept. 21 Bendish announced he was ending his campaign.

Democratic congressional candidates in the 16th and 18th districts, Jamaal Bowman and Sean Patrick Maloney, failed to respond. Three days before the scheduled 18th Congressional District forum, Maloney formally declined, according to a statement put out by League of Women Voters in Putnam County.

Then the Republican candidate in that district, Chele Farley, told the Leagues in Westchester, Putnam and Orange counties that she did not want to participate in a one-person forum.

Republican Assembly candidate Lawrence Chiuli, who is taking on Assemblywoman Sandy Galef in the 95th District, pulled out of that scheduled forum while John

Nuculovic, the Republican candidate in the 93rd Assembly District, never responded, Meany said.

She said every candidate has his or her reasons for making their decision. She hopes that the forecast for lopsided outcomes in some of the races was not a factor.

"You would hope that even a candidate that maybe is perhaps way ahead in the polls or holds that view, you would think they would still have the mindset to reach out into the communities," she said. "That's actually what our disappointment was."

The campaign for Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) in the 94th Assembly District hinted at some confusion surrounding the absence of a League of Women Voters forum. In a statement released by the campaign calling the turn of events "regrettable," it said four alternative dates were proposed to the Putnam League of Women Voters but there was no record of response from the League.

The campaign then reached out to the League of Women Voters in Westchester through the Westchester Republican chairman about potentially participating in the same forum as Peter Harchham and Rob Astorino, the candidates in the 40th Senate District, but there was no response.

"Voters should have multiple opportunities to see candidates speak about their record and ideas," the Byrne campaign statement read. "It is unfortunate it appears there will be less opportunity this year."



Charting a Better Path

Volunteer Audrey Trick, with future service dog Zappa, was one of hundreds of walkers from across 15 states on Oct. 3 who joined the path to bettering the world for children with autism and their families as part of BluePath Service Dogs' fourth annual walkathon. The family-friendly fundraiser – held virtually this year – raised more than \$120,000 to further BluePath's mission of providing autism service dogs, offering safety, companionship and opportunities for independence. The local event was originally scheduled to take place at FDR State Park in Yorktown.



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Police Officers' Service and Sacrifices Celebrated at Car Parade

By Martin Wilbur

A caravan of Mount Pleasant residents traveled through a portion of the town last Saturday afternoon in support of the police, who participants contended have been unfairly maligned while their jobs have been made increasingly difficult.

Several dozen vehicles, most with American flags, were part of the Red, White and Blue car parade which made the journey from Broadway Field in Hawthorne to the Mount Pleasant Community Center in Valhalla. After arriving at the community center there was an outdoor celebration of law enforcement, which included several speakers, music and food.

Town resident Kristen Palamara said she organized the event to demonstrate how much the Mount Pleasant Police Department is appreciated and to combat what she described as the growing trend of hateful messages directed toward law enforcement on social media.

"I don't like hate at all," Palamara said. "It's affecting my family personally and all the people around me, and this community has never been that way, and I want to try and do something to bring us back together and support our police department. They do a lot for us, our fire department, everybody who works so hard for us."

Steve Kadian, who spent 26 years with the Mount Pleasant Police Department and also worked for the NYPD's Department of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals

Service, said the overwhelming number of police officers serve admirably and become part of the community they work for. They also make great sacrifices to do their job.

However, the backlash against cops and the prohibition of certain maneuvers, including putting pressure on an offender's diaphragm, puts officers at risk, he said. That has contributed toward a skyrocketing retirement rate, particularly for larger departments such as New York City, Kadian said.

"You're taking the officers that train the next generation, they're leaving and it's going to harm the next generation (of police)," he said. "It's going to harm them because you have all this experience. Believe me, if you have 20 years in law enforcement, you've seen everything, and unfortunately, it's going to affect our future generations."

The rally had political overtones with some of the more than 100 people in attendance carrying Trump 2020 flags and several wearing Make America Great Again baseball caps.

Former county executive Rob Astorino, who is running for the 40th State Senate District, blasted Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature, including his opponent, Democratic incumbent Peter Harkham, for supporting the No Cash Bail Law.

He called it a "very dangerous law" because suspects in many burglaries, robberies and grand larcenies are now typically released pending a court date.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Several of the vehicles that were part of the Red, White and Blue car parade to support law enforcement arrived at the Mount Pleasant Community Center parking lot last Saturday.

Astorino said he would work to get the law repealed if elected.

"So instead of talking about de-funding the police, we should be talking about defending the police," Astorino said.

Kadian also said that the Black Lives Matter movement and Antifa has also contributed to police morale problems.

"They want you to believe that just because someone wears a uniform that he or she is a racist and that couldn't be further from the truth," Kadian said.

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, whose father was a police officer and whose son is currently a member of the NYPD, said he is keenly aware of the challenges the police face. They put their lives on the line every day they put on the uniform, he said.

"That's so important that we remember that and we teach our children and our grandchildren how important it is to support our police officers," Fulgenzi said.

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Four Area Libraries to Receive State Construction Aid

Four libraries in Westchester and Putnam counties have been allocated about \$85,000 in state aid for library construction funding, it was announced on Monday.

The libraries receiving the grants are the Brewster Public Library, Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose, John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak and Pound Ridge Library District.

"Public libraries are, in essence, well-used and much-loved community centers, and like all of infrastructure resources, require timely investments in their proper upkeep," said state Sen. Peter Harkham (D-Lewisboro). "I am pleased to have helped secure state grants for these four libraries with a full understanding that the scheduled repairs and enhancements will benefit residents for years to come."

Corrections

In an article last week that appeared on the front page of the Putnam edition, it incorrectly stated that Andrew Krivak and Anthony DiPippo, the two men charged with the rape and murder of a 12-year-old Carmel girl in 1994, were both 14 at the time. In fact, Krivak was 18 and DiPippo was 20.

In last week's article about former Bedford teacher Dorothy Venditto's book on gender equity, it incorrectly stated that the education system undermines gender equity.

The Examiner regrets the errors.

In Brewster, the library received \$27,195 to build seating, shelving and a help desk for the children's area, all of which will be accessible to the special needs population.

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library received \$26,250 to upgrade its HVAC equipment and add three new units to the building management system.

The Hart Library received \$20,999 to install new energy efficient windows and the Pound Ridge library received \$10,200 for a new, larger septic tank and replacement of doors and windows.

"The Pound Ridge Library is an essential community resource," said Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains). "We need to make sure our libraries have the resources to continue to improve their energy efficiency and infrastructure so I am pleased to have been able to support the Pound Ridge Public Library through our State's Public Library Construction Grant Program."

The construction funding is from \$34 million in capital funds for public library projects provided in the state budget from Fiscal Year 2019-20.

New York's public libraries are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading. A recent survey showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$1.5 billion. More than 52 percent of the more than 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are at least 60 years old. Another 31 percent are more than three decades old.



CHARLIE WILBUR PHOTO

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose, along with libraries in Brewster, Shrub Oak and Pound Ridge, received \$85,000 in library construction funding from the state.

In addition, many of New York's local public libraries are unable to accommodate users with disabilities, are energy inefficient and cannot provide internet and computer and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring. Many libraries also do not have sufficient space to house their collections, host meetings or have room for public access computers.

Project activities and expenditures

eligible for funding from the State Aid for Library Construction Program include financing construction of new library buildings, construction of additions to existing buildings and the renovation and/or rehabilitation of existing space.

Broadband infrastructure projects are also eligible. In the state's Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget, the legislature provided \$14 million for projects that will be announced next summer.

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Mt. Kisco Refutes Spot Zoning Allegation in Solar Farm Case

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials last week refuted allegations in the recent lawsuit filed by neighbors of the 25-acre site that could be home to a solar farm and cell tower.

An Oct. 9 statement released by the village manager's office noted that the solar farm application is being vigorously reviewed by the Planning Board and guided by the village's planner, engineer and attorney.

"The Village believes that it is disingenuous to assert that this is impermissible 'spot zoning' when the Village has not rezoned a single parcel of land, instead only changing the permitted uses within said districts, whereby Tier-3 solar installations are permitted in 14 of the Village's 25 zoning districts and other solar installations are allowed in every single zoning district throughout the Village," the statement read in part.

The village passed its solar law in November 2018, which allowed for the development of solar farms in the Conservation District, which the 25-acre parcel at 180 S. Bedford Rd. is zoned. The plaintiffs, six individual residents, the Mount Kisco Chase Homeowners Association and the March Sanctuary have argued that the law illegally creates spot-specific zoning.

But the village explained in its response last week that the solar legislation was enacted to promote the production and use

of renewable energy in every zoning district in Mount Kisco. That action is consistent with the municipality's Comprehensive Plan and its goal of working with public and private organizations to promote solar and renewable energy.

Officials used the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority's model law, the statement read.

"While the Village encourages and values the participation of its residents in the planning and application review process, it is unfortunate that the few who disagree with thoughtfully and

lawfully enacted legislation elect to bring false claims in a lawsuit," the statement continued. "It is also unfortunate that the Village will have to use taxpayer dollars to defend the solar legislation and to correct all the misrepresentations outlined in this ill-conceived lawsuit. The Village expects to prevail and that the Complaint will be summarily dismissed."

The suit, filed on Sept. 24 in state Supreme Court, have also argued that there is a conflict of interest because Planning Board Chairman Douglas Hertz's company, Sunrise Community Solar, is the

solar farm applicant. Hertz has recused himself from the review of the solar farm and cell tower projects, but the plaintiffs charge that there is still the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Furthermore, Vice Chairman John Bainlardi, sold the land to the current property owner Skull Island Partners, and is leading the board in the application's review.

Another argument made by the plaintiffs is a failure to properly notice the public hearing held for the solar law.

County Police Announce Plan to Step Up Enforcement This Month

Westchester County Police are participating in a statewide traffic enforcement campaign that aims to curb aggressive and distracted driving and reduce accidents.

The stepped-up enforcement by county police is taking place this month on the Bronx River, Cross County, Hutchinson River and Saw Mill River parkways as well as in Cortlandt and Mount Kisco.

The enforcement campaign, sponsored by the governor's Traffic

Safety Committee, targets locations and times where data analysis shows speeding and other unsafe driving behaviors, including using a cell phone without a hands-free device, to be a leading cause of accidents.

"Aggressive driving and distracted driving are among the primary causes of crashes that cause fatalities or serious injuries," Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said. "The goal of this increased enforcement is to reduce accidents, save lives and keep

our roadways safe."

Gleason noted that the county police enforce vehicle and traffic law all year, but additional officers will be assigned to the task. Special attention will be paid to speeding; distracted driving, including texting while driving or otherwise using the cell phone without a hands-free device; following too closely (tailgating); failure to yield; and unsafe lane changes.

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Letters to the Editor

Proud to Support Three Outstanding Democratic Candidates

Pete Harckham deserves to remain our state senator. He's been unifying and strong in his careful and attentive governance of the dismantling of Indian Point and working for the well-being and care of the Indian Point workers and the surrounding community. He fought hard against the opioid epidemic, and has fought for an increase in school aid, more funds for veterans' programs, first responders and law enforcement agencies, and secured millions of dollars for clean water. Pete has served our community well, bringing in thousands of pounds of food for our needy neighbors with his many food drives.

