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March 17 - March 23, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 654

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Schools Closed, Non-essential Workers Told to Stay Home in Coronavirus Fallout

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County declared a state of emergency in the escalating battle against coronavirus Monday afternoon, a decision that will shutter schools and many businesses and keep thousands of workers home for the foreseeable future.

The decision, made by County Executive George Latimer over the weekend, was in concert with an increasing number of restrictions imposed through executive orders from Gov. Andrew Cuomo that closed down gyms, bars and restaurants statewide as of 8 p.m. Monday to limit public gatherings and hopefully halt the spread of the virus. Food establishments will be able to remain open only for takeout and delivery service.

Theaters are now closed and gatherings are limited to no more than 50 people.

While the private sector closures are

currently voluntary, that could change.

"We strongly advise that only services and businesses that are essential stay open," Cuomo said in his Monday morning briefing. "Grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies; it's not mandatory at this time. It may be in the future, but it is strongly advised at this time."

While most public and private school officials made the decision to close on their own by the end of last weekend, Cuomo's executive orders mandate closures starting Wednesday and stretching through Mar. 31, giving districts a chance to arrange for children who receive free and reduced lunch and for families that need to find daycare for younger students. It also allows schools to prepare to set up online learning.

Cuomo also asked that local governments reduce their workforce by at least 50 percent,

continued on page 4

Local Businesses Start to Feel Effects of Economy Grinding to a Halt

By Martin Wilbur

Since last summer, Allen Wallace had been waiting for his New York State Liquor Authority license to open his new business, Soul Brewing Co., in Pleasantville.

Wallace received the license recently and scheduled his grand opening for last Saturday. Despite the growing health crisis presented by the coronavirus pandemic, he made the difficult decision to open, even though the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting was postponed.

"I've been here a year without generating any revenue, so again, we were trying to be open last August, it just got held up with the licensing forever and ever and ever," Wallace said. "They have a glut of people applying for licenses. All these things really hurt us, just as we get going. I don't know what else we can do."

Wallace is one of countless business owners throughout the area and Westchester and across the nation who face uncertain times. On Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo mandated that all bars and restaurants close to patrons except for takeout and delivery service. Wallace said he hopes to stay afloat with his takeout selection.

In Mount Kisco last Saturday afternoon, streets and stores were nearly empty at the time when dozens of organizations and hundreds of participants had been scheduled to march down Main Street in the Ancient Order of Hibernians' St. Patrick's Day parade. The sidewalks would have been packed on a mostly sunny day with temperatures in the 50s. Like myriad other events, the parade was canceled.

Robin White, the owner of the boutique New York Dolls on Main Street, was in her

continued on page 11



PAUL CARDI PHOTO

The growing health crisis caused by coronavirus produced long lines of shoppers at local supermarkets last weekend, including at the ShopRite Sunday morning in Thornwood.

Mount Kisco Hopeful Modell's Departure Won't Hurt Downtown

By Martin Wilbur

As businesses throughout Westchester and across the nation face the prospect of a deteriorating economy due to the growing coronavirus threat, downtown Mount Kisco faces the loss of a long sought-after anchor store.

Last Wednesday, Modell's Sporting Goods, which has been in business since 1889, announced that the company filed for bankruptcy and will close all of its 140-plus stores in the months ahead.

Modell's, which opened at 162 E. Main St. in late summer 2016, will vacate its roughly 16,000-square-foot space during the next two to three months, The Examiner was told. The chain has occupied much of the same storefront that was the longtime home to Borders, the defunct bookstore chain that

continued on page 6



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The liquidation sale at Modell's Sporting Goods store in Mount Kisco has begun after the company announced last week it filed for bankruptcy. It will leave less than four years after it filled a highly visible and long-vacant space.

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5 Questions Women Should Ask About Breast Cancer Surgery

Ask the Doctor

Ranjana Chaterji, DO

Breast Surgeon

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Q: What stage is my cancer?

A: Breast cancer stages are represented on a scale of 0 to 4, with 4 being the most serious. Stage 0, also called ductal carcinoma in situ, means that your cancer is contained in a milk duct and has a low risk of spreading. Stage 4 breast cancer means the cancer has spread to other parts of your body. If your cancer is stage 4, seeking treatment immediately may improve your outcome and ultimate quality of life.

Q: How do I decide whether a lumpectomy or mastectomy is the best option?

A: More often than not, you will choose the type of surgery you feel most comfortable with. The survival data of lumpectomy with radiation is equivalent to that of a mastectomy, so we've learned that more surgery is not necessarily better.

Q: How soon does surgery need to be done?

A: Typically, we try to operate within a month of a diagnosis — you don't have to decide immediately. You can learn about breast cancer, understand your options, and then make a decision you're comfortable with. A woman's gut feeling is most important. My patients often ask me, "What would you do?" But it's not about me — it's what the woman wants and what makes sense for her, her family, and her life.

Q: How do I choose a surgeon?

A: Seek a fellowship-trained breast surgeon. These are surgeons who, after their residency, do a fellowship specific to oncologic breast surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we work as a team to care for you through surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetics and plastic surgery.

Q: How can I find support during this difficult time?

A: Northern Westchester Hospital's Bruce and Andrea Yablon Cancer Health and Wellness Program provides supportive care and holistic treatments that complement medical treatment. You can choose free integrative medicine services, including reiki, acupuncture, massage, nutrition planning, fitness and exercise plans, mindful wellness and emotional support, and a survivorship program.

We also partner with Support Connection, a group that offers free emotional, social and educational support services to women and their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. I encourage my patients to take part in these programs. The support enables women to help each other and empowers them to become their own health care advocates.

Districts Scramble to Make Decisions on Closures Before State Directive

By Martin Wilbur

School district administrators spent last week scrambling after trying to determine without clear direction whether they should keep schools open amidst the mounting coronavirus pandemic.

Before the end of last week, officials in Bedford and Byram Hills had decided to close those districts through Apr. 3.

On Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo followed his weekend directive to close schools in Westchester, New York City and Long Island, expanding that to include all schools throughout the state. Cuomo said at his daily briefing that counties were required to submit childcare and meal plans to the state by midnight on Tuesday.

The governor had resisted mandating a widespread shutdown until Sunday and Monday, preferring to leave the decision to local boards of education and officials because of the difficulty of feeding the children who receive free and reduced lunch. Also, many essential public servants and healthcare workers wouldn't have the means to find childcare for their kids.

"Public education is also this state's child care system. It's this nation's child care system," Cuomo said. "It's not as easy as saying get a babysitter. They can't afford it and it's hard to find."

With his directive and County Executive George Latimer's state of emergency declaration on Monday, all schools in Westchester will be closed at least through

Tuesday, Mar. 31.

During Latimer's Monday afternoon press conference, Ossining Superintendent of Schools Ray Sanchez, said the decision is one of the toughest calls a schools chief has to make.

"We know that the decision to close a school doesn't come lightly, but we know it's the right decision because of the safety of our students," Sanchez said.

There was palpable frustration among some superintendents last week. After a conference call last Friday among a contingent of regional superintendents, Bedford's Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg informed his community that the district would be shut for three weeks.

"While we realize that a change to our schedule poses potential childcare issues for families and that we will face challenges to optimize instruction, it is important that we take decisive action and attempt to flatten the curve of this virus in our community," Adelberg wrote in a letter to residents. "Without clear direction from government leaders, area superintendents have all resolved to take care of our communities and do what we believe is best without waiting for additional guidance."

Pleasantville schools had decided to take superintendent's conference days for Monday and Tuesday while planning for a possible longer closure. The Chappaqua School District had planned to use three available snow days on Monday, Tuesday

and Wednesday before making a longer-term decision.

On Saturday morning, the Mount Pleasant Board of Education convened an emergency executive session to discuss the district's plans. The board, in consultation with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kurtis Kotes, decided to close Monday and Tuesday and prepare for distance learning.

Mount Pleasant also announced it is postponing the \$9 million athletics facilities

referendum scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 31. There has been no makeup date announced for the bond vote.

All local districts will attempt to continue instruction via technology. Adelberg said Monday that families of students in grades 3-8 may pick up Chromebooks at the district's elementary schools on Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. if there isn't an available computer for a student's use at home.

Planning Together



United Way of Westchester and Putnam CEO Tom Gabriel, center, asks representatives of nonprofit organizations how the coronavirus is affecting them at the United Way's Mar. 12 stakeholder meeting. The meeting was called to develop a collaborative action plan in the wake of the crisis.

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State of Emergency

continued from page 1

keeping on only essential employees. Locally, all municipal offices will be closed to the public, with many government meetings conducted by Skype or other technology. Libraries have been closed as well.

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi Sunday night declared a state of emergency in his town as well.

"Work from home. I'm asking the same thing of private businesses," Cuomo said. "If we can ask private business, the government leads by example. New York State will do this also."

Latimer said when he decided on a county state of emergency it would have mirrored much of what the governor imposed. The governors of New Jersey and Connecticut have also forced similar restrictions in their states.

