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July 7 - July 13, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 670

## New Castle Proposes Mandatory Face Masks

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of New Castle is prepared to mandate the wearing of face masks, which may make it the first municipality in the state to approve such a law.

On July 14, the board will hold a public hearing on proposed legislation that will require masks on public and private property as well in places of business in most situations.

Each violator would be subject to fines of up to \$250 for the first offense and up to \$500 for each subsequent offense.

Last Friday morning Town Board members approved a resolution that immediately requires masks or face coverings for anyone on town property, such as parks and Town Hall, if unable to socially distance.

The action came a week after a cluster of 27 COVID-19 cases was traced to the June 20 Horace Greeley High School graduation and a non-school-sponsored gathering afterwards that included students from several neighboring districts.

If enacted, it is believed that the law would be the first measure of its kind in any municipality in the state, said Supervisor Ivy Pool.

"This could have happened anywhere," Pool said of the cluster of cases. "The county executive was right about that. But it didn't just happen anywhere; it happened here in New Castle. We're community leaders committed to action and unwilling to accept inaction. We're not perfect but we must strive to be better and to do better."

Pool said the goal of the legislation is not to issue summonses, generate revenue for the town or publicly shame violators but to ensure compliance for the sake of public health.

"We need to take those steps and we need to make those provisions and institute the laws that will keep us all safe going forward," said Deputy Supervisor Jeremy Saland.

On Monday, County Executive George Latimer updated the number of cases, but believes the outbreak is under control. Of the 27 cases, 21 were Chappaqua residents, three were from Mount Kisco, two from Bedford and

one from Pleasantville.

"We seem to have a reasonable amount of confidence that we have identified most of the contagion spread," Latimer said.

New Castle officials have noted that complaints and concerns regarding failure to use masks and socially distance have continued to be reported since the graduation.

Under the proposed law, if town police officers observe a violation, they would be able to issue a summons similar to a traffic ticket, said Town Attorney Nicholas Ward-Willis.

There is a list of exemptions, he said. Those include children under two years old or those unable to medically tolerate a face covering; people from the same household who are together or people who are able to successfully maintain at least six feet of separation from others; campers pursuant to the interim guidance for child care and day camp programs during the public health emergency; those receiving dental care; drivers traveling alone or in a vehicle with members of their own household; those participating in a sport or recreational activity until they cease that activity; people eating or drinking while seated; and first responders when it's not practical or in the midst of responding to an emergency.

Last week, Pool and Police Chief James Carroll warned residents in an e-mail that the town would step up enforcement of social distancing protocols and potentially be more aggressive in handing out summonses.

Ward-Willis said that while Carroll did cite offenses such as disorderly conduct and violations of public health law that could trigger fines, there were some questions about whether that would stand up if challenged regarding face masks and social distancing. Therefore, a law local requiring a face covering would be stronger.

"We felt it was much better to avoid those potential situations and just inject clarity," Ward-Willis said.

Until June 13, when an archaic state law that had outlawed the use of face masks in public was repealed, there was no legal mechanism for a municipality to require they be worn,

*continued on page 2*



### An Important Message

PAUL CARDI PHOTO

The owner of JC Automotive in Thornwood, John Carminucci, recently adorned his yellow truck in front of his shop with an important message. Carminucci, who over the years hasn't been shy to express how he feels on any number of issues, said while bad cops need to be removed it is important to remember that most cops protect their communities commendably, and wanted to express his support for local police.

## Judge Approves New Mt. Kisco Diner Settlement, Dismisses Bankruptcy Case

By Martin Wilbur

A judge dismissed the Mount Kisco Coach Diner's bankruptcy case last week and approved a new settlement agreement between the business and 11 former employees who sued because they charged that they were cheated out of pay.

The new agreement reached before U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert Drain stipulated that the diner and the Georgious family are required to pay the workers the \$900,000 they were owed plus 10 percent interest that has accrued since Mar. 10, the original date they were supposed to have paid the ex-workers.

Maureen Hussain, an attorney from the Worker Justice Center of New York representing the plaintiffs, said the diner's owners have made a partial payment of \$500,000 and are required to pay the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The Mount Kisco Coach Diner on East Main Street.

remainder of the settlement by Aug. 24.

The diner's owners are also required to undergo anti-discrimination training and to submit to periodic inspections of their records by the Worker Justice Center of New

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## New Castle Proposes Mandatory Face Masks

*continued from page 1*

Ward-Willis said. But with the repeal of that law three weeks ago, local governments are now free to introduce and approve their own legislation.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo in April signed an executive order urging that masks be worn but there was no enforcement mechanism, he added.

Despite the intent to protect public health and safety, Councilman Jason Lichtenthal was skeptical whether the law would have its desired effect.

"I do not have faith that this will modify

anyone's behavior," Lichtenthal said. "Over the course of the last three and a half, four months, and especially over the course of the last two to three weeks, I think our town has proven it will have no impact."

But Saland responded that the opposite could occur, suggesting that other municipalities could follow suit.

"We are going to lead the way, to make people accountable, specifically for not wearing a mask within six feet," he said.

The law would be enforceable until the end of a local, state or national emergency related to a pandemic or public health issue.

## Judge Approves New Mt. Kisco Diner Settlement, Dismisses Bankruptcy Case

*continued from page 1*

York, she said. That will ensure that they have changed their practices to treat their current employees fairly.

"We hope this case sends a clear message that exploiting workers is not only unjust, but also a losing business proposition," Hussain said in an e-mail.

Attempts to reach Lawrence Morrison, an attorney for the diner, were unsuccessful. Reached at the diner, one of the owners who did not identify himself, declined to comment on issues regarding the bankruptcy.

Three original plaintiffs brought the litigation before eight others opted in. They alleged in a Apr. 18, 2019, lawsuit in federal court that the diner's ownership failed to pay

the wages for all hours worked.

The complaint also stated that the predominantly Hispanic staff were subjected to a hostile work environment, which included racially derogatory insults. The owners also "perpetrated and condoned rampant sexual harassment against female employees," the complaint continued.

The original settlement, agreed to on Jan. 7, provided \$800,000 to the 11 plaintiffs and another \$100,000 in legal fees. Three Diamond Diner Corp. then submitted a bankruptcy petition on Mar. 10.

The diner reopened about three weeks ago and can have 50 percent capacity indoors and about 16 seats outside.

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# Area Ready to Advance to Phase 4 as State's Data Looks Encouraging

By Martin Wilbur

Phase 4 of the state's reopening plan begins locally on Tuesday as COVID-19 infection rates remain at or near 1 percent and hospitalizations and deaths continue at the lowest levels of the crisis.

Moving onto the fourth and final phase will allow for low-risk indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment, higher education and media production, such as the filming of movies or commercials, and professional sports without fans, according to the state.

Gyms and movie theaters, which were originally thought to be eligible to operate in Phase 4, will remain closed until health officials can gain more clarity about whether they are safe to operate, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday.

On Sunday, there were 518 positives from 54,328 tests administered in New York, a 0.95 percent rate, making it the lowest in the nation. There were 817 hospitalizations and nine deaths.

Cuomo said that earlier in the crisis it seemed "unimaginable" that the number of deaths from COVID-19 would get below 10 anytime soon. At its worst, the state saw 800 virus-related deaths in one day in April.

Since starting the phased reopening on May 15, the percentage of positive cases has declined from 5.9 percent. The statewide percentage has not exceeded 1.4 percent since June 4, with the transmission rate as low as 0.8 percent on June 28.

"Every expert warned us on the reopening that you would see the numbers start to go up because you were increasing activity," Cuomo said. "Our premise was you could moderate the activity so you could start the reopening, but monitor the number of cases and control the phased reopening so you could keep the number of cases down."

In the seven-county Mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam, the infection rate on Sunday was 0.9 percent. Putnam County saw just one positive in 217 tests while Westchester had 41 positive results in 3,639 tests or 1.1 percent.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said Monday there were only three deaths in the county during the past week, reaching 1,427 since March. COVID-19-related hospitalizations fell to 61 as of Saturday, down 10 from early last week.

The only drawback was an uptick in active cases to 527. Last week that number had decreased to as low as 471.

Latimer said the Horace Greeley High School graduation cluster could account for some of that increase, but expected that number to level off. A problem sign would be if cases were on the rise in multiple locations in the county rather than from a known incident.

"There've been no new cases the last two days that are traceable to the Chappaqua spike," Latimer said.

Officials at the local, county and state level have repeatedly urged residents to continue with face coverings, social distancing and hand washing.

"As we enter into Phase 4, it is important to keep up with the safety precautions that have gotten us this far," said Putnam County Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat. "Putnam residents have listened to the guidance and have put in a lot of hard work, but we are not out of the woods just yet."

The Putnam County Department of Health last Thursday issued a recommendation for residents to avoid travel to the 16 states that have been identified as requiring a quarantine upon entering the tristate area. Those states now include California, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and Tennessee. The states announced the previous week that remain on the list Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah. Washington state, which appeared on the original list, has been removed.

Nesheiwat said anyone found violating the New York travel-related quarantine order risk fines and potential loss of COVID-19 sick benefits. Violators may be subject to a judicial order and mandatory quarantine as well. A

first violation could result in a \$2,000 fine and could increase to \$10,000 for subsequent violations or exposures.

## School Reopening Uncertainty

Cuomo said Monday there has been no decision whether schools will reopen to in-person instruction in September. Each one of the roughly 700 districts in the state is expected to submit a reopening plan this summer.

Many local school districts have been discussing multiple scenarios for the fall among their own communities and regionally, including hybrid plans that would see students



## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

alternate between in-class and remote instruction. However, multiple school officials have mentioned they have been waiting for state guidance to firm up local plans.

