



Valhalla Limo Company Battles for Survival

By Martin Wilbur

Like any prudent CEO, Jeff Nyikos planned for unexpected disruptions to business and recessions.

But the brightest and most successful business leaders or Wharton School graduates couldn't have prepared him or tens of thousands of other business owners and executives for the economic devastation wrought by the coronavirus.

Nyikos leads the Valhalla-based Leros Point to Point, Westchester's largest private ground transportation company. His decision to lay off all but 30 of his roughly 300 drivers by Mar. 20 was an example of the dire predicament his firm and thousands of other business owners small and large are facing.

"You can have all the disaster economy plans, and you plan for downturns and recessions and things of that nature," Nyikos said, "but you could never plan for anything that's taking place here over the last two weeks. I don't care what business you're in. So, we're doing whatever we can. We're in survival mode at this point."

As late as Mar. 18, Leros still had some corporate shuttles and other black-car runs for major Westchester corporations. But over the past two weeks business has fallen 90 percent, Nyikos said, as government leaders shut down the economy and urged



Jeff Nyikos, CEO of Leros Point to Point, a transportation company in Valhalla, is one of thousands of businesses that had to lay off most of its workforce and hopes to survive the economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus.

people to stay home. In that time, Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order mandating that only essential businesses remain open, eliminating much of the commuting workforce and the need for transportation, which is deemed essential.

Runs to the metropolitan area airports

have dwindled and downtowns that had been bustling with evening activity from the restaurant crowds have been reduced to ghost towns by nightfall.

Nyikos said Leros does work with some corporations that have disaster recovery sites in the county, plus he's been reaching out to hospitals throughout Westchester in hopes of recovering a small amount of business to transport healthcare workers.

"My friend has a company that places nurses, so we're talking about possibly providing transportation, if not (last) week than (this) week, to nurses either going to work or from work and maybe late at night because you don't want to take public transportation with no one on the trains at night," Nyikos said.

As circumstances were unfolding a couple of weeks ago, there had been some calls from families that wanted their older parents to stay with them in their homes in Westchester, Rockland, Connecticut or New Jersey, he said.

Other attempts to find work have included reaching out to organizations to make deliveries of essential items to local seniors.

Nyikos said the most difficult aspect was telling the overwhelming number of his drivers that he had to send them home.

He's not certain how long he can continue to operate with most of his business gone.

If there was zero revenue being generated, Leros could last two to three months, Nyikos said.

The hope is that the company's lenders and Ford Motor Co. won't ask for their scheduled payments until there's a modicum of business. Until then, Nyikos has been busy searching for loans and assistance.

A major challenge for Nyikos is keeping his remaining drivers safe from the coronavirus. Each driver operates the same car each shift, and wears gloves. After a passenger is dropped off the back seat is wiped down.

While most of the drivers have only two or three calls a day now, there is still significant danger. However, few drivers wanted to give up their livelihood.

"We told these guys they don't have to work," Nyikos said. "We gave every driver the option of going on unemployment and when things come back, we'll bring you back. We gave everyone that option. I can't make a guy not work."

Nyikos, like his employees, is hoping he can survive.

"The game plan is to ride this out and hopefully we get through the virus and at that point we're hoping to get some assistance," he said. "We're not looking for a handout, but basically some long-term loan that will allow us to operate and then allow us to bring these people back."

Despite Approval, Depew Street Parcel's Taxes, Soil Still an Issue

By Abby Luby

It's easy to understand how the initial rejection by the Pleasantville Planning Commission to approve Lighthouse Living's 71-unit apartment building at 52 Depew St. on Feb. 26 caused a significant stir.

It's not often that an application reaches a vote for site plan approval and fails to gain support from a majority of the board.

While mainly traffic issues were resolved within three weeks following negotiations in executive session between the village and the applicant, which allowed for the Mar. 18 approval, angst over two other matters continue to follow the project.

The Town of Mount Pleasant and the Village of Pleasantville revealed that Lighthouse Living owes back taxes of more than \$51,000 and \$12,000, respectively.

And recently, the former owner of the 1.04-acre parcel, Vincent LaDuca, who operated an auto repair shop at the site for 18 years, told The Examiner that insinuations that his operation was the source of soil contamination at the site is wrong. The contamination, which will

require Lighthouse Living to complete the Brownfield Cleanup Program, was caused by a gas station that had occupied the site when state regulations were less stringent, LaDuca said.

Mount Pleasant Receiver of Taxes Grace Papa said Lighthouse owes \$47,673.74 in back taxes from 2018, and \$3,471.07 for 2019. The combined \$51,144.81 includes town and school taxes, she said.

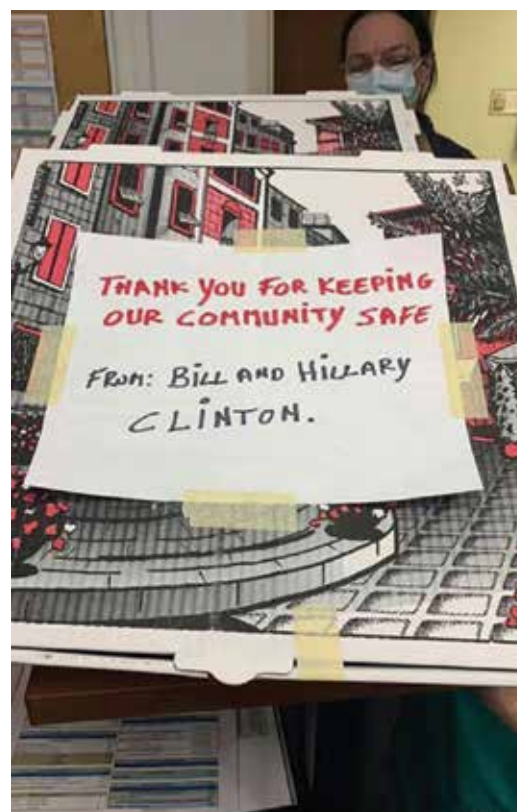
According to Jason Hoffman, Pleasantville's village treasurer, all previous liens on the property were paid but two are outstanding: a 2019 lien for \$4,341.63 and one this year for \$8,395.09.

David Cooper, an attorney representing Lighthouse Living, however, contended that when his client took title of the property, all liens were resolved.

"Now that Lighthouse is the owner of the property, they are not in arrears anymore," Cooper said.

LaDuca said he paid in full all taxes on the property at the bank closing with Lighthouse in late 2018. He sold the property to

continued on page 2



A Multitude of Thanks

Healthcare and hospital workers throughout the area have been receiving an avalanche of well wishes and gifts from a grateful public for their service at a time of need while putting themselves at great risk. Also showing their appreciation last Wednesday evening were Chappaqua residents Bill and Hillary Clinton who sent the staff at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow 20 pizza pies and a note taped to the top box.

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Despite Approval, Depew Street Parcel's Taxes, Soil Still an Issue

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Lighthouse Living in November 2018 and moved his business to Mount Kisco. However, he was steadfast that his shop did not cause the ground contamination. "A number of my clients called me about the articles," he said. "They frown on these issues and don't take them lightly."

LaDuca purchased the land from gas station owner John Nitti in 2000. Nitti owned the property from 1976.

When the bank issued LaDuca a small business loan to purchase the property, a Phase 2 environmental site assessment was required, he said. Although contaminated soil from years of leaks was discovered at the site, his business loan was approved.

"The bank was more relaxed about the situation," he recalled. "Today it's different from 20 years ago. We didn't know the seriousness (of the leaks) back then, how (the contamination) gets in the water."

LaDuca said he knew there were numerous tanks underground when he bought the property. He removed six of them – two 20,000-gallon tanks and four

6,000-gallon tanks – which had been leaking into the ground. LaDuca Autor Repair did not sell gas.

"I took every measure possible to clean up all the junk, old cars and tires and auto parts that were left there," he said.

Pleasantville Building Department records show that most of the underground oil tanks had been on site since at least the 1960s; a 10,000-gallon gas tank was replaced in 1969.

In a 2019 environmental report prepared for Lighthouse Living by HydroEnvironmental Solutions for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, soil samples revealed elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons and other volatile organic compounds. Environmental regulations require the removal of the contaminated soil, especially if property encroaches on a wetlands buffer, which is the case at 52 Depew St.

Lighthouse Living plans on spending \$1.5 million as a participant in the Brownfield Cleanup Program to eliminate the contamination.

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His two tiny babies spent twelve days in Northern Westchester Hospital's Level III NICU, the highest possible level Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in a community hospital.

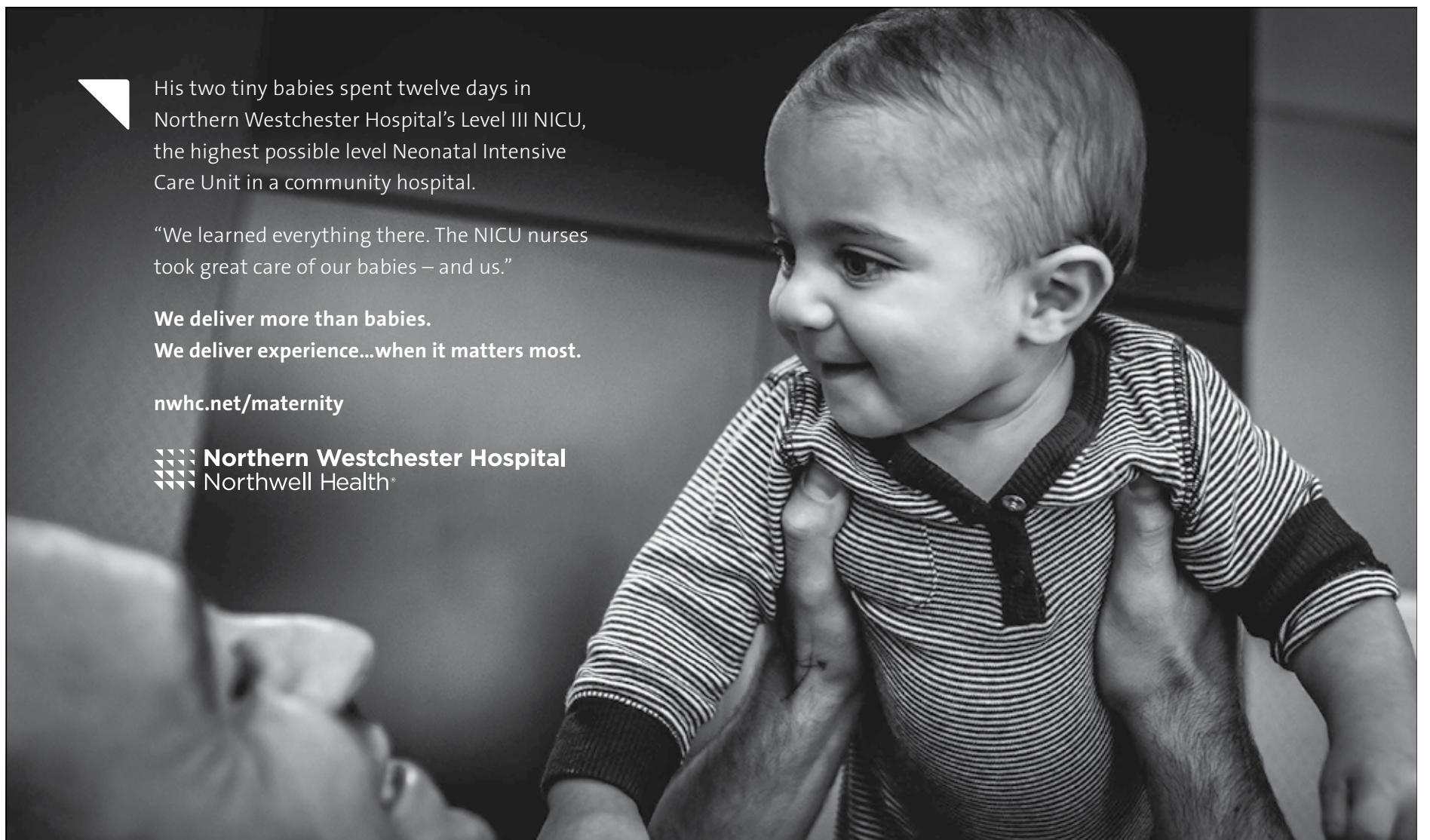
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State to Coordinate Hospital Resources as NY COVID-19 Deaths Top 1,200

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a plan Monday that would relieve overwhelmed New York City hospitals by coordinating the entire state's bed capacity and staff to prevent the healthcare system from breaking down.

A meeting between the city's private and public hospitals as well as facilities in the suburbs, including Westchester and Long Island, will result in a plan to be rolled out on Tuesday.