"At the end of the day, we're not sure what the financial impact of this is going to be, we're not sure what the social impact is going to be, but most important is the saving

of human lives," Latimer said.

On Monday afternoon, county Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said as COVID-19 spreads throughout the community, without a vaccine or a treatment the only way to contain the disease is to limit interaction.

"So that leaves us with one tool left in our chest and that is we can reduce exposure because without exposure there is no risk, without risk, there is no disease," Amler said.

As of 11 a.m. on Monday, there were 950 cases of COVID-19 statewide, including 221 in Westchester. About 17 percent of the people who have tested positive needed hospitalization. There have been seven deaths caused by the disease statewide.

Cuomo said the need to limit public gatherings was to slow down the rate at which the virus is spreading. He said health experts have estimated that those infected could be 40 to 80 percent of the population.

While an estimated 80 percent of those

infected may have few or no symptoms, they can still spread the virus to the vulnerable population of seniors and those with underlying health issues and compromised immune systems, Cuomo said. If that happens, the healthcare system could buckle, he said.

"That's what you hear every day on TV. The concept is right," Cuomo said. "Flatten the curve, slow the spread so the healthcare system can handle it. When they say this, I don't think of a curve, I think of a wave. The wave is going to break, and the wave is going to break the hospital system. We're doing everything we can to flatten the curve."

Currently, there are about 53,000 hospital beds throughout the state, 3,000 of which are in intensive care units. Cuomo said he wrote an open letter to President Donald Trump asking that the Army Corps of Engineers be deployed to help retrofit empty facilities into temporary hospitals.

Latimer said Westchester is among the counties looking to identify empty spaces

that can be used.

"There's no road map as to what we do next and how we move forward on this," Latimer said.

For local officials, the challenges ranged from convincing their constituents to heed the warnings of the authorities or addressing irrational fears to making sure essential services are operating properly.

New Castle Deputy Supervisor Jeremy Saland said making sure that there are sufficient emergency responders on hand through mutual aid is one challenge.

"Every member of this community should recognize that our number one priority is their health and well-being – period," Saland said. "We will do whatever we need to do to assure that their safety is protected to the best of our ability."

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro said in addition to making sure all of the departments, including police and public works, have what is needed, town leaders must properly communicate what residents should be doing.

"I think you have a lot of people who are paying attention and complying, and then you have a fair amount who are not taking it as seriously as they should," Schiliro said. "It's not done to reprimand but done to reiterate and put in perspective how important this is, how important it is for letting people, who think they're invincible, to at least think of people who aren't invincible. You may survive it but you may pass it on to someone who can't survive it."

Stop & Shop Introduces Older Customers Shopping Times

In order to allow more time to unload deliveries, stock shelves and better serve customers, Stop & Shop has adjusted its hours of operation to 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at most stores.

Effective Mar. 19, Stop & Shop will create hours specifically geared to accommodate customers 60 and older.

Stop & Shop stores will open from 6 to 7:30 a.m. for those 60 and up who health officials say are most vulnerable.

Stop & Shop is making the decision to allow community members in this age category to shop in a less crowded environment, which better enables social distancing.

Although identification isn't required for entry, it is requested shoppers respect the purpose of the early opening – and do the right thing for older neighbors. Stop & Shop will reserve the right to ask customers to leave if they are not a member of this age group.



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P'ville Farmers Market Provides Shoppers With Option, Normalcy

By Martin Wilbur

Last weekend while supermarkets were overrun by shoppers feverishly stocking up on food and supplies, there was an alternative for local residents that also brought a bit of normalcy to their lives.

On Saturday, the Pleasantville Farmers Market opened for business outside, operating on Memorial Plaza after organizers announced last Wednesday their decision to leave Pleasantville Middle School three weeks early. The outdoor market was originally set to open on Apr. 4.

"We had a lot of people come up to us and thank us and we heard people say that it was just incredibly gratifying to be able to make use of the market," said Steven Bates, executive director of market operations.

Early last week, the uncertainty surrounding the day-to-day status of the middle school and the increasing likelihood that the district might have to close on short notice due to the coronavirus made sense to move outside, said

Peter Rogovin, president of Foodchester, Inc. which operates the market.

The mild weather also made the decision easier, he said. Saturday morning was chilly and windy, but the sunshine was soothing for many visitors.

"The priority on social distancing as people adjust their behavior doesn't really work for us to be running an indoor market where 100 people from around the county are in a room and the kids have to come into that room," Rogovin said.

Market representatives met with the Village Board last Monday night to iron out the details with the Department of Public Works and obtain the permission to make the move.

Bates said Saturday morning it was unclear whether there would be enough turnout to justify opening the market. The vendors were told to bring more product than they would to the indoor market but not as much as they would during the heart of the outdoor market season, he said.

All but two of the scheduled vendors showed up, Bates said. By 11 a.m. many of the vendors were sold out. Others had little to no supply left by the time the market was winding down near 1 p.m.

"My boss was like 'I can't believe you're not back yet. Nobody showed up, right?'" said Anthony Sanicoll, who works for Chaseholm Farm Creamery. "We're about sold out. We didn't know what to expect."

"It was a good day, but also because it was our first day outside," said Freek Lankhom, who was tending the table for his sister, who owns Dutch Desserts.

The need to change gloves after every transaction was the only inconvenience, he said.

Rogovin mentioned that they followed precautions recommended by the Farmers Market Coalition, a national nonprofit which advocates and gives direction to markets throughout the country. In addition to providing gloves, there was a washing station with hand sanitizers and samples were only provided upon request.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Vendors at the Pleasantville Farmers Market did a brisk business last Saturday despite moving outside three weeks early. Market representatives decided to leave Pleasantville Middle School because of uncertainty of the status of the school building in the wake of the coronavirus threat.

Also, there were no chairs put out to discourage public gathering, Bates said.

Chris and Sarah Valentino happily shopped at the market with their son, Gus, rather than battling the crowds at the local supermarkets.

"We're not concerned about the safety of what we're buying here or anything like that," Chris Valentino said.

Bates said the market will operate unless they're advised otherwise by authorities

above the municipal level.

"If we have an order to close coming from above those entities, then we would follow that," he said. "So what we are telling people to do is look at our website or follow our social media because we do see it as a week-to-week situation, right now a stable one, but one never knows."

For updates on the market, visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.



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Mount Kisco Hopeful Modell's Departure Won't Hurt Downtown

continued from page 1

went out of business in 2011.

Despite the blow, Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich and others in the village's business community were not as concerned this time that one of the most visible locations downtown could be vacant

for a long stretch. After Borders left, the space was unoccupied for six years.

"Currently, Mount Kisco is thriving and it is a sought-after community for business, so should that store close, or when that store closes, I have every confidence that someone will be interested

in the space because it's a wonderful and well-positioned space," Picinich said.

Picinich added that the space should be attractive if there is a business that is a good fit for the downtown. Also, unlike when Borders left the downtown, Party City, a Mount Kisco fixture which moved into the remaining 6,000-plus square feet after Modell's opened, will continue to operate at the location, she said.

Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Co-Executive Director Beth Vetare Civitello said the organization is saddened to see Modell's go, but there has been a positive vibe in the village that was absent following Borders' departure, which should enable the space to be filled more easily.

Currently, the village has a 10 percent vacancy rate, the lowest in the county, Civitello said.

"The village has been on an upward trajectory for the past two years and we fully expect it to continue," she said. "With the newly updated Comprehensive (Plan), Mount Kisco as a village is leading the way to a sustained, positive and diverse community."

Over the next several months Modell's will initiate liquidation sales of its merchandise and continue its online sales while that is happening, according to the company.

"Over the past year, we evaluated several options to restructure our business

to allow us to maintain our current operations," Modell's CEO Mitchell Modell said in a tweet last week. "While we achieved some success, in partnership with our landlords and vendors, it was not enough to avoid a bankruptcy filing amid an extremely challenging environment for retailers."

An employee at the Mount Kisco store said employees were told last week that closure would occur in nine to 11 weeks. The store has stopped selling gift cards and patrons with gift cards have until Apr. 15 to use them.

Picinich pointed out that unlike after Borders left, Modell's still owns the property, which it bought before the store opened. As a result, there will likely be an impetus to rent out the space.

Nearby merchants were also saddened to hear the news but were hopeful that the store won't be vacant for long. Cathy Deutsch, owner of Tiger Lily boutique across the street and one of the supporters of Modell's moving into the space, said she was disappointed but hopeful.

"We're sorry to see them go and we hope that the town will be proactive in filing it with something that is complementary rather than conflictual to the existing businesses, and the fact that they share (the space) with Party City maybe makes it a little easier to flip into another business," Deutsch said.

Health Reasons Force Manno to Retire From Bedford Schools

Dr. Christopher Manno, who took a leave of absence earlier this year as superintendent of the Bedford Central School District, announced that he is retiring because of health reasons.

The 30-year educator said he was "humbled and appreciative" for the opportunity.

