

Pleasantville Summer Pool Closure Angers Residents, Spawns Petition

By Abby Luby

The decision to close the Pleasantville Village Pool has frustrated and angered residents, prompting the creation of a petition last week urging the Village Board to open the pool for the summer.

The petition, titled Save the Pool, was posted by the Pleasantville Swim Team on change.org. As of Monday morning, it had 479 signatures. The petition cites the board's decision to close the pool as premature and "without appropriate consideration for the impact the closure would have on our community."

Last month, the board announced the facility's closure out of concern for health risks posed by the coronavirus pandemic. In light of the petition, the issue was discussed again at last week's Village Board meeting. The matter was scheduled to be raised again at Monday evening's board meeting.

Pleasantville is among a handful of municipalities in Westchester with pools that aren't planning to at least partially open their swim facilities. The village has not filed the necessary permits and a New York Forward Safety Plan that details how it would prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Most pools that are opening are comparatively larger facilities than the Pleasantville Village Pool requiring residents to reserve times and swim in shifts to be spaced apart by 30 minutes for disinfection, Mayor Peter Scherer said. Other restrictions for public pools include limiting attendance capacity to 50 percent; requiring the use of face masks for visitors unless in the water; requiring adequate supplies of sanitizer, soap and disposable paper towels; enhancing cleaning and disinfection protocols; and ensuring that social distancing markers are in place.

A major concern was raised last month by Superintendent of Recreation & Parks Matt Trainor. Trainor worried about the health risk for the staff, most of which is 16 to 18 years old.

Scherer expressed concern that if the pool opened, young pool staffers would be in the difficult position of telling adults and families to wear masks and making sure social distancing was being observed.

Scherer said the main consideration in closing was whether the village could safely operate the pool while screening and cleaning to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

However, in light of the petition the board has an obligation to revisit its

decision, he said.

"We were ready to open Memorial Day and absent COVID, there would be kids jumping in the pool right now," Scherer said. "What's in play here is the community's tolerance for risk. The safest thing is not to open this year."

The swim team's petition also blames the board for "failing to adopt a clear plan for the maintenance/repair work that needs to be done on the pool to ensure that it can open for the 2021 summer season."

The more than 50-year-old pool has had noticeable signs of deteriorating infrastructure for years but the village has managed to keep it open with stop-gap repairs. In 2017, the village received an estimate to rehabilitate the pool for \$1.5

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MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Good Eats in the Street

The Village of Pleasantville closed off the northern end of Wheeler Avenue to vehicular traffic late last Saturday afternoon and evening for a night of outdoor dining. Officials went ahead with the experimental plan to help some of the village's restaurants, which have been confined to take-out and delivery service for much of the past three months. For more on Pleasantville's outdoor dining plans, see page 13.

Fire Officials Alert Town of Hydrant Hazard at Chappaqua Crossing

By Madeline Rosenberg

The Chappaqua Fire Department recently identified more than 20 fire hydrants at Chappaqua Crossing that had no running water or were rusted shut, threatening the safety of the bustling retail center.

The Town of New Castle has since restored nearly all of the hydrants to service as of last week. Developer Summit/Greenfield is currently responsible for maintaining the site's fire protection equipment, not the town, said Town Administrator Jill Shapiro.

The hydrants are also part of a longer list of fire safety concerns at the former Reader's Digest site, now home to about 120,000 square feet of retail space, which includes Whole Foods and Life Time Fitness.

"If there was a fire, we wouldn't be able to get water out of them," Russell Maitland, the fire chief at the Chappaqua Fire Department, said during a June 11 New Castle Fire District #1 commissioners meeting. "People's lives are in jeopardy, that we have these hydrants there that don't have water."

Shapiro said the developers didn't service the Chappaqua Crossing fire hydrants to make sure firefighters can access the water needed to fight a blaze, a condition of property ownership while the site remains under construction. Summit/Greenfield still plans to build 91 townhomes on another portion of the property.

The town annually services its hydrants,

Shapiro said, and a private developer must do the same.

"Had they been maintained on some sort of schedule, opened once a year and lubricated, it would've been all good," Shapiro said. "It's still an active construction area, but you've got operating businesses there. It doesn't mean that they're not responsible to maintain the infrastructure."

David Walsh, director of asset management at Summit Development, told The Examiner the hydrants were last inspected when new ones were put into service – about a year and a half ago.

Without the proper maintenance, a large portion of the fire hydrants at Chappaqua Crossing became unusable.

The Chappaqua Fire Department first noticed the problem and notified the town about a month ago, when the department went to refill a truck at the shopping center and no water came out of a hydrant. A check found that seven hydrants had no water flowing.

The department returned to Chappaqua Crossing for a training run, when they found that the caps would not come off about another 15 hydrants, Maitland said.

Both the fire department and town personnel broke a tool trying to open the hydrants, Maitland said, adding that the firefighters had to hit the hydrants with an axe more than 20 times to get a single cap off to access the water.



MADLINE ROSENBERG PHOTO

A portion of the retail area at Chappaqua Crossing where recent problems had been detected with many of the development's fire hydrants. As of late last week, the issue had been resolved in all but one of the hydrants.

Maitland said the town went "above and beyond" to make the hydrants work again, sending the town fire marshal as well as the water and building departments to repair fire hydrants they do not yet own. The town resolved the safety issue as soon as the fire department notified the town, Shapiro added, because "we're not going to fight over who's responsible, we're just going to fix it."

Walsh said Summit Development will now carry out quarterly maintenance checks on the hydrants to make sure they continue working properly.

"We have a great relationship with the Town of New Castle. We've always had a good relationship with the Chappaqua Fire Department," Walsh said. "This is one of those things that in the 20 years that this partnership is on the building, this is the first

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million. The primary concern was to replace the underground control room, which was flooded and would need to be rebuilt above ground.

Last June, the kiddie pool sprang a leak from return pipes running around the perimeter of the pool. The kiddie pool was closed, the pipes were replaced and it was reopened.

More recently the village received a proposal from Aquattica Pools & Water Parks to completely rebuild the pool for about \$3.5 million, a price tag that officials found staggering. The village will discuss the issue with Aquattica and look for another estimate to fix existing problems and bring the pool into compliance with the new health code.

The much-needed repairs coupled with the precarious economic environment has presented the Village Board with tough decisions to make. If the pool were to open, raising the \$400-per-family fee now might be difficult, Scherer said.

"It's a good deal for the community," he said. "If we raised the fee it makes it harder for folks."

Floating a bond to finance a new pool would result in significant property tax increases, Scherer said. He doesn't think the village is in a position to consider a multimillion-dollar bond.

"Our pool serves not only village residents but kids and families in the school district, many who do not pay taxes here. A tax increase would impact only village residents," he said.

Fire Officials Alert Town of Hydrant Hazard at Chappaqua Crossing

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time something like this has happened."

But Maitland said this isn't the first time the fire department has found fire safety violations at Chappaqua Crossing, likely overlooked in the inspection process. He said the fire department has found improper electrical and gas plumbing installations, as well as a lack of carbon monoxide detection equipment and alarm systems that didn't

work properly.

"We've been there for a number of instances where people's lives were in jeopardy," Maitland said. "These issues should've been caught during an inspection. The hydrants are another thing to add onto the list of the problems that we've encountered at that property."



The Most Common Sexually Transmitted Disease: HPV

What you need to know about keeping yourself and your children safe

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Q: What is the human papilloma virus (HPV)?

A: HPV is a sexually transmitted virus. There are approximately 150 strains of the virus and nearly 40 affect the genital area. Most HPV infections are asymptomatic, which means that you may never know you were exposed. The majority of HPV strains do not cause any issues and will eventually go away on their own. Some strains, however, can cause genital warts, cervical cancer, anal cancer and other cancers, including head and neck cancers.

Q: Who is at risk?

A: Studies have shown that almost everyone gets exposed to HPV at some point in their lives. Some studies have shown that up to 90% of college-aged men women have been exposed to HPV. If you're dating someone and they say they've been "tested," please know that men cannot be tested for HPV. The virus hides from our immune systems, so it will not show up on a blood test. Women can be tested for HPV by getting a pap smear, but there's no test for men.

Q: What's the best defense against HPV?

A: Condoms are the best defense against HPV, but even with condom use, the virus can still be transmitted to others. There is no cure for HPV, only prevention.

That's why it's so important for both boys and girls to get vaccinated. Vaccines against HPV have sharply reduced infections in men and women and will likely cause major drops in HPV-related cancers. Parents should discuss the optimal time for the vaccine with their pediatrician. Some may decide to delay the vaccine until the middle teen years.

Men and women, up to age 45, can get the HPV vaccine.

The CDC recommendation now includes men and women up to age 45 – especially if they are dating, widowed or have a new partner. If you're interested in a vaccine, speak with your doctor.

Q: Does my child really need this?

A: The answer is yes. You're providing your children with something that will prevent cancer down the road. So, if anybody has any concerns that they're not doing right by their child, think again. We have to assume that our children will become sexually active as they get older, therefore they need to be vaccinated. The HPV vaccine has already been shown to markedly reduce the incidence of HPV infections in young adults.

Westchester, Putnam Cleared to Enter Phase 3 Starting Tuesday

By Martin Wilbur

The Mid-Hudson region was officially cleared to enter Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan on Tuesday as the percentage of positive COVID-19 test results continued to hover around 1 percent.

Phase 3 will allow Westchester and Putnam and five other counties to see the opening of indoor dining at restaurants as well as personal care services such as nail salons, tanning, waxing and tattoo parlors and spas and piercing facilities with safety requirements in place. All businesses with indoor services can operate at no more than 50 percent capacity.

Mask wearing and social distancing protocols must be followed.

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said she was pleased to continue to move onto the next step on the road to a more fully functioning economy.

"Our calculated approach to watching our health measures, combined with the ingenuity, patience and commitment of our business community, has really paid off for us," Odell said. "We continue to move forward in the right direction."

In addition to indoor businesses, the size of gatherings will increase from 10 to 25 people, according to New York State's guidelines.

As upstate regions continue to move through Phase 3, followed by the Mid-Hudson on Tuesday and Long Island on Wednesday, the percentage of new cases continue to hold steady or drop slightly. On Sunday, the statewide rate of positives stood at 0.97 percent. For the last 10 days, Mid-Hudson has remained within a fraction of 1 percent.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo pointed out in a statement that on Sunday there were just 10 COVID-19-related deaths statewide, the lowest number since Mar. 21. Total hospitalizations continue to drop, down to 1,122.

"In New York, we've been following the science and the data and the metrics from Day One," Cuomo said in a statement. "We have the best numbers that we've had since this started today in New York."

Restaurant owners are reminded that if the minimum six-foot separation is not followed and if patrons and employees don't wear masks state liquor licenses can be revoked. If patrons notice a lapse in social distancing practices while dining and feel uncomfortable, they are encouraged to consider politely informing management.

Lodging an officials complaint at www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-

pause is also an option.

"The reductions in capacities have been determined with one goal in mind – to best protect both customers and employees," said Putnam County Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael J. Nesheiwat. "Much planning and thought has gone into this phased opening and graduated guidelines at the state level. This is why Putnam and the Mid-Hudson region continue to move forward successfully."

The number of deaths in Putnam County continues to remain at 62 with just two active cases.

In Westchester, active cases have dropped to 557 with COVID-19 hospitalizations falling to 89.

County Executive George Latimer said despite the good news, the public shouldn't

relax. On Monday, cases were on the rise in 23 states.