The governor's announcement came as the state's death toll from COVID-19 surged to 1,218 on Monday, with no significant abatement seen on the horizon.

"No one hospital has the resources to handle this," Cuomo said. "No one hospital can do it own's procurement. No one hospital has enough staff. No one hospital can deal with the capacity. There has to be a totally different operating paradigm where all these different hospitals operate as one system."

Until now, New York City's public hospitals have operated under the Health and Hospitals Corp. while the private hospitals are run by the Greater New York Hospital Association. The state Health Department will oversee the coordination of staff, equipment and beds that will also include other hospital systems throughout the state, Cuomo said.

He explained that once a public hospital has reached capacity, patients would go to other public hospitals until all are full. Then the private hospitals will pick up the slack. If a private hospital reaches, other private institutions would step in.

As of Monday, New York City had 37,453 confirmed COVID-19 cases, more than half of the 66,497 cases in the state. Cuomo delivered his daily briefing from the Javits Center in Manhattan, which the Army Corps of Engineers has converted into a temporary hospital with 2,500 beds for non-coronavirus patients. The hospital Navy ship Comfort also arrived in New York Monday with the capacity for another 1,000 patients.

Additionally, a temporary hospital is being set up in each of the four other boroughs.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said that while the number of hospitalized patients remains quite low, the county will do its part in helping its neighbors, whether the patients come from New York City or other Hudson Valley counties.

On Monday, Westchester had 8,519 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 8,323 still active. There were 221 county residents currently hospitalized, 213 of whom are being cared for in the county.

There have been 19 Westchester residents who have died from the disease.

Westchester currently has 3,017 hospital beds, but if the facilities expand under Cuomo's mandated 50 percent order, that would increase the county's capacity to just over 4,500. Another 100 beds would be available at the temporary County Center hospital being set up.

"Any available bed will be used for any sick patient," Latimer said. "So we can't look at this and say in Westchester we have a wall built around us in Westchester. And

if there's a need in Greenwich, if there's a need in Nyack, if there a need in Putnam Valley or Carmel, we're not going to ignore that need. These empty beds are going to be filled by other people who are sick."

Latimer said the concentration of cases throughout the county now mirrors the 10 municipalities with the highest population. Yonkers had 508 cases on Monday followed by New Rochelle (346), Greenburgh (272), Mount Vernon (224), White Plains (154), Village of Ossining (132), Port Chester (109), Yorktown (89), Cortlandt (85) and Eastchester and Mount Pleasant (70 each).

In Putnam County, there were 167 confirmed cases on Monday, 70 of which are

in Carmel.

Cuomo urged the public to remain vigilant and take the social distancing orders seriously to try and slow the spread.

"First, the public has to be responsible," he said. "Stay at home. When I issued the stay-at-home order, it wasn't it would be nice if you did. It is a mandate."

Cuomo also sent out a plea for more healthcare workers from throughout the state and the nation. Although thousands of retired healthcare professionals have signed up, many doctors have been working without a day off for weeks.

"We need relief, we need relief for nurses who are working 12-hour shifts, one after

another after another," Cuomo said. "We need relief for doctors, we need relief for attendants."

Latimer on Monday once again defended his decision to keep county parks and golf courses open to the public because it is needed for people's emotional and physical well-being. However, if people fail to practice social distancing, he would consider shuttering any park if it becomes too crowded.

"I will close by executive authority any individual park where people are not following social distancing," Latimer said. "It will be a park-by-park decision, not an across-the-board decision."



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Gathering Limits Hit Funeral Homes, Families in Time of Greatest Need

By Martin Wilbur

Losing a loved one under any circumstance is difficult enough. For the foreseeable future, those who are mourning the passing of a relative or friend won't even get to properly pay their respects.

The limits on gathering imposed by New York State in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic has all but eliminated wakes and services at funeral homes for the time being. No more than 10 people can be in

the building at one time, including staff, putting an even greater strain on those grieving.

Families also don't have the option of holding a funeral service at a house of worship, since gatherings there are off limits as well.

"Healing is a huge part of what we do here and we're trying every way humanly possible for us to help these families heal from their loss with the limited visitation we're given," said Matt Fiorillo, president and owner of Ballard-Durand Funeral &

Cremation Services in White Plains.

Because of the restrictions, funeral homes have been forced to shuttle in small groups of family and friends to make a brief visitation, said Craig Kretzner, the family care coordinator at Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home in Mount Kisco. Regulations have also been tightened to the point where public viewings are being curtailed, he said.

"We have some families with seven or eight children," Kretzner said. "What we do is have the most immediate family members come in first, they have their private time, they step out, a few people step out, new people come in and it's a very limited time and everybody has to stand six feet apart."

There are even tight restrictions imposed for graveside services, which differ from cemetery to cemetery based on the amount of space near the plot, said Bill Flooks, owner of Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. He said there have been more services at the cemetery and an uptick in cremation in the past few weeks.

For families looking to have a religious service, many funeral homes are offering to schedule a memorial service at a future date when it will be safe for crowds to gather again, Flooks said.

That doesn't make it any easier on families in their time of greatest need, particularly in the first several days after a loved one has passed away.

"It's been very difficult because a lot of times if you've been in the hospital or in a nursing home, they probably haven't seen their loved one in probably two to three weeks," Flooks said. "That makes it even more difficult because you don't even have a chance to have a good final goodbye. We've never faced this in our lifetimes."

Fiorillo said one option to families at Ballard-Durand is live streaming a funeral service that adheres to the gathering limits. The funeral home was one of the first to offer that option for friends and relatives who live far away or those unable to attend a funeral on short notice.

"We've always used it in that fashion and now we've used it more than ever," Fiorillo said.

Even most of the handling of the arrangements has changed, he said. Families have typically come in and finalized the arrangements face to face, but now that is being done through a computer screen.

Despite the hardship caused by the unusual circumstances, Kretzner said that the families he has dealt with have been understanding. They realize it's out of anyone's control and the precautions are being done for everyone's safety, as heartbreaking as it may be.

"It's something that we have to adhere to, the rules and regulations of what the state is telling us what we can and can't do," Kretzner said.



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Local Officials, Police Keep an Eye Out for Social Distancing Violators

By Martin Wilbur

It's a radical change in behavior for most people to comply with calls for social distancing to keep themselves and others safe and limit the spread of COVID-19.

For some local officials, that's one of the many challenges they are facing from this coronavirus pandemic, especially as the number of days where residents want to spend time outside gradually increase.

With schools closed and a large swath of the population working from home, the biggest dilemma has been at parks, several local government leaders and police chiefs said last week.

"Where most do practice social distancing, there are always some that need to be reminded," said Peekskill Police Chief Donald Halmy. "As playgrounds and sports courts are closed, as long as these closures are respected, it makes our job a little easier."

Other municipalities have also closed recreational facilities where the types of activities could lead to physical contact. That means no basketball, sports fields that would normally see soccer or lacrosse players on a beautiful spring day are off limits and areas where children's playground equipment is located

have been taped off. The virus can last on surfaces for an extended period of time, health experts have cautioned.

Pleasantville officials have had their share of instances where residents are highlighting potential violators.

"We've had anecdotal reports that kids are being surly when asked to stop congregating," said Mayor Peter Scherer. "There was some trouble (the previous) weekend with some younger folks who were operating business as usual, and in so doing, putting themselves at risk and potentially spreading that virus back to their families."

Since only essential businesses are open, police have also been checking the common areas in the village's downtown where people typically congregate, said Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner.

But it's not just youngsters. One site that has been an issue is the track around Veterans Field in Yorktown Heights, said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater. He said town personnel have had to remind people to keep their distance at that location.

Also, youths have been gathering at Legacy Park off Route 132 and Granite Knolls Sports Complex off Stony Street in Shrub Oak, he said.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The scene at Mount Pleasant's James Carroll Park last week. Officials throughout the county have had to tape or rope off swings and other playground equipment.

Warnings were issued by police.

One of the first municipalities in Westchester to declare an emergency was the Town of Mount Pleasant on Mar. 15. At that time, it was recognized that public parks could be an issue, said Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi.

He said police have had some minor run-ins but no significant non-compliance issues.

Municipalities and Westchester County have tried to keep passive recreation sites open to the public, recognizing that many people

enjoy exercising. Mental health professionals have also cited that with residents likely spending more time indoors than usual, it's a healthy and necessary outlet.

The county has been criticized for keeping its golf courses open as well as Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, where there have been reports of crowds on nice days.

Last week, County Executive George Latimer explained that golf is largely a solitary sport, where social distancing can be reasonably maintained even if a few people play.

If officials find that crowds are too dense at some parks, then the county would have to consider another option.

"We may have to close these parks if we do not practice social distancing," Latimer warned last Thursday. "They become, just as restaurants and bars are, the source of the contagion. I don't want to close any of these parks. I don't want us to lose the recreational benefit that we have but it must be understood that we cannot be in close proximity and close quarters with other people and if we do that, we can do damage on the public health side."

North Castle Police Chief Peter Simonsen said late last week that there has only been one minor incident in town. He said many people are probably still getting used to the behavioral change, which in nearly all other instances would be considered rude.

That includes his officers, who have also had to change the way they police by maintaining safe distance.

"It goes against our grain and against our past practice and what we're trained to do, but we have to maintain self-control and be vigilant and diligent in maintaining that important distancing," Simonsen said.

Rick Pezzullo and Abby Luby contributed to this article.

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Schools Closed Until at Least April 15; Presidential Primary June 23

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last Friday morning that all New York State schools will remain closed until at least Apr. 15.

Cuomo said the state will reassess the situation on Apr. 14, but if the trajectory of new coronavirus cases remains similar, the closure would be extended for an additional two weeks. He said it is one of many necessary steps to try and limit the spread of COVID-19.

"I don't do this joyfully but I think when you look at where we are and look at the number of cases still increasing, it only makes sense to keep the schools closed," Cuomo said.

He did not give any indication whether schools may have to remain closed through the end of the current academic year, preferring to reassess in two-week intervals.

Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said last week it was premature to say whether students and teachers might not return to school before by. Students have been learning via distance learning since Mar. 18.

"I would say that it is definitely too soon to tell," she said. "I would hope that we could be able to have our students back here and in the buildings and engaging in real time."

Cuomo said schools must continue providing remote learning arrangements, child care and free and reduced lunch to eligible students. The state is extending its waiver of the requirement that all schools must be in session for at least 180 days, the governor said.

The state will also need to cut education aid in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, he said.

All Primaries, Village Elections in June New York's presidential primary and the already postponed village elections have been moved to June 23, the same day as the primaries for congressional and state offices.

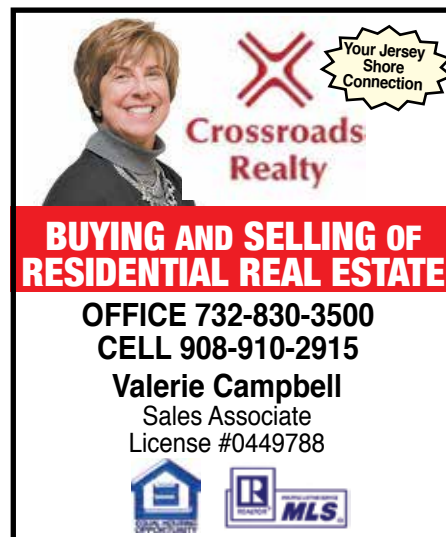
Gov. Andrew Cuomo made the

announcement early Saturday afternoon. By Monday, the death toll from COVID-19 statewide reached 1,218. The number of positive cases has also soared past 66,000.

He said he didn't think it was wise to bring a lot of people out to vote in one location, touching doorknobs, pens and other objects needed to exercise their civic duty.



"Don't make me come out 11 times. Put the elections together so I can come out once," Cuomo said.

Cuomo did not mention whether there will be a change for the May 17 school budget and board of education elections.



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Mount Kisco Photo Exhibit Goes Live Online, Reception Postponed

The opening reception for the third annual Mount Kisco Photography Exhibition, previously scheduled for Apr. 2 in the village's library, has been post-poned to September.

However, the first group of 87 photos are available for public viewing in the digital gallery at www.KiscoPhoto.org.

"We realize that social distancing is critically needed to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and absolutely necessary at this time, so we've postponed the Library exhibit and

reception, and will post all the photos in online galler-ies for everyone to share and enjoy," said John Rhodes, one of the exhibit's organizers and chairman of the Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council. "The photos from the nature category are already on the site, and we'll post all the entries in the culture, people, and young photographers' categories over the next few days.

There were 58 photographers of all ages who submitted 191 images of flowers, birds, landscapes, special events

and local people.

Photographers, eager to know if their pictures have been selected for the gallery exhibition will be informed by the end of this week.