Stephanie Keegan is running for Assembly in the 94th District. She is a mom, former educator and military advocate. Her son,

Daniel, served honorably in Afghanistan for two years, returning home with PTSD. He needed help and never got it, waitlisted too long to be seen and helped by veterans' resources, he tragically passed away. So, Stephanie went to Washington D.C. and met with every politician possible to see how she could help veterans and make a difference. She made alliances with top brass and gained political clout and now wants to bring all that she's learned back here to serve us. Tenacious and empathetic, she will help veterans and first responders, children and families, the environment and bring better quality businesses to our towns.

Mondaire Jones is running for the 17th Congressional District seat. Raised by a single mother in Rockland County, Mondaire

has always worked hard. An attorney, activist and champion of children and working families, he supports a living wage and the Green New Deal, which will provide 20 million good paying jobs. He will fight for quality health care for all and for restoring the SALT deduction for homeowners. He will fight for the rights of women and the LGBTQ community. He is supported by the American Federation of Teachers and the New York State United Teachers Union and has been endorsed by Barack Obama, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and 45 local leaders.

Jennie Sunshine
Yorktown Heights

Fearmongering About Looting and Rioting in Putnam is Divisive Rhetoric

Last week, Kathlyn Messina wrote that "looting and mayhem...is not acceptable to the mothers of Putnam County who want their children safe. That is why they will vote for Trump." ("Those Who Attended Putnam's Back the Blue Rally Are Patriots, Not Racists.")

Ms. Messina's letter confused me on a few counts.

1. She says there is no such thing as a "Trump Militia," when the speech she talks about enthusiastically attending identified attendees as members of "Trump's military." Militia members were just arrested in Michigan over a violent plot to kidnap the governor, who was vilified by Trump. He continued to target Gov. Whitmer on Twitter after this plot

was revealed, which does not seem like a good way to encourage law and order.

2. I am a mother in Putnam County. Like all mothers, including mothers of Black and brown children in our county and elsewhere, I want my children to be safe. This is one major reason that I am voting for Joe Biden. Ms. Messina and others talk about looting and rioting and "rich white kids beating up people in the streets." I have not heard of a single instance of this in Putnam County. The weekly Black Lives Matter rallies in Carmel were organized by a diverse group of young Putnam County residents. You might not, for some reason, agree with their desire for racial equity, but they have certainly never been violent. Rather, they have

been targets of threats and intimidation by people riled up by divisive rhetoric. It is this kind of talk, the us versus them, the fearmongering about rioting and uncredited Facebook posts about "Antifa comrades" chartering buses to terrorize Brewster (seriously) that make all of our children less safe. The Putnam County moms I know and love, myself included, take the safety and well-being of all of our children into account when we vote. And we do vote.

3. Ms. Messina does not seem to be a registered voter in Putnam County. Perhaps she is the one who is confused.

Katherine O'Sullivan
Brewster

Policies Championed By Harckham Have Helped Local Communities

I am writing in support of state Sen. Pete Harckham's re-election because his policies and priorities are good for our community. During his first term Sen. Harckham has improved Mount Pleasant and the broader district by securing needed funding, working to protect the environment and meeting residents' needs during COVID-19.

Sen. Harckham has fought for increasing school aid by \$1 billion and a permanent 2 percent property tax cap. He has obtained funding for veterans' programs, local law enforcement agencies and first responders. He also secured over \$27 million to support the district's infrastructure, school districts,

first responders, parks, libraries and health care clinics. In addition, he obtained \$10 million in school aid to improve classrooms, expand pre-K programs and reduce class sizes.

Sen. Harckham is also committed to protecting our environment with an investment of \$500 million for protecting fragile clean drinking water supplies, freshwater wetlands and marsh ecosystems. He sponsored a bill that protects 40,000 miles of waterways used for drinking water, fishing and recreation. He has worked to put New York on track toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by

2050 to mitigate against climate change.

Sen. Harckham has been responsive to constituent needs during these challenging times. I am very concerned about food insecurity and appreciated his sponsorship of local food drives, including two in Mount Pleasant. Sixty volunteers, including myself, worked at these events where hundreds of people conveniently and safely dropped off more than 10,000 pounds of food to benefit our neighbors.

Ro Kinzler
Valhalla

Harkham's Support of Police and Building Public Trust are Keys to Safety

Like his mentor Donald Trump, Rob Astorino's strategy is to spread lies about his opponent to steer voters away from his own failures. As just one example, he continues to make unsubstantiated claims that state Sen. Pete Harckham's support of bail reform has hindered law enforcement and contributed to a rise in crime in Westchester and Putnam counties. But an analysis of NYPD data by both the New York Post and The New York Times has thoroughly debunked this myth.

In fact, law enforcement and public safety are among Harckham's top priorities. He not only works closely with Westchester police chiefs and the Westchester Police Benevolent Association, he has awarded more than \$500,000 in law enforcement and public safety grants to municipalities and law enforcement agencies across the 40th Senate District and recently honored county police officers for lifesaving heroics.

In light of recent developments throughout the U.S., Harckham supports

police funding for stepped up diversity training, inclusion, equity and bias. From Harckham's perspective, to keep our neighborhoods safe, it's critical to support law enforcement and increase public trust among all community members.

For all of these reasons, I will cast my vote for Pete Harckham.

Madeleine Payamps
Pleasantville

Guest Column

Pleasantville Must Press Forward With Manville Road, Civic Space Projects

By Peter Russell

The Examiner's October 6-12 edition reported that Pleasantville's Village Board has postponed acting on the Manville Road streetscape improvement and civic space projects until late 2021 and 2022 because of understandable pandemic-related budget constraints.

The report also noted officials are considering not only delay but "other options," including a "smaller budget," limiting "the scope of the civic space" and breaking the project into phases for even longer delays.

In spite of the civic space's approval in 2019 and the availability of substantial matching grants to the village for this project, the board is reported now to see the future of the civic space as a trade-off in order to satisfy the need for the village pool renovation.

The worst outcome of this discussion for the village would be to see the extent and design quality envisioned for the civic space degraded and diminished. The pool and the civic space are both valuable long-term investments for the village.

Over the past seven months, impacts of the pandemic have reminded everyone how valuable it is for residents of all ages to have

access to public areas where we can walk, be outside and have serendipitous encounters with neighbors and even new acquaintances. We are all more acutely aware of the critical importance of accessible and well-designed public space for pedestrians, shoppers and business people requiring distanced and secure interactions in our compact village center.

One participant at a recent meeting reminded the Village Board of "the bigger picture of the village budget." Let's consider other critical aspects of the bigger picture framing the combined Manville Road streetscape improvement and the civic space.

First, these projects are the result of a decade of careful analysis, public forums and planning to make Pleasantville's downtown core even more walkable, environmentally pleasing with safe and calming traffic flows.

Secondly, there will soon be roughly 170 new apartments with perhaps 200 to 300 new residents living in the center of the village. They will find their new surroundings with quite minimal public spaces to stroll, rest and gather, limited, in fact, to a) Nonna Park, b) the small park behind Ashbourne Hall and c) the small green spaces near the memorials and the green border next to the train tracks. Other parks, such as the ballfield, are not

in proximity to the center of the greatest pedestrian activity.

Third, even before the recently revised village Master Plan and related zoning changes made possible greater but reasonable density and height in the downtown, many had come to realize that the village needed to explore ways to balance the land use equation between space dedicated to pedestrians moving about the village and the blacktopped expanse given over to roadways and parking.

All these issues come together conceptually and physically in Memorial Plaza. The relatively small area planned and budgeted for the civic space at the north end of the plaza has been criticized by some who contest any reduction in parking (even though compensated by additions elsewhere in the center), express concerns about unsupervised youth gathering (even though the village has formulated activities there for all ages) and think no public funds should be spent on such an amenity in the business center (even though the new mixed-use and residential projects under development will throw off added real estate tax revenue for generations to come).

Memorial Plaza, while the largest relatively open area of downtown Pleasantville and is the pivot point where people connect with

transit and local shopping, is primarily a mundane parking lot.

In contrast, imagine a Green Heart of Pleasantville, the whole of Memorial Plaza, honoring the name it carries, where roadway and parking is restricted to bus and train drop-off and pick-up and parking for those with disabilities and bikes, where the greater part of the plaza is well-designed landscape with green plantings, walkways and gathering spaces for music, the farmers market and other events. New apartment residents would find all these amenities just steps from their doorways. Such a plaza would be a truly lively core for the village and dynamically link the downtown business, restaurant, arts and entertainment offerings.

Will there be challenges to conceive, budget and implement such a transformation of the village core from static parking to a place for vital social and civic interactions? Undoubtedly, and the place to start is to carry forward with the modest but very well-designed civic space approved by the Village Board, delaying as necessary for prudent fiscal reasons but keeping faith with the vision.

Peter Russell is a Pleasantville resident.

Letters to the Editor

Bail Reform Support Demonstrates Harckham is Out of Touch With Reality

Rob Astorino and Peter Harckham are running against each other for state Senate. I have concerns about the changes to bail that were supported by Peter Harckham.

Bail has been used since 1371. It is one of those things in life that is a problem in theory, but in practice very wise.

If the only two options for an arrested misdemeanor defendant are to imprison someone or to release them, judges will release a defendant and trust that they will appear in court to defend themselves against a charge, or to arrange a reasonable plea. So, a person getting themselves in misdemeanor trouble on a continuous basis will be arrested and immediately released from the precinct on what is called a desk appearance ticket.

There now exists little effective immediate checks on a person's downward spiral of behavior that might be the product of a conduct disorder or other serious stressors in a person's life – and the person will likely rack up increasing numbers of misdemeanor arrests, each such incident reducing the quality of life for the broader public.

The former availability of bail meant that a string of such arrests would allow a judge to start setting increasing amounts of bail. A person needing to be bailed out on a frequent basis would give a family notice that a person is experiencing difficulties. That bail can start at \$1 and increase incrementally means it can be

customized for a person's means, arrest record, ties to the county where the crime occurred, sufficiency of evidence, even dangerousness, if we are to follow the recommendations of District Attorney David Soares (D-Albany). There have been cases where defendants were imprisoned on very low bail because their families were legitimately scared of them and had no choice other than to keep them imprisoned for safety's sake.

Bail is a useful and necessary tool for ensuring appearance at subsequent court proceedings. It also functions as an important signal for families who might otherwise have been shielded or in denial about a person's difficulties that are being imposed on others in the form of crime.

Unfortunately, Peter Harckham was interested more in theory than in practicality. He voted to simply abolish bail for very many crimes – even animal torture. He did not ask the critical questions to ensure there was an actual and practical alternative in existence that worked at least as well as bail to ensure public safety.

Rob Astorino has had to make difficult decisions. He has not had the luxury of indulging theory over experience and practicality – and thus has the discipline to be an excellent state senator.

Ed Unneland
Pleasantville

Steps Must Be Taken to Allow Visitation to Resume at Nursing Homes

As a caregiver, I am all too aware that those with dementia are particularly susceptible to COVID-19 due to their age and increased likelihood of coexisting chronic conditions. Those who are most vulnerable face additional challenges inside care facilities.

Alzheimer's has devastated my family. My father was 56 when he was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. Ten years later, he's in the advanced stages of the disease and has been residing in a nursing facility for the past six years. I have not been able to see him since March. His facility is home to more than 700 residents, and 1,200 staff. Because of the capacity on his campus and current 14-day COVID-free threshold for visitation, I do not believe that I will see my father anytime soon.

In New York, we were hit hard at the beginning of the pandemic and worked tirelessly to decrease those numbers. Nursing homes were mandated to admit recovering

COVID-19 patients. Throughout this time, I was unable to be with my father to decrease his feelings of isolation. Even with the revised visitation policy, my hope has withered.