"None of us believes that we're out of the woods," Latimer said. "We hear stories about a second wave coming and we're actually going to try and be ready for it when it does come."

Westchester residents will continue to have increased recreation opportunities starting this weekend. Swimming pools at Saxon Woods in White Plains and Sprain Ridge in Yonkers will open with 50 percent capacity and mask wearing outside the water.

For Independence Day weekend, the Willson's Woods and Tibbetts Brook Park pools will begin the 2020 swim season on Friday, July 3.

Latimer said starting this weekend, Playland beach will be open daily (except for Mondays)

through the rest of the summer. Croton Point Park beach also in operation.

The county's three miniature golf facilities opened late last week at Saxon Woods, Playland and Tibbetts Brook Park, he said.

There will be two screenings of family films at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla but will those be drive-in movies, Latimer said last week. On Friday, July 17, "The Secret Life of Pets" will be screened followed by "Wonder Park" on Friday, Aug. 14.

Both screenings will cost \$20 per car with online advance ticket purchases only. Tickets went on sale for "The Secret Life of Pets" last Wednesday. Tickets for "Wonder Park" will go on sale on Monday, July 20 at 2 p.m. The public should visit wcparks.ticketleap.com/drivein to buy tickets.



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Communities Look to Open Pools for Residents as Weather Heats Up

By Martin Wilbur

The opening of public swimming pools in municipalities where officials haven't made the decision to close for the summer are scheduled to occur within the next couple of weeks.

The Village of Mount Kisco announced last Friday that it will be opening its Memorial Pool at Leonard Park to swimmers starting Saturday from 12 to 6 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

Meanwhile, Mount Pleasant has set a July 6 opening date while the Town of North Castle is aiming for a July 4 weekend opening, although the date has not been finalized, said Supervisor Michael Schiliro.

White Plains' city pools are slated for a July 1 opening and the Town of Yorktown is planning on operating the Brian J. Slavin Aquatic Facility in Shrub Oak starting sometime in July. However, Junior Lake Pool in Yorktown Heights will remain closed this year because of unfinished construction.

Yorktown opened Sparkle Lake for beachgoers and swimmers on Monday.

Pleasantville, Peekskill, Buchanan and Cortlandt are among the communities that have canceled their pool seasons for various reasons, including needed

work at the facilities or a lack of confidence that safety could be achieved.

Multiple uncertainties about the rate of COVID-19 transmission, the size and layout of each facility and how to keep patrons safe determine whether communities could hold a meaningful swim season.

"Yes, we're very excited we can have a pool season," said Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich. "It will be very different from what pool seasons have looked like in the past. The same with camp. There are going to be situations where people are going to be able to be outside and enjoy the facilities in a safe way and that is our objective – to create a safe environment that people can enjoy."

Picinich said pool passes, which can be obtained in person at the complex starting Thursday, will be only for residents in the incorporated portion of the village this year. Following the state's guidelines, attendance will be limited to 120 guests at a time, which represents 50 percent capacity. The public will be asked to sign up for the days they want to swim. If there is still room then a daily pass can be issued, she said.

The village also plans to prorate the price of the pass to account for



The Town of North Castle is hoping to open the pool it is licensed to operate in Armonk by Fourth of July weekend.

the days that have already been lost, then to reduce the cost by an additional 10 percent because there will be no concessions or lounge chairs, Picinich said. Bathers can bring their own food, drink and chairs, she said.

Face coverings will need to be worn when outside the pool but not in the water.

Mount Kisco will be running a camp program for six weeks starting the week of July 13 for children entering grades K-6. However, enrollment will be limited to 90 children, a maximum of 10 youngsters in each of the nine camp groups.

In North Castle, work has been underway to prepare the pool for use this summer, said Recreation Superintendent Todd Orlowski. The town is aiming for Fourth of July weekend.

"We feel pretty good about the opportunity of having a pool season," Orlowski said. "It's just a matter of the state to give us the go-ahead and the permit for the (county) Department of Health."

At half capacity, up to 175 guests would be allowed to be on hand at one time, said Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Giusti. She said the town should be able to accommodate the demand on

weekdays based on recent years' usage.

Staff members will enforce social distancing since the town wants its lifeguards to concentrate on aquatic safety.

Early bird discount rates were continuing as of a couple of weeks ago, Orlowski said. There was still no decision on pool hours.

Traditional camp programs were canceled nearly a month ago but the Parks and Recreation Department is providing full- and half-day programming for children at Hergenhan Recreation Center Monday through Thursday along with a variety of sports clinics. Sign-up for each of the programs will be done on a weekly basis, Orlowski said.

Mount Pleasant currently has a July 6 pool opening planned with two swim sessions a day – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. in addition to a fitness session from 7 to 9 a.m. The Recreation Department stated that people would be able to sign up for sessions online.

Registration started for town residents Monday, and will begin for village residents, including Pleasantville, on June 29.

Nearly all Mount Pleasant town camp programs have been canceled for the summer.

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Latimer Names County Task Force to Examine Police Training, Procedures

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County Executive George Latimer named a 28-member task force Monday to review the training provided at the county's police academy as well as various policies and practices to ensure equitable law enforcement.

Much of the diverse task force's mission will be similar to a working group that Latimer announced three weeks ago in the immediate aftermath of the George Floyd killing.

However, on June 12, Gov. Andrew Cuomo unveiled the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, which mandates that all levels of government that oversee a police department must review the agency's policies and procedures with local stakeholders and law enforcement personnel to make sure the department properly serves the community it works for.

A report must be submitted to the state by Apr. 1, 2021. Failure to do so would jeopardize a county's or a municipality's state funding.

Latimer said some members of the working group had already been identified before the collaborative was announced, including the group's co-chairs, attorneys and former prosecutors Leroy Frazer and Mayo Bartlett who are both African American. Now the county will take "a more profound step" to address policing issues, he said.

"We know that it is not enough to rally, it is not enough to express heartfelt anger

and frustration, and as I've said at the rallies where I've been asked to share a few words, it really isn't realistic for a white man to be the person to try and channel what is being felt in the African American community, and for that matter, the community of color," Latimer said.

Meeting dates and community feedback sessions will be scheduled. The task force must submit a report to the Board of Legislators by the end of the year, Latimer said. County lawmakers will have the first quarter of next year to debate the report and consider any revisions before submitting to the state.

The co-chairs agreed that policing in Westchester is superior than many areas of the state and nation, but that they hope to identify shortcomings and recommend county legislation.

Bartlett said the work can make the county's police force a model for law enforcement in New York and to contribute to the improvement of police structure across the state.

"I'm extremely excited about it," Bartlett said. "I think about my children and their children and hopefully their children and what this will mean and the fact that we will actually have legislation that's structurally there."

Frazer said he is impressed with the quality of individuals on the task force and that everyone is fair-minded to achieve meaningful improvements.

"I've seen over the years that when you



Co-chair Mayo Bartlett, at podium, speaks at Monday's press conference naming the members of a county police review task force. Also pictured are Co-chair Leroy Frazer, left, and County Executive George Latimer.

McNerney; Bedford Police Chief Melvin Padilla and retired New Castle Police Officer Chad Golanec; county legislators Colin Smith, Lyndon Williams and Terry Clements; members of the African American clergy; Tejash Sanchala and Rev. Doris Dalton of the county's Human Rights Commission; Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden of the county's Youth Bureau; Kenneth Chamberlain Jr., an activist who lost his father in an officer-involved shooting; Martin McDonald; the former head of the Peekskill NAACP; Judge Kathy Davidson, the chief administrative judge for the 9th Judicial District and Scarsdale Village Justice Jack Alemany; Shondra Floyd McClary, an educator and Mount Kisco resident; and several others.

Board Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) said in addition to examining training, policies and procedures, he hopes the task force will provide guidance about how it should be determined who becomes a police officer.


"We need to start with the recruitment effort, so that we recruit people who have it in their DNA and in their system to know how to be police, to be sensitive to the community needs, to be important servants to the public," Boykin said.

Latimer said that the county takes its responsibility seriously to ensure it has top-notch police and the best practices to serve all of Westchester.


"We're not doing this because of state funding; we're doing this because it's right," he said.

bring together well-intentioned people that you can have that debate and have that discussion and you can then move forward because with all the names that I've heard and everything that I've read about them, they have similar goals – similar goals and important goals that we are looking for here," Frazer said.


The task force includes law enforcement professionals, such as Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Gleason, Deputy Commissioner Terrance Raynor, former Greenburgh police chief and top criminal investigator for the Westchester County District Attorney's office Christopher



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Bedford School Officials Preparing for September Reopening

By Martin Wilbur

Bedford school officials have begun formulating plans for the 2020-21 school year, preparing for multiple instructional scenarios as districts seek to reopen in September following the mid-March closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jean Miccio, acting assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said last week that the district has been more focused on prioritizing standards rather than what a potential schedule may look like because there are too many uncertainties.

There is the possibility that the entire student body could return for in-person classes in September, but there could also be classes held at 50 percent capacity or remote learning could continue or some combination of schooling.

Regardless of what the schedule looks like, there isn't likely to be enough time next year for teachers to cover the entire curriculum from start to finish, Miccio said.

"We know there are going to be interruptions, we know that the schedule is not going to be the way we want it to be, at least in the beginning, so one of the things that's probably the hardest thing to do is we asked the teachers to really take a look at their curriculum and go through the standards and prioritize those standards so that we know we're prioritizing the most important things next year," Miccio said.

School districts throughout the region, including Bedford, have been sharing information and their tentative plans with each other, she said. Miccio attended a regional meeting of assistant superintendents last Wednesday with colleagues from other

districts.

Bedford has appointed three task forces – for academics, operations and student social and emotional issues – to help receive better guidance from parents and the community at large, said Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg. A survey has also been sent out to capture additional feedback.

Adelberg was adamant that the district will be better prepared for whatever type of learning there will be next school year. He said there will be better structure, much stronger direction and greater interaction between faculty and students in the upcoming year.

"We know that we need a much stronger game plan and multiple versions and variations of all different contingencies however we resume when we get back, whatever that looks like, whenever that starts," Adelberg said.

School officials in Bedford and elsewhere

will likely have a better idea about reopening plans after the Board of Regents issues its guidance, which is expected about July 13. Each district has to submit a plan to the state after that.

However, Board Vice President Edward Reder said Bedford should continue its preparations rather than expect firm guidance from Albany.

"We're not waiting for the state," he said. "We'll take the guidance from the state and we'll bring that into our plan, but we're not waiting for the state to come down with the set of details."

Adelberg assured the board last week that the quality and details in Bedford's reopening plan will exceed whatever the state will be looking for.

School Budgets Approved, Incumbents Victorious in Local Races

All budgets were approved throughout Westchester and incumbents were re-elected in a few local contested Board of Education races.

In Mount Pleasant, Board Vice President Laura Michalec Olszewski and Trustee Sara Beaty held onto their seats over former trustee Thomas McCabe. Olszewski picked up 1,758 votes to Beaty's 1,577. McCabe trailed the field with 1,369.

Chappaqua Board of Education incumbents Jane Shepardson, the current president, and Trustee Victoria Tipp comfortably won re-election. Shepardson earned a second term

by collecting 1,923 votes followed by Tipp with 1,743. Tipp will serve for a fourth term. They were followed by Deborah Smith (1,140), Jeffrey Mester (890) and Joshua Shapiro (534).