Special congratulations to Art Nelson, Robert Beringer, Robin Eden Buco, Stephen Potter, Shonan Noronha and young photographers Sam Griff and Adam Reig, whose photos were chosen unanimously by all five members of the selection committee.



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Clergy Connect With Congregations Despite Empty Pews

By Martin Wilbur

It's almost unthinkable that a priest or minister would be alone in a church on Palm Sunday and Easter morning.

But that's what scores of clergy members across the area and thousands more around the United States are facing the next two Sundays, and who knows how many more Sundays after that.

The health catastrophe that is the coronavirus has turned nearly everyone's life upside down and that includes communities' religious leaders, where holidays and services are meant to be celebrated together.

"It is sad that people won't come together, but given what's going on in the world right now, I think people are starting to realize we will do what we can and do what we have to in order to keep that social distance and everything, and we look forward and pray for the time when everything will be better and we can come back together again," said Msgr. Joseph Giandurco, a priest at St. Patrick's Church in Yorktown.

Most congregations are adapting as best they can, with churches and many synagogues resorting to the next best thing in the 21st century – live streaming their services.

Rev. Nils Chittenden, who leads St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Armonk, has been making use of the technology the past two weekends. It's a good substitute

considering the circumstances, but it can't fully replace having parishioners in the pews.

Some of his congregants have told Chittenden they not only miss the fellowship but receiving the sacraments. But there are many others have enjoyed the chance to tune in from home.

"I think people are really looking forward to getting back and it has been very hard not to be able to hold services," Chittenden said. "We're holding live streaming of services and they are, for what they are, really good. From my end, it's taking a service to an empty church, essentially. People have said how much they really appreciate it."

First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown is one of the congregations where clergy have become creative. In addition to live streaming on the church's website, which the church has done for the past 18 months, this Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m., congregants will pick up their palms and communion in a drive-through in the parking lot, said co-pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel.

Giandurco said last weekend that St. Patrick's had a highly successful drive-through confession where about 60 cars over an hour and a half, made use of the makeshift arrangement.

Another idea, which First Presbyterian borrowed from a priest, was to encourage parishioners to send them photos of themselves. Low and Seidel put the photos



The prohibition on gathering because of the coronavirus has affected every walk of life, including houses of worship. Local clergy reflect how they are maintaining relationships with their members despite being unable to hold services.

in the pews, so they would see faces when leading the service in an empty sanctuary.

Congregants have also split up the list of members and each called about six or eight of them to check on how they're doing.

"It's disappointing," Low said. "This is not what we wanted but one of the things I'm

really proud of in this, you figure out how to adapt. So our people see and can connect to us in these special holy days in a way that we're still present together in some way."

In addition to the virtual services online, First Congregational Church of Chappaqua continues to find ways to help those who need assistance, said Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs. A group of parishioners have taken to making surgical masks, which will be sterilized and delivered to healthcare work. The community can also come by the church and drop off non-perishable food that will be delivered to the Community Center of Northern Westchester's pantry.

However, not everyone can avail themselves of the latest technology. While many Reform synagogues are also live streaming services, Rabbi Yehuda Heber of Chabad of Yorktown said Orthodox Jews are unable to use electronics on the Sabbath and holidays. Heber said Chabad's religious school classes are employing that for remote learning.

"If this is the way God works, then this is the way it was meant to be," Heber said. "It's not comfortable, yes, it's frustrating, but if that's the way it is, then that's the way God wants it, and that's the way we serve him."

Jacobs said the situation is forcing her and other clergy to rethink how they reach their congregations by getting them out of their comfort zones.

"We have to think of different ways to be together while apart," she said.

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Obituaries

June Kluepfel

June (McPartland) Kluepfel, 86, died of heart failure on Mar. 23 at Westchester Medical Center after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. After fighting breast cancer, double-knee replacement, multiple root canal surgeries and rotator cuff/bone chip shoulder ailments, Kluepfel finally encountered an opponent tougher – but just barely – than herself.

Born May 31, 1933, to Ethel Sackett and John Michael “Mickey” McPartland during the heart of the Great Depression, June graduated from Yonkers’ Gorton High School. She went on to work at The New Yorker magazine on 44th Street, where she met her husband of 59 years, Alan Kluepfel.

Alan and June lived six happy decades together, hop-scooting around New York, Connecticut, and even Indiana, before finally settling back to June’s beloved Empire State in 1973, where she lived the rest of her life. She would often proudly say, “You never have to leave New York. We have everything here.”

June liked to zest family dinners with a bit of her Hungarian heritage, including paprika chicken and veal stew and dumplings, but was renowned for her massive Thanksgiving family feasts, where up to 40 assorted relatives would sit cheek-to-jowl. One year she cooked



June Kluepfel

a superlative 33-pound turkey (as always, followed by apple pie and her famous cheese cake). She and Alan also hosted a raucous New Year’s Eve party for decades.

She was happy to be surrounded by family and is survived by sister Ellen Buderman (Pete) and brother Kevin McPartland (Patricia Oswald) of Mahopac, as well as her children Patty Metzger (Paul) and Judy Perrotti (Gary Luciano) of Pleasantville, and Brian Kluepfel (Paula Zorrilla) of Ossining. She was a loving grandmother

to Caroline Kelly, Emily Perrotti and Elizabeth Perrotti (2014). She was predeceased by sister Dolores Prezzano (2008) and brother John “Jack” McPartland (2014).

June loved a good book, but was never shy to look up from it and give an honest opinion when prompted (or not prompted). She was an admittedly bad golfer who nonetheless loved the exercise it provided, and she thought casual Fridays were the downfall of American civilization. She was an old-school lady, through and through, who liked to dress well, eat well and entertain her family and friends. She will be sadly missed by all of them.

No service to be held at this time due to the national health crisis.

Michele Ann Zelin

Michele Ann Herdman Zelin of Del Ray Beach, Fla. passed away on Mar. 23 at the Trustbridge Hospice after a short battle with cancer. She was 56.

Born on Mar. 6, 1964, in Danbury, Conn., Zelin is the daughter of the late Robert Herdman and Patricia Keane Herdman. She was a 1982 Brewster High School graduate. After high school, she moved to Florida to be with family and to embark on a new adventure.

When she arrived in Florida, she had her first job at Walgreens. She left that job and found the job that became the best thing for her. She joined St. Andrews Country Club, where after a few years of service she became the front desk supervisor and flower coordinator for all types of events.

Working with flowers and arts and crafts was a passion and hobby that she loved. Another gift she had was making people happy and putting a smile on their faces. She was very dedicated to every project or

person she encountered.

Zelin is survived by her sister, Alicia Herdman, of Brewster; her aunt, Frances Watts, of Winter Garden, Fla.; her cousins, Shannon Bickoff (Jeff) and Christopher Keane (Juliet), also of Florida; and several aunts, uncles and cousins in various states.

Alicia would like to thank St. Andrews Country Club for being there for her sister during her illness and helping her with her care. She can never repay you and your members for making her a part of your family.

A private graveside service will be held at St. Peter’s Cemetery in Danbury. Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, with the help of Glick Family Funeral Home in Boca Raton, Fla., assisted the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a local cancer organization or the American Cancer Society.

Rosemarie Longo

RoseMarie Longo, a North White Plains resident, died Mar. 25 surrounded by her family. She was 82.

She will live on in the hearts of those who knew her. Longo was a light onto the world and touched the lives of all those she met through her genuine kindness and compassion, infinite strength and courage, as well as her constant positivity and heart of gold.

Born in White Plains on Dec. 23, 1937, Longo was the daughter of Gaetano Damiano and Phyllis Portanova. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Paul Longo, loving twin sisters Joanne Pierce and Jean Damiano and her adored baby brother, Rocco Damiano. She is survived by her beloved children, Susan Longo-Marzella, Richard Longo, Diana

Longo-Altro and Gerard Longo; her loving daughters-in-law, Kim Longo and Sharon Longo; her wonderful son-in-law, Scott Altro; her seven cherished grandchildren, Nicholas and Frankie Marzella, Matthew and Andrea Longo, Danielle and Scott Altro and Emily Longo; her loving sister, Florence Cotroneo; her wonderful sister-in-law, Jerie Ann Damiano; her many nieces; and her adored Tyler.

Longo retired from BOCES Northern Westchester. She enjoyed being around her family. She was a loving mother and a caring grandmother. Her family will always remember her delicious meals, family gatherings, building gingerbread houses and decorating gingerbread men at Christmas. She leaves behind a beautiful legacy and will never be forgotten.

Frank Fiore

Frank A. Fiore, an Ossining resident, died peacefully Mar. 23 at home surrounded by family members. He was 91.

Fiore was born in Ossining on Sept. 12, 1928, to August and Nellie Fiore. On Feb. 14, 1954, he married his beloved Madeline Silk and together they raised their five children in Ossining.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, reaching the rank of lieutenant and earning several medals. He was a pillar in the Ossining community where he owned Fiore Beverage Center for most of his life. He was also a sponsor in the Ossining men’s and women’s softball leagues. He loved sports. One of his favorite pastimes

was watching his grandsons play baseball. He was an avid supporter of many local charities and a lifelong communicant of St. Ann’s Church.

Fiore was predeceased by his wife, Madeline; his daughter, Susan; sisters Cecelia and Mary; and his daughter-in-law, Lisa Nelson Fiore. He is survived by his sister, Helene Fiore; daughters Margaret Fiore and Patricia (Anthony) Drpich; sons Lawrence and Frank Fiore; and his cherished grandchildren, Marisa, Joseph and Justin Drpich and Willard, Erika and Raleigh Fiore.

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New Castle Trio Fundraises to Feed Maria Fareri Healthcare Providers

Three Chappaqua area residents launched a GoFundMe initiative to help feed healthcare providers that has raised more than \$50,000 since last week.

Former New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein, Chappaqua Moms administrator Georgia Frasci and local mom and legal recruiter Deborah Garfield were the forces behind creating the effort.

"So many of our residents are looking for ways to help those heroes on the front line of this battle," Greenstein said. "They also want to help our incredible local restaurants who are really hurting right now. This initiative accomplishes both. The response has been overwhelming. Our residents are so generous."

Popular establishments in town, Pizza Station, Le Jardin, Quaker Hill Tavern, Taco

Street, Rocky's Deli, Crabtree's KittleHouse, Ibiza Kitchen, Lange's Delicatessen, Villarina's Deli & Catering and Susan Lawrence, have all been preparing and sending food.

After just four days, the GoFundMe drive raised over \$50,000 as of Monday morning with donations still pouring in.

Without surgical masks and gowns in their closets, Frasci explained, the group wanted to develop a way that community members could support healthcare providers facing the daunting responsibility of helping patients while under great strain and risk.

"Knowing that these people are working double shifts with limited supplies, not seeing their families and daily exposure to the virus, we are hoping to provide them with some nourishment and comfort to show

our gratitude and respect for all that they are doing to keep us healthy," said Frasci, a Briarcliff Manor resident who lives within the Chappaqua School District.

The grassroots group is in touch with and will be providing meals to several units at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, including the emergency room, various patient floors and the intensive care unit.

The group "will include more local hospitals as we confirm contacts who can arrange for ordering and contactless pickups," said Garfield.

"And," she added, "that people should reach out to us if they are affiliated with an institution that wants to be included."

Other hospitals that have been or will be included are Northern Westchester Hospital, Westchester Medical Center, Phelps Hospital



Staff at the PICU at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital last week with an order from Pizza Station in Chappaqua.

and Montefiore Hospital.

To learn more or to contribute, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/New-Castle-Donates-Meals-to-Heal>.

Local Foodie Launches Digital Gift Card Program to Help Restaurants

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco resident Laura Kelly loves the area's eclectic restaurant scene and knew she wanted to do something to help local establishments during the coronavirus crisis.

Last Tuesday, she launched Restaurant Relief: Local Support for Local Restaurants. It's a hyperlocal website with a tight focus: a one-stop online list of northern Westchester restaurants where customers can buy digital vouchers and gift cards that provide the

establishments with revenue now and an already paid for meal for the customer in the future.

"We can't go anywhere but we want to help the people now in their time of need," Kelly said.

As of Monday, she had signed up 40 restaurants and eateries from Pleasantville up to Pound Ridge, Yorktown and Croton-on-Hudson. Kelly, a web designer, said she essentially drew a circle around the areas where she and her husband like to go out to eat in northern Westchester.

Not only did Kelly design the site, but she offered her free tech support services to sign up restaurants that don't currently have digital gift cards available.

"Since occasional take-out/curbside orders are not going to be enough to support our local places during these challenging times, these advance-purchase gift cards could serve as another immediate revenue stream for restaurants and their laid-off hourly staff," Kelly said.