The Alzheimer's Association is advocating for rapid testing, adequate PPE and other protocols to be put into place in long-term care facilities so that safe visitation can be resumed. I urge the federal government to work more quickly to ensure residential care settings have the resources needed to protect residents and staff, so that caregivers like me can be reunited with their loved ones.

Eva Roszkowski
Community Engagement Manager/
Young Professionals Alzheimer's
Council Adviser
Alzheimer's Association Hudson
Valley

Burdick's Experience Makes Him Best-Suited to Serve in Assembly

Our local elections matter! Please join me in voting for Chris Burdick for the New York State 93rd Assembly District seat to represent us in Albany.

Chris is an action oriented and fair individual who consistently champions what is essential for our community at large. This includes affordable housing, sustainability and achievable environmental goals. He has experience in handling crises such as securing

a COVID-19 testing facility in Bedford. Chris will drive what's right for the community, listen carefully to your candid input and be fiscally responsible at the same time.

So I hope you'll join me in voting for Chris Burdick for Assembly and also for state Sen. Shelley Mayer for re-election.

Ken Stern
Bedford Hills

Guest Column

Somers Officials Have Deviously Pushed Sewers to Increase Development

By Tom Smith

The Town of Somers recently paved two streets in Shenorock. One is a dead-end that leads to Lincoln Hall and nine acres, which is between Shenorock and Lake Lincolndale.

Why would they do this if sewers are going in? Because Lincoln Hall is selling 100 acres to be developed.

At the Oct. 8 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Morrissey said 23 homes would be built in R120 zoning. How does he know this exact number if it hasn't already been in the works? The town could re-zone this property to whatever they want, so with sewers there could be 100 homes or 200 townhomes. The wastewater plant on Lincoln Hall is for the school and cannot handle dozens of homes. They want us to pay to bring infrastructure in so that Lincoln Hall, nine acres and 326 vacant lots can be built on.

This plan isn't about saving the lakes or about bad septic systems or the density of septs. The plan doesn't even address the lake. We asked for an aeration system 10 years ago to help with algae blooms and nothing has been done. When the lake remains stagnant, you'll see the algae on

the surface, and as soon as the water starts to move again, the algae is gone.

For years the town conducted studies showing \$10 million was allocated to Shenorock Lake (not Lake Lincolndale) and it can be used to repair failing septs. Nothing has been done in 21 years. It's not mandated by New York City to have sewers in the watershed, so why not do something that won't cost the taxpayers anything?

The 2015 Woodard & Curran Lake Shenorock Wastewater Study states:

1. There have been 18 septic repairs since 2000.
2. The East of Hudson Water Quality Fund allows for the use of grant funds to rehabilitate or replace subsurface sewage treatment systems that are failing or likely to fail soon.
3. Nutrient loads were coming in from stream flows entering Lake Shenorock. How are sewers going to address pollution coming in from other towns?

At a July 10, 2014, Town Board meeting, a resident asked Woodard & Curran representatives what percentage of Shenorock is polluting the watershed water that goes to New York City. The engineer, Steve Robbins, said "it's a minor amount."

That's still the case today. Robbins also mentioned at the June 12, 2014, meeting "the water coming into Shenorock Lake is dirty and it goes out cleaner," so the lake is actually doing something.

Why aren't they telling their taxpayers about the new innovative and advanced septic systems that can be installed in Westchester if you have a failing septic? It's a cheaper alternative and keeps you independent. In fact, we have one in Shenorock. It cleans the waste that comes out of your house before it goes into your septic fields. The water is virtually clear and free from chemicals after the system cleans it. If our lakes were so polluted wouldn't the county and state be throwing money at us to clean it up?

Somers Town Board members said they cannot get additional funding for the Somers Sewer District unless it's formed. If we don't get funding, they can raise our costs by borrowing more money. They finally admitted this last week in a notice posted on the town's website.

The town didn't advertise public hearings with 72 hours' notice. Councilman Tom Garrity proudly showed The Somers Record on camera during the virtual Sept. 10 meeting, saying "it was published."

It was the paper that came out that day, not 72 hours prior. Do they think we are stupid? They use Code Red messages to tell taxpayers of meetings instead of sending out information by mail.

The Town Board paid a public relations firm \$13,750 to push sewers and paid engineers to meet with the project's proponents, but not the opponents. The town discriminates against older residents by having virtual meetings because they know they it's difficult for them, but I guess "the little old lady down the street won't be there forever."

In Supervisor Morrissey's letter on the town's website on Nov. 7, 2019, it said "this project will increase property values." That's exactly what they want – more tax revenue.

The Town Board has pushed this project without being completely transparent. They should all be replaced along with the town attorney. Don't flush your money down the toilet on Nov. 10. Vote "No" on the referendum.

To learn more, visit www.SomersSewers.com.

Tom Smith is a Lake Shenorock resident.

Letters to the Editor

Accountability for Chronically Vacant Properties Long Overdue in Yorktown

For too many years large commercial properties have sat stagnant in Yorktown. Elected officials from both parties have tried in earnest to entice these property owners to reinvest in their properties, but no real results have come to pass.

In Yorktown, there are locations that have sat vacant and untouched for more than a decade. The Yorktown Chamber of Commerce views these chronic vacancies, and their lack of any attempt to be part of our community, not only as

anti-business but also detrimental toward the existing investors, mom-and-pops and citizens that call Yorktown their home and that strive to make Yorktown a better place.

Despite efforts in the past to fill these vacancies, which have also included numerous attempts by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, our community continues to be taken advantage of. It has become clear to our organization that a different approach is desperately needed

to have a productive dialogue with owners of chronically vacant commercial properties, provide transparency to the residents and businesses of Yorktown and to finally establish some form of accountability.

For these reasons, the chamber supports and applauds the recent proposal by Supervisor Matt Slater to institute required reporting by property owners with chronic vacancies. The chamber believes this is a fair and measured approach following

years of inaction.

Rebooting our local economy must include all aspects of our business community. Yorktown has some very exciting projects we hope to see come to fruition, but the fact remains these chronic vacancies are a proven challenge. Supervisor Slater's proposal is a strong remedy that protects Yorktown and our business community.

It is important to note that Yorktown welcomes all developers that strive to be part of our

community. Together with a very proactive and business-friendly Town Board, these community partners should expect the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce to stand at the ready to help assist and advocate for their interest and dedication to Yorktown.

Sergio Esposito
President, Yorktown
Chamber of Commerce

Astorino Has the Skills and Experience to Serve Effectively in State Senate

I am writing to express my support for Rob Astorino's candidacy for the New York State Senate. As a 20-year resident of Westchester County, I believe that Rob has the character, passion and desire to enhance our community and work with others to achieve this goal.

His two terms as Westchester County executive demonstrated his bipartisan efforts that resulted in lower property taxes, large job creation and a more efficient and streamlined county government.

In the current hyperpolitical environment, it is imperative that we elect individuals who have the character and interpersonal skills to be able to make

needed compromise, while keeping to their beliefs. Rob lived up to his promises while in office in Westchester and was able to work with his political opponents on numerous occasions.

In summary, I believe Rob has the motivation to enhance our communities and make the future better for our children. The few times I have met Rob, he seems genuine and the type of person we would be proud to call our state senator.

Thank you.

Daniel Damon
Mount Kisco

There Are Less Expensive Alternatives for Somers Residents Than Sewers

I have spoken with the engineering firm hired by the Town of Somers to create the new sewer district. They assured me that Westchester County does not allow the use of enhanced bio-microbic septic systems, except when the traditional septic systems have failed.

So, the sewer system expense has been deemed necessary by the town, which must mean our systems are failing. The enhanced septic systems are then a viable, relatively inexpensive and much less intrusive alternative solution, leaving more than enough from the \$10 million in East of Hudson funds to dredge and aerate the lakes.

The enhanced septic systems go for \$22,000 max, or half that with an existing healthy septic field. So, well over 250 homes adjacent to the lakes and tributaries could be updated for less than \$5 million. The other half of the money could easily go to dredging and aerating.

We would need to get approval from the East of Hudson Water Quality Fund to dredge and aerate with the money they control for rehabilitation or replacement of septic systems.

Jay Batchelor
Shenorock

Captain Lawrence on Verge of Opening Mount Kisco Location

By Martin Wilbur

Captain Lawrence Brewing Company, which bills itself as the largest craft brewery in the Hudson Valley, will be opening in Mount Kisco as early as next week.

Owner Scott Vaccaro said last week that the 7,800-square-foot space at 369 Lexington Ave. in the village may be in operation as early as Oct. 21, in the building located behind Ferguson Bath & Kitchen Gallery. It will operate in tandem with the much larger warehouse, brewery and distillery on Route 9A in Elmsford.

The Mount Kisco site will contain a 5,000-square-foot brewery and a 2,500-square-foot distillery and will have storage. Some products will be blended on site, but there will not be a brewhouse, Vaccaro said. Captain Lawrence fans will be able to visit for beer and food, adhering to current COVID-19 restrictions, which prohibits gatherings of more than 50 percent capacity.

"We were thinking about ways to kind of branch out and to expand our presence, and we looked down county as well," Vaccaro explained. "We had a property in Ardsley that we thought made sense. We continued to look and this kind of came about. It's just a really cool spot."

Similar to its 35,000-square-foot Elmsford location, it is a warehouse, the type of facility that Captain Lawrence has used dating back to its original location in Pleasantville in 2006, he said. That captures the rough-hewn industrial beer hall-type atmosphere that the



Captain Lawrence Brewing Company owner Scott Vaccaro with Rep. Nita Lowey in 2012, shortly after the Elmsford location opened. Next week a second Captain Lawrence will launch on Mount Kisco's Lexington Avenue.

company likes to have for its sites.

Vaccaro said having grown up in South Salem and with some of his first customers in northern Westchester, the area has been key to Captain Lawrence's success.

"Our core market was kind of the Chappaqua, Mount Kisco, Katonah, Purdys, North Salem kind of corridor, and where the first accounts to purchase our stuff," he said. "We have a long history in the area."

Also, the distillery in Mount Kisco will be Captain Lawrence's main stage facility, Vaccaro added. While the distillation is done in Elmsford, there isn't enough room for barrel storage. The Mount Kisco location won't boost the company's operating capacity, but it will give it an area for its sour

beers to age and blend, he said.

Vaccaro acknowledged some skittishness about launching a second site in the midst of a pandemic, but said the plans were underway last year and the lease for the Lexington Avenue site was signed by the start of this year.

"Everything was looking shiny and bright and we thought it was going to be great," Vaccaro said. "So, (there are) lots of concerns, obviously. We, like a lot of businesses out there, just push forward and make it work."

Since the start of the pandemic, Captain Lawrence has launched home delivery, which has helped to offset some of the losses from the months of being closed to the public

and now the reduced capacity.

Captain Lawrence's imminent arrival in Mount Kisco is exciting for the village and a shot in the arm for its commercial area, along with the recent opening of three other businesses, said Mayor Gina Picinich.

Mount Kisco had reduced its vacancy rate to 10 percent by early this year, but Picinich said she believes the downtown is poised for a recovery because the interest in investing in the village remains high.

"We're continuing to take meetings, and sadly some businesses won't be reopening, but we're continuing to take meetings with folks who seek great opportunity and are trying to make plans," Picinich said. "Our objective right now is to do all we can to be flexible and help business hold on until we can get past this, and then we'll be right back to where we were."

Other businesses that have opened in the village are Your CBD Store on East Main Street and F45 Training and Code Ninjas on South Moger Avenue.