Pleasantville Board of Education President Angela Vella was re-elected to serve a third term, picking up 1,379 votes, while Jill Grossman won the second seat with 1,224. John Vamossy (913) and Carmel Promisel (866) rounded out the results. Board Vice President Louis Conte decided against serving another term.

There were uncontested races in Bedford and Byram Hills. Current Bedford Board of

Education Vice President Edward Reder will serve a third full term and will be joined on the board by first-time candidate Alexandra White. Trustee William Canavan elected not to run for a second term.

In Byram Hills, incumbents Ira Schulman and Lori Kanner ran unopposed.

The closest margin of approval among the local budgets was in Mount Pleasant where the district's \$65.4 million spending plan was approved 1,648-1,148.


Pleasantville, Chappaqua, Bedford and Byram Hills voters all passed those districts' budgets by wide margins.

The \$52.7 million Pleasantville budget sailed through 1,828-468, while Chappaqua's \$128.2 million budget by a 2,668-879 margin.

The Byram Hills School District budget for 2020-21 of \$94.5 million, which featured a zero spending increase and a 0.34 percent tax rate hike for North Castle residents who comprise 86 percent of the district, passed 1,586-600.


Bedford voters approved the district's \$139.7 million budget, 2,685-1,388.

Valhalla School District voters passed a \$55.6 million budget, 881-390. Board incumbent Susan Martinez and first-time candidate Duane Smith were elected in an uncontested race.



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Immigrant Advocates' Joy Tempered By Reality After DACA Decision

By Martin Wilbur

Local advocates for immigrants were overjoyed last week that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program but remained wary that the Trump administration will submit a reworked plan.

Last Thursday, a 5-4 majority on the high court determined that ending the program was "arbitrary and capricious" and therefore unlawful because it failed to consider the hardship it would cause to roughly 700,000 people.

"It's incredibly heartening," said Carola Bracco, executive director of the Mount Kisco-based Neighbors Link. "It was just a feeling of joy and relief followed by a feeling very quickly that the work is not done."

For now, the decision prevents the deportation of those who were brought to the United States as children, with many spending most of their childhood going to school in this country and with likely hundreds of thousands of them working. It also allows for new applications to be processed.

Current DACA recipients have been able to renew their status while the case worked its way through the courts for more than two and a half years.

Bracco said Neighbors Link, which helps to integrate immigrant families into the community through classes, training and other programs, has been getting the word out to the community that there is an opportunity for new DACA applications. There are tutorials and public service announcements with how to go about that process.

She said that large portions of the economy depend on DACA recipient.

"I think the whole country's future depended on it, not just the people with DACA," Bracco said. "So I think this is a real important statement for our whole country."

Another advocate said while the decision provides a temporary lifeline for the recipients there is another concern in addition to whether the Trump Administration tries again to end the program.

Luis Yumbra, communications director for the Hudson Valley Community Coalition, said "it was a sigh of relief" for a large portion of the immigrant community. However, it is incumbent on organizations and lawmakers to ensure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) process new applications.

The Supreme Court ruling puts the policy back into effect from before the administration tried to revoke it.

"(Let's) make sure the DHS follows the decision and reviews the new applications that will come," Yumbra said. "According to the decision, it goes back to when DACA was permanent. So with that decision we believe that the new applications must be accepted."

The Immigration Justice Clinic at Pace University issued a statement last Thursday that expressed caution for what the Dreamers could still face later this year.

"As good a decision as one could have hoped for, in this procedural posture, but hardly the security and status that Dreamers need and deserve," the statement read. "Nothing to stop the

Administration from a redo and that's what it sounds like the President wants."

Bracco said at the time President Barack Obama initiated the policy it was estimated that there were about 1.2 million people would might be eligible. Therefore, there could definitely be more applicants.

There was also relief on the part of many employers.

"Many of (the DACA recipients) are essential workers or in school, and actually those that are in the workforce, their companies have put a lot of energy and effort into training," Bracco said. "So it would have been a significant disaster economically for us to lose DACA students or DACA recipients."

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Marianne Oros, Vice Chair



Obituaries

William Martin

William James Martin passed away at his home on June 11, with Patricia, his loving wife of 62 years, at his side, as she always was. He was 84.

Bill had a deep faith and lived his life to the fullest. His love for family and his desire to look for the good in all things will live on in his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was born on Gallagher Street in Buchanan, the son of the late William and Mary Grey Martin. His older sisters, Roberta (Bobbie) Marallo and the late Catherine (Honey) Berndt doted on him. He met the love of his life at age 12, when she moved in across the street.

Bill graduated from Hendrick Hudson High School (Class of 1953) and went on to serve as a member of the Seabees in the U.S. Navy in Africa. He was proud to be a veteran. He had a successful career as an operating engineer in Local 137. He contributed to the construction of many buildings and bridges in Westchester County and beyond.

He is survived by his wife and best friend, Patricia (Tobin); his children, Michael (AnneMarie) and their daughters Danielle and Ariana (her fiancé Steven); William Patrick (Cheryl) and their children Samantha (Dan) and Danny (Liz) and their grandchildren Zachary, Wesley and Callie; Toby (Paul) Kawulicz and their children Lauren and Stephen; and Kelly (Billy) Olszewski and their daughter Marisa (CJ)



William Martin

and their grandsons Jackson and Mason. He was predeceased by his infant son, William James Martin III. Bill is also survived by his sister, Bobbie, and many nieces and nephews.

After retirement, Pat and Bill enjoyed traveling to many parts of the world, loving each other and every trip. The best trips of all were the vacations that the whole family took together, creating many treasured memories at Long Beach Island, N.J.

Bill would hope that you would remember his smile and take the time to do a kind deed in his memory. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Ines Manes

Ines Clorinda Carriero Manes peacefully returned home to Our Heavenly Father on May 16. She was 87 years old.

Manes was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Costanzo Manes. They raised a family of four children while living in Somers for more than 30 years. She was an active mother, hospital volunteer and a troop leader for the Girl Scouts of America. She was also a very successful salesperson for various retail stores at the Bazaar Mall in Mount Kisco.

The couple retired to Lake Forest, Fla. in 1995, where they lived for 20 years. Manes continued her retirement in Pasadena, Calif. in her final years. She will be remembered for her lively spirit, generosity, ability to evoke laughter, kindness and grace by all who knew her.

Manes is survived by her four children, Henrietta Manes, Jane Rose Watt, Victor Manes and Tina Guida. She was blessed with and dearly loved her five grandchildren, Lydia Watt, Connor Watt, Cecilia Guida, Nicholas Manes and Carly Guida.

A virtual memorial service took place at



Ines Manes

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church in Altadena, Calif. Her ashes will be laid to rest in her hometown of Campomarino, Italy.

In her memory, donations may be made to Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Attn: Fund Development, 2 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.

Jeanne Lobotsky

Jeanne D. Lobotsky, 87, entered into eternal life June 17 while living in the home of her son, Walter, where she received loving care in her final days.

Lobotsky was born Sept. 4, 1933, in Ossining to Kenneth and Kathryn Matheson. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Theodore Williams, and her second husband, Walter Lobotsky. She lived for over 30 years in Clearwater, Fla. where she enjoyed the company of many good friends and neighbors.

Survivors include children Theodore Williams (Pam) of Huntington, W.Va., Kenneth Williams (Helene) of Pensacola, Fla. Sharon Dik (James) of Lunenburg, Mass., Christine Baldridge (Larry) of Uniontown, Ohio, Daniel Williams (Melody) of Sevierville, Tenn., Cecil Williams (Susan) of Mesa, Ariz., Walter Lobotsky (Melanie) of Pittsboro, N.C. and Carolyn Laorno of Clinton Corners, N.Y.; 25 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren. She treasured her lifelong relationship with



Jeanne Lobotsky

Katherine Eggleston, a childhood school friend.

A memorial service will be announced and held at a future date in New York when family members and others are able to travel and attend safely.

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Lakeland March, Rally Urges District to Make Changes to Fight Racism

By Martin Wilbur

Lakeland School District alumni and students were joined by community members for a protest march and rally last Tuesday afternoon to demand changes to weed out systemic racism in the school system.

Chanting continuous slogans, several hundred people marched from the Shrub Oak Shopping Center, headed into the Lakeland High School campus before circling back out onto East Main Street and arriving at the administration building where various speakers urged reform.

Empowered by the protests that have erupted since the May 25 killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, the crowd pressed for more anti-racist curriculum, a district anti-racist policy, more people of color among the faculty and staff and to provide resources to help combat racism in the community, said Amy Belfer, a 2015 Lakeland High School graduate and one of the organizers of the event that drew participants from widely divergent backgrounds.

Alexia Libretti, another organizer and Lakeland High alum, said change must start at the local level, and while there has been progress made around the country in recent weeks, there is still much work to be done.

"The whitewashed history that we learned is not the history of America and it is up to us to find the truth and not to burden our black friends by asking them to

help," Libretti said. "We can become better by listening, by truly hearing them and being empathetic toward the hardships that we will never understand."

Graduates, mostly from the past five years, along with current Trustee Robert Mayes, a couple of teachers, and several community members exhorted the crowd to force administrators and the school board to listen until changes are made. A number of the speakers were people of color who related incidents of subtle and overt racism while growing up in the district. Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater and council members Alice Roker and Tom Diana were also on hand to show support.

Brittany Alexander, a 2018 graduate who currently attends NYU, said she was told by another student when she was in elementary school that he was "going to slap the black out of me," and in later years she would frequently go to the restroom to wet her hair in order to straighten it to fit in and look like most of the student body.

Even while in the city at college, Alexander said there have been times when she has walked down the street and white people have looked back in fear, apparently assuming that she might target them. When she shops, she has to make sure that her hands are out of her pockets and makes sure to smile at strangers.

"I do anything and everything to make people feel comfortable," Alexander said. "These are survival techniques my parents taught me because they knew that I would



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Several hundred former Lakeland students and community members, joined by some current students, marched down East Main Street in Shrub Oak last Tuesday to demand changes within the school district to address racism and create a more welcoming environment for students of color.

exist differently in the world. Black people have to exaggerate their innocence in order to make up for their blackness."

Ayanna Gibson, a 2015 graduate, had similar experiences when she attended Lakeland schools.

"I let racist comments about my people slide to make other people more comfortable," she said. "I was afraid to be viewed as less than. I didn't think my voice would change their view, so I was silent."

Other students recounted how there

were only a few non-white teachers, which made it more difficult or uncomfortable to seek help on various issues. Jhoely Duque, a 2018 Lakeland High School graduate, urged the district to make changes that were outlined in a petition that has been developed and is being sent to the district's administration.

The petition calls for a district anti-racism policy that lays out specific goals to combat racism rather than Lakeland's existing Dignity for All Students Act, which is too

continued on page 11

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Obituaries

Arthur Tsung-Yuan Loh

It is with profound sadness that we make known the passing of Dr. Arthur T.Y. Loh on June 13 with family and friends by his side. He was 96.

Born on Dec. 2, 1923, to Chengor Loh and Kwei N. (Wang) in Shanghai, China, Loh went on to be a highly accomplished financier in the United States.

He received a bachelor's degree from St. John's University in Shanghai in 1945, a master's in science from the University of Illinois in 1949 and a Ph.D. in economics, also from the University of Illinois, in 1952.

Sister Janet Meehan

Sister Janet Meehan, RDC (formerly known as Sister Mary Leonard), a sister of the Divine Compassion and a longtime decorated track coach at John F. Kennedy High School in Somers, died peacefully on June 17. She was 78.