"I only regret our work together was not longer," Manno said. "My family and I have been deeply moved by the kindness, compassion, and caring demonstrated by many during this difficult time. I can say without hesitation the caliber, passion, and work ethic of BCSD's administration, faculty, and staff are unparalleled. It has been an honor and privilege to serve, work alongside, and lead them."

Manno arrived in Bedford following a tumultuous period where the district was in financial peril. About five years ago, the district had to cut more than 50 positions following a budget's defeat.

Board of Education President Colette Dow said Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg would continue in his role. The board will make a decision about a permanent selection at an appropriate time.

Dow said in his time in Bedford, Manno left his mark on the district.

"It was an honor and privilege to work with Dr. Manno," she said. "His commitment to putting students first and his unyielding work ethic have always been his guiding principles."

"Dr. Manno's warmth, integrity and drive never wavered and his strength during challenging times will always be revered in our community," added Trustee Ed Reder. "His leadership and legacy will not be forgotten. Dr. Manno will always be a true friend of the Bedford Central community."

No details have been provided regarding Manno's health issue.

—Erin Maher

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Scarpino Warns Public to Beware Coronavirus Scammers

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino warned residents to be wary of various scams targeting growing fears surrounding coronavirus.

Scarpino also was investigating last week at least two e-mails that were directed at a member of the Jewish community in New Rochelle, the epicenter for COVID-19 in the metropolitan area, that included wording that could be considered anti-Semitic.

"There are scams out there dealing with vaccines for the virus, masks, gloves, all the items, hand sanitizers, that we're having trouble getting, and they'll make deliveries to you if you provide them with the money and, of course, they're not providing them," Scarpino said.

While it may seem far-fetched that anyone might fall for the rip-off, often sent to people via e-mail, the district attorney said all the scam artists need is a 1 percent success rate and their efforts prove profitable.

Although there have been no reports of scams as of late last week in Westchester, Scarpino said because the county has been in the national news as a result of the cluster of COVID-19 cases in New

Rochelle, he expects swindlers to descend on the county and play on people's anxieties.

He cautioned residents not to open e-mails if they don't know the person or entity that is sending them and never to send money or provide credit card, bank account numbers and personal information to anyone you don't know.

"You have to be careful because this is a priority for the scammers to move in, and this is their job," Scarpino said. "This is what they do every day."

People are urged to call their local police department or the district attorney's office if they are a victim of a scam or learn of any operations.

Hate Investigations

Scarpino said his office's Hate Crimes Unit is working with local law enforcement to find out the person or group responsible for targeting a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in New Rochelle.

Since the initial reports of the virus in Westchester stemmed from people affiliated with a synagogue in that community, investigators are being vigilant that this could continue, he said.

Scarpino said the threats are not widespread, but he wanted to highlight the concern to the general public in case there



District Attorney Anthony Scarpino discussed scams and e-mailed hate messages connected with the coronavirus emergency last Thursday.

are additional cases that come to light.

"There are people in all communities that are struggling with all sorts of

personal issues, all sorts of demons, all sorts of mental health issues and the internet, they believe, provides some kind of anonymity, but it doesn't always," he said. "We're trying to track down where that's coming from."

Criminal Justice System to Operate

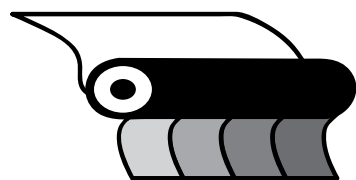
While there may be various accommodations made to protect the public and personnel, Scarpino said in his briefing to the media last Thursday that essential court proceedings will continue. Ultimately, all decisions regarding the operation of the courts statewide will be made by the Office of Court Administration.

"We have to handle the emergency when a person is arrested, that has to be handled almost immediately," Scarpino said.

He didn't rule out other measures such as changes of venue to areas of the state that could be less impacted by coronavirus or postponements of less serious crimes.

"I want the people to know that the district attorney's office is up and its operational, law enforcement is up and operational, it's not having any impact in regards to our investigations and our prosecutions and we are concerned about the health and welfare of our own workers and the community at large," Scarpino said.

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Obituaries

Barbara Vaccaro

Barbara Francis Vaccaro, 67, passed away on Mar. 12 in her home.

Her sudden passing came subsequently to the death of her late husband, Dennis Richard Vaccaro Sr. She is survived by three sons, Dennis Richard Vaccaro Jr., Robert Francis Vaccaro and Nicholas John Vaccaro.

Barbara was born on Aug. 29, 1952, to her late parents Robert and Frances Francis. Born and raised in Pleasantville, she attended Pleasantville High School and graduated from the University of Vermont.

Besides being a loving mother and wife, Vaccaro was a valuable member of the Pleasantville community where she was a teacher and friend to many students, faculty and parents.

She could frequently be found at Holy Innocents Church, Pleasantville Country Club and the Pleasantville Panthers High School football games.

Her greatest joys were being a wife to her husband, mother to her children, mother-in-law to Kathleen, Alyssa and Stacy and proud owner of her rescue beagles. She was a trusting neighbor to many and the welcoming committee for new families who moved to town. She was widely known for her famous Stromboli. Her favorite color was Pleasantville green and she would never let you forget it.



Barbara Vaccaro

Many people in this community share their heartbreak alongside her family; however, they now find comfort in knowing she has been reunited with her one and only love, Dennis Sr.

Visitation at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville started on Monday, Mar. 16 and continued on Tuesday, Mar. 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, Mar. 19 at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Innocents Roman Catholic Church in Pleasantville.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Dennis R. Vaccaro Scholarship Fund.

Carmine LaManna

Carmine "Carmenooch" LaManna, 86, of Pleasantville, died on Mar. 10.

He was born on Nov. 16, 1933, to Dominick and Maria (nee DiGilio) in White Plains. He graduated from White Plains High School and continued on to receive an associate's degree in business from Westchester Community College.

LaManna married Elizabeth (Betty) Gagliardi on Mar. 4, 1962. They were married for 58 years.

He worked as a mortgage tax deputy for land records for Westchester County for 35 years. He was a diehard Yankees fan and overall sports fan. In his free time, he was an umpire for a local baseball league. He bowled in a league and received many trophies.

LaManna is survived by his wife, Betty; his daughter, Maria Aloia, and her husband, George, of Pleasantville; son Carmine LaManna Jr. and his wife, Kathy,

of Thornwood; his grandchildren, Kristen Aloia Gonzalez and her husband Gabriel, Michelle Aloia Salgado and her husband Steven, Elizabeth Aloia, Jaclyn Aloia, Steven LaManna, Kyle LaManna and Jason LaManna. His grandchildren affectionately called him Pepa.

He was predeceased by his siblings, Elizabeth LaManna Santore, Nancy LaManna DeRosa (Phil), Pat LaManna (survived by Sarah), Mickey LaManna and Joe LaManna.

Carmine is loved dearly and will be missed.

Visitation was at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Mar. 15. A Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated on Mar. 16 at Holy Innocents Church. He was laid to rest at Gate of Heaven Cemetery immediately following Mass.

Barbara O'Neill

Barbara Brown O'Neill, beloved wife, daughter, sister and aunt, passed away suddenly on Mar. 9 at 65.

Born on May 14, 1954, in Yonkers, O'Neill grew up in Chappaqua with her seven brothers and sisters. She received her bachelor's degree from Northeastern University in Boston and her master's degree and PhD in ichthyological ecology from Indiana State University. She lived in Brooklyn and was employed by the American Museum of Natural History as a curatorial associate in the Department of Ichthyology.

She was married to Francis O'Neill, who predeceased her in August 2015.

O'Neill had a lifelong love of reading, taking walks on the beach in Rhode Island, her Irish heritage and family, especially her 17 nieces and nephews and five great-nieces and great-nephews. She was always up for a sleepover and breakfast in her cottage in Rhode Island with her nieces, and her nephews knew that "Dr. Barb, MD" would always have snacks for them in her refrigerator.

O'Neill is survived by her siblings, Patrick Brown (Marianne), Stephen Brown (Jane), Colette Goodman (Bill), Claudia Schaus (Bob) and Laura Collins; her sister-in-law, Karen Brown; her nieces and nephews, Ryan Brown, Katherine Skidmore, Jeffrey Vince, Brian Goodman, Douglas Brown, Erin Walker, Kyle Brown, Gregory Brown, Kaitlyn Gallagher, Paige Brown, Christopher Goodman, Robert Schaus, Claire Collins, Sean Collins, Connor Brown, Stephen Collins and Liam Collins; and her great-nieces and great-nephews, Charlotte Goodman, Kai Brown, Edward Walker, Lyla Goodman and McKayla Brown. She was predeceased by her parents, Patrick and Claire Brown, her brother, Michael Brown, and her sister, Christine Vince.

The family received friends on Mar. 13 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Mar. 14 at the Church of St. John & St. Mary (Little Church) in Chappaqua.

Joseph Bucolo

Joseph A. Bucolo, 66, of Pleasantville died on Mar. 7 at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco.