Vaccaro said there is the possibility this won't be Captain Lawrence's last expansion. He said the company continues to eye future opportunities.

"We're going to try to expand our brand and our reach," he said. "We've had a really great experience and response to the hospitality operation here in Elmsford, obviously pre-COVID, with the event that we were doing with the beer hall and the beer garden and we want to try and replicate that when possible."

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Mt. Kisco Resident Recognized for Being COVID Hero

Saint Joseph's Medical Center Director of Community Outreach and School Health Catherine O'Connell Hopkins was among the medical professionals from Westchester and Fairfield counties who were recently honored for their contributions to health care and medicine at Westfair Communications' eighth annual Doctors of Distinction Awards program.

Medical Center President and CEO Michael Spicer received the Health Executive of the Year Award while Hopkins, a Mount Kisco resident received the COVID-19 Heroes Award.

Hopkins manages school-based clinics in four Yonkers elementary schools. These

clinics provide primary care services to students at no cost to the child's family.

She also provides outreach services to those residing in southwest Yonkers and surrounding areas, providing flu vaccines, organizing health fairs, delivering educational programs (asthma, importance of vaccines) and participating in various community-based organizations that focus on the health of the City of Yonkers and its surrounding communities.

When the Yonkers Public Schools closed due to COVID-19, Hopkins continued her mission to care for the members of the community in the epicenter of the pandemic in Westchester County. Along with other

nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses and aides, she began triaging people for COVID-19 and testing them if symptoms suggested a probable infection.

Because of the pandemic and protocols discouraging large gatherings, instead of the traditional cocktail hour, dinner and presentations, Doctors of Distinction was a virtual event created and streamed live on Sept. 24. The event can be viewed on-demand by visiting the Westfair Media Productions channel on youtube.com.

Catherine O'Connell Hopkins was recently honored for her efforts in triaging community members in Yonkers during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic early last spring.





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Bicycle Sundays to Continue Through October

Westchester's recreation tradition, Bicycle Sundays, will continue for two more Sundays to extend the 2020 season to Oct. 18 and 25. Bicycle Sundays are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bronx River Parkway.

A portion of the Bronx River Parkway is closed to cars for the exclusive use of bicyclists, joggers, walkers, scooters and strollers. The course runs from the Westchester County Center in White

Plains south to Scarsdale Road in Yonkers, a round trip of 13.1 miles. There are many points of entry and exit along the way. Parking is available at the County Center lot for \$8.

Participants must wear masks or face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained. Visit westchestergov.com/parks to find out more about the parks, programs and services offered by County Parks.

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Program to Help Drug and Alcohol Abusers Expands in Westchester

By Martin Wilbur

Treatment for those suffering from substance abuse has evolved over the years, where a key goal is to provide help before the person becomes ensnared in the criminal justice system – or experience an even worse outcome.

A new program was launched early last year in the Hudson Valley and has expanded to five counties, having recently started in Westchester. There are now seven communities in Westchester whose police departments have committed to the effort.

Hope Not Handcuffs is a pre-arrest diversion program where the person who needs help voluntarily reports to a participating police department. Rather than interact with an officer, they will be met by an “angel,” a local volunteer who lives in the community and has been trained to assist people find treatment.

Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner said even if a person is carrying illegal substances, they can surrender them without any legal consequences if they sign up for the program. However, they will not receive that same

benefit if they are arrested first.

“We really think it’s a great fit,” said Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner, whose department is one of the seven participating law enforcement agencies. Handcuffs. “We’re realizing that especially now, with the (governor’s) executive order that’s out there, and the idea that making sure the right people are doing the right jobs for us to work as a conduit with a not-for-profit that specializes in getting people into treatment is better than us trying to get people into treatment.”

The program, which debuted in Orange County in early 2019, is run by the Tri-County Community Partnership, which is responsible for bringing together the volunteers, community organizations and law enforcement to help find treatment options for those in need, said Annette Kahrs, program. There are close to 35 police departments that are now taking part, she said.

On Sept. 1, the Yorktown Police Department went live with Hopes Not Handcuffs, the first Westchester department to do so.

One of the challenges of expansion is making sure

that there are enough angels available so if someone arrives at a department headquarters seeking help at any time of day, there will be a volunteer to meet them within 20 to 30 minutes, Kahrs said.

“They don’t have to have any previous experience,” she said of the angels. “They just have to be compassionate, kind and willing to help somebody in need.”

Other participating Westchester departments are North Castle, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, Ossining and Bedford.

Training for the angels takes about three hours, according to Kahrs, but they have not had in-person sessions since February before the pandemic hit. Tri-County Community Partnership looks to have a larger group than is necessary to be trained. For example, in Orange County there are about 330 angels or 17 departments, but she estimated that about 75 of the volunteers are regulars, she said.

Yorktown is currently drawing on angels from Putnam County until the department can adequately fill its ranks of angels, Kahrs said.

Grutzner said most of the Westchester departments are in



Hope Not Handcuffs made its debut in Westchester in Yorktown in early September. There are now seven departments in the county that will be taking part.

close proximity to one another so the agencies can share the volunteers. Neither an angel nor someone seeking help has to live in the community where they report.

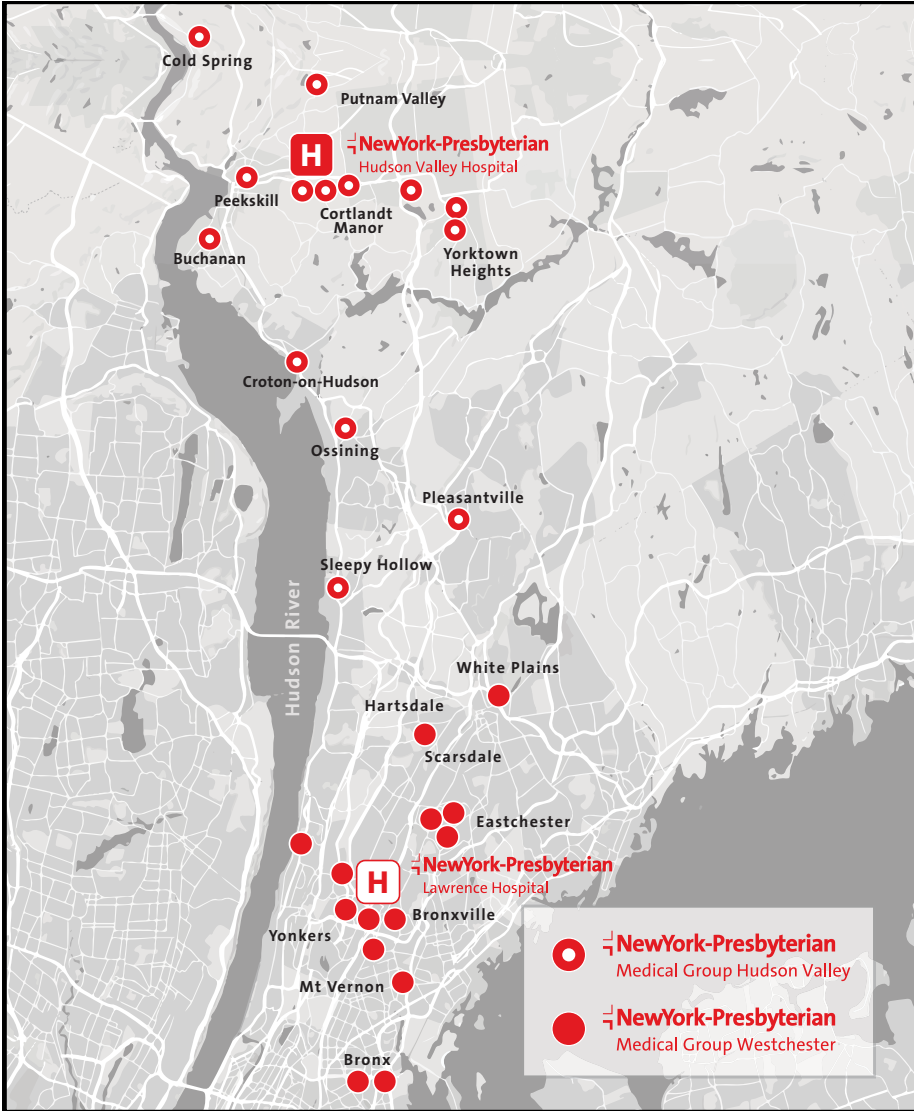
There is also training for police but there is relatively little interaction between officers and those seeking help, he said.

“What we are really looking for are these community angels who can come in,” Grutzner said. “What it is is basically being available to come in and give somebody a little bit of comfort

and guidance and get them into the Hope Not Handcuffs program so that they can be placed in an appropriate facility. We need to have that infrastructure built in place before we can really be prepared and have people come in and do that.”

He expects that the program will go live in Pleasantville before the end of the year.

For more information on Hope Not Handcuffs or to inquire about becoming an angel, call 833-428-4673 or visit www.tccpartnership.org.



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Obituaries

Janet Goudey

Janet Goudey, formerly of Somers, passed away peacefully at home in Venice, Fla. on Sept. 14. She was 87.

Goudey was born in Oneonta, N.Y. to Lincoln and Lucile Darling. Graduating from SUNY Oneonta, she taught school for many years, retiring from the Somers Central School District in July 1981.

She was married to Arthur, the love of her life, for 65 years. Together they raised five children. In 1964, they began spending every summer with their family at their coastal vacation home in South Addison, Maine. After retiring, they continued to enjoy summers in Maine, mid-seasons in upstate New York and winters in Florida.

Janet was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher and friend. She was deeply devoted to her faith and her family. She was loving, kind and compassionate, always smiling, always happy. Her greatest passion was her family, and she touched each of their lives in a special way. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband and best friend, Art; her children, Susan (Bill) Hahn, Peggy (Dennis) Carney, Art Jr., John (Nancy) and Peter; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her grandson, Justin.

A private graveside service will be held



Janet Goudey

at a later date at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Somers.

Donations in her memory may be sent to the Somers Education Foundation, P.O. Box 401, Somers, N.Y. 10589 or visit www.SEfNY.org.

Robert Rummel

Robert H. Rummel, a Croton-On-Hudson resident, died peacefully on Oct. 2. He was 82.

He was born in Manhattan on May 23, 1938, to Herman and Emma (Kunzmann) Rummel. He was a graduate of Croton-Harmon High School and attended Syracuse University. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force from 1958 to 1961. He was an avid outdoorsman and had a deep respect for all things great and small.

Rummel is survived by his loving wife, Susan (Carosella); his daughter, Anita (Richard) Rothrock; his granddaughters, Emma, Anika and Kaija; his sisters, Elizabeth (Edward) Herko and Rita Wilcox; his sister-in-law, Barbara Rummel; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, David.

Elivia Naso

Elivia "Randy" Naso, a White Plains resident, died Oct. 8. She was 96.

Naso was born June 27, 1924, in the Bronx to Mary and Lowry Stendardi. On Apr. 16, 1949, she married her late husband, Frank Naso, at St. Dominic's Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Elyse Naso; her loving brother, Gene Stendardi; and her two grandchildren, Bianca Marrero Restrepo and Jasmine Naso.