Meehan was born on Aug. 16, 1941, to John and Louise (Cancro) Meehan. She attended Hawthorne public schools and graduated from Good Counsel Academy High School. She received her bachelor's from Good Counsel College in White Plains and her master's in fine arts from the University of Notre Dame.

Meehan began her teaching career at Preston High School in the Bronx. Following

Loh spent most of his career on Wall Street where he was a partner at major investment banking firms, including R.W. Pressprich & Co., GAC Corporation and N.Y. Securities Co. He later served in leading corporate roles, including the chief investment officer at Government Employee Insurance Company. At GEICO, during a major financial crisis, he served as an interim CEO and led a major turnaround team which included Warren Buffet. He went on to serve as CFO of Rotary International. Arthur then became founder and chairman of Loh Associates.

Loh was active in many community and professional activities including as chairman of Development Committee Travelers Aid

Society in New York City; the Republican National Committee; the Heritage Foundation; member of Association for Investment Management & Research; International Society of Security Analysts; American Economic Association; Financial Executives Institute, Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts (chartered); New York Society of Security Analysts; Wall Street Club; Bankers Club America; Downtown Association (New York City); The Windmill Club; Greenwich Polo Club; Rotary Club; and the City Midday Club (New York City).

He belonged to the Methodist faith and worshiped at the Armonk United Methodist Church.

Loh was a tremendous fan and longtime supporter of the Greenwich Polo Club and greatly enjoyed watching polo matches with his family and friends. He also enjoyed tennis, swimming, skiing and worldwide travels with his family. He always loved hosting special occasions for his family and friends.

Arthur was dearly loved by his family and numerous friends and was known for his deep generosity, thoughtfulness, kindness, wisdom and compassion for others.

Those left to cherish his memory are his two daughters, Stephanie T.L. Loh and Pamela T.K. Loh and her husband, John N. Kelly; two step-grandsons, John N. Kelly III and Brendan C. Kelly; his niece, Rosie Kemble; his nephews, Linddy Chen and Qiao Xia Shen; his sisters-in-law, Paula Wu, Julia Chan, Lina Voo, Anna Chan, Mabel Sin and Mason Chan; and numerous other nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Monica (nee Chen) Loh; his sister, Edith Chen; his brother, Willy Loh; nephews Buddy Chen and Freddy Chen; his sisters-in-law, Diana Chiu and Dr. Anita Li; and his brothers-in-law, Duncan Chan and Donald Chan.

Visitation was held on June 20 and 21 at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. The June 22 funeral service was by invitation only at Beecher Flooks. Interment followed at Middle Patent Rural Cemetery in Banksville.

her time there, she moved to Kennedy Catholic in Somers where she taught math and was chair of the Art Department. One of her favorite tasks was as coach of the track team. Meehan received a number of awards in her career – including the Educational Art Teachers Award from the Rhode Island School of Design and the Lacey Award from the Westchester Coaches and Officials Association. She was named Coach of the Year by Gannett Westchester in 1990.

"A talented artist and compassionate teacher, Sister Janet's gifts will long survive," said Sister Laura Donovan,



Sister Janet Meehan

president of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion.

Meehan is survived by her Sisters of the Divine Compassion; her sister, Marilyn Rhode, and her husband, David; her brother, John Meehan; and two nieces, Joanna Meehan Rhodes and Elizabeth Meehan Barrow.

A wake and funeral mass took place on June 20 at the Chapel of the Divine Compassion. Interment was at Mount Calvary Cemetery in White Plains. Arrangements were handled by McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home.

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New Castle Names Leaders for Race and Equity Council

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board named the co-chairs for the Council on Race and Equity with hopes for recommendations to be in place by the end of the summer and culminating in an action plan.

Zabeen Mirza and Nichelle Maynard-Elliott will lead the council and oversee splitting its members into six working groups. As of last week, there were more than 90 applications that had been submitted by town residents hoping to volunteer.

Mirza presented the Town Board last week with an initial outline on how the council will function and an approximate

timeline for its work. She said there is a seriousness in the community to capitalize on the current momentum to address institutional racism and biases.

"If we want to do something, we have to do it right, we have to have a plan," Mirza said. "When we have a plan, we can start working out the kinks. The interest is there, the excitement is there, we are blessed with a community of really smart, capable, skilled people that are committed to this. We can certainly do great things with this council."

Early this month, Town Supervisor Ivy Pool announced the board's intention to establish a task force that would focus on racial equality following the national

protests in the wake of George Floyd's death. Later that week, a racist TikTok video made last winter by several Horace Greeley High School students resurfaced, amplifying the need to quickly create the council and address the issues within the community.

The plan is to sort through the applications and select the working group members by July 1, then have a group Zoom session with the groups to discuss mandates and key performance indicators, Mirza said.

Sometime in July, there will also be two community Zoom sessions to solicit feedback from the public. There will be topics addressed by three of the working

groups at each session.

By about Aug. 1, the working groups will deliver their recommendations with a tentatively scheduled Sept. 1 implementation.

The council also plans to interact with a wide range of town committees and departments during the upcoming weeks.

"Every (working) group should be led by a (person of color), so POC and black voices are centered," Mirza said. "Their needs, their struggles are at the forefront and we want to make sure that every segment of the community is properly represented as well."

Lakeland March, Rally Urges District to Make Changes to Fight Racism

Continued from page 9

generalized. It also demands development and implementation of an anti-racism curriculum, which would include more black art, literature and scholarship, provide more resources on racism and white supremacy and have students of color collaborate on the Curriculum Task Force.

Duque said the petition also urges the district to prioritize the needs of marginalized communities. That would mean hiring a more diverse teaching staff, appointing a diversity and inclusion coordinator and to embrace inclusion in the district's mission statement.

According to Public School Review, which outlines the demographics of public schools in the state, Lakeland High School is 27 percent minority with the majority of those students Hispanic.

On Wednesday, The Examiner reached out to Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone and Communication Director Jim VanDevelde for reaction about the petition's demands. The district responded by forwarding a link to Stone's June 13 statement that was posted on its website and e-mailed to parents.

In that correspondence, Stone agreed with the need to revise curriculum, particularly the way history is portrayed

and influences the culture and perpetuation of racism in the United States. He said Lakeland is joining a coalition of districts that are lacking in that area and will collaborate on establishing a task force this to make recommendations at the local and state levels for change in all areas of education.

Stone also wrote that he recognized the need to provide increased social and emotional support systems for minority students.

Furthermore, Stone said it is the district's responsibility to denounce racism, prejudice, hatred and bigotry in all forms; embrace the rights of all citizens

and groups to peacefully protest injustices; encourage an environment where all opinions can be heard and discussed without fear of retribution; and pledge to use resources to continually improve school climate, culture, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and staff recruitment practices to ensure equity.

"All of these are ideals we have continually advocated for," Stone stated. "Here once again, I publicly state them and emphasize our total commitment to helping every student succeed and to support positive social reforms in order to build a better community and nation."

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Guest Column

Foundation Helps Families in Need of Food, Supplies in COVID-19 Era

By Dora Ochoa

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the cause of much tragedy, but it has also provided us an opportunity to rebuild the world and provide hope amid suffering and grief.

Twenty years ago, I traveled from Ecuador to the United States. My fervent desire to prosper led me to work in various areas, although my priority has always been social work. I never imagined that this path would lead me to create the Hanami Foundation. It is an international organization to help those in my community here in the United States and in my country of origin, Ecuador, which has also been hit hard by the pandemic.

The Hanami Foundation was founded from the ideal of proposing and executing programs and services aimed at economic and social inclusion with an emphasis on priority attention groups and vulnerable populations, promoting development and care. The foundation aligned with other organizations, such as the Federation of Pichincha, provides informative and educational events for the community.

The two organizations collaborated to hold the Hanami Awards 2019 first edition event, a gala honoring 15 community leaders for their outstanding work in New York. These awards recognized volunteerism and the leaders that they support in various areas.

The origin of the word “Hanami” comes from the Japanese tradition, which means “to celebrate the beauty of life and its transformation.” Hanami is governed by the principles of respect, solidarity, dignity, commitment, collaboration, honesty and transparency that represent the cherry blossoms that are important, the fragility of the human being and a way of rediscovering nature. It is something that undoubtedly coincides with the terrible time humanity is experiencing right now and how it has led us to rethink our existence in this world.

When the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic struck, I immediately became active and summoned volunteers to manage solidarity aid for people who have been left in critical situations due to the loss of their jobs and loved ones. Through social networks and other electronic means, I contacted people of good will who wanted to offer their support.

Friends, family and acquaintances were my first allies. There were 12 volunteers in New York and five in Loja, Ecuador who distribute food weekly to vulnerable people. By earlier this month, more than 2,000 food kits had been delivered.

It was not an easy task because I myself had to endure the COVID-19 contagion, although fortunately I overcame it. I regret the loss of human lives, especially close friends, who have inspired me to continue

my humanitarian efforts.

However, the smile of a single mother, of workers who have lost their jobs, of people with disabilities, of mothers who struggle to feed their children are why my team and I believe in this gratifying work.

Hanami is preparing for the post-COVID era, as many experts say this could be a time of profound inequities. Hence, they have prepared projects in both the United States and Ecuador to respond to the tragedy with solidarity and determination. That is why we need all the help we can get, no matter how minimal it may be, because it will be well-received. Any donation will make a difference in many families here and in Ecuador.

The Hanami team believes wholeheartedly that if we keep working together for the good of mankind, we will have the opportunity to see the cherry blossoms again.

For more information or to donate food or personal hygiene items, call 914-334-0656. This number has also served to receive information regarding those who are in need of food and other basic needs. The number of inquiries has multiplied in recent weeks.

Dora Ochoa, a Peekskill resident, is director of the Hanami Foundation and the Pichincha Federation.

Charity Food Purchases Should Offer Better Nutrition

By Michael Gold

Do our local food donation programs worsen the health of their intended recipients?

Yes, of course, people need to eat, but we should also question the nutritional quality of the food we're donating to the hungry folks who need it.

An area supermarket is performing a laudable service by providing donation bags of food for the hungry, many of whom are currently suffering from the twin ravages of COVID-19 and sudden unemployment.

My heart goes out to anyone who is hungry. I have purchased donation bags at a local supermarket four times in recent weeks. But every time I opened the bags to see what I'm buying for the local food bank, I have been dismayed about what I've seen.

In mid-June, I found a package of Chips Ahoy Rainbow Chip Cookies. A serving size – two cookies – contains 10 grams of sugar. The cookies also have palm kernel oil, which is bad for your heart. This product has seven grams of fat, three grams of which are saturated. Saturated fat can increase cholesterol, also bad for your heart.

Other donation bags I have bought over these past few weeks have included a box of cake mix (26 grams of sugar in one-third of a cup); frosting (21 grams of sugar in two tablespoons); a bottle of cranberry juice (31 grams of sugar in a 10-ounce glass); a six-pack of Hi-C juice boxes (25 grams of sugar in one box); Mrs. Butterworth's Maple Syrup (37 grams of sugar in a quarter of a cup); and Goya Cookies (six grams of

sugar and three grams of fat, half of which is saturated).

For comparison, children should have at most 25 grams of sugar and 23 to 27 grams of saturated fat every day, according to the American Heart Association.

In fairness, there were some healthy foods included in the bags, including peanut butter, a can of black beans, anchovies and a can of tomatoes. One bag had pasta, but it was made with white flour, which is not as healthy as wheat pasta, which is higher in fiber and other nutrients and lower in calories.