The Board of Regents had announced last month that it would release its guidance on or about July 13.

Cuomo said the state would like to see students return to class but it is too early to make that call.

"We want kids back in school for a number of reasons but we're not going to say children should go back to school until we know it's safe," he said.

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# Task Force to Hold Public Info Session on Elections on Wednesday

A new Election Information Gathering Task Force has been established by Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains).

The task force will obtain public input about the June 23 primary election, how it was conducted and proactive steps that can be taken for the Nov. 3 general election. It will provide a report to the Board of

Legislators by Aug. 7.

The task force will hold a public input session this Wednesday, July 8 at 7 p.m. Its members are Vice Chair Alfreda Williams; Majority Leader MaryJane Shimsky; Legislator Catherine Borgia, chairwoman of the Budget & Appropriations Committee; and Co-chair Vedat Gashi, chairman of the Public Works & Transportation Committee.

In order to ensure public health safety, the session will be conducted remotely, rather than in person.

Legislators are interested in hearing about improvements related to early voting, communications, poll worker recruitment and training, poll sites, personal protection equipment and safety supplies and physical and absentee voting logistics.

"Our voting system had to deal with numerous shocks during the June primary, the result of the coronavirus pandemic and the largest primary voting turnout in decades," Shimsky said. "Westchester County's election system cannot be caught by surprise again. We need to make sure we are ready for what will likely be record-setting turnout for the general election in November. We look forward to working together with the Board of Elections, advocates, state officials and others to make sure our county is prepared for November."

Boykin said that while the Board of Legislators has no authority over how the Board of Elections conducts elections, it's crucial that voters in Westchester have confidence in how elections are held and what lawmakers can do to ensure that.

"Unfortunately, as a result, confusion about absentee voting was widespread and Election Day lines were unacceptably long," he said. "It is imperative that we examine what happened and understand quickly what steps need to be taken to make sure that things will be better in November."

The Board of Legislators is planning a

meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the week of July 20 (the date must still be determined) with County Board of Elections commissioners and staff. In future meetings, legislators are also planning to speak with voters, advocates, state Board of Elections representatives and others to help ensure that clear and proactive steps are taken before the general election.

The public will have multiple ways to participate in this week's task force meeting.

**Online:** To register to speak via the board's Webex online teleconferencing system, please visit this link. Speakers will be called in the order of registration at <https://westchestergov.webex.com/westchestergov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e544cf7dd60ae8922a643c64a2ea73444>. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes.

**Telephone:** Participants who wish to speak by phone should register by 3 p.m. on July 8. To register, members of the public may call 914-995-2800. Please leave a name and a call-back number where we can reach you when the comment session begins.

**In writing:** Comments can be submitted in writing by e-mailing [BOLPublicComments@westchesterlegislators.com](mailto:BOLPublicComments@westchesterlegislators.com) or mailing them to the clerk of the Board of Legislators, 148 Martine Ave., eighth floor, White Plains, N.Y. 10602. Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. on July 15.

The session will be streamed live and archived on the board's website at <http://www.westchesterlegislators.com>.

## Ride of a Lifetime

The New York Riders-Putnam County group had the honor of helping Korean War veteran Maynard L. Burhans cross an item off of his bucket list on July 2. Maynard, 88, is from the Schaghticoke Native American tribe. Born in 1932, he served in the U.S. Army, 24th Infantry Division, 31st Regiment, Fox Company. He wanted to ride a Harley-Davidson, and his wish was granted when he was driven through Patterson and Pawling on a Harley Trike model driven by Cliff Fitzgerald and escorted by the New York Riders group. Thank you for your service, Maynard. It was an honor and pleasure to help fulfill your wish.



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# Mt. Kisco Columbus Statue Removal Petition Sparks Conversation

By Madeline Rosenberg

A petition organized by a lifelong Mount Kisco resident is urging village officials to remove the Christopher Columbus statue that stands outside the public library, renewing conversations over the portrayal of his legacy.

Kaitlynn Hurtado, the 26-year-old petition organizer, is calling on the mayor and Board of Trustees to remove the statue, citing Columbus’s history of colonialism and enslavement of Indigenous peoples.

Hurtado told The Examiner that the momentum sweeping across the country concerning monuments depicting historical figures who have subjugated others amid racial justice protests empowered her to protest the Columbus statue. This is not the first time community members have protested the statue, she said.

“We’re all learning from this movement and from everyone speaking out, so I’m listening and I’m like, ‘Why do we have a Columbus statue in this town? Why would I want that to be standing tall in my town?’” Hurtado said.

The Village Board had approved locating the Columbus statue in the village in 1991, and the Italian American Club of Northern Westchester erected it the following year, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the explorer’s initial voyage to the New World. A plaque beneath the statue reads that it was erected to “symbolize that as Americans, we are an immigrant society.”

Italian American Club President Phil

DeSimone was reached but declined to speak about the issue in a telephone conversation.

More than 800 residents from Mount Kisco and surrounding communities have signed the petition to remove the statue. Many included reasons for signing that ranged from “Columbus was a murderous villain” to “it’s long overdue.”

“It is appalling to see a Christopher Columbus Statue in this town,” the petition reads. “Christopher Columbus has been well known for his numerous acts of violence when arriving to Hispaniola...Instead, we should be celebrating a local character who has done right by their community.”

Mayor Gina Picinich said last week that the Village Board had not yet received the petition. She added that the town will only accept the petition once it includes the signatories’ addresses, explaining that she wants to limit conversation over the statue to Mount Kisco residents and local business owners.

“We appreciate there’s a broader conversation going on nationally,” Picinich said, “but the conversation we will have, should the petition be submitted, is with the people within our community.”

Debate over how to address the Columbus statue continues to boil over online. While many former and current Mount Kisco residents say they want the statue torn down, others wrote that they oppose the move, commenting on the village Facebook page: “leave it up” and “stop tearing down history.”

Some residents also said they support an alternative solution: Give the statue more



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The Christopher Columbus statue in Mount Kisco is the latest monument that has come under scrutiny by those seeking racial justice.

context, instead of removing it. Shantae Artis, a Bedford Village resident who was raised in Mount Kisco, said the village should recognize and remember the history of Columbus, making clear that “there is no reverence of the man.”

“The effigy of Christopher Columbus

causes pain,” Artis said. “What Columbus stands for needs to be understood. Make it known that this was why it was erected and this is how we resolved our differences as a town. That speaks more volumes than just tearing things down.”

For Artis, telling this complicated story could mean erecting additional statues and plaques around the Columbus statue to contextualize it and represent the diversity of the village.

Still, Hurtado said she doesn’t see the point of preserving the Columbus statue in such a prominent location, and hopes one that represents every community in the village will replace it.

Communities across the region and country have already watched Columbus statues being brought down elsewhere. One was found on July 4 without a head in Waterbury, Conn., the same day protesters in Baltimore toppled a Columbus statue and tossed it into the harbor. In late June, a Columbus statue was removed in Norwalk, Conn.

As Mount Kisco grapples with the issue, Picinich said the Village Board’s response to the matter will depend on the needs of the community, putting aside the personal opinions of trustees. The village manager or the board must approve any activity that happens on town property, she said.

“It’s important that everyone’s voice is heard, that every individual be given the opportunity to share their view, that we find ways to build and strengthen community,” Picinich said.



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# WCC Announces Plan to Continue Remote Learning in Fall Semester

Westchester Community College announced last week that it will offer most of its Fall 2020 classes remotely.

WCC's re-emergence plans were developed by the college's Pandemic Response Team with recommendations from federal, state and county health professionals and government to keep the community safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A majority of classes will be conducted entirely through remote/online environments synchronously with instructor and students present at established times. Some classes will be asynchronous, which means there are no scheduled meeting times; rather, learning takes place online and course materials will be accessed by students at times convenient

to them. A limited number of classes will be offered on site because they require access to specialized labs and equipment.

In addition to most courses, student services will continue to be provided remotely. These services include academic counselors to help students find the right classes; academic support and tutoring for students in need of additional instruction and assistance; mental health counselors for any student suffering through these stressful times; and the library that offers remote research assistance as well as access to books, videos and more.

Furthermore, the Westchester Community College Foundation supports student access with financial support through scholarships as well as supporting our student laptop loaner program. Additionally, the college will offer a vibrant array of online Student Involvement programming ranging from discipline specific clubs and forums on contemporary issues to mindfulness meditation and Zumba® classes. Students can find more information and register for courses at [www.sunywcc.edu/fall-session](http://www.sunywcc.edu/fall-session).

This announcement comes immediately

following the College receiving approval for its plans from the New York State Governor's Office and the State University of New York System Administration.

"Our commitment is to provide a healthy, safe and engaged environment where students can stay on track with their academic plans and career goals," said Dr. Belinda Miles, president of Westchester Community College. "We look forward to welcoming students back in a virtual setting, which has already helped thousands of students complete spring and summer courses."

## Police Blotter

### North Castle Police Department

**June 26:** A caller reported a verbal dispute at the Sunoco station on Main Street at 5:15 p.m. that involved two customers over gas. The responding officers reported that there was a disagreement over payment, which was subsequently resolved. The party was given the proper amount of gas, which he paid for and all parties went on their way.

**June 26:** Report of a brush fire in the median on I-684, just south of Exit 2, at 7:37 p.m. County Fire Control was notified.

**June 29:** A caller reported at 8:01 a.m. that a large truck went over a grading in the ground on Round Hill Road and the top was dislodged, leaving a large hole in the roadway. The responding officer confirmed that the grading was cracked and fell inside leaving a hole. The Highway Department

was notified and was able to cover the hole.