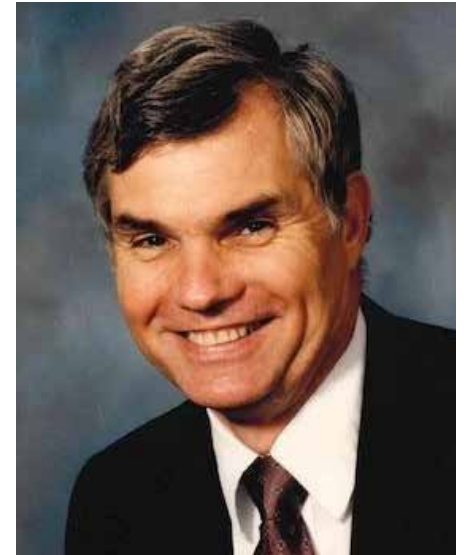
She enjoyed spending time with friends, playing card games and staying active in sports including tennis and golf at the Westchester Country Club in Rye and Johnathan's Landing in Jupiter, Fla. Naso had a love for fashion, travel and her family. She will be remembered with love and admiration by her family and friends.

Kevin O'Neill

Kevin B. O'Neill, a Shrub Oak resident, died Oct. 4. He was 62.

He was born Mar. 7, 1958, in the Bronx to Frances (McGraw) and Michael O'Neill. He grew up in Keansburg, N.J. and later returned to the Bronx where he met and married Kathleen O'Neill (Murray) at St. Philip Neri Church on Oct. 4, 1986.

O'Neill worked for the New York City Department of Sanitation, retiring in 2007. In his 62 years, he was a devoted father, avid



Robert Rummel



Elivia Naso

sports fan and rock-and-roll enthusiast.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; daughters Kerry O'Neill and Mary O'Neill; and brothers and sisters Elizabeth O'Neill, Gail Sciara, James O'Neill, Patricia Charbonneau, Tara O'Neill, Kathleen Tighe, Sean O'Neill, Anastasia O'Neill and Charles O'Neill. He also leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Michael O'Neill.

One Dead, Two Injured in Mount Kisco House Fire

A two-alarm house fire in Mount Kisco last Monday night left one dead and two injured.

On Oct. 5 around 6:15 p.m., the Mount Kisco Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 10 Brandon Drive. Upon arrival, crews noticed heavy flames coming out of the garage and the homeowner on the lawn with significant burns to his body, Fire Chief David Hughes said.

Multiple agencies responded to extinguish the fire but were unable to get it under control for at least three hours, Hughes said. He added the fire was deemed accidental

following an investigation.

Both the victim and his wife were transported to Westchester Medical Center. The victim's wife had burns to her hands, Hughes said, explaining that the victim was alive upon arrival but died last Tuesday night. The cause of the husband's death was not provided.

Hughes couldn't provide the names of either individual but noted they were both elderly.

A firefighter was also treated for injuries at Northern Westchester Hospital.

—Anna Young

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W'chester D.A.'s Office Recruits New Dog to Aid Victims, Witnesses

By Anna Young

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office has recruited a new dog to provide victims and witnesses comfort as they cope with the often difficult time of speaking to criminal justice system personnel.

Lewis, the two-year-old Labrador retriever, will be the office's first facility dog and help make what is often a traumatic and stressful experience a bit easier for those who find themselves having to provide information. Lewis is accompanied by trained handler Assistant District Attorney Brian Bendish of the Superior Court Trial Division.

District Attorney Anthony Scarpino said medical professionals have found that having a dog offering comfort, whether in meetings or in court, can help relieve stress. It introduces an extra level of care to those who need it most.

"For witnesses and victims, sitting through interviews and preparing for trial is a very stressful time, especially for child witnesses, victims of domestic and elder abuse and victims of sexual assault," Scarpino said. "Retelling and reliving those moments can be extremely difficult."

Lewis was raised and trained by Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit service dog organization, and has been given to the district attorney's office for free. It's estimated that his two years of training and that of his handler costs roughly \$50,000,

Scarpino said

The cost of his ongoing care and feeding is paid for through private funds within the office.

Bendish spent three weeks of specialized training bonding with Lewis and learn the 40 advanced commands. The training consisted of intensive lectures, hands-on training and multiple examinations in order to acquire public certification. While training is ongoing, Scarpino said it requires strict consistency and structure to ensure Lewis adheres to his trained behaviors.

Bendish will attend all appointments with Lewis, issue his commands and oversee the

dog's daily needs, Scarpino said.

"Lewis is an exceptional animal. He is amazingly calm and sweet. He is trained not to approach anyone unless he is told to," Bendish said. "I really look forward to seeing how his easy demeanor will de-stress situations for our victims and witnesses. I think he is just a great addition to our office."

Lewis, a two-year-old black Lab, is the newest addition to the Westchester County District Attorney's staff. The dog helps calm victims and witnesses who come to the office and talk to prosecutors and staff.



Peekskill Museum to Present Program on the History of Indian Point

The Peekskill Museum will present an informative and entertaining program, "The History of Indian Point: From the Kitchawonk Tribe to the Closure of the Nuclear Power Plant," on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose.

The program will feature four speakers who will present the history of Indian Point through illustrations and photographs. The speakers will be John Curran, author and Peekskill Museum vice president, Barbara and Wes Gottlock, authors of "Lost Amusement Parks of the Hudson Valley" and Brian Vangor, Entergy control room supervisor.

Curran will highlight the life of the first known inhabitants, the Kitchawonk Tribe.

Through commentary featuring photographs, Barbara and Wes Gottlock will trace the emergence from a recreational park into an amusement park frequented by patrons from New York City, many of whom arrived by boat. The final part of the program will detail the purchase of the property by Con Edison and eventual development and construction of one of the first nuclear power plants in the country.

The afternoon's activities are open to the public at no charge; however, a suggested tax-deductible donation to the Peekskill Museum is encouraged and appreciated.

In keeping with current state requirements, participants must wear a face mask and social distancing will be followed.

The Peekskill Museum, located at 124 Union Ave. in downtown Peekskill, receives no public funds and depends entirely on membership fees and donations. It is operated entirely by volunteers and is open to visitors on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

The museum's mission is to collect, preserve, study and display objects and documents pertaining to Peekskill's history and the immediate surrounding area as well as to offer information about Peekskill and the region's history through exhibits and programs.

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library is located at 185 Kings Ferry Rd. in Montrose.

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The Pros and Cons of One-Story and Two-Story Living

It's been almost five years since I gave up two-story living in a colonial single-family house for a one-floor luxury condo. The most noticeable difference during that time is that I've gained weight!

For most of my life I've lived a two-story existence, having to climb stairs any number of times during the course of a day, except for brief periods when I lived in a New York City apartment building on one level, 14 stories up, but of course with an elevator.

Another rental experience on one level, thankfully short, was a five-floor walk-up that was a challenge for visitors who first had to catch their breath before we could embark on any kind of civil discourse.

Other than that, I subscribed to the credo that one of my first customers laid down: to show him only two-story houses where he didn't eat and sleep on the same floor. (This reminded me at the time of the expression that conveys rather coarsely that you're not supposed to have an affair at the same place where you work.)

For much of the history of single-family homes in America, the preferred style was the simple one-story ranch-style home, progressing from there to the Cape Cod with two bedrooms and a bath nestled nicely in the raised roofline of the structure.

But as families increased in size and we became a wealthier nation, first the split, with half the house rising to two stories, then the colonial became the preferred style by the 1970s. But one-level ranch homes have remained a good choice for starter homes as well as a preferred choice for seniors who prefer a no-steps option.

Just recently I ran across a checklist online of pros and cons of one- and two-story options as follows. For one-story dwellers, the advantages are:

1. If you're into fitness, it's a benefit, but most of us consider it a hassle to go up and down stairs.
2. Most homes don't have noise proofing from above.
3. At some point, many, if not most of us, will not be able to navigate stairs.
4. Renovation flexibility. Load-bearing walls make knocking down walls a problem. With ranches, it's easier to create open areas.
5. Adding skylights. You simply punch a hole in the roof. This is impossible with a second floor.
6. Exterior maintenance. Cleaning gutters 10 feet up is easier than 20 feet. The same goes for washing a house, cleaning windows and performing roof maintenance.
7. High or cathedral ceilings are easier to

add than in a two-story home.

8. More deck and patio potential from more rooms by just creating a door.
9. Child safety is an issue with stairs in a two-story house.
10. Easier escape in case of fire.
11. Easier to clean, in terms of stairs and not having to lug vacuums up and down stairs.
12. There's no issue of having the laundry delivered up or down one or two flights of stairs.
13. One-story homes are in demand, a great resale value.
14. A one-story home is cheaper to heat and cool.

Advantages of two-story homes

1. More square footage with smaller footprint; in other words, it's cost-effective.
2. Sometimes it's beneficial to put bedrooms on the lower level and have the living area on top for a better view, especially on a sloping lot.
3. If you like the idea of a balcony off your master bedroom.
4. Distinct separation between bedrooms and living space, probably the most common reason most people claim.
5. Easier to accommodate on most lots



By Bill Primavera

that might not be wide enough or big enough for a large ranch while leaving enough outdoor space.

6. The aesthetics of stairs, which many homeowners desire for a grander foyer effect.

7. Given the roof and foundation are expensive components of a house to build, a two-story house containing the same square footage as a ranch will generally cost less per square foot.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn here is that, while the list of advantages for a ranch-

style home may be longer, the two-story home would appear more desirable simply because a second story is more cost-effective to build, not to mention a built-in aerobics program at the same time.

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U.S. Holocaust Museum Honors Pair of Chappaqua Residents

By Samantha Schnupp

Two Chappaqua residents who have dedicated themselves to widening the reach of Holocaust education will be among those honored this week by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The museum will recognize Stacey Saiontz and Howard Unger at Wednesday evening's What You Do Matters 2020 New York Tribute Virtual Event, as they are two of its most passionate supporters who help keep alive the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and educate the next generation. They are also this year's recipients of the museum's National Leadership Awards.

The annual event, which was forced to go virtual this year, allows the museum a meaningful way to honor their courage and show their gratitude. Diane von Furstenberg will serve as emcee for the evening.

Since the event is virtual this year, the museum chose to recognize the honorees over the last 10 years to highlight their support of the museum despite the physical distance required during the pandemic, said Monika Levin, a spokeswoman for the event.

Saiontz, who was the 2019 honoree, said she was excited to receive the recognition.

"The museum is so important because it allows people to see what it was like and is able to keep the history of the Holocaust (alive) for generations to come," said Saiontz, who is also a co-chair

of New Castle's Holocaust and Human Rights Committee and worked with Ally Rosenberg to unveil the town's Holocaust memorial last November.

"Now more than ever the museum allows us to watch what is happening in different parts of the world with genocide and what we can do to raise awareness and prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again."

Saiontz is the granddaughter of Jack Feldman, who survived the Holocaust and was featured in the HBO documentary "The Number on Great Grandpa's Arm." The documentary includes film of her grandfather's recollections of the horrors, capturing searing details and insight into what he endured.

Saiontz serves on the museum's Education Committee and has been a member of its New York Next Generation Board for over 15 years.

Unger, one of two honorees from 2014, grew up hearing the story of his father's survival at the Auschwitz and Dachau concentration camps, which inspired him to become involved in bringing awareness of modern-day genocide to the current generation.

Unger currently serves multiple roles for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum including chair of its Audit Committee and as a member of its Executive Committee, Strategic Advancement Committee and Committee on Conscience.

"The museum allows people to understand what these survivors went



Stacey Saiontz and Howard Unger are being recognized Wednesday evening for their contributions to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

through and what exactly led up to the Holocaust," Unger said. "Every survivor experienced this historic event differently. Now, more than ever, understanding why this happened plays a crucial part

in preventing something like it from happening again in the future."