I was exasperated by the inclusion of high-sugar and high-fat foods, but I didn't want to make a fuss about it in the supermarket. The bags were already packed and stapled, and I had been opening them up to see what was inside.

But the donation that really sent me into open rebellion was Pillsbury Funfetti Buttermilk Pancake and Waffle Mix with candy bits. A serving has 12 grams of sugar and one gram of fiber. I started opening the other bags in the charity food bag cart and found more of the same Funfetti Mix product.

After discussing this dietary travesty with my wife for a few minutes in front of a supermarket employee, who was none too happy about seeing me touch the bags, we took the bag with the Funfetti Mix and walked to an aisle with pancake mix products. There, we found a healthier substitute product – Krusteaz Buttermilk Mix, which has seven grams of sugar and three grams of fiber.

My mom, who was a registered dietitian for 40 years, said she would choose the Krusteaz product because of its lower sugar and higher fiber content. Fiber helps your heart, blood sugar and digestion.

My daughter compiled a list of several healthy foods which can go in a food donation bag. These include Pepperidge Farm 100 percent whole wheat bread, unsweetened soy milk (shelf life of three to four weeks if unopened), unsalted cashews and even apples. Apples have a shelf life of four to six weeks when stored in a refrigerator.

My wife said it best: would you buy this product for your child? If not, why buy it for a donation bag? If you care enough to buy food for an anonymous someone who needs it, why not make sure it's healthy, especially when you may be purchasing it for a child?

So, local supermarket, I don't want to publicly shame your store by identifying you. But I want you to consider two ideas. Either place empty food donation bags at the front of the store, with a list of prominently posted rules for what shoppers can't select, such as perishable items like bananas, lettuce, grapes and other produce and let your shoppers fill them with healthy products as they walk the aisles. Or, put healthier products in the donation bags.

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has published articles in The Washington Post, The New York Daily News and The Albany Times-Union, among other newspapers. Miriam Gold provided research assistance for this article.

Outdoor Dining and Retail Approved in Pleasantville

By Abby Luby

The Village of Pleasantville last week gave the green light for local restaurants and other village retail establishments to legally offer their services outdoors.

The Village Board approved an add-on to the code allowing businesses to access adjacent street areas until the end of the year.

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in mid-March, New York State ordered all but essential businesses to close. Restaurants were prohibited from serving patrons inside, and were only able to offer delivery or curbside pick-up services.

As the number of Westchester coronavirus cases and deaths have declined, Mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester, moved to Phase 2 on June 9, which allowed restaurants to reopen and serve patrons outside provided there are distancing protocols. The region was expected to enter Phase 3 on Tuesday, which would add indoor dining at 50 percent capacity along with personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors and spas.

The temporarily amended Pleasantville code requires an Outdoor Business Area Permit for retailers such as restaurants, gym operations and personal care services to move their services outside. Those businesses must apply for the permit at the Building Department and provide a site plan specifying if they wish to expand into a private parking lot or onto village-owned property or a public street, parking lot, sidewalk area, alleyway, park or other public area. Applications will

be approved by Building Inspector Robert Hughes.

"This provides a mechanism for the village to streamline outdoor dining proposals," Pleasantville Administrator Eric Morrissey said during last Monday's public hearing. "The village can approve outdoor seating in front of another business retail establishment if the restaurant gets written permission."

The new code also allows village retailers to circumvent the standard village application process.

"The intent of this is that it doesn't require getting on some board's agenda," said Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer. "It just requires Robert (Hughes) to look at what you are going to do and submitting a plan for how the expansion will be done. He's a very responsible and professional guy."

Operating restrictions are the responsibility of the business owner. For restaurateurs, food and beverages served outside must be prepared inside the established and alcoholic beverages can only be served to seated patrons. Other rules include tables set at least six feet apart and for face masks to be worn by staff and by customers when they aren't seated. Tables and chairs must be disinfected after every customer leaves.

During the hearing, discussions focused on possible problems posed by dining outdoors, including how to arrange tables without conflicting with curbside pick-up and pedestrians or keeping large groups of people to a minimum.

"We don't have a means of literally



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Restaurants in Pleasantville and many other areas in the region have received permission through amended codes or temporary legislation that permits outdoor dining to help restaurateurs, as well as in some cases personal services and gym operations, to do business outside.

controlling it other than telling the restaurants what spaces they are allowed to occupy," Scherer said. "The reality is if too many people come, hopefully they will quickly see no tables are available and they will leave. Patrons will not be allowed to buy food and drink and stand in the middle of the street."

The new code also stipulates that outdoor business areas must comply with all state and local building and fire code provisions including points of ingress and egress and access to fire extinguishers. There must

also be compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

The village may require a business owner to install a physical barrier or separation to protect patrons and employees from vehicular traffic, such as bollards, planter boxes or a Jersey barrier.

Many other municipalities in the area have added similar temporary provisions to allow for outdoor dining, and in some cases, personal services and gym operations to operate outside.



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Presented by Jessica Flores, Community Engagement Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Hudson Valley Chapter

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What Stays and What Goes in a House at Sale Time

Buyers and sellers who seem perfectly nice and normal throughout the sales transaction can suddenly lose their cool when the seller asks at the last minute that a modest chandelier over a kitchen table be excluded among the fixtures included in the sale.

"Oh no, you don't," the buyer might say, "it wasn't excluded in the listing!" And the fight begins.

This scenario happened to me a short while ago. The seller had forgotten to discuss the chandelier's exclusion with his agent on the listing. It was a very ordinary fixture, surely one not worth fighting about.

"But we bought it early on in our marriage, the seller protested to his agent. "Our family gathered under it every morning at breakfast, every night at dinner," he was reported to have said. And so it went.

But my buyer didn't relent. I appealed to his better judgment.

"That chandelier is an inexpensive Tiffany reproduction," I argued, "and couldn't have cost more than \$100. I'll buy one that's more than twice its quality as a closing gift for you," I said.

"No, I want that one," he said.

It looked as though it was going to come to a showdown. Just prior to this incident I had heard a story about how the sale of a home was lost because the seller had changed her mind about leaving her washer and dryer

behind because those particular models, with which she had fallen in love, had literally been discontinued and she didn't want to risk her emotional health with trying another brand.

Oh, my goodness, I declared, you're going to risk losing a house over a matter like a cheap kitchen chandelier? Sanity finally prevailed and the seller was allowed to keep the fixture to which he was so strongly attached.

Shortly after that experience, I was involved with another dispute, and you guessed it, it also involved lighting fixtures, this time in a gorgeous historic home when the seller had affixed the

highest-grade wall sconces and chandeliers you could imagine in every room, all quite appropriate to the 18th century surroundings. My buyers oohed and aahed over every one of them in every room.

Only after they decided to make an offer after the first showing did I make the inquiry of the seller (it was one of those hybrid For Sale By Owner transactions where the seller does most of the work, but the listing is on the Multiple Listing Service system) about exclusions and, sure enough, the lighting fixtures were "available for sale." My buyers were not happy and neither was I. It was embarrassing that I initially missed that information when I first read the notes attached to the listing.

Give yourself a test. Which of the following items would normally not be included as fixtures in the sale of a home: built-in stereo system, electric garage door opener, wall-to-wall carpet, built-in microwave oven, water heater, dishwasher, built-in stove, drapes, refrigerator, washer and dryer?

You are correct if you answered that the last four items are not included. All the other items are automatically included since they are attached and have become fixtures.

The literature on the subject is somewhat simplistic. For instance, lumber sitting by the side of a house is personal property because it is not permanently attached to the structure or the land, and is therefore not included in a home's sale price; however, when that lumber is nailed or bolted together to become a fence, the wood fence is a fixture attached to the land and is included in the sale.

Oddly, while the examples I gave about chandeliers would identify them as fixtures, their light bulbs are not permanently attached to the structure so they remain personal property. Very few sellers remove

their light bulbs from the light fixtures, as they are entitled to do, unless it's a particularly contentious sale. (Although, when I sold my first home, I ended up hating my buyer so much that I removed every light bulb from the house and every roll of toilet paper from the bathrooms. Hopefully, I've matured since those early years.)

If a home seller wants to exclude a fixture from the sale, it must be specifically itemized and excluded in the sales

contract.

When a dispute arises, whether or not an item is included in a home sale, it is accepted practice that courts favor (a) buyer over seller, (b) tenant over landlord and (c) lender over borrower.

Well, I guess we all know where we stand in such battles.

While Bill Primavera has enjoyed careers as a journalist and publicist, and he is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in northern Westchester and Putnam counties. To engage the services of The Home Guru Team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



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Family Band Stresses Importance of Music Through Difficult Times

By Ariel Markowski

What began as a simple jam session during an afternoon last August has developed into a neighborhood band supporting an important cause.

Allie Puerto, a 14-year-old freshman at Somers High School, recalls being invited to play music over a year ago with her aunt and uncle.

"I wouldn't pass up an opportunity to sing with my family," Puerto explained.

Over winter break, the band began to call itself "The Independence."

On June 13, during a driveway performance, the group decided to pay tribute to essential workers, while also collecting donations for the food pantry at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Mohegan Lake.

The Independence is comprised of Kirk, Jesse and Michelle Ehrenreich, John Hahn, Christian Laughlin, Adam Machado and Puerto. For the June 13 performance, they were joined by guitarist Rich Dashnaw, a band teacher.

The band has had the ability to create an original sound.

"Every song we play is different from the recording," said Puerto, one of the band's two vocalists along with Michelle Ehrenreich, her aunt.

Michelle and her husband Kirk, the band leader, organizer and keyboard player, are public school music teachers. Their son Jesse plays bass and trumpet.



Allie Puerto, a 14-year-old Somers High School freshman, is one of the vocalists for the band The Independence. Puerto's uncle, Kirk Ehrenreich, helped organize the band and Puerto's aunt, Michelle Ehrenreich, is also a vocalist for the group.

The other members, Christian, Adam and John, are responsible for the saxophone/flute, drums and trombone, respectively.

All sessions are currently held outside in order to maintain social distance. Despite the quarantine, the band has chosen to

the time," Kirk Ehrenreich said. "But during the quarantine, it's about human connection. During a good music session, when there is a connection, it's like having the ability to hear and sense someone else's heartbeat and presence through a cinderblock wall. It's powerful."

The band's name reflects the importance of being a part of something that is both social and educational. The idea, Kirk explained, is that this will lead each member to grow and, as a result, become more independent.

During its early performances, The Independence primarily played jazzy R&B songs, but has recently begun to incorporate more rock into its repertoire, according to Puerto.

A few of her favorite songs that are often included in the playlist are "The Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News' "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas and the Papas; and "I Got You" by James Brown.

"I think music is so important during this quarantine because [it's] an outlet for seeing people, and doing what you love," Puerto said. "With the band, I have something to look forward to every week."

The same could be said for The Independence's growing audience. The experience of uniting and enjoying something special, together, is only one of the many factors that have made the band a success.



continue to play together.

"I would say music is important all



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Sisters Find Way to Raise Money for Pediatric Cancer in Pandemic

By Martin Wilbur

For each of the past six years, Jenna and Rebecca Blum have spent one June morning at the Chappaqua Farmers Market selling their freshly-squeezed lemonade to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand to fight childhood cancer.

They won't happen this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic but the sisters have found another way to continue the tradition and help the charity.

They're following the advice of their late maternal grandfather Papa Neal who helped inspire their passion for charity. It also didn't hurt that he had a love of food and an appreciation for the simpler things in life.