**June 30:** Graffiti was found on Rainbow Bridge on Maryland Avenue at 10:20 a.m. The responding officer confirmed extensive graffiti spray painted on the bridge pathway. Photographs were secured. The town's Highway Department was advised and corrective action will be taken either by the department or by Parks & Recreation.


**July 1:** An employee at the Shell station on Main Street reported that a vehicle (NY HFS5601) was left at the station for maintenance and was just stolen from the parking lot.

### Yorktown Police Department

**June 27:** Stephen Zumpano, 37, of Yorktown was arrested at 9:09 p.m. and charged with two counts of criminal mischief,

attempted assault, endangering the welfare of a child and harassment following a walk-in report at police headquarters of a domestic incident at a town residence. Following an investigation, it is alleged that during a verbal argument he threatened the victim and damaged her cell phone. It is also alleged Zumpano attempted to injure the victim while she was holding a child and kicked the victim's car, causing damage to the bumper. He was located at his home and arrested. A temporary order of protection was issued to the victim and child. Zumpano is due to appear in Yorktown Town Court on Aug. 13.

**June 28:** A 49-year-old Yonkers man was arrested at 12:10 a.m. and charged with DWI following the report of a car hitting a tree on Mohansic Avenue. He is due to appear in Yorktown Town Court on Aug. 6.



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# More Aid, Voluntary Workforce Reduction Part of W'chester Deficit Strategy

By Martin Wilbur

Additional federal aid and a new voluntary program allowing county employees to consider leaving their jobs in exchange for severance pay will help trim Westchester County's budget deficit that could be as high as \$250 million.

County Executive George Latimer announced last week that Westchester will receive \$38.5 million more in aid than originally anticipated and will save about \$2.8 million because there are fewer inmates at the county jail.

This summer eligible county employees may choose to participate in the Voluntary Separation Program that will pay them \$1,000 for every year of service. Eligible employees have until July 24 to decide whether they will participate in the program that is expected to save the county between \$1 million and \$2 million for the remainder of 2020, Latimer said.

A participating employee would receive their severance pay within 75 days of their departure.

"These are actions that we've taken proactively," Latimer said. "We're not waiting to find out, 'Oh my God, we have a big gap, how are we going to cover it, how are we going to pay for it?'"

The deficit was caused by the shutdown of the economy in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with another \$21 million in savings and reallocations disclosed more than two months ago, the county has now



Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced last Wednesday additional plans to address a county deficit of as much as \$250 million caused by the COVID-19-induced economic shutdown.

accounted for more than \$62 million of the estimated budget gap, leaving a deficit of \$118 million to \$188 million, Latimer said. The reallocation announced in April called for the bonding of tax certioraris and the county's pension obligation and using \$10 million that was to be deposited into fund balance.

Additional steps will have to be taken, although Latimer said he remains hopeful

that Washington will provide some help for states, counties and municipalities with COVID-19 now surging in many areas of the country, decimating budgets and depressing revenues in most states.

Westchester is due to receive another \$30 million in aid for the Bee-Line bus service as a result of the CARES Act, another \$4.7 million in enhanced Medicaid payments and an additional \$3.8 million from its U.S.

marshal service contract.

Latimer said his administration is doing everything it can to avoid furloughs and layoffs, which would only hurt the local economy and make it difficult to deliver the essential services that the public expects.

"If we lay off a significant number of people in the county government we're going to add to the economic downturn in this county," he said. "We are going to exacerbate the problems that you have right now."

County employees eligible for the Voluntary Separation Program are members of the CSEA, Teamsters, nurse's union and management not represented by a union. The program will not include workers at Westchester Community College, the district attorney's investigators, police and corrections officers or any elected official.

The program would save up to \$2 million for the final five months of this year, but would also cut an estimated \$6 million to \$10 million in the 2021 budget.

"It is the necessary and right thing to do right now to make this offer and to try to determine how many employees choose to participate in the program, to save whatever we can to close the gap that we have," Latimer said.

Once the year is over, the county would decide whether to keep the positions vacant, to fill them later on in 2021 or to replace the workers with someone with less experience at a lower salary.

The Board of Legislators is expected to approve the program at its July 13 meeting.

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# Obituaries

## Linda Bobst

On July 1, Linda Kirsten Bobst passed away peacefully after a long illness. She was 80.

Bobst was born on Sept. 28, 1939, in Columbus, Ohio. She married her husband, Richard, in 1960, beginning their family and their journey through life. Their adventure took them from Columbus to Cincinnati to Indianapolis to Bedford Hills, where she taught middle school math for many years while also volunteering her time for her local library, children's literacy efforts and her church.

A move back to Indiana brought an early retirement of sorts, though she kept busy volunteering her time and talent to local literacy efforts in Brown County – when she wasn't doting on or knitting

something spectacular for any of her eight grandchildren.

She and Richard finally settled in Cary, N.C. to be closer to their family. Left to celebrate her life is Richard, her husband of 60 years; her daughters, Susan (Doug) and Lisa (Scott); son Patrick; and eight grandchildren.

Due to the current pandemic situation, there are no immediate plans for a memorial

service. The family wishes to thank and express their deep appreciation to the many people who helped with Linda's care, particularly the staff at Transitions Lifecare in Raleigh, N.C. who helped make her final months as comfortable and peaceful as possible.

## Warren Taylor

Warren W. Taylor passed away on June 28. He was 88.

Taylor was born in the Bronx on Oct. 31, 1931, the son of Ethel Jarvis and John Taylor. He married his love, Joan Ethel Sheppard, on May 3, 1952. They raised three children in Pleasantville, Joanne (McCarthy), Carol (Conte) and Robert Taylor. He also has two grandchildren, Christopher Conte and Gavin McCarthy, and a great-granddaughter, Raegan Conte.

He proudly served his country from

1952 to 1954 in the U.S. Army. Taylor was part owner of T.S.I., Inc., a commercial color lab in Mamaroneck for more than 30 years.

He was a devoted husband and father. He had a quick wit and everyone who knew him loved him. Every day he lived was a gift to his family. He also had a special affection for his pet cat Smokey.

The funeral was private at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville.

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## Abraham Landzberg

Abraham (also called Abe or Al) Landzberg passed away peacefully of natural causes while in his sleep on July 1 in his Yorktown Heights home with his children by his side. He was 90.

Landzberg was born in Brooklyn on Sept. 10, 1929, to Sol and Anna Landzberg. In 1935, the family moved to an apartment on Grand Avenue in the Bronx over the liquor store that Sol and Anna had purchased. The family attended the 1939 World's Fair where young Al was enthralled with the GM Pavilion's Future City and was inspired to then create a set of bookends with the Trylon and Perisphere motif.

He subsequently became interested in engineering and was fascinated by the bridges, tunnels and skyscrapers of New York City. He was accepted to NYU and decided to major in mechanical engineering. Al was a member of the NYU Glee Club, which performed at Carnegie Hall. His summer jobs during college included working in a sheet metal shop, as a mechanical designer and as a busboy and waiter at hotels in the Catskills. He received his master's degree from Princeton University in mechanical engineering where his thesis was on the use of "differential equations to solve problems of relative motion." Landzberg was hired by General Electric in Schenectady upon graduation.

Al met Joan Magliacano in the spring of 1951 at a "hootenanny" in lower Manhattan where Pete Seeger sang and led in folk singing and square dancing. He was smitten with Joan who checked all of his boxes, later saying that she was "attractive, dark-haired, well-spoken, smart, progressive, witty and shorter than I was." After what he described as a "tempestuous relationship," family contrivances brought them together to become engaged in the spring of 1955. They married weeks later on June 26, 1955, at the Broadway Central Hotel in Manhattan.

After accepting a job at IBM's research lab in Yorktown in early 1959, the couple first moved to Peekskill and subsequently to the home they built in Yorktown Heights, where Landzberg lived for the remainder of his life. He worked at IBM for 30 years, and upon retirement he edited the Microelectronics

Manufacturing Diagnostics Handbook, which is relevant to this day (and still available on Amazon.com).

In the 1970s, Al became interested in metal sculpture after seeing the work of German blacksmith Herman Schwagereit, who subsequently taught Al about metal work and forging techniques. He became an accomplished metal sculptor, learning arc, stick and MIG welding and acquiring a huge variety of tools to outfit his backyard studio.

For many years, Landzberg mentored Hendrick Hudson High School students in the art of welding and metal work. He produced more than 100 sculptures, which often reflect the inspiring beauty of the Hudson Valley. Many of those can be viewed at <http://www.sculpturelandzbergstudio.com>. He donated sculptures to the Town of Yorktown (on the Community Center field) and the City of Peekskill outside The Factoria at Charles Point.

Landzberg was a lifelong learner who was constantly coming up with new projects including a nonprofit-managed "environmental education pier" proposal for Lower Manhattan (<http://riversalivenyc.org/>) and inventions such as a raccoon-proof garbage can holder and a telescoping hedge trimmer. In the days prior to his death, Al was talking about and very interested in promoting the possibilities of using hemp to create plastic materials.

Landzberg was predeceased by his wife, Joan, who passed in 2015. He is survived by his brother, Morris, of Pembroke Pines, Fla. (who gave Al the nickname Bummy as a child); his three loving children, Judi Friedman of Pleasantville, Carol (Chuck) Newman of Yorktown Heights and Steven (Debbie) Landzberg of Waccabuc; and seven loving grandchildren, Spencer and Oliver Friedman, Lily (Jon Weinberg) and Sara Newman and Justin, Charlotte and Lucy Landzberg.

Due to COVID-19, the family will conduct a graveside service on Friday at the First Hebrew Congregation cemetery. No Shiva will be held. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his memory to the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater at [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org) or to a charity of your choice.