Work that the honorees have engaged in includes maintaining and salvaging the evidence of the Holocaust, while others focus on genocide prevention or combating global anti-Semitism. Some have taken on significant leadership roles within the institution, all committed to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and ensuring its lessons reach new generations.

Wednesday's What You Do Matters 2020 New York Tribute Virtual Event begins at 6 p.m. The event is free to view but registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/y5p5ecet>

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Mt. Pleasant to Begin Solar Panel Installation at Highway Garage

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of Mount Pleasant is prepared to begin installing solar panels on the roof of its highway garage, the first of three municipal properties where panels help the town generate renewable energy.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said last week that the work to place the panels on the roof of the structure could happen as soon as this week and be completed before the onset of winter.

Two other town facilities are scheduled to have carports constructed with solar panels placed on top: the parking lots at Town Hall and the Community Center in Valhalla. Nearly all of the Town Hall lot will be covered with a carport while only a portion of the Community Center will see that structure, Fulgenzi said.

It had originally been projected that the carports, which would reach just over 10 feet high, would take about two months to build. “I’m hoping to get it done before the bad

weather comes,” Fulgenzi said of the three projects. “I don’t want to be doing this in the springtime.”

The move to build carports with solar panels on the roof stems from a negotiated lease between the town and Con Edison Development to pursue more clean energy sources. The town is scheduled to be paid about \$28,000 for the duration of the 25-year lease. Fulgenzi said the panels at the three locations will supply cheaper energy rates to as many as 500 homes.

Aside from providing a facility to hold the solar panels, the carports also offer drivers protection from the rain while largely eliminating the need for the town to have to plow snow in the covered lots.

In a separate project, a ground-mounted solar array is also being considered for about 32 acres of unused land at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne. That project, which is being reviewed by the Planning Board, would be an arrangement between a private entity and the cemetery.

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The illustration above is an artist's depiction of the Indian Point property after the completion of major decommissioning work.

Indian Point Energy Center



Finding Solace While Taking Some Detours Along the Way

By Nancy Sorbella

We are all just trying to find our way, with more than enough uncertainty to go around.

It has been a lost year, one of challenge, to be sure, but in many ways a time of discovery. Personally, I feel more connected to my inner circle than before. Time spent together, whether socially distanced or digitally, is more intentional, and ironically, feels as though we are more "present." I am acutely aware of the take-away from each day, because I am not rushing around doing a million things, and am able to spend that elusive quality time doing the things I must, and those that I choose.

I did my time mourning what I took for granted, debating what matters and to whom. Done. As restrictions have eased with each reopening phase, I am all in for living my best life with new parameters.

I am excited that it is fall in the Hudson Valley. I've already been out and about more now as my daughter's activities have been canceled. I no longer catch a 6 a.m. train on Monday mornings and we are more flexible and eager to be outdoors. I do believe that the best is yet to come, but for now we will be making the best of what has come. I hope that these detours along the way will make that path smoother.

The summer was all about gardening for me – experimenting, learning and letting my landscape "speak" to me. There have been some surprises. The pumpkin seeds

I planted didn't deliver. However, in the middle of the hosta, somehow pumpkin seeds were sown, and I now have a robust small sugar pumpkin patch. A few dwarf Alberta spruces and some bearded Iris left with "free" signs on the roadside were a win.

Next up, more native plantings, so next year, when things return to normal (as I hope), there will be less garden maintenance.

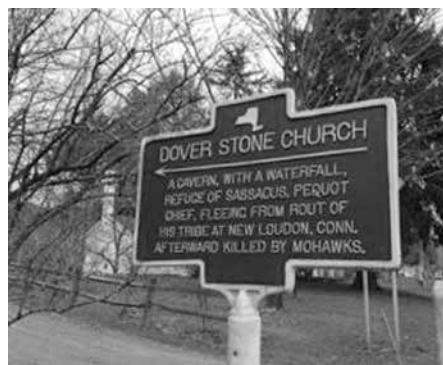
So, it is no surprise really, that my recent detours have been outdoors, and in gardens and natural spaces. Visiting them has been inspirational, aspirational and accessible.

Wethersfield Estate & Gardens

I so love experiencing something magnificent, yet at the same time finding that point of connection where I can get ideas, imagine them coming to life in my world, or in this case, on my property.

Wethersfield is one of those magical places. The estate is over 1,000 acres, the legacy of Chauncey Devereux Stillman, who created a cultural, equestrian, intellectual and agrarian space that is open to the public Friday through Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. There are formal Italian gardens, colorful seasonal plantings, fountains, water gardens, statuary and uncompromised views of the lush hills and valleys of Dutchess County.

What not to miss: Walking your dog, horseback riding or carriage riding (yes!) on the trails. Keep this in mind for next year. Guided tours are suspended because



A visit to the Dover Stone Church is a hidden gem, comprised of an ancient cave and trails.

of the pandemic but so are the entrance fees, making Wethersfield the ideal spot to enjoy the natural surroundings to meditate, resuscitate and reset.

Wethersfield Estate & Gardens is located at 257 Pugsley Hill Rd., Amenia, N.Y. 12501. Info: Visit www.wethersfield.org.

Dover Stone Church

Unless you are looking for this hidden gem, and maybe even if you are, finding it can be tricky – but worth it. Identified only by the New York State blue and yellow historical marker, this ancient cave and trails is the perfect pandemic diversion.

It is not a real church, but rather a natural cavern with a history that dates to the 17th century and includes exquisite rock formation and outcroppings, a peaceful habitat for native flora and fauna with

hiking trails for most abilities. It is dog-friendly and free, open daily dawn to dusk. Parking is available at the nearby Dover Elementary School when school is not in session, Tabor Wing House and Freshco 22 Deli. The "entrance" is at the historic marker, between two private homes.

What not to miss: Viewing the 30-foot natural waterfall that can be seen from inside. Hop over to the Appalachian Trail for more hiking but nothing compares to the contrast of the rugged water/rock hiking and the long nature trails and views of the West Mountain ridge.

Dover Stone Church is located at 3128 NY-22, Dover Plains, N.Y. 12522. Info: 845-832-6111 or visit <https://www.dovernyny.us/dover-stone-church-preserve>.

Innisfree Garden

Innisfree Garden, another Dutchess County horticultural treasure, is just the balm we need to get through another season of pandemic isolation. Often considered one of the world's best gardens, Innisfree is a remarkable example of American environmental sustainability, design, artistry and conservancy.

The 185-acre historic natural resource provides a unique experience, especially as seasons change. Created by a nearly 50-year collaboration between the legendary landscape architect, Lester Collins, and owners Marion Burt Beck and Walter Beck, Innisfree is designed for sustenance, to maintain the ecosystem, beauty, artistry

continued on page 24



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Open Door Family Medical Center Begins Annual Holiday Toy Drive

Local residents can support Open Door Family Medical Center's annual Holiday Toy Drive and Santa Days by donating new, unwrapped toys for newborns through children 14 years old, now through Dec. 15.

"This is especially important during a year like this, when many children in Westchester and Putnam counties have learned to do without because of the pandemic and its impact on the economy, particularly among those families most in need," said Jane Levy, manager of volunteer programs at the Open Door Foundation. "By giving, you can make a difference in bringing some happiness to children who haven't had much to smile about this year."

Open Door serves nearly 57,000 patients each year, many of whom would otherwise be unable to afford quality health care, living at or below the federal poverty line of \$25,100 per year for a family of four. Each year, the Open Door Foundation collects toys for children from families of less fortunate means, with the gifts handed out by Santas at six Open Door Medical Centers in the area. This year, Open Door hopes to distribute more than 3,000 toys.



Local residents who wish to donate are encouraged to bring toys valued up to \$20 to any of Open Door's centers: Brewster, 155 Main St., Suite 101 (lower level); Mamaroneck, 689 Mamaroneck Ave.; Mount Kisco, 30 W. Main St.; Ossining, 165 Main St.; Port Chester, 5 Grace Church St.; and Sleepy Hollow, 316 N. Broadway (Route 9). After Dec. 15, the toys will be distributed during a series of

Santa Days at the centers. Residents can also make online monetary donations and Open Door team members will purchase toys on their behalf.

Open Door is also looking for volunteers to serve as wrapping elves, toy sorters, Santa Day helpers, decorators, toy drive pick-up helpers and more.

For more information on toy donations, visit www.opendoormedical.org. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Jane Levy at 914-502-1468 or jlevy@odfmc.org.

Open Door Family Medical Center is a federally qualified health center. Its mission has remained consistent since it opened in 1972 to provide high-quality health care that is affordable, accessible and efficient.

Open Door cares for nearly 1,000 adults and children every day across its six locations, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to primary care, including pediatrics, dental, mental health, substance use services, women's health, optometry and podiatry, Open Door promotes wellness, good nutrition, stress reduction and physical activity to help families stay healthy.

Finding Solace While Taking Some Detours Along the Way

continued from page 23

and the personal experience between each of us and nature.

Included in the garden's mission is the encouragement of visitors to "find beauty, inspiration, mental respite and healthy activity surrounded by art and nature." This couldn't be more appropriate today.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, reservations are required, Wednesday through Sunday, for slots from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What not to miss: A visit to Innisfree Garden is best enjoyed every season to experience the changing shape, color and view and from each unique cultivated space. Also, take in the water sculpture. There is nothing like it.

Innisfree Garden is located at 362 Tyrrel Rd., Millbrook, N.Y. 12545. Info: 845-677-8000 or visit www.innisfreegarden.org.

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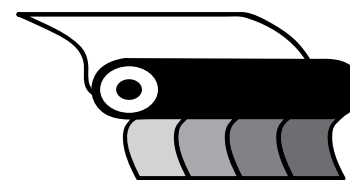
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Turn the Page: A Salute to the Fall Migration

By Brian Kluepfel

Many people see autumn as a dark time – the days shorten as we prepare to face certain winter ahead, full of snow and freezing temperatures.

I prefer to view it as an exciting time – my favorite season – when the color palette of Mother Nature changes by the week and the foliage explodes in a red-orange-yellow-brown-purple variety too amazing for words. Squirrels and other animals make haste to collect enough food for the winter ahead, but even their manic activity is inspiring.

Likewise, people see this month's holiday, Halloween, as something sinister, a day to honor witches and satanic brews, a time when people hide their true faces behind evil deeds and a night when ghosts and goblins haunt our landscape. I take the contrary view. Day of the Dead, All Soul's Day, Samhain – whatever different cultures have named it over the centuries – is a salute to the spirit of our ancestors in our everyday lives, an effort to keep them vibrant in our memory by praying

to them, bringing them offerings of food and flowers and generally acknowledging their presence among us.

Crows and ravens face a similar blacklisting as Halloween. Seen as harbingers of death and evil, I merely see them as the most intelligent birds in the world, which they almost certainly are.

Clever corvids notwithstanding, birders face the same good-versus-bad decision as autumn leaves start to fall. It's getting cold, we'll see fewer birds at a greater cost in the winter (the economic cost of buying seed for the feeders for some; the physical cost of venturing into the snows for a day of birding).

I like to see fall as an opportunity to bid goodbye (temporarily) to the beautiful birds which have graced our spring and summer, and now head south. Beautiful warblers and majestic raptors alike fill the skies, often hundreds at a time, in a synchronized movement to wintering grounds in the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Like the changing foliage, each

week brings different sizes, shapes and colors of migrants on their way out of town. It's a reminder that some beauty is temporal and passing, and that we should appreciate it while it's here.