"He was of the mindset that when life gave you lemons, you should make lemonade," said Rebecca, who just completed her sophomore year at Horace Greeley High School.

So this Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m., Jenna and Rebecca are partnering with the Ash & Ale Pizza Truck from Village Social in Mount Kisco to have a "block party pizza pop-up" in front of their family's Chappaqua home. The public must order online in advance by no later than 5 p.m. on Friday at the Ash & Ale website, and patrons will be assigned a time during the two-hour window for a socially distanced pick-up.

Best of all, 15 percent of the sales by the truck will be donated to Alex's Lemonade



Rebecca and Jenna Blum won't be able to have their lemonade stand at the Chappaqua Farmers Market to raise money for childhood cancer research but they have partnered with Village Social's Ash & Ale Pizza Truck this Saturday to continue their fundraising tradition.

Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer. In the previous six years the sisters have raised more than \$11,700.

For Jenna, who will be entering seventh grade in the fall, helping others is what it's all about.



"To me, any small acts of kindness can have a big impact on somebody else," she said. "Holding the door open for somebody who has their hands full or having a charity lemonade stand every year to raise money

for childhood cancer, I think you can always have an impact on somebody else."

There are five types of artisanal pizzas to choose from – Margherita, pepperoni, meatball, a four-cheese pizza and The Godfather (made with San Marzano tomatoes, soppressata, red onion, cherry peppers and provolone) along with salads, wings, meatballs and mac and cheese.

There will be, of course, three different types of lemonade – regular, blueberry and an alcoholic lemonade for adults.

Raising money for charity has been an important part of the sisters' lives. They have also been part of the Great Chappaqua Bake Sale, which has raised thousands of dollars during the past decade to combat childhood hunger.

"I think it's important for me to make other people's lives better because I work to show the world that no matter how small you are, if you have a dream you can go through with it, you can help," Rebecca said. "Any random acts of kindness can help the world out."

To order from the Ash & Ale Pizza Truck for a Saturday pickup and raise money Alex's Lemonade Stand, visit <https://www.ashandaletruck.com/pizzapopupordering>. To make a donation or find out more about the Blum sisters' efforts, visit <https://www.alexslimonade.org/mypage/2141629>.

For any questions or more information, e-mail Rebecca Blum at rebeccablum23@gmail.com.

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Mt. Kisco Resident Explores Food Insecurity in New Book

By Madeline Rosenberg

Tamara Silberman has been hiking Westchester County's trails for the past 25 years. But these same parks look different now. Swamps are drying up, Silberman has noticed, and water levels in streams and ponds are receding.

These environmental changes inspired Silberman's recently released novel, "The Farmer from Penzance," informed by the inequitable access to food and natural resources.

Writing out of concern for the environment and its disparate impact on different communities, 'Penzance' follows a teenage protagonist who flees his family's Hudson Valley organic farm for New York City, discovering relatives who live in abundance.

"The world is so different even for people in the same family," said Silberman, a Mount Kisco resident who co-owns Silver Spoon Catering. "The world is very different for each of the characters, and they're all related."

The coming-of-age novel develops around Simon, who begins the narrative paddling down the Hudson River in a canoe until he reaches Manhattan. Leaving behind his family's four-acre farm, he encounters his "food mogul" uncle, who owns a fruitful hydroponic farm, while Simon's father lives with a Hasidic family in Brooklyn.

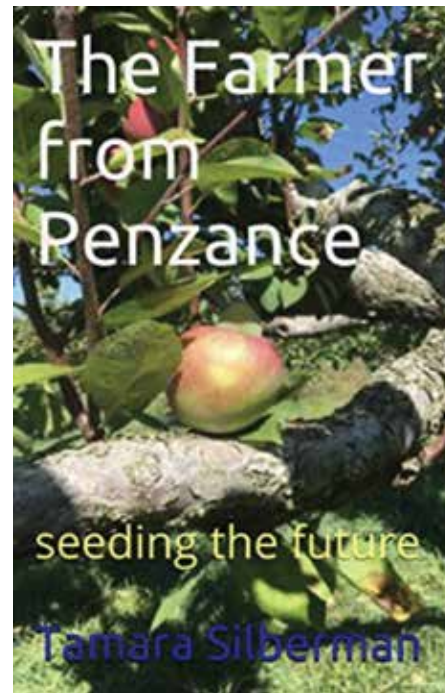
"He has to figure out who he is, in terms of food, religious background, who his parents are, what his family actually represents," Silberman said. "He grew up with one sort of ideal, and it was unsustainable in real life."

Silberman's background in food, as well as her years teaching across Westchester and New York City, impacted her book. She teaches Hebrew school and previously worked as a librarian. She has distributed food to Mount Kisco residents at a local food pantry and has catered Bar and Bat Mitzvah parties – experiences that have highlighted food inequalities, which the coronavirus pandemic has only deepened, Silberman said.

"We're stratified even by the foods we eat and how we acquire them, whether we get them in the supermarket or the food pantry or a restaurant," Silberman said. "When you talk to individual people, whether you're tutoring them or helping them collect food off a food pantry shelf, you get to see their individual needs and wants."

Even as Silberman sends her characters into directions that sometimes faintly resemble reality, the author said her novel is "not plain fiction," but centered around food insecurity and drought.

"We get different food depending on how much money we make, and all kinds of people are being disaffected and disoriented," Silberman said, "so [the



Tamara Silberman has had her latest novel, "The Farmer from Penzance," released, a story that explores the environment and the growing inequality gap among the population in accessing food.

book] is closer to the now that we're actually living in."

"The Farmer from Penzance" is available on Amazon Kindle, along with her other



novels, "The Art Dealer of Greenwich" and "Found Lives: Finding Love in the Monastery." Silberman also wrote the illustrated children's book "The Tailor and the Dress."

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A Few Thoughts on Jean Kennedy Smith's Westchester Connection

By Anthony Czarnecki

The death of Jean Kennedy Smith last Wednesday closes a long, memorable chapter in the Kennedy family saga.

She was the youngest sister and last surviving sibling of President John F. Kennedy. Jean was born in Boston on Feb. 20, 1928, but spent her early childhood in Westchester County when the Kennedy family moved to Bronxville in 1929, and where they remained until 1941.

Their 20-room home at 294 Pondfield Rd., known as "Crownlands" was demolished in 1953. Rose Kennedy would later describe the Bronxville years as a "golden interval" in the life of her family. In 1936 the Kennedys hosted a visit to their home in Bronxville by Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the Vatican Secretary of State, who would later serve as Pope Pius XII.

Smith was married to Stephen E. Smith and was a prominent advocate for children and adults with disabilities. She founded Very Special Arts (VSA) in 1974 and was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

Smith served with distinction as U.S. ambassador to Ireland under President Bill Clinton, but valued her privacy. She graciously authorized her publisher, HarperCollins, to release an advance



The Kennedy family home at 294 Pondfield Rd. in Bronxville.

galley proof of her memoir to me in 2016 before its official release so that I could incorporate several of her references to growing up in Bronxville within my magazine article. Her book, entitled "The Nine of Us: Growing Up Kennedy," was a non-fiction bestseller.

I had the privilege to meet Jean Kennedy Smith on June 21, 2017, when the New York Historical Society in Manhattan launched

a special JFK Centennial exhibit entitled "American Visionary: John F. Kennedy's Life and Times." Because she had such an engaging sense of humor, I chided her about her distinctive accent, which was generally attributed to her years living in Boston. I insisted that it sounded more like a distinctive Bronxville accent to me. She laughed and quickly responded that her family members would likely disagree



Jean Kennedy Smith with Anthony Czarnecki at the New York Historical Society in 2017.

with my assessment, but she loved her childhood years in Westchester County.

Cortlandt Manor resident Anthony Czarnecki is a long-serving member of the Board of Trustees of the Westchester County Historical Society. He researched and documented the Kennedys' time in the county in the article, "When the Kennedy Family Lived in Westchester County," published in the Spring 2017 issue of Westchester Historian Magazine.

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School Budget Voting Soars, But Will Voting By Mail Continue?

By Martin Wilbur

There was widespread satisfaction that all of last week's school budget votes passed with varying degrees of ease as voter participation rates skyrocketed.

The availability of absentee ballots mailed directly to each registered voter by their school district necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic was the obvious reason for the large upswing in voting.

Will the all-paper ballot vote by mail continue in the years ahead after the COVID-19 pandemic has waned?

"I would really caution as to say this is the way to go," said Ossining Superintendent of Schools Ray Sanchez, president of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents. "There were challenges, so I just want to make sure that whatever we change to, I just caution that we think through continuing in this manner."

The challenges varied from district to district, but common concerns were overwhelmed district clerks' offices, the added cost to districts and snafus that delayed residents in some areas from receiving their ballots in a timely fashion. The delays forced Gov. Andrew Cuomo to extend voting by one week to June 16.

Bob Schneider, executive director of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA), acknowledged that voting increased in its members' districts across the state. Certain school systems saw

increases of three to eight times over the 2019 turnout, he said.

Locally, for example, participation in Chappaqua's budget vote increased nearly three times from 1,274 to 3,547; Byram Hills went from 551 votes in 2019 to 2,186 this year; and Lakeland from 887 to 4,507. Other districts in the county saw similar rates of participation increases.

Schneider said the larger turnout was welcome but he would hesitate to continue with the exclusive mail-in vote because of the expense. On average, the vote cost

districts across the state five times as much compared to last year.

"I hope we don't continue this moving forward because of those additional costs to the school districts unless we find a solution," he said.

Sanchez added that if the public likes to vote by absentee ballot, that option has been available to them. Any registered voter can request the paper ballot from their district, he said.

However, state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) said to request a ballot from

a school district is a more difficult process. The state has been looking to increase participation not only in school votes but in primaries and general elections as well.

"I think we continue to look at ways to make voting easier in all our elections, both school board and political subdivision elections, and voting by mail is certainly one of those avenues," Harckham said.

He said that the state will have to determine whether there can be financial help for districts and personnel would need to handle the extra workload. However, if vote by mail became permanent districts would have more time to prepare, Harckham noted.



A Special Person's Special Day

Dorothy Dushin, a longtime parishioner of St. John's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville, turned 95 on June 21. The longtime Pleasantville resident recently moved into Cedar Manor Nursing Home in Ossining where she survived a bout with COVID-19. Last weekend, Rev. Mary B. Gregorius and Deacon Lynn Werdal and several St. John's parishioners visited Dushin through her window to celebrate her birthday.

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Dining Choices Continue to Expand as Phase 3 Begins This Week



By Morris Gut

On the first day of Phase 2, back on June 9, we made our way to the sprawling restaurant outdoor seating environment along Lyon Place in White Plains near the Waller-Maple parking lot.

All the eateries along that strip were preparing to reopen their shared decks. We were among the first to score a table on the patio at Lilly's and its companion restaurant Hudson Grille. Proprietor Brian Mahon was on the premises giving last-minute instructions to his waitstaff. You could feel the excitement in the air. The coronavirus curtain was about to be lifted, at least partially.

For us, it was about relaxing over a couple of Founders IPAs as the patio filled in. An order of Buffalo chicken wings satiated our hunger pangs. We lingered for a while. There were COVID-19 protocols in place. By the time we left, the patio was pretty much full. I was glad to see dining activity return to the county.

Fortina's Coronavirus Dining Protocols

Went to Armonk on a recent afternoon. Our destination was Fortina Pizza, celebrity-chef Christian Petroni's bastion of rustic Italian cuisine, housed near DeCicco & Sons. There were several active tables on the patio, while the inside dining rooms were waiting for Phase 3 to begin this week.