## Yorktown Democrats Elect New Chairs and Treasurer, Re-elect Secretary

The Yorktown Democratic Committee (YDC) held its biannual reorganization meeting on Wednesday, June 24. The YDC voted unanimously for Mark A. Lieberman and Marni Rabin-Marron to be the co-chairs, Marcia L. Stone for vice chair and Robert Kearney for treasurer. The committee re-elected Sheila Schraier for secretary.

The entire committee thanked former co-chairs Ron Stokes and Elliot Krowe, vice chair Vicky Abbate, operations chair Richard Abbate and treasurer Joseph Vittoria for multiple highly productive terms of service. In appreciation for their unselfish dedication and years of hard work, the committee was pleased to grant

Stokes and Krowe each the honorary title of co-chair emeritus.

The 2020 elections will take our full commitment to elect Joe Biden for President, re-elect Pete

Harcsham for state senator, elect Stephanie Keegan for state assemblywoman and (most likely) Mondaire Jones for Congress and Mimi Rocah for Westchester County district attorney.

We are an open and welcoming community of Democrats eager to hear from, support and represent the people of Yorktown.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/YorktownDemocrats](http://www.facebook.com/YorktownDemocrats).



# Chappaqua Schools to Tackle Race and Bias Issues This Summer

By Martin Wilbur

Chappaqua school officials laid out a multistep strategy for this summer to ensure racist incidents involving students are properly addressed and to tackle shortcomings in curriculum and a lack of staff diversity.

Work to be done over the next two months includes a review of the district's Code of Conduct, professional development for all staff and extending the district's partnership with Facing History, a nonprofit organization that develops education material to address bigotry and hate.

The district has also retained the firm of CampbellJones & Associates, which will work with school districts and organizations to improve cultural responsiveness among staff.

A new position to support students, staff and families of color, which does not yet have a title, has also been created and will be filled.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman said the district will report at a September Board of Education's meeting to update the progress on these and other measures.

"I know we have students who do not feel wanted for who they are in this district and we know we need to take an anti-racism stance and develop a curriculum that supports this position," Ackerman said during the board's June 23 meeting.

"We know that many black and brown students are struggling with the support that

they need and deserve. We know we need to diversify our staff. We know we need to be aggressive in how we approach social justice education and that pedagogical curricular discussion."

The outline of the district's plans follows intense criticism leveled at the administration and the board during a special live-streamed meeting on June 8 just days after a racist Tik Tok video resurfaced from earlier this year involving several Horace Greeley High School students. Complaints ranged from overt racism to the district largely ignoring problems regarding race to a lack of diversity among faculty.

Board President Jane Shephardson said one measure is to review the district Code of Conduct so there are appropriate consequences for racist and discriminatory behavior. She called on families who often look for consequences in other students, but don't want that to apply to their own children.

"We are all going to make mistakes here as we try to do the hard work that is not always comfortable and not always easy for everyone, but I invite you to hold us accountable and I ask that you trust that we will all do our best to keep pushing and to keep moving the work forward," Shephardson said.

Along with a stakeholder team, officials will evaluate what a district's response should be when incidents occur, balancing accountability with restorative practices and how and when the district communicates with the community, Ackerman said.



Chappaqua Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman.

District officials introduced Brenda and Franklin CampbellJones, who have worked with school districts for more than 20 years throughout the United States and Canada on issues of race and equity.

They call they model they use cultural efficiency, which provides a structure so that the people within a school system have regular conversations.

Brenda CampbellJones said the challenge is to make sure that critique and change are accepted in the district by faculty and staff. She said if they fail to have significant

influence on the adults, then the kids' behavior won't change because the students' model what they see in grownups.

"What we do our best to do is to help you to see your espoused values, the values that are in use, and then bring the two of them together so that what you espouse is exactly what you do," Brenda CampbellJones said. "And that is hard for some people."

Dr. Tony Sinanis, assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development, said that starting in the 2018-19 school year the district began revising its processes and procedures to mitigate implicit biases in the hiring processes.

About 9 percent of the current staff identified as people of color, he said. For the 2019-20 school year, the district hired about 30 new staff members, but only one was a person of color. So far for the upcoming year, that percentage is about 30 percent.

Sinanis said the district adjusted its job descriptions and how it described the district to make Chappaqua more inviting for educators of different backgrounds.

"We wanted to make sure that we appealed to underrepresented members of the community in our district," he said.

The district also plans to develop an alumni mentorship program this summer, which will allow students of color to have a resource to turn to.

Ackerman said the district will conduct a climate assessment by receiving feedback of random groups of students in each school.



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# Obituaries

## Christy Rizzo

Always young at heart, Christy G. Rizzo passed away at the age of 95 on June 29.

He was born in a small house in Astoria, Queens on Jan. 30, 1925, to Mary and James Rizzo. He spent his childhood in Astoria where he loved sports, especially playing roller hockey in the street with his friends, Ralph, Johnny and Dave.

Graduating early from high school in January 1942, Rizzo enlisted in the Navy and served on the destroyer escort USS Runels. During World War II, the USS Runels completed missions in Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, including the evacuation of Allied POWs from Japanese camps at the war's end. However, the story he liked to tell his daughters about the war was how he and his friends cooked zeppole for themselves in the engine room.

Shortly after returning home from the war, Rizzo met Mary Kavanagh. They were married in 1948 at St. Joseph's Church in Astoria. Christy soon began working for the J.C. Penny Company in its Manhattan office, his career lasting more than 30 years. Throughout that time, he lived with his wife and two daughters in Flushing, Queens. He was eventually blessed with three granddaughters.

Christy loved to be surrounded by people. He and Mary frequently hosted large

gatherings of family and friends in their house and yard in Flushing and eventually at the dream house they had built on Candlewood Lake in Connecticut after they both retired.

Everyone that knew him would agree that Christy was a generous man. His two favorite things to share were food – he was a terrific

cook – and his sense of humor. But he also offered his time and his skills to others. He had endless patience as he taught his many nieces, nephews and his children's friends how to water ski. Rizzo helped build a public playground near his home in Brookfield where his granddaughters would eventually play. He was active on food drives, toy drives and clothing drives. When his neighbor's child was paralyzed by a tragic accident, he organized

a fundraising event to raise money to buy the family a specially equipped van.

Devastated by the death of his beloved wife in 2001, Rizzo moved from Candlewood Lake to Heritage Hills in Somers. He was immediately welcomed by a wonderful group of people, with whom he swam at the pool, played shuffleboard and, of course, bocce. He often organized events for his friends like luncheons and outings and was well known for trying to include everyone in the fun.

Eventually illness slowed him down, but he never lost his sense of humor or his craving for "grease-cutters," his pre-dessert sweets.

Rizzo is survived by his daughter, Nancy



Christy Rizzo

Maika; sons-in-law Dennis Maika and Jim Kramer; his three granddaughters, Elizabeth Leighton (Rich), Alison Kramer-Kuhn (Joe) and Julianne Maika; and his two great-grandchildren, Henry Leighton and Mary Leighton. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mary; his sister, Jenny; his

daughter, Kathy; and his wife, Mary, who was the love of his life.

Due to health risks caused by the current pandemic, burial services will be private.

Those wishing to remember him with a charitable donation are encouraged to support cureHHT <https://curehht.org>.

## Arudi Srihari

Dr. Arudi Srihari of Thornwood passed away peacefully on June 24. He was 74.

Born in Bangalore, India, he was the son of Adinarayanaiah and Rukmini, who predeceased him. He was one of four children, including his late brother, Srinivas.

Arudi immigrated to the United States in 1971 and became a U.S. citizen in 1981. He met his beloved wife, Susanne, working at Grasslands Hospital in Valhalla and went on to have a long and dedicated career for more than 40 years as a child psychiatrist. He worked in many locations over the years, but most notably spent time helping others at Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center, Putnam Family & Community Services, Catholic Charities and Westchester Jewish Community Services. All who met Arudi knew him as a calm, patient, gentle and wise man who always took the

time to listen to those around him who were in need of help.

Arudi, known affectionately as Hari to his close family, was a devoted husband, a loving father, a cherished grandfather and an avid Yankees fan. He led a joyful and deeply unselfish life. His sole focus was the happiness of his wife, his children and his grandchildren; he always put himself last and would have sacrificed anything for them.

Arudi is survived by his wife, Susanne (née Reilly) Srihari; his son, Michael Srihari and his wife, Sandra; his daughters, Neela Srihari and Tara Fink and her husband, Glenn; his four adoring grandchildren, Jack Srihari, Tyler Srihari, Samantha Srihari and Gavin Fink; his brother, Srivatsa and his wife, Sridevi; his sister, Uma; and extended family, nieces and nephews in both the Reilly family and abroad in India.



Arudi Srihari

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# Report: Mountain Bike Jumps in County Park Too Dangerous

By Martin Wilbur

A consultant who inspected an illegally built short track jumping trail in a Westchester County park concluded the site is too dangerous as currently constructed but it could be transformed into a properly functioning attraction.

The consultant, Jim Dellavalle, principal of Dellavalle Designs of East Stroudsburg, Pa., reported to the county last month that the popular trail among many area mountain bikers within an area of Graham Hills Park in Mount Pleasant needs to be revamped. It contains rollers, tabletops and berms, some of which is made with wood that fell to the forest floor and imbedded into the structures to add mass, which is not a proper way of constructing bases to make mass and height, he stated.

"These Short Track Trails are spiderwebbed and criss-cross each other several times," Dellavalle's report stated. "The intersections within the short track trails that do criss-cross here are very dangerous because the riders travel at a high rate of speed at the point of these crossings."