This week, too, I was reminded via a Zoom call (the only way to fly these days!) of the great work many conservationists are doing in Latin America to make the avian habitat there safe for incoming flights. Audubon's branch in Panama is busy counting raptors at one of the world's top sites for viewing this astounding migration – one of the few places where more than two million migratory raptors were counted in a single day – while Asociación Calidris in Colombia gets ready for the imminent arrival of the Canada warbler, a bird of special interest whose health can be an indicator for many other avian species.

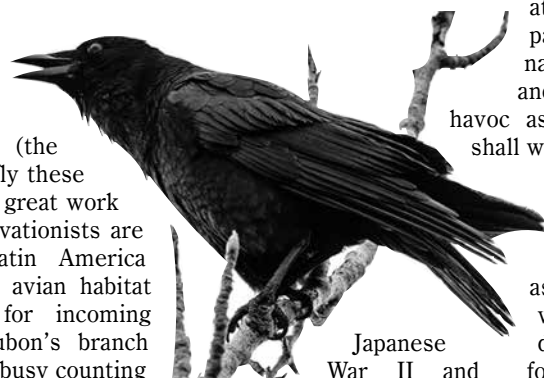
Finally, this column gives me a voice to encourage you to vote for our future

in November (or earlier). When you're casting that ballot, remember that this world and its abundance belongs not just to us but to future generations. In fact, it doesn't really belong to anyone

at all; we're part of the natural cycle, and as much havoc as we sow, so shall we reap.

Allow me to quote from Eric Lomax, held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese during World War II and forced to endure inhumane, crippling torture for three years. The last sentence of his autobiography: "Sometime, the hating has to stop."

Brian Kluepfel is a member of Saw Mill River Audubon and encourages support of its various activities. (Buy some seed for the winter!) A correspondent for Lonely Planet travel guides throughout the Americas, he lives in Ossining. Find him at www.birdmanwalking.com or www.brianbirdwatching.com.



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Northern Westchester Pet Adoption Service Survives and Thrives

By Linda Spear

The fall is here and the weather is sublime, but winter is coming and COVID-19 forces us to stay closer to home.

What better way time than to foster or adopt a dog or cat that would suffer so much more as the weather gets cold?

That's where Sammy's Strays, run by North Salem resident Lisa Zappia, makes the difference.

"Except for raising my own two daughters, there's nothing I have loved nearly as much as rescuing animals," said Zappia, who works a full-time job for a large corporation and saves stray dogs and cats from the misery of homelessness in her spare time.

When she rescues animals, she must feed them, clean them and ensure that they are able to withstand the long trip home in cages.

Many of us have thought to ourselves about our love for animals, but very few make an effort to reach out to those in cages or running wild in the street that need a forever home. Zappia is one of those people who spends almost all her spare time rescuing dogs and cats from substandard conditions, mainly in southern states. About 3.2 million shelter animals are



Five- month-old Peanut, one of many dogs available for adoption at Sammy's Strays.

adopted each year, yet little more than 710,000 are returned to their original owners. Of those, 620,000 are dogs and only 90,000 are cats.

The decline in the number of dogs and cats euthanized in U.S. shelters each year can be partially explained by an increase in the percentage of animals adopted and

an increase in the number of stray animals successfully returned to their owners. Since the coronavirus emerged, more people are rescuing animals because families are spending more time at home and have the ability to care for a pet. That's where Zappia's job kicks in. It's her desire to find loving homes

for as many domesticated animals she has time to find.

"I've had dogs all my life and every one of them has been a rescue, she said, "and I'd have cats as well but I am allergic to them, but that doesn't stop me from saving them for others to adopt and love."

Because of her ambition to save as many healthy animals from despair, she made the effort to start her own rescue organization. Sammy's Strays, a nonprofit organization, is a small rescue group in northern Westchester County that rescues animals in need and finds them loving homes. They are 100 percent foster-based, relying on the care and kindness of animal lovers to keep them going. The rescued dogs and cats live in loving foster homes until they are adopted.

Sammy's Strays covers all necessary medical expenses until adoption. All dogs and cats are spayed or neutered, if age appropriate, receive vaccinations, deworming, heartworm and flea and tick prevention and a microchip.

"I knew when I started this undertaking, that volunteers would join up," Zappia said. "Most of them are like me. They already have their own dogs and cats but are willing and able to pitch in and foster the animals – puppies and older dogs domesticate them and give them

the love they might have lacked for so long. By the time those who want to adopt come to visit, the dogs are accustomed to being cared for and ready to go to their forever home."

Zappia said even though people are becoming aware of the importance of rescue, there are still many animals that get passed by.

"When we began, we had an initial goal to rescue approximately 40 dogs and cats a year, but so far we have rescued 58 animals in the last three months, and we don't expect a slowdown," she said.

The money to prepare each animal for adoption comes from donations. Monetary gifts go for transport costs, vaccinations, deworming, heartworm and flea and tick prevention. It also pays for foster care expenses such as food, collars, leashes and harnesses.

"None of us are in animal rescue for the money," Zappia said. "The care of animals is our priority."

She has a few dogs of her own. One has only one eye, another has three legs and all are her favorites.

"I'll be rescuing and ensuring animal safety until I can't," Zappia said. "It's the best job I've ever had."

Contact Sammy's Strays to foster or adopt an animal. For more information, visit sammysstraysrescue.org or e-mail sammystrays@gmail.com.

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Words of the Month Club: October Edition. This week the quiz words come from the October entries found in the book "The Cabinet of Linguistic Curiosities" by Paul Anthony Jones. The book is "A yearbook of forgotten words" that features a "curious or long-forgotten word of the day, picked from the more obscure corners of the dictionary."

1. **weather-sharp** (n.)
A) a weather vane B) a weather forecaster C) a change in the weather
2. **aerogram** (n.)
A) message sent by radio B) air mail C) sky writing
3. **hardiment** (n.)
A) rough treatment B) forceful methods C) a daring exploit
4. **auripotent** (n.)
A) an energy field B) kindly guidance C) rich and powerful
5. **umbratical** (adj.)
A) disguised B) idealistic C) spotted with shadows
6. **tourbillion** (n.)
A) a unit of length B) a whirlwind C) a complicated excuse
7. **boswellise** (v.)
A) to praise greatly B) simplify in style C) give orders
8. **quinie** (n.)
A) repaying of a debt B) a romantic glimmer C) a cornerstone

- ANSWERS:
1. B. A weather forecaster
2. A. Message sent by radio
3. C. Courageousness; audacity; a daring exploit
4. C. Rich and powerful
5. A. Disguised; cloaked
6. B. A whirlwind
7. A. To write a detailed account of another's life or deeds; to praise or eulogize greatly
8. C. A cornerstone; the first stone laid in a building

A Spiritual View

By Cantor Lilah Sugarman

As the season changes, the air gets cooler and the leaves change to beautiful hues of orange, yellow, and red. We in the Jewish community celebrated two holidays recently that honor this time of change.

Sukkot is a holiday where we build temporary dwellings, little huts that we spend time in, eat and sometimes even sleep in. These temporary shelters help us to have gratitude for our permanent shelters. This holiday also honors and celebrates the changing season and the harvest.

The other holiday is Simchat Torah. Every year Jews worldwide read the entire Torah, the Jewish Bible, portion by portion, week by week for the entire year. At the end of the Torah, we celebrate completing the reading and

start from the beginning again.

In referring to the Torah, rabbinic sage Ben Bag-Bag used to say, "Turn it, and turn it, for everything is in it." The book itself does not change, the words have been the same for thousands of years, but we change. Each time we read it, we bring new perspectives that come with our different experiences or notice things we have never noticed before.

As the season changes and we come into colder weather, may you be filled with the warmth of the potential for new beginnings and gratitude for all we have.

Lilah Sugarman is the cantor at Congregation B'Nai Yisrael in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Hillside Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.



Continuing Our Virtual Tour of Italy: The Ancient Island



By Nick Antonaccio

I've become infatuated, and circling in on obsessed, with the latest wines from Italy arriving on our shores. Not simply the significantly improved traditional wines such as Chianti Classico and Pinot Grigio, but

previously unfamiliar wines produced for centuries and typically consumed locally in the towns atop hills and the undulating hillsides throughout Italy.

In prior installments of this reprised series, I presented the reasons for this "new" Italian Renaissance.

First, the youngest generations of family-based winemakers are better educated in wine viticulture and viniculture. Second, winemakers have seamlessly integrated their traditional, often centuries-old, approach to winemaking with the benefits of modern technology and techniques. Third, importers and distributors have sought out these previously obscure winemakers and are heavily marketing their wines.

These young Italians have a long tradition of excellence in all things cultural. I refer to this seemingly genetic trait with

a uniquely Italian term: Sprezzatura, the art of effortless mastery. This term refers to the success of famous Italians throughout history in architecture, politics, the fine arts and gastronomy. I've begun applying it to the fine art of winemaking.

In this third installment of our virtual tour through the wine regions of Italy in search of historical influences and indigenous grapes, we've landed on the largest island in the Mediterranean: Sicily.

Sicily's grapes and cuisine are unique. To this day, the influence of ancient empires is evident. With a lineage that harkens back to the earliest Phoenician settlers to Greek traders, Roman settlers and Arab invaders, the people of Sicily are a fiercely proud populace.

They have much to be proud of. First, their land: Mother Nature has blessed Sicily with an ideal climate to nurture and nourish numerous agricultural products, including grapes. The soils, especially the volcanic soils near the multiple volcanoes, enhance the

complexity and character of its indigenous grape varieties. Sicily's exposure to the Mediterranean Sea provides the ideal amount of moisture and cooling breezes.

Second, the cuisine: Today's fusion of diverse ingredients and recipes has global roots. The Greeks created a thriving economy based on olive oil and wine.

The Romans refined these products. The Arabs brought spices and citrus fruits (think lemoncello) and introduced Eastern recipes. Today, this confluence of international cuisine and proprietary grapes has transformed America's eating and drinking preferences.

Third, the wines: The dominant grape varietal is the now familiar Nero d'Avola. However, few of us have been exposed to the other indigenous grape varieties.

Allow me to focus on the white grapes.

1. Grillo, an excellent alternative to Chardonnay, is crisp and light in texture, with moderate acidity and notes of honey and almonds.
2. Inzolia, one of my favorites, is dry, with citrus underpinnings and a nutty flavor. It pairs especially well with crab cakes and white fish such as halibut.
3. Catarratto has a pleasing level of acidity, with dollops of apricot and grapefruit on the palate. Try it with grilled calamari or octopus.
4. Carricante is highly acidic, but with a pleasing flavor profile of green apples and citrus. It is an ideal complement to most shellfish.

The red grapes are equally prolific, including Nerello Mascalese – one of the most prolific and esteemed wines produced on the island, on the slopes of Mount Etna. A focus for a future column: Frappato,

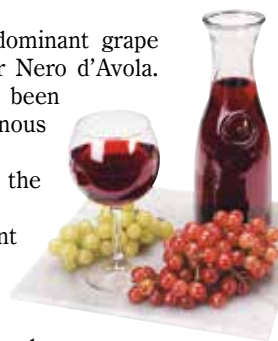
Pignatello and Nocera.

Nerello Mascalese has the potential to become the new signature grape of Sicily, having the finesse of a Burgundian Pinot Noir and the complexity of a Barolo.

Medium bodied, simultaneously earthy and silky, this tannic wine has flavors of black cherries and pairs well with roasted game and rich mushroom recipes.