So, there we were, and all seemed to be going well. It was a pleasant setting on a beautiful day. Our friendly waiter came over to explain the new protocols – and that's when the trouble started.

We were handed directions. You had to order online through Fortina's website. As we proceeded, it turned out to be a very cumbersome process. No ordering directly to our server. They prompted us to the website on our cellphone.

Once there, you inspect the menu, scroll to see what's available, then figure out what you want to order, from cocktail to dessert, then add it all to the cart. We were told we could not carry a tab through the meal; you had to pay when the order was complete. If, by chance, you wanted something else off the menu during your meal, you had to start the cellphone process all over again.

Well, the process was neither comfortable nor user-friendly. It sucked the juice right out of the experience.

They did not have the beer I ordered, nor a decent substitute. But they bought us a round due to our obvious displeasure. The good news: once it arrived, our Tenderoni Pizza was delicious.



Fortina's Lasagna, one of a number of the restaurant's products being sold at DeCicco & Sons' Armonk location.

Frankly, though I enjoy Chef Petroni's work, I would not be anxious to return while the coronavirus protocol is in place. We hear the process is being used at their Stamford location as well. We have not encountered the "new normal" of dining out to this degree elsewhere. We will wait and see how this evolves.

During the COVID-19 crisis, some restaurants have tried to expand their product line to increase income. While walking through the glistening aisles at DeCicco & Sons in Armonk we spotted some prepared foods in the refrigerated section marked Fortina cheese lasagna and Pachetti pasta, each packaged in plastic containers, ready to heat up. Petroni and company are really spreading out.

Fortina Pizza is located at 17 Maple Ave. in Armonk. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Call 914-273-0900 or visit www.fortinapizza.com.

Shopping Reservations at DeCicco

An innovative approach to grocery market shopping has been enacted by DeCicco & Sons' locations in Ardsley, Armonk, Brewster, Harrison, Larchmont, Millwood, Pelham and Somers. They have partnered with Open Table, an online restaurant reservation service. Shoppers can now book a time slot to shop. Hopes are it will eliminate waiting on lines, though walk-ins are still welcome.

Owners John, Joe and Frank DeCicco said customers with a reservation must show up five minutes before their reservation and walk into the store for confirmation. DeCicco & Sons, founded out of a small Bronx storefront in 1973, has in recent years introduced a number of modern methods to their markets. www.deciccoandsons.com www.opentable.com/groceries

A Good Meal at Sergio's

The Arias/Pennacchio family have been



Patio dining at Lilly's and Hudson Grille in White Plains.



Sergio's Restaurant & Bar in Valhalla.

in the restaurant business for many years. If you follow the family tree, you know that Chef Sergio and his wife, Sylvia, had operated Piccola Trattoria in Dobbs Ferry, which is now in the hands of Chef Sergio Pennacchio, his brother-in-law.

The last time I encountered his brother, Chef Dan Pennacchio, he was cooking at Tesoro D'Italia in Pleasantville. And it all began with father and Chef Paolo Pennacchio, who had operated popular namesake spots in Yonkers and White Plains years ago.

Sergio's Restaurant & Bar in Valhalla is located in a free-standing house on Columbus Avenue that had operated for years as Franzl's, one of the last German restaurants in Westchester. It is a comforting establishment and offers a traditional Italian-American menu. The general manager and partner is the seasoned Jerry Zonghetti, who spent years working such fine dining rooms as The Box Tree, Auberge Maxime, Le Chambord and The Heights. Zonghetti and his staff saw to our needs efficiently. Their outdoor patio turned out to be a fine, breezy setting for an early evening meal.

Cocktails helped us get cozy. My companion ordered one of their three-course prix-fixe meals (\$24.95 on weekdays, \$27.95 on weekends). Her choices: PEI mussels prepared with



The mouth-watering lasagna at Sergio's.

onions, celery, tomatoes, basil and garlic sauce; breast of chicken Milanese topped with fresh salad; and cheesecake for dessert. I had my eyes on their house-made lasagna with ground meat, parmesan, oozing mozzarella, herbs and marinara sauce. There was more than enough to share. We enjoyed our repast thoroughly.

Sergio's Restaurant & Bar is located at 301 Columbus Ave. in Valhalla. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 3 p.m. (Kitchen hours are subject to change.) Take-out, curbside pick-up and delivery. Major credit cards. Reservations accepted. Free parking. Call 914-946-3580 or visit www.sergiosrestaurantandbar.com.

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

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How Big Wine Producers Dominate the Marketplace



By Nick Antonaccio

Whatever happened to the artisanal goods of years past? Where have the locally grown and produced products gone?

In spite of all the talk these days about farm-to-table and farmers markets, the vast majority of

products we purchase and consume are controlled by mega companies.

When you walk into your local grocery store, what brands do you see? The evolution of food production and marketing changed from hyperlocal products through the 1960s to dominant national brands in the 1990s. Today, that evolutionary process has resulted in more store shelves dominated by private label brands

(Shoprite eggs, CVS toothpaste, Costco meats, etc.). The economics are simple: store brands are less costly to sell, carry lower prices and are more profitable to stores than local or national brands.

Across the United States, wine shops are evolving in a similar fashion. Small producers and national brands compete for shelf space. A number of shops sell wines

that are private labeled, produced by mega wine producers, sans a mega corporation label.

All of this change makes for a dynamic and changing wine market. As Americans consume more wine and develop brand loyalty, the wine industry is feverishly seeking to carve out their distinct niche and to capitalize on this growing market.

Here's my view of the state of the wine industry today. It's influenced primarily by two 21st century phenomena – polarized supply sources and micro-focused marketing.

Polarized supply sources

1. More so than in other industries, wine market share is a battle between small producers and industrial giants. There are less hand-crafted wines and significantly more mass-produced wines. Fewer than 2 percent of all wineries in the United States account for 84 percent of all wine

production.

2. Last year Americans consumed 900 million gallons of wine (nearly 15 bottles per year per capita), most of which is domestically produced. This is more than any other country. This huge demand is impossible to satiate by small producers. The arithmetic: the average small winery production is less than 5,000 cases. The

number of wine companies in the United States is about 10,000. Nearly 75,000 small producers would be required to meet the current demand. This huge void can only be filled by the behemoths, as noted above.

3. Where do the 2 percenters source such a vast volume of wine? Domestic production is insufficient. Increasingly they rely on bulk wine juice purchased in the open market. Chile and Australia export huge vats to United States docks in mega barrels and bulk tankers; only bottling and labeling take place stateside.

Micro-focused marketing

1. The universal tenet of marketing across all products has always been branding. Establish a name, build a reputation and then work incessantly at maintaining loyalty. In the American wine industry, consistency and price have been the benchmarks of marketing efforts.

Consistency: Americans are creatures of habit. They want the same fast-food burger wherever and whenever they travel in the United States and they expect no less from their wine. They expect a consistent product that is available wherever they purchase their favorite wine and a consistent taste from vintage to vintage. Mega producers go to great lengths to deliver sameness.

Price: We don't like to pay a lot for our

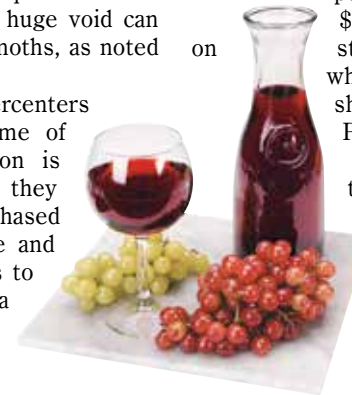
favorite wine. At the local wine shops in our home towns, 80 percent of all wine purchased is priced under \$11. Many of these labels store shelves are ubiquitous whether you walk into a wine shop in Portland, Maine or Portland, Ore.

2. Labeling has become the mantra for marketing wines. Cute pet names or pictures (Barefoot, Dancing Bull), sexual connotations or images (Marilyn Merlot, Méné a Trois) and sensationalized names (Fat Bastard, Arrogant Frog)

all seek to tantalize consumers and stand out from the competition, regardless of quality.

We all have an image of a bottle of wine being produced in a bucolic setting by a family winemaker, nurturing each bottle of wine to perfection. We all need to change our perception.

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



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Pocantico Hills Day Camp Launches Virtual Program

Pocantico Hills Day Camp has announced a new virtual format for this summer, dubbing the program “Camp Poco To Go!” Amidst COVID-19, the camp decided to close its traditional program on the Pocantico Hills school campus and unveiled a remote format instead to keep campers connected and engaged despite the challenging circumstances. Both in-district and out-of-district campers, ranging from rising Pre-K to rising ninth-graders, are eligible to register for the four-week camp season. Families can access the Campsite Parent

Portal on the Pocantico School District website at <https://www.pocanticohills.org> to register for the program. A one-time family access fee of \$100 allows all campers in the same household unlimited access to the virtual content. Thematic supply kits are also available for \$20 per kit. The weekly supplies will include some basic themed equipment such as a jump rope, bubbles and a navigational compass as well as craft kits to create picture frames, sand art and decorations. “The new virtual camp program focuses on establishing and strengthening the social

connection for campers,” Program Director Kerry Papa stated. “The program has also been designed to include the time-honored and valued traditions that make Camp Poco such a special place.” Weekly content is built around themes including “Stars and Stripes!” Week 1, July 6-10; “Poco Camp Out!” Week 2, July 13-17; “Superheroes!” Week 3, July 20-24; and “Color War!” Week 4, July 27-31. More than 30 hours of camp activities will be shared and posted each week. The sessions will balance on- and off-screen time and will be led by veteran Camp Poco

staff. Content will include live, interactive games such as Pictionary, trivia and many others. Prerecorded sessions will serve as tutorials for activities and encourage campers to try these challenges outdoors or away from the computer screen. All Camp Poco To Go staff are certified educators or mental health professionals. Opportunities for campers will be created to socialize and connect with each other using Microsoft Teams, a secure online platform.