Bucolo was born on May 14, 1953, in Giardini, Sicily to the late Guiseppa (Spadaro) and Antonio Bucolo. He moved to the United States in 1956 and was a lifelong Pleasantville resident. He was a member of the American Numismatic Society where he consulted coin collectors and was also a very talented guitarist. He had a passion for horticulture, especially with Japanese maples.

Bucolo is survived by his loving daughter, Jennifer Bucolo of Pleasantville; his brother, Charlie (Lisa), of Yorktown Heights; his sister, Grace Pizzuti (John), of Soquel, Calif.; nephews Jason and Matthew Bucolo; and his niece, Jacqueline Pizzuti. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean (nee Cascio).

Visitation was at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home on Mar. 11. A funeral Mass was held on Mar. 12 at the Church of St. John & St. Mary (Little Church) in Chappaqua.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you donate to the American Diabetes Association.

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Cuomo Curtails Candidate Petitioning After Calls for Action

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order Saturday that suspends the petitioning period for congressional, state legislature and judicial races on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and reduces the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot. Concerns arose as the number of COVID-19 cases in the New York metropolitan area and across the nation began soaring last week and health officials increasingly called for social distancing.

The petitioning process requires that candidates and their surrogates approach registered members of their party to sign their petitions. In addition, Cuomo’s order reduces the requisite number of signatures a candidate needs to get on the June 23 primary ballot to 30 percent of the threshold. Instead of collecting 1,250 signatures for congressional races, a minimum of 375 will be needed. State Senate candidates now require just 300 instead of 1,000 and Assembly

candidates need just 150 signatures rather than 500. “Public health experts have been clear that one of the most common ways to communicate COVID-19 is through direct person to person contact, and we are doing everything in our immediate power to reduce unnecessary interactions,” Cuomo said. “This executive order modifies the election process in a way that both protects public health and ensures the democratic process remains healthy and strong regardless of the ongoing pandemic.” Last week, Democratic candidates in the 93rd Assembly District and 17th Congressional District races pledged to suspend petitioning in the wake of the coronavirus threat while hoping Cuomo would take action. On Friday, a joint statement was issued by the five hopefuls in the Assembly race – Kristen Browde, Chris Burdick, Mark Jaffe, Jeremiah Frei-Pearson and Alex Roithmayr – stating that the candidates would not challenge petitions that appear to have the minimum number of signatures to get on the ballot for the primary. “We have agreed that none of us will challenge any ballot petitions which appear to contain the minimum number of required signatures from registered Democrats inside the 93rd Assembly District,” the statement read. “Further,

all of us discourage each of our supporters and each of the Democratic Committees in our district from issuing any challenges to petitions that have the requisite number of signatures from Democrats inside the 93rd District.” Likewise, eight of the more than a dozen candidates for the congressional race did the same. Catherine Parker, Adam Schleifer, Allison Fine, Asha Castleberry-Hernandez, David Carlucci, Evelyn Farkas, Mondaire Jones and David Buchwald were the candidates who agreed to the pledge. “For the health and safety of the people of Rockland and Westchester Counties, our campaign staffs, and our volunteers, we are unwilling to continue business as usual,” the congressional candidates’ statement read in part. “The petitioning process to collect signatures requires face-to-face interactions that fly in the face of safety guidance issued by the CDC, state health officials, and Governor Cuomo.” In another order, Cuomo has temporarily suspended open meetings laws, which allows for government to hold meetings without the public and without video or audio. Most local governments have limited access to the municipal buildings and facilities, although many have made arrangements to live stream, tape or allow the public to listen to the audio of meetings.

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Local Businesses Start to Feel Effects of Economy Grinding to a Halt

Continued from page 1

store alone hoping to complete a single sale. She had never seen anything like it in her 21 years operating the store.

“I’ve never had a zero sales day,” White said. “It’s tough. There’s no sales, there’s nobody in the store, there’s nobody walking around.”

On South Moger Avenue, Vivian Hoffman, the owner of the boutique Whim, said that with parties, graduations and wedding receptions getting called off, her business has quickly diminished.

Typically, she regularly buys inventory from her suppliers but that need is screeching to a halt.

“I’m hoping they’ll hold off their fee or give us time,” said Hoffman, who also owns stores in Bronxville and Stamford. “We’re not taking in the cash. How are we supposed

to pay our bills? That’s really my concern.” Meanwhile, Cathy Deutsch, owner of Tiger Lily on East Main Street, said she’ll close Tuesday and reassess how the quickly-changing environment is progressing. If there are few customers and people are encouraged to stay home, it may make sense to close for a while.

She’s contacted her suppliers to tell them to hold off on more inventory.

“I just think people are facing the reality that we’re on the same trajectory as Italy, and that’s deeply concerning, frightening,” Deutsch said.

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer said he feared that the deteriorating economy could be a “crushing blow to businesses,” unless the country quickly gets a handle on COVID-19.

“The reality is we need to stop the spread of this (virus) and flatten the curve as you

see in these epidemiological articles or you end up like Italy,” Scherer said. “There’s a chance to avoid that and that’s what we have to do.”

It isn’t all doom and gloom, however. Jennifer Kohn, owner of The Village Bookstore in Pleasantville, said as of Monday her sales were on target for March. She noticed that because of increased calls for social distancing, more customers started buying multiple books, particularly since the libraries are now closed.

“People may not be going out for a while, so instead of buying one book at time, they’re going to buy two or three books right now and have enough at home, especially

families with young children who are going to be home,” Kohn said.

In the event, people can’t come out, Kohn has online purchasing and she delivers. However, she has curtailed store hours because once the Jacob Burns Film Center closed last Friday, the early evening foot traffic has disappeared.

Another business owner, Jonathan Langsam of Falafel Taco near the Pleasantville train station, said so far there’s been ample amount of takeout and delivery, especially with the kids now home from school.

“We are getting foot traffic,” he said. “The kids come in. They’re not afraid.”

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Postponed

Spring Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, which was to begin Mar. 16, has been postponed. Today Media, along with its advisory board of local restaurateurs, agreed that the postponement was a prudent step in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic and New York State’s recent mandate restricting restaurant business. The annual celebration of restaurants throughout the Hudson Valley will take place at a later date.

This is a difficult time for all restaurants those establishments that remain open for take-out, curb-side pickup or delivery will continue to be supported. When the dust settles on this awful virus, plans will get underway for the next Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, celebrating the local restaurateurs, producers and artisans that make this region a culinary destination.

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Letters to the Editor

An Open Letter on Behalf of Kids Who Rely on School Meals

Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand,
We are writing to you on behalf of The No Kid Hungry Club at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua. We are constituents who have been fighting to end childhood hunger by raising awareness of the ongoing childhood hunger crisis in America as well as money to fund meals programs for children.

We are writing to urge you to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. We know that school meals programs are vital to kids who don't have access to food at home. Many children go to school and

are provided with breakfast and lunch, but go home to empty plates and kitchens, and we know families' circumstances during this crisis will certainly not improve.

With the sudden coronavirus pandemic and closure of schools across the country, children are left wondering where their next meal will come from. Due to these heartbreaking circumstances, the Horace Greeley High School No Kid Hungry Club will be encouraging our community to reach out to you as well to urge you to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our critical request and hope that you will do everything in your power to ensure that these children don't go hungry during this crisis.

E-mail Sen. Schumer at <https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>.
E-mail Sen. Gillibrand at <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me>

**The Horace Greeley High School No
Kid Hungry Club**

2-1-1 Helpline Available to Answer Public's Questions on Coronavirus

During Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy and during the severe flu outbreak and hepatitis scare two years ago, United Way's 2-1-1 Helpline was on the front lines, giving residents accurate information and connecting them to the resources they needed to deal with these emergencies.

So it came as no surprise last week when Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that residents should call 2-1-1 for questions on the coronavirus outbreak.

Since 2006, United Way's 2-1-1 Helpline has handled more than 600,000 calls from residents from Long Island to the Adirondacks. United Way's 2-1-1 is a free, confidential, multilingual information (over 200 languages) and referral helpline available 24/7, 365 days a year. Nationally certified call specialists are trained to answer questions and provide referrals. Last year, we added text messaging to our services, and this year expanded the hours that specialists can respond to texts. The center handles about 80,000 calls each year.

Already we are receiving about 100 calls a day about coronavirus in addition to our

regular volume with questions like: "I was in contact with someone who has a confirmed case of coronavirus, what do I do?" "I am experiencing flu-like symptoms like a fever, cough and shortness of breath." "I am a medical professional, and I want to know if I should be closing my facility."

In times like these, accurate information is very important. More than ever, residents rely on services provided by government and nonprofit organizations to address their needs during a crisis; 2-1-1 was created for just this purpose.

We are a highly trusted resource. In addition to our work with local government agencies, we were chosen by the Centers for Disease Control as one of 27 call centers across the nation to participate in Flu on Call, a public health emergency response program in the event of a national flu pandemic.

In recent days that training has helped prepare us for what lies ahead. We anticipate more calls as public officials like County Executive Latimer continue to urge residents to turn to us with their questions.