For me, Sicily is the rising star in the Italian firmament and the Mount Etna region is the pinnacle of its grandeur. Blessed and cursed by one of the most active volcanoes in the world (it erupts several times a year), the soil and altitude provide ideal conditions for two highly regarded grapes: Carricante and Nerello Mascalese. Look for Etna Bianco (Carricante and/or Catarratto) and Etna Rosso (Nerello Mascalese and/or Nero Cappuccio) for well-balanced examples of Sicilian Sprezzatura.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and program director of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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Another Helping of Fall Flavors to Choose From

Several years ago, a veteran restaurant team collaborated to open Tesoro D'Italia Ristorante, a casual family-friendly Italian restaurant on Marble Avenue in Pleasantville.

Heading the day-to-day operation is Peter Lucaj, who had previously been general manager of Ciao Ristorante in Eastchester.

It was a lovely fall day for a visit. We decided on seats at the bar. Had a cocktail while perusing the menu. We both had a yen to share a platter of fried calamari, a tricolor salad with added gorgonzola cheese and one of my favorites – Chicken Payard, a thin breast of chicken, served with endive, avocado, fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, evo and balsamic. A side of sauteed broccoli, too. Portions were generous and delicious.

Hearty pasta specialties to look for include the delicious Fusilli Melanzana (fresh tomatoes, basil, eggplant, parmigiana cheese and fresh mozzarella in a meat sauce); linguini seafood (shrimp, scallops, calamari, clams, mussels with fresh tomato, basil, sautéed garlic and oil); two-color cavatelli (broccoli rabe, sundried tomatoes, sausage, garlic and oil); house-made mushroom ravioli stuffed with porcini and portobella mushrooms and ricotta served with a light truffle cream sauce; classic linguini with clam sauce; and Pasta al Salmone (sliced fresh salmon in a pink sauce).

Generously served main courses include Chicken Tesoro (breast of chicken dipped in parmigiana cheese with white wine, lemon, peas and asparagus); Veal Chop Valdostana, stuffed with fontina cheese, prosciutto, parsley, white wine and shitake mushrooms and truffle oil; classic Filet of Sole Francese served over spinach; and Veal VSOP (veal scallopini with porcini and shitake mushrooms served in a garlic



By Morris Gut

sage and cognac sauce).

The restaurant is divided into a main dining room for 100 guests, a semi-private fireplace room for up to 40 guests and a lovely glass-enclosed wine room seating up to 25. A spacious banquet room can accommodate 130 for all types of parties and private events. Tented outdoor seating is available, and COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

There is an inviting tiled bar and lounge area for networking, spirited conversation and casual dining. A dramatic wine wall highlights the dining room along with smoked glass dividers and white tablecloths. Grey and white hues help polish the space.

Tesoro D'Italia serves a weekday lunch special from 12 to 3 p.m. for \$19.95, which includes salad, main course and coffee, tea or soda.

There is a wide variety of dishes to choose from.

Tesoro d'Italia Ristorante is located at 160 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville. Open

seven days. Indoor and outdoor seating. Free on-site parking. Info: 914-579-2126 or visit www.tesoroditaliany.com.

Carvel Brings Back Memories

I had my first taste of Carvel soft serve ice cream in years recently. After a good tavern meal, my companion suggested it. We looked up the nearest shop and got two hot fudge sundaes. It brought back memories galore. I could almost hear founder Tom Carvel's gravelly voice pitching his product. He started Carvel in Hartsdale and became a local celebrity.

Since then, we have been taking advantage of Carvel's two-for-one sundae deal on Wednesdays. Sitting in the car and enjoying it, just like the old days. Tried their salted caramel the other night and it was quite pleasant, not overly salty. My son-in-law still craves their iconic Fudgie the Whale Cake on his birthday. For locations, visit www.carvel.com.

Delicious Kielbasa at Yonkers Miasarnia

This shop has been importing and producing Eastern European specialties like kielbasa since the 1960s. It is an old-fashioned neighborhood gem in Yonkers. We drove down winding Palmer Avenue to Lockwood Avenue where the shop is located and at first glance it looked like little had changed in years. These types of ethnic food shops have dwindled over the years. A real loss.

We brought home two long links of fresh-made Polish kielbasa, a jar of their extraordinary homemade horseradish



The outdoor patio at Tauk Kitchen + Bar, which specializes in fish dishes, in Armonk.

and a few servings of potato and cheese pierogi. Traditional delights. Dove right into the kielbasa that evening with some good sides. It was so much more flavorful than the commercial brands I have tasted. Next time we'll bring home some of their mustard, too.

The pierogi was delightful with caramelized onions and a dollop of sour cream. A neighbor of ours longs for their Hungarian liver and rice sausage. So far, we have used more of the kielbasa in a French-style lentil soup, and with our mussels.

They have a full menu, but it is best to check ahead to see if they have what you want in the display case. They may not have every item on hand all the time.

Yonkers Miasarnia is located at 39 Lockwood Ave. in Yonkers, not far from the Saw Mill Parkway. Info: 914-965-1665 or visit www.yonkersmiasarnia.com.

New Management at Tauk

Restaurateur Anna Mallozzi has taken over Tauk Kitchen + Bar, the Montauk seafood-themed restaurant in Armonk. We were told there are big changes on the way including a new name. The restaurant and bustling outdoor patio on Armonk Square sits opposite DeCicco's Market.

There have already been changes made to the daily menu, but you can still enjoy specialties such as Bang Bang Shrimp, lobster cobb, fish and chips, Maine lobster roll, Chicken Francese and Fossil Farms Imperial Rib-Eye Steak. We'll keep you posted.

Tauk Kitchen & Bar is located at 402 Main St. in Armonk. Check ahead for hours

of operation. Occasional live music. Free parking. Info: 914-730-1444. A website change is coming, but for now visit www.taukkitchen.com.

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 can be reached at 914-235-6591 or at gutreaactions@optonline.net.



The mouth-watering Chicken Payard at Tesoro D'Italia Ristorante in Pleasantville.



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Get a Taste of Europe at Westchester’s Local Farmers Markets

One of the things I always look forward to doing as a travel writer, no matter where my travels take me, is waking up at dawn and wandering down to the local food market.

These bustling markets are filled with the intoxicating aromas, sights, sounds and tastes that are the distinguishing fingerprints of a city. The local food markets capture the uniqueness and pulse of each locale.

This misty early morning atmospheric splendor has probably not changed for hundreds of years. The knowledgeable women emphatically haggling over the prices with vendors was like watching an opera without the music and nobody dying.

In Naples, the rows of glistening freshly-caught fish, octopus and huge squids dangling in the early morning sunshine looked like something out of “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.” In Berlin, the endless panorama of countless types of wursts swaying in the gentle morning breeze. In Barcelona, the rows of horrific skinned rabbits and majestic giant prawns. In Paris, the huge



By Richard Levy

sides of beef dancing on hooks, enticing shoppers.

The disgusting mounds of Tripe that would entice a gastrointestinal doctor, the bushels of huge live frogs desperately trying to escape and seductive aroma of freshly baked croissants. In Budapest, the Central Market, with its booths containing mounds of fresh fire-red paprika captivating your senses like some sort of pleasurable controlled substance. And I have not devoured such delectable cherry strudel since my Hungarian mom would make it special for me.

Until I can once again return to Europe, our incredible colorful Westchester farmers markets have managed to seduce my gastronomic sensibilities.

Especially right now, with their robust supplies of the season’s fresh produce, giant pumpkins, every kind

of squash and artful decorative gourds. The Hastings Farmers Market, for example, has a spectacular fish market that I’m addicted to, with fish so fresh they taste like they just jumped out of the ocean. Fresh oysters, clams, mussels to delight any seafood maven.

Freshly baked pies overflowing with fresh sour cherries, apples and peaches enveloped within an amazing gossamer crust. They’re \$15 each but worth it. There’s even a pickle man just like at the Essex Market on the Lower East Side that my dad took me to when I was a kid.

There are homemade Greek specialties made by a Greek grandmother with mouthwatering moussaka, pastitsio and baklava. It’s so authentic that if you closed your eyes you could be eating in Athens.

One stand has one of my favorites, Confit of Duck. Slowly cooking it for a few hours makes it one of the most delectable dishes ever, duck that

melts in your mouth.

But readers beware. Many of beloved outdoor farmers markets close the week before Thanksgiving, so be sure to get down to your local market early before the good stuff is picked over and enjoy its bountiful splendors. Don’t worry, they’re safe, farmers markets enforce social distancing, vendors wear masks and gloves and shoppers must wear masks.

Unlike the European markets there’s no good-natured haggling in our local markets, but the good news is you won’t encounter any disgusting Tripe, skinned rabbits or live fish, crabs or frogs desperately flopping around trying to escape.

Hopefully next year at this time we can wake up at dawn in our favorite European city and stroll down to the local food market to be totally enveloped in an endless foodie heaven. Bon appetit.

Hastings-on-Hudson resident Richard Levy is a former advertising “Mad Man” creative director and now a travel writer. He’s also an inventor of innovative new products and is writing and illustrating a new children’s book. You can contact him at RichardLevyTravelWriter@gmail.com.

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White Plains Hospital VP to Lead Go Red for Women in Westchester

The American Heart Association recently announced that Dawn French, senior vice president for marketing, communication and community relations at White Plains Hospital, will serve as chair of the 2021 Westchester Go Red for Women movement.

As chair, French will work to raise funds and spread awareness of heart disease while championing the Go Red for Women mission in Westchester. The American Heart Association uses all revenues from local and National Go Red for Women activities to support research, education, and community programs to benefit cardiovascular disease prevention in women.

"As a board member of the American Heart Association in Westchester County, I

am honored to be serving as chairperson of this year's Go Red for Women campaign," French said. "Heart disease remains the number one killer of women, yet 80 percent of all incidences are preventable by adopting a healthy lifestyle."

The American Heart Association's signature women's initiative, Go Red for Women is a comprehensive platform designed to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women globally. It's no longer just about wearing red or sharing heart health facts, but all women making a commitment to stand together with Go Red and taking charge of their own heart health as well as the health of your loved ones."

Go Red for Women encourages

awareness of the issue of women and heart disease and provides women with resources to take action to save more lives. The movement harnesses the energy, passion and power women have to band together and collectively wipe out heart disease.

It challenges them to know their risk for heart disease and take steps to reduce their personal risk. It also gives them the tools they need to lead a heart healthy life.

French is responsible for overseeing the brand and public reputation of White Plains Hospital through management of marketing, communications and community relations as well as special events and government affairs efforts. A member of the executive leadership team, she also provides counsel that helps the organization prioritize strategies to deliver on its mission of providing care that is exceptional, every day.

"The fact is cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women, causing one in three deaths each year. That's approximately one woman every minute," said Dr. Sherlita Amler, health commissioner for Westchester County and a board member of the American Heart Association in Westchester.

"There are several misconceptions about heart disease in women, and they could be putting women at risk. The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement advocates for more research and swifter action for women's heart health but caring for your heart



Dawn French has been named as chair of the 2021 Go Red for Women movement, which fights heart disease in women.

through a healthy diet and regular physical activity is the secret weapon to preventing heart disease."

Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by CVS Health.

For more information on the Go Red for Women campaign in Westchester County please contact Megan Lucas at megan.lucas@heart.org.

P'ville to Host Virtual Forum on Leaf Blowers This Thursday

The Pleasantville Village Board of Trustees and Conservation Advisory Committee will hold a virtual public forum on the use of leaf blowers this Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Residents can join the Zoom webinar by using the following link

and password from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to join. <https://zoom.us/j/95530701844?pwd=bkdXcjBELOk0WnNDUjJkTlJveTFvQT09>. The passcode is 327923.

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