Other shortcomings include a lack of signage, which fails to inform users of the course's difficulty or progression, multiple locations where bikers could have head-on collisions and the trail doesn't circle back to the start. Dellavalle also cited encroachment into a wetland preservation area where sediment runs off into the wetlands in several locations.

Furthermore, access to the area, which is in the woods closest to the intersection of the Saw Mill Parkway and Marble Avenue, is



A portion of the short track jumping trail at Graham Hills in Mount Pleasant that was illegally developed over the years. The trail needs to be brought up to the proper safety standards.

too perilous for many pedestrians and bikers to navigate, and with no parking lot, anyone arriving by car would have to park in the grassy area off the parkway.

County Attorney John Nonna said the trail has been deemed too risky to use in its current condition and directed the Parks Department to post signs and tape off the area.

The county, along with Dellavalle and the advocates for the mountain bikers, who recommended the consultant, will try to determine whether the area could be salvaged and made safer or a trail should be constructed in another portion of the park, Nonna said. He said some county officials, such as Director of Park Facilities David DeLucia, have suggested

an area close to Route 117 where there's parking nearby should be considered.

"I think what they're trying to determine is whether they can make changes to the area where the jumps currently are or whether they should create a new area, which Dave DeLucia mentioned he was in favor of where the old Mount Pleasant pool was," Nonna said.

The short track jumping trail caught the attention of the county in May despite it having been built piecemeal over 30 to 40 years. In March, at about the time that the COVID-19 pandemic hit, bikers with apparently extra time on their hands added to the jumps.

One of the proponents of the site, Jaymeson

Leo, said despite the concerns, the current location is the best place.

"I don't know that in Graham Hills (Park) whether there are really any other ideal locations," Leo said. "The thing about that area is that it has a natural slope that you would pick for that kind of a skills park, where it's not a mountainside like the rest of Graham Hills and it's not completely flat. It has a natural slope that allows for a good flow and a good momentum for the jumps."

Dellavalle noted that its natural setting, grade and tree canopy is "perfect" for the trail.

"The amount of hours that went into creating this area must be enormous," his report stated. "With better trail building experience and leadership from a Land Manager this could be reclaimed and restored. If the area can be adjusted to satisfy the Land Manager it would be a great place to ride bikes and enjoy the outdoors."

Bob Dillon, head coach of the Pleasantville mountain bike team, said he's hopeful something can be worked out with the county. If the suggested changes can be made, including moving the portion that encroaches on wetlands along with improved signage and making certain jumps safer, that would be best.

"You're talking about thousands of man hours to put that in and I don't know how many more to correct it to improve the forest management standpoint," Dillon said. "But to completely destroy it? In my mind at this point in time, the pandemic, the kids can't do much but ride a bicycle. If you take that away, it's just the wrong time."

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## Guest Column

### New York Fiscal Mess Has Been a Long Time Coming

By Rob Astorino

As New York continues to move to reopen our economy and society, the governor and state legislature must also move to rebuild our state.

While it's true that no state suffered more from the coronavirus, it's also true that New York is among the most vulnerable and least able to recover from a prolonged shutdown.

Before most of us ever heard of COVID-19, New York was facing a \$6.1 billion budget deficit, despite a strong national economy.

Before this crisis, New York was already the highest taxed state in the nation, with the most debt and the worst business climate.

Before the shutdown, New York's out-of-control budget was double that of Florida, despite having two million fewer people.

And before the governor arrogantly told 1.8 million people who were desperate to return to work to "get a job as an essential worker," New York was already leading the nation in losing its residents to other states – more than one million New Yorkers fled the state in the past 10 years. How many of the pandemic unemployed will look to leave now?

New York is at a critical crossroads. The easy path is to blame the state's financial mess all on the virus and pray for a federal bailout. Another easy out is to borrow and spend more money, raise taxes even higher and call for more and more government programs and control. In other words, do what precisely got us into trouble pre-coronavirus.

What we need is an honest restructuring of our state – based on a bipartisan

reevaluation of how we budget, tax, spend and borrow and how we treat businesses, big and small, local municipalities and taxpayers. It's time for legislators to adopt a new mindset.

After decades of irresponsibility, kicking the can down the road will only deepen the state's woes. The Empire Policy Center calls our economic situation a "catastrophe." The governor's answer is to beg for a \$65 billion bailout from Washington. The worst thing that could happen is that New York gets the money – without having to fix our faults.

Making the same mistake over and over again and hoping for a different result is the definition of insanity. But there are sane and smart steps that can be taken toward prosperity.

When I was elected Westchester County Executive, I faced a massive budget deficit, a stagnant economy and beleaguered taxpayers living in the highest taxed county in the nation. Over the next eight years, I built a bipartisan coalition of Democrat and Republican legislators and we got to work, adopting a set of principles we labeled "The 3 P's" – Protecting Taxpayers, Preserving Essential Services and Promoting Economic Development. We cut property taxes our first year and held them flat for the next seven. We cut waste and held spending in check for eight years; in fact, the \$1.8 billion budget we left the county with was the same amount I inherited. We invested in our burgeoning biotech sector and built public-private partnerships to leverage county assets, all helping to create over 44,000 private sector jobs.

Obviously, the state is a much larger entity

and facing a much more serious situation, but the same principles apply.

Gov. Cuomo hired high-powered business consultants McKinsey & Co. to work on the reopening of our state. Why not hire them or other outside groups to be the nucleus of a team with broad-based civic, community, educational, environmental, financial and real estate expertise to advise on a restructuring plan for our state?

New York is going to be a vastly different place when the pandemic ends. Working from home will be more common. With it come enormous consequences for how we do our jobs, shop, commute, educate our kids and perform endless other daily activities. Within these changes lie great opportunities. We can seize them, or we can cling to a cancerous status quo and get crushed.

Tough choices lie ahead. We must engage in truthful and respectful dialogue, which means not cancelling messages and messengers as soon as things get uncomfortable.

But tough choices, the ones resisted by entrenched special interests, usually produce the right answers. The call here is for the governor and legislative leaders to commit to making the difficult choices needed to restructure New York for a sustainable future. And for the rest of us to support them when they show leadership over partisanship.

Do we really have any other option?

*Rob Astorino served as Westchester County Executive from 2010 through 2017 and is the Republican nominee in the 40th Senate District race this year.*

## Letters to the Editor

### It Would Be Beneficial for the Nation to Be a Colorblind Society

There seems to be unrest in this country about a word called racism. What happened in Minnesota many days ago was a police officer using excessive force to arrest an American citizen causing that American's death. The fact that it took much too long to charge this officer sparked outrage for most Americans, some of whom took to the streets to demonstrate their displeasure and outrage at this injustice.

Other Americans, or should we say criminals, used their fellow citizens' justifiable anger as an excuse to do harm to their fellow countrymen and local

establishments. Make no mistake about it, these are the racists in our country. They come in many colors and professions; their intent is to divide, steal and do harm to our local laws and the law enforcement establishment with whom many have been at war with for a long time.

So the question is do you want to live in a place that glorifies doing harm to other Americans or do you want to stand up and say no to this criminal element in our country?

All life is sacred, and when you assign a color to it the unintended result is dividing

Americans by race. It is sometimes strange what you think about when you hear certain things. For me it was a photo I once saw of a flag-draped coffin being carried off a plane at Dover Air Force Base. The caption simply read "This is an American serviceman."

If you think about it, that is a very colorblind statement and something we all as Americans should be promoting in our country.

**Al Avitabile**  
Yorktown

### Time to Retire Schumer When He's Up for Re-election in Two Years

The 2020 New York Democratic primary has come to an end and progressives are poised to score some nice victories. Now is the time to begin preparing for the 2022 primaries!

Target number one for progressives must be Chuck Schumer. He has been an embarrassment to New York progressives for years. Only 3 percent of his donations come from small donors. Over 70 percent come from big donors and another 20 percent come from

PACs. He takes a lot of money from Wall Street, health insurance companies and lobbyists.

Meanwhile, New York has the greatest inequality in the nation. You cannot serve the interests of the working people of New York while also serving the interests of the rich and powerful. Their interests are diametrically opposed. Schumer has also been a lifelong war hawk, wasting money on endless war instead of uplifting working families in New York.

Luckily, the seat that Schumer currently occupies in the Senate will be up in 2022. We need a candidate who stands with working people, not Wall Street! We need to draft Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for the Senate in 2022.

**Ron Widelec**  
Rye Brook



## Guest Column

### With Summer Canceled, How Are You Going to Reimagine Your Plans?

By Sophia Spiegel

With the cancellation of summer camps, study programs and family vacations, students find themselves reimagining their summer plans within the parameters of social distancing and the new realities of COVID-19.

Imagination is an ability that children develop at a young age, which acts as the foundation of creativity and resourcefulness. Throughout one's childhood, the main focus of imagination is the creative aspect of it, but as the harsh reality of a global pandemic sets in, young adults are forced to use their imagination to be resourceful as well.

COVID-19 has certainly had its downsides, but some students have been able to turn it into a new opportunity with some hard work and imagination. Rising college sophomores Spencer McGowan and Mac Yavner are Horace Greeley High School alumni and business partners who planned to be lifeguards and take college classes this summer. Having run a successful business during high school, the two friends realized they had an opportunity to come up with a new plan.

They created Splash-N-Dash Mobile Car Wash, a service available to customers in the safety of their own driveways. The friends recognized that many cars were still dirty from the winter.

"We decided to create our own mobile car wash, wearing masks and gloves and using

disinfectants, to make sure our clients know they are getting the best and safest wash," Yavner explained.

The first hurdle was their lack of experience and equipment. But with resourcefulness, the two were able to learn quickly.

"Our biggest challenge was getting customers at first," McGowan said. "We began by posting flyers on Facebook and now we are getting many referrals."

Now that their business has become more widely known and they have received positive reviews, word of it is spreading like wildfire. In a time where everyday life is different than it used to be, McGowan recommends that students "use this time to your advantage and look for something you can do that you might not have been able to, if it weren't for this crazy situation."

Rising college juniors Jeremy Block and Josh Weinberg, another pair of friends from Greeley, adjusted their summer plans into a productive and successful business. Originally, Block planned on working at a real estate company in Manhattan and at a summer camp when the pandemic hit. With a lot of time on his hands and an uncertain future, Block and Weinberg decided to revamp their basketball court painting business, Lines of Westchester, which they started in high school.

With summer camps and programs canceled, parents might be eager to have their driveways painted to encourage their children

to get out of the house. The duo spent many hours practicing and perfecting how to paint the lines of a court, and invested money into obtaining the proper equipment.

They advertised their business via the Chappaqua Moms Facebook group and quickly realized they could easily expand into other areas of Westchester. They recruited friends to post on Facebook groups in other towns, and even added a gift card referral program to help the local community and gain more customers. Those who refer them new clients receive a \$25 gift card to a local business of their choice, helping other area merchants.

"Although we did this briefly as seniors, the pandemic presented a great opportunity to grow the business and help get kids outside," said Block.

It also serves as a great introduction to the business world because they have experienced many of the problems that bigger companies face, including managing expenses and customer service.

While the past few months have presented a fair share of challenges, it has also provided opportunities for out-of-the-box thinking.

"Although you may be disappointed that your plans had to change, COVID-19 provides all of us with countless opportunities that maybe we would never have come across," Weinberg said.

Byram Hills High School junior Sofia Mahairas has proven that a love for the arts

is not confined to a dance studio. Originally, Mahairas had plans to take weekly dance classes this summer. Instead, she will be creating weekly virtual dance classes and posting them on YouTube, free to anyone. Her motivation stemmed from her hope for the future and what it will bring if she continues to be committed to her passion.

"If you play a sport or have a hobby, keep going and push yourself to grow in whatever you are interested in," Mahairas said.

She admits that at times she finds herself less motivated to post instructional videos; however, she plans to endure through these uncertain times, as she knows they are only temporary, and encourages her peers to do the same.

In life, we imagine our future and what it will look like, but as challenges present themselves, we are forced to reimagine the steps we take to reach our goals. This is one of those times. Whether kids join forces with friends to create a business or pursue passions and new hobbies, reimagining summer plans will help make this summer less of a disappointment and more of an opportunity.

How will you reimagine your summer plans?

*Sophia Spiegel is a rising Junior at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua. She is an aspiring journalist who has a passion for the news, entertainment and social justice.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Supermarket Bags for the Hungry Should Focus on Better Nutrition

I am writing in response to Michael Gold's article on hunger bags in grocery stores ("Charity Food Purchases Should Offer Better Nutrition," June 23-29). I couldn't agree more that bags should be filled with items with higher nutritional value.

When we send our men and women on a humanitarian or military mission or up to the International Space Station, we make sure that we supply them with nutrition-packed foods. Why? Because they need their energy to do their jobs and keep their bodies healthy.

Provisions in hunger bags should be no different; just maybe not in freeze-dried form! I would bet that, given the choice, a parent would want their child to have foods that are going to help them grow to be healthy, energetic and strong. There is so much evidence out there that sugar is non-nutritive and is the leading cause of illness in this country, and therefore, has the opposite effect of what hunger bags are trying to achieve.

There are many people who are food insecure who may get the requisite number of calories (many from sugar), but are those calories going to help them perform in their jobs (including students) and in their household or family responsibilities? The answer is no, and these calories give the false impression that someone who may be considered "over-nourished" is in fact malnourished. We have to get away

from sugary and fatty foods, as they do not sustain the body for long and create the false impression in our brains that we are hungry after a short time. Our neighbors deserve better.

Mr. Gold suggests that the bags could be filled by the giver, which is a logical solution. However, in the age of COVID-19 that may not be possible. Moreover, many of us who wish to donate do not have the time to spend, nor does it have the knowledge of the store's bottom line or budget for subsidization of the bags.

Instead, his second suggestion of the store supplying healthier foods might be the best option. We all understand that providing any food has a cost associated with it. I suggest that the stores ask food banks or other experienced leaders in feeding the hungry and get their input. It is likely that more nutrition-packed foods would be what they recommend. They can also work together to find a balanced and sustainable way for the store to truly address the hunger of our neighbors.

Like Mr. Gold, I truly feel for those in need. I also believe everyone wants to do their best. Let us give them a chance by supplying them with foods that will provide needed energy and a chance for a healthful lifestyle of good daily nutrition.

**Karin M. Cabral**  
Yorktown Heights

### Destroying Forested Land in Yorktown to Fit a New Building is Unnecessary

We have lived in Yorktown since 1975. We remember when Atlantic Appliance first came here. It was a small storefront across from the Highway Department. I believe the Trailside Cafe is presently in its original location. Business was good and they expanded and moved to their present location in the Triangle Shopping Center.

Over the years we have bought most of our appliances from them and have often used their service department for repairs. We are firm believers in shopping local whenever possible rather than the big-box stores, and the salespeople at Atlantic have always been very accommodating and helpful.

Now we hear it is under new ownership and the new owners plan to expand to a site across the street and build a two-story building next to the post office. While technically they have the right to do this, the environmental consequences need to be taken into consideration. In addition, the Yorktown Tree Law needs to be applied here. This land is actually a much larger continuous piece of forest that contains a wetland and stream – which provides a refuge and corridor for the animals that live there. The trees in this area are over 40 feet high and provide not only an aesthetically pleasing view for the public, but also a stopover for songbirds, migratory birds, bats, barred owls and red-tailed hawks. The plan calls for a removal

of 125 trees.

Considering all the empty storefronts in Yorktown is it really necessary to move to a lot with so much environmental destruction? Surely there is another location for Atlantic to consider before they make this move and do irrevocable damage.

**Sheila Schraier**  
Yorktown Heights

### Guest Column Was Spot on About the Absence of Racism in Mahopac

Thank you, Mr. Del Campo, for your comments last week ("Do We Really Believe Our Community Exhibits Systemic Racism?"). So true. I have lived in Mahopac for 54 years, and have never been witness to systemic racism. To suggest that negative racial views are carried out on a regular basis is an insult to me and my community. I cannot remain silent on this issue. Thank you again, Mr. Del Campo.

**Pauline Bruno**  
Mahopac



# TOMORROW ALONG THE HUDSON

## WHAT THE SHUTDOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING OF INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER WILL MEAN FOR OUR AREA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.indianpointdecommissioning.com](http://www.indianpointdecommissioning.com)  
[www.holtecinternational.com](http://www.holtecinternational.com)  
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Indian Point Energy Center





# Drum Hill Senior Living Community Is Covid-19 Safe!

I want to send out a thank you to all our employees for doing an amazing job of keeping our community resilient during this pandemic with your continued hard work and positive attitudes!

I appreciate each of you and I want to tell the world that you are the best team ever!

*With my respect and admiration,  
Kathleen Herrmann  
Executive Director*

*"I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks." – William Shakespeare*

Join The Drum Hill Family before the end of July 2020 and we will **WAIVE THE FIRST MONTH'S RENT!!**  
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# The Garage is a Necessity for Most House Buyers

As a realtor, I always look for home listing or purchase opportunities that include a garage, mostly because most buyers today demand one.

If you're like me, you pull into and out of your garage every day without thinking much about it. Usually there is a fumbling for the automatic garage door opener, which I never have assigned to a particular spot in my car. The rest is as automatic as driving itself.

There have been problems over the years, such as the times I've mindlessly detached my side view mirrors and streaked my car with paint by sideswiping the door jams, or better yet, when I attempted to back out of my garage with the door closed, crashing halfway through the door and removing an entire corner of the structure.

For the past several years, I haven't had trouble pulling in and out of my garage because I moved to Trump Park, where the entrance to the underground garage is more than two-cars wide.

Just as automobiles changed the way we travel, more than any other element, the garage has changed the way our homes look, rendering them at least 25 percent larger, and even more than that if you consider the "bonus" room that can be built above.

I tend to fixate more on the history of things than how they operate, and so it is



By Bill Primavera

with the garage. The word didn't exist until the beginning of the 20th century when it was coined from the French word *garer*, meaning to shelter.

At that time, the early automobile had to share the carriage house or stable where the horses and buggies were still kept, resulting in a weird transitional phenomenon in which the cars smelled of horse manure when they were taken out for a spin. Eventually, the automobile claimed an exclusive space. By 1925, real estate industry sources were saying that houses without garages were slower to sell. It's still the case today. Most people

want a garage.

For protection from the elements, separate outbuildings used as garages were first attached by a breezeway to the main house, but eventually incorporated into the footprint of the house itself. Along the way, a couple of neat inventions sped the modern garage's development, namely the folding overhead garage door, invented by C.G. Johnson in 1921. In 1926, Johnson also invented the electric door opener to help those who had trouble lifting the doors.

Garage doors were originally made of wood, and some still are. But by the 1970s, they were constructed of galvanized steel, then fiberglass, followed by composites like resin-filled wood and eventually



vinyl-covered aluminum. For ultimate convenience, the automatic garage door opener appeared prominently in the early 1960s, although it had been invented earlier.

Today, garages can serve many functions other than housing cars. One of my former neighbors used his three-bay garage as a museum of vintage cars, each with a crystal chandelier above it. A garage in a house I listed serves as a combination office and workshop, which is impeccably clean and organized from its painted floor to its stacks of glistening shelves.

When I owned a single-family house, my garage looked ready to explode. Just one year earlier it had been cleaned out by a professional organizer who was told by my wife to "throw everything out except the cars."

Many garages are used as workshops, workout rooms and even business start-up spaces. Where do you think Apple, Google, Dell, Nike and Mattel got their starts?

But mostly, we use the garage to harbor any items that don't fit in our homes. In my case, it was the repository for all my garden tools, since I didn't have a shed along with all my real estate paraphernalia, recyclables and a variety of discarded items waiting for bulk pick-up.

Some consider the garage that's part of the house an eyesore, especially when it becomes the major focus of its façade. In Yorktown, the Architectural Review Board prefers that garage doors face out from the side of the house rather than the front.

Most architects with whom I've discussed garages would prefer that they be separated from the main house, perhaps connected by a breezeway for convenience. But home buyers always prefer that they be incorporated into the footprint of the house, either in front, to the side or underneath.

I have no preferences about how or where to construct a garage or how to use it, but I would always advise car owners to buckle up before backing out and, oh yes, make sure the garage door is open.

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



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# Playland Park Shuttered for the Remainder of 2020 Season

By Martin Wilbur

Playland amusement park in Rye will remain closed for the entire summer after county officials concluded the facility could not be operated safely.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, who called it “probably the toughest decision I’ve had to make,” delivered the announcement last Tuesday afternoon, ending what had become an almost inevitable conclusion. In addition to COVID-19-related health concerns and time dwindling to prepare Playland for any part of the summer, Latimer said Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s executive order prohibiting the operation of amusement parks remains in effect.

“There was not significant enough improvement to justify what happens when 8,000 people are in a place at one time,” Latimer said.

It is believed to be the first time in the park’s 92-year history that the county-owned park will be closed for the entire summer. Typically, it opens for weekends by mid-May and operates six days a week by late June through Labor Day, then followed by several additional weekends.

Earlier this spring, Latimer had announced that the park would remain closed until at least July 20 while the county awaited how the fight against



Playland amusement park will be empty the entire summer after County Executive George Latimer officially announced the decision last week.

COVID-19 progressed. However, with three weeks to a month of preparation needed to get the park ready for opening,

it was no longer feasible from a health and financial standpoint, he said.

“Realistically, we’re at a point now where

we couldn’t make that case,” Latimer said.

The Fourth of July weekend is routinely the most profitable weekend of the year followed by the Memorial Day weekend, and with those weekends missed, it no longer made sense to think about an opening.

Playland’s beach and boardwalk, the miniature golf and the nearby 179-acre Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary will remain open for the public’s use, with restrictions, Latimer said. However, the swimming pool will remain closed because it needs refurbishment, he said.

Its expansive parking lot will also be used for drive-in movies on two Friday nights this summer: July 24 and Aug. 7.

Latimer said that Playland drew more than 500,000 visitors last year after the county stepped up the marketing of the park, increasing attendance from about 450,000 in 2018. He estimated that it generates between \$3 million and \$5 million in revenue each summer.

The plan is for the county to open the park for 2021 next spring, pending the progress in the fight against COVID-19 and the ongoing litigation with Standard Amusements.

“We intend to open the park next year,” Latimer said. “We intend to open it on time. Obviously, it depends on the COVID virus, (a) second wave, if it happens.”

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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# Socially Distanced Food Truck Event the Place to Be This Summer

Throughout the summer, LIFE the Place to Be in Ardsley is offering a fun escape for Westchester residents who have been cooped up at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LIFE the Place to Be has transformed its 238-car parking lot into a safe distancing food trucks and food vendors event with fun for the entire family and for all ages.

Every Wednesday from 4 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 8 p.m. the party event venue will feature several food trucks to choose from, with a mix of great beers, White Claw drinks and specialty cocktails in squeeze bags. There will also be live music, picnic tables six feet apart, cornhole games, miniature golf and other activities for the whole family.

"We wanted to partner with other

businesses and offer the community a unique and fun opportunity to meet friends, family members and neighbors in a safe outdoor environment for the upcoming summer months," said Steven Zukerman, owner of LIFE the Place to Be.

Masks will be required at food trucks and near any activity and social distancing will be required. A beach volleyball court is also available to rent by the hour seven days a week during the summer.

For more information, check out Life the Place to Be on Facebook and Instagram, call 914-591-4400 ext. 100 or visit [www.LifeThePlaceToBe.com](http://www.LifeThePlaceToBe.com). LIFE the Place to Be is located at 2 Lawrence St. in Ardsley, right off the Saw Mill Parkway.

# A Spiritual View

By Rabbi Joshua Strom

Sometimes, good enough is good enough. Sometimes we just have to lower our heads, stay focused on the immediate and get through it. Sure, we'd like each of our moments here to be imbued with power and meaning, purpose and transcendence.

Certainly, with our newly-heightened awareness of all the injustice and suffering felt in our nation and world, we want to feel like we are doing something to help, something concrete to point towards. Not only is that not always possible, it is unfair to expect that of ourselves or anyone else.

Some days our "contribution" is as simple, yet fundamental, as keeping

ourselves and children out of harm's way. Some days it's just being able to be present for our endless Zoom meetings. And even staying home during all of this, while I know doesn't feel like it, is in itself a contribution

to yourself, your family and your community.

So give yourself a break. It's a marathon, not a sprint. And some days, just getting through it, safely and soundly, is more than enough.

Rabbi Joshua Strom is the

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



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# The Multiple Influences on the End Result in Your Wine Glass



By Nick Antonaccio

I'm a firm believer in the influence of terroir (pronounced tair-wahr) on wine.

This term encapsulates the specific local conditions having an impact on the final product in a bottle of wine: the geology of the soil; the sun

exposure of a hillside or valley location; the influence of sea breezes; and the degrees of proximity to the equator.

But there are other influential sets of components that influence the final product.

1. In the Old World (predominantly Europe) wines are typically referred to using the place of origin of the vineyards. In the New World (everywhere else) wines are referred to using the name of the particular grape grown to produce a wine. I believe this is helpful in defining and explaining the sense of place of a wine. It's what differentiates a Burgundy from other Pinot Noir-based wines or a Bordeaux from other Cabernet Sauvignon-based or Merlot-based wines.

Even in the New World, however, differences abound. Why is a Cabernet Sauvignon from California different than one from Chile? Or even from Washington

*'The concept of terroir and the varying philosophies of winemakers have influenced winemaking for millennia.'*

state? Why is there such a difference in Cabs from Napa Valley versus Sonoma County? Even within Napa Valley, there are distinct differences in Cabs from the valley floor (Rutherford) versus the hillside (Howell Mountain).

2. The human factor. How a grower and/or winemaker interact with the elements of nature to optimize the quality of a grape variety is interpreted and expressed in a bottle of wine. It is this sense of place that is the most elusive of the numerous impacts on wine across all wine regions.

A winemaker's influence can play an important role in the profile of the end product. Some winemakers expound the axiom that 90 percent of the characteristics of a quality wine are created in the vineyard while only 10 percent are influenced by the winemaker. Their philosophy: the true expression of a wine is its natural evolution on the vine, the unadulterated influence of terroir.

Then we have the New Age winemakers. Their philosophy: the terroir of nature is one

component of the profile of the end product, but not necessarily the major component. Instead, the skill of the winemaker to produce a wine that meets his or her personalized expression of a particular grape should be the primary criteria.

I am firmly entrenched in the minimalist camp. I want to take in the aromas and flavors of a wine as nature intended them. I want to be able to discern the nuances of a wine produced from grapes grown on the valley floor versus the hillside, or in gravelly soil versus clay-like soil. I want to form my own opinion of a particular style of wine I enjoy rather than have a winemaker force his or her preference on me.

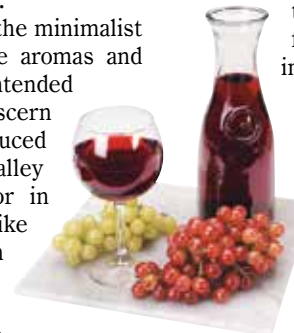
3. The influence of wine critics. For the last quarter century, we have seen the style of certain wines change dramatically from their styles of the prior millennium. This can be directly attributable to the emergence of professional wine critics and social media influencers, whose writings and opinions have become influential in swaying the general public. Once these critics garner a following, consumers seek

out their style of wine.

4. The profit motive of winemakers. As a corollary to the previous paragraph, certain winemakers exert their influence during the winemaking process to satisfy consumer demand. If a popular critic with a large following should prefer Cabernet Sauvignon wines that are fruit-forward, heavily oaked and high in alcohol (the opposite of most traditional, terroir-driven offerings), a number of entrepreneurial winemakers will manipulate their wines to satisfy this demand. Only time will tell if this influence is fleeting or creating a sea change in wine production.

The concept of terroir and the varying philosophies of winemakers have influenced winemaking for millennia. Formulate your individual preference profile and enjoy it as nature intended – to partake in the ethereal pleasures of wine.

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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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# P'ville Farmers Market Opens New Online Preordering Service

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the area in March, the Pleasantville Farmers Market had to act quickly.

"Being an essential business dedicated to bringing healthy, locally produced food to our community, we made some immediate changes to enable us to stay open," said Peter Rogovin, president of Foodchester, Inc, which operates the market. "The first step was to move outside three weeks earlier than planned."

The market quickly relocated to Memorial Plaza, its warm-weather location.

Since then, there has been a wave of adaptations, all designed to keep shoppers, vendors and staff safe.

"We run the market with serious attention to best practices, as outlined by public health authorities," said Steven Bates, executive director of market operations. "By implementing smart safety protocols, we have been able to continue to safely support producers and residents."

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is one of the only markets in the region to have remained open for walk-through shopping throughout this crisis.

"We're proud of this," Rogovin said. "If you have to get groceries and home delivery is not an option, doing so outside with all the safety measures we've put in place is a pretty darn good way to do it."

## Online Shopping Begins This Week

The market is adding another level of convenience and safety: Pleasantville Farmers Market Online (PFM-O) opens on Tuesday at 7 p.m.



"A small group of board members and staff have spent countless hours consulting with other farmers market managers and analyzing several platforms to come up with the best solution for our customers and vendors," Rogovin said. "We are thrilled with our solution. PFM-O is easy to use and offers benefits for all."

Shoppers can place orders with participating vendors and pay with a single click. While all shoppers share a safely-spaced queue to enter the market, PFM-O shoppers can enjoy a contact-free pickup



Pleasantville Farmers Market patrons can now submit their order online from Tuesday through Thursday each week to avoid standing in line and getting shut out of their favorite products while safely social distancing.

during their visit and skip walk-up lines at many vendors.

Vendors are happy with the system, too, since they can come to market on Saturday with some of their inventory already sold. It also enables them to tap into a larger inventory than what they would ordinarily bring to market.

PFM-O will be open every week from 7 p.m. on Tuesday to 2 p.m. on Thursday. More vendors are joining every week. Visit [www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org)

for more information and to get started.

## Other Safety Protocols

The walk-through market will continue to operate as usual even as PFM-O opens.

"We are committed to ensuring that our products are available to all customers, no matter how they prefer to shop," Rogovin said. "And we encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with some of our new safety policies."

Highlights of these policies include:

- A mask or cloth covering both nose and mouth is required at all times.
- All shoppers enter through one gate only (near the gazebo) to prevent crowding during peak periods.
- Physically distanced lines for busy vendors have been created.
- Vendors are required to wear a mask and gloves, clean regularly and abide by other industry-leading safety measures, which are constantly being updated.
- Customers may no longer touch products prior to purchase.
- Two handwashing stations are available.
- No music, kids' activities or seating for onsite dining.
- Shopping is to be done purposefully: Customers are encouraged to get in, get food, and get home.
- In addition, shoppers are strongly urged not to bring children and to divide shopping duties if they come with a partner. The fewer people in the marketplace, the more quickly and safely everyone will be able to get in and out.



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# Five Students Awarded 2020 HOPE for Youth Foundation Scholarships

The HOPE for Youth Foundation awarded five local high school students with scholarships this year at its recent scholarship awards ceremony.

The scholarships are typically presented in person at an annual luncheon, but because of social distancing guidelines, the annual event could not take place.

Instead, HOPE for Youth arranged for the ZOOM call and for pizzas to be delivered to each recipient's home at the end of the online presentation; one delivery had to be made to North Carolina. More than 50 board members, parents, scholarship recipients and former scholarship winners participated.

The recipients, listed below, are honored for their academic and civic accomplishments.

## Amaavi Miriyagalla

Miriyagalla, award the Hope for Youth Scholarship, is the valedictorian of her Walter Panas High School class and excels in athletics and music. She is a three-season athlete, plays the saxophone and has done research in DNA nanotechnology. She has been volunteering since eighth grade at the Yorktown Rehabilitation & Nursing Center where she helps the seniors wash their laundry, fix their smartphones and takes them outdoors in an effort to provide companionship and encouragement for them to recall their fondest memories.

Miriyagalla's service extends to tutoring adults in English as a Second Language and building close relationships

with the Hispanic immigrant community. Miriyagalla will attend Vassar College.

## Taylor Allen

Allen, now a Lakeland High School graduate, maintained a rigorous academic program including calculus, AP biology, AP macroeconomics, AP English and psychology. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Her GPA was 95.36. In addition to managing a rigorous schedule, Allen was president of the UNICEF Club and volunteered at NY Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital and at the YMCA camp in Putnam Valley during summers.

Her volunteer work at the hospital and with the children at camp has prepared her for her goal of becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner. Allen's grandfather, who passed away last year, was her role model and she noted that his legacy has helped her grow and become independent.

Allen, who was awarded the Hope for Youth Scholarship, will attend the University of Buffalo and will be in the nursing program.

## Sydney Goldberg

Sydney Goldberg, now a Putnam Valley High School graduate, participated in numerous clubs such as SADD, Make-a-Difference and MAGMAH, a group of high school students who volunteer to work with special education students on Sundays to create fun and enjoyable experiences for them.

Goldberg spreads joy in whatever she does. Her peers were sad to miss out on the end-of-year activities, so Sydney created senior posters for every senior in her class highlighting their post-high school plans and anything the student wanted to add.

At a young age, Goldberg was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. The flares ups, hospitalizations and intravenous medications, created physical, emotional and social challenges, but Goldberg didn't let that define her. Instead she uses her experience with Crohn's disease to deal with any setback.

Her GPA was 95.95 and she will attend the University of Buffalo, majoring in chemistry with the goal of a career in dentistry.

## Dejaun White

Despite facing hardships and adversity as a young African American male, White will be attending Monroe College to study business management and will play football for the D1 school in the fall.

He was active on the Peekskill varsity football team for four consecutive years. He was a member of My Brother's Keeper, a college prep program for young men. He also was involved with the Interact Club in which he participated in events such as the Special Olympics, blood drives and helping seniors at a local nursing home.

White will pursue his bachelor's degree and plans to become involved in the auto body industry. He excelled at the BOCES

program learning auto body work and mechanics.

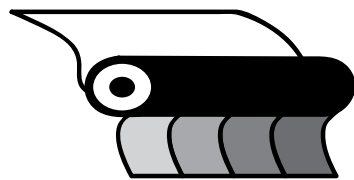
White was presented with the LaMarr Barnes scholarship, created in honor of Barnes, a longtime Peekskill resident who died at 27 in a car accident on Bear Mountain Parkway in 2011. Barnes' legacy and memory live on through this memorial scholarship created and supported by Nick and Jenet Ferris of Ferris Carpentry.

## Maria Davino

Davino has devoted her years at Lakeland High School to working with kids while maintaining a commitment to her academics. She will attend Mount Saint Mary College where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in English followed by a master's degree in special education.

In addition to being an active member of the Lakeland Pioneers, a sports team that teaches sports skills to students with special needs, Davino has been involved with the Yorktown Leos, a division of the Lion's Club. For the past five years, she helped run various activities, including a board game night with students with special needs and a Guiding Eyes for the Blind pizza party. Davino has been treasurer, secretary, vice president and now serves as its president.

Davino was presented with the Bill Sherry Memorial Scholarship, named after the late seventh-grade English teacher who worked or 32 years at Copper Beech Middle School.



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# Mixed Bag on the Dining Scene Since Restaurants' Reopening



By Morris Gut

The opening of dining of restaurants in the area has seen mixed results. In my travels throughout Westchester over the last few weeks, I have noticed different degrees of compliance to COVID-19 safety

guidelines by restaurants and the dining public. It is new ground, so I can understand some of the slipshod methods applied. We are human, after all.

We are lucky that we've had pretty consistent guidance coming out of Albany, less confusing and more straightforward than what we have heard from the White House throughout this crisis.

Wearing a mask or face covering, while mandatory for restaurant staff, was not always in play on my visits. Except when you sit down to eat, patrons were also not always in compliance, even though we have heard many times that this simple act can save lives. I have seen small spats erupt between customers over this issue. Social distancing also fell short if you let your guard down.

I would implore restaurant owners and patrons to get more with the program. Customers should bring their own masks, sanitizers and gloves, just in case. Anyone with underlying medical conditions should also be extra careful. It is for the greater good.

So far, outdoor dining has attracted more patronage than partial indoor seating allowed under Phase 3. Municipalities have gone the extra mile, allowing greater space for outdoor patios, even closing off streets in some cases, creating temporary pedestrian malls. Patrons generally perceive eating outdoors safer than being cramped indoors with outdated air filtration systems.

Some restaurants have gone to great expense to install see-through plastic shields between tables indoors and outside, as was evident during a visit to North Street Tavern at Maple Moor Golf Club in White Plains.

## Picnics at Blue Hill at Stone Barns

Starting this Wednesday, Blue Hill at Stone Barns will create a curated picnic basket for two to eight guests and serve it on their patio or on the grounds. Seatings are at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$195 per person. It's by reservation only, rain or shine. Reservations will be taken every Wednesday from 9 a.m. for the entire week. All COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

The Barbers at Blue Hill at Stone Barns are still preparing ResourceD boxes for the public by advance order and reserved pick-up times. We recently noticed a flow of cars making their way to the pick-up location. Stone Barns will also deliver donated boxes of prepared foods filled with fresh and preserved vegetables and grains to community hospitals and their teams.

Donations for ResourceD boxes also go directly to pay staff. The choices include the Restaurant Box, the Fish Box, the Meat Box: Pork, the Meat Box: Beef and the Bread Box.



The display case of some of the many varieties of pizza at Pizza Cucina in White Plains.

It costs \$150.

Blue Hill at Stone Barns is located at 630 Bedford Rd. in Tarrytown. Info: 914-366-9600 or visit [www.bluehillfarm.com](http://www.bluehillfarm.com) or [www.exploretrock.com/bluehillatstonebarns](http://www.exploretrock.com/bluehillatstonebarns).

## Keeping Cool at Captain Lawrence

We arrived at Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. in Elmsford at 4 p.m. one recent afternoon, just as the popular CLBC Beer