The first 10 restaurants or so were ones that Kelly has patronized. But then it

really took. Through word of mouth other businesses were looking to be signed up. She received enthusiastic feedback from owners such as Bobby Epstein, who runs Kisco River Eatery in Mount Kisco and Muscote Tavern in Katonah.

He had to lay off 20 people as soon as the shutdown was announced.

"He said these people depend on me for their paycheck and this could help me give them a stipend," Kelly recalled Epstein telling her.

Continued on next page







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P'ville Woman Drives Big Dollars to Local Restaurant Community

By Adam Stone

Pleasantville's Maria Amato was feeling nervous and uncertain. She was a mouse click away from deleting a Facebook post that would raise about \$7,500 in two days.

Thankfully for the Pleasantville restaurant community, Amato maintained her resolve and her GoFundMe project is fueling a surge of local shopping in the village amidst the beating businesses are taking while the country is essentially shut down by the coronavirus.

"I was sitting at the dining room table a few days ago drinking coffee and scrolling through my phone when I came across a news article from New Orleans," Amato recalled in an e-mail last Thursday. "A group had started a GoFundMe to send cookies to the local hospital. It grew

beyond their initial hope and they raised so much money they started buying food from restaurants to provide meals for hospital workers. I know Pleasantville isn't as large as a city like New Orleans, but I figured it could work here, too."

From there, Amato ran the idea by her husband, Anthony, one of the owners of Foley's Club Lounge on Bedford Road. He told her she would raise maybe \$200 to pay for a few meals for local healthcare workers who have been working incessantly with the looming threat of getting infected with the coronavirus.

"I ended up deciding \$5,000 was a lofty goal and I might be able to raise that much," Amato said. "At least that would put a couple hundred in the pockets of our local restaurants."

Amato then posted it on the Moms of



Maria Amato, her husband Anthony and their children make a food delivery to Phelps Hospital from money raised through a GoFundMe campaign to help local restaurants and show appreciation for healthcare workers.

Pleasantville Facebook page. She sat back, pleased for a fleeting moment. And then, a beat later, was gripped by panic.

"I was suddenly scared this wasn't the best of my hair-brained ideas," she said. "I had seen people complaining about food delivery and if it was really safe on Facebook. I'm not a known person in this

town, what if they didn't want to help because they didn't trust me? I almost deleted it."

Thank goodness she didn't.

"But then I got one donation. Then two. Then a friend reposted it," Amato explained. "Throughout the rest of the day people started reaching out to me, reposting, telling their friends and calling their friends."

Last Thursday was the first delivery – 20 large pizzas from Lucio's Pizza on Washington Avenue and several boxes of Girl Scout cookies to Phelps Hospital. Amato even took her kids, as she put it, to "teach them a lesson on being a good human."

On Friday they had more deliveries on the schedule, then on Sunday, they went to Craft Pizza & Beer in the Old Village and dropped off \$400 worth of lunch at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. Amato plans to keep going until the money runs out.

"We wanted to know how much we appreciate our healthcare workers but it's also a win-win for our restaurants," she said. "Small business have been hit so hard, and at this point there isn't any relief coming in. We want to put money in their pockets now."

To donate, visit the GoFundMe page at https://www.gofundme.com/f/pleasantville-hospitality?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=m_pd%20share-sheet.

Local Foodie Launches Digital Gift Card Program to Help Restaurants

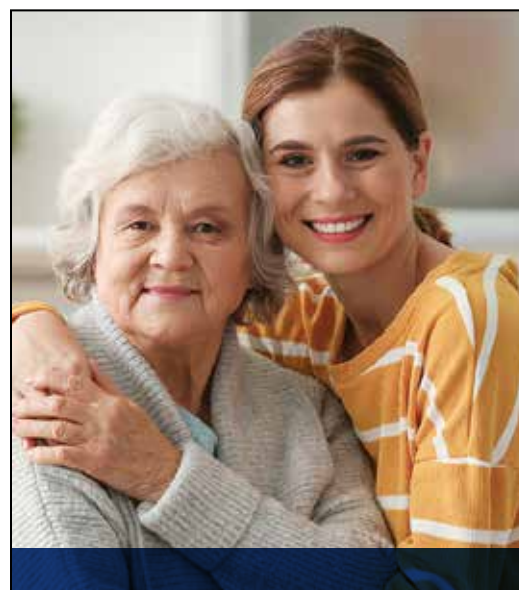
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Kelly has no financial interest in the initiative, as gift-card vouchers are a direct purchase by customers from the online gift-card system.

She advised that for people who might want to help one or more of the listed restaurants, to think about how much they might spend eating out in one month and take out a gift card.

"I'm just a big believer in both our local communities and the power of crowdfunding to help out our struggling restaurants and their workforce right now," she explained.

For the complete list of restaurants that are participating in the program and specials that some of them are offering, visit www.RestaurantRelief.net.



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Presented by Jennifer L. FitzPatrick, MSW, LCSW-C, CSP

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Guest Column

The Disaster of the Coronavirus Testing Process on Full Display

By Kathleen O'Flaherty

I would like to share my experience trying to get tested for COVID-19 in New Rochelle.

I am a woman in great health, aside from environmentally-induced asthma. I live in New Rochelle with my significant other, and work as a contracted special education teacher in New Rochelle public schools and daycare facilities. I know that I was exposed to at least one person who has tested positive for the virus.

Last week I started experiencing a dry cough, chest congestion, stomach issue, a loss of my sense of taste and a greatly diminished sense of smell. On Sunday, Mar. 22, my symptoms intensified and were accompanied by severe headaches, body aches, light-headedness and sweating.

The testing facility is just steps away from where I live, making me acutely aware of the need for an appointment as I constantly hear state troopers with bullhorns reinforcing this message to those in cars approaching the drive-through site.

I contacted my physician on Mar. 23 and was given a prescription for a test. I called the COVID-19 hotline to request an appointment and was placed on hold for an hour and 20 minutes. When I connected with a person, I was told that I could go to LabCorp because I had a prescription. I then hung up and contacted LabCorp and discovered that they don't collect the specimens for COVID-19, rather they process them.

I called the hotline number again, and after

more time on hold, I gave my information to the intake representative who informed me that someone would call me back with an appointment. For the remainder of that day we watched the lines of cars approaching the drive-through testing site and listened to the trooper turn cars away for not having appointments or because their names were not on the list.

On Mar. 24, we witnessed a very empathetic trooper turn hundreds of cars away because their names weren't on the list. As the day progressed, through his bullhorn, he asked for the telephone number they called to receive the appointment and announced it was a "scam" and it was being investigated. He was apologetic but could not let them pass.

Around 3:30 p.m., I received a call from a Hampton, N.Y. number. The young lady on the phone initially said I missed my appointment. When I assured her I never got a call back, she indicated that she was new and had to wait for her supervisor to figure out what to do. Eventually, it was determined I did not miss my appointment and was told to report on Mar. 25 at 3:30 p.m. I voiced my concern about the number of people being turned away despite having appointments and she assured me that my appointment was secured. I neither received an e-mail confirming the appointment nor was I made aware that I should expect to receive one.

At 3:15 p.m., I got on the queue. When it was my turn, my heart sank as I was told that my name was not on the list and to call

the hotline number again. This trooper was clearly short on his patience, having turned so many away and provided no additional assistance.

Instead of being tested, we spent the balance of Wednesday afternoon making phone calls, being transferred, placed on hold, having a call dropped and starting all over. My significant other was finally successful in speaking to someone who said all she could do was take all my information again and resubmit. Back to square one, waiting for someone to call me back and put me on the schedule – this time hoping that they remember to add my name to the list.

I am so upset and frustrated because feeling so ill it was a struggle to go to my appointment. I am grateful it was so close to my home but my heart breaks for all the people we witnessed who had driven much further and waited longer in line, only to be turned away due to their names not being on the list.

I recognize that this is uncharted territory, and people are trying their best but are stressed and uncertain from the newness of a system that was hastily created for this crisis.

I just want to get tested because not only am I sick, with many COVID-19 symptoms, I am sick with worry that I may have spread the virus to my significant other and countless people in the schools and community, all of whom I want to notify, if indeed positive.

Kathleen O'Flaherty is a New Rochelle resident.

Gov. Cuomo, Main Street Needs a Helping Hand From Albany

By Stuart Richner

COVID-19 has completely changed the way we all live.

But along with worrying about keeping themselves and their families healthy, thousands of small business owners across New York state are losing sleep over how to keep this virus from killing the businesses they have worked so hard to build.

At the same time, lawmakers in Albany are trying to craft a budget in the face of plunging revenues. Sales taxes – much of which is generated by small business – brought in a whopping \$73.6 billion last year. Our schools, as well as other vital government services, rely on these funds. When a business fails – and too many are on the precipice of failure right now – that sales tax revenue goes, too.

A simple proposal could help restart local business and bolster sales tax revenues, but swift action is required by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature.

Small businesses are the backbone of our communities. Everyone wants a thriving downtown where they can shop, eat or go to a movie. The good news is that small businesses have always been engines of innovation and entrepreneurship, and we are seeing that again today as they adapt to

the new reality. Local gyms are streaming personal training sessions. Restaurants offer free delivery and online happy hours. Medical practices are expanding their telemedicine capabilities. Car mechanics are making house calls that require no personal contact at all.

Of course, it's vital that these businesses let potential customers know about their services. That's the role of advertising in all its forms. But advertising costs money, and the sad truth is that advertising is one of the first things small businesses cut when times are tough.

Put yourself in the shoes of a local restaurateur with a stack of bills and little money coming in. By the time she finishes paying the most urgent bill there's not much left for advertising. Whatever stimulus money Washington or Albany provides will most likely be needed to keep the door open and the lights on. Yet studies show that how well businesses survive a downturn is in large part determined by whether they continue to market and advertise during the hard times.

Fortunately, there is a way for Albany to prime the sales-tax pump to keep revenue flowing to both small businesses and state coffers. Let businesses use some of the money they would have sent to Albany, as

sales taxes, to market their new offerings. The formula would be simple: Every dollar a small business spends on advertising (up to some reasonable limit) would be a dollar saved off that business's sales tax bill.

It would be a win-win-win. Local businesses would be healthier because the increased advertising would jump-start sales. The state would get more sales tax revenue because local businesses would be selling more. And media companies would benefit from the additional ad revenue.

We'd like to think that media are vital to the character and strength of our communities, not to mention our democracy. Think for a moment of the critical role that journalists have played in getting local information out to your community during this unprecedented crisis.

The legislature has a lot on its plate right now, and the temptation will be to bury this idea, or to take the shortsighted view that we can't afford to do it now. But now is when it's needed. We've been impressed with Gov. Cuomo's levelheaded leadership in this crisis, and we call on him to back this innovative yet simple policy.

Stuart Richner is co-publisher of Herald Community Newspapers in Nassau County.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Primary Fields Set for Lowey's Seat, 93rd Assembly District

By Martin Wilbur

There are eight Democrats who will be on the ballot for the party's June 23 primary to earn the right to vie for longtime Rep. Nita Lowey's seat in the 17th Congressional District.

Assemblyman David Buchwald led the way with 3,858 signatures on his nominating petition. He was followed by Allison Fine (1,977), Evelyn Farkas (1,780), Mondaire Jones (1,655), state Sen. David Carlucci (1,657), Adam Schleifer 1,237, Asha Castleberry-Hernandez (956) and Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker (604).

"Grassroots support has been critical to every campaign I have run," Buchwald said. "I listen to area residents and build broad coalitions of support. In these unprecedented times, so much has changed, including campaigning. What has not changed is the need to work together as a community."

The winner of the primary will face one of two Republicans who submitted petitions, Yehudis Gottesfeld and Maureen McArdle Schulman.

In the 93rd Assembly District, there will be five Democrats on the ballot for the primary – Chappaqua's Kristen Browde, Bedford Supervisor Chris Burdick, Mark Jaffe of Harrison, Jeremiah Frei-Pearson and Alex Roithmyer. The winner of the primary will face Republican John Nuculovic, who lost to Buchwald for the seat, in 2018.

In other races, state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) will be taking on Republican

and Conservative Party candidate Dr. Liviu Saimovici in the 37th Senate District.

In the 94th Assembly District, Democrat Stephanie Keegan of Somers is on the ballot against incumbent Republican Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (Mahopac).

Longtime incumbent Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) will also have opposition this year in the 95th Assembly District, pitted against Republican challenger

Lawrence Chiuli of Cortlandt Manor.

During the early stages of the emerging coronavirus crisis, Gov. Andrew Cuomo had announced that he was curtailing the number of signatures required to get on the ballot. In congressional races, a minimum of 375 signatures were needed instead of 1,250, while state Senate candidates needed 300 instead of 1,000 and Assembly candidates required just 150 signatures rather than 500.

Early last week, the state legislature passed a bill that pushed up the deadline for candidates submitting petitions by nearly two weeks, from Apr. 2 to Mar. 20.

Last week, Cuomo announced that New York's presidential primary will be pushed to June 23 along with the state's village elections, a move made necessary by the escalating health emergency.

Harckham, Astorino to Face Off in 40th Senate District Tilt in Fall

By Martin Wilbur

Among the last concerns on the minds of many people are the state elections this November – and that includes both candidates in what promises to be one of the most watched races in the area.

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) will be facing former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino this fall in the 40th District race. Astorino, a Mount Pleasant resident, made it official after intense speculation by submitting his nominating petition before the Mar. 20 deadline. The deadline for filing was moved up from Apr. 2 because of the coronavirus crisis.

Harckham and Astorino were reluctant to talk about the matchup with attention squarely focused on the current health emergency.

"I'm not even thinking about it right now," Harckham said late last week as the state legislature was also racing to complete a budget by the Mar. 31 deadline with a revenue

shortfall of as much as \$15 billion. "Right now is all virus, all the time. Let's get the budget done, let's keep the people healthy and then we'll have time to worry about that."

Likewise, Astorino responded that there will not be a campaign until the pandemic is under control.

Harckham's victory in 2018 over Republican incumbent Terrence Murphy was the first time in a century that the Democrats wrested control of the state Senate seat that includes northern Westchester and Putnam County. The district stretches from Mount Pleasant and into much of Putnam and southern Dutchess counties.

Astorino, who started his public service career on the Mount Pleasant Board of Education, also served three terms on the Mount Pleasant Town Board and one term on the Board of Legislators before winning the first of two terms for county executive in 2009. He lost to George Latimer in 2017.

In between, he was defeated in a run for




State Sen. Peter Harckham will be challenged by Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino in the state Senate's 40th Senate District showdown this fall.

governor in 2014.

Both candidates will be on multiple lines. In addition to the Democratic line, Harckham will also represent the Working Families and Independence parties while Astorino has retained the Conservative, Libertarian and SAM party lines.

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Count the Ways the Coronavirus Will Affect the Housing Market

While I've spent some years reporting on the housing market and all things associated with the maintenance of the home, I've never claimed expertise in projecting future trends. Today, however, homeowners and apartment owners are wondering how COVID-19 will affect the housing market in the near future.

For that projection I turn to a researcher who seems to have a logical sense of what will happen. He is Igor Popov, chief economist at Apartment List, where he leads a team in publishing original housing market research.

Popov projects that social distancing is transforming homes. Many Americans have already reconfigured their homes into offices in the last couple of weeks. The pandemic and its ensuing economic consequences will also transform the housing market in lasting ways.

It is too early to predict how large these changes will be. In the first installment of a two-part column, let's delve into some of the factors that will influence the market.

1. Mobility will be low in the near-term and spike in recovery. Moves fuel the housing market. However, in the coming months, safety concerns and economic uncertainty will keep more people where they are.

Geographic mobility generally goes down when a lack of job opportunities causes fewer long-distance moves across markets or housing upgrades.

This time around, infection concerns and social distancing will result in even fewer people wanting to move. Eviction and foreclosure moratoriums will further slow mobility by keeping households affected economically from experiencing housing instability during this crisis.

Those waiting for a safer and more certain time to move will do so once past the peak. Many moves to upgrade or downgrade will be postponed rather than canceled, creating a reshuffling of households throughout the

recovery. This will include job-movers, those moving to be closer to family and young adults moving out on their own.

Many of those hurt financially during the pandemic will also move once eviction moratoriums are lifted. Despite fewer total moves, they may happen in a short window of recovery.

2. The remote work experiment. Over the last decade, many companies have invested in proximity, paying sky-high commercial rents in knowledge hubs such as San Francisco, Seattle and New York City.

In response to COVID-19, however, many of these companies are now having all their employees work from home. Though many can't wait for their daily routines to resume, some firms will deem the experiment a success. Firms whose employees remained productive and innovative during this period may not want to resume normal operations and re-sign the lease on office space. Similarly, workers who find themselves happier working at home without a commute may want to continue the arrangement.

This shift could have significant implications long-term. Today, remote work has concentrated in mid-sized technology hubs such as Raleigh, Austin and Denver. If workers become more mobile and leave the expensive coastal markets, these economies will continue to grow.

Meanwhile, demand for commercial

real estate will decrease. Some firms may realize less office space is needed. At the same time, a prolonged quarantine will unfortunately lead others to shut down entirely if they are unable to weather the storm.

3. A pause on urbanization. Urban cores have boomed over the past decade. Companies have been migrating from office parks to dense urban centers. High-earning college-educated young adults have been embracing city life with shared amenities. In the average American city, per capita incomes are now highest in the city center.

Cities thrive on social interaction, and the outbreak of COVID-19 turned off most of the benefits of urban living overnight. Shared spaces and assets in the form of restaurants, co-working and events don't exist in the temporary quarantine economy. The small businesses that power these activities will be hard hit, possibly leading to closures or relocation to lower-cost areas.

Time will tell whether the urbanization trend will reverse, but the expanding economies of dense urban areas should take a significant hit in the next year.

Bill Primavera is a public relations practitioner (www.PrimaveraPR.com) who also is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate (www.raveis.com). To engage the marketing and real estate services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

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Local Merchants Search for Ways to Stay in Business

By Examiner Media Staff

What used to be a bustling street in Mount Kisco is now left quiet, aligned with businesses trying to stay afloat amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Since restaurants were forced to convert to dine-in services only two weeks ago, Isi Albanese, owner of Exit 4 Food Hall at 153 E. Main St., said he and his staff have had to adapt quickly with cases of COVID-19 on the rise. That now includes no-contact deliveries, curbside pickup and areas within the restaurant sealed off to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines.

"We're very lucky in a way that we can stay open; it's not easy but we're kind of getting by," Albanese said. "We're adapting every day to meet the needs of the community but to also stay safe."

While no stranger to takeout and delivery, Albanese noted his delivery orders have spiked with his eatery now offering prepared to-go meals, meat and fish boxes, daily family meal options and quart-sized margaritas and Bloody Marys. Regular menu items are also available.

Like Albanese, restaurants, along with other small businesses throughout Westchester County, are altering their guidelines to accommodate community needs while also striving to bring in enough revenue to survive. Outside the food industry, places like Freyer's Florist and Gifts and Pet Supplies Plus in Yorktown are both offering curbside pickup, with the former also delivering.

Aggie Shah, owner of A Maze in Pottery in Briarcliff Manor, said that while she closed her storefront with non-essential businesses mandated to shutter, she's been running her business out of her home by offering interactive, do-it-yourself pottery kits for delivery.

Next week, she plans to host pottery classes through social media outlets.

Free delivery is currently offered for every order. Shah is delivering within a 10-mile radius on \$50 orders, up to 15 miles with a \$70 order within 20 miles on \$100 orders. Supplies will also be delivered to those who sign up for classes, Shah said.

While her business mainly survived on large gatherings and special events, Shah noted the obvious struggle and financial burden she's faced since shutting down



The restrictions on gathering may have emptied restaurants and most stores, but Exit 4 Food Hall in Mount Kisco is one of the many area businesses that have tried to be creative to continue serving the public and provide jobs to their employees.

two weeks ago. With rent due, along with incoming bills, she hopes to provide some income to her employees, despite them being temporarily laid off.

"It's hard because my business is small, and I'm offering deliveries now because I don't know how long this is going to last," Shah said. "It's crazy the decisions you have to make now. Everything is complicated."

With business owners like Shah transitioning to social media-based interactions, gyms, movie theaters and dance studios are also implementing similar methods.

Pleasantville gym Athletes Warehouse is currently offering remote training programs, with the Jacob Burns Film Center making virtual screenings of new films available for rent. Arc Stages is also hosting an array of virtual workshops throughout the week, including a virtual open mic night on Fridays at 7 p.m.

Additionally, the Music Conservatory of Westchester in White Plains is refusing to let the music stop amid recommendations to social distance. Through virtual lessons via interactive video platforms like Zoom, Skype and FaceTime, the organization believes students should not only continue to make progress but regain a sense of normalcy by maintaining their regular musical educations.

"Music has always been a source of inspiration, joy and comfort in all types

of circumstances," said Jean Newton, the conservatory's executive director. "It is especially important in times of crisis. Music brings people together, and in today's world we're so lucky to have the capacity to do this even if we can't all be in the same room."

While businesses face a level of uncertainty moving forward, local owners are urging folks to stay safe but also shop

and eat local to ensure small businesses can persevere through the current health crisis.

As Pappous Greek Kitchen owner Rui Cunha continues to see increased volume with takeout and delivery already a bulk of his Yorktown business, he doesn't want to see neighboring restaurants and businesses close for good. Shopping local keeps them afloat, he said.

"It's a rough time, especially for food places," Cunha said. "Some of these people might not come back and that's the scary part."

Flour & Sun Bakery owner Cait Dwyer said she's trying to stay open long enough to support not only herself and the community but her employees. The Pleasantville bakery is still producing cake and special orders but is now offering do-it-yourself baking kits. Home deliveries is also an option.

Dwyer said supporting her business, along with countless others throughout the county, provides an opportunity for both communities and its members to thrive. Keeping everyone employed and having money to complete your daily activity is important, she said.

"I don't want my customers to think I'm taking advantage of them, but you're supporting me and my employees," Dwyer said. "You're not just supporting my business; you're supporting members of the community."

P'ville Farmers Market Operating on Week-to-Week Basis

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is scheduled to continue to operate each Saturday rain or shine from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Memorial Plaza in Pleasantville. New York State has considered food establishments, including farmers markets, an essential service. However, the market is operating week to week and its organizers ask shoppers to consult the website, www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org, before each Saturday to make sure it will be open before coming down to Memorial Plaza.



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Examiner Media Wins \$5G Grant from Facebook Journalism Project

Examiner Media, publisher of community news in print and online across Westchester and Putnam counties, has been awarded \$5,000 from the Facebook Journalism Project (FJP), the Lenfest Institute for Journalism and the Local Media Association (LMA),

The first 50 recipients of the \$1 million in grants support COVID-19 news reporting was announced Mar. 26. The funding is designed to help fill immediate gaps for resource-constrained newsrooms.

In addition to Examiner Media, five other

local newsrooms in New York were also selected to each receive \$5,000 in funding: CNY Latino, Niagara Frontier Publications, Spotlight Newspapers, Wallkill Valley Publications, Inc. and the Watertown Daily Times. More recipients will be announced in the coming weeks.

Facebook Vice President, Global News Partnerships Campbell Brown noted how "Journalists in local communities are working around the clock to ensure people have timely information to keep them safe,"

said Facebook Vice President, Global News Partnerships Campbell Brown. "Lenfest and the Local Media Association will help us quickly provide support for this critical reporting."

The initiative is a part of what Facebook describes as a broader effort to provide support around COVID-19, including a separate \$1 million in grants to supporting fact-checkers.

"Local news enterprises have responded with superb, real-time, comprehensive

coverage of the coronavirus outbreak, but many newsrooms are resource-constrained just when our communities need us most," said Jim Friedlich, CEO of The Lenfest Institute for Journalism. "The grants announced today are designed to provide rapid-response assistance for the coverage of this fast-moving news story. Our focus is on need, speed and scope – helping as many news organizations as we can, as quickly as we can."

Examiner Media Publisher Adam Stone said how appreciative he was not just for the funding to help his community newspapers and digital platforms, but also for the overall efforts by Facebook to galvanize support for and fund local journalism.

"This is a great example of how Facebook can work to support local journalism and communities across the country," Stone said. "We are incredibly grateful for this funding and will make every penny count."

Nancy Lane, CEO of Local Media Association, for her part, said covering coronavirus at the local level is a struggle for many small publishers who are already challenged.

"These grants will go a long way to help them provide vital information to their communities," Lane said. "We are thrilled to be part of this program, and very grateful to the Facebook Journalism Project for funding this important work."

Readers can stay up to date with all of Facebook's COVID-19 news at <https://www.theexaminernews.com/category/coronavirus/>

Greenburgh Men Charged With Passing Phony \$100 Bills in Mt. Kisco

Westchester County police arrested two Greenburgh men on Mar. 22 and charged them with using counterfeit \$100 bills to make purchases at Mount Kisco businesses.

Shaquille McLean, 24, and Andrew Holt, 25, both of Manhattan Avenue, were charged with multiple counts of first-degree possession of a forged instrument, a felony.

Police said that at about 10:40 a.m. on Mar. 22, the two men entered a store on South Moger Avenue and attempted to make a small purchase with a \$100 bill. When the owner used a device to check the legitimacy of the bill, the men ran out of the store. The store owner then

notified police.

As officers canvassed the area for the suspects, a member of another police agency working in the Real Time Crime Center broadcast a description of a vehicle that the suspects might be using, police said. Further investigation by the center established that the vehicle was possibly in the parking lot at Target on North Bedford Road.

Patrol officers staked out the vehicle and took both suspects into custody when they returned to the car. Several counterfeit bills were found in their possession. A subsequent investigation also determined that the men had used phony \$100 bills to make purchases

at Target and Stop & Shop on North Bedford Road and at another store on South Moger Avenue.

Public Safety Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason commended the store owner who promptly alerted police.

"The timely notification from this business owner enabled us to immediately begin to search for these suspects," Gleason said. "The great teamwork between patrol officers and Real Time Crime led to these arrests."

McLean and Holt were released on their own recognizance pending a May 7 appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

--Martin Wilbur

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The nuclear power plants at Indian Point have powered New York City and Westchester County for nearly 60 years. Now, due to challenging economic conditions and an agreement with the state of New York, Indian Point will stop generating electricity and permanently shut down by April 2021.

After shutdown Indian Point will transition to decommissioning, a federally-regulated process that will ultimately return the land to a new productive use. Entergy has taken the first step by selecting a leading decommissioning company as our partner, Holtec International.

Here are a few things New Yorkers should know about the Holtec plan:

Decades Sooner — With Holtec, decommissioning will begin immediately, allowing the site to be repurposed as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy were to remain the owner of Indian Point. Holtec's plan calls for completion of major decommissioning activities by the 2030s, decades sooner than it would take Entergy to complete decommissioning.

Decommissioning Expertise — Holtec and its expert team have decades of experience managing large decommissioning projects around the world.

Employee Retention — Holtec will begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership and will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site.

Spent Fuel Management — Holtec is the global leader in spent nuclear fuel storage technology and transport. Holtec will transfer all of Indian Point's spent nuclear fuel to secure canisters designed to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and other events within about three years of shutdown.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety remains our top priority. Indian Point is ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top column for safety and we fully intend to continue our strong safety record over our final months of operation.

The NRC will regulate decommissioning at Indian Point and a citizen's advisory board is already in place. As of today, more than 34 U.S. nuclear plants have safely completed decommissioning or are in the process of doing so. To learn more about Holtec's plan for prompt decommissioning, visit:

www.indianpointdecommissioning.com
www.holtecinternational.com
www.hdi-decom.com

Indian Point Energy Center



P'ville Waives Parking Meter Fees During Shutdown

By Abby Luby

The Village of Pleasantville has waived fees for all downtown parking meters through Saturday, May 2.

The Village Board unanimously approved a resolution last Monday that suspends payment on meters. Officials will revisit the temporary policy as circumstances dictate. Time limits will remain in effect.

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused village businesses to either close or transition to delivery services resulting in little downtown activity.

"Many communities have already suspended parking meter fees because there is no real demand for parking," Mayor Peter Scherer said. "The pay-and-display meters are also a vector for (virus) transmission because too many people are touching them."

Since the beginning of the fiscal year last June 1, the village has collected just under \$230,000 as of last week, said Village Administrator Eric Morrissey.

"Currently parking revenues are way down because parking is way down and we're not enforcing heavily," he said.

Morrissey, who presented the 2020-21 tentative village budget last Monday, said the projected revenue from parking meters for the full fiscal year which ends May 31, was \$234,000. The tentative budget originally estimated \$300,000 in parking meter revenue for 2020-21, but that has been rolled back to \$200,000.

"The revenue right now in this climate is probably not worth the danger of people touching the meters," said Village Trustee Joseph Stargiotti. "And it's not worth inhibiting people who need to go to places like the pharmacy. For people to come out and get a ticket because they didn't put money in a meter, it's just not worth it."

"We're not talking about a lot of money," said Trustee Steven Lord. "It would be a lot of money if there were stores open. It makes a lot of sense to consider Pleasantville's people over the village budget."

New Rochelle and Mamaroneck are two other communities that have suspended parking meter fees. Many meters in downtown White Plains have been bagged, allowing drivers to park for free for 10 minutes for curbside pickups.

Pleasantville's \$17M Tentative Village Budget Filled With Question Marks

By Abby Luby

The economic impact of the coronavirus is playing havoc with budgets across the nation and New York State. The situation is no different in the Village of Pleasantville.

Village Administrator Eric Morrissey recently presented the municipality's \$17 million 2020-21 budget to the Village Board that tries to estimate revenues that are in a flux because of a shutdown of a large portion of the economy.

The budget projects a 1.94 percent tax rate increase, about an \$80 tax hike for the average homeowner, and a tax levy increase of 2.6 percent, about \$142,000 below the allowable ceiling.

Since Westchester County shares a portion of its sales tax with municipalities that revenue line is expected to be considerably less than originally anticipated. The tentative budget calls for \$800,000 in sales tax revenue, down from an initial estimate of \$1.2 million. As of Mar. 19, the village had collected \$721,551 in that line for the current fiscal year, which concludes May 31.

Another budget line adjustment is parking meter revenue. First estimated at \$300,000, it has been reduced to \$200,000. As of mid-March, the meter revenue stood at nearly \$230,000. However, the village has suspended parking meter fees until May 2 as downtown business has dramatically dwindled amid the coronavirus outbreak. Commuter parking

permits may also see a reduction.

Expected revenues could drop from village recreation programs as registration for spring programs and the village's summer camp have been postponed until further notice.

"If the programs don't run, we also don't have the expense and that could equal out," Morrissey said. "Some programs were profit-making for us, so a lot depends how quickly they get back on line and if they will get back on line in the next year."

Village departments have been asked to re-examine their budgets and remove non-essential items that had been originally requested. The initial request by Building Department Inspector Robert Hughes was \$275,000 and was reduced to \$180,000 based on the likelihood of fewer safety inspections.

Morrissey said the village is taking a wait-and-see approach with how the budget takes shape.

"There are just so many layers of question marks here," he said. "It's just a very fluid situation. We've tried to get on top of it as much as we can. We're not even sure what the scope of the impacts will be at the end of the day."

A public hearing on the tentative budget is scheduled for the board's Apr. 13 meeting.

To read more on Pleasantville's 2020-21 tentative budget, visit <https://tinyurl.com/sxg79t5>

Staying Connected and Managing Stress in Unsettling Times

On Tuesday I was walking with a dog on the bicycle path in Briarcliff Manor, when I came across several beautiful drawings created in chalk by an artist.

Encouraging messages were included in the artwork like the one in the accompanying photo, and other inspirational words, such as "Think about what you are grateful for," and "What makes you smile?"

It made me consider that in troubling times like now, a simple unexpected act of kindness can help people feel connected and as if we are all in this together.

Some additional ways to manage stress during all of this uncertainty could include the following:

1. Despite distancing, seek ways to maintain a sense of community. Schools, yoga studios, small businesses and churches have acted quickly to design and initiate online continuity for groups. Often, staying in touch this way can reduce the sense of upheaval a bit.

2. If you are outside, wave to someone who is driving past



By Joanne Witmyer

you. I've noticed that neighbors seem to be greeting each other this way perhaps even more so than before, and it often brings surprised brief smiles to people. These social exchanges can increase feelings of well-being.

3. Consider what you can control. Any action, regardless of how small it may seem at first, can lessen unease in the

moment. Deciding to exercise for 10 minutes, tending to plants, cooking a basic soup or calling a friend to check in, can be empowering.

My hope is that you decide to try one of these tools for remaining connected and coping with stressful events. Share with me what you are doing to navigate these challenges.

Joanne Witmyer is the founder of Indigo Health and Wellness, based in Croton-on-Hudson. She teaches group classes, offers wellness consulting to companies and helps private clients achieve their health goals –

particularly during times of change and transition. You can reach Joanne at 914-208-1022 or Joanne@IndigoHW.com.

Nourish

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

No Social Distancing Required. We are advised to practice social distancing during these days as we make our way through the coronavirus outbreak. While we need to keep our distance from colleagues, friends and even family, there is no need to stay away from adding some new words to your vocabulary. Take care and stay safe.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. daily (v.) | A) to make excuses | B) linger | C) stop up |
| 2. peachy (adj.) | A) tranquil | B) quietly behaved | C) splendid |
| 3. ambrosia (n.) | A) something pleasing to taste | B) a desire for fame | C) compensation |
| 4. crinkum-crankum (n.) | A) a bad-tempered person | B) elaborate detail | C) a confused state of mind |
| 5. prewise (v.) | A) to anticipate | B) leave undone | C) claim falsely |
| 6. barbate (adj.) | A) in a meager manner | B) full of froth | C) whiskered |
| 7. lethologica (n.) | A) inability to remember a word | B) abnormal drowsiness | C) a harmful influence |
| 8. obstreperous (adj.) | A) not straightforward | B) noisily unruly | C) noteworthy |

- ANSWERS:**
1. B. To act or move slowly; linger; dawdle
 2. C. Splendid; fine
 3. A. Something very pleasing to taste or smell
 4. B. Elaborate decoration or detail; something full of twists and turns
 5. A. To realize beforehand; foresee; anticipate
 6. C. Having hair on the cheeks and chin; bearded; whiskered
 7. A. The inability to remember a particular word or name
 8. B. Noisily unruly or defiant

Mt. Kisco Unveils \$23.3M Proposed Budget Carrying 2.96% Tax Hike

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials last week released a \$23.3 million proposed 2020-21 village budget that carries a \$108 tax increase for the average homeowner, an amount entirely a result of the initial payments on the firehouse bond.

Despite deep uncertainty over sales tax and other revenues caused by the health emergency and economic shutdown, Mayor Gina Picinich said the village is fiscally healthy.

"We are in a strong financial position, so much so that we're about to take on debt for a variety of different projects," Picinich said. "If we have to and we need to scale that back we can and will, but we have plenty in reserve and we also have contingency built into every budget."

Village Manager Ed Brancati said the village will comply with the tax cap. The village will be carrying over about \$232,000 that was unused from the current year's budget to fit in under the 2020-21 cap.

The proposed 2.96 percent tax rate increase, would translate to a tax bill of \$3,782.68 for the resident with a house valued at \$457,500.

Spending would increase a miniscule \$22,346 from the current year in the general budget, just under 0.1 percent, Brancati said. While the library and sewer budgets would rise by a little more than 2 percent, water expenses are estimated to decline by 2.5 percent, he said.

The reduction in the water budget is a

result of a lower interest rate for the bond anticipation note for the \$10.5 million North Bedford Road water main project.

There are \$7 million of water system-related capital improvements planned, including the \$4.5 million Byram Lake water main replacement. The village will be reimbursed \$3 million for all scheduled water projects.

Aside from the start of work on the \$14.25 million firehouse expansion and upgrade, planned capital projects this year

are the Preston Way Bridge improvement for \$1.9 million, which will be entirely offset by state funds; paving and sidewalks (\$545,000); streetscape improvements (\$1,450,000); upgrades at the Fox Senior Center (\$625,000, with a \$200,000 reimbursement from a Community Development Block Grant); vehicle replacement (\$190,000); Village Hall improvement (\$550,000, with \$200,000 from other sources); and the main pool relining (\$150,000).

While there are uncertainties regarding revenue, Trustee Peter Grunthal said the village doesn't have a choice but to plan as best it can.

"I think we're going to be in a situation where we eventually get through this and we just have to go ahead and make the best assumptions we can right now," Grunthal said.

The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for the Apr. 6 meeting.

Bedford's \$142.3M School Budget Cuts Eight Full-Time Staff Members

By Erin Maher

Bedford Central School District Acting Superintendent Dr. Joel Adelberg recently unveiled the district's \$142.3 million preliminary budget for 2020-21, which complies with the tax cap while cutting eight full-time staff members.

Under the proposed plan, Bedford would see a 2.69 percent tax levy increase, or \$3,375,795, the highest allowable number while adhering to the cap. Administrators have yet to calculate the tax rate increase.

The first draft of next year's budget increases spending 2.67 percent over the current year.

In January 2017, Bedford Central School District was named the third most fiscally stressed district in the state for the 2015-16 school year. In the wake of that news, the district took immediate action to help

recover from their financial stress.

The Board of Education budget planning the past few years has seen a focus on improving the district's fiscal health. Last year's budget was the first year since the 2015-16 school year that included additions and no cuts.

The board's fiscal prudence proved successful, and for the past two years the district received no fiscal distress designation.

Stacey Haynsworth, assistant superintendent of human resources, said the preliminary spending plan calls for the addition of one student assistance counselor, one occupational therapist and the addition of data security personnel.

However, eight full-time positions will be cut due to declining enrollment – four elementary school teachers, two high school teaching positions and two one-on-one aide

positions.

The proposed budget has allotted \$8,986,427 to pay for the debt service from a voter-approved 2012 capital bond referendum. In 2012, voters approved a capital bond of \$31,828,238 that paid for projects across the district, including roof replacement at Bedford Hills and Bedford Village elementary school and Fox Lane High School. Money was also allocated from that bond for science labs at Fox Lane Middle School and boilers at West Patent Elementary School and to make both schools ADA compliant.

The board is scheduled to adopt a final budget on Apr. 15. The state mandated budget hearing will be held on May 6, with the annual statewide budget vote and school board election scheduled for May 17.

For more information on the proposed budget, visit www.bcsdny.org

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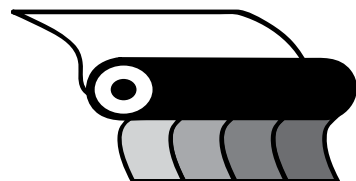
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LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING 2020-21 TENTATIVE VILLAGE BUDGET PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 8:00pm, prevailing time, via teleconference for the purpose of hearing comments as it pertains to the 2020-2021 Tentative Village Budget. The proposed compensation for the Mayor is \$6,000 and each Trustee \$3,500. All persons interested in speaking on this subject will be heard. A copy of the Tentative Budget is available online at www.pleasantville-ny.gov.

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continued on page 24

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The Slip Jig: Whether Step Dance or Musical Meter, Ireland's Oldest

The Eclectic returns to a subject dear to my heart and ears – Irish traditional music, or Irish trad, for short.

I've embarked on a major project recently, to bring some order to my library of over 200 CDs, not to mention countless LPs gathering dust in the eaves and waiting for the day when I will convert them to digital format. Irish trad – can't get enough of it. My goal: learn every tune that I consider among the best. Will time allow? Who cares! It's a fun hobby.

In terms of popularity, the reel is king, representing two-thirds to three-quarters of all tunes in the tradition. Ironically, it is a fairly late addition, an import a few centuries back from French dance music.

That brings up two key points: first, the music, except for slow airs and marches, is largely dance music; second, a large portion of it has been imported over several centuries from other European sources, even, as is the case with the fabulous harp tunes of blind harpist Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738), the classical music of 17th and 18th century Continental Europe. But leave it to the Irish, always, to borrow something – and then make it infinitely better! Like the English language, though that's another topic entirely.

Irish trad experienced a monumental revival beginning in the 1960s that continues to this day. Between 6,000 and 10,000 tunes make up the genre. How old



Irish step dance "soft shoes," used to dance the slip jig.

are they? Surprisingly, given the deep roots of Celtic culture, not very. Some airs and marches have roots going way back, but most of the tunes are from the 18th and 19th centuries, though there are constant additions being made every year and no one can say it's a stagnant field. Quite the contrary.

Some say the slip jig is the oldest meter. To really understand it, and the subtle differences among the various meters, you must first understand that it is the dance called the slip jig that gives its name to the meter.

The slip jig dance is one of the four most common Irish step-dances. Dance and tune are in 9/8 time, which means there are nine

notes to a bar, each an eighth note, typically arranged in groups of three. Try "dih-da-ly, dih-da-ly, dih-da-ly," tapping your foot on each "dih," and you've got the basic rhythm. If this is all Greek to you, don't worry. A good listen to a tune is all you need to appreciate the soft, sometimes slow, but always steady and evocative rhythm of this ancient meter.

Always asked to name the top five of this or that, a little research on the website The Session reveals the top five recorded slip jig tunes to be: (1) "The Butterfly," (2) "The Kid on the Mountain," (3) "Hardiman the Fiddler," (4) "The Rocky Road to Dublin" and (5) "The Foxhunter's Jig." Happy to say that I play three of the five and know the gist of the other two. My instrument of choice? The feadóg stáin, or tin whistle, the humblest, least expensive and most evocative of Irish trad instruments.

I was planning a trip to Ireland in April. On the itinerary were a number of stops at local trad hotspots in County Clare, the epicenter of Irish trad, until the coronavirus pandemic reared its head. Instead I asked my good friend and



By Brian McGowan

colleague Nick Antonaccio if he would grace our readers with a suggestion of what wine would go well while listening to the stirring rhythms of these tunes. Nick delivered admirably in his column last week, pairing Pinot Noir as the perfect accompaniment to the multifaceted slip jig.

So, pour yourself a glass, listen to "The Butterfly" at <https://youtu.be/hn4Qwr-xA4w> and let me know what

you think. Sláinte!

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.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.

Irish Eclectic

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF PUTNAM INDEX NO. 501311/2019

BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES I TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. MARK B. HOWARD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; CHRISTOPHER HOWARD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; EDWARD HOWARD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; THERESA KELLER, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all

persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendants.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates PUTNAM as the place of trial situs of the real property
Mortgaged Premises:
8 CRESCENT ROAD MAHOPAC, NY 10541

District: Section: 63.16
Block: 1 Lot: 15

To the above named Defendants
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.
NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$544,185.00 and interest, recorded on July 13, 2006, at Liber 4892 Page 318, of the Public Records of PUTNAM County, New York, covering premises known as 8 CRESCENT ROAD MAHOPAC, NY 10541.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

Legal Notice

PUTNAM County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

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Binge Watching: A Compendium of Wine-themed Movies



By Nick Antonaccio

We're all well into working remotely, self-isolation, social distancing and banned group gatherings.

And we're well into being creative in the use of our newly found, and totally unexpected, free time, for which

we were totally unprepared.

And we've come to appreciate those amongst us who put their well-being on the line during this crisis, for the good of all of us. From first responders to health professionals to all those who make our lives a bit less stressful in the public arena. Thank each one every time you engage with them.

This week's column is for those who have finally caught up with their library of Netflix lists. Who knew even binge watching could become burdensome? Then again, who knew being a couch potato would become socially acceptable?

Herewith is a portion of a reprised column of several wine-centric movies to fill your void of must-see movies and television series. Dozens more are in circulation. Contact me for a more complete listing.

I've cataloged these movies into four broad categories.

1. Fictionalized Tales

Sideways (2004). Please don't tell me you haven't seen this yet. Miles and Jack on their bachelor party fling through Santa Barbara wine country. Singlehandedly elevated Pinot Noir to star level while pummeling Merlot into an also-ran.

Bottle Shock (2008). A high budget, big production Hollywood movie that offers background and insights into the 1976 Judgment of Paris wine competition, coupled with a love story and several other subplots.

You Will Be My Son (2011). A brooding, disturbing tale of a tyrannical Bordeaux father who scorns his son as winery heir in favor of an unrelated townie.

Each minute swings from touching to antagonistic to vengeful.

2. Documentaries That Seem Like Fictionalized Tales

Sour Grapes (2016). An insider collector who became the darling of high-end collectors and then duped them of millions of dollars by selling them counterfeit wines. Yes, truth can be stranger than fiction. One of my all-time favorites.

Barolo Boys, The Story of a Revolution (2014). An age-old tale of young rebels pitted against old traditionalists. Interesting plot twists and turns.

Burgundy: People With a Passion for Wine (2016). The focus of this film is a drill-down into the lives and times of the farmers who produce a number of the most famous wines in the world. It demystifies the rarified reputation fostered by high-end collectors.

3. Documentaries for the Wine Nerds

Somm (2012). A behind-the-scenes look at a group of wine lovers turned students preparing for, and then sitting for, the grueling exam for certification as a prestigious Master Sommelier. Filled with anxiety, doubt and a burning passion, each candidate is followed in their pursuit of wine knowledge and distinction.

Somm: Into the Bottle (2015). This sequel (in name only) to the 2012 movie examines the backdrop to the elements that go into a bottle of wine. Along the way, the director interviewed several famous winemakers at their wineries. And of course, there are Somms interspersed throughout the movie, tasting, explaining and interviewing.

Decanted. A Winemaker's Journey (2016). The glamorous and agricultural components of world-renowned Napa Valley are presented, from the perspective of a start-up operation. Just the cinematography is worth the price of the

rental.

4. Panoramic Documentaries That Combine Winemaking and Landscapes

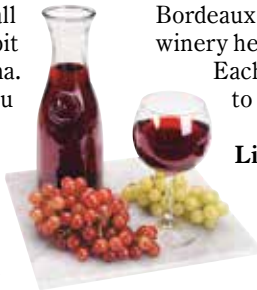
Grand Cru (2017). In 1983, a young poet, Paschal Marchand, begins a lifelong journey as a biodynamic producer in the vaunted Burgundy region. His back-to-nature approach to winemaking is tested during the 2016 season. The finely crafted cinematography captures the essence of the place and the producer.

A Year in Burgundy (2013), A Year in Champagne (2014), A Year in Port (2016). At 100-plus minutes, each is a virtual tour through the history, landscape, culture and wineries of a number of the world's famous wine regions.

I encourage you to open a favorite bottle of wine (local wine shops are open; several are delivering), then sit back, relax with a glass in one hand and view one of the above movies.

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

You Heard It Through the Grapevine



Take Time to Gaze at Some Amazing Sights in the Sky



By Scott Levine

The last few weeks have been difficult and scary, and it might be hard to escape all the dread.

Like others through history, I've long found that one of the best ways to catch my breath is taking a few minutes outside under the stars. There's a surprising comfort and togetherness that comes with looking out into the galaxy and letting your eye and mind go where it

wants.

A fun exercise is thinking not just about the stars, but also where they are in space. The stars in most of the groups we see each night are unrelated and only appear grouped together because of how we perceive our point of view on them. Who knows what we'd see from some other corner of the galaxy?

If you've lingered a little and looked closely at the sky near Venus, which we talked about last month, you may have noticed two small groups of stars just a short way above it. These groups, unlike most others, are two of the nearest open clusters to us. Their stars are gravitationally tied to each other and travel the galaxy together.

The V-shaped Hyades cluster, above and toward the left of Venus, is about 150 light years away. A light year is the distance that light, the fastest thing in the universe, travels in a year. That's about six trillion

miles. So, the Hyades you see tonight is actually the Hyades of the 1870s.

The bright red star at the top of the V is Aldebaran, a red giant about 65 light years away. That means Aldebaran isn't in the cluster; it's in front of it, about halfway between us and Hyades. Maybe you can imagine this in three dimensions, like you'd see a tree in your yard in front of those across the street.

Still farther, about 450 light years, is the tiny dipper-shaped Pleiades cluster, also known as the Seven Sisters. This is a group of hot, blue stars surrounded by glowing dust. You can probably see five or six with the naked eye, but through binoculars you can see countless brilliant diamonds spilled across the black velvet of the deep sky.

This all brings us back to Venus. As you head out Tuesday night, you'll see Venus in a wonderful conjunction with the Pleiades cluster. Keep checking in this week, and watch as the planet and the cluster appear to creep toward each other. They're close on the night of Mar. 31 but will be even closer on Apr. 1. On the nights of Apr. 2-4, Venus meets and travels through the cluster. Remember this is an illusion. They're still extremely far apart. Venus is actually crossing in front the cluster from our point of view.

I'm curious how this will look. Venus is about 600



First Quarter
April 1



Full Moon
April 8



Last Quarter
April 14



New Moon
April 23



First Quarter
April 30

A diagram of this month's phases of the moon.

times brighter than the deep and dusty stars in the cluster. Will it overwhelm them? Will it look like the boldest and brightest of the rest of the gems? Stay tuned, and drop me a note if you can see it. I'd love to hear what you think.

A trip out under the stars might not be able to fix anything, but they can help you forget for a few minutes. I hope you can find a little time to have a look and reach out to some old friends in the galaxy. Please stay safe and healthy, and let's catch up here next month.

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, who are dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org. Events are free and open to the public.

Please Note: All in-person club activities are suspended until further notice due to concerns over COVID-19.

Home Cooking Makes a Comeback During the Coronavirus Crisis

Social distancing, stay at home and self-quarantine are the new normal in most areas right now. We have had to change our daily lifestyles in dramatic ways in what seems like a blink of an eye.

Our eating habits have also been dramatically affected. In early March, we were going out to our favorite restaurants and pubs at leisure, mingling with the crowds and taking in a favorite cocktail and meal.

Suddenly, this all changed. Restaurants, taverns and bars have been mandated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to only remain open for take-out and delivery service until 8 p.m. Wine and liquor is included, thanks to a temporary reprieve from the New York State Liquor Authority.

While you still may be able to get that favorite dish to take home, many eateries have also had to limit their menus, staff and hours to save money and inventory and prevent waste.

The good news is that people are getting back into their home kitchens again in big numbers, sizing up their cupboards and firing up the home stove. The coronavirus has moved us to become our own Menu Movers and Shakers.

Essential food markets and shops have been allowed to remain open within designated hours. Some markets have even instituted special senior shopping times, usually in the early morning, for those deemed most vulnerable. Markets include Stop & Shop, DeCicco & Sons, Walmart, Costco, Whole Foods, Stew Leonard's, Acme, Trader Joe's, BJ's Wholesale Club and ShopRite. (At this writing, some Trader Joe's markets have temporarily closed for clean-up and re-stocking.)



By Morris Gut

In general, it is best to shop during off-peak hours. Some markets maintain in-house delivery service for those who do not wish to venture out. There are also the larger market delivery services such as Peapod, Instacart and Fresh Direct. Be prepared for a wait, as they are backed up due to increased demand. (Things are changing quickly right now, so check ahead.)

Dusting off some of the old cookbooks you have sitting on the shelf is a good idea. A refresher, of sorts. While you may have some recipes committed to memory, you might want to take this opportunity to move your culinary knowledge forward. Perhaps get a little more creative. It helps pass the time during isolation. And, the palatal rewards can be credible. Inspired by the recent Julia Child celebration airing on PBS, we took to preparing her famous French onion soup.

There are other resources as well in the technology age. You can browse through many culinary/cooking websites which offer recipes and cooking tips. Bestselling cookbook authors like Ina Garten, Lidia Bastianich, Martha Stewart, Jacques Pepin, Bobby Flay, Giada De Laurentiis, The Pioneer Woman and Smitten Kitchen have their own websites filled with tips and videos. There is live streaming on some of these sites so you can actually see how a dish is prepared.

Food magazines and newspapers have websites devoted to home cooking as well. One of the best is The New York Times cooking website. It is behind a paywall, but if you subscribe there is a whole culinary



Cookbook author and restaurateur Lidia Bastianich during a visit last year to the Scarsdale Barnes & Noble.

world inside.

The King Arthur Flour website is great for cooking and baking tips. Chowhound.com maintains a large cooking section. You can weigh in with questions and thoughts on their forums. You can also bring your questions to Food52.com. There are sites for novice cooks as well as the more advanced.

Cooking shows are also found on the Food Network, PBS, Create TV, The Cooking Channel and Z Living. Two favorites: Christopher Kimball's "Milk Street" and "America's Test Kitchen."

YouTube also offers a wide variety of cooking video classes, from home-grown to professional. Look them up according to subject and cuisine. In fact, with just a little extra research online, you can access cooking tips for almost every cuisine.

Most importantly, maintain good hygiene in the kitchen, while at the market and elsewhere. When shopping, do your best to practice social distancing. When you get



There are popular food and dining magazines for those who are stuck inside and want to flex their culinary muscles.

home, be sure to wash up.

Addendum: If you are really into the culinary arts, it might be fun to use up some of your free time to entertain yourself. Watch or re-watch the food-themed film classics "Babette's Feast," "Tampopo," Jon Favreau's "Chef," "Julie & Julia," "Sideways," "The Hundred-Foot Journey," "Burnt," and one of my favorites, the animated "Ratatouille." I'll even throw in "Crazy Rich Asians" for those dumpling-making scenes.

Be safe!

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

My Generation's Dreadful Response to Social Distancing

Last week, teenagers were consumed with school, sports, activities and the outcome of this season's "The Bachelor." Fast forward a week and everything has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the countless news stories, school closures and state lockdowns, many teens still seem to be unaware of the impact they could have in flattening the curve of this virus.

About a month ago, I returned from a trip that changed my perspective of the world and different cultures. I traveled to Italy with a group of 19 students from my high school where we explored Rome, Florence and Venice, and indulged in the many wonders Italy has to offer. Each of us returned home with an enhanced passion for travel and a notable appreciation for Italian culture. Eager to share our adventure with our community, we were blindsided by the response we received from some of our peers at school.

As the outbreak of coronavirus in northern Italy exploded during our initial days home, the rumor mill kicked into gear and students accused us of "bringing the virus to Greeley." Students who went on the trip were bullied and even threatened for their attendance at school.

"Students would cover their mouths when they passed by me in the hallways or

move their chairs away from me in classes," observed fellow Horace Greeley High School student Ella Weiser, a sophomore.

There was a palpable sense of hysteria among the student body but we were very grateful to the administration. School officials made every effort to calm the storm.

With time, the turmoil settled. However, now is the time when that sense of urgency is needed most. With the current closing of schools and activities, so many kids and teens have not closed the door on their in-person social lives. Many teens are posting photos with each other on social media, with no space between them, and captioning their posts as "social distancing."

In Florida and elsewhere recently, spring breakers flouted guidelines from public health experts, continuing to congregate on beaches packed with people and expose themselves to becoming infected.

This pandemic needs to be taken seriously by the population as a whole if we want to flatten the curve, yet what types of stories are we hearing all too often? Take this example: "A group of teens were caught on camera coughing on produce at a grocery store, then posting it on social media," a discouraging report from a Virginia news outlet relayed.

Social media should be utilized to maintain

good mental health, not to promote actions that support raising the curve.

This is a call to the younger generation to make meaningful change. We are incredibly lucky to be growing up in the high-tech world we live in. With Facetime, Snapchat and even Zoom, our social lives do not need to end with the spread of this virus.

Rumors and misinformation claiming that young people are immune to the virus have deceived the younger generation into believing that their social interactions will have no negative impact. There is so much we don't know and so many uncertainties about the virus.

"The deadly coronavirus may be impossible to contain, and kids may be secret carriers of the disease," warned Tom Frieden, former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In our celebrity-obsessed youth culture, as more and more of the rich and famous reveal their positive COVID-19 test results, perhaps we'll see some progress. Maybe if stories about the Average Joe and Jane don't move my peers to temporarily limit their in-



By Sophia Spiegel

person social interactions, the positive tests of the likes of 28-year-old former Bachelor Colton Underwood or 31-year-old NBA player Kevin Durant will.

My dad is a diabetic which makes him more susceptible to serious complications from the virus if he becomes infected. He, of course, is far from the only one. People with compromised immune systems and the elderly are also deemed high risk. It

should not take positive test results of people we know in order to convince us to stay home.

Our generation is one of passion and zest, and we have the opportunity to help flatten the coronavirus curve before it's too late. We must use our energy and channel it into our dedication to staying home. I social distance for my dad, mom, twin sister, grandparents and all of you. Who will you social distance for?

Sophia Spiegel is a sophomore at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua. She is an aspiring journalist who has a passion for news, entertainment and social justice. Her social distancing activities include Netflix, TikTok and playing with her two dogs, Milo and Mia.

Staying Active While We Await the Return of America's Pastime

By Jordan Holtz

Pastime (n): an activity that someone does regularly for enjoyment rather than work; a hobby.

Baseball (n): America's pastime.

A game born after the Civil War and serving as a passion for men and women, baseball has been a staple of American life. A staple that we all sorely miss right now.

We have a responsibility as Americans to abstain from taking part in the game we all love. It is with the knowledge and burden of this responsibility that all of the activities be done in compliance with Centers for Disease Control guidelines and federal, state and local regulations. I am confident that the members of this community will rise to the obligation. America will persevere as it always has and our beloved game will return to us.

I have heard the following sentiment time and time again from players, parents and other athletes: What can I do during this time? Why should I do anything now because who knows when we will play again?

Before addressing the first question, it is most important to address the second. We all must answer: What is our why today?

Quarantine, isolation and distancing runs counter to our social nature. It is difficult to isolate; thus, at a minimum, to work on hitting, pitching mechanics or fielding helps to pass the time when that time is reserved for online class, zoom conference calls or listening to the background noise of "Love is Blind" on Netflix.

Second, committing time to improvement, especially when the fruits of that work will not be shown for months,



builds character. This second point speaks to a more fundamental question that deserves attention: Does action lend itself to motivation or does motivation lead to action?

I tend to believe the former is the case. Motivation is not something that falls at one's feet or spontaneously emerges from a void; it is born from action. If we start with this assumption, then we have no other choice but to act because the alternative is to let this time pass us by, something I and the young men and women I work with are willing to accept.

As to the first question, there are activities and drills that can be done at home or in the front yard or park, some with a baseball, some without, and some without anything at all. Before any drill is started, all athletes should devote at least five minutes of cardiovascular activity (jump rope, jumping jacks, etc.) and lightly

stretch the entire body before starting.

Pitchers

1. Towel drills
2. Pick-off footwork
3. Have a catch – with yourself. This requires some context and a quick story. A former teammate and fellow pitcher, affectionately named Crazy Joe, would warm up for outings by taking five baseballs out with him to right field and throwing them straight ahead to nobody. After he threw all five baseballs to nobody, he would run after them and do it again until he decided he wanted a catcher. The point is, we all need to embrace our inner Crazy Joe during this time. I encourage you all to go to an open place, an open park or baseball field and have a catch with yourself.
4. Stretch

Fielders and Hitters

1. If you have a tennis ball, go outside with your glove and tennis ball and throw it off the side of your house and field it. This one may upset parents and neighbors, but it is a safe way to get ground ball work in.
2. For those with siblings, ask your sibling to roll or hit baseballs in your yard or public park or field where access is still open.
3. For hitters, get outside and swing. Baseball or not, take your bat and go outside and get swings in. This activity is more qualitative than quantitative; exercise your imagination. Envision a pitcher, his or her mechanics and timing. Track the pitch and execute

a balanced swing. Athletes across all sports engage in positive visualization; see yourself on the field swinging and succeeding.

For All Positions

While all of the above are useful drills, there should be significant weight given to watching game footage. YouTube is an incredible resource. I encourage all players to watch bullpen videos, batting practice videos, fielding drills, arm care videos, etc. There is also an awesome YouTube channel named "Bullpen Videos." The channel features bullpen footage from behind the pitcher and it is a great place to study mechanics.

For hitting or fielding, look up your favorite player and watch them work. Additionally, I have found that previous MLB spring training videos with coaches and athletes talking through drills is quite helpful. For example, if you enter, "Ron Washington fielding drills" in YouTube's search field, you will find glove work drills and explanations with Washington that are incredibly helpful.

If you are interested in finding out more, please e-mail me at JHoltz117@gmail.com or my coach, father and owner of GameOn13 in Elmsford, Eric Holtz at ericgameon13@gmail.com. We will be happy to give you more to work on.

Stay healthy and safe. Our beloved game will return, and when it does, our actions during a time when we could feel helpless in difficult circumstances will make us better baseball players and better people.

Jordan Holtz played Division I baseball at Bucknell University.

Stepinac's Davis Named Gatorade NY Boys Basketball Player of the Year

By Albert Coqueran

On Mar. 12, due to growing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, the Stepinac basketball season ended abruptly without the Crusaders playing a game in the CHSAA intersectional playoffs.

Nonetheless, the awards for Stepinac star senior guard R.J. Davis began pouring in despite the suspension of high school basketball throughout the country.

On Wednesday, Mar. 18, the prestigious title of New York's Mr. Basketball was bestowed on Davis by the Basketball Coaches Association of New York. Eight days later, on Mar. 26, news surfaced from Chicago that Davis was also named the New York State Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

It was the first time in Stepinac's history that a boys' basketball player was honored with either of these accolades.

The 6-foot-1 point guard was also recognized as the Max Preps High School Basketball Player of the Year, giving him a clean sweep of the state's boys' high school basketball honors this year.

Now in its 35th year of celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, the Gatorade Player of the Year Award recognizes outstanding athletic excellence as well as commendable academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field.

This season on the court, Davis, who will play for the North Carolina Tar Heels next year, averaged 26.5 points, eight rebounds and 5.3 steals per game. In the classroom, Davis maintains a 3.8 GPA. In the community, the Greenburgh resident is a Stepinac High School ambassador while utilizing his basketball notoriety and academic prowess to volunteer locally on behalf of the ALS Association and youth basketball camps.

The Gatorade Player of the Year Award also gives Davis the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" marketing platform.

Davis is also a finalist for the Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year Award. The announcement for the national award has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Davis completed his Stepinac basketball career as Westchester's all-time leading scorer in boys' high school basketball, posting 2,446 points in his four-year varsity career.

Davis was also selected to play in the McDonald's All-American Game this year. However, he never got the opportunity to enjoy the pageantry of competing in the prestigious contest, scheduled for Apr. 1 in Houston, because it was canceled due to the coronavirus.



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

On Mar. 26, Stepinac star guard R.J. Davis was named the Gatorade New York State Boys Basketball Player of the Year. It is just one of many honors this year for Davis who swept the state high school boys basketball awards.

*"Often when you think you're at the end of something,
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