As this public health emergency continues to unfold, we will be here for residents of the Hudson Valley, Long Island and upstate New York, answering questions about food assistance, housing and shelters, utilities, abuse prevention, suicide, foster parenting, medical help and more.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 2-1-1 or visit us online at UWWP.org

Tom Gabriel,
President and CEO, United Way
Westchester and Putnam

Pleasantville Farmers Market Should Close During Current Health Crisis

I am writing to express my opinion on allowing the Pleasantville Farmers Market to operate during the present COVID-19 crisis. We are told to avoid crowds and limit close contact. The market draws residents from all surrounding communities many of which have active cases of the virus.

I feel this is a very poor judgment call by our elected officials and hope it will be corrected.

Ruth Murden
Pleasantville

Everyone Can Contribute During These Unprecedented Times

To my fellow Examiner readers: If you are upset about being stuck at home for the foreseeable future, remember that Shakespeare wrote "King Lear" when the plague closed theaters. We also can contribute something of value to the world in these times of restriction and disease.

John Ehrlich
Chappaqua

Forcing Municipalities to Allow Marijuana Sales Wrong for Youths

As pointed out in "No. Castle Seeks Tight Regulation of Marijuana Sales if Legalized," (March 6-13), towns will be forced to allow pot shops in their neighborhoods if the current marijuana legislation is included in the budget. This problem with the proposed law highlights why it is important to take marijuana out of the budget and evaluate its repercussions separately.

Communities need to be able to exert local control over their own environment. Every Jan. 1, New Yorkers wake up and find out about unwelcome surprises secretly included in the budget.

Decisions with long-term, irreversible harm require longer deliberation. Even the governor's own commission reported that youth past-month marijuana use increased 20 percent after legalization in Colorado. Further findings included:

- 8.9 to 30 percent of the population who uses marijuana will develop some form

of dependence.

- Adolescents who use marijuana regularly have an increased risk of developing psychosis.
- There is an association between marijuana use and impairment in the cognitive domains of learning, memory and attention.

All mainstream medical organizations, including the Medical Society of the State of New York, either oppose legal recreational pot or have serious reservations. The only people who benefit from the rush to legalize are the marijuana industry. The rest of us are better served by a long, sober look at the implications of widespread, legal recreational pot before sanctioning another addiction for-profit industry.

Russell Kamer, MD
Katonah

Opposition Surfaces Against Pocantico Hills Cell Tower

By Joan Gaylord

There has not yet been a public hearing for the proposed cell tower proposed in Pocantico Hills but residents have already mobilized to fight the project.

With an online petition, a protest organized to coincide with the Mar. 7 balloon test and public comments at the last two Mount Pleasant Town Board meetings, neighbors are forcefully registering their objections to the cell tower.

The public first learned of the project when Homeland Towers, the project's applicant, provided details during an informational session last month. Plans call for a 120-foot tower to be built on town-owned land across the street from the Pocantico Hills Fire Department.

Homeland Towers would lease the land from the town, providing Mount Pleasant's first responders access to the structure to improve communications. The rest of the space on the tower would be leased to the major cell phone carriers.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said the tower was designed to address the poor cell coverage in the area, which he called a safety issue. Neighbors, however, object to its placement so close to residences and a school, which they charge is in conflict with the historic nature of Pocantico Hills.

"This is egregious," said Michael Nowell, a civil engineer who lives on

Bedford Road. "This is 200 feet from my children's bedrooms."

Like other residents who spoke last week, Nowell expressed his concerns about the safety of locating the tower in a residential area, citing the unknown risk from exposure to electromagnetic radiation. The neighbors' online petition points to the lack of conclusive studies about cell towers.

"We would rather not take that chance to expose our families and particularly our children to this type of risk," the petition states.

Neighbors say they also object to locating the tower in a hamlet that includes several historic buildings. Nowell pointed out that the proposal calls for positioning the tower between Church of the Magdalene and Union Church. Union Church, which was built by the Rockefeller family, includes stained glass windows designed by Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall.

The petition calls the plan "an affront to the thousands of visitors who seek to surround themselves with nature undisturbed by modern stresses."

Neighbors have requested information about alternate sites that had been considered before choosing this location.

Though Fulgenzi has assured residents that the project would be subject to a public hearing, Nowell said he is discouraged and cites what he calls "a major conflict of



VILIUS DZIUGELIS PHOTO

Protestors opposing the proposed cell tower along Route 448 in Pocantico Hills on Mar. 7.

interest in the process." He contended that the town owns the property that would be leased to Homeland Towers and is also the lead agency for the environmental review.

"The Town of Mount Pleasant has sole power of approval. No codes or other board approval are necessary," he said.

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Coronavirus Concerns Visit the Real Estate Industry

A while back, I wrote a column about doorknobs that I thought was comical. It included one of my wife's famous Lithuanian sayings, "I visited my friends only to kiss the doorknob, which translates simply that they were not home. Lithuanians have quaint expressions for nearly everything they do.

But can you imagine anybody kissing a doorknob today, considering that the typical doorknob probably harbors more germs than any other fixture in our homes?

As a realtor, I and my colleagues have been advised this week by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been changing the way we should operate in and around homes we are listing for sale or viewing with buyer clients.

According to a new survey just conducted by the association, nearly one in four home sellers nationwide are changing how their home is viewed while that home remains on the market, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The changes include eliminating open houses from their marketing plans, requiring potential buyers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, asking buyers to remove shoes or wear footies and other changes.



By Bill Primavera

The percentage of sellers adopting these and other changes climbs to 44 percent in Washington state and 34 percent in California, two of the states hardest hit by coronavirus.

The NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey, conducted on Mar. 9 and 10, asked questions about how the coronavirus outbreak, including the significant declines in stock market values and mortgage interest rates, has impacted home buyer and seller interest and behavior. Several highlights of the member survey include:

--Thirty-seven percent said lower mortgage rates excited home buyers much more than the stock market correction.

--Almost eight out of 10 (78 percent) said there has been no change in buyer interest due to the coronavirus.

--Sixteen percent said buyer interest has decreased due to coronavirus, with members in California and Washington state citing larger decreases in buyer interest - 21 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

--Nearly nine out of 10 members (87 percent) said coronavirus has not affected the number of homes on the market.

In Washington state and California, 5 percent and 4 percent of members, respectively, reported homes were



removed from the market. That figure is 3 percent for members nationwide.

To me and my real estate colleagues, all relevant news is local, and in checking with my office at William Raveis in Yorktown, I learned that two weeks ago, the number of showings scheduled on Saturday were 34. As I write this on Saturday this week, I've called my office to learn that that number of scheduled showings had dropped dramatically to nine showings and, before the end of the afternoon, four of those had been canceled.

So, hold on to your hats, home sellers

and fellow realtors, and let's all hope that the number of coronavirus cases starts declining soon. If not, all we can do is be patient and, most of all, be safe.

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

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Harckham, P'ville Board of Ed Prez Go Toe to Toe on Marijuana

By Abby Luby

For many school districts the prospect of the legal sale of recreational marijuana has fueled growing worries about students having easier access to weed, especially youngsters who smoke marijuana when vaping.

At the Mar. 9 Pleasantville Village Board meeting, state Sen. Pete Harckham (D-Lewisboro) was peppered with questions by Pleasantville Board of Education President Angela Vella on the proposed state legislation.

"We have some real concerns about making this legal, the normalization of it and the access to it by our kids," said Vella. "How will the new legislation be regulated and what are the Senate's plans for putting something in the bill that will make sure our kids are safe?"

In January, Harckham, who chairs the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, announced his support for a bill sponsored by state Sen. Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan), the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. The bill includes investments in substance abuse disorder treatment, mental health programs and education efforts aimed at highlighting the risks of marijuana use.

"A year before sales become legal, monies in the Krueger bill amounting to \$1 million will be for a social media campaign targeting young people," Harckham told Vella. "That campaign will warn about the potential dangers of marijuana use on the developing brain. It will also stress that just because it's legal doesn't mean it's safe."

Harckham said he had just spent a day in Massachusetts where marijuana has been legal for about two years. He toured sales facilities and met with school and local officials. Harckham said one school superintendent told him that since legalization, he has seen no increase in teen marijuana use.

Pleasantville Strong Chairman John Mueller said research shows otherwise. The well-known Michigan Study, an ongoing 45-year study on substance abuse, shows 2018-19 was the largest single-year increase of students vaping marijuana.

"We call it the perception of risk. When children and adolescents see something that is legal, they think it's okay and their perception of risk goes down and their use goes up. When the perception of risk goes up, use [of a substance] goes down."

Pleasantville is less than two square miles, and Mueller believes pot cafes or dispensaries in a small village could easily tempt youngsters.

Krueger's proposed legislation failed to pass last year. The revised version has a provision to invest 25 percent of marijuana sales revenue toward treatment, education and prevention programs. Additional resources would be dedicated to local law enforcement to enhance DUI enforcement.

Vella said that state aid regulations and licensing rules prohibit schools and educational organizations from taking money made from selling drugs.

"We can't really accept monies generated through drug sales. There's a problem with that," Vella told Harckham.

Harckham explained the money would flow as an allowable form of classified school aid.

"This would be just another part of school aid that will come to you without ties to mental health or OASAS (Office of Addiction Services and Supports)," he said. "It would be money for schools to formulate their own plans, to enable you to hire professionals and have programs dealing with risky behavior prevention."

If the new legislation became law, Vella wanted to know if municipalities could opt out of having marijuana retailers and growers set up shop locally.

"If this was something Pleasantville did not want to deal with, there would have

to be a village-wide referendum where no licensed dealers were allowed," said Harckham. "Municipalities can control the zoning of the growing facilities, which are essentially agri-factories that are hydroponic, organic and use a lot of energy. It's not the kind of thing that would be conducive to a small village or a downtown area."

Vella echoed every parent's nightmare that when marijuana is legal, it will become normalized.

"Kids know at some point they will be of drinking age, so why not start checking it out now," she said. "I'm afraid, they're going to start saying that about marijuana — that at some point it will be legal so what's the

harm in starting now. We know the harm marijuana use does to the developing brain."

Harckham acknowledged the impacts of youth marijuana use.

"Let's regulate the product, let's reduce the THC content so it's less harmful and let's tax it for a social good," he said.

The senator added that the legislation has had numerous challenges.

"That's why we pulled it out of the budget last year. I'd be happy to pull out the bill this year, too," Harckham said. "There's no rush on the legislative side to get it done. We have to do this right."

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continued on page 20

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It's Time for All of Us to Do Our Part to Fight the Coronavirus

As a physician, I'm not an alarmist. Most physicians aren't. By our training, we learn to check ourselves and remain calm in the face of a crisis.

But I'm here to sound the alarm, or rather, to join in with other physicians sounding the alarm about the coronavirus (COVID-19). First from Wuhan, then Italy, and more recently the U.S.

I am a primary care physician, the person you trust to guide you to better health and help you recover from illness, the shoulder to cry on, someone who cheers you on in your efforts to improve your life. I hope you will heed my words.

I am in contact with thousands of physicians across the country and the world. Our message is simple: stay home! We are not asking you to panic. We are asking you to take our warnings and instructions seriously and help us save your life and the life of others.

We are scared. We have learned how bad the situation can get from physicians in other countries, as well as heartbreaking accounts from my colleagues in the Seattle area, who are forced to make painful decisions.

In the United States, health professionals have little to no access to protective equipment and are beginning to fall ill. Physicians, other healthcare providers, first responders, janitorial staff, are literally risking their own lives while battling for yours and doing so

without proper equipment. Stay home!

Also, I can't believe I have to write this, but please stop stealing masks, hand sanitizers, gloves from your doctors' offices or hospitals. I get it, you're scared, but our supplies are severely limited and they won't help you as much as they will us. Don't you want us around to help you or your loved one if one of you is ill?

Also, don't lie about your symptoms to get through the screening process because you want to be tested but your symptoms are mild and you were recommended to stay home. Now you've exposed everyone in your path, including the clinical staff trying to care for the critically ill, and you might not get tested anyway. There is a limited supply of test kits, and not everyone qualifies for testing.

Despite what you may have heard, not everyone can get the test, even if the doctor wants to test you. Hopefully, this will change soon. I'd love to test everyone, then we'd really get a sense of the impact here, but we can't yet.

If you are sick, definitely stay home and contact a medical professional first to see if you need to be seen. Only go to the emergency room if you are having an emergency. Look at your local health department website for links and information about what to do if you get sick and how to prepare your home.

Other than that, please stop traveling, meeting up with friends, having parties or playdates, going to the gym, going to bars. I understand that your children may be frustrated by the realities of social distancing and interruptions of their normal activities. But the school closures will accomplish nothing if you continue with gatherings, small or large.

The symptoms of coronavirus take days to manifest themselves. Someone who comes over looking well can transmit the virus. It's okay to take go outside for walks, runs, biking (and you should, it's a great stress reliever), but maintain distance, ideally six feet between people outside your family.

Call your friends and check in with your older neighbors to see if they need something while you are (sparingly) going to the grocery store or pharmacy. Take care of each other, just don't hang out with each other. Continue to cover your cough and wash your hands,



By Dr. Laura Korin

but that alone is not enough. Stay home!

Early and aggressive social distancing can flatten the curve, not overwhelm our healthcare system and eventually may reduce the length and need for longer periods of extreme social distancing later, which is what has occurred in Italy and Wuhan. We all need to do our part during these times, no matter the difficulties.

I hope one day you can tell us we overreacted, then that means we all

did our part.

Many people are literally risking their own lives while fighting for yours. Please stay home. It is the absolute least you can do.

Laura Korin, MD, MPH, is a family physician and preventive medicine/public health physician who trained at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She practices at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She was raised in Pleasantville and continues to have close ties to the village.

A Spiritual View

By Rev. Thadeus Aravindathu

John the Gospel expounded the idea, "The greatest love is to die for a friend."

A prisoner slipped away from a labor detail in Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp. In southern Poland. In retaliation, the Nazis picked 10 prisoners, at random, to be killed. One of the prisoners was the father of a family. As the guards marched the victims off to execute them, a Polish priest named Maximillian

Kolbe stepped from the ranks and volunteered to take the man's place. The Nazi officer in charge was stunned, but he recovered his composure and

said, "Accepted."

With that, the priest marched off to his death. What is the greatest sacrifice we have ever made for someone we never even knew?



Mother Teresa of Calcutta explained: "At the hour of our death when we face with God, we are going to be judged on love, not on how much we have done, but on how much love we put in the doing."

Rev. Thadeus Aravindathu is the pastor at St. Patrick's Church in Armonk, which is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Hillside Church and St. Nersess' Armenian Seminary.

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continued from page 18



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continued on page 23

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Getting the 'Royal' Treatment From a Local Super-Entrepreneur

By Nancy Sorbella

When I was sent to meet Barbara Lerman, owner of Chappaqua's newest brick and mortar boutique at 26 S. Greeley Ave., I had no idea what to expect. Knowing that behind every business is a great story, inspiration and motivation, I was completely unprepared for the dynamo behind some of the area's best local fashion hotspots.

As it turns out, the boutique, Royal, is the expansion of Lerman's Just In personal shopping business, formerly run out of her home and popular with an extensive network of in-the-know women.

Lerman is a former fashion industry executive who left to raise her family, which includes "a very supportive husband who thought this business was originally a hobby" and two daughters, one of whom suffers from Marfan syndrome, over 15 years ago.

Having a keen eye for style and a passion for personalized shopping, she was an early creator of the in-home business model. Beginning with workout apparel and evolving into upscale trends for the discriminating Westchester woman, Just In took off, growing into a customer base of over 400 clients. It featured weekly shipments and sales, every piece carefully selected and curated with her discriminating taste for her loyal customers who appreciated fine quality apparel.

Lerman, who has collaborated with other local creative entrepreneurs, including jewelry designers for special shopping events, believes the key to success is to "really know your customer and understand her style and



Royal's storefront at 26 S. Greeley Ave., a stylish boutique opened by Barbara Lerman. Left: Lerman, right, who launched the Chappaqua boutique, partnered with Dori Cook, left, to recently open The Shop @ Dori's, with Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Cook appealed to Lerman to include more affordable, accessible fashion in her business. A new collaboration was born called The Shop @ Dori's, with Lerman doing the buying and merchandising.

When she heard that a store in Armonk was closing and knew the owners, she asked to take over the last three months of their lease to launch The Shop @ Dori's as a pop-up. It quickly became a local staple there, and at the Chappaqua

location, conveniently nestled across the street from Royal, at 27 S. Greeley Ave.

A born "connector," Lerman's imprint can be found in shops and closets all over but it is her dedication, passion and support of women and charity (many have benefitted, most significantly the Marfan Foundation, for whom she has raised over \$1 million through her influence) that has solidified her robust following.

Circling back to Royal, eventually, "there

were just too many people coming in and out of my house," said Lerman while laughing.

So she took over the space on South Greeley Avenue but still ran it as Just In, private, invitation-only shopping.

"But then I wanted to expand into the community, reach the next generation of local shoppers and create a very personalized welcoming experience for everyone," Lerman said.

So she jumped into retail. Royal is a warm and inviting space, complete with a cozy sitting area – people are known to drop in with their lunch and chat" – creating its own social scene. Lerman employs friends and the vibe is decidedly fun. Her friendly demeanor instantly welcomes you and at once you find yourself on the comfy sofa, chatting and laughing.

Women getting styled, trying on outfits, dropping in for a visit, having coffee and discussing business. Knowing her customer, knowing the area, Lerman has been able to style women of all ages and sizes.

"I want to dress everybody; that is really my goal," she said.

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Important Schedule Changes for CareMount Patients

Effective Mar. 17 CareMount is changing how patients are scheduled.

Primary Care Visit Scheduling (IM/FM/OB/GYN/Pediatrics)

Your primary care provider will be dividing his or her morning and afternoon schedule to accommodate sick patients (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, sneezing or shortness of breath) and well patients (the absence of these symptoms) as follows:

Morning: Patients who do not have chills, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath and who have the following types of visits, will be scheduled prior to 1 p.m. including:

- Physicals
- Annual Wellness Visits
- Consultations
- Routine Follow Up Visits
- Patients (over age 65 and/or those with co-existing medical conditions)

Afternoon: Sick patients (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, sneezing or shortness of breath) will be scheduled after 1 p.m. If you have fever, cough, sore throat or trouble breathing and you have your own mask, please put it on before entering the facility.

NOTE: For patients with symptoms consistent with COVID, your provider may come outside the building to evaluate you whenever possible.

Urgent Care

Effective Mar. 17, CareMount will be temporarily closing its Kingston and Thornwood urgent care locations to

consolidate resources and better meet our patients' needs.

Effective Mar. 23

All screening mammography exams and bone density studies, elective procedures will be temporarily suspended as of Monday.

Pediatric Walk-In Hours

In order to minimize the chance of exposure in the pediatrics departments, CareMount is temporarily suspending pediatric walk-in hours in the various pediatric locations.

We all have a role to play in the containment of the disease. Please heed the following recommendations and urge others to do the same:

- Avoid any contact with individuals exhibiting symptoms such as coughing, fever, or shortness of breath
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often and avoid touching your face
- Practice social distancing and keep a reasonable distance from others:
- STAND - 6 feet away from the front desk.
- SIT - 6 feet from other patients in the waiting room when possible.
- PATIENTS who are instructed to wear a mask and refuse will be asked to leave the building.
- GUESTS OF PATIENTS will be asked screening questions for Coronavirus. Guests who are positive for risk factors of virus will be asked to wait outside the building.

For more information visit cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

Hillside Food Outreach Makes Home Deliveries to Quarantined Residents

Hillside Food Outreach is helping to identify and make home deliveries of much-needed groceries to residents under quarantine or isolated due to the coronavirus.

Kathleen Purdy, founder and executive director of Hillside Food Outreach, immediately mobilized members of the Hillside staff and her team of volunteers to bring food to the Westchester residents who need it, and they remain ready to make more deliveries as needed.

"For 23 years, we have operated as a team of neighbors helping neighbors get the food they need delivered to their homes," Purdy said. "Making sure people in our communities know that they can rely on Hillside Food Outreach to make sure they aren't hungry is critical, especially in times of crisis, and we are happy to extend our service to those who are isolated at home due to the coronavirus."

People who live in Westchester or Putnam counties or Fairfield County, Conn. and want Hillside's help should inquire through the Westchester County Department of

social services in their county.

Purdy, her staff and Hillside volunteers follow a careful protocol to minimize the spread of the virus, and she recommends the following best practices to people who want to help their elderly and/or high-risk neighbors directly.

- Call neighbors who are quarantined or might be isolated in their homes to find out if they need food or supplies.
- Pick up what is needed and pack in bags that are light enough for someone who is sick or elderly to lift.
- Leave the groceries on the front porch at a mutually agreed upon time.
- Immediately call to make sure the neighbor in need knows the food has been delivered
- Do not ring the doorbell, touch the doorknob or enter the home of anyone in quarantine, or at high risk of contracting the coronavirus.

For more information, visit hillsidefoodoutreach.org.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

March On. It's mid-March, the clocks have sprung forward an hour, and spring is just a few days away. Perhaps a few of the quiz words this week will help to put a little spring in your vocabulary, as we get ready for the longer days and warmer temperatures that come with the new season.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. nadir (n.) | A) the lowest point | B) an enclosure | C) a child's nurse |
| 2. fusty (adj.) | A) serving no purpose | B) smelling stale | C) irritable |
| 3. venial (adj.) | A) made sacred | B) malevolent | C) easily excused |
| 4. inveigle (v.) | A) to turn upside down | B) give energy | C) entice |
| 5. frangible (adj.) | A) relatively small | B) brittle | C) unruly |
| 6. edacious (adj.) | A) given to eating | B) worldwide in extent | C) lacking teeth |
| 7. bromide (n.) | A) a trite remark | B) a noisy disturbance | C) an outer edge |
| 8. elide (v.) | A) to draw out | B) lift up | C) omit something |

- ANSWERS:**
1. A. The lowest point in the fortunes of a person
 2. B. Smelling stale, damp, or stuffy; old-fashion in attitude or style
 3. C. Easily excused or forgiven; pardonable;
 4. C. To persuade (someone) to do something by
 5. B. Fragile; brittle; easily breakable
 6. A. Relating to or given to eating; having an insatiable appetite
 7. A. A trite and unoriginal idea or remark, typically intended to soothe or placate
 8. C. To omit or strike out something; curtail;

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Burgundy: The Impact of History on Today's Prestigious Wines



By Nick Antonaccio

The wines of France's Burgundy region are famous for their unique aroma and flavor profiles – and their relative scarcity compared to worldwide demand. This imbalance has driven prices of the most famous wines into the collectors-

only stratosphere.

To a certain extent, this obsession has obscured the underlying turbulence of the region's roots.

One cannot fully appreciate the wines of Burgundy without an insight into the local culture, passion, geopolitics and, perhaps most of all, its history.

While Burgundy vineyards comprise only one-eighth the land coverage of California vineyards, they are owned or managed by a similar number of growers – approximately 3,000. Do the math: Burgundy vineyards are generally miniscule in size compared to California. But this wasn't always the case. The history of Burgundy is a tale of the ebb and flow of land control over millennia.

For this column, I've condensed the 2,000-year history of this region into four distinct periods. Each has enhanced the quality and appreciation of the fine wines produced in this ancient region.

1. The Romans. Roman troops swept through this area in the fifth century and occupied the land for several centuries, experimenting with various grapes, eventually concentrating on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. At the end of the eighth century, King Charlemagne brought the influence of the Roman Catholic Church to much of France, including Burgundy.

As its ruler, he fancied the local red wines and acquired a parcel of land. However, legend tells us that the king had a habit of staining his beard at mealtimes, embarrassing his wife. She preferred that he drink white wine as a kingly alternative. To this day, this parcel of land, Corton-Charlemagne, is an island of Chardonnay in a sea of Pinot Noir.

2. The Dukes of Burgundy. In the 14th century, this warring family conquered and occupied Burgundy with a stranglehold on the local economy for the next 200 years. And Burgundy flourished. However, as the Roman Catholic Church gained influence

in France in the 16th century, the House of Burgundy felt the need for the eternal salvation promised by the church. They were convinced that the way to salvation was through spiritual, not financial, wealth. They gradually transferred ownership of much of their Burgundian lands – and vineyards – to their winemakers, the church's emissaries: Benedictine and Cistercian monks.

3. The Monks. It is during this era (the 16th through 18th centuries) that the reputation of Burgundy as a fine winemaking region flourished. The monks were fastidious recordkeepers, diligent laborers and insightful winemakers. They catalogued each inch of land for its natural qualities – soil composition, exposure to the sun, elevation of vineyards – and planted vines accordingly. They perfected ages-old winemaking techniques. They even sold a portion of these sacramental wines to the aristocrats. And then came...

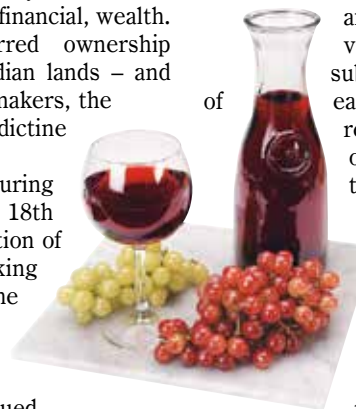
4. The French Revolution. After Louis XVI was dethroned and beheaded, the revolutionaries distributed much of the wealth of the aristocracy and the church to the commoners. With their new and reclaimed holdings, the newly enfranchised winemakers embraced the land and gained worldwide popularity for their wines.

Upon Napoleon's accession to emperor in 1804, his Napoleonic Code further distributed the land of Burgundy to the heirs of its citizens. Generation after generation, the vineyards were continually subdivided amongst the heirs each succeeding generation, resulting in the hodgepodge of small vineyards that exists today. A number of today's winemakers produce just a few hundred cases of wine from vineyards only a few rows wide.

What we taste today is the evolution of Burgundy and the culmination of thousands of years of influence and refinement.

This is the pure essence of Burgundy. Not solely the grapes or the land, but the echo of ancient footsteps in the vineyards.

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



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How Math Can Become Your Child's Favorite Subject

Ask kids what their favorite school subject is and fewer and fewer will say math as they age. While 37 percent of fourth-graders report that math is one of their favorite subjects, only 15 percent of 12th-graders say the same, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

At a time when a strong math foundation is more important than ever before, you may be wondering how to keep the subject fun and interesting for kids, even as the workload grows more complex and challenging with each passing year.

Here are a few ideas for infusing fun into the equation:

- Set a good example. Don't make math

out to be a subject you yourself don't enjoy. Whether you're talking about the batting average of your favorite player, working out your budget or watching a news report citing statistics, you can point out the many ways in which math is used to think about the world and spark a numbers-fueled conversation.

- Embrace a love of tech. Your children are digital natives, so when it comes to mathematics, let them use the tech tools that feel most natural to them without limitations. You can feel particularly good about this decision when it comes to calculators. Many calculators today are much more



intuitive to use than their predecessors, allowing students to spend more time learning the joy of math rather than figuring out how to operate the device. For a high-quality scientific calculator, check out the fx-300ES from Casio, which has over 250 functions. Once a graphing calculator is needed, a good choice is the fx-CG50, which has a high-definition, three-dimensional display.

- Check in. Many students stop loving math once it gets hard. Unfortunately, a lot of students don't mention they are struggling until it's too late to easily catch up, as most lessons build on previously taught material.

Periodically check in with your student

to ensure they are keeping up with their classmates. Let them know there is no shame in getting an extra bit of help. Many teachers will meet with students before or after class to offer assistance and answer questions. Study buddies, tutors and online tutorials can also help students grasp the material, achieve good grades and ultimately, continue to enjoy math.

There is no doubt about it, a love of math is a good thing. By making it approachable and offering the right tools, you can help your young mathematician continue to embrace the subject.

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Fun Activities for Children When Stuck at Home

On rainy days, it can be tempting to hand children devices and let them fall down a YouTube rabbit hole. After all, there can be a lot of hours to fill when you're stuck at home without any plans.

There are better ways to spend those days. With a little creativity, there are opportunities for fun and educational play.

Consider these great ideas from The Genius of Play, an initiative with a mission of raising awareness about the importance of play in order to help parents make it a critical part of raising kids.

- Get messy. Just because you're indoors, doesn't mean there isn't an opportunity for children to satisfy their primal urge to get their hands dirty. Not only do kids love playing with sensory textures such as paints, slime, sand, play dirt and foam, doing so helps improve fine motor skills. The good news? Many such items are now designed to reduce messiness, stickiness and clean up hassles.
- Play games. Break out some classic board games like checkers and dominoes or grab a deck of cards for a round of crazy eights. Such games teach the importance of taking turns and good sportsmanship and can even help children learn to strategize and plan ahead.
- Get dramatic. For an afternoon of open-ended playtime, encourage children to



develop their emotional, creative and communication skills by developing their own skit or play. With so many dress-up kits available, it's easy to maintain a well-stocked costume trunk that kids can use to get inspired. You can also gather up some of their favorite toys to use as props and help bring stories to life.

- Build together. Whether your child

prefers following step-by-step instructions or using their imagination, designing, creating and playing with construction toys can build problem-solving, spatial and fine motor skills.

- Design an obstacle course. Children have energy to burn. Building a safe obstacle course for kids to complete is a fun way for them to stay active indoors while building core muscles

and developing balance. Pick three to five exercises, like pretending to jump like a frog, army crawling under the table or log rolling from one side of the living room to another and then doing five sit-ups. Practice it for five to 10 minutes, then get to work designing a new one.

- Create a mini lab. Play with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) toys and games. Use a science kit to erupt a volcano or code a robot to guard the bedroom. These important educational experiences can be fun supplements to classroom learning that help set your child up for future success.
- Make cleanup fun. It may not sound like "play" at first glance, but clean up can be fun with the right attitude. Crank up favorite tunes and have kids dance as they dust, straighten, put toys away, make the bed and help with chores. Or, make a game of it, racing each other to complete tasks.

For more play tips and inspiration, visit www.thegeniusofplay.org.

Be sure days home from school include playtime, which offers many developmental benefits for children to learn key communication, creative, cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills.

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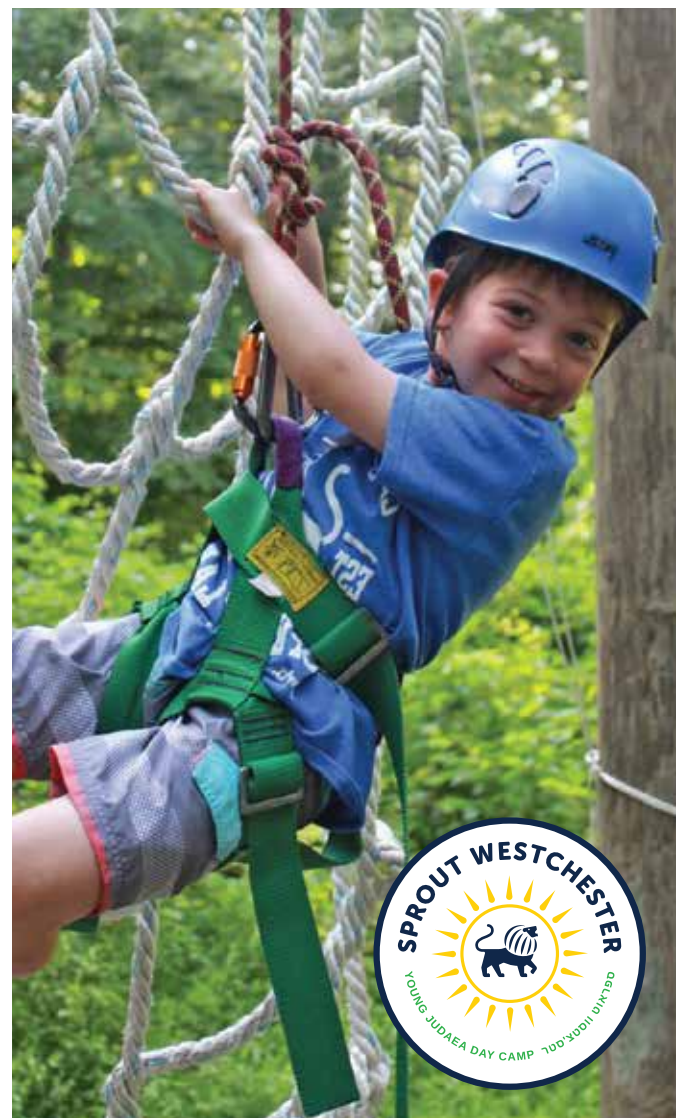
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Senior forward Stefana Latella of Byram Hills gets inside for an easy basket.



Allison Langlois of Valhalla gets free for a shot under the basket in a game at Briarcliff.



Greeley's Julia Herzner tries to dribble around Fox Lane's Sofia Zinzi in a game hosted by the Quakers.

ExaminerSports



Briarcliff center Jordan Smith dribbles along the right baseline in the Class B semifinal playoff game vs. Irvington at the Westchester County Center.



Briarcliff senior guard Julia Barbalato handles the ball near midcourt in a home win over the Hastings Yellow Jackets.



Beth Corelli of Byram Hills sets her sights on the basket in a home game against Rye.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL 2019-20 A Look Back



Fox Lane sophomore Susannah Kimsal fires up a jump shot from the right baseline during a Fox road game.



Westlake forward Julie Lyden rises for a jump shot in a Wildcat home game against Pleasantville.



Westlake guard ToniAnn Mastracchio moves past Briarcliff's Caroline Barbalato on her way to the basket.



Quoya Schnell of Fox Lane chases a loose ball near midcourt with Horace Greeley's Julia Herzner (left) and Kaylin Genda.



Pleasantville point guard Tina Matica searches for open teammates as she pushes the ball up the floor.



Briarcliff star Alana Lombardi dribbles past midcourt during a Bears' home game.



Emma Rose of Greeley takes the ball to the basket in a game against Suffern.



Cat Carrafiello of Briarcliff tries to dribble past Westlake's Nicole Karaqi in a tournament game at Pace University.



Byram Hills guard Jen Mui drives to the basket in the Bobcats' playoff win over the John Jay Indians.



Nicole Karaqi of Westlake scores with a fast-break layup during a home game late in the regular season.



Fox Lane star Natalie Pence shoots the ball in a win over Greeley. She later scored her 1000th career point in the Foxes' playoff loss at Ossining.



Pleasantville's Mary Grace O'Neill heads for the basket during the sectional playoffs.



Valhalla junior guard Lauren Alley handles the ball during a Viking home game.



Horace Greeley senior Jesse Harris drives to the basket in a Quaker home game as Fox Lane's Quoya Schnell tries to stop her.



Valhalla's Shelby Sekinski dribbles up the court in a Viking road game. The senior became the school's all-time leading scorer this past season.



Olivia Barry of Byram Hills battles for rebound position with Audrey Porter of Rye during a Bobcat home game in late January.



Abby McAllister of Pleasantville gets set to shoot the ball in a home playoff win over North Salem.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Last Saturday was a beautiful day but shortly after 2 p.m. there was no one on the this block of East Main Street in Mount Kisco as shoppers and passersby steered clear of most non-essential businesses and services.