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February 18 - February 24, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 650

**Panthers Surprise Briarcliff**  
See Sports



## P'ville's Depew Street Project Moves Closer to Approval

By Abby Luby

Pleasantville residents raised an assortment of concerns about Lighthouse Living's 71-unit residential project proposed for Depew Street at last Wednesday's public hearing, as the future of the application may be determined at the next meeting.

During the three-hour hearing before the Planning Commission, speakers repeatedly expressed worries about pedestrian safety and traffic flow. The site is in close proximity to the Saw Mill Parkway-Grant Street intersection.

There were also comments questioning the project's marketability and sustainability.

"How is traffic going to be handled on Depew and Vanderbilt (Avenue) either going out to Grant Street or to Manville (Road)?" asked village resident Bea Farley, one of about

25 residents who turned out for the hearing. "It could be a nightmare at times."

Planning Commission Chairman Russell Klein said the applicant and the village provided two traffic analyses.

"They both generally concurred and both reports indicated there would not be a significant impact," Klein said.

Traffic engineer Brian Dempsey, who produced the traffic study for Lighthouse, said he used higher volumes during morning and evening peak hours from surveys taken over the last three years. During the morning peak hour – 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. – the study projects that 27 cars would leave the site and eight cars would be entering, he said.

During the evening peak of 5 to 6 p.m., 28 cars would arrive at the site and 17 cars would exit.



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

David Cooper, the attorney for applicant Lighthouse Living, an organization that has proposed a 71-unit apartment building for 52 Depew St. in Pleasantville, addressed residents and the Planning Commission at last Wednesday's public hearing.

Dempsey said the study was reviewed by the state Department of Transportation (DOT), which was satisfied that there would be no significant traffic impact. Klein said the board had also

discussed changing Depew Street to a one-way street to help the situation, but the suggestion hasn't been fully evaluated.

Helen Meurer, chair of the village's Conservation Advisory Council, said she was troubled that the proposed building wouldn't be built more sustainably, noting in particular, the lack of solar panels.

"Solar is the worst technology and if it weren't for government subsidies no one in the building industry would use them," responded David Mann of Lighthouse Living.

He said the building's design wouldn't be able to evenly distribute energy generated by solar panels. The plan is to exclusively use electricity for the building.

"There's no reason you can't go above and beyond producing energy or having a green roof," Meurer

*continued on page 4*

## Armonk Gas Station Claims Competitor is Operating Illegally: Suit

By Martin Wilbur

The owners of an Armonk gas station are suing another station across Main Street and various North Castle officials claiming that the town has allowed the business to operate illegally.

An Article 78 was filed Jan. 29 in state Supreme Court on behalf of Zeidan Realty Corp., Vincent Masi and Steven Karl, owners of the Sunoco station at 360 Main St., against the former Shell station at 375 Main St. The business at 375 Main St. is owned collectively by two trusts and several limited liability companies.

Also named as defendants are the town, the North Castle Planning Board, Building Inspector Robert Melillo and Supervisor Michael Schiliro.

The plaintiffs allege that a legal nonconforming use for 375 Main St. was never established because at the time of the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The former Shell gas station at 375 Main St., foreground, and the Sunoco station across the street are at odds after the latter has launched a lawsuit claiming its competitor is operating illegally.

station's construction the infrastructure for the underground tanks was wrongly placed in the town's sewer and water easement and

*continued on page 6*

## New Castle Closes Form-Based Code Scoping Session for Downtown

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of New Castle concluded its public scoping session last week on the proposed form-based code that officials hope will lay the groundwork to help revitalize downtown Chappaqua.

Speakers raised issues such as encouraging greener building practices for new development and the impact taller buildings downtown would have on viewsheds during the second scoping session on Feb. 11. There was also a fair amount of skepticism from a few residents who questioned whether the town was pushing ahead with a plan that is wrong for the community.

Making downtown Chappaqua a vibrant destination was one of the key sentiments from the community during the public outreach sessions that helped shape the updated Comprehensive Plan in 2017.

That has led to creating a code for the

Retail Business, Retail Business and Parking, Designed Business and Planned Industrial zones in the hamlet, that could eventually lead to bringing mixed-use development, including residential, to generate more activity and foot traffic. To help achieve that, most of the downtown commercial zones would allow up to four stories, with the exception of King Street, where the maximum height would remain two to three stories. Properties on the west side of South Greeley Avenue from King Street to Woodburn Avenue could reach five stories.

Development at any of the municipally-owned train station parking lots would also be allowed to reach five floors.

The new code could have an assortment of other changes related to building setback from the curb and architectural standards.

"We know it's a goal to create the kind of hamlet that becomes a destination for people,

*continued on page 4*

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#### Q: How do I benefit from advanced breast cancer screening technologies?

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mammogram. Another newer technology is the **supplemental screening ultrasound** for dense breasts, which helps us evaluate dense breast tissue and masses seen on the mammogram by letting us distinguish between solid and cystic tissue. The **breast MRI** can be used to screen women at high risk for breast cancer due to genetic factors, family history or previous high-risk findings, or used as an additional tool to look for further abnormalities in women recently diagnosed with cancer. Advanced imaging technologies are offered at Northern Westchester Hospital's women's imaging sites in Mt. Kisco and Yorktown.

#### Q: Should women with dense breast tissue receive special screenings?

**A:** About 40 to 50 percent of women have dense breast tissue. There are two components of breast tissue: fatty tissue and fibroglandular tissue. Fibroglandular tissue appears white on a standard mammogram, as do tumors, so tumors can be obscured. If you have dense breasts, ask about supplemental screening with a breast ultrasound. This technology increases detection by a rate of approximately four cancers per 1,000 screenings over that achieved by a standard mammogram.



# Spring Referendum Eyed for New Castle Firehouse Expansion

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Fire District No. 1 residents may learn by next month when a King Street firehouse expansion referendum will be scheduled.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Erik Nicolaysen said last week while fire district officials have a good idea the amount that voters will be asked to approve, they must still meet with the Town of Mount Pleasant to see how much their taxpayers are prepared to contribute. Once that is known, all of the financial information can be released, he said.

The district provides about 600 parcels in Mount Pleasant with fire service, Nicolaysen said.

"We know the approximate amount that we have to bond but the question is we can't figure out what (the taxpayers') cost would be until we have some kind of idea what we're going to receive from them," he said.

Several public information meetings that will review the cost and the scope of the project would be scheduled for residents before the vote. Nicolaysen said he hopes that the referendum can be scheduled for a Tuesday sometime this spring.

During the Board of Commissioners December meeting, several details of the tentative plan were publicly revealed. The new wing would contain a drive-through facility that would house the larger trucks and additional equipment required to be



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The New Castle Fire District Board of Commissioners could announce by as early as next month details of a major expansion referendum for the King Street firehouse.

carried by today's fire departments. Trucks would enter the facility through Oak Lane and exit onto King Street, eliminating the need for trucks to back in when returning from a call.

The new space would also include room to accommodate the rescue truck, the ladder truck and a pumper and to include a special washer to decontaminate equipment. Equipment and an antique fire truck would be moved from the old Senter Street firehouse, to be housed in the current structure.

Nicolaysen said New Castle town officials have offered the fire district use of a town facility to hold the vote. The district was harshly criticized for the \$12.6 million

expansion referendum in October 2016 when many residents were unable to vote because of long lines and lack of parking at the King Street firehouse.

Last week, the board approved two resolutions related to work on the site of the old animal hospital at 495 King St. that was acquired by the district in anticipation of a future expansion. Voters approved a February 2017 referendum for \$2.6 million

to buy the land.

The first resolution approved spending \$62,000 for JMC Site Development Consultants related to remediation of soil at the site.

A second resolution appropriated \$14,000 for legal fees associated with completing Planning Board documents related to the proposed expansion.

## Strong Effort

Fran Hauser, chair of the Foundation for Bedford Central Schools board, with Acting Superintendent Joel Adelberg at last Thursday evening's Strong Hearts Strong Minds fundraiser at GlenArbor Golf Club. The event raised money to support upcoming grants from the foundation. The foundation and district are partnering to bring best-in-class social and emotional learning initiative RULER to all Bedford schools. The night was a celebration of the district and an acknowledgment of how critical this work is for Bedford students.



JEN MULLOWNEY PHOTO



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# P'ville's Depew Street Project Moves Closer to Approval

*continued from page 1*

said. "People can do more. We should all do more."

The key sticking point throughout the project's review has been the building's encroachment on the wetlands buffer. Village wetlands regulations stipulate that a structure must be at least 50 feet from the buffer. Mann asked the commission to allow some encroachment in view of "extraordinary financial hardship" so he can clean up the site's petroleum-contaminated soil from the former LaDuca auto shop and for downsizing the building from the original plan. Mann will spend about \$1.5 million under the Brownfield Cleanup Program before getting reimbursed two years later.

The Planning Commission had asked Mann for financial information proving "extraordinary hardship" to justify issuing a permit to allow Lighthouse to build in

the buffer. Pleasantville Building Inspector Robert Hughes said that in lieu of providing financial information, Mann recently agreed to downsize the building and pull it further away from the buffer. The current design uses 31 square feet of buffer.

Originally, the structure used 1,752 square feet of buffer while a subsequent design reduced the incursion to 955 square feet. The latest design was accepted by the board before last week's hearing.

The building will contain 10 studio apartments, 51 one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units. Mann said he anticipated the project would attract millennials and empty-nesters.

"None of this is senior citizen friendly or family friendly," said village resident Geraldine Stapleton, who said she wasn't against the project but was concerned about who would live in the building. "It seems you

are looking for a single- or double-income couple who are in stable jobs and can pay \$2,000 or \$3,000 a month and don't want a mortgage. We are pricing ourselves out of the market in a tax sense in developing these properties. That's all we are building in this town, a straightforward apartment with a window."

The property currently generates \$64,000 a year in taxes. Mann estimated the completed project will generate taxes of about \$280,000 a year.

Others said they weren't happy because similar to other projects in the village it was changing Pleasantville's character.

Speakers also questioned the attractiveness of living in a building sandwiched between the Saw Mill Parkway and the Metro-North tracks and what would happen if the building has vacancies.

"The market shows that this is a good site,"

said the applicant's attorney David Cooper. "The village is vibrant and is attractive to millennials and down-sizers. The apartments are close to the downtown and people can walk to restaurants and stores. This type of community character and growth is what we are seeing throughout the Hudson Valley. Lighthouse wouldn't spend the time, money and effort to remediate the brownfield contamination if the market wasn't indicating this would be fully occupied for a long time."

Nick Clark was one of the residents in favor of the project.

"They are going to clean it up and put it on back on the tax roll," Clark said. "I grew up here and I am a millennial and we do walk, especially to the farmers market. I think it's very good."

A draft resolution to approve the Depew Street project is expected to be presented at the commission's next meeting.

## New Castle Closes Form-Based Code Scoping Session for Downtown

*continued from page 1*

so there are things that you can do after 8 p.m., whether it's to go out for a date night or to grab an ice cream cone," said Supervisor Ivy Pool. "These are things that we're trying to accomplish through the process that we're doing right now, that are built off of those conversations that we've been having for years."

Chappaqua resident Philip Holub urged officials to include LEED Platinum or Passive House standards to help the town be on the forefront of fighting the climate crisis.

He suggested the town consider retaining a specialized sustainability consultant, if necessary.

"Chappaqua should be forward-thinking and incorporate high-performance Passive House buildings into this new code," Holub said. "This board has a unique opportunity to drive the ship in the giant paradigm with the energy-efficient buildings of the highest order."

King Street resident John Priscintelli reiterated concerns from him and his neighbors from the first session two weeks

earlier about how taller buildings downtown could harm their views.

"We're happy you have an open mind but developing North Greeley (Avenue) the way you want to consider it is going to have a huge impact, a negative impact on us, from an aesthetic standpoint of living there comfortably with our neighbors, to the standpoint of our view being blocked," he said. "So there's really a lot going on and I hope you think about it really, really hard before you make a decision."

Among the skeptics were Chappaqua

resident Philip Werbel, who warned the board that despite the town's current efforts, the downtown is likely never going to be a place where people shop and gather because of how the town is laid out.

"Nothing you're going to do is going to make this town better in terms of getting people down there to shop," Werbel said.

Another local resident, Chuck Napoli, said he believed the town is making a mistake by creating a code without having a development plan.

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# Latimer Forms Task Force to Address Wrong-Way Accidents

By Pat Casey

With the rising number of automobile accidents in Westchester County involving wrong-way driving due to intoxicated drivers, distracted drivers or poorly marked signage, County Executive George Latimer last week announced the creation of a new Traffic Safety Task Force.

The task force will be comprised of citizens and elected officials, who will review all entrance and exit ramps on the Bronx River Parkway. As first proposed, this pilot task force will consist of two members of the Board of Legislators, two New York State elected officials, one member of the Latimer administration and two citizens who are commuters.

"This review is meant to take inventory of potential problem zones in light of recent 'wrong-way driver' incidents," Latimer said in a statement.