Two Local Students to Vie for National Essay Contest Award on Free Press

A national student essay contest about the free press and the First Amendment has added a “Popular Choice Award” so people can vote on the best entries even as a distinguished jury eventually picks the final winners later this summer. MKL Public Relations, which has coordinated and promoted the contest, will send a \$1,000 check to the Popular Choice winner. The Popular Choice winners and the independent jury’s picks will be unveiled in mid-July. Two local students are among the 17 national finalists, having already been named local winners and national semifinalists after a

process that featured hundreds of submissions from students living throughout the United States. Sophia Spiegel is a student at Horace Greeley High School while Maddie Stone attends Fox Lane Middle School. “I am honored to be an essay finalist because especially during challenging times like these, is it imperative the American people have access to reliable sources of information to make educated decisions for them and their families,” said the 16-year-old Spiegel, who completed her sophomore year of high school last Friday. “It is so rewarding to know that my words are a part of

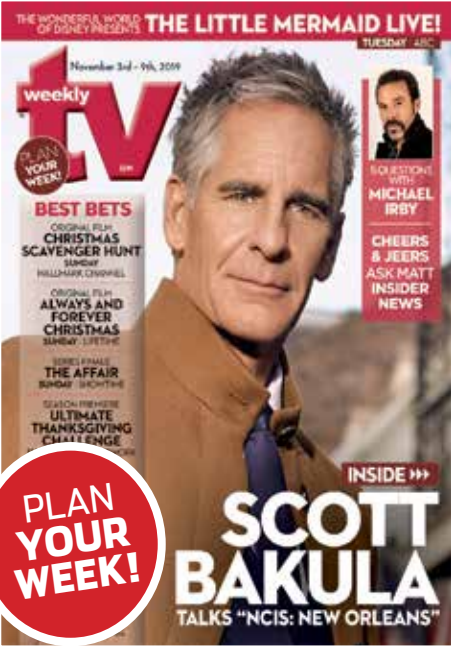
this important conversation.” Younger students have also enthusiastically participated in the contest in the middle school age range division. “This contest not only allows us to advocate for the freedom of the press, but gives kids a voice in the matter,” said the 13-year-old Stone, who just completed seventh grade on Friday. “It may not seem like it sometimes, but many youths have something to say.” By adding the Popular Choice component, contest organizers are hoping “we can get as many people as possible to read the essays and see how committed

and thoughtful our students are,” said Mary Kay Lazarus of MKL Public Relations. “We want to share these earnest, persuasive voices with as many of our fellow citizens, of all ages and backgrounds, as possible,” Lazarus stated. “To that end we invite the public, in addition to our distinguished jury, to vote on the finalist essays.” The winner in the three divisions (grades 6-8; grades 9-12; and university/college students) will each receive a \$5,000 check from the Boston Globe Foundation. The winning essayist with the highest ranking among the three categories will also receive a

full four-year scholarship with a current total value of \$152,000 to Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. Prizes will be awarded in Salt Lake City on Nov. 7 at the McCarthy Family Foundation Lecture Series: In Praise of Independent Journalism. Those interested in reading and voting on the essays can visit <https://mklpr.com/national-student-essay-competition/finalists>. The deadline to vote is July 3. The national jury consists of an elite group of journalists and other distinguished judges.

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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Midsummer. It's not a dream summer is here! Across Europe, June 24 is celebrated as Midsummer. To help you observe Midsummer, the words this week come from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare. Enjoy the quiz, and the summer season.

1. cloister (n.)	A) a repeated sound	B) a place of seclusion	C) a conclusion
2. filch (v.)	A) to make off with	B) rub smooth	C) frighten
3. waggish (adj.)	A) unable to sleep	B) sorrowful	C) witty
4. bate (v.)	A) to lessen the force of	B) refuse abruptly	C) entice
5. spleen (n.)	A) a feeling of anger	B) a slapping sound	C) a commotion
6. venturesome (adj.)	A) marked by truth	B) resembling glass	C) disposed to take risks
7. feign (v.)	A) to have sympathy	B) pretend	C) make happy
8. minimus (n.)	A) a small effort	B) a final goal	C) the little finger

ANSWERS:

1. B. A residence that is a place of religious seclusion
2. A. To make off with belongings of others; steal
3. C. Witty or joking; humorous
4. A. To moderate or restrain; lessen the force of
5. A. A feeling of resentful anger
6. C. Disposed to take risks; daring
7. B. To make believe with the intent to deceive; pretend
8. C. The fifth digit; the little finger or little toe

Sports

Happy Father's Day, My Prideful Dudes!



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

Hope all you dads out there had a great Father's Day this past weekend. Looking forward to seeing my pop upon his return from sunny Florida, along with the matriarch this week. These hugs are a long time coming due to this COVID-19 pandemic that won't cease and desist. We've made some great strides in this neck of the woods and

one can only hope for some form of normalcy by the Fourth of July or shortly thereafter.

In the meantime, dads, remember it's okay to sprinkle in a "no" every now and then between the "I love yous." It's pretty clear these days that we haven't mixed in enough "No, sorry, kiddo!" while we were handing out participation trophies to everyone just for signing up.

But it was a joy to skim through Facebook

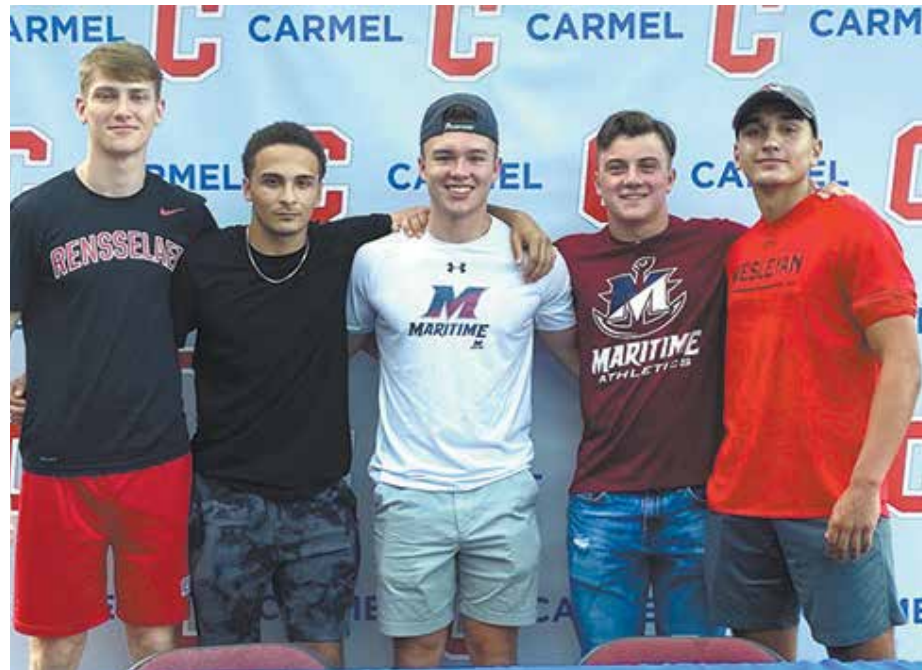


Ossining resident and Fordham Prep grad Aidan Curry was signed by the Texas Rangers last Friday.

Sunday and see a slew of proud papas and their young'uns plastered all over my screen, so I imagine there were some prideful pops out there this weekend, beginning with Bob Townsend of Chappaqua. Horace Greeley junior Nick Townsend and his older brother Matt, a 2015 Yale University graduate, are basketball royalty in Quakerland.

The sons of Bob and Lori Townsend are the epitome of student-athlete. They are high-A students and superbly gifted athletes. Young Nick just picked up his first college offer this week from Yale, the school where his brother Matt, Greeley's 2011 valedictorian, joined the Bulldogs after a stellar Section 1 hoops career.

Nick, a growing 6-foot-6 forward who was named Section 1's Mr. Basketball last March after leading the Quakers to their first sectional crown since 1980, has also been in touch with Stanford, Columbia, Brown, Boston University, Army and Air Force, some of the finest institutions in this country. Should Townsend, the first sophomore to win the Section 1 Mr. Basketball honor, back up his sophomore campaign with, oh, let's say one



VICTORIA BEAUCHESNE PHOTO

Despite the recent events within the Carmel School District of late, including a football coaching change that wasn't completely necessary, according to many taxpayers in the district, these former grid players gathered recently for their collegiate signings: Alex Beauchesne attending Wesleyan University; Will Boalt RPI; Andrew Bumgarner SUNY Maritime; Andrew Nunez SUNY Maritime; Jayson Rahming Hartwick College and Noah Wahl (not pictured) Hobart College.

or two more Mr. Basketball awards, he'll have his pick of the litter come signing day.

On Father's Day this past Sunday, I'm betting there was one proud papa somewhere in the sticks of Chappaqua.

Similarly, Ossining's Jim Curry had to be puffing out his chest last weekend when his son, Aidan, a 2020 Fordham Prep grad, inked an MLB rookie deal with the Texas Rangers. Aidan Curry, a 6-foot-5, 180-pound righthander with an 88-mile-per-hour heater, fulfilled his lifelong dream with some help from former Walter Panas baseball stud Mike Anderson, owner and chief pitching coach at Just Pitch It.

"My parents have been incredibly supportive since I was eight years old," Curry said. "They were always there for me. My pitching coach Mike Anderson and conditioning coach Ian Cole are the two guys that have pushed me to go the extra mile, so thanks to all of them."

"Coach Mike pushed me to realize that I had the stuff I needed to get to the next level," he added. "He helped me flip the switch to get here. He pushed me to perform and helped me discover two paths, either of which would have been great for me."

Those two paths included a full ride at Bucknell University or a shot at pro ball, which came about through the persistence of MLB scout Takeshi Sakurayama, aka "T-Money." Curry is good, really good, but anyone that knows him knows he's more than just some kid in a baseball uniform.

"He is a better person than he is a baseball player and he truly worked for his dream," said Anderson, a three-time East Carolina University captain who is among the most arm-protective instructors in the region.

Curry's next stop is – surprise! – Arizona, the spring training home to the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals, provided the complex reopens after being shut down last week amidst several COVID-19 cases.

"I'm obviously very excited to get it going," Curry said. "To be competing in a big league training facility is a dream come true."

And speaking of proud papas, one can only imagine the surge of pride Mahopac's Bob Becker felt when his daughter Shannon, the 2020 NYS Gatorade Player of the Year, recently combined with East Cobb Bullets (Ga.) teammate Lexie Delbrey on a perfect game against the Atlanta Vipers, one of the top 10 18U teams in the country, in Woodstock, Ga.

Randomness: Aunt Jemima, the Eskimo Pie, Paw Patrol, even George Washington, for God's sake, Uncle Ben, and probably before long, Uncle Fester and Uncle Grandpa, are all endangered species these days. I'm surprised they haven't come for Father's Day, too, since there are scores of deadbeat dads across the globe...Go ahead, continue to disrespect and vow to defund the police in these mega cities across the country and you will reap what you sow...

What in the world is going on with the exodus from Carmel High School? Superintendent Andy Irvin – shortly after having his contract extended for one year – has up and curiously resigned, effective late summer, joining Health and Athletics Director Susan Dullea, who departed for Rye High. This, on the heels of Irvin's refusal to back former football Coach Todd Cayea, who failed to be reappointed after 25 years and a 2019 Section 1 Coach of the Year honor. That's a lot of administrative leadership to lose in a little more than a month, but the community is resilient



Notre Dame-bound Mahopac junior P Shannon Becker (L) paired with teammate Lexie Delbrey to fire perfect game against top 10 18-U team in the nation.



Mahopac has long revered its Indian heritage and respects the Native American culture.

and should find a way to proceed. It's just not a good look right now no matter how you spin it.

Anytime we name someone or something, it's usually done as some form of reverence, like the Gaels, the Fighting Irish, and, yes, even the Indians! Are the Irish ticked about that? No, not one of the scores of Irishmen I know has ever protested it, so why are folks coming at Mahopac High, yet again, about its Indian nickname, which many in Mahopac claim honors the past of Native Americans (most notably the Algonquin) and its deep-rooted connection to the region?

The world has had a host of things gone awry within the last three months (see Seattle #CHOP), but there were the ABC News-vans in Mahopac last Friday spewing negative reports regarding its representation of the Indian mascot, which is the letter M with a simple Seminole hunting lance through it (no headdress etc). LoHud jumped in with a piece, too. The Indian is revered in Mahopac and its connection with Native Americans is honored by thousands at weekly sporting events to respect those who occupied the territory before them. On the other hand, I can see their point about the Redskins. That's a step too far.

What about the recent revelations regarding Yale, Brown, Rice and Georgetown allegedly having illicit ties to their universities? Oh, that doesn't fit the narrative, so it's okay? How about going after the Pirates instead. I don't recall reading much good about Blackbeard or Captain Morgan in my history books, though the latter makes a mean rum-based punch. #LeaveMahopacAlone!

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Our students have never been more deserving of applause.