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February 11 - February 17, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 649

## New Castle, Mt. Kisco Work Toward Sewage Diversion Agreement

By Martin Wilbur

A long-term solution could be on the horizon to divert sewage from two New Castle communities to the Mount Kisco pump station after officials in both municipalities have agreed in principle to the plan.

Last Wednesday, a joint letter from New Castle Supervisor Ivy Pool and Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich to County Executive George Latimer requested Westchester County accelerate a capital improvement project that would enable sewage from the 149 parcels at Riverwoods and two parcels at Yeshiva to be diverted from the aging Fox Hollow Wastewater Treatment Plant

that serves both communities.

If granted, the request would alleviate a chokepoint in the county's Saw Mill Sewer District trunk line on Hunts Place in Chappaqua that narrows from about 36 inches in diameter, Pool said. The county has had plans to include the project in its 2025 capital budget, but Riverwoods and Yeshiva desperately need relief sooner since there is ongoing danger that sewage from the deteriorating 35-year-old Fox Hollow plant could discharge into the nearby Croton Reservoir, jeopardizing New York City's drinking water supply, she said.

In exchange, New Castle and Mount Kisco have agreed to cap their flows to the

*continued on page 2*



### By the Book

Madeline Finesmith, left, recruitment and public relations manager of JCY-Westchester Community Partners, accepts a trunkload of donated children's books from Kathy Schreiber, regent of the Polly Cooper Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chapter, which operates in Westchester, collected and donated 1,185 children's books last year.

## Mariani Gardens Parcel Listed for Sale After Rezone, Special Permit

By Martin Wilbur

The Mariani Gardens parcel in Armonk has been listed for sale after a zoning change and special use permit were secured last year to build a 43-unit residential project at the site.

A listing appeared last month on the website [www.crexi.com](http://www.crexi.com) advertising the 4.14-acre lot at 45 Bedford Rd. for sale. Presented by Cushman & Wakefield's Capital Markets Group, terms for any transaction have not been defined and the listing asks for anyone interested to request their "own specific terms when submitting a non-binding offer."

Messages left for attorneys Anthony Veneziano and Mark Miller, who have previously appeared before the Town Board on behalf of applicant 45 Bedford Road LLC, were not returned.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he wasn't overly concerned about the possibility that



The entrance to Mariani Gardens on Bedford Road in Armonk. The property was listed for sale last month.

the property could change hands because any new owner would have to build what was approved or ask for changes in the application. He also said that market forces would likely dictate whether the project gets built.

The plans call for luxury rentals that

*continued on page 4*

## Bedford School Board Presented With Closure, Fiscal Scenarios

By Erin Maher

The Bedford Board of Education was presented last week with three options to consider as district officials weigh the possibility of a difficult fiscal picture, continued enrollment decline and the prospect of elementary school contraction.

Dr. Dale Mann and Betsey McKean of Interactive Inc., an education-related consultant firm retained by school officials, reviewed Bedford's financial projections report at the Feb. 5 board meeting, estimating that a district budget deficit could appear during the 2021-22 school year.

McKean and Mann then presented the board with three different scenarios related to the future of the district's five elementary schools, and the gap between revenue and expenditures for each. Mann prefaced his comments by saying they are "not making recommendations." District officials are



ERIN MAHER PHOTO

Consultants Dr. Dale Mann and Betsey McKean presented financial information and three potential options to the Bedford Board of Education as trustees grapple with whether to shut any of the district's elementary schools.

considering whether to close up to two of the elementary schools.

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# New Castle, Mt. Kisco Work Toward Sewage Diversion Agreement

*continued from page 1*

village's pump station at current levels through 2027.

Pool said there have been positive conversations with the county and the other parties that have been involved in the discussions.

"When you look at this on a map, it makes so much sense," Pool said "It's the shortest distance between two points, and there is a solution out there in regard to creating this relief."

For well over a decade, there have been plans to send the sewage from Riverwoods, Yeshiva and Random Farms to a trunk line to be built along Route 100 through Millwood and into Briarcliff Manor to pick up a county sewer line, she said. However, that diversion project has stalled because of the \$26 million estimated price tag. Money from New York City's East of Hudson funds, which was to pay to protect the city's drinking water supply, would have paid for up to \$16 million of the work.

Random Farms is making upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant and notified the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) last summer it would comply with the agency's regulations regarding the upgrade.

Although the latest movement is an important step, Picinich said county approval is just one hurdle the

communities must clear in order for the plan to be approved. A key player is the DEP, which must approve an exception to an agreement dating back to 1908 that prohibits Mount Kisco from accepting sewer flow from a community outside its borders.

A few weeks ago, there appeared to be consensus during a meeting attended by representatives from both municipalities, commissioners from the county's Department of Planning and the Department of Environmental Facilities, the DEP, the Board of Legislators and Riverwoods, Picinich said.

"The city seems very amenable to this, so this seems like the right solution as well," Picinich said. "This will be more cost-effective and it also provides a permanent solution rather than if they simply build another wastewater treatment plant in the same location."

Under the tentative terms of the agreement, Mount Kisco's flow must not exceed 3,227,000 gallons during any 24-hour period, Picinich added. If the daily average flow exceeds that number, Mount Kisco would have to pay a fine and a penalty, she said. Currently, the pump station handles about 1.6 million gallons a day.

Another step would require Mount Kisco to complete upgrades to its pump

station to accommodate the increased flow, Picinich said.

Riverwoods property manager Joe Speyer said it would be the most practical and economical solution to divert the sewage to Mount Kisco. From the development's property, it would need to travel only about 1,200 to 1,500 feet to reach the county sewer, he said.

"The plant is 35 years old. We've done everything we can do to keep it going," Speyer said. "Last week, a couple of other items appeared. We fixed it and we moved on. So we're fixing but we're coming to a point where there's only so much time."

While it is unknown what the cost would be to complete the work, officials are certain that it would be significantly cheaper than the previous \$26 million estimate.

Pool said the cap on New Castle's flow, which is outlined in the tentative agreement, would be 800,000 gallons a day, and this would not be a problem for the town. Any development in downtown Chappaqua would flow south, she said.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The New Castle Town Board last week discussed the possibility of solving a longtime dilemma – diverting sewage from the failing Fox Hollow Wastewater Treatment plant that serves Riverwoods and Yeshiva to the Mount Kisco pump station.

Picinich said New Castle and Mount Kisco have worked well together to help a neighboring community and to address an environmental danger.

"What this really is, I think, is an exercise in good government, trying to find a solution, and at this point in time, we're working together to do that and the driving factor here is the environmental concern," Picinich said.

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## Pain Shooting Down One Leg? What you need to know about symptoms and treatment of sciatica...

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#### Q: Do I have sciatica?

**A:** You probably do if you feel a sudden and severe pain, along with numbness and weakness, radiating from the buttocks down the back of one leg to the foot. The pain can be crippling. It is usually intense when you walk, diminishing when you lie down.

#### Q: What causes sciatica?

**A:** The *sciatic nerve* branches from the spine in the lower back through the hips and buttocks and runs down the back of each leg to the foot. Sciatica occurs when this nerve is pinched in the lower back by spinal disc herniation – protruding disc material – or by a larger fragment of disc material. Disc herniation usually occurs during normal activities, such as rising from bed.

#### Q: Am I at risk for sciatica?

**A:** Sciatica is common. More than three million Americans are diagnosed with the condition annually.\* Apart from the fact that 10 to 15 percent of patients have a family history of back problems, there are no risk factors. No behavior predisposes you to it.

#### Q: What are my treatment options?

**A:** If you have sciatica and it is not severe, you will typically receive oral steroids (anti-inflammatories) for seven days. Once you're more mobile, you will engage in physical therapy for a period of time and then be re-evaluated. If your symptoms persist, you may receive an injection of steroids at the nerve root to reduce pain. If this regimen fails, physicians will offer surgery. However, if a patient comes in unable to stand – basically bed-bound – we advise surgery sooner. It is important to know that 80 to 90 percent of patients get better without surgery.

#### Q: What can I expect from surgery for sciatica?

**A:** This minimally invasive procedure takes under an hour, and consists of removing the disc material pressing on the nerve. Most patients are pain-free following surgery. We have seen patients who arrived unable to stand or walk for more than a few minutes, walk out the same day after surgery, completely asymptomatic. Sciatica recurs in ten percent of people, who may suffer recurrent bouts of the condition throughout their life.

\* <http://umm.edu/health/medical/reports/articles/back-pain-and-sciatica>



# Debate Over Vacant Store Registry, Façade Program for Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

A series of five proposed local laws designed to help reinvigorate downtown Chappaqua sparked robust debate among New Castle Town Board members last week who clashed on two key aspects of the plan.

Disagreement emerged between Councilwoman Lisa Katz and members of the board's Democratic majority, Supervisor Ivy Pool and councilmen Jeremy Saland and Jason Lichtenthal, on whether to include Millwood in the potential vacant store registry. The proposed laws are part of what is being identified as the Chappaqua Hamlet Investment Act.

The intent of the registry, according to the draft of the law, is to prevent vacancies from spreading. It would require property owners to inform the town within 30 days of any commercial storefront that becomes vacant so the town can keep an online database that is available to the public. There would be a nominal fee – perhaps \$25 or \$50 – to include each vacant space in the registry.

Pool said that there has often been interest among businesses looking for space, particularly in Chappaqua. There has not been nearly as much interest in business owners looking for space in Millwood, she said.

"I think part of the impetus behind this is to think about how do we create programs to help the Chappaqua hamlet, not just because of Chappaqua Crossing, but also what they've been through over the last three-plus years because of the infrastructure project, and we

know that's had an impact," Pool said.

Katz, however, was adamant that the vacant store registry should at least include stores in the Millwood hamlet, if not the entire town.

"I just feel like we represent the whole town and just to confine this, to say that it's not going to be a problem in Millwood at some point, I just think that someone might want a place in Millwood and they won't know if something's there because we won't be including it on the registry," Katz said. "So I sort of feel like it should be covering all the hamlets."

Saland countered that the way downtown Chappaqua is physically laid out and how drivers arrive in town makes it imperative that storefront vacancies are addressed there.

"You could be coming from different places but the main thoroughfare off the Saw Mill, when you're coming over that bridge, you're going to see vacancies," Saland said. "That's the first thing that you see when you're coming to your Town Hall, to your middle school."

Lichtenthal said the board could include Millwood in the registry since it is a smaller hamlet, which shouldn't make administering the law overly burdensome for the town.

"It's such a small component to allowing people to know that if I'm looking for a particular location for my store and for my usage, does it make a huge difference between Chappaqua downtown and Millwood downtown if there's one store opening?" Lichtenthal said.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

There was plenty of disagreement last week among the New Castle Town Board over two proposed local laws, a vacant store registry and a program to improve building exteriors, to help revitalize downtown Chappaqua.

There would be consideration to include the Millwood business district when the topic is discussed again, Pool said. The board is scheduled this week to set a public hearing for Mar. 10 on the issue.

Another measure, the Façade Improvement Program, also triggered a sharp difference in opinion. The two-phase program, would provide a 50 percent matching grant of up to \$1,000 to property owners and merchants for small repairs to the exterior of a commercial building in the

downtown.

A second phase, to be introduced after the town adopts the form-based code later this year, would reimburse with grants of up to \$7,500 grants for larger improvements. That would also require a 50 percent match.

Up to \$150,000 would be allotted for the grants, money that would come from a portion of the \$1.5 million paid to the town by Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield to help protect downtown

*continued on page 6*

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# Bedford School Board Presented With Closure, Fiscal Scenarios

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The first option was to continue operating all five of Bedford's elementary schools with changes to operations. Mann and McKean estimated that would trigger a \$7.6 million gap for the district by the 2023-24 school year.

A second option would be to continue operating all the elementary schools with savings coming through teacher attrition. By 2023-24, there would be a \$5.4 million budget gap.

The final option presented to the board was to eliminate one elementary school in addition to teacher attrition. By year four,

there would be a \$4.1 million deficit. That figure is calculated with the savings from closing a school, which Interactive estimated to be \$1,655,345.

After presenting the three options, McKean discussed the financial obstacles that Bedford is facing. In 2011, New York State imposed tax caps on school districts and local governments. Last month, the state lowered the school tax cap levy for 2020-21 from 2 percent to 1.81 percent, further constraining the district's ability to raise revenue.

Mann and McKean also reviewed the projected costs of maintenance and repair

for all of the elementary schools, a report completed by the district's architects, accounting for mechanical, electrical and plumbing repairs. According to those estimates, Pound Ridge Elementary School saw the highest cost repairs at an estimated \$5.8 million followed by Mount Kisco Elementary School at \$5.5 million.

In Interactive Inc.'s Facilities Utilization Report last week, it was noted that there is available space in the elementary schools that could accommodate changes in the district's operations while honoring the board's teacher-to-pupil ratio guidelines. The consultants visited all of the schools

last year and documented classroom size and utilization.

Among the five elementary schools, there are currently 40 spaces that aren't used for instruction that could be used as classrooms. The additional spaces are the result of the district's declining enrollment since 2013-14.

"We're trying to focus on the options that are feasible," Mann told the board after the presentation.

The ensuing public comment period once again was filled with parents vehemently opposing the closure of any schools within the district.

"I can't imagine talking educational enhancements while talking about closing a school," said Bedford Village resident Gilian Goldman-Klein. "Those two things just don't align for me."

This week, the board is holding additional community forums and plans to reveal to the public the cost of operating an elementary school, three-year budget estimates and a report on community feedback.

Interactive Inc. plans to present its recommendation at the Mar. 4 board meeting. Plans call for the board to adopt the final Long Range Facilities plan by June.

For more information on the district's Long Range Facilities plan, visit [www.bcsdny.org](http://www.bcsdny.org).

## Mariani Gardens Parcel Listed for Sale After Rezone, Special Permit

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include four four-bedroom units in two structures closest to Bedford Road, a 16-unit structure on the side near where the empty greenhouse for Mariani Gardens stands and a 23-unit building in the back of the property closest to Route 22 that will contain five affordable apartments.

"I think a majority of the board would like it developed as it was approved but that's where the government can't force anybody to do anything or build anything," Schiliro said. "They've got to do it on their own."

The Town Board's public hearings, particularly for the rezoning of the property from Nursery Business to a multifamily residential zone last June, featured contentious debate. Some of those against

the plan argued that 43 units on just over four acres was not the limited residential development that had been outlined in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan update.

Others contended that the development would be too dense, could cause traffic to worsen near the Bedford Road and Maple Avenue intersection and that the size of the structures would be too large and degrade the Bedford Road Historic District.

In October, when the Town Board approved the special use permit, Miller said he hoped that his client could obtain site plan approval from the Planning Board within six months. However, there have been multiple Planning Board meetings since then and the application has yet to appear on an agenda.

In addition to site plan approval, increased

capacity for the town's Sewer District #2 and Water District #4 would need to be in place in order for a building permit to be issued.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said selling a property that carries approvals is almost always an option for a developer. The town has no authority to dictate who can own the land.

"Long before I was on the board, when I would see an application that wasn't just a single-family dwelling, I would always look at it that the property owner has the right to flip it," DiGiacinto said. "That's not unusual to see that happen. It actually happens historically and that's just a right."

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# Vella to Run Again for P'ville School Board; Conte to Leave

By Abby Luby

The Pleasantville Board of Education will see at least one new trustee for the 2020-21 school year.

Board President Angela Vella has announced her intention to seek a third term while Vice President Louis Conte has decided to bow out.

Vella was first elected in 2014 and served as vice president in 2015-16 before leading the board for the past four years.

Finishing his last term after nine years on the board is Conte who opted against running for another three-year term.

"It's been an honor to serve as a trustee on the board," he said. "It's one of the great things anyone can do for their community. It's been a joy."

Conte said his schedule partly influenced

his decision not to run. Although he retired from law enforcement in 2016, he has started a new career as a polygraph examiner. Two of Conte's three sons are students at Pleasantville High School.

"I'm on the road a lot, mostly in the Hudson Valley," he said.

Vella said there were several reasons for her desire to stay on the board.

"One of the reasons is it takes the first term to figure out what you're doing and to understand the budget, the second term to develop your own style and the third term to get things done," said Vella, whose daughter is a high school junior.

Tracking the progress of the second phase of the district's five-year strategic plan, "Pleasantville Schools 2026," has also compelled Vella to run again.

Vella pointed to the board's increasing

advocacy role over the years, particularly the drive to monitor how the state appropriates education funds.

"We have to fight just to maintain state aid and not have it taken away," Vella said. "The state has encouraged districts to use shared services, but now the governor wants to essentially freeze BOCES aid, which we use to get better pricing. If that aid is frozen it takes away the incentive to continue using shared services."

An even greater and deleterious impact of skewed funding is how Albany considers Westchester school districts wealthy, thereby providing justification to give more aid to poorer areas throughout the state.

Integral to getting the board's voice heard in Albany was Conte, who was familiar with the political landscape in Albany, in part because of his strong advocacy for his two

autistic sons. When he joined the board in 2011, he was able to guide board members to the inner workings of the state capital.

"It was clear they had to exert their influence in Albany and personally tell legislators about the district's important issues," Conte said. "I helped get everyone's energy focused on doing that."

Conte has also been very supportive of student participation in a variety of sports. "What I cared about was students learning to work with each other and being good teammates. That's what high school sports is really about. In my mind, by working as hard as they work, students are already winners."

Vella said the board would miss Conte.

"Lou is a great guy and he's done a lot of great things for this district," she said.

The Board of Education page on the district's website has an advocacy tab with sample letters parents can e-mail to representatives on issues such as building aid reduction, legalization of recreational marijuana and banning flavored tobacco products.

"Our advocacy work is front and center," said Vella. "It's important to be pro-active and create opportunities for students to excel. Education can't stand still."

To be on the ballot for the May 19 Board of Education election, candidates are required to submit a petition containing at least 25 signatures. Petitions, which are available at the district clerk's office, must be returned no later than Monday, Apr. 20.

## Debate Over Vacant Store Registry, Façade Program for Chappaqua

*continued from page 3*

Chappaqua from the development's 120,000 square feet of retail.

Katz objected to the board majority's assumption that the money should be used for that purpose, pointing out that the board has never had a discussion about the best use of the funds.

"I think the fact that people have to redo their signs has nothing to do with the impact with Chappaqua Crossing," Katz said. "I think we're trying to do nice things because we did a downtown infrastructure project that took significantly longer than was

budgeted definitely impacted many of our stores here as does the financial landscape of retail."

The town has used a little less than half of the money, including about \$500,000 toward work on the form-based code, said Town Administrator Jill Shapiro.

Saland said he agreed the façade program should be pursued.

"I do think the concept behind the idea is a good one and I think one of the reasons for the \$1.5 million is there is to help our downtown hamlet, so I think it's is an appropriate place to get these monies from,"

he said.

The board agreed to have a discussion about how to use the remaining portion of the \$1.5 million.

The other three elements of the Chappaqua Investment Act includes establishing a Discover Chappaqua Committee of up to 15 people to oversee completion of a website and other steps to help market the hamlet; consider a local preference law that wouldn't obligate the town to approve a bid to the lowest responsible bidder over a local company; and determining a new fee schedule.



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# Bloomberg Opens Campaign Field Office in White Plains

By Abby Luby

About 250 enthusiastic supporters crowded into Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg's new field office in White Plains on Sunday morning.

Located at 140 Mamaroneck Ave., the office was originally designed for a public gym but had been repurposed to host phone banks and community events for the former New York City mayor's presidential campaign.

Area residents, including families with young children, attended the opening. Many scooped up "I like Mike" buttons and Mike 2020 lawn signs, car stickers and t-shirts.

Kathy Cripps, 20, of White Plains said this was the first time she is involved in a presidential campaign.

"Mike Bloomberg did a good job as mayor of New York City and he has the good character and values to be a good president," Cripps said.

Waiting in the audience to hear local officials was former Mount Vernon Mayor Andre Wallace who is supporting Bloomberg.

"I wish he had gotten into the race sooner. He's the best candidate," Wallace said. "He's stood up for every important issue and he's always been for inclusion."

With Wallace was Wydell Hall and Lenora Julain, both White



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Marie Delus, a gun violence survivor and supporter of Mike Bloomberg, spoke at the official opening of the former New York City mayor's presidential campaign field office in White Plains on Sunday.

Plains residents who planned on volunteering for the campaign.

"We will be doing some canvassing and working the phone banks," said Hall.

Speaking to the packed space, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano endorsed Bloomberg and praised him for his work on several issues including gun violence.

"We all know the only way to do something about gun violence

is to take guns out of the hands of criminals, to do it nationwide and have background checks," Spano said. "We need to make sure we have a president who is willing to face that fight head on and Bloomberg has and he will."

Echoing the stand against gun violence was Marie Delus, a gun violence survivor, whose nephew was shot and killed in 2008. Delus, who became involved with the anti-

gun group Moms Demand Action, held up a photograph of her nephew and referenced the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn.

"After the Newtown killings I started working with Moms in Action and what we were going for was universal background checks for everybody," she told the crowd. "Then the Congress decided not to vote for background checks and that's when Mike decided to get involved. Ever since we've been working to make communities safe. Mike took on this issue and he will continue to take on this issue."

In 2006, Bloomberg initiated Everytown for Gun Safety, which later merged with Moms Demand Action.

John Calvelli, New York State Director of the Bloomberg campaign, gave shoutouts to local community members and officials from one end of the county to the other who attended Sunday's event, including Buchanan Village Trustee Duane Jackson, former county legislator Michael Kaplowitz and Yonkers Councilman John Rubbo.

"White Plains is known as a welcoming city and we welcome everybody," said its Mayor Tom Roach. "This is supposed to be a welcoming country but because of the current inhabitant at the White

House, we have issues."

Roach said Bloomberg has gotten a jump on canvassing certain states.

"Right now, Trump has people working in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Florida while we're running around in Iowa and New Hampshire. Mike Bloomberg saw that and he has people in all those places, too."

Roach also spoke about Bloomberg's record on climate change and marriage equality, but that "job number one is to pick a Democrat that can beat Trump."

At the end of the program, Barbara Matarazzo, an attorney who lives in Katonah, said that although she is a registered Republican, she believed Bloomberg could unify the country.

"He has been sensitive to women's issues, the environment and immigration," Matarazzo said. "This is the first time in my life I have volunteered for a political campaign and I'll be calling my Republican and Democratic friends."

In addition to canvassing and phone bank work, the field office will host voter outreach and other activities ahead of the Apr. 28 New York presidential primary. Five full-time staffers and nearly a dozen volunteers will work out of the office.

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# County Announces Flu Vaccines to Be Given at County Clinics

With flu season at or near its peak, Westchester County announced that its Health Department will offer residents more free flu vaccines at its clinics in February.

"Flu is widespread this season, and the virus can be miserable," said County Executive George Latimer. "I encourage anyone who did not have a flu vaccine this fall to sign up for one today, to protect you and those around you well into 2020."

The remaining times and dates for those who have not received their flu vaccine yet are Tuesdays, Feb. 11, 18 and 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 134 Court St. in White Plains; Friday Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3

p.m., also at 134 Court St. in White Plains; and Fridays, Feb. 14 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 20 S. Broadway in Yonkers.

Westchester flu clinics are open to all, especially those without insurance or whose insurance doesn't cover vaccines. The Health Department has focused its public vaccination efforts on people who lack the means to get vaccinated elsewhere by bringing flu shots to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries throughout Westchester.

"Everyone six months and older should get a flu shot each year," said county Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita. "Flu can be deadly, and the flu vaccine is very

safe and the best protection we have. By getting an annual flu shot, you help protect infants too young to be vaccinated, seniors and people with chronic health conditions who are more vulnerable to flu complications."

The state Department of Health has reported a surge in the number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and hospitalizations reported statewide. In the week ending Jan. 25, there were 15,012 lab-confirmed cases of flu and 2,015 flu-related hospitalizations reported statewide.

Flu activity usually peaks between December and February, but can last

into May. One flu vaccine now provides protection all season long and can prevent illness or reduce the severity of flu symptoms. The vaccine becomes fully effective after about two weeks.

Amler said that anyone who does get a respiratory infection should cough or sneeze into their elbow, wash their hands frequently with soap and water, stay home until 24 hours after their fever subsides to avoid spreading germs, clean surfaces they touch frequently, such as doorknobs, water faucets, refrigerator handles and telephones and get plenty of rest.

For more information and to schedule a flu vaccine, call 914-995-5800.

## Staff Member at Mt. Kisco Elementary Diagnosed With Tuberculosis

Bedford school officials informed district families last week that a staff member at Mount Kisco Elementary School was recently diagnosed with active tuberculosis and is expected to make full recovery.

A Feb. 5 letter from Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg stated that the employee, who was not identified, has not been at school. The district was informed of the employee's health condition by the Westchester County Department of Health, which assured the district that the risk of infection is low.

Adelberg mentioned that the district was working with the Department of Health to

identify students and staff who may have been exposed to the infected employee. Health department personnel and the district's medical director scheduled informational meetings at the school to answer parents' questions.

"The safety and welfare of our students and staff is our highest priority," Adelberg state in his letter. "Our school and facilities remain safe for all students, staff and visitors."

Tuberculosis is a bacterial disease typically affecting the lungs but could also impact other parts of the body, according to the county Department of Health. It is

spread through the air when an untreated person coughs or sneezes. Generally, another person has to be in close contact with the infected individual for a long period of time to be infected, the Department of Health information stated.

Symptoms can include a low-grade fever, night sweats, weakness or tiredness and weight loss. If the infection is in the lungs, that could cause coughing, chest pains, shortness of breath or the infected person to cough up blood. It is treated with medication over several months.

--Martin Wilbur

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# Latimer Proposes Expansion of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

By Martin Wilbur

New legislation to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations throughout Westchester has been introduced to the Board of Legislators, a move designed to encourage more people to consider driving electric cars.

County Executive George Latimer touted the measure last Wednesday that he recently sent to lawmakers that calls for more stations in all county-owned lots as well as in facilities built through a county tax incentive program such as the IDA.

Under the plan, county parking garages and open parking lots that have 250 spaces or less would have 10 percent of the spots equipped with Level 1 charging stations and another 10 percent of the spaces outfitted with Level 2 electric chargers.

In parking facilities with more than 250 spaces, there would be 25 Level 1 and 25 Level 2 chargers, which would support 50 spaces each.

Latimer said the move was to start building the infrastructure that would make it easier and more attractive for residents to buy the increasingly-popular electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to protect

the environment.

"It means having the infrastructure that we need to have so that a person that has one of these vehicles, that when they're parking at a facility owned by Westchester County they'll know there will be charging stations there," Latimer said at the county-owned parking lot at the North White Plains Metro-North station, which recently had 10 Level 2 charging stations installed.

The bill was sent to the Board of Legislators on Jan. 21 and was referred to several different committees, said County Legislator Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown), who was one of a group of county officials who gathered to publicize the plan. Gashi said he expects the issue to be addressed quickly since it's something that most of the legislators agree should be done.

The announcement comes a week after Latimer heralded the county's food scrap recycling program to have Westchester do its part to address the climate crisis.

Transportation contributes as much as one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions, said Peter McCartt, the county's director of Energy Conservation & Sustainability.

"This is an exciting time, there's a lot to be done and fortunately we



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer announced last Wednesday that he has introduced a bill to the Board of Legislators that would sharply increase the number of electric car charging stations throughout Westchester.

have County Executive Latimer here," McCartt said. "He has the political will to do it and he's getting it done."

Among the locations that have been targeted for the chargers should the legislation be approved are the lots at the County Center, Maple Moor, Hudson Hills, Dunwoodie and Mohansic golf courses as well as Saxon Woods Pool, Latimer said.

In addition, any Level 2 chargers installed would have the capacity to be upgraded to Level 3. Bud Nicoletti, the county's deputy of Public Works and Transportation, said the difference between Level 1 and Level 2 chargers is power. Level 2 chargers provide about two-and-a-half times the number of kilowatts, which would roughly equate to the reduction in the amount of time a car would need to be fully charged,

he said. The amount of time to fully charge a car also varies depending on the make and model.

Nicoletti said the Level 2 chargers cost about \$4,000 each, which includes installation. Westchester received a \$40,000 grant from NYSEERDA for the 10 chargers at its North White Plains train station lot.

Under the proposed legislation, Level 1 chargers could be considered analogous to 120-volt outlets that are accessible to a parking space, said Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

Latimer's announcement of the vehicle charging stations comes a day after the county learned that it will receive \$3 million in state funds to help the county convert its entire Beeline bus fleet to hybrids by 2025. With a partial fleet of hybrids, the county saved just over \$1 million in diesel fuel in 2019.

"To deal with the climate crisis is going to take thousands of decisions and these decisions aren't going to be made by the county government alone but in general," Latimer said. "It's going to be made by individuals. Each of us has to look at how we live our lives, what our lifestyles are and understand there are adjustments to be made."

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# Obituary

## Ronald Hagadus

Dr. Ronald J. Hagadus of Bedford Hills passed away on Feb. 1. He was 92.

Born in Johnstown, Pa. on Aug. 17, 1927, Hagadus graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and received his Doctor of Medicine from the Universidad Autónoma de México in Mexico City. He completed his internship at Stamford Hospital in Connecticut and his residency in ophthalmology at Grasslands Hospital, now Westchester Medical Center.

Hagadus was an ophthalmologist at the

New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and at Westchester Medical Center, and was an associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at New York Medical College, appointed professor emeritus. He was the recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Dedicated Service from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and an honorary member of the Society of Ophthalmology of Poland, a recognition he received for his outstanding contributions to the Advancement of Polish Children with Glaucoma. He had ophthalmology practices in Bedford Hills and New Rochelle.

Hagadus served his country in World War II in Korea as a staff sergeant. He served on

the Town of Bedford Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, and more recently, on the Town of Bedford Veterans Advisory Committee. He was a former trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York.

He was an avid tennis player, competing in and winning many local tournaments. He and his wife traveled extensively to many countries and continents and drove cross-country from New York to California nearly 20 times.

Hagadus was predeceased by his beloved son, Dr. James Matthew Hagadus, in 1985 and his adored wife, Maria J. Hagadus, in 2014. He is survived by his loving daughters, Francesca Hagadus-McHale (William) of

Pleasantville and Claudia Hagadus Long (Clyde) of LaFayette, Calif. He was beloved by and loved his four grandchildren, Julia Cunningham (Christopher), William Long, Timothy McHale and Thomas McHale. He had one great-grandson, Patric Cunningham, and was eagerly looking forward to the birth of his second. His will be missed by his nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services and interment were private. Contributions in Hagadus' memory can be made to New York Medical College's memorial fund for his son at <https://nymcalumni.org/hagadusaward>.

# Police Blotter

## County Police/Mount Kisco

**Feb. 2:** An officer on patrol observed a man on Moore Avenue at 8:39 a.m. chasing a dog that had gotten out of his house. The officer was able to locate the dog nearby, coax it into his patrol car and reunite it with its owner.

**Feb. 2:** A 20-year-old Grove Street man was arrested at 5:20 p.m. and charged with second-degree criminal contempt, a misdemeanor, after he surrendered to county police at the Green Street precinct. He was arrested based on a complaint from a woman who has a Temporary Order of Protection that bars him for having contact with her. The complaint alleges he came to her home and also left a voicemail on her phone.

**Feb. 3:** At 7 a.m., there was a report that a vehicle had been entered sometime overnight on High Street. It was subsequently determined that someone entered and rummaged through seven cars on High Street, two on Fairway Drive and one on Boltis Street. A laptop was stolen from one car and two pairs of sunglasses from another. The other eight vehicles did not contain any items of value and nothing was reported missing. Residents are reminded to lock vehicles overnight whether they are parked on the street or in driveways.

**Feb. 4:** A High Street resident reported at 6:02 p.m. that someone he did not recognize was walking around on his

neighbor's property. Responding officers determined that the man was a relative of the homeowner and was there to assist with yard work.

**Feb. 5:** Police responded to Lundy Lane at 3:45 p.m. on a report of a man in emotional crisis. The man, who told officers he was feeling very angry and upset, agreed to be taken to Northern Westchester Hospital for evaluation.

**Feb. 6:** A village resident reported at 3:15 p.m. that she received a call from someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration. The resident provided her Social Security number and bank information before realizing the call was a scam. The resident was able to contact her bank and close her accounts before any funds could be withdrawn but she remains concerned she could be the victim of identity theft. Residents are reminded that the Social Security Administration will not contact people by phone.

**Feb. 6:** A village resident reported at 5:28 p.m. that someone stole his identity and used it to open credit accounts at two department stores. About \$6,000 worth of merchandise was purchased at the department stores on Long Island. An investigation is continuing.

## North Castle Police Department

**Jan. 31:** Report of a suspicious person on Round Hill Road at 12:44 a.m. A caller reported a male party wearing all black was

running in the roadway. The responding officer spoke with the party, who is training for a marathon.

**Feb. 1:** A Long Pond Road resident reported at 9:15 a.m. that she has heard an erratic driver at high speeds on multiple occasions during the past week in the area. The caller described the vehicle as a white jeep with a black roof. Around 2:30 p.m. on weekdays she can hear the vehicle travel at high speeds on Banksville Road and make a sharp right turn onto Long Pond Road. The complainant does not know the registration of the vehicle but that other residents in the area are aware of this and have been posting about it on the Armonk Moms Facebook group page. Information has been forwarded to patrol.

**Feb. 2:** An officer reported at 5:26 p.m. that he's out with an elderly female on on the side of Route 22 who is apparently suffering from dementia. The party's family member is also on the scene. The officer stated that the individual refused medical attention and was released to her son at the scene.

**Feb. 3:** A Cider Mill Circle resident reported at 9:24 a.m. that two New York license plates were stolen from his car at some point. As a result, he is receiving red light summonses out of Long Island, which he is not responsible for. He stated that these plates are now affixed to a vehicle which does not belong to him and he doesn't recognize. The complainant filled out a witness and owner's deposition. The

complainant believes the plates were taken from his garage. He was issued an MV-78B form and advised to follow up with the state Department of Motor Vehicles for further assistance.

**Feb. 4:** A Byram Hills school bus was reported to have struck a dog on Long Pond Road at 9:03 a.m. The bus left under its own power and the dog was returned to its owner.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**Feb. 3:** At 8:33 a.m., a report of three unlocked vehicles were entered and rummaged through recently on View Street and Parkview Terrace. An investigation is ongoing.

**Feb. 5:** A Manville Road resident reported at 2:28 p.m. receiving annoying phone calls.

**Feb. 5:** Report of a larceny on Bedford Road at 6:10 p.m. Someone entered an unlocked car, stealing an undetermined amount of cash along with some personal effects.



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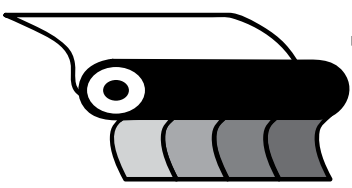
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# One More Phase Remaining in Catskill Aqueduct Shutdown

By Martin Wilbur

Significant progress has been made on a \$158 million New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) project to clean, upgrade and rehabilitate the more than century-old Catskill Aqueduct.

The system, which closed for about 10 weeks from Nov. 10 until Jan. 23 for the first phase of the project, delivers drinking water to about 40 percent of New York City and about 20 municipalities in Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Ulster counties. Those areas were forced to draw water from backup supplies, including the New Croton Reservoir, leading up to and during the shutdown, said DEP spokesman Adam Bosch.

Work included cleaning the inside of the aqueduct, repairing cracks and other defects and replacing valves that are connected to the aqueduct. The 92-mile-long Catskill Aqueduct opened in late 1915.

“This complex project to rehabilitate the Catskill Aqueduct has required more coordination and flexible planning than perhaps any in the history of our water supply,” DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza said in a statement. “I want to thank the laborers who worked around the clock for 10 consecutive weeks, the communities north of the city who prepared and activated their backup water supplies while the aqueduct was out of service and our DEP engineers and planners who coordinated activities during the shutdown.”

The Catskill Aqueduct stretches from Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County to Hillview Reservoir in Yonkers. The rehabilitation project focuses on the 74 northernmost miles of the aqueduct, from Ashokan to Kensico Reservoir in Valhalla.

A previous shutdown, which occurred in the fall and winter of 2018-19, allowed for inspection of the inside of the aqueduct, tested methods for cleaning its concrete lining and repaired a few areas where leaks were known to exist.

Bosch said the next phase of the aqueduct rehabilitation project will begin next fall with a similar shutdown that will require the municipalities who rely on the Catskill system to again switch over to a backup water source for a similar period of time. The work will resume in October or November and continue through January, he said.

“We have to shut down the aqueduct at a time that coincides with the period of lowest demand,” Bosch said.

While most water users throughout the system did not notice any difference in the water during the shutdown, that was not the case in New Castle. Supervisor Ivy Pool mentioned shortly before the shutdown ended that some residents had noticed a difference in the taste and smell of the water.

The DEP has assured all municipalities that the quality of the water exceeds all health and safety standards.

Bosch said there may be a brief shutdown in spring for maintenance; however, if that should occur, that would likely only affect water users well north of Westchester County.

The DEP’s work on the Catskill Aqueduct is in preparation of a Delaware Aqueduct shutdown in 2022. That 85-mile-long

aqueduct is the longest tunnel in the world, stretching from Rondout Reservoir in Ulster County while carrying about half of New York City’s drinking water every day. The \$1 billion project will repair two areas of leakage.

An inspector walked through the Catskill Aqueduct while it was shut down during the latest phase of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection’s rehabilitation of the Catskill Aqueduct from November to January.



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# Cunzio to Soldier on as the Last Non-Democrat on Board of Legislators

By Martin Wilbur

Last week's defection of Yonkers-based County Legislator David Tubiolo to the Democratic Party left the 17-member Board of Legislators without a registered Republican.

It also places Legislator Margaret Cunzio in the awkward position of running a one-member caucus. Not that the third-term lawmaker is overly concerned about sitting alone on one side of the aisle during Board of Legislators meetings or caucusing by herself.

"As for me, whether I'm a caucus of one or 101, I'm going to continue to do the job that I was elected to do independently for my district," said Cunzio, a registered Conservative who represents District 3, which includes Mount Pleasant, North Castle and part of Greenburgh.

Cunzio said that with the expanding Democratic presence since landing on the board, she has credited Chairman Ben Boykin with making sure that there is a collegial atmosphere where all members regardless of party affiliation are heard.

She also said she doesn't turn down any committee assignments because that's where much of the decision-making

occurs.

Despite being the lone non-Democrat, Cunzio believed that there could be an advantage to that distinction. During her time on the board, Cunzio has worked well with both sides of the aisle. She was most visible during her work to secure funds to rehabilitate the Miller House in North White Plains.

"What's actually a positive, though, is that people will identify me as the Conservative," she said. "There is a positive to that."

Having said that, there is also a concern when one party dominates government – and Cunzio shares that concern. However, her colleagues on the board have taken their responsibilities seriously even when there are disagreements.

"I'm going to hope for the best and I think everybody at the county level was focused on the issues," Cunzio said.

Tubiolo made his official announcement last Friday at the county's Democratic headquarters in White Plains where he was enthusiastically greeted by party officials. He called his move the "worst kept secret in the county."

Having grown up in a Republican household, Tubiolo modeled himself in the

mold of the old-time progressives of the party, such as the late senator Jacob Javits and the late governor Nelson Rockefeller.

But since 2010, with the takeover of the party by the Tea Party movement and culminating in the election of President Donald Trump, Tubiolo said his now-former party is unrecognizable to him.

"The Republican Party that I know is no longer in existence," he said. "The Democratic Party I feel much more comfortable with and is aligned with more of my beliefs and ideology."

Tubiolo listed issues such as climate change, pay equality and helping immigrants grow accustomed to their new country as a few of the issues he easily aligns with Democrats.

He also said he wanted to change party affiliation in time for this Friday's deadline to allow him to vote in the Apr. 28 presidential primary – and hopefully help choose a candidate that defeats Trump.

Cunzio said she understood Tubiolo's reasoning and that there could be another factor at play.

"I really think he wants to move up (in politics)," she said. "I don't begrudge him that. He has to do what he has to do."



County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant) is the last member of the Board of Legislators who isn't a registered Democrat. She will caucus by herself after Legislator David Tubiolo decided last week to leave the Republicans and join the Democratic Party.

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# P'ville Connections Abound for Short Film Entry at Sundance Festival

By Martin Wilbur

Like any actor, Morgan Sullivan entrusts his agent to help him land auditions for various roles.

In Sullivan's most recent project, co-starring in the 12-minute short film "Dirty," the 24-year-old Pleasantville native didn't realize at first the connection he had to its production.

After he was booked to play the role of Marco, one of two high school boyfriends who cut classes to hook up with each other, Sullivan learned that the film was created through the Jacob Burns Film Center's Creative Culture Program. "Dirty" was one of two films that its director, Matthew Puccini, made during the two-semester mentorship.

"It was like, 'Oh, my gosh, that's from my hometown,'" Sullivan remembered. "I went to the Jacob Burns growing up. It was really like a full-circle moment."

What made "Dirty" special was not just that Sullivan grew up a frequent visitor of the film center, but that it was one of the entries accepted for short films at this year's prestigious Sundance Film Festival in late January. In fact, it was Puccini's second Creative Culture work to make it to Sundance, and during the program's four-year history, other films have also has produced entries at other well-known festivals across the United States and abroad, said the program's director Sean Weiner.

Weiner said the Creative Culture Program accepts eight young culturally diverse



A scene from "Dirty," a short film directed by Jacob Burns Film Center's Creative Culture Program fellow Matthew Puccini and starring Pleasantville native Morgan Sullivan, left, and Manny Dunn. It was screened at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival late last month.

filmmakers who create two animated, narrative or documentary films during the two semesters. The program's enrollees are mentored, provided funding for technical assistance and are implored to make films with impact.

"We're looking for film projects that we would show at the Burns Film Center, and when you feel like you have a film that has

that impact of social importance, and then you look who is telling the story, it's effective when the person has a personal connection to the story," Weiner said.

Puccini came to the Burns from San Francisco and his film explores how despite it being a diverse and liberal enclave, the failure of its schools to teach sex education from the perspective of someone who is gay

is glaring. Sullivan, whose introduction to acting was through the Lighthouse Youth Theatre, not only was a frequent visitor to the Burns growing up but in high school he attended the film center's Friday Night Films program. That was where there would be screenings for high school students and Weiner ran that program as well.

Sullivan, who attended Sundance for four day where he met a wide variety of people in the industry and saw a multitude of great films, said he has seen multiple works from the Creative Culture Program and has been impressed with the breath and depth of the productions.

"The films I've seen that have come out of the fellowship are really, really amazing and beautiful," said Sullivan, a 2013 Pleasantville High School graduate. "What they're doing is really, really cool and I like that they have a diversity fellowship. So the topics of the films are things that are really relevant and important to today's society."

Don't be surprised if in the years ahead you recognize Sullivan in larger projects. Three days after returning from Sundance, he appeared on Jan. 30 in a one-night engagement of "Transformation" alongside Glenn Close and Ted Nash. The show was part of the Jazz at Lincoln Center series.

He's also preparing to audition starting this month for a variety of television pilots that will be filmed in time for the start of next fall's television season.

"I'm just enjoying the ride," Sullivan said.



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## Guest Columns

### Everyone Could Learn By Adhering to Scouting's Core Principles

By Bill Bongiorno

Last Saturday, Feb. 8, marked the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. It's a date that scouts and scouters know well.

What many scouts, leaders and the public don't know is the history of the organization and its immeasurable importance to the United States and around the world. Since that time, more than 100 million hours of community service and more than five million lives have been saved by scouts and leaders.

Every day, around the country and the world lives are saved and community service projects are building local communities and changing lives for the better thanks to scouts and scout volunteers.

From the start of the Boy Scouts of America, boys of different races, religions, economic status and abilities were welcomed into the program. This was certainly a forward-thinking idea that took the rest of the country decades to embrace. Meritocracy was the bedrock of the program and remains so today. Any boy could join, and if a scout fulfilled the requirements, he earned the merit badge.

In 1930, the Cub Scout Program was launched, so this year marks its 90th anniversary. In the 1970s, the organization welcomed girls into its Explorer and Venturing programs foreshadowing its most recent history of welcoming girls into the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs.

Scouts with disabilities do not have any time limit imposed for completing their requirements to earn Eagle Scout rank. Girls joining the organization starting in February 2018 have extra time to work through the merit badges to achieve scouting's highest rank. The Scout Oath

and Scout Law remain cornerstones of the program.

Many are unaware of the organization's history and its immeasurable contribution to the country. During World War I, scouts planted 12,000 victory gardens to feed soldiers. Scouts collected 100 railroad cars worth of nut hulls and peach pits used to make charcoal filters for gas masks. They identified and charted the location of 21 million broad feet of black walnut trees for use as gunstocks and airplane propellers and distributed 30 million pieces of government literature to citizens. Scouts raised an incredible \$200 million for the war effort by selling Liberty Bonds and stamps.

During World War II, President Roosevelt made 69 formal requests of the Boy Scouts of America for aid in the war effort. These included the collection of rubber as spare tires and other consumer products. A two-week drive netted 30 million pounds of rubber. Another 20,000 victory gardens were planted to feed soldiers.

Other efforts were distribution of pledge cards for war bonds and war saving stamps, collection of aluminum and paper. Scouts even served as fire watchers, emergency medical personnel, messengers and dispatch bearers according to the book, "Four Percent: The Extraordinary Story of Exceptional American Youth."

Closer to home we see the positive affects of our local scouts everywhere we look, be it planting gardens, clearing hiking trails, building structures or just "doing a good turn daily" helping neighbors and others in our communities. The uniform they wear is one of a "Messenger of Peace." Last year several of our local scouts represented our local community at the World Scout Jamboree Held at Summit

Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The event is held every four years in a different country and brings together thousands of scouts from around the world. It hadn't been held in the U.S. in 40 years.

The good will and understanding shared by our scouts with others around the world that are so different from themselves, yet share so much through scouting, is priceless.

I would suggest we would do well to replicate the Boy Scouts of America practice of meritocracy and to make some determination of a person's character on their individual merits alone.

If the next 110 years is anything like the last 110 years, one of our greatest hopes for mankind lies with the scouting movements that are alive and well around the world with 30 million members. Just this year Afghanistan has launched its scouting program.

Scouting in Westchester and Putnam has a long and distinguished history. Service hours performed by scouts in the Westchester-Putnam Council average about 45,000 a year.

I would urge everyone to read at least a little bit of scout history to really begin to understand what a tremendous impact scouting has had not only in building America and defending it, but locally as well.

Get your sons and daughters interested in scouting and join a local pack or troop.

*Bill Bongiorno is cubmaster for the Vista-Lewisboro Cub Scouts and a Boy Scouts of America merit badge counselor for Scouting Heritage. He has achieved the highest training in the organization, having completed Wood Badge and all subsequent training prerequisites.*

### Recognize Life's Fragilities and Be Grateful for the Good Times

By Dr. Andrew Frishman, DVM

It is human nature to try and structure one's life with a sense of purpose. We insulate ourselves from the chaos and fragility of life. On the news, there are stories of loss of life locally and from around the globe.

Living in the suburbs we so often put "lipstick" on life's celebrations as well as tragic events. We like to think that we deserve everything that life has to offer. Tragic events that happen in the inner city are explained away as something that could never affect you or a loved one.

When a household name such as Kobe Bryant dies in the prime of his life, the news rattles our sense of order and well-being in our world. It breaks all of the windows in our glass house.

As a veterinarian, I am confronted with the fragility of life on a daily basis. I can

recall several cases in the recent past that illustrate life's vagaries. An energetic sweet puppy was recently brought for a first visit. Later that week we found out he ingested a toxic house plant and died at an emergency clinic.

Pregnant female dogs sometimes have labored pregnancy that result in stillbirths and the mother also dies in labor.

Every veterinarian has treated a dog that has been hit by a car or had a life-threatening emergency stomach torsion.

Every day I am asked about my medical opinion or protocol for prevention or treatment of a disease.

My intention is not to make you afraid or depress you. Below are two actionable ideas you can make in your life.

1. Have an Attitude of Gratitude. Appreciate everything from the air you breathe, the food you eat and the people

in your life. Start your day off writing in a "Gratitude Journal."

2. I base my medical decisions on scientific studies and 20 years of experience seeing the successes – and failures – of different medications and vaccines. My decisions directly affect the life of my patient. I don't take my medical responsibilities lightly. When I recommend a Lyme vaccine to prevent irreversible life-threatening kidney damage from an infected tick, my only concern is to help the animal. Quite different than an ice cream store owner picking the "flavor of the month."

Adopt an attitude of gratitude, savor every moment, understand life's fragility and trust your veterinarian.

*Dr. Andrew Frishman is the owner and practitioner of Progressive Animal Hospital in Somers.*

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



# State Senate Approves Five Bills to Fight Opioid Crisis

By Martin Wilbur

Five bills sponsored by state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) were unanimously passed by the state Senate last week in an ongoing effort to fight substance abuse.

The measures were included in a report from the 12-member bipartisan Joint Senate Task Force on Opioids, Addiction & Overdose Prevention, which Harckham served as one of three co-chairs.

"For too long, society failed our friends and neighbors who are suffering from substance abuse disorder, in that we have stigmatized the disease, or simply ignored the immediate need for investing the necessary resources to make a difference in the well-being of our communities," said Harckham, chair of the Senate's Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. "The passing of this legislation shows that my Senate colleagues and I are serious about expanding services that will create a healthier status quo for all of us."

One bill that was approved is the Opioid Antagonist Prescription, which will require prescribers to co-prescribe an opioid antagonist with the first opioid prescription of the year to combat accidental overdoses.

Another measure is the Take-Home Opioid Antagonist. That bill will mandate individuals diagnosed with an opioid use disorder who are discharged from treatment

facilities, state prisons and hospitals be provided with an overdose reversal drug such as naloxone prior to discharge.

The Access to Life Insurance Coverage will prohibit insurers from denying life insurance to, or otherwise discriminating against, individuals who are prescribed an overdose reversal drug such as naloxone. Many nurses and health care providers carry this lifesaving drug without a specific patient prescription.

Use of Opioid Antagonist by Public Accommodations will expand the list of entities authorized to possess, distribute and administer an overdose reversal drug such as naloxone to include public accommodations, such as restaurants and bars.

Finally, Stephen's Law will require treatment programs to notify patients of their right to identify emergency contacts and require the state Office of Addiction Services and Supports to develop guidelines for protocols to be used by treatment programs in communicating with these contacts.

Angela Robertson, the mother of Stephen Canastraro, Jr., for whom Stephen's Law is named, joined Harckham on Feb. 4 and the Senate for the announcement of the bill's passage in Albany.

The legislation must still be approved in the Assembly.

## SPCA Announces \$50G Matching Gift to Help Rebuild Campus

The SPCA of Westchester announced last week that a generous supporter has agreed to match all donations, up to \$50,000 made in the month of February, to support its capital campaign to build a brand-new animal care campus.

The SPCA, located at 590 N. State Rd. in Briarcliff Manor, initially revealed its plan to build a larger, modernized care campus late last year.

The current shelter, which hasn't been updated since the 1960s, is deteriorating and many of the dog kennels are not fully protected from the elements. To date, more than \$8.2 million has been raised toward the SPCA's fundraising goal of \$9.1 million.

"We are incredibly grateful to our supporter, Rock & a Soft Place Studio, who has offered this generous matching gift," said SPCA Executive Director Shannon Laukhuf. "We hope this wonderful opportunity will motivate and inspire the community to donate towards this crucial project and get us one step closer to our goal."

The new 27,000-square-foot building will feature multiple upgrades including



An artist's rendering of the SPCA of Westchester's proposed new animal care campus in Briarcliff Manor.

indoor dog habitats for increased comfort and outdoor day pens for a dog's enrichment and exercise; luxury four-story condos and multiple cage-free cattery areas to replicate home-like environments for cats and kittens; a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital; a large indoor space to serve as a training and enrichment center for dogs; and a classroom for humane education presentations to local school children, youth groups and the popular Camp Critter day camp.

To take a virtual tour and learn more about the SPCA's capital campaign, visit [www.SPCA914.org](http://www.SPCA914.org). To discuss gift and naming opportunities, call 914-941-2896 ext. 12 or e-mail [Shannon@spca914.org](mailto:Shannon@spca914.org).

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## Pros and Cons of Staying in the Same Town, Same Home

While most people move an average of five to seven years, there are those who remain in the same home for the long term.

Some might consider this situation dull and uneventful, but as someone who has lived most of his adult life in the same town and in only one house for 43 years, then in a condo for the last five years just three miles away, I can attest to it having some very satisfying benefits.

Within the year, I've been involved in two home sales involving young families relocating to another state, and both couples, under 45 with young children, appeared very excited about moving on to a new living experience. I wished them Godspeed.

As for my wife and me, we've passed up several opportunities through the years to relocate, perhaps influenced by our early married life which, for a number of reasons, involved five moves in less than five years. When we moved into our Westchester home after this peripatetic existence, which we found most disruptive and unpleasant, we adopted the oft-repeated phrase that the only way we were leaving this house would be in a pine box.

Morbid as that may sound, we were serious and our longevity in the house would attest to it. But, alas, all things do change eventually if one waits long enough. As empty-nesters



By Bill Primavera

living in a home with six bedrooms, we decided to downsize to a new condo, but in the same town.

As I look back on the benefits of staying the course as town residents, I've learned that owning a home is so much more than the square footage of one's living space. The experience extends beyond the footprint to the property line, street, neighborhood, community, and most of all, to the people with whom we relate over a long period of time.

When we first moved to this area, my wife and I were the "kids" on the block and the majority of other residents were seniors, many of whom had bought their

properties when they were unheated summer cottages. By the time we arrived, the homes had been converted to year-round residences and slowly they began to change hands to younger couples.

Then, we watched as those small houses developed larger footprints and, in some cases, were demolished to make room for new construction.

Many neighbors had come and gone, but we remained constant, and eventually became the most long-term citizens on our street.

We have become human time machines to the passing world, observing both subtle and seismic changes from the same perspective, relating to all of our neighbors and service providers as real people and friends, rather

than the more anonymous existence we experienced in New York City.

The very first person we met in town was George, our mailman, and we missed him when he retired. We became friends with Jimmy from UPS who tended to our needs in our home business for more than 20 years until he too retired, but we still keep up with him when my wife meets him in the supermarket.

In town I go to the same pharmacy, that until recently, had been owned by the same family since the early 1940s. I say hello to the new owner after relating to the former owner for almost 30 years. My wife and I frequently tell the story of the time our baby got sick when I was away on business and that pharmacist personally delivered the needed medication to our home.

As long-term homeowners, my wife and I developed strong ties to our community and enjoy participating with other residents in the governmental process, joining the Chamber of Commerce and pulling together for common causes from preserving open space to smart-growth development and joining forces to clean the roads on Earth Day.

Our daughter benefitted by being educated in just one school system, remaining friends to this day with children she met in kindergarten.

And, I became friends with service providers who made our lives easier. Martino the landscaper, Mike the pool man, Franco the carpenter, Butch the electrician and Ron

at my car repair shop who knows every need and quirk of my car, among many others.

When I'm walking down a main street in town and someone honks, waves and calls me by name, I feel embraced by my lifestyle choice.

Is it these endearing things that have kept my wife and me in the same place for so long, or is it that we've not encountered the situations that most frequently have people move?

Those reasons include a home becomes too small; a desire to upgrade; determining that you have made a mistake in the home you purchased; a job transfer; personal relationships (marriage, divorce); neighborhood changes; to see one's family more often – or less often; retirement; health problems; preferring to move, rather than fixing up; desiring a lifestyle change; and becoming an empty-nester.

Yes, finally, it was the last two items on the list that convinced us to move to a new home. But the town? We decided to stay put, thank you.

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

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# The Smithereens Ready to Rock for Their Fans in Westchester

By Martin Wilbur

Just over two years ago, veteran rock band The Smithereens wasted no time in getting back on stage after they were dealt a shocking blow.

In December 2017, the close-knit New Jersey-based group's lead singer Pat DiNizio unexpectedly died at 62 years old.

Despite The Smithereens having been together since 1980, with the band's three other founding members – guitarist Jim Babjak, bassist Mike Mesaros and drummer Dennis Diken – old high school classmates, it was far from a certainty whether they would continue.

Diken recalled less than a month after DiNizio passed, they had a previously scheduled show at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank, N.J. Bruce Springsteen's guitarist Steven Van Zandt urged them to keep the date and find a guest vocalist for the evening. Guitarist Marshall Crenshaw, who performed on The Smithereens' first album, came to help them out that night.

Now, Crenshaw, along with Gin Blossoms lead singer Robin Wilson, both of whom have

been longtime fans of the band, alternate as the group's main vocalist depending on their schedules.

"They're both really wonderful to work with and they bring a lot to our shows," Diken said. "It's different but it's still essential Smithereens and the best is, the three of us, Jim, Mike and myself, grew up together, learned how to play together and really the essence of the band is very much intact."

On Saturday, Feb. 22, The Smithereens return to Westchester for a concert at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill, a venue that Diken loved when he filled in as the drummer for The Kinks at a concert there. Wilson is scheduled to be the lead singer that night.

Diken said their fans will hear the band's bands favorites, including "Blood and Roses," "A Girl Like You," "Only a Memory" and "Behind the Wall of Sleep."

"People want to see us so we want to give them a good show for their money and we want to have fun, too," he said.

Now, 2020 promises to be an important year for The Smithereens. First, they'll be



The lineup for The Smithereens that fans will see when they come to the Paramount Hudson Valley for the Feb. 22 show. Pictured, from left, are guitarist Jim Babjak, singer Robin Wilson, drummer Dennis Diken and bassist Mike Mesaros.

celebrating their 40th anniversary next month. Then, later in the year, Diken said their fans can anticipate the group finishing its first album in nine years.

Having gone nearly a decade without recording, there is a large

catalogue of material that they've written, which could probably fill several albums, Diken said. He said that fans won't be disappointed because it "sounds like classic Smithereens."

"Again, I've got to say (it's)

the sound of The Smithereens in its rawest, stripped down form, similar to when just Jimmy and I played together in September 1971 when we were both in high school," Diken said.

With the volume of unrecorded material the band has in its possession, don't be surprised if there are more albums to follow, he said.

For Diken, it's been a long way from their days at Carteret High School more than four decades ago, but playing, writing and performing is really all that he's wanted to do – and the group's fans make that possible.

"We do appreciate anybody who takes the time to see us," Diken said. "I want to make the point; we really appreciate our fans' loyalty and support. If they keep coming out, we'll keep coming out and making music. It seems like our music really has meaning to them."

Tickets for The Smithereens for the Feb. 22 show are \$29 to \$59 each and can be purchased at [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com). Showtime is 8 p.m. The Paramount is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill.

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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 11

**Reading With Tobie and Karen.** Practice your reading. For school-age children. Tobie and Karen are with the Good Dog Foundation. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**DIY Fingerprint Baseball.** We are thinking spring in the Children's Room, especially with the return of baseball and spring training. Think of warmer temperatures and baseball weather as you create your own fingerprint baseball. For children of all ages. (Children under five years old must be accompanied by a caregiver.) Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

**Adoption: Everything You Need to Know.** Open to anyone interested in or involved with the adoption process, including professionals, community members, expectant parents, adoptive or prospective adoptive parents and adoptees. Learn about the domestic adoption process and meet the staff of Forever Families Through Adoption, which is Hague accredited and authorized in New York and Connecticut. Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library, 1 Haseco Ave., Port Chester. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-939-1180, visit [www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](http://www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org). or e-mail [adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org](mailto:adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org).

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

**John Jay Homestead Scholars Lectures.** Steve Luxenberg, author of "Separate: The Story of Plessy v. Ferguson, and America's Journey from Slavery to Segregation" will appear. His book traces the careful building in 1896 of a test case to establish freedom from race-based segregation in public accommodations. The strategy backfired badly in Plessy v. Ferguson, when the Supreme Court ruled that "separate but equal" did not violate the Constitution. Justice John Marshall Harlan was the sole dissenter, declaring that "the Constitution is color-blind" and it would take 60 years to reverse the precedent, in Brown v. Board of Education. Luxenberg is an associate editor at The Washington Post and oversaw reporting that won two Pulitzers. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Lecture at 7 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25; Students: Free (registration required). Info and registration: Visit [www.johnjayhomestead.org](http://www.johnjayhomestead.org).

**Pajama Story Time.** Join Miss Debbie for an evening story time that includes stories, songs and fun. Pajamas and stuffed animals are welcome. For children two to five years old and their families. Mount Pleasant Public

Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday through June 16 (except Feb. 18). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Current Affairs Book Club.** "Field Notes from a Catastrophe" by Elizabeth Kolbert will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Composers' Concert: The Music of Jacob Friedman,** Phillip Martin and Pat Rasile. A program of original compositions by composers of St. James the Less. Followed by a reception. The Church of St. James the Less, 10 Church Lane, Scarsdale. 7 p.m. Free; a suggested \$20 donation is welcome. Info: 914.723.6100 or visit [www.stjamescarsdale.org](http://www.stjamescarsdale.org).

**Bible Study.** Join the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco for this new weekly session. Mt. Kisco Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: Contact David Visaggio at 914-262-9973.

**Women Reading Women Book Club.** "Educated" by Tara Westover will be discussed. New members welcome. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Jay and Silent Bob Reboot Show.** Kevin Smith comes to Tarrytown to show his latest and greatest motion picture. He hosts the evening and will hold an interactive Q&A. The New Jersey stoner icons who first hit the screen 25 years ago in "Clerks" are back. When Jay and Silent Bob discover that Hollywood is rebooting an old movie based on them, the clueless duo embark on another cross-country mission to stop it all over again. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$45 and \$55. VIP packages area also available. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

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

## Wednesday, Feb. 12

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

4097.

**Baby Time.** A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday (except Feb. 17 and 19). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**New Mommy and Daddy Meet-Up.** Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For newborn babies and their moms and dads. World Cup Nursery School, 160 Joan Corwin Way, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. No registration required. Every Wednesday through June 24. Info: 914-238-4967.

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Feb. 17, 19 and 21) Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Preschool Storytime.** This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Feb. 17, 19 and 21). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

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

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

**Inflammation and Your Heart.** Can changing what you eat reduce achy, inflamed joints? Registered dietician Stefanie Schwartz discusses inflammation triggers, foods that can prevent and reduce inflammation and the connection between inflammation and disease. Part of Northern Westchester Hospital's Center for Healthy Living program series. Center for Health Living, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua (next to Whole Foods at Chappaqua Crossing). 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$20. Info and registration: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/northern-westchester-hospital-center-for-healthy-living-25235427049>.

**Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break.** Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and

increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

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

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

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

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

**LEGO Club.** We provide the LEGOs, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-8041.

**An Evening of Wine & Art.** Enjoy a wine tasting courtesy of Laurent Drouhin, from Maison J. Drouhin of Beaune, France, light refreshments and an exhibit by artist Beatrice J. Drouhin. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 6:30 to 9 p.m. \$50. Reservations required. Info and reservations: 914-738-2525 ext. 111 or visit [www.pelhamartcenter.org](http://www.pelhamartcenter.org).

**Turning Your Clutter into Cash.** What are the secrets to selling on Facebook or on any other site? How can you make the most money for your merchandise and what are the hottest selling items? These and other questions will be discussed by Stacey Winnick, creator of Chappaqua Moms Sales.

*continued on page 24*



# Theodore Roosevelt: Stone-Cold Killer and Natural Savior

By Brian Kluepfel

Theodore Roosevelt stands as one of our greatest presidents. (He disliked being called Teddy, so I'll demur). Bridging the 19th and 20th centuries, he was a renaissance man, a creature for all seasons, a voracious reader and avid sportsman who did so much in his 60 years that he's on Mount Rushmore. He's a New York Republican of whom we can be proud.

My interest of late has been piqued by the adventurers of the turn of the 20th century, first the polar explorers like Amundsen, Peary and Scott, but then by the incredible post-presidential journey of Roosevelt deep into the Amazon.

While we laud modern leaders for boarding Air Force One and deplaning in Kabul for a couple of hours, Roosevelt boated through Paraguay and Brazil for two years, and very nearly died doing it.

Luckily, Roosevelt lived to tell the tale, and quite a tale it is. "Through the Brazilian Wilderness" is 238 pages of Indiana Jones-type adventuring that is hard to put down. No longer president and licking the wounds from his failed Bull Moose Party push for the White House, Roosevelt was convinced by colleagues and the American Museum of Natural History to check out the Amazon and record as much of its natural legacy as possible.

So, he shot a bunch of stuff.

To be honest, so did his colleagues, including his son Kermit.

It's just the way things were done in that era.

Audubon, oh great illustrator for whom an entire organization is named, shot birds willy-nilly off their perches to make his great ornithological drawings. Frank Chapman, New Jersey's gift to the study of avian life and who accompanied Roosevelt on the Amazon voyage, did much the same.

There are stunning passages describing the avian life by Roosevelt.

*On one ride we passed a clump of palms which were fairly ablaze with bird color. There were magnificent hyacinth macaws; green parrots with red splashes; toucans with varied plumage, black white red, yellow; green jacmars (sic); flaming orioles and both blue and dark-red tanagers. It was an extraordinary collection. All were noisy.*

Imagine being with Roosevelt in the Amazon a century ago. Imagine the abundance of life forms before logging and other man-made activities. I'm sure it's still incredible, but then...!

Just lines later Roosevelt matter-of-factly describes shooting water birds like the wood-ibis ("with a handy little Springfield") and a couple of "splendid" jabirus or large storks. He describes these events with as little emotion as the seemingly random decimation of scores of caimans from the deck of the ship. At least the birds mentioned are for scientific "collection."

Give Theodore Roosevelt his due, though. He concludes the section with these words.

*"It is hard to give an adequate idea of the wealth*

*of bird life in these marshes. A naturalist could with the utmost advantage spend six months...exhaustive observation in the field is what is now most needed. Most of this wonderful and harmless bird life should be protected by law."*

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Theodore Roosevelt, protector of wildlife and moving force behind the U.S. National Park system. He was a man of his era, who might probably say "you've got to break a few eggs to make an omelet" in reference to his bird murders. He was large; he contained multitudes. I'm saddened by his descriptions of hunting down jaguars and other wildlife, but some of that could be excused in the name of scientific study. (No motion sensor cams back then.)

On balance, Roosevelt did more to protect our nation's wild lands than any other president. Which make the actions of the current President even more disappointing – his gutting of the EPA, hacking away at the same National Park system Roosevelt fought for, his rejection of the Paris Agreement and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

We can do better. We could use another Theodore Roosevelt now, warts and all.

*Brian Kluepfel is an author for the Lonely Planet guidebook series and just completed work on the most recent guide to Costa Rica. He lives in Ossining and edits the newsletter for Saw Mill River Audubon. He has also contributed to Birdwatching Magazine. Find him at thewritingkoop.com.*

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Additional field trips & programs listed at our website!

### For the Birds: How Birders Make a Difference

**Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm**

Free public program at Croton Free Library

### Unbroken Wings: A Story of Birds & the People Who Save Them

**Sunday, April 5, 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 pm program**

Audubon Annual Dinner at Kittle House. See website for tickets.

Visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org) for details & more events  
and to learn about our eight local wildlife sanctuaries.

# Happenings

*continued from page 22*

New Castle Town Hall, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Art Series: Love Victorious.** Everybody loves love, and none more so than artists. From painters to sculptors, take a look at how love has been celebrated throughout the centuries with images of goddesses and famous couples by artists including Renoir, Magritte, Chagall, Rubens and Frederick Leighton. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

## Thursday, Feb. 13

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

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except Feb. 17). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday (except Feb. 18 and 20). Info: 914-741-0276 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Storytime.** This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday (except Feb. 18 and 20). Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Toddler Mixer.** Come to play and hang out with other toddlers and adults. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd.

East, Armonk. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Thursday (except Feb. 20). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

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

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

**Royal Opera House Live: "Don Giovanni."** A pre-recorded broadcast of Mozart's engaging masterpiece follows a Spanish nobleman, the woman he serially seduces and the vengeance that finally catches up with him. The opera is renowned for its ever-shifting portrayals of complex characters, fast-moving action and, of course, its sublime music. A cast of international singers perform the glorious arias and ensembles of this opera favorite. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$30. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Galentine's Day.** Come celebrate this non-official holiday where ladies celebrate ladies and the importance of female friendships. For teens. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Make a Valentine.** Paint, glue and color a card to give to a family member or friend. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

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

**DIY Duct Tape Flower Pen.** Love is in the air and on paper. On this Valentine's Day give the gift of a flower that a special someone can use to write their Valentine with. For students 10 years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration recommended. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

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

**Love Your Heart.** Learn to make a delicious heart-healthy meal rich in

Omega-3 fatty acids, fiber and whole grains: grilled barramundi with oranges and pecans, faro with beets, kale and feta and chocolate strawberry cups. Part of Northern Westchester Hospital's Center for Healthy Living program series. Center for Health Living, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua (next to Whole Foods at Chappaqua Crossing). 7 to 8 p.m. \$20. Info and registration: Visit [www.eventbrite.com/o/northern-westchester-hospital-center-for-healthy-living-25235427049](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/northern-westchester-hospital-center-for-healthy-living-25235427049).

**Strong Hearts, Strong Minds Fundraiser.** A fun night to support the implementation of RULER, the gold standard in social emotional learning, and other important academic initiatives in all Bedford Central School District schools. Featuring live music, a dinner buffet, Mast Chocolate tasting and silent and live auctions. Glen Arbor Gold & Country Club, 234 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford Hills. 7 to 10 p.m. \$125. Info and reservations: Visit [www.foundation2020.eventbrite.com](http://www.foundation2020.eventbrite.com).

**"The Black Power Mix Tape 1967-1975."** A wall-to-wall courtesy of an extraordinary trove of documentary footage of Stokely Carmichael, Bobby Seale, Angela Davis, Eldridge Cleaver and others captured in remarkably unguarded interviews. This footage, shot by Swedish journalists at the height of the Black Power movement, was lost for 30 years until director Göran Olsson and co-producer Danny Glover brought it to light and presented this 2011 mosaic of images, music and narration. An exhilarating account of an American revolution. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Twisted Valentines Festival.** Axial Theatre presents this sixth annual event featuring eight original one-act plays, a mix of comedies and dramas, that probe the depths of joy, despair and everything above, below and in-between that love and lust are prone to evoke. St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$25. Seniors and students: \$20. Also Feb. 14 at 8 p.m., Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 4 p.m. (A Valentine's dance follows the Feb. 15 performance.) Info: 914-286-7680 or visit [www.axialtheatre.org](http://www.axialtheatre.org). Tickets: Visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4492393>.

## Friday, Feb. 14

**Great Composers Lecture Series: Heaven, Hell and Hollywood, Life and Music in Exile.** In the period before, during and after World War II, Los Angeles was home to as large an assemblage of musical talent than existed in any other major city. Arnold Schoenberg, Erich Korngold, Kurt Weill, Bruno Walter and countless other composers, instrumentalists and vocalists all sought a haven as they fled the ravages of war, tyranny and persecution. Some prospered in their new lives, others found frustration and some simply failed in their inability to adapt to The New World. Join renowned pianist and lecturer Michael Boriskin on a revelatory journey back to a singularly heady yet fraught time and place, populated by one of the most extraordinary, colorful and accomplished of all émigré communities. Hoff-Barthelson

Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 11 a.m. \$30. The school's students and their parents: Free. Space limited; reservations strongly encouraged. Info and reservations: 914-723-1169, visit [www.hbms.org](http://www.hbms.org) or e-mail [hb@hbms.org](mailto:hb@hbms.org).

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

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

**Music With Miss Laura.** Stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. For children 18 to 36 months old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Friday (except Feb. 21). Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Winter Howl for Adults Only: Mating and Dating.** Wolves are "mono-estrous" – breeding only once a year during the winter months. Hence, Valentine's season is an exciting time for wolves. This year there are five critically endangered wolf breeding pairs. Learn about lobo love during a special evening howl and enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Guests will also learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a spread of wine and cheese. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves, too. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Friday Night Film Series: "The Middle of the World."** This Portuguese drama follows the plight of Romeo as he travels to Brazil on his bike in pursuit of a job and a decent life. Based on a true story, this graceful road trip of a movie looks at life and how far people will go to fill it with meaning and purpose. In Portuguese with English subtitles. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Valentine's Day Jazz Jukebox.** For something a little different this Valentine's Day, celebrate with a romantic night of sultry jazz classics featuring rising stars Samara McLendon and Lucy Wijands, who will be backed by the John DiMartino Trio. McLendon and Wijands will sing a playlist of well-loved favorites, followed by a set of audience requests. Tickets for adults includes two free glasses of beer, wine or soft drink. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Concert at 8 p.m. Pair of tickets: \$35. Adults



# Benefit Shop to Host Red Carpet Auction in Mt. Kisco Feb. 19

Mid-century modern is still a new old favorite and buyers will find plenty of designer examples at The Benefit Shop Foundation Inc. in its Red Carpet auction on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. in Mount Kisco.

With pieces coming in from tony estates in the Hamptons, Park Avenue, a waterfront estate in Bedford and Greenwich, Conn., the auction will also cover all bases from antique to retro with top-draw items in a wealth of collecting categories from fine art and antiques to fashion, jewelry and garden statuary.

"I am very excited about all the mid-century modern furniture in the sale from Egg chairs to a Paul Evans Cityscape table and much more," said Pam Stone, owner and founder of The Benefit Shop Foundation, Inc. "Buyers will also find we have some very nice period antique pieces, including a Chippendale dresser that we discovered had an interesting history hidden in a secret drawer."

In more than seven years of conducting auctions, the Benefit Shop Foundation, Inc. has earned a solid reputation and is now routinely attracting donations from all over from people happy to see their items find new homes and whose sale benefits local charitable organizations.

Works by well-known furniture designers are placed throughout the auction. Among them are several names most coveted by buyers, from the Paul Evans Cityscape dining table in metal, chrome and wood with an extension leaf to a Heywood Wakefield Sculptura six-drawer lowboy dresser finished



A signed Karel Appel limited edition woodcut, "Piste à l'image de la planète," will be one of the many pieces of artwork that will be sold at the Feb. 19 Benefit Shop Foundation auction in Mount Kisco.

in "Champagne" birch to a John Widdicomb credenza with a slab top and canted legs, designed by T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, circa the 1950s.

All kinds of seating options will be represented in the auction, including a set of eight Harvey Propper-style dining room chairs and four MCM Russell Woodard

Sculptura outdoor armchairs offered with an octagonal table designed by Woodard in 1956.

Furniture offerings cover all tastes, not just mid-century modern. Pieces include an antique-tufted Victorian chaise sofa originally purchased from a Madison Avenue antique shop and a French 19th century Empire mahogany console table with interchangeable marble tops from the 1820s.

The fine art category dovetails with the mid-century modern offerings with bold and colorful works from a number of well-known artists. Highlights include a signed Chris Yowell acrylic on canvas abstract painting in a vibrant geometric design in primary and black colors.

Rounding out the auction are a room-sized Ralph Lauren handmade wool rug, an antique copper engraving map of Asia by M. Suetter, circa late 1800s, and a vintage Cartier Tank ladies' wristwatch in 18k vermeil, possibly from the late 1970s.

The monthly Red Carpet sales feature choice collections of antique, mid-century modern, brand furnishings, sterling, china, crystal, jewelry and fine art. With a mission of "to donate, to discover and to do good," the foundation is a registered nonprofit and the auction proceeds support community organizations. Consignors get a tax deduction, the buyer gets a great deal and local nonprofits get much-needed funds.

The auction gallery is at 185 Kisco Ave., Suite 201. For more information, 914-864-0707 or visit <https://www.thebenefitshop.org>.



An antique Chippendale secretary desk, circa 1820, has intricately carved wooden detail and is signed on a pullout mechanism with an 1830s or 1840s militia record for a Col. J.I. Blake. It is one of the many items that will be auctioned at the Feb. 19 Benefit Shop Foundation auction.

## Happenings

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(single ticket): \$20. Students: \$10. Info and tickets: Visit [www.artswestchester.org](http://www.artswestchester.org).

**"Holiday."** Two years before Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant and director George Cukor would collaborate on "The Philadelphia Story," they brought their timeless talents to this delectable slice of 1930s romantic-comedy perfection, the second film adaptation of a hit 1928 play by Philip Barry. Grant is at his charismatic best as the acrobatically inclined free spirit who, following a whirlwind engagement, literally tumbles into the lives of his fiancée's aristocratic family – setting up a clash of values with her staid father while firing the rebellious imagination of her brash, black-sheep sister. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:45 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Paul Taylor Dance Company.** Dancemaker Paul Taylor first presented his choreography with five other dancers in Manhattan on May 30, 1954. That modest performance marked the beginning of 64 years of unrivaled creativity, and in the decades that followed, Taylor became a cultural icon and one of American history's most celebrated artists, hailed as part of the pantheon that created American modern dance. The company will perform a specially selected program commemorating the late Taylor. PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$40 to \$85. Info and tickets: Visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

org.

**Westchester Photographic Society: Out of the Box.** An entertaining evening as members exhibit images of their photographic adventures. A fun night for members and guests alike. For adults 18 years old and up. Westchester Community College's Technology Building, Room 107, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. (Use Parking Lot 11) 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-827-5353 or visit [www.wpsphoto.org](http://www.wpsphoto.org).

**"Animals Out of Paper."** To close out Arc Stages' fifth season of their professional company, the Next Stage, is this funny, poignant play about the collision of mismatched people and the complicated ways we hurt, heal and love those around us. Starring Emily Sohn, David Lanson and Eshan Bay. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Adults: \$36. Seniors and students: \$28. Also Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-747-6206 or visit [www.arcstages.org](http://www.arcstages.org).

### Saturday, Feb. 15

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** The delicious good time moves indoors for the winter. A great way to support regional agriculture and eat healthy, year-round with plenty of warm smiles and community togetherness. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note the market is a dog-free environment. Indoor market continues through Mar. 28. Info: Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org).

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

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

**Musical Munchkins.** A parent-and-child interactive program where parents engage in musical activity along with their children demonstrating the joy of music. The fun involves hand-held instruments, props, puppets, stories, singing, beat keeping and other joyful musical activity. For children two to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

**Lobo Love: A Valentine's Day Party With Wolves!** Show the wolves how much you love them by attending this Valentine's Day-themed program. Visitors will learn about mythology surrounding wolves, the important role of wolves in the natural world and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America, while also assembling "wolfy" valentines for the ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr as well as potentially behold some of the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Guests will enjoy hot beverages in the woodstove-heated classroom. Please dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Adult Salsa Class.** Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. \$12. Every Saturday. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit [www.addie-tude.com](http://www.addie-tude.com). Call or visit website because classes are subject to change.

**"Supa Modo."** Nine-year-old Jo, a terminally ill Kenyan girl, is obsessed with superheroes: Batman, Jackie Chan, you name it. After coming home from the hospital, she finds she's developing powers of her own. A tribute to heroes big and small and the power of movie making and community, this is an inspiring story you will never forget. Followed by a discussion with Jacob Burns Film Center Kids Curator Emily Ohara. Content includes *continued on page 26*

# Happenings

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a child with terminal illness and being sick and woman in labor. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Children (13 and under): \$8. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Winter Birds.** Viewing a variety of birds from the live animal museum, participants are introduced to the basics of avian anatomy. They learn how to identify some of the most common winter residents and why some birds migrate and how others adapt to winter life. Children also make a pinecone feeder that they can hang outdoors to attract winged visitors. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

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

**Pendulum Power.** Pendulums aren't fortune-telling tools, but when approached with a responsible attitude, they reveal useful information. A pendulum is simply a way of getting answers to questions your brain can't answer. This workshop is a mix of theory and practical, fun exercises and includes a take-home stone pendulum for each participant. Green Witch Workshop is presented by the Grounded Goodwife, a mother-daughter duo. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkisco.library.org](http://www.mountkisco.library.org).

**Reception for "Abstract Explorations."** Work by artists Annette Lieblein, B.A. D'Alessandro and Mitchell Visoky. These artists explore abstraction in their own voice and medium. Whether using encaustic, pen and ink, metal or paper, each artist imagery is distinctive and noteworthy. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Snow date: Feb. 22. Exhibit continues through Feb. 29. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit [www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org](http://www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org).

**Winter Howl for Pups of All Ages.** Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a magical time for packs in North America. This time of year, wolf families are out searching for prey as their pups experience their first winter season. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and will potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. Guests will enjoy hot beverages in a woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather and bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Jim Florentine.** Florentine, from "Crank Yankers," "That Metal Show" and Comedy Central is

returning to Lucy's. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$25. Info and tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughlounge.com](http://www.lucyslaughlounge.com).

**Country Love Song Jukebox With Molly Adele Brown.** "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You," "If Tomorrow Never Comes," "Ring of Fire," what song would you dedicated to your beloved? In the spirit of all things romantic, and just in time to celebrate with your Valentine, hear Nashville-based singer-songwriter Molly Adele Brown during a night of country love songs. The audience will have a chance to set the playlist and dedicate their favorite song to their special somebody. Tickets for adults includes two free glasses of beer, wine or soft drink. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Concert at 8 p.m. Pair of tickets: \$35. Adults (single ticket): \$20. Students: \$10. Info and tickets: Visit [www.artswestchester.org](http://www.artswestchester.org).

**The Manhattan Transfer.** This group remains a cornerstone for great pop and jazz hits, a legacy that the group has cemented since their first recording 41 years ago. The legendary quartet has been awarded 10 Grammy Awards and has been inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame. The Manhattan Transfer today is Trist Curless, Janis Siegel, Alan Paul and Cheryl Bentyne, all of whom are conscious of maintaining the integrity and artistry left by founding member Time Hauser, who passed away in 2014. They continue to bring unique and extraordinary melodic and jazz-infused vocals to new and established audiences that span generations. PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$40 to \$85. Info and tickets: Visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

**Harlem Gospel Choir.** The world-famous choir presents the true spirit of American gospel, which is embodied in this infectious roller coaster ride of singing and dancing. The choir's rich harmonies and dynamic sound are unfettered and joyous. The harmonious songs of love, hope and inspiration will touch the depths of your soul, lift your spirit and take your breath away. Get ready to tap your feet, clap your hands and even dance on stage to their high-energy, exhilarating and exuberant performance. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$28. Students: \$26. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit [www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts](http://www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts) and click on the "Buy Tickets" link. Tickets are also available at the box office 30 minutes before showtime.

**Kimberley Locke: "The Sum of All Parts."** Locke burst onto the national stage on American Idol, finishing in the top three. She was then signed to Curb Records, where she enjoyed a very successful career, landing eight Top 20 Adult Contemporary hits and four #1 Dance hits across various Billboard charts. This show is a journey from a world of black and white to technicolor, much like her idol, Judy Garland. This one-woman show will feature songs from Garland to Locke's contemporary chart hits. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 Park City Place. White Plains. 8 p.m. \$37 to \$59. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit [www.wppac.com](http://www.wppac.com).

**Music With Friends Songwriting Circle.** Continuing the celebration of the

art of song, Isaac Raz hosts a group of local songwriters in an engaging songwriter's circle where each will feature their original work and share the background and their creative process. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit [www.armonkplayers.org](http://www.armonkplayers.org).

## Sunday, Feb. 16

**Winter Wonderland Photo Session.** A special opportunity to photograph ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr in a winter wonderland setting. Guests will also have the opportunity to photograph some of the critically endangered Mexican wolves and red wolves from vantage points not generally available during regular visits. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 9 a.m. \$100. Also Feb. 29 at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Winter Wolves.** Winter offers families a unique opportunity to visit the wolves during their favorite time of year. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as their maturing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Enjoy hot beverages in the woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 1 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 17, 22 and 29 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Hibernation, Migration, Adaptation, Oh My!** For forest animals, it's no easy task to stay alive through the winter. What would you do: migrate, hibernate or adapt? Each animal must make a choice. Meet some of the native animals to gain a better understanding on how they survive in winter. For all ages. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Kids Open Mic.** Perform solo or bring your band. Refreshments and snacks available for sale. Kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Lagond Music School, 9 Haven St., Elmsford. Doors open and sign up begins at 6:15 p.m. Performances from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Performers: Free. Non-performers: \$5. The third Sunday of every month. Info: 914-345-0512 or visit [www.lagondmusic.org](http://www.lagondmusic.org).

**The Allman Betts Band.** The sons of Gregg Allman (Devon Allman) and Dickey Betts (Duane Betts) have joined forces to form this group. They kicked off their world tour last March and sold out 12 of their first 18 shows. The show features new music, songs from their solo projects and classic Allman Brothers and Gregg Allman tunes in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Allman Brothers Band. The band also features Allman Brothers Band keyboardist Chuck Leveall and former Hammond B3 player

Peter Levin. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7 p.m. \$39. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

## Monday, Feb. 17

**Morning Bird Walk.** Go birding with the Saw Mill River Audubon. Beginners welcome. Rain or shine. Rockefeller State Park Preserve. (Use Sleepy Hollow Road entrance.) 8:30 a.m. Free. Meets the third Monday of each month. Info: Visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org).

**Maple Sugar at Home.** Participants will travel back in time to discover the history of maple sugaring with several stops along the way. Native American, colonial and some modern-day techniques are demonstrated at our outdoor sugaring sites. Also learn how easy sugaring is to do in your own kitchen. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Durst Distinguished Lecture Series: Jericho Brown.** Purchase College will present this award-winning poet, who is the author of three poetry collections. "The Tradition," named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and long listed for the 2019 National Book Award; "The New Testament," winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and named one of the best books of the year by the Academy of American Poets; and "Please," winner of the 2009 American Book Award. Purchase College's Humanities Theatre, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6550 or visit <https://www.purchase.edu/academics/school-of-humanities/lectures/durst-distinguished-lectures>.

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 18

**Art All Day. Use our stuff to make your art.** For children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

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# The Cultural and Generational Dichotomy Over Alcohol Consumption



By Nick Antonaccio

In a December column I suggested that readers accept the Dry January challenge – 30 days of alcohol-free existence. A number of you took the challenge – including yours truly – and not only met the challenge, but felt it

had an impact on their health and wallet.

As for myself, I succeeded in avoiding all alcohol, in spite of numerous wine events and tastings I attended (my mantra: sip and spit, no swallowing). However, for myself, abstinence does make the heart grow fonder. I have resumed my decades-old habit of consuming a glass of wine with dinner, with not a tinge of guilt.

As I immersed myself in the ritual of Dry January, I delved deeper into the drinking habits of American generations. Much scrutiny is focused on the millennials. They are the “health-conscious” generation. They will not repeat the bad habits of previous generations. Plant protein is now the favored alternative to animal protein. Soft drinks are the beverage of choice. Low-alcohol hard seltzer is the acceptable choice for alcohol consumption.

**You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine**

*‘But which generation has the better life focus?’*

In my opinion, the lifestyle of many millennials receives more attention than is warranted. This health-conscious generation, in certain respects, is the antithesis of the free-spirited, excessive-smoking (legal and illegal), alcohol-consuming baby boomer generation. Their lifestyle considers the body a temple, to be revered and respected in all daily decisions.

What is not considered is that baby boomers have decades of life experiences and discretionary income (and far less education debt) to enjoy the finer things in life.

But which generation has the better life focus? The free-spirited 56- to 74-year-old boomers or the

more conservative-rooted 20- to 38-year-old millennials?

If it's not clear, I'm of the pre-alphabet, baby boomer generation, or if we must all have alphabetical labels, Generation W. With that as a point of context, allow me to analyze the habits of Generation Y and the generation being influenced by them, Generation Z.

I recently read a press release from a web-based consumer-tracking company, Criteo, that “Gen-Z and Millennials are constantly seeking products that not only fit into social trends, but also elevate life experiences.”

Hmm, like the Keto diet? “I’m limiting my carbs and increasing my high-protein intake (typically from fatty foods) to lose weight and improve my overall health” is the mantra of these proponents. And it is the most popular diet in the United States – right now.

With these trends evolving, what are the younger generations consuming as their beverages of choice? Many have become “sober curious,” evaluating their alcohol decisions and choices as they interface with their peers in social settings.

According to polling company Nielsen CGA, consumption of low-alcohol and no-alcohol products is expected to grow 32 percent by 2022 from current levels. The beverages of choice?

First, soft drinks. Counterintuitively, retail sales grew 2.9 percent in the past year. Many drinks in this category are high in caffeine and artificially sweetened, concocted in laboratories and mass-produced in factories. Alcohol-free, certainly, but healthier than red wine?

Second, hard seltzers. This category is booming over the past year. Moderate consumption seems to trump other sources of alcohol consumption. Low alcohol, certainly,

but healthier than red wine?

Let's compare low-alcohol alternatives, such as White Claw hard seltzer, to wine.

The nutrition profiles of a single serving: Hard seltzers: 100 calories, three carbohydrates, 5 percent (White Claw) to 14 percent (Four Loko) alcohol by volume.

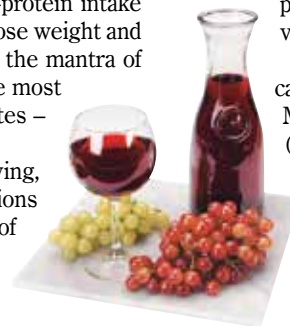
Red wine: 110 calories, four carbohydrates, 6 percent (many Moscatos, Rieslings) to 14 percent (a number of Cabernet Sauvignons and Zinfandels) alcohol by volume.

And did I mention that wine fits the profile of millennial preferences: a plant-based product that is gluten-free and low in carbohydrates?

The alcohol in wine is without question a negative component of this favored beverage. Yet, as in all things, moderation and drinking responsibly are key to its craftsmanship, complexity and sophistication over factory-produced alternatives.

You be the judge as you consider your choices.

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



## WBT Recognizes Black History Month With ‘Five Guys Named Moe’

In celebration of Black History Month, Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) pays tribute to Louis Jordan, the 1940s rhythm and blues singer, songwriter and bandleader, whose new approach to jazz paved the way for rock ‘n’ roll in the 1950s.

“Five Guys Named Moe,” which is now on the WBT stage through Mar. 1, opens with Nomax, who is single, broke and drinking his sorrows away while listening to the radio at five in the morning. Five guys named Moe – Big Moe, Little Moe, Eat Moe, Know Moe and Four-eyed Moe – emerge from his radio to help him straighten out, ease his broken heart and sing and dance his way to love.

This joyful, jazzy show is the winner of London's coveted Lawrence Olivier Award and was originally produced by Cameron Mackintosh, (“Phantom of the Opera,” “Les Miserables,” “Miss Saigon,” “Cats”). It is set to Jordan's iconic rhythm and blues/jazz score, including “Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby,” “Choo Choo Ch'Boogie” and “Saturday Night Fish Fry.”

The production stars Napoleon M. Douglas (NoMax,) Quentin Avery Brown (Eat Moe,) Tyler Johnson-Campion (No Moe), Douglas Lyons (Four-eyed Moe), Tony Perry (Big Moe) and Isaiah Reynolds (Little Moe). The cast also includes John E. Lucas and Marcus Blair.

Directed and choreographed by Richard Stafford, the associate choreographer is Kristyn Pope with set design by Steve Loftus, lighting design by Andrew Gmoser, sound design by Mark Zuckerman and



The cast of “Five Guys Named Moe,” the current production at Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford through Mar. 1.

costumes by Allison Kirstukas. Lisa Tiso is the producer.

Stafford returns to WBT, having directed and choreographed recent productions of “An American in Paris,” “Anything

Goes,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Saturday Night Fever,” “Show Boat,” “Mary Poppins,” “Guys & Dolls,” “Fiddler on the Roof” and many more.

On Broadway, he choreographed for “In

My Life,” was the associate choreographer for “Aspects of Love” and was the dance supervisor for “Cats.” His off-Broadway credits include choreography for “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Stafford is also a veteran of regional theaters around the county and has a long list of choreography credits, including “Dreamgirls,” “Miss Saigon,” “Curtains,” “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Cats,” “Oliver!” “Joseph...Dreamcoat,” “The King and I,” “Singin' in the Rain,” “Crazy for You,” “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” “The Sound of Music,” “Annie Get Your Gun” and “Evita.”

Tickets for dinner and the show range from \$61 to \$91, plus tax, depending on the performance chosen. Beverage service and gratuities are not included in the ticket price. Discounts are available for children, students and senior citizens at selected performances. Also check the WBT website for ongoing special offers.

Lunch is served on Wednesday, Thursday and some Friday matinees at 11:30 a.m. with the show starting at 1 p.m. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, dinner is at 6:30 p.m. with showtime at 8 p.m. For Sunday matinees, lunch is at noon with the show at 1:30 p.m. and on Sunday evenings dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. with a 7 p.m. showtime.

For information and tickets, call 914-592-2222 or visit [www.BroadwayTheatre.com](http://www.BroadwayTheatre.com). Discounts for groups of 20 or more can be reserved at 914-592-2225.



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#### LEGAL NOTICES

Please be advised that the attached resolution was adopted at a January 22, 2020 meeting of the Board of Education of

the Mount Pleasant Central School District. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District desires to embark upon a capital project consisting of improvement of athletic field facilities, installation of two new multi-use artificial turf fields, expansion and resurfacing of the existing track, a sand slit drainage system for the existing softball field, baseball field and soccer field, field lighting, two scoreboards, paved walkways, four dugouts, three bullpens, bleachers, fencing and a stormwater pretreatment feature related to the District's athletic facilities as shown on the Overall Proposed Site Plan for the contiguous property of Westlake Middle School, and Westlake High School,

hereinafter referred to as the "Proposed Action"; **WHEREAS**, the District-wide capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and **WHEREAS**, the Board proposes to issue obligations (bonds) to the District for the Proposed Action, as well as transfer funds; and **WHEREAS**, prior to deciding to directly undertake, fund or approve any Proposed Action, the Board is required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) to make a determination with respect to the environmental impact of any "Action" (as defined by SEQRA) and the Board of Education wishes to comply with the requirements of SEQRA; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to SEQRA the proposed Action is classified as an Unlisted action for the purposes of this review; and **WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Board notified other Involved Agencies of its intent to serve as Lead Agency for the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for this Unlisted action in a "Notice of Intent" document circulated on December 19, 2019 by mail; and **WHEREAS**, no Agencies objected to the Board serving as Lead Agency for this Action within the allotted 30-day period; and **WHEREAS**, consultants for the Board have prepared Part 1, Part 2 &

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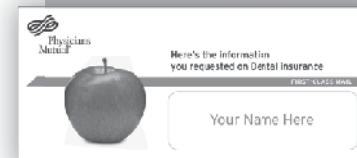
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Part 3 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form; and **WHEREAS**, the proposed action is an Unlisted Action pursuant to the SEQRA regulations; and **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education prepared and circulated a lead agency coordination letter/form seeking SEQRA lead agency status to involved agencies on December 19, 2019 and received no objections to its request; and **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has reviewed the Expanded EAF prepared for the proposed action and compared the proposed action with the criteria for determining significance in the SEQRA regulations and has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment and a draft environmental impact statement will not be prepared. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency for the Proposed Action; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education adopts and issues the attached Negative Declaration Notice of Determination of Non-Significance and authorizes its publication in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 617 of the SEQRA regulations; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board shall take further steps as might be necessary to discharge the Lead Agency's responsibilities on this action. State Environmental Quality Review **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** Notice of Determination of Non-Significance **Date: January 22, 2020** **Board of Education Mount Pleasant Central School District Westchester County, New York** This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law. The Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District, as Lead Agency, has determined the proposed action described below will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. **Lead Agency:** Mount Pleasant Central School District 825 Westlake Drive Thornwood, New York 10594 Phone: 914-769-5500 Ex 5501 **Contact:** Dr. Kurtis Kotes, Superintendent of Schools **Name of Action:** Proposed Capital Project – Athletic Field Improvements at the Westlake Middle School/High School Campus. **SEQRA Status:** Unlisted **Conditioned Negative Declaration:** No Description of the **Action:** The proposed action includes the improvement of athletic field facilities, including the installation of two new multi-use artificial turf fields, expansion and resurfacing of the existing track, a sand slit drainage system for the existing softball field, baseball field and soccer field, field lighting, two scoreboards, paved walkways, four dugouts, three bullpens, bleachers, fencing and a stormwater pretreatment feature. **Location(s):** Westlake Middle School/High School 825 Westlake Drive Thornwood, NY 10594 **For Further Information, Contact:** Christopher S. Guddemi, PLS, LEED® AP, Senior Associate LAN Associates E.P.A.S., LLP 252 Main Street Goshen, New York 10924 (845) 615-0350 Chris.guddemi@lanassociates.com **Reasons Supporting This Determination:** 1.The Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant

Central School District (District) has given due consideration to the subject action as defined in 6 NYCRR 617.2(b) and 617.3(g). 2.After reviewing the Full Environmental Assessment Form dated 12/19/2019, and last revised 01/16/2020, the District has concluded that environmental effects of the proposed project will not exceed the Criteria for Determining Significance found in 6 NYCRR 617.3(c). 3.Development is proposed to occur in areas of previous disturbance. Vegetation removal that may be required in the area of the site improvements will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. 4.The proposed project is consistent with the existing character of the surrounding area. No changes to zoning or existing land use will occur. The site will continue to be used for educational purposes. 5.In order to satisfy the requirements of the Watershed Regulations, a SWPPP for a new project will be prepared in accordance with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity; Permit No. GP-0-15-002. 6.As per NYSDEC comment letter dated January 21, 2020, Department approval may be required to ensure that the site is covered under an existing Water Withdrawal permit and does not exceed the authorized maximum taking of water into the existing water district or service area. The project will generate a demand for water as needed to fill the steeple chase pit. An amendment to the current Water Withdrawal permit shall be obtained, if necessary. 7.Noise associated with outdoor events is anticipated to be during daytime or early evening hours in the same location and similar frequency as currently occurs. 8.No disturbance to wetlands is anticipated as part of the Proposed Action. Unavoidable impacts to a 100-foot watercourse buffer will consist of grading activities and will not exceed 0.1 acres. 9.Improvements also include outdoor lighting which is anticipated to consist of LED lighting equipped with glare light control visors to minimize effect on adjoining properties and limit sky-glow. Given no additional student population is anticipated, daily traffic should not increase as a result of the Proposed Action.

**AVISO LEGAL** Les informamos que la resolución adjunta se adoptó en una reunión del 22 de enero de 2020 de la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant. **POR CUANTO**, la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant desea embarcarse en un proyecto capital que consiste en la mejora de las instalaciones del campo de atletismo, la instalación de dos nuevos campos de césped artificial de usos múltiples, la expansión y repavimentación de la pista existente, un sistema de drenaje con hendidura de arena para la cancha de softball existente, cancha de béisbol y cancha de fútbol, iluminación de las canchas, dos tableros de puntajes (scoreboards), senderos pavimentados, cuatro alcantarillas, tres áreas de ejercicio para los pitchers de béisbol (bullpens), gradas, cercas y un elemento de pretratamiento de aguas pluviales relacionadas con las instalaciones deportivas del Distrito como se muestra en el Plan del Sitio Propuesto General para la propiedad contigua de escuela media/secundaria de

Westlake, en lo sucesivo denominada "Acción propuesta"; **POR CUANTO**, las mejoras de capital en todo el Distrito están sujetas a clasificación bajo la Ley de Revisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado (SEQRA); y **POR CUANTO**, la Junta propone emitir obligaciones (bonos) al Distrito para la Acción Propuesta, así como transferir fondos; y **POR CUANTO**, antes de decidir emprender, financiar o aprobar directamente cualquier acción propuesta, la Ley Estatal de Revisión de Calidad Ambiental (SEQRA) exige que la Junta tome una determinación con respecto al impacto ambiental de cualquier "Acción" (según lo definido por SEQRA) y la Junta de Educación desea cumplir con los requisitos de SEQRA; y **CONSIDERANDO** que, de conformidad con la SEQRA, la Acción propuesta se clasifica como una Acción no listada para los propósitos de esta revisión; y **POR CUANTO**, de acuerdo con las disposiciones de New York Codes, Rules and Regulations 6 (NYCRR por sus siglas en inglés) Parte 617, la Junta notificó a otras agencias involucradas su intención de servir como Agencia Líder para la Revisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado (SEQR) para esta acción no listada en un documento de "Notificación de Intención" distribuido el 19 de diciembre de 2019 por correo; y **POR CUANTO**, ninguna Agencia se opuso a que la Junta actúe como Agencia Principal para esta Acción dentro del período de 30 días asignado; y **POR CUANTO**, los consultores de la Junta han preparado la Parte 1, Parte 2 y Parte 3 del Formulario completo de evaluación ambiental; y **POR CUANTO**, la acción propuesta es una Acción no listada de conformidad con las regulaciones de SEQR; y **POR CUANTO**, el 19 de diciembre de 2019, la Junta de Educación preparó y distribuyó una carta/formulario de coordinación de la agencia líder procurando el estado de agencia líder de SEQRA a las agencias involucradas el 19 de diciembre de 2019 y no recibió ninguna objeción a su solicitud; y **POR CUANTO**, la Junta de Educación ha revisado el Expanded Environmental Form (EAF por sus siglas en inglés) preparado para la acción propuesta y comparó la acción propuesta con los criterios para determinar la importancia en las regulaciones de SEQR y ha determinado que la acción propuesta no tendrá un efecto significativo en el medio ambiente y no se preparará un borrador de declaración de impacto ambiental. **AHORA POR LO TANTO, SE RESUELVE** que la Junta de Educación por la presente se declara agencia principal para la Acción propuesta; y **SE RESUELVE ADEMÁS**, que la Junta de Educación adopta y emite el Aviso de Declaración Negativa de Determinación de No Significación adjunto y autoriza su publicación de acuerdo con los requisitos establecidos en la Sección 617 de las regulaciones de SEQR; y **SE RESUELVE ADEMÁS**, que la Junta tomará las medidas que sean necesarias para cumplir con las responsabilidades de Agencia Líder en esta acción. Revisión Estatal de Calidad Ambiental **DECLARACIÓN NEGATIVA** Aviso de determinación de no importancia Junta de Educación Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant Condado de Westchester, Nueva York Fecha: 22 de enero de 2020 Este

aviso se emite de conformidad con la Parte 617 de los reglamentos de implementación relacionados con el Artículo 8 (Ley de Revisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado) de la Ley de Conservación Ambiental. La Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central Mount Pleasant, como Agencia Principal, ha determinado que la acción propuesta que se describe a continuación no tendrá un impacto adverso significativo en el medio ambiente y no se preparará un Borrador de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental. **Agencia principal:** Mount Pleasant Central School District 825 Westlake Drive Thornwood, Nueva York 10594 Teléfono: 914-769-5500 Ex 5501 **Contacto:** Dr. Kurtis Kotes, Superintendente de Escuelas **Nombre de la Iniciativa:** Proyecto de Capital Propuesto - Mejoras en el campo de atletismo en el campus de la Escuela Media/Secundaria Westlake. Estado de la Ley del Medio Ambiente de Revisión de Calidad del Estado (SEQRA, por sus siglas en inglés): No figura en la lista Supeditado **Declaración negativa:** No **Descripción de la Acción:** La acción propuesta incluye la mejora de las instalaciones del campo de atletismo, incluida la instalación de dos nuevos campos de césped artificial de usos múltiples, la expansión y repavimentación de la pista existente, un sistema de drenaje con hendidura de arena para la cancha existente de softball, béisbol y fútbol existente, iluminación de la cancha, dos tableros de puntajes, senderos pavimentados, cuatro dugouts, tres áreas de ejercicio para los pitchers de béisbol (bullpens), gradas, cercas y un elemento de pretratamiento de aguas pluviales. **Ubicación (es):** Westlake Middle School / High School 825 Westlake Drive Thornwood, NY 10594 **Para más información, contactar a:** Christopher S. Guddemi, PLS, LEED® AP, Asociado Senior LAN Associates E.P.A.S., LLP 252 Main Street Goshen, Nueva York 10924 (845) 615-0350 Chris.guddemi@lanassociates.com **Razones que respaldan esta determinación:** 1.La Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant (Distrito) ha prestado la debida consideración a la acción del tema según se define en 6 NYCRR 617.2 (b) y 617.3 (g). 2.Después de revisar el Formulario completo de Evaluación Ambiental del 19/dic/2019, y revisado por última vez el 16/ene/2020, el Distrito concluyó que los efectos ambientales del proyecto propuesto no excederán los Criterios encontrados en 6 NYCRR 617.7 (c) para determinar la importancia. 3.Se propone que el proyecto ocurra en áreas de perturbación previa. La eliminación de la vegetación que se requiera en el área de las mejoras del sitio se minimizará en la mayor medida posible. 4.El proyecto propuesto es consistente con el carácter existente del área circundante. No se producirán cambios en la zonificación o el uso del terreno existente. El sitio continuará siendo usado con fines educativos. 5.Con el fin de satisfacer los requisitos del Reglamento de Cuencas Hidrográficas, se preparará un Plan de prevención de contaminación de aguas pluviales (SWPPP por sus siglas en inglés) para un nuevo proyecto de

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conformidad con el Permiso General SPDES del Departamento de Conservación Ambiental del Estado de Nueva York para descargas de aguas pluviales debidas a la actividad de construcción; Permiso No. GP-0-15-002. 6.Según la carta de comentarios del NYSDEC con fecha del 21 de enero de 2020, es posible que se requiera la aprobación del Departamento para garantizar que el sitio esté cubierto por un permiso de Retiro de Agua existente y no exceda la cantidad máxima autorizada de agua en el distrito de agua o área de servicio existente. El proyecto generará una demanda de agua según sea necesario para llenar el pozo de la carrera de obstáculos. Se deberá obtener una enmienda al permiso de Extracción de Agua actual, si es necesario. 7.Se espera que el ruido asociado con los eventos al aire libre se produzca durante el día o las primeras horas de la noche en el mismo lugar y con una frecuencia similar a la que ocurre actualmente. 8.No se prevén perturbaciones en los humedales como parte de la acción propuesta. Los impactos inevitables en una barrera de curso de agua de 100 pies consistirán en actividades de graduación y no excederán 0.1 acres. 9.Las mejoras también incluyen iluminación exterior, la cual se anticipa que consistirá en iluminación LED equipada con visores de control de luz de deslumbramiento para minimizar el efecto sobre las propiedades adyacentes y limitar el brillo en el cielo. 10.Dado que no se prevé una población estudiantil adicional, el tráfico diario no debería aumentar como resultado de la acción propuesta.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the "District") that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the **Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:** Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) reconstruct school buildings and construct and reconstruct athletic fields, tracks and related facilities, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which buildings, athletic fields, tracks and facilities are to be used, at a maximum cost of \$9,085,366, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$9,085,366, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due? The vote upon such proposition shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open

shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots. Any resident of the School District who is registered to vote in general elections is qualified to vote at said meeting without having their name placed upon the School District register of voters provided they voted at a general election at least once within the last four calendar years. Further, provided that any person who has previously registered to vote in any annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election and who has voted at an annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election held during the past four years (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016) shall not be required to reregister. The Board of Education has also provided for registration of qualified voters at the **District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM** on any regular school day through March 26, 2020. The register prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the **District at the Office of the Clerk of the District, District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, at the polling place on the day of the vote, as well as between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** on each of the five (5) days prior to the election excluding Sunday, March 29, 2020, except on Saturday, March 28, 2020 it will only be available for inspection between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the completed application must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than seven days before the vote or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the Clerk between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, except Saturday and Sunday. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his challenge and reasons therefor known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. **Dated: January 22, 2020 District Clerk, Board of Education Mount Pleasant Central School District AVISO LEGAL AVISO DE REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DE DISTRITO MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SE DA AVISO QUE,** de conformidad con una resolución adoptada por la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant (el "Distrito") que una reunión especial de los votantes calificados de dicho Distrito sea y por la presente se llama a la misma para que se celebre en dicho Distrito en el gimnasio Westlake de la Escuela Secundaria, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York el martes, 31 de marzo de 2020 de 7:00 de la mañana a 9:00 de la noche con el propósito de votar la siguiente propuesta: **Propuesta** Deberá la Junta de Educación del Distrito Central Mount Pleasant estar autorizada para (1) reconstruir edificios escolares y construir y

reconstruir campos de atletismo, pistas e instalaciones afines, incluido el trabajo del sitio, y adquirir muebles originarios, equipo, maquinaria o aparato requerido para el propósito que dichos edificios, campos de atletismo, pistas e instalaciones se utilizarán, a un costo máximo de \$ 9,085,366, (2) emplear dicha suma para dicho propósito, (3) recaudar el impuesto necesario por lo tanto, para ser recaudado y cobrado en cuotas anuales en tales años y en tales cantidades según lo determine la Junta de Educación teniendo en cuenta la ayuda estatal; y (4) en anticipación de la recolección de tal impuesto, emitir bonos y pagarés del Distrito Escolar al mismo tiempo o de vez en cuando en la cantidad principal que no exceda \$ 9,085,366, y la recaudación de un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichas obligaciones cuando vencen? El voto sobre dicha propuesta será por máquina o boleta de voto en ausencia. Las horas en que las urnas se mantendrán abiertas serán de 7:00 de la mañana a 9:00 de la noche, hora prevaleciente o por el tiempo que sea necesario después de estas horas, para habilitar a los votantes calificados que se encuentran en el lugar de votación a las 9:00 de la noche. para emitir su voto. Cualquier residente del Distrito Escolar que esté registrado para votar en las elecciones generales está calificado para votar en dicha reunión sin tener su nombre colocado en el registro del Distrito Escolar de votantes siempre que hayan votado en una elección general al menos una vez dentro de los últimos cuatro años calendarios. Además, una persona no necesitará volver a registrarse, siempre y cuando se haya registrado previamente para votar en cualquier reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar y quién ha votado en una reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar celebrada durante los últimos cuatro años (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016). La Junta de Educación también ha previsto el registro de votantes calificados en la Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, entre las 9:00 de la mañana y las 3:00 de la tarde en cualquier día escolar regular hasta el 26 de marzo de 2020. El registro preparado de conformidad con la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación se archivará en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, y estará abierta a la inspección de cualquier votante calificado del Distrito en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, en el lugar de votación el día de la votación, así como entre las 9:00 de la mañana y las 4:00 de la tarde en cada uno de los cinco (5) días previos a la elección, excepto el domingo 29 de marzo, 2020, excepto el sábado 28 de marzo de 2020 en que solo estará disponible para inspección entre las 8:30 y 10:30 de la mañana. Las boletas de voto en ausencia se pueden solicitar en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito. Si la boleta debe ser enviada por correo al votante, la solicitud completa debe ser recibida por la secretaria del distrito a más tardar siete días antes de la votación o el día antes de la votación si la boleta se entrega personalmente al votante. Una lista de todas las personas a quienes se les habrá emitido un voto en ausencia estará disponible en la Oficina de la Secretaria entre las 9:00 de la

mañana y las 3:00 de la tarde excepto sábado y domingo. Cualquier votante calificado/a puede impugnar la aceptación de la boleta de cualquier persona en dicha lista, haciendo conocer su desafío y sus razones al Inspector de Elección antes del cierre de las urnas. **Fechado: 22 de enero de 2020 Secretaria del Distrito, Junta de Educación Mount Pleasant Central School District**

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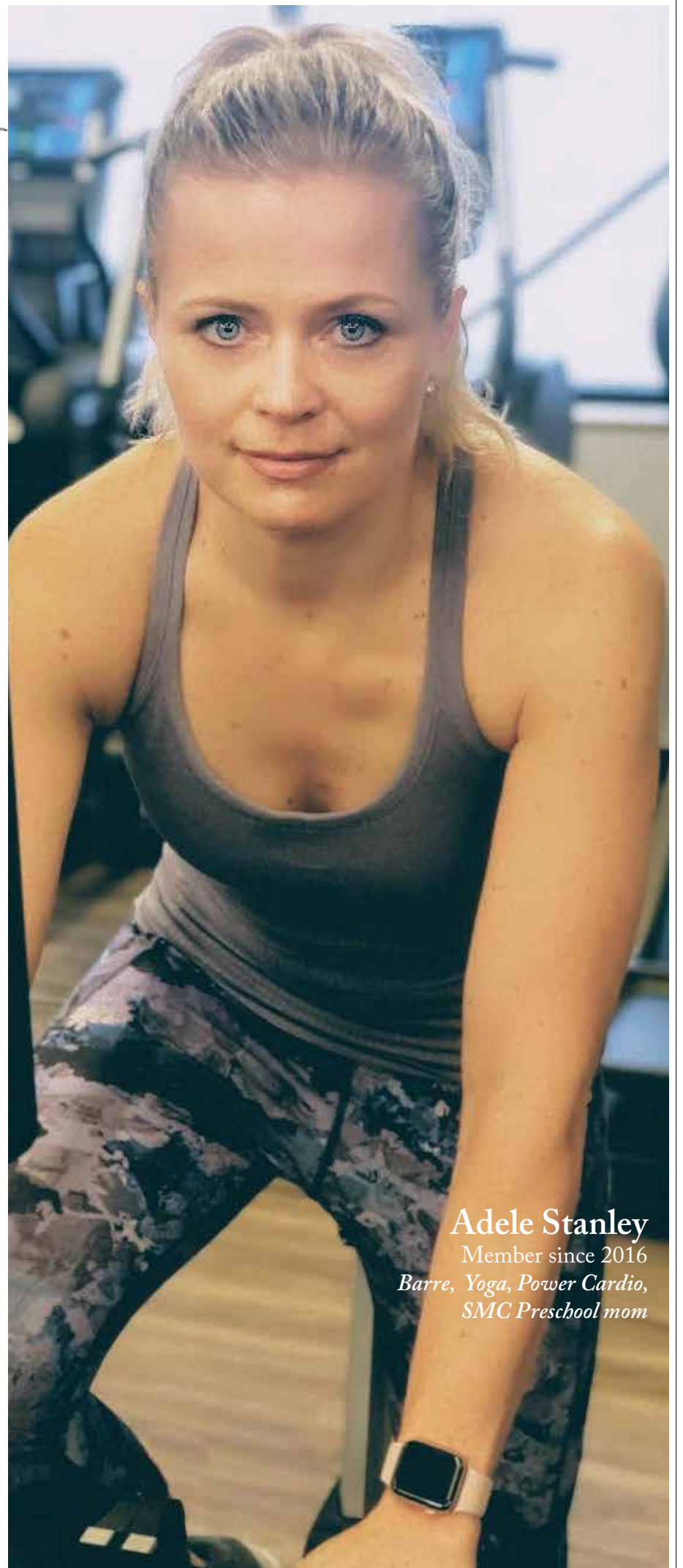
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