In addition, the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation is in the process of reviewing the wrong-way driver incident that took place Jan. 30 in Harrison on I-287 where a high school student from Ardsley and a parent lost their lives.

Just a few days later, Harrison police stopped a driver who had entered I-287 and was traveling in the wrong direction. A police investigation concluded that the signage was



County Executive George Latimer last week created a task force to address the growing danger of wrong-way accidents in Westchester.

correctly marked and they asked drivers to use common sense when following GPS directions.

The purpose of the task force is to identify potential immediate common-sense remedies, such as new signage, and act quickly on the recommendations, Latimer said.

"Our number one job in government is to ensure public safety," he said.

"For a variety of reasons, drivers in Westchester are finding themselves in life-threatening situations due to motorists operating their vehicle on the wrong side of the road. This is a serious issue that we must take action on to correct."

At the time of Latimer's announcement, Westchester County legislators Colin Smith (D-Peekskill) and Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown) and Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) had agreed to join the task force, with additional announcements expected to follow.

"The Latimer administration is committed to working with all stakeholders to find solutions," said DPW Commissioner Hugh Greechan. "Our department is taking immediate action to review the particular intersection in Harrison in the short term and we look forward to working with this citizen task force in the long term."

According to the Federal Highway

Administration, wrong-way driver crashes result in 300 to 400 people killed each year on average in the United States, representing about 1 percent of traffic-related fatalities each

year. Studies further indicate impairment by alcohol is a major cause of wrong-way driver crashes.

## Job Well Done



Byram Hills High School seniors Christina Ferrari, Elena Lowe and Kallie Hoffman, pictured left to right, were recently named 2020 National Merit Scholarship finalists. The selection will make them eligible for various scholarships. The students will be contacted next month by the National Merit Scholarship Committee.

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## Armonk Gas Station Claims Competitor is Operating Illegally: Suit

continued from page 1  
the state's right-of-way.

Even if there was a legal nonconforming use, recent alterations were allowed to be made to the 375 Main St. site without a site plan, according to the complaint. Since the owners of 375 Main St. never obtained approvals for fencing, waste oil tanks and a shed, the property is in violation of town

land use laws, the plaintiffs argue. As a result, that should terminate the legal nonconforming use status, the suit reads.

Finally, because business operations ceased for more than six months while alterations were made to the site last year, the former Shell station should lose its legal nonconforming use, the suit contends. The station at 375 Main St. closed late last

June and did not reopen before the close of 2019.

The plaintiffs argue they are harmed because of the continued operation of 375 Main St. as a gas station.

"Zeidan has been injured by the illegal nonconforming gasoline station use of the 375 Property in a manner that is different than the public at large," the litigation read. "The illegal nonconforming gasoline station use at the 375 Property causes significant traffic and safety problems at the Main Street/Kent Place intersection and the streets leading to and from the intersection, including the portion of Main Street on which both the 360 Property and the 375 Property are located."

Messages left last week for attorney Steven Barshov, who is representing the plaintiffs in the case, were not returned.

North Castle Town Attorney Roland Baroni said the claims regarding loss of the nonconforming use lack validity. The litigation appears to have been filed by Zeidan Realty in an attempt to eliminate its only competitor in Armonk, he said.

"In its simplest terms, what you have are two gasoline service companies thinking they can't play in the same sandbox," Baroni said. "That's really what it is and it's really unfortunate because the town is caught up in the middle of it."

Baroni explained that the plaintiffs' argument on loss of a nonconforming use is based on a decision in Illinois. However, there is no case law in New York to support

their point of view, he said.

In North Castle, if a nonconforming use is abandoned for more than six months then it ceases to exist. However, because the owners were actively looking to renovate or remediate the site, then the gas station remains a legal use, Baroni said.

By applying the standards outlined in the litigation, that would mean the Sunoco station at 360 Main St. is operating illegally as well, he said.

"When 360 had to replace its tanks about two years ago, it was closed for 13 months, and it too is a legal nonconforming use and we never attempted, nor did the owners of 375, attempt to argue a theory that their nonconformity had ceased to exist," Baroni said.

There were several violations at 375 Main St. that its owners have had to rectify. Following a site plan review, the town allowed the station to install new gas lines so it could reopen, but it was with the condition that the owners return with a full site plan within 90 days to redevelop their property, Baroni said.

Work will include redevelopment of the building and rearranging of the gas pump islands with landscaping. It will no longer perform auto repairs.

Baroni said the Sunoco at 360 Main St. also had its request for a temporary restraining order denied by a judge on the basis that there is no irreparable harm other than competition, which is not a valid reason.

## New Castle Closes Form-Based Code Scoping Session for Downtown

continued from page 4

"You've got to create a plan before you go any further and nibble around the edges of what you're calling a form-based code because you can't have a code without a plan," he said.

Resident Margaret Ferguson criticized officials for moving forward with a code that could bring unwanted changes to the downtown. She described it as "developer friendly," in part because the Downtown Working Group includes two landowners and an architect.

"So the deck is leaning towards this happening in a developer-friendly way," Ferguson said. "That may be what you want but that's going to bring a lot more activity into the town."

Board members said that other than the train station, which the town has not proposed selling, the remainder of the land is privately owned. Therefore, the code would

allow property owners the flexibility to make changes but no owner is forced to redevelop.

"It's not a carte blanche to come in and do what you want here," Pool said. "We have a form-based code that is very prescriptive about what can and can't happen and what these forms will look like. In fact, it gives us a level of protection that we don't have today."

The town's consultants and Development Department will take the comments from the two public scoping sessions and create an Environmental Impact Statement, which will be circulated to the public. There will be additional hearings most likely in the spring. Officials hope to have the code adopted later this year.

The public can still provide written comments to the Town Board until this Friday, Feb. 21 at noon. For more information about the proposed draft and to e-mail comments to the board, visit [www.mynewcastle.org](http://www.mynewcastle.org).

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## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



# Mt. Pleasant Board of Ed Appoints Temporary Trustee to Fill Vacancy

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant Education Foundation Vice President Sara Beaty was appointed by the Board of Education last Wednesday to fill the board's vacant seat for the next three months.

Beaty, an attorney, has also served as a member of the district's Citizen's Budget Advisory Board each of the last two years and had begun continuing in that role when she was notified of her appointment.

Beaty, who had one previous unsuccessful run for the board, said that she thought her experience within the district and as an attorney would be an asset.

"I've gotten to know a lot of people through these roles - parents, other board members, the administration," she said. "So when the vacancy came about by way of Maria Jost's resignation, I had actually a hard time deciding to do it because even though it's only for a few months, I would have to step back from my role with the Education Foundation, which is like family to me."

Jost resigned from the board in mid-January for personal reasons.

Beaty's appointment comes as the budget is set to start deliberations on the 2020-21 budget.

While she expects to need some learning curve, her involvement with the budget advisory board and her professional background should help, she said. While for the past four years she has worked as a court attorney for a judge, Beaty had previously served as counsel for the Yonkers Board of Education.

"A lot of things that board members face in this role I'm familiar with from a different perspective," said Beaty, who has a son in second grade and a daughter who will enter kindergarten next fall. "So although this is the first time I'm serving as a trustee on a board of education, I'm familiar with the dealings, I'm familiar with the school district budget season."

Among the challenges facing the district this year is the projected rising enrollment and how to make sure there is the space that is needed while adhering to the tax cap, she said. The district has been tax cap-compliant for the past seven or eight years.

In addition to the budget, the district will be busy during the next month communicating with residents about the \$9 million athletic facilities referendum scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 31. Beaty said communicating with residents is crucial so they can make an informed decision on whether to support the bond issue.

Beaty said she is undecided whether to run for a full three-year

term in May, preferring to wait until she adapts to this role and gets accustomed to the board before making a commitment.

"Hopefully, the community thinks at the end of the three months I've served them well," Beaty said. "This is a way to get your feet wet, and if it shows me that it is, then I do plan on running."

She will hold the seat until the May 19 election.



Sara Beaty was appointed to the Mount Pleasant Board of Education last week to fill the empty seat created by last month's resignation of Maria Jost.

## Next Month's Pleasantville Village Election Uncontested

By Abby Luby

Two seats on the Pleasantville Village Board will be uncontested for the upcoming election.

Incumbent Trustee Nicole Asquith is running for her second term along with Chamber of Commerce Vice President W. Paul Alvarez, who will take Steve Lord's seat. Lord decided against seeking a third term.

No new petitions were filed by the Feb. 12 deadline, according to the Westchester County Board of Elections last Thursday.

Terms on the Village Board are three years

and there are no term limits.

Village elections, typically held the third Tuesday in March, have been pushed to Wednesday, Mar. 18 because St. Patrick's Day is the day before.

Voting will be held at three different locations in the village.

Residents in Pleasantville Election District 15 will vote at the Hayes Hose Company at 134 Bedford Rd.

Residents in Election Districts 31 and 43, vote at Emanuel Lutheran Church at 197 Manville Rd. District 13, 14 and 20 residents

cast their ballots at the Pleasantville Recreation Center at 48 Marble Ave.

Three different voting locations were selected based on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and parking. Pleasantville voters used to cast their ballots at Village Hall until the county Board of Elections assumed the role of handling the elections for Westchester villages and hamlets. The shared services arrangement cuts costs to municipalities.

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# Police Blotter

## County Police/Mount Kisco

**Feb. 10:** A 42-year-old Bedford woman was charged with petty larceny, a misdemeanor, at 5:11 p.m. after a complaint was received from store security at Target on North Bedford Road. The woman is accused of trying to steal \$448.27 in merchandise from the store. She was booked at the Green Street precinct and released pending a Feb. 27 appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

**Feb. 10:** Report of a 100-year-old woman at her Boltis Street home feeling ill and very weak at 7:10 p.m. Westchester EMS also responded and transported her

to Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Feb. 11:** Police responded to an activated burglar alarm at Burger King on North Bedford Road at 2:53 a.m. A deliveryman set the alarm off in error.

**Feb. 13:** Report of a loud dispute between roommates at a Maple Avenue residence at 4:43 p.m. The dispute was verbal in nature only. The roommates agreed to remain in their separate rooms to allow the situation to calm down.

**Feb. 13:** A 19-year-old Sleepy Hollow man was arrested at 4:40 p.m. after he caused a disturbance at the Mount Kisco Public Library. Officers were called to the library when staff reported that a man in the library looked like a person who was responsible for some graffiti that occurred in the past. When officers approached the man, he began cursing, yelling and flailing his arms. The suspect was taken into custody and booked at the Green Street precinct on charges of second-degree obstructing governmental administration, a misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct, a violation. He was released pending a Feb. 27 appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

**Feb. 14:** Police responded to Diplomat Drive at 2:46 a.m. on a report that a man was sleeping in a hallway. Officers determined that the man lived in the building and escorted him to his apartment.

## North Castle Police Department

**Feb. 7:** An E-911 call was received

from a party at 1:52 a.m. stating that he was taken to the hospital earlier with high blood pressure and was released without being re-checked. He stated that it should be reported to the FBI. The caller then hung up the phone.

**Feb. 7:** A caller reported a large deceased raccoon in the middle of Bedford Banksville Road at 12:36 p.m. An officer was dispatched and reported that he was able to remove the animal from the roadway. The county was notified.

**Feb. 7:** A tree fell on a Yale Place house at 3:17 p.m. and the resident is unsure if there is structural damage. The responding officer reported there is no structural damage, only minor roof damage. Photos were secured.

**Feb. 8:** Report of a rollover on I-684 at 7:43 p.m. with extrication needed. The responding officer reported no extrication was required; there is only a minor injury.

**Feb. 10:** A caller reported at 7:22 p.m. that his wife contacted him stating that a male subject banged on his window and then took off running. The responding officers reported the male party was located on Banks Farm Road and he is the operator of a disabled vehicle that was looking for assistance. An investigation determined that the operator was unlicensed. The vehicle was impounded and a summons was issued.

**Feb. 11:** A caller reported being with his disabled car on the shoulder or Route 22 at 7:05 p.m. with a flat tire caused by a pothole. The responding officer

reported the operator was making his own arrangements and the vehicle is off the roadway. The officer spotted a large pothole and requested that the state Department of Transportation be notified.

## Pleasantville Police Department

**Feb. 9:** A 29-year-old Pleasantville woman was reported missing when she did not respond to her friends via an app. The woman later reached and said she was in New Jersey with friends.

**Feb. 14:** A summons was issued to a driver on Bedford Road at 10 a.m.

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# Group Sues Board of Legislators, Claims 52% Raises Violates Law

By Martin Wilbur

Two members of a tax protest organization last week sued the county Board of Legislators claiming that the 52 percent pay raise lawmakers voted themselves in December was illegal.

Robert Schulz, of upstate Queensbury, Albany County, and North White Plains resident Anthony Futia, members of We the People of New York, Inc., argue in their suit that was filed in federal district court in White Plains that the raise violated the state and U.S. constitutions.

In their complaint, the plaintiffs contend that by voting to increase their compensation on Dec. 9, 2019, the county legislators' action was "inconsistent" with Article III, Section 6 of the state constitution. They argue that legislators in New York State cannot change their compensation "for a term for which they shall have been elected."

Since the vote to raise the salaries came after Election Day and the raises went into effect on Jan. 1, they broke the law, the suit states. The vote would have needed to take place before Election Day, but since it occurred afterward, the Board of Legislators needed to wait until Jan. 1, 2022 to enact the raises, Schulz said.

"When they passed their local laws, they had been elected to the next terms beginning on Jan. 1," Schulz said. "So they had been elected to these terms and the constitution prevents them from doing that."

The suit follows a petition that Schulz and Futia submitted to the Board of Legislators

on Jan. 6, asking each member of the Board of Legislators for redress by having them repeal the law. Schulz said all 17 legislators ignored their petition, leaving them no choice but to head to court.

"Tell us either our facts are wrong or repeal, and they did neither," Schulz said. "There was no response."

County Attorney John Nonna said the Board of Legislators' resolution on Dec. 9 satisfied county law. The provisions of the state constitution that the plaintiffs are referring to pertain to state officials, not county representatives, he said.

Under the county charter, which the Board of Legislators is governed by, the Dec. 9 passage of the raises constitutes a different term because it occurred in 2019, Nonna said.

"I recognize and support their expression of their First Amendment rights," Nonna said of the litigants. "We're reviewing this complaint carefully but in my initial examination of it, it doesn't state any unsubstantiated claims under the New York State constitution or the federal constitution."

The Dec. 9 resolution that was approved by the Board of Legislators hiked their salaries from \$49,200 to \$75,000.

Schulz said the action by the legislators is not surprising. But the state constitution is the "supreme law of the state" and must be followed, and pointed to their likely motivation in the complaint.

"This is a case involving a ruling class led by a small power elite that has turned

a blind eye to the supreme law of the State in bestowing increases in compensation upon themselves, encouraging monarchism at the expense of republicanism, thereby threatening the persistence of our most

enduring republican values," the litigation read.

Schulz and Futia also sued the Harrison Town Board for raising the salary of Supervisor Ron Belmont.



## All's Well That Mends Well

On the Mend Medical Supplies & Equipment at 280 N. Bedford Rd. in Mount Kisco hosted its grand opening last Thursday. This is the second location for the business, which carries therapeutic beds, mobility chairs and scooters, reclining lift chairs, walkers and other equipment used by the elderly and those recuperating from illness and injury. Owned by Liam O'Keeffe and Bob Rainey, its first location opened four years ago in Southbury, Conn.

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# Cuomo Appoints Chappaqua Attorney to 'Love Makes a Family' Council

Chappaqua attorney Kristen Browde was appointed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week to the 22-member Love Makes a Family Council, part of a campaign to help legalize gestational surrogacy in New York.

Browde, currently one of five Democratic candidates vying for the nomination in the 93rd Assembly District, has been board president of the LGBT Bar Association of New York and is a national leader on LGBTQ issues.

"Surrogacy is how couples with fertility issues and LGBTQ New Yorkers get

their families started," Browde said in a statement. "I'm grateful that Gov. Cuomo is standing with us – as he has consistently – and I know that like us, he won't stop until this landmark legislation is the law in New York."

Currently, state law prohibits gestational surrogacy, creating barriers for the LGBTQ community and families struggling with fertility. There are 47 states that permit gestational surrogacy. The newly-appointed council will support replacing New York's outdated laws with the strongest in the nation for surrogates

and parents.

The campaign will also include a petition where New Yorkers can endorse Cuomo's proposal, which he advanced in last year's executive budget, as well as a new campaign at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/legalize-gestational-surrogacy> that includes testimonial videos.

Cuomo said in a statement that it is "shameful" that New York is one of just three states that denies families with fertility issues and those from the LGBTQ community the ability to use surrogates.

Paid surrogacy is punishable by a fine, and unpaid surrogacy agreements are unenforceable and not legally binding.

Under the proposal, a Surrogates' Bill of Rights would be created, which will guarantee the strongest protections in the nation for surrogates; establish criteria for surrogacy contracts to protect all parties; and eliminate burdensome and expensive barriers for "second parent adoption," instead of requiring a single visit to court to recognize legal parenthood while the child is in utero.

In 2017, Browde was the first transgender candidate to run for elected office in New York when she ran for New Castle supervisor. She also has a long and distinguished professional career as well as being involved in various causes. Before practicing law, Browde was an Emmy Award-winning television news reporter



Kristen Browde was appointed last week by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to a council that will work toward legalizing gestational surrogacy in New York.

and anchor. She is also a trustee of SAG-AFTRA's \$2.5 billion pension plan and a director of Equality NY. Both positions have led Browde to work with the state legislature and governor to enact major legislation, including amendments to New York State's human rights and criminal laws as well as enacting a ban on the use of non-compete clauses in employee contracts for broadcasters.

## ShopRite to Host Campaign to Benefit Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

ShopRite's latest campaign to benefit Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, kicked off on Sunday, Feb. 16 and will run through Feb. 29.

The drive will raise funds in support of the hospital's commitment to provide life-saving care to thousands of local children in the Hudson Valley each year.



There are 26 participating ShopRite stores throughout Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties in New York and Sussex County in New Jersey. There will be donations collected at checkout as well as in-store events and activities to raise additional funds.

The money will help provide advanced pediatric care and needed support services to thousands of children throughout the Hudson Valley, including those in need of open-heart surgery, brain surgery, cancer treatments, trauma and burn care, organ transplants and more. To date, ShopRite has raised more than \$1.2 million to benefit Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and its efforts.

"It's truly an honor supporting this life-

changing organization that helps provide advanced care to children in need," said Brett Wing, president of ShopRite Supermarkets, Inc. "We thank our dedicated associates, as well as our generous customers, for the ongoing support of this partnership to make a difference in our communities."

Every ShopRite donation helps provide the patients and their families the healthcare they need

as well as hope, said Dr. Michael Gewitz, the William Russell McCurdy physician-in-chief at the hospital.

"We are deeply thankful for ShopRite's continued generosity and support, which helps us enhance our children's healthcare programs at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital," Gewitz said. "Donations made by ShopRite and its customers assist our ability to provide the very best care for infants and children from throughout the Hudson Valley and for the families who support them."

Last fall, ShopRite and its customers donated more than \$100,000 to support much-needed expansion of the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which cares for the region's smallest and sickest newborns, Gewitz added.

## Social Anxiety Series for Teens, Young Adults Begins March 12

Cognitive and Behavioral Consultants (CBC), a leading Westchester and Manhattan-based clinical and wellness center, is offering a 12-week social anxiety group for teens and young adults that will start on Mar.12.

In this group, participants will learn how to:

- Reduce anxiety in social settings through practice and real-life activities;
- Develop strategies for challenging "worry thoughts" experienced in social situations;

--Enhance their conversational skills including starting, maintaining and ending conversations and;

--Practice assertiveness skills and learn to say no effectively.

The series starts Mar. 12 and runs on Wednesdays for 12 weeks from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. in CBC's Schwartzberg Training Center, located at 1 N. Broadway, Suite 704, in White Plains.

To register or receive more information, call Dr. Greenberg at 914-385-1150 (Option 1) or e-mail [info@cbc-psychology.com](mailto:info@cbc-psychology.com).

## County Dept. of Consumer Protection Prepares for Census Scams

In conjunction with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the county's Consumer Protection Department is gearing up to prevent potential scams targeting Westchester residents during the completion of Census 2020.

Some examples of telltale signs of a scam, according to 2020Census.gov, are centered on questions that will not be asked by the Census Bureau. During the 2020 Census, the bureau will never ask for Social Security numbers, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party or bank or credit card account numbers.

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via e-mail or phone and asks for one of these things, it's a scam and you should not cooperate.

"We see evidence each day that scammers are everywhere and look to take advantage of any opportunity to steal your hard-earned money or identity," said Consumer Protection Director Jim Maisano. "That is why, with our county police, our department is diligently watching for any Census 2020-related scams. If you see anything that may be of

concern, contact us; we are here to protect you."

Regular updates about any Census scams will be provided on the county's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Here are additional things to know to protect yourself, items that will never be requested by the Census Bureau: taxpayer identification numbers, gift cards, identification and passwords. Census Bureau workers will also never enter your home.

"Westchester County police have shared information with all our municipal police partners about potential scams related to the 2020 Census," said Department of Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Gleason. "The county's law enforcement community will work together to identify and investigate any fraudulent activity that might occur."

If you have you seen or heard something about the 2020 Census that is confusing, let the county Consumer Protection Department know by calling 914-995-2155. You can also let the Census Bureau know by contacting [rumors@census.gov](mailto:rumors@census.gov).



# Home and Garden Business Eyes Space at Chappaqua Crossing

By Martin Wilbur

A home and garden business that operates café and catering space last week pitched the New Castle Town Board about coming to Chappaqua Crossing, a plan that would require amended zoning to allow additional retail space.

Representatives for Terrain, which operates two locations in Pennsylvania and one in Westport, Conn., delivered a conceptual presentation to the board last Tuesday night.

The business, which was originally launched in West Philadelphia making tie-dye shirts and jeans 50 years ago, has evolved over the years to sell plants, pottery, garden décor and supplies and outdoor furniture, among other items.

It also features a garden café along with a small to moderate-sized event space for parties that would seat roughly 100 to 150 people, said Jennifer Calliagas, a senior planning manager at the company. Terrain is a subsidiary of the Philadelphia-based Urban Outfitters.

"Terrain is a garden center but it's not your average garden center," Calliagas said. "It's a brand that's uniquely focused on customer experiences, which originates from the overall brand."

Managing Director Beth Brewer said as retailers have increasingly struggled in the current business environment, introducing varied products and experiences in a greenhouse space has been a key to

Terrain's success.

The operation would be located on the north end of the site and would use the 10,000-square-foot building occupied by the Auto Center on the grounds, which would be relocated, said Andrew Tung, a planning consultant for Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield. There would be a still-undisclosed amount of space for the greenhouse, retail operation and café.

Tung acknowledged that for the plan to advance, the Town Board would need to be receptive to raising the 120,000-square-foot cap on retail space at Chappaqua Crossing to accommodate Terrain. The retail space that has been built is about 85 percent occupied, he said.

There would also have to be an environmental review that includes traffic and parking, although Tung said that if the plan were to move forward a shared parking arrangement would be explored.

Board members listened to the proposal and indicated they would need much more information before formulating an opinion, particularly regarding traffic and circulation impacts. They also didn't mention whether they would be open to adjusting the 120,000-square-foot limit on retail at Chappaqua Crossing.

"It seems like a great idea but the devil's in the details about how it's going to work," said Councilman Jeremy Saland. "It does seem like a nice fit but how does it happen? How does it impact the community?



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Summit/Greenfield principal Felix Charney, shown here at a December 2018 New Castle Town Board meeting, hopes to convince the current board to entertain a proposal for a home and garden business, café and catering space at Chappaqua Crossing.

Two residents told the board during the public comments portion of the meeting that Terrain would severely hurt downtown Chappaqua.

Resident Margaret Ferguson said she had "a growing sense of fear for our existing merchants" because it would be in direct competition with too many

businesses.

"It will deliver the knockout blow to our mom and pops," she said.

Chappaqua resident Chuck Napoli said that is the type of shop that is needed downtown to help revitalize the hamlet. He also criticized Summit/Greenfield for looking to exceed the retail space limit at Chappaqua Crossing before they're finished filling the space they have.

"Lingering and gathering is one of the key elements that's missing here and we're going to add a whole bunch of it back up (at Chappaqua Crossing)," Napoli said. "I have a problem with that."

Felix Charney, a principal for Summit/Greenfield, acknowledged that it would take some convincing to get town officials on board with the idea, but it would be worth taking a serious look.

"We're really excited about this," Charney said. "Like everything we've all done together, if it's something we want to do it's going to take a bit of work but it's a wonderfully beautiful product that they have and I think it fits really nicely on the site, but ultimately that will be your decision."

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## Guest Column

### It Isn't an Accident That a Foreign Film Captured Best Picture

By Steffi Shook

On Feb. 9 at the Academy Awards, the South Korean film "Parasite" made history by being the first non-English film to win Best Picture at the Oscars. Quality foreign language film has existed since the first Academy Awards in the 1920s. So why this film and why now?

The answers have a lot to do with South Korea, and a lot to do with us.

South Korean popular culture began sweeping the globe following the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The South Korean government's refocus on cultural production following the crisis, aided by a democratic revolution and opening up to foreign products, caused South Korean media to spread quickly across Southeast Asia in the late 1990s.

Beginning with K-dramas – one-hour television shows – in countries like Singapore and Taiwan and continuing with the spread of K-pop, Korean film and celebrity culture in Europe and the Middle East, once the Korean Wave began, there was no stopping its momentum.

The South Korean film industry was also part of this cultural explosion.

Screen quotas and eased censorship allowed the industry to grow domestically – leading to a national cinema mirroring the quality of Hollywood but remaining uniquely Korean, influenced by the country's ancient and tumultuous history. Themes of division, brotherhood and trauma characterize many

of the late '90s and early 2000s films that worked to define the industry.

Korean film broke onto the international stage largely thanks to the art film circuit, most notably when Park Chan-wook's "Oldboy" (2004) won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival.

So, South Korea has been churning out quality, internationally successful cinema for decades. What is it about "Parasite" that made the Academy take notice?

A lot of it has to do with director Bong Joon-ho. As a filmmaker, Bong has always sophistically straddled the line between popular film and arthouse cinema. His monster thriller, "The Host," (2006) is an example of a movie that both filled theater seats and made critics take note. He has also crafted films with English-speakers in mind as with his English-language film "Snowpiercer." (2013)

But why this film and why 2020? Surely other non-English films were also worthy of the ultimate Oscar title in previous years. To answer that question, we must look at the present state of the U.S.

In 2020 America, we face a divided nation. Nazis openly march the streets, domestic terrorism is a threat and politicians regularly engage in hateful rhetoric. Many of our major crises are domestic, and foreign-language film allows us to look outward, not for escapism, but clarity.

Class discrimination is most definitely not a uniquely South Korean problem, and plenty of previous Best Picture winners

have focused on issues outside the United States, but always in our own vernacular. As American audiences, we rarely have to worry about the complex and messy art of translation – the nuances of communication that cannot be faithfully transferred from one sign system to another. When native speakers watch an English-language film, they can take these nuances for granted.

Non-English film "others" us in a way unfamiliar to many Americans. It offers a new perspective where we are listeners and not speakers. Maybe that's what we need in 2020 America, an opportunity to listen.

For the majority of our country's history, "foreignness" has largely been framed as a threat to our way of doing things. Maybe it's comforting to acknowledge that there are other, valid ways of being in the world, other complex societies with histories, social dynamics and shared global problems.

The Oscars awarding a non-English film, reminds us – gently – that there is more out there. As our eyes adjust to read small print on the bottom of a screen, we gain perspective about our place in the global neighborhood.

*Steffi Shook, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of communication and media at Manhattanville College. Her primary area of research is video games, and she teaches a variety of media-related classes including South Korean Media.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Surprise Medical Bills from Out-of-Network Providers is Outrageous

Politicians in Washington need to do the right thing and put an end to surprise medical bills. It is unfathomable that insurance companies force people to use out-of-network providers and deny coverage for vital tests and procedures,

then turn around and send patients exorbitant bills. Patients need to be protected from these preposterous acts.

Too many Americans and New Yorkers go to the doctor, get care, then weeks later while recovering from an injury or dealing with a life-threatening illness, receive bills from their insurance company saying they owe exorbitant amounts of money. Patients need to focus on healing, not hemorrhaging money, to insurance companies.

It's just not right, and this can happen to anyone when you or a loved one goes to a hospital or doctor's office that is in your insurance network but you are treated by an out-of-network provider at the facility. We need Congress to find a balanced

approach to ending surprise medical billing that protects patients first and foremost.

Fortunately, there are those in Washington, like Sen. Chuck Schumer, standing with patients to make sure a solution to surprise billing truly works for the benefit of patients, not insurance companies. He understands that only a balanced approach to resolving these payment disputes will ensure that patients remain protected. It's time for others to follow his lead.

Marianna Stout  
Peekskill

## Correction

In the article "Demolition at Site of Memorial Plaza Project Nears Completion," which appeared in the January 24-30 issue, there was an error that has been brought to our attention. The correct applicant of record is Hexad Holdings, LLC. The Examiner regrets the mistake.

## Why Vaping is Not Quitting Smoking

Ending a tobacco addiction can be tough. While many smokers may think that e-cigarettes are a quit-smoking product, the American Lung Association is reminding people that e-cigarettes are a tobacco product and that switching to vaping is not the same as quitting.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not found any e-cigarette to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit. In

one study, only 10.1 percent of the smokers who used e-cigarettes quit smoking after six months, while 26.6 percent of smokers who did not use e-cigarettes quit. Another study found 80 percent of the smokers given e-cigarettes did not quit, but switched, and instead became addicted to e-cigarettes, which produce a number of dangerous chemicals including acetaldehyde, acrolein and formaldehyde, causing irreversible lung

damage, lung diseases – and even death. Advocates say that it's critically important that the FDA crack down on these false claims.

To learn more about the American Lung Association's Freedom from Smoking Plus program, visit [lung.org/stop-smoking](http://lung.org/stop-smoking).

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

# North Castle Looks to Put the Brakes on Conn. I-684 Toll

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board unanimously approved a strongly-worded resolution last week adamantly opposing Connecticut's proposed truck toll on the 1.4-mile stretch of I-684 that passes into and out of Greenwich.

Action from the board followed up several town representatives who traveled to Hartford for a Jan. 31 public hearing before the Transportation Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly on a dozen proposed toll hikes on limited access bridges that need repairs or replacement.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he doesn't begrudge Connecticut lawmakers for trying to find creative ways to raise money but it should fall on the backs of their residents and motorists.

"Our position is stay out of New York," Schiliro said. "It's your issue. You have to take one of your roads and you shouldn't be coming to New York when people are going to pass through in about 60 or 70 seconds and be hit with a toll."

The currently proposed toll would be about \$18 for large commercial trucks, Schiliro said.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto mentioned that it would be very easy for Connecticut at some point to include passenger cars for tolls once the electronic infrastructure is in place.

For North Castle, the stakes are higher than for any other municipality. The 1.4-mile stretch is between exits 2 and 3 on I-684, both of which are within the town. There are no exits or entrances along I-684 in Connecticut.

To avoid the toll, northbound trucks could

take Exit 2 and proceed along Route 120 to Route 22 north before jumping back on I-684 at Exit 3 in Armonk. Southbound trucks could do the opposite by getting off Exit 3 and taking Route 22 south and then Route 120 to re-enter the interstate at Exit 2.

The other detour, Schiliro said, might cause even more problems. For trucks coming from I-287, those drivers could get off Exit 6 and take Route 22 north through North White Plains, which is already heavily congested during peak hours.

Schiliro said some Connecticut state lawmakers were unaware of the two workarounds while others claimed that few drivers would opt for the detours because it would take as much as 45 minutes. Those

detours can be completed in about 10 minutes, he said.

"That's just not right," Schiliro said. "Get your facts straight and then we'll have a debate and talk about it."

DiGiacinto said she was also irked that before the Jan. 31 public hearing, they were told they would be afforded up to six minutes to deliver the town's comments. After waiting their turn to speak for more than six hours, Schiliro's executive secretary Mindy Berard, who delivered the remarks, was cut off after about three minutes.

Connecticut officials also seemed to have forgotten a 1966 agreement between New York State and Connecticut that stipulated that New York's Department of

Transportation would pay for pavement maintenance, repair and cleaning, snow and ice removal, traffic control and emergency response, DiGiacinto said. Meanwhile, Connecticut would pay for upkeep of the small bridge over the Byram River.

Neighboring communities throughout the county have pledged their support and Westchester County is also prepared to fight in court, if necessary.

"We're working every angle we can legislatively and otherwise to try to put the brakes on this, and then if they do try and move forward, then we're going to litigate," Schiliro said.

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## 17th Congressional District Candidates Forum to Be Held Feb. 25

Candidates running for Rep. Nita Lowey's seat later this year have been invited to present their campaign platforms and answer submitted questions from the district's constituents at a town hall at the Humanities Theater at Purchase College.

The event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Moderator Max Micallef is a board member and community liaison with Hudson Valley GLSEN as well as a senior correspondent with The Student Post.

Confirmed candidates include Catherine Borgia, David Buchwald, Asha Castleberry-Hernandez, Josh Eisen, Evelyn Farkas, Mondaire Jones, Catherine Parker and Adam Schleifer.

The public is welcome to attend. All parking will be in the Central 2 parking lot. Logistical questions can be forwarded to [max.micallef@purchase.edu](mailto:max.micallef@purchase.edu).



# Pleasantville Painter Relishes Unexpected NYC Exhibit

By Martin Wilbur

Tracy Burtz's latest exhibit of her large oil paintings is an example of never knowing where the next great opportunity can come from.

The Pleasantville artist has been concentrating on showing her most of her work at galleries, but the father of a former private student of hers who owns a building in midtown Manhattan asked her to show seven of paintings in the lobby space of the 42-story 211 E. 43 St.

Despite the headaches of getting the paintings to the city and believing that her days of showing in commercial spaces might have been over, Burtz agreed to accept the offer. She followed her own advice that painters need to show their work as much as possible.

Better yet, he selected all but one of the works, reducing some of the fretting that artists face when they try to make the final decisions of what to include in an exhibit. So far, the response couldn't be better, not only because at least 1,000 people enter and exit the building on a given day, Burtz said.

"(I'm) hearing from all kinds of people," said Burtz. "I mean people from the U.N., somebody from the U.N. contacted me. A big real estate developer contacted me. It's just been like this, just all different people, and young people loving it and posting (photos) on their Instagram in front of paintings and getting pleasure out of it. Nothing to do with purchasing. That gives me pleasure."

Burtz, who has exhibited at the Katonah



Art Center and now has a contract to show her works at Cavalier Galleries in New York City, Greenwich, Nantucket and Palm Beach, is known for her life-size oil paintings of exotic and beautiful women. She often tries to capture the wide range of women's emotions in their lives.

More recently, Burtz has a growing collection of beach scene paintings which she describes as playful. She enjoys doing both types of work.

While Burtz has been an artist and teacher for about 40 years, it was a recent decision to expand her home studio in Pleasantville that has had one of the biggest impacts on her career. Not only did she need more space but the expanded area has skylights and her work



Pleasantville artist Tracy Burtz in front of two of her paintings in the gallery space at 211 E. 43 St. in Manhattan. Her work will be exhibited there through Apr. 23. Left: "White Dog," one of seven paintings by Burtz being exhibited in midtown. Right: Burtz's "Last Dance," a painting she completed last year.



painter everything changes," Burtz said.

Burtz invites everybody to stop in at the exhibit at 211 E. 43 St., whether they're there one day after work, on a separate trip to Manhattan or have spare time before catching their train at nearby Grand Central Station.

"If I can reach somebody, there's nothing more than that and it makes it all worthwhile because I actually work hard," she said.

The exhibit is open around the clock seven days a week through Apr. 23. To learn more about Burtz's work, visit [www.tracyburtz.com](http://www.tracyburtz.com).

space receives light from the northeast, which Burtz said gives her optimal illumination.

As a result, Burtz said she spends more time in her studio looking at her work, a practice that she encourages her students to do. Sometimes when you look at a painting or a drawing long enough, what was originally thought to be an accident really is not, she said. In fact, she urges her students to look at what they've created about 70 percent of their time.

"When you have a big, beautiful space as a



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# P'ville HS Students Show Children What's It's Like Backstage for Play

By Martin Wilbur

It's always a hectic time for students, staff and parent volunteers in the weeks leading up to the annual high school musical.

Last Wednesday, the cast and crew of Pleasantville High School's "The Little Mermaid" took time out of their busy schedules to give more than 100 local children in grades 1-6 a close-up, behind-the-scenes look at all the facets of putting on a theater production.

"The whole genesis of this was to give younger kids a feel for what's required to put on a show and to let them know how it's more than just performers that make a play," said Jill Jameson, the chair of the event called Backstage at PHS and a member of PHS Friends of Performing Arts. "It's also a nice chance for the kids in the crews to sort of be role models for kids who might want to join (the musical) someday."

The roughly two-hour program featured groups of children spending time at each of five stations around the school. The children spent a 15-minute segment at four of the stations – the building and painting crew, lighting and sound, costumes and props, said junior Lauren Peacock, a student co-director of the musical.

For the song and dance session, a half-hour was devoted to that segment, she said.

A few of the high school students who are among the leaders in each group helped lead the discussions and demonstrations.

Then, in the final 15 minutes the cast performed a scene from the upcoming show

featuring the song "Under the Sea."

"It's so much fun working with all the kids, especially for me, not really coming from the cast," said senior Joey D'Angelo, the stage manager for the production. "I get to interact with the actors and I get to know what goes into the play, so it's kind of interesting."

Backstage at PHS was tried in 2012 and 2013, when the school production featured "Beauty and the Beast" and "Peter Pan," respectively, Jameson said. It hadn't been tried since, in part because it works best with a kid-friendly show, she said. It was resurrected this year with the production of "The Little Mermaid."

Director Kathleen Warren said it's a great way to help inspire the community's elementary school students, which could lead to them becoming involved in the musical when they reach high school.

It also highlights that the stage isn't the only way to participate in one of the highlight events at the school each year while potentially sparking a love for the theater, she said.

"Even though our cast is large, there are more kids working in the crews than the cast," said Warren, who is retiring at the end of the school year and is directing her final production.

Most of the children invited were from Bedford Road School and fifth- and sixth-graders from Pleasantville Middle School, Jameson said. It was also opened up to the local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts because some of those children go to out-of-



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Pleasantville High School students demonstrate a song-and-dance routine during last week's Backstage at PHS event.

Parent volunteer Bill Brown and several students speak to children at last week's Backstage at PHS event, where the younger students received a firsthand, behind-the-scenes look at what goes into putting on a theater production.

district or private schools, she said.

Jameson said it's a benefit to everyone who participates.

"Hopefully, the kids get to inspire the next generation," Jameson said. "It's a chance to

share what they're passionate about."

There will be five performances of "The Little Mermaid" at Pleasantville High School starting Friday, Mar. 6 and continuing on Mar. 7, 8, 13 and 14. Show time for all performance, with the exception of the Mar. 8 matinee at 2 p.m., is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and are available at [www.Phsplay.org](http://www.Phsplay.org).

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# I Think I May Know Where to Find Jimmy Hoffa

After almost a half-century of living with my wife Margaret, we frequently like to reminisce about experiences we've shared and keepsakes we've gathered together. That included collectibles of all varieties, whether antiques, such as the 19th century end-of-day glass playing marbles I collected for some years, or new items such as Battersby porcelain boxes that my wife favors.

Sometimes when we sit together, reading or watching television, I'll recall an item that seems to have gone missing and will ask, "Where is that item?" Margaret will reply, "Oh, it's in 'my box,'" referring to a moving box she says was filled with collectibles and important papers in our last move when we downsized from a six-bedroom colonial home to a two-bedroom condo.

But where is that box, labeled "Margaret's box," that may or may not exist? She swears by it, but it hasn't yet turned up anywhere in our condo or in our storage room after we've been in our new location for more than five years. It's even become somewhat of a joke. I'll think of something that's gone missing, and just as I'm about to ask Margaret if she knows where it might be, I stop short and say, "Oh, wait a minute, it's in Margaret's box, right?"

Maybe we all have a Margaret's box for



By Bill Primavera

all things that once graced our lives and now are mysteriously missing. It can happen over time when the memory of where things are stored slowly fades.

There is one memory box I've had since I was a teenager. It's a sturdy box originally containing oranges from Florida that was sent to my family as a Christmas gift. After the oranges were consumed, I appropriated the box for my memorabilia that I've held on to since I was six years old. Only the most important papers are stored there: my Holy Communion certificate, my confirmation certificate, my Selective Service card, my high school and college diplomas, etc.

As I think about these important papers, I wonder whether that's the best system for filing them. It's doubtful.

That brings me to my basic point: Where should we place important papers to save? One online source suggests:

1. Wallet. You are, obviously, very limited in what you can keep in such a small space.
2. Safe deposit box. You can rent one at your bank or credit union for a small annual fee.
3. Home safe.
4. An attorney's office.
5. Out-of-area friend or relative. (This suggestion begs the question, where would they place the papers?)

6. 6. Online or digital storage.

If the home option is chosen, where at home should money or important papers be placed? The suggestions I find are:

1. Again, a home safe.
2. Plastic page slips filed in a fireproof filing cabinet.
3. Under the mattress, as many people do with their money.

And speaking of that...

When we lived in a single-family home in Brooklyn Heights, we were once burglarized in the middle of the night by an intruder who had taken our back door from its hinges. It was the most frightening experience of our lives when we woke and Margaret told me that she had a strange dream that a man was standing in our bedroom, looking at us in bed. Thank goodness she stayed in a half-sleep state, or who knows what might have happened.

At any rate, the experience taught me something. For some years, I've maintained a library of rare books that I inherited from an aunt, which have always graced built-in bookshelves in our living room. When I went downstairs the morning after the burglary, I found that each and every book had been rifled through, obviously looking for cash. So is that where people keep their

cash at home, I thought? I was also told by the police the next morning that thieves also look in the freezer. Who knew?

What that thief didn't know was that, young as we were, we were living far beyond our means in a home that we could barely afford. We really had no money, certainly none to hide around the house. The one item the thief stole was my then-three-year-old daughter's piggy bank that probably had less than a few dollars in change.

As I ponder these questions and memories, I marvel at the claim that our most important documents are safely stored in Margaret's box. All I have to do now is find that box. I joke with her that if I ever do find our important documents in it, I'm sure to find Jimmy Hoffa as well.

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](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is [www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com](http://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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# Chordsmen's Singing Lessons a Life-Changing Experience

By Al Schwartz

The Westchester Chordsmen, a nonprofit performing arts organization, has a long history of providing free community service programs throughout the year. This includes its autumn cappella youth music festival for high school students, its college singing scholarships and its holiday season sing outs at senior residences and medical facilities.

The Chordsmen also offers free singing lessons for men twice a year. The next session, which starts on Monday, Feb. 24, consists of six 90-minute classes on Monday evenings at 6:45 p.m. The classes are led by Keith Harris, a professional voice coach who has been director of the Westchester Chordsmen for the last 12 years.

As one who went through the Chordsmen's free Ready, Set, Sing program and who previously had never sung in any school, religious or adult choir, I can tell you it was a life-changing experience.

When I first heard about the lessons, I thought this isn't for me; but after considering it for a few days, I thought why not? Getting free singing lessons taught by a professional voice teacher was a unique opportunity. At the very least I'd sing better in the shower or at social events, but like over a third of the students who take the course, I found the experience so rewarding that I wound up joining the choir. Singing now fills a gap in my life that



The Westchester Chordsmen during their holiday concert in December. The next six-week session of free singing lessons for men begin Feb. 24 in White Plains.

I didn't realize I had.

At the beginning of the first lesson, Harris told us that by learning the fundamentals of singing – diaphragm breathing, relaxing our vocal cords and having proper body alignment, all of which improve our health – we would get the most beautiful sound possible from our voice. I didn't really believe that and

thought, "Yeah right!" But Harris knew what he was talking about.

As a non-singer I used to think that only a small percentage of the population were naturally good singers and the rest would never be able to sing well. But now I know that for many, good singing is a learned skill, and people who learn the fundamentals of singing can often sing far

better than they ever thought possible.

For many of us, our enjoyment of vocal music is limited to listening to recordings of celebrity singers. But it is hard to describe the joy people feel when they sing competently, which is very doable, or the camaraderie felt among people who are singing together – camaraderie that is sorely missing in the world today. Rediscover the joy of singing with others that past generations experienced.

The Westchester Chordsmen is a member chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society whose motto is to keep the whole world singing. We sing a wide range of musical styles, including pop, Broadway show tunes, doo-wop and jazz arranged in beautiful a cappella four-part harmony.

Your voice, after all, is the one musical instrument you always have. For me singing is a gift from heaven, and I look forward to singing with others for years to come.

Ready, Set, Sing lessons will be held at Kol Ami Synagogue, located at 252 Soundview Rd. in White Plains. Enter through the back entrance and a Chordsman will direct you to the rehearsal area. Come one night or complete the entire six-week course.

For more information or to register in advance, call 914-298-SING (7464) or visit [chordsmen.org/ready-set-sing](http://chordsmen.org/ready-set-sing) or just show up.

## A Spiritual View

By Rev. Nils Chittenden

I've often wondered if we take enough care of our spiritual health these days. We're so good at taking care of our physical health – going to the gym, watching what we eat. We're pretty good at looking after our mental health too – at least, we know it's important to look after it the best we can, even if we fall short.

But when it comes to our spiritual health, well, it's so easy to overlook. The word "spirituality" is everywhere

– meditation, yoga, wellness. But spiritual health is about looking beyond ourselves, and becoming more attuned to the divine, to the creative spirit of goodness that gives meaning and purpose to life, and longs for us to

be our best selves.

This is the aim of all religions, even if they end up getting there by different roads. Here in North Castle, it's why the houses of worship in Armonk have been growing closer, and last year formed the Armonk Faith Alliance. And it's why we're now offering this new,

weekly column, devoted to giving you a spiritual view of world events, local news and modern life to help you, uplift you and give you spiritual food for thought.

Rev. Nils Chittenden is rector of St.

Stephens Episcopal Church in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Hillside Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess' Armenian Seminary.



## Pace Looking for Patients to Participate in Diabetes Study

Pace University's College of Health Professions is looking for participants for a free eight-week study that will examine the effects of mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) techniques, such as meditation, yoga and conscious breathing, in adults with Type 2 diabetes.

The study, funded with a grant from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, needs 15 participants who are 18 years or older, suffer from Type 2 diabetes mellitus and willing to participate in the eight-week program comprised of weekly classes on Tuesday evenings from Apr. 14 through June 9 and an all-day retreat on Saturday, May 30.

"While the direct benefits of mindfulness-based stress reduction may vary among individuals, we are eager to learn more about its potential to help people effectively manage diabetes and its related stressors," said Professor Lucille Ferrara, a nurse practitioner and lead researcher for the study. "Our hope is to measure any potential benefits and understand how these techniques can be effectively utilized to complement traditional remedies."

Developed by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1979, the MBSR program is a highly respected evidence-based practice that is known and regarded within the healthcare community. MBSR is offered by more than

720 hospitals, medical centers and clinics around the world – and the medical field continues to learn more about its benefits through ongoing studies and applications of MBSR interventions in various settings.

Type 2 diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death in the United States in 2015. Treatment can cost tens of thousands of dollars for an individual as it requires extensive blood work, lab testing, complex medication regimens and frequent visits to a doctor, all of which can be burdensome and stressful to patients and lead to other issues such as anxiety, depression, insomnia and other ailments.

As part of this study, participants will be provided a yoga mat, healthy snacks and \$30 per week for travel to the Pleasantville campus and have continuous blood-glucose monitoring throughout the study.

Information sessions are planned for Wednesday, Feb. 19, Tuesday, Mar. 3 and Tuesday, Mar. 24 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m. The information sessions will take place in Gralnick Conference Room, Lienhard Hall, third floor, located at 861 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

To learn more or to see if you qualify for the study, contact Professor Ferrara at 914-773-3137 or e-mail [diabetesMBSR@pace.edu](mailto:diabetesMBSR@pace.edu).



# 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. 18

**Art and Science.** Explore the science of how some substances combine, some attract and some repel and we can use their properties to make beautiful and creative art. For children from grades pre-K and up. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Earring Making.** Learn to make earrings while helping a good cause. For every pair of earrings you make, make another pair that will be donated to a battered women's shelter. Led by Joan Lloyd. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoblibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscoblibrary.org).

**DIY President's Day Puppets.** Celebrate President's Day with fun puppets made out of wooden spoons.

**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.

**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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Mount Kisco Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting.** Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoblibrary.org](http://www.mountkiscoblibrary.org).

**Armonk Readers Book Club.** "Rebecca" by Daphne Du Maurier will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:45 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

**"Midnight Traveler."** When the Taliban puts a bounty on Afghan director Hassan Fazili's head, he is forced to flee the country with his wife and two young daughters. Capturing their uncertain journey, Fazili shows firsthand the dangers facing refugees seeking asylum and the love of a family on the run. An award-winning, influential documentary, which is creating a buzz on the festival circuit. Written, produced and edited by Emelie Mahdavian, a 2018 Jacob Burns artist-in-residence under its Creative Culture program. Part of the Global Watch Crisis & Social Action series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**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.

**"A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries."** This portrayal of the family life of author James Jones (Kris Kristofferson) is based on an autobiographical novel by his daughter. Also starring Barbara Hershey, Leelee

Sobieski and Anthony Roth Costanzo, who was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for his performance. This Merchant Ivory production is nuanced, detailed and gorgeous. Part of the Caramoor at the Burns: Movies Musicians Love series. 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).

**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. 19

**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.

**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. Wednesdays through June 24. Info: 914-238-4967.

**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 Whipoorwill 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).

**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 Whipoorwill 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 Whipoorwill 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.

**Mummies and More: Discovering Ancient Egypt.** A unique introduction to the art and archaeology of ancient Egypt with your very own Egyptologist. Marisa recounts little-known facts, tidbits and stories to help students discover this fascinating culture. This interactive workshop concludes with a hieroglyphic activity where each participant draws their name inside a cartouche, learns how to make papyrus and receives their very own papyrus piece to take home. Authentic ancient artifacts are an integral part of the program to allow firsthand engagement of the past for participants, a unique opportunity to actually touch a 3,000-year-old-item. For children in grades 3-7. North Castle Public Library's art gallery, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. 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).

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

**Author Talk.** Wayne Sobers discusses how he dealt with the challenges and obstacles to success, how they shaped and strengthened his character and the lessons he learned on the way to becoming an African-American

executive. 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: Gilbert Stuart and the History of Presidential Portraits.** In honor of President's Day, take a look at Stuart's famed portrait of George Washington as well as the various presidential portraits housed at the National Portrait Gallery. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Spirited Away: Talking Film With Tracy Cochran.** Director Hayao Miyazaki once said he created his magnificent 2002 animated movie "Spirited Away" for 10-year-old girls. Adults around the world were captivated. Now as we face climate catastrophe, the adventure offers unexpected guidance and hope. Following 10-year-old Chihiro through a wondrous world full of spirits, Miyazaki reveals how a pure heart and sincerity can light our way. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$11. Non-members: \$16. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

## Thursday, Feb. 20

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

**Imaginarium Play.** A mobile block-based play system that inspires children through creative, active, imaginative and collaborative play. For children two to four years old. Adults must accompany children at all times. North Castle Public Library art gallery room, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Space limited; registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Children's Room at 914-273-3887.

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

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# Coding Camp for Children Coming to Westchester This Summer

By Pat Casey

This summer a new camp experience awaits children in Westchester.

A 3,000-square-foot space called Codeverse at The Westchester mall in White Plains will feature cutting-edge gadgets, including a 20-foot television wall and professional-grade lights and speakers, which can be controlled and programmed by children using real code that they will learn to write using a proprietary coding language named KidScript.

Codeverse is the creation of co-founders Katy Lynch and Craig Ulliott, a British couple who moved to Chicago more than a decade ago. They opened their flagship location in Chicago's Lincoln Park in 2017 and two additional locations a year later.

A partnership with Simon Malls brings Codeverse to White Plains and Boston this June.

Simon, which owns and manages The Westchester, has been seeking more family-oriented entertainment businesses to fill their retail space. The partnership with Codeverse was a logical connection, fitting the missions of both organizations.

"The Codeverse mission is to teach one billion children how to code," Lynch said in an interview with The Examiner. "We are showing children a new way of thinking in the digital age by exposing them to programming options. The Codeverse studios are designed to be digital playgrounds that promote inspiration and creativity."

Lynch said her husband Craig is a techie who began delving into software when he

was 16. As "serial entrepreneurs," Lynch said they developed KidScript to manipulate software to control different gadgets and hardware. She said "it's like coding flash cards."

Lynch said Codeverse teaches the basics as two modes. The first mode is to learn what can be done and the second is to build, she said.

In build mode, children use a blank canvas using iPads, typing code on the left side of the screen. On the right side, they import an object to manipulate with the code, learning the necessary code for the object to take a certain action.

"The process teaches logic, how to get from A to B, as well as critical thinking and problem solving," Lynch said. "When the students graduate at 13, they can move on to working with existing coding languages such as JavaScript, Ruby, Python and Visual Basic."

Codeverse will offer two programs. A summer camp created for beginners and experienced coders allows children to spend a week creating their own mobile game while engaging in hands-on STEM activities, including 3D printing, robots, coding and circuitry.

Each day of camp is assigned a theme. Throughout the week, campers embark on field trips to nearby businesses. Lunch, beverages and snacks are provided.

To cap it off, campers show off their coding creations to family and friends on Demo Day, a celebration that is held every Friday afternoon during camp.

Camp will be in session Monday through



Codeverse is an interactive coding and technology platform for children six to 13 years old, offering afterschool, evening and weekend classes as well as weeklong summer day camps. A studio is opening at The Westchester in White Plains in June.

Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in June, July and August. There is complementary early drop-off at 8 a.m. and late pick-up at 4 p.m.

Parents can pre-register students for 2020 Summer Camps by visiting [codeverse.com/camps](http://codeverse.com/camps). The price is \$399 for a week. After June 1, the price will increase to \$499. A deposit is \$200.

A monthly membership program provides children with recurring weekly access to the Codeverse studio as well as exclusive access to KidScript for at-home use.

All Codeverse classes and camps are led by guides, a collective of K-12 certified teachers, improv comedians, seasoned designers, engineers and game developers.

"This diverse mix of backgrounds, skillsets

and experiences creates a dynamic, fun and engaging learning environment for the children," Lynch noted.

Guides are equipped with iPads that display stats on how every student is progressing through the curriculum.

Children receive achievement pins and digital badges for demonstrating comprehension of coding concepts, controlling physical objects by using code within the studio and by building unique apps and games. Through a parent portal, parents gain real-time visibility into their child's progress and can view all badges earned.

The Westchester is located at 125 Westchester Ave., #1160, in White Plains next to KidZania and Neiman Marcus.

**"This summer, I'm going to learn to be strong!"**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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# Happenings

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**Sing Me a Story.** Come and celebrate animals in winter, and look forward to spring's return, with songs, stories, puppets and instruments on this late winter morning. Led by Nancy Hershatter, a longtime music specialist who has been singing with children for years. For children three to five years old and their families. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

**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).

**Imaginarium Play.** A mobile block-based play system that inspires children through creative, active, imaginative and collaborative play. For children five to eight years old. Adults must accompany children at all times. North Castle Public Library art gallery room, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Free. Space limited; registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Children's Room at 914-273-3887.

**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).

**National Theatre Live's "Cyrano de Bergerac."** James McAvoy returns to the stage in an inventive new adaptation of this classic, broadcast live to cinemas from the London's West End. Fierce with a pen and notorious in combat, Cyrano almost has it all – if only he could win the heart of his true love Roxane. There's just one big problem: he has a nose as huge as his heart. Will a society engulfed by narcissism get the better of Cyrano – or can his mastery of language set Roxane's world right? Adapted by Martin Crimp and directed by Jamie Lloyd, this production will be brought to life with linguistic ingenuity to celebrate Cyrano's powerful and resonant resistance against overwhelming odds. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 p.m. Members: \$25. Non-members: \$35. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**Family Movie: "Trolls."** Come relax and watch a movie. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**DIY Emoji Jar.** Everyone speaks in emoji but now you can decorate with emojis. Paint a mason jar with your favorite or most heavily used emoji. For children seven 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).

**Stay-cation Beach Party.** Drop in for winter break food and fun. For children of

all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

**The Power of Words.** A discussion honoring some of the greatest black orators in the country and their orations from Dr. Martin Luther King to Barack Obama. The conversation will be prompted from selected speeches where attendees will have an opportunity to openly and respectfully share their experiences, ideas and feelings to create lively and productive discourse. All welcome. Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-525-3076 or e-mail [library@mlkwestchester.org](mailto:library@mlkwestchester.org).

**Drop-In Knitting Help.** First-time knitter? Need help with a knitting project? Instructor and advanced knitter Benny Gerwitz can help. Please bring your own materials. Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-941-7072 or visit [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org).

**"The Cave."** Oscar nominee Feras Fayyad delivers an unflinching story of the Syrian war with his powerful new documentary. For besieged civilians, hope and safety lie underground inside the subterranean hospital known as the Cave, where pediatrician and managing physician Dr. Amani Ballour and her colleagues Samaher and Dr. Alaa have claimed their right to work as equals alongside their male counterparts, doing their jobs in a way that would be unthinkable in the oppressively patriarchal culture that exists above. Following the women as they contend with daily bombardments, chronic supply shortages and the ever-present threat of chemical attacks, this film paints a stirring portrait of courage, resilience and female solidarity. 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).

**Bob Saget.** Saget has starred in many successful television shows, including two of the most family-friendly shows network TV has ever produced ("Full House" and "America's Funniest Home Videos"), but he's also an out-of-his-mind stand-up comedian for over 30 years. From his 2014 Grammy-nominated stand-up special "That's What I'm Talkin' About" to his scene-stealing cameo in "Entourage" and "The Aristocrats," it's always effective as Saget embraces his dark side. In January 2016, he completed a nine-week run on Broadway as Pastor Greg in the Tony-nominated play "Hand to God," and his first book, "Dirty Daddy," is a New York Times bestseller. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$38, \$48 and \$58. Info and tickets: 914-233-3586 or visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

## Friday, Feb. 21

**Storytime With Miss Stephanie.** A morning filled with stories and songs. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Feb. 24. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**ZUMBA® With Amy.** Fun cardio dance fitness workout, low-impact approach, easy learning environment. This feel-good

workout is exercise in disguise. Free trial class available. Addie-Tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza, lower level, Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. \$14 drop-in fee. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Walk-ins welcome. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162 or visit [www.amyolin.zumba.com](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.

**Family Movie: "The Secret Life of Pets 2."** Come relax and watch a movie. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Family Film.** Enjoy a movie on the big screen. For children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Friday Night Films and Discussion: "Zero Dark Thirty."** Discussion led by Carol Durst-Wertheim. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or [www.chappaqualibrary.org](http://www.chappaqualibrary.org).

**Friday Night Film Series: "The Price of Everything."** View and discuss this incredible documentary on the art world's most powerful economic engine – the international auction house. An exploration of how Christie's and Sotheby's rule the art market, this film also explores the careers of various artists, including Larry Poon and Jeff Koons, while examining the logic behind various heavy-hitting art collectors in their pursuit of beauty, art and value. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or [www.northcastlelibrary.org](http://www.northcastlelibrary.org).

**Blue Oyster Cult.** For more than four decades, Blue Oyster Cult has been thrilling fans of intelligent hard rock worldwide with powerful albums loaded with classic songs. The Long Island-based band is revered within the hard rock and heavy metal scene for its pioneering work, and occupies a unique place in rock history because it's one of very few hard rock/heavy metal bands to earn both genuine mainstream critical acclaim as well as commercial success. The band is often cited as a major influence by other acts such as Metallica and was listed in VH1's countdown of the greatest hard rock bands of all time. Upon the release of its self-titled debut album in 1972, Blue Oyster Cult was praised for its catchy, yet heavy music and lyrics that could be provocative, terrifying, funny or ambiguous, often in the same song. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$48, \$60 and \$75. Info and tickets: 914-233-3586 or visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

**Westchester Photographic Society: "How it Gets Done."** Erica Genece will talk about her process from inspiration to final photo. She will take attendees through several shoots, describing the steps followed and challenges faced, from pre-to post-production, and highlighting key elements

of a successful shoot. 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).

## Saturday, Feb. 22

**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).

**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. 11 a.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. and Feb. 29 at 11 a.m. 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.

**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

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# Local Officials Make Appeal for Organ Donors on Valentine's Day

By Abby Luby

Wearing flashing red heart “HERO” pins at the New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt on National Donor Day and Valentine’s Day were several local officials and hospital staff encouraging the greater Westchester community to register to be organ donors.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining), who was joined by kidney recipient Carolyn Robinson and other officials, offered some sobering numbers about New York State’s organ donors. New York ranks last in the nation in the percentage of residents registered as organ donors – about 39 percent, she said. But nearly 10,000 New Yorkers are in need of an organ transplant.

States with the highest donor designation rates include Colorado, Michigan, and Arkansas, according to the statistics portal Statista.

In 2019, 1,966 transplants were performed from deceased donors in New York State.

Galef, a registered organ donor, worked on statewide legislation making the organ donation registration process easier. A 2017 state law allows a 16-year-old to register as a donor when applying for a driver’s license.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, left, recognizes kidney recipient Carolyn Robinson at the Valentine’s Day Organ Donor appeal last Friday at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital.

Hospital President Stacey Petrower said that this was the first year the hospital publicly supported the effort to encourage people to sign up as organ donors.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to educate the public. We’d like it to be a

yearly event,” she said.

Petrower, who was dressed in green last Friday, the color of organ donor awareness, added, “New York-Presbyterian performs the most solid organ transplants of any hospital in the nation.”

Solid organs are the liver, spleen, kidneys, adrenals, pancreas, ovaries and uterus. Petrower also stressed transplants are minimally invasive procedures.

Robinson shared her own story on needing a kidney and was put on a backlogged waitlist for a transplant. Fortunately, her sister offered her own kidney to save her sister from having to undergo dialysis treatments.

“We are both healthy,” Robinson said. “Organ donation is the gift of life and sometimes the only thing that can save lives. Show a little love and register.”

All local officials strongly advocated for registering as an organ donor. While polling suggests that a strong majority of people support organ donation, there is still a disconnect between that support and enrollee numbers.

In the United States, more than 100,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ donation. The biggest challenge doctors face is finding a match for their patients.

There are numerous ways to register to be an organ donor.

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## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

Oh Dreary. So far it has been a rather damp and dull winter. There’s little one can do about the weather, but just perhaps a few of the quiz words this week will help to brighten up your day and your vocabulary. Here is something else to brighten your day, spring arrives next month.

1.veracious (adj.)

A) precisely accurate

B) modest

C) especially eager

2. juggernaut (n.)

A) an obligation

B) rejuvenation

C) an overwhelming force

3. foment (v.)

A) to turn around

B) stir-up

C) distort

4. amalgam (n.)

A) a former member

B) a mixture

C) a short directive

5. hermitage (n.)

A) a secluded residence

B) a religious site

C) an art collection

6. adjudicate (v.)

A) to take an oath

B) make an official decision

C) suspend indefinitely

7. fatuous (adj.)

A) silly and pointless

B) marked by success

C) controlled by fate

8. assiduity (n.)

A) affirmation

B) examination

C) concentration

ANSWERS:

1. A. Precisely accurate

2. C. An overwhelming force that destroys anything in its path

3. B. To stir-up public opinion; agitate

4. B. A mixture or blend

5. A. A secluded residence; a hideaway; the home of a hermit

6. B. To make an official decision or judgement; to act as a judge

7. A. Silly and pointless

8. C. Great and constant diligence and attention; concentration

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# What Colleges Must Do in the Wake of the Lawrence Ray Case

News of Lawrence (Larry) Ray's arrest recently broke following the federal investigation into claims of a cult that originated at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville.

Ray, the father of a former student, could face life in jail if convicted of the nine charges against him, which include sex trafficking, money laundering and extortion.

According to several reports, Ray moved into on-campus housing with his daughter and several of her roommates in 2010, later convincing them to live with him in his apartment on the Upper East Side. Presenting himself as a "fatherly figure," he took advantage of their vulnerability and subjected them to years of psychological manipulation, as well as physical and emotional abuse.

According to New York Magazine's "The Stolen Kids of Sarah Lawrence," which was the first to break the story last year, Ray offered "therapy" sessions to the students, forcing them to reveal intimate secrets about their personal lives and claimed he could help them. After earning their trust and conditioning their minds to his philosophies, he alienated them from their families and falsely accused them of damaging his property, extracting almost a million dollars over the course of eight years from the five victims.

When I first read this account, I was shocked and deeply disturbed. As a member of my high school's swim team, I had practiced at Sarah Lawrence and competed in their pool. While you hear about the epidemic of



By Ellie Dessart

sex trafficking in other countries, it's unsettling to think something like this could happen so close to home.

With senior year coming to an end and college in the near future, students and parents are beginning to discuss safety concerns on university campuses. Of course, with this particular case in the headlines recently, those conversations have only intensified. As I learned more of the years of abuse and torment inflicted on his victims, I wondered how Ray could get away with it for nearly a decade.

Sarah Lawrence College President Cristle Collins Judd addressed this question in a letter to the campus community, revealing that "college officials at the time didn't know" what was transpiring.

Her answer isn't good enough.

Not to the parents of current college students. Not to the families of the victims whose lives were destroyed. And certainly not to an 18-year-old girl preparing to leave home and entrust a new school with her safety. How could the Sarah Lawrence administration not know? What are they, and universities as a whole, going to do to prevent similar events in the future? What can we do as a community?

First, while it's unrealistic for college administrators to know everything that happens on their campuses at all times, it's reasonable to expect them to enact appropriate housing policies and strictly adhere to them.

According to a recently published article by Lohud, "students are limited to no more than three consecutive nights" at Iona College in nearby New Rochelle. Further, at Pace University in Pleasantville, "student spaces are inspected throughout the semester to ensure that they aren't in violation of guest policies." The adoption of similar regulations across all college campuses may help to achieve a balance between hospitality and student safety.

Second, it's important to keep the conversation going. The talks we have now in anticipation of leaving for college shouldn't cease once we reach campus. Ray was able to take advantage of his victims because they were in need of guidance as they struggled with mental health issues and other relationship problems. To protect young individuals from falling prey to this, it's crucial that schools provide a 24/7 support system, educate students on the signs of abusive behavior and try to keep the communication open.

Ray's actions were sickening, and his case, unfortunately, exemplifies how the justice system can't always make up for someone's immorality. While he may be sentenced to life in prison, his victims and their families will never fully recover from the pain they've had to endure for nearly a decade.

However, if we work together, we can take this case as a lesson and move in the direction of safer communities for all.

*Ellie Dessart is a senior at Bronxville High School. Her monthly column "Inside the Mind of a Teen" examines and addresses the issues pertaining to teenagers at both the local and global level.*

## Inside the Mind of a Teen

# Al Smith, the Klan, Choosing a President and a Riot in Peekskill

I just finished reading an excellent book, Jon Meacham's "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels." For those concerned about our nation's ability to return to an even keel in these turbulent waters, take heart. We have gone through rough seas before and survived. We will again.

Meacham tackles extremism throughout our history. Most illuminating is his treatment of the 1924 Democratic National Convention, held in Madison Square Garden, where New York City native and Irish-American Al Smith first tried to become a candidate for president of the United States.

Smith had some major strikes against him as he sought the highest prize in American politics. And it wasn't that he was a New Yorker. Four New Yorkers had already filled the seat: Martin Van Buren, Chester Arthur, Grover Cleveland and Teddy Roosevelt all came from the Empire State.

But Smith was different. He was the son of Irish immigrants. He was a liberal and favored repealing Prohibition, then still in its infancy and popular with many Americans, especially conservatives. But most objectionable of all, he was a Catholic.

Smith had risen from poverty to become New York's governor. At the 1924 convention, attended by some 1,200 delegates from across the nation, a resolution was proposed by Smith's liberal and Catholic supporters to denounce the Ku

Klux Klan, then re-emerging as a vibrant political force throughout the nation, including New York and Westchester County.

There were 343 delegates who were members of the Ku Klux Klan, with a major goal of blocking liberal, Irish-Catholic Smith from running. The resolution failed. The emboldened Klan exerted tremendous pressure upon the convention to nominate their favorite, Georgia native William G. McAdoo. It took 103 ballots to pick a candidate, and in the end neither McAdoo nor Smith were selected. The nomination went to John W. Davis, who failed that November to unseat the Republican incumbent, Calvin Coolidge.

Smith gained the Democratic nomination four years later but lost to Herbert Hoover. Then, no Catholic was subsequently a candidate for the nation's highest office until John F. Kennedy, who, in the 1960 election, became the first Catholic elected President. Now, 60 years later, a candidate's religion is barely mentioned. Progress.

How strong was the Klan that they swayed a major U.S. political party? In the 1920s, their membership stood between four million

and six million. And they were not solely in the South. They operated openly in our backyard.

"The Klan," a 1928 New York Times article, reported, that it "has an especially large membership in Peekskill and other northern sections of Westchester." Klaverns, their basic organizational unit, were cited in Port Chester, New Rochelle, Yonkers, Hastings, Mount Pleasant, Bedford and White Plains. The Klan's influence waned as the decade progressed.

But the 1930s saw a revival. In September 1934, under the banner "Westchester Klan Revives, Backs Nazis,"

The Times reported on "an organization meeting and field day" held in Port Chester and attended "by hundreds." A Klan official stated their goal: "to give back to the American people the fundamental rights conveyed by the Constitution." He then proceeded to heap scorn on the New Deal, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Jews while praising Hitler.

While World War II sharply diminished the



By Brian McGowan

Klan, an undercurrent remained in Westchester starkly different than the image we have today. In 1949, recalled The Forward recently, the Klan orchestrated a riot during a concert performance by African-American singer Paul Robeson, Pete Seeger and others. An angry mob attacked concertgoers and performers, inflicting numerous injuries.

In the end, a fiery cross was burned, affirming a claim by one of the Klan's leaders that "the crosses will begin to burn north of the Mason-Dixon Line tonight."

Seventy years on, progress?

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx. He is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. He has written two books: "Love, Son John," regarding a relative's experiences as a U.S. soldier during World War II, and "Thunder at Noon," a work of historical fiction based on the Battle of Waterloo. Both books are available at Amazon.com. Reach him at [brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com](mailto:brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com), or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). To see more of his writing on "things Irish" follow his blog, "Rethinking Irish," at [www.rethinkingirish.com](http://www.rethinkingirish.com).



Al Smith (1873-1944)



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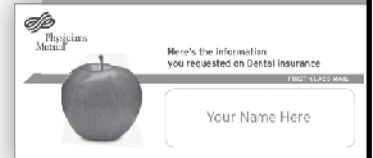
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# The Latest on the Tariff Wars Threatening Wine Imports



By Nick Antonaccio

"The world we live in is changing. The old order is transitioning; welcome to the new reality."

Whether we are proponents or opponents of the entwined economic, social, technological and political new order of the 21st century, one thing is clear. Each waking day brings new discoveries, economic change and political upheaval around the world.

One of the areas I tend to focus on, perhaps more than others, is the changing world of wine. And recent European Union (EU) political skirmishes have created an uncertain future for the United States wine market over tariffs.

"Who cares about European wines? Buy American," might seem a reasonable response.

If the prices of Italian, French, Spanish, English and German wines increase significantly, won't American wines, typically more expensive than a number of European wines, gain a windfall profit? Won't American wineries benefit from

greater profit margins at the expense of their European rivals?

All politics aside (as difficult as that may be in today's hotbed of opposing ideologies around the globe), the economic impact of the recent wine tariffs imposed and/or threatened by the United States is casting a doomsday spell over a wide swath of the domestic wine industry. From producers, to importers, to distributors, to restaurants, to retail shops and to consumers, the financial impacts threaten the livelihoods of business owners and the wallets of consumers. The magnitude and breadth of the latest round of tariff threats has the potential of causing grievous economic and financial damage to the wine industry in the United States.

The backdrop: In November 2019, the United States imposed 25 percent tariffs on select products, principally wine, exported from select EU countries that historically have been subsidizing Airbus. Affected wines include those under 14 percent alcohol by volume from France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The immediate impact: In the first month the 25 percent tariffs were implemented, French sales to the United States fell by 42 percent compared to the prior November.

Fighting for their economic lives, and to preserve their otherwise unsold wines,

French producers turned to new markets. French wine sales to China last November surged 35 percent. Wily French winemakers have found a way to deflect the intended punishment of United States tariffs. Is this a portent of a long-term loss of access to French wine in favor of China, our arch-tariff war adversary?

The economic and financial impact of the November drop in French imports was exponential.

It is estimated the ultimate cost up and down the import, distribution and retail chain was as much as \$148 million in lost cash profit and taxes. This loss of volume is not readily compensated for by increased sales of United States wines. The supply chain disruption will affect sales by reducing the channels available to American wineries.

In December, the United States tentatively set new tariffs on select goods imported from all 28 EU countries. Unless otherwise withdrawn before a Feb. 17 deadline (after this column was penned), a 100 percent tax will be imposed on all wines, cheeses, olive oil, whiskey and other consumer products.

Enactment of the threatened 100 percent tariffs would further reduce EU imports. Increased costs and reduced imports would cause employee layoffs and even small business closings at each of the layers of American support chains. Restaurants and

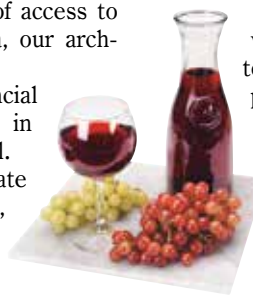
retail stores would not have American substitutes for a number of their best-selling wines, thereby losing a significant portion of the profit margins that sustain their overall success.

Overall, it is estimated that the wine industry could lose 11,000 to 80,000 jobs as a result of 100 percent tariffs.

The United States has won the World Trade Organization court case, entitling it to \$7.5 billion in tariffs from Airbus and EU countries. It would seem reasonable to collect such tariffs to the minimal detriment of the American economy.

Will the current tariff wars have a short-term effect on the domestic wine industry, or will the fallout of these tariffs have a more lasting, permanent impact? The ability to fully assess this seems to change every hour, day, week and month, as battle lines become clearer and conflict resolution more cogent.

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



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# Happenings

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Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (except Feb. 29) and Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or [www.mountkiscoliberalry.org](http://www.mountkiscoliberalry.org).

**“A Taste of Mame-Loshn, From Old Country to the New World.”** The theme and title of a special solo concert featuring Nina K. Gordon and her guitar. Gordon enjoys performing a variety of musical genres and has performed professionally for many years. She favors Yiddish folk songs as well as songs from the Yiddish theater of the Lower East Side. Sponsored by the Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 2 p.m. Free; donations welcome. Info: Contact Charlotte Klein at 914-218-8535 or e-mail [info@wchj.org](mailto:info@wchj.org).

**Winter Wolves for Kids.** This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Youngsters will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role of wolves in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves; they're out searching for prey as their growing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Enjoy hot beverages in our woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Opening Reception for “Urban Suburban: Photographers Respond to a Changing Dream.”** This exhibit examines how life in suburban Westchester is captured by three artists – Randy Matusow, Gina Randazzo and Chris Rivera – based on their own perspectives. Documenting the suburban experience from Peekskill to Pleasantville, Yonkers to Mount Vernon, these photographers consider whether the suburbs have been reshaped by the influx of a more culturally and economically diverse population and if our perception of them has shifted to reflect these changes. Arc Stages' Radius Gallery, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through May 9. Info: [www.arcstages.org/radius-gallery](http://www.arcstages.org/radius-gallery).

**The Carlos Jimenez Mambo Orchestra.** Put on your dance shoes for a night of all things salsa. Westchester's hottest seven-piece salsa band will play live for your listening and dancing pleasure. Arrive early for a salsa lesson with dancers Nilsa De La Luz and George Acevedo, then test your moves on the open dance floor. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. Dance lesson at 7 p.m. Party at 8 p.m. \$20. \$35 for two tickets. (Each ticket includes the lesson, dance party and a free glass of wine, beer or a soft drink. Info and tickets: Visit [www.artswestchester.org](http://www.artswestchester.org).

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Hard Headed Comedy.** Luz Michelle is back with Hard Headed Comedy. This show features headliner Leighann Lord. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20.

Info and tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughlounge.com](http://www.lucyslaughlounge.com).

**Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite.** Bishop and Musselwhite share the stage for a stripped-down set of American roots music – a journey through rock, blues and folk from two of music's most engaging bandleaders. Bishop has been performing his rollicking brand of front porch blues for more than 50 years and is as vital and creative today as he was when he first hit the national scene in 1965 with The Paul Butterfield Blues Band. With an induction into the Blues Music Hall of Fame, Musselwhite is one of music's most important active blues musicians. Joining Bishop and Musselwhite on stage for a portion of the show will be guitarist and touring pro Bob Welsh. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$38, \$48, \$58 and \$68. Info and tickets: 914-233-3586 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

## Sunday, Feb. 23

**Namaste KMA: Meditation and Art.** Calm your mind and soothe your soul during a meditative session led by Jennifer Llewellyn. Llewellyn is a certified yoga and meditation instructor, E-RYT and the chief wellness officer of Majestic Hudson, her boutique gallery in Katonah. Following the meditation session explore the galleries. All welcome; comfortable clothes recommended. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25. Info and tickets: Visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org).

**The Art of Clean Communication.** A two-part workshop in which you will discover the unconscious ways that you sabotage your own needs from being met by others; and learn new, clean and effective ways to ask for what you need. Designed to open up your blind spots to clean communication based on the work of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg. Have the opportunity to practice with these new learned tools through various exercises. Led by Iris First. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Second part of workshop is Mar. 1. Space limited; pre-registration required. Pre-registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3. (Once registered, there will be a video link sent for registrants to prepare for the workshop.) Info: Contact Iris First at 914-490-6851, visit [www.relations-coach.com](http://www.relations-coach.com) or e-mail [iris@relations-coach.com](mailto:iris@relations-coach.com)

**“Build a Bigger Table: Homelessness and Food Insecurity.”** Featuring personal stories from people who have been homeless and those working to combat the issues of homelessness and food insecurity in local communities. Speakers will include Laura Case, who was once homeless and now serves on the board of the statewide grassroots organization Community Voices Heard, which is largely made up of women of color and low-income families and advocates and organizes on affordable housing and homelessness issues; Douglass DeCandia, who stresses the repair of relationships between human beings, each other and the earth, builds gardens and grows food with incarcerated individuals around Westchester; and Tuckahoe resident and retired police officer Jeff Meyer, a full-time volunteer for

Feeding Westchester and Ridgeway Church Food Pantry. Part of the 2019-20 Irvington Theater Diversity Series. Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. 2 p.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

**Wildlife in the Hudson River Valley.** People have been interacting with wildlife in the Hudson River Valley for more than 8,000 years. This relationship has constantly changed and continues to change and create controversy today. Local history expert Scott Craven will share his unique understanding, perspective and appreciation of our relationship with the local wildlife. Craven has two degrees in American history and lectures extensively about the Hudson River Valley. Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-941-7072 or [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org).

**21+ Book Group.** “Dead Wake” by Erik Larson will be discussed. New members welcome. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Carolyn at 914-769-9169.

**Henrik Ibsen's “Hedda Gabler.”** Ibsen's masterpiece of realism – a story that permanently changed the face of world drama. After returning from her honeymoon, Hedda discovers that her marriage will not be the life of wealth and excitement she anticipated. Her own desires seemingly thwarted, she sets out to change the course of another person's destiny. An M&M Productions performance in period costume and set in the 1950s. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Ballroom Dancing and Dinner.** Dancing followed by a complete dinner. All proceeds to go to the scholarship fund at Fox Lane High School and New York Boys' State. Moses Taylor American Legion Post 136, 1 Legion Way, Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$18 per person. Fourth Sunday of every month. Info: 914-241-0136 or contact Commander John A. Graziano at 914-248-7134.

**MUMMENSCHANZ: you & me.** MUMMENSCHANZ has been dazzling audiences worldwide for more than 45 years. By creating a playful yet compelling experience through the inventive use of shadow, light and creative manipulation of objects, MUMMENSCHANZ offers timeless insight on the human condition, a visually stunning spectacle that transcends cultural barriers and sparks the imagination. There is the use of large-scale masks, acrobatics, sculptural puppetry and visual antics, but no music or sound aside from the awe, joy and laughter of the audience. PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 3 p.m. \$30 to \$70. Info and tickets: Visit 914-251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

**Chamber Music Concert.** Quintet of the Americas, the internationally renowned woodwind quintet, will perform the premier of James Cohn's “Klezmer Fantasy”; music inspired by stories of seniors in Queens; Robert Deemer's “Mannahatta Windows,” commissioned for the 400th anniversary of Hudson's sail up the river; Bernardo's

“Echos from a Distant Land”; and dances from Columbia and Cuba. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3 p.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.pvillechambermusic.org](http://www.pvillechambermusic.org).

**Music and Munchies.** Stories, songs and yummy treats. This event features fun interactive Shabbat themed singalongs with Tkiya, the Jewish community music initiative. Event ideal for children up to six years old. All welcome. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Free. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: E-mail Stacey at [PJLibrary@g-h-c.org](mailto:PJLibrary@g-h-c.org).

**“Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling.”** Over the 12 years he hosted his beloved Sunday afternoon series at the Burns, Jonathan Demme often dreamed of guests to accompany him on his passionate exploration of film and ideas. He long aspired to having Nobel laureate in literature Toni Morrison come share conversation and a film of her choosing. She selected this Richard Pryor 1986 semiautobiographical feature, a brutal, hilarious and poignant testimony to Pryor's comic brilliance. Presented in 35mm. Followed by a Q&A with Brooklyn Academy of Music Vice President of Film & Strategic Programming Gina Duncan and Jacob Burns Programmer Saidah Russell. Part of Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

## Monday, Feb. 24

**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. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

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

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

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# Five Tips to Help Maintain a Healthier Heart

By Amy Rosenfeld

You put your heart into everything, so don't break it! Let's keep it beating strong.

Heart disease is the number one kill for men and women in the United States. Your diet, in addition to regular exercise, can help you prevent and even reverse heart disease.

Here are five simple steps you can take to lower your blood pressure, cholesterol and risk for heart disease by eating well.

- 1. Choose whole grains and add legumes.** Whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds all contain healthy doses of fiber, which also have been associated with decreased heart disease risk. In particular, legumes (including beans and lentils), as well as oatmeal, oat bran, barley, nuts, seeds and some fruits contain soluble fiber, which attracts water and turns to gel during digestion, helping to reduce LDL (bad) cholesterol.
- 2. Focus on healthy fats.** Oils (such as olive oil), nuts and seeds all contain healthy doses of monounsaturated fat, the type of fat that can protect



you against heart disease. Choose monounsaturated fats in place of foods high in saturated fats, such as cheese, butter and fatty red meats and avoid trans fats (partially or fully hydrogenated oils) as these fats in high doses can increase LDL cholesterol.

- 3. Add fish into your diet twice per week.** Fish, such as salmon, contain a healthy dose of omega-3 fatty acids. Research shows that adding fish into your diet two times per week can help reduce triglyceride levels. Limit red meats and processed meats and opt for fish and vegetarian proteins

(like legumes) more often.

- 4. Limit salt and sugar.** Put down the salt and sugar shakers. Instead, season your food with fresh herbs, make sauces and marinades from scratch and limit processed foods. Limit total added sugar, such as sweet treats, to 24 grams of sugar or less per day. Be sure to check ingredients lists on labels for hidden sources of sugar.

- 5. Eat the Rainbow.** Fill your plate with colorful fruits and vegetables at each meal and snack. A plant-based diet has been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Don't forget to check out heart-healthy events at the Center for Healthy Living at Northern Westchester Hospital throughout February. Visit [NWHCenterForHealthyLiving.com](http://NWHCenterForHealthyLiving.com)

eventbrite.com for a list of all upcoming events at the center.

*Amy Rosenfeld is a registered dietitian at the Center for Healthy Living at Northern Westchester Hospital.*

## Happenings

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[northcastlelibrary.org](http://northcastlelibrary.org).

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

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

**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).

**Nutrition for People With Breast, Ovarian or Gynecological Cancer.** A national for people nationwide who have or have had breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer. Covering the topics pertaining to nutrition and cancer care, including eating well through cancer treatment; strategies for managing side effects; nutrition for post-treatment; and how to navigate the current nutrition trends in cancer care. The speaker will be Vicki Barber, a registered dietitian with board certification in oncology nutrition. Moderated by a Support

Connection peer counselor and will include a question-and-answer period. 8 to 9 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

### Tuesday, Feb. 25

**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).

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

**Yoga for Adults.** A beginner yoga class for adults taught by Joy Alter. Stretch out, calm down, be happy. A limited number of mats are available; please bring your own if possible. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

**Bridge for Beginners.** Sharpen your mind and enlarge your social circle by learning the fascinating game of Bridge. You will learn

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

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

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

**Brown Bag Lunchtime Book Discussion Group.** Bring your lunch and join this book discussion group. This month, "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman will be discussed. Smart, warm and uplifting, it is the story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes the only way to survive is to open her heart. Copies of the book available to borrow at the library. Discussion led by reference librarian Shelley Glick. Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 12:30 to 2

p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Shelley Glick at 914-941-7072 or e-mail [sglick@wlsmail.org](mailto:sglick@wlsmail.org).

**DIY Craft for Young Adults.** Create a unique design using the initials of your name. Use fun materials like washi tape, yarn, ribbons and magazines to make a special piece for your wall or locker. Snacks provided. For students in grades 5-12. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

**DIY Yarn Wall Hanging.** Add some color to your room with a beautiful, decorative wall hanging. For children seven 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.

**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. Info: 914-769-0548 or [www.mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://www.mountpleasantlibrary.org).

**Social Security Educational Workshop.** For single, married, divorced and widowed people 60 to 70 years old. Presented by Paul Petrone, Social Security, retirement income and tax specialist. Somers Public Library, Route 139 and Reis Park, Somers. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-232-5717 or [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).



My name Adele Stanley

day job Nurse Practitioner and Educator

favorite song Good Feeling by Flo Rida

perfect day summer at the beach

guilty pleasure Shoe shopping

inspiration my family

childhood dream a runway model

greatest strength my sense of humor

My health club Saw Mill Club

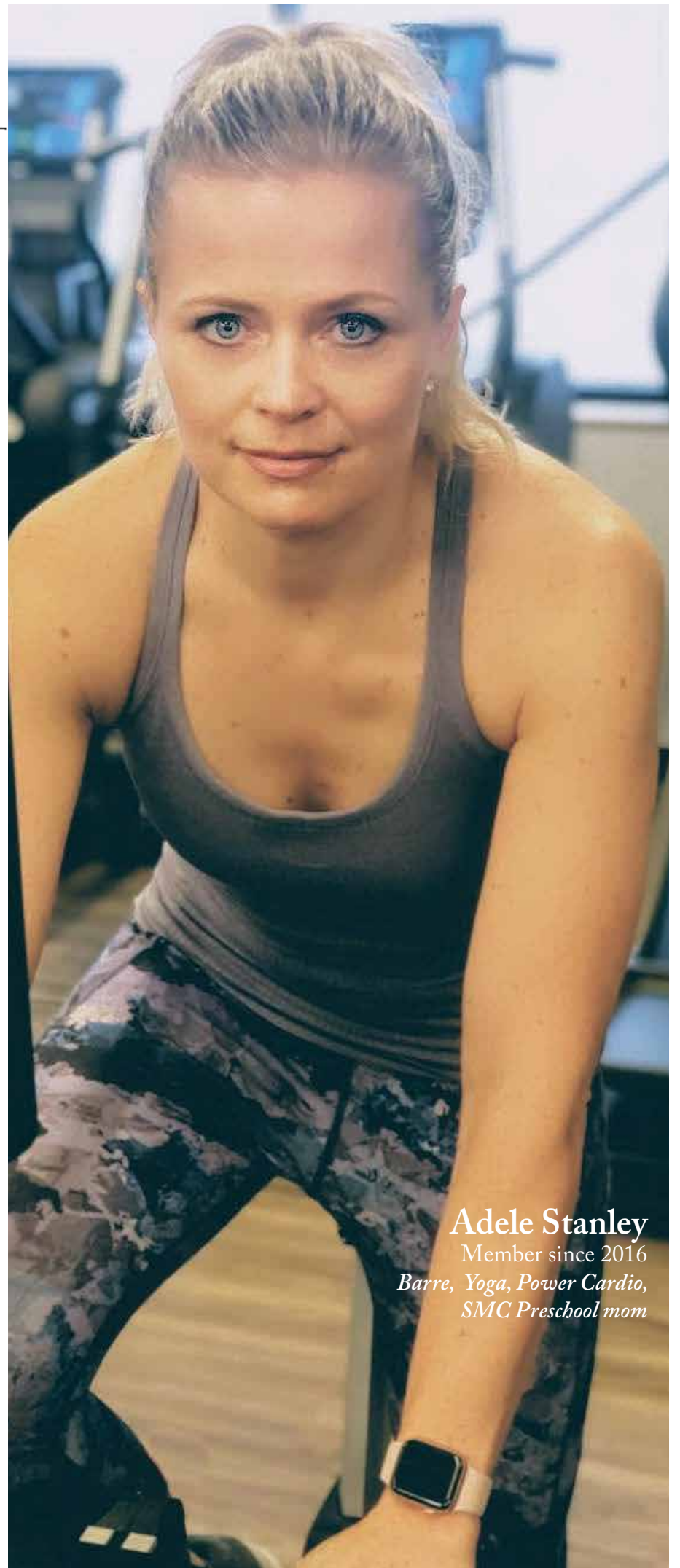
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*Barre, Yoga, Power Cardio,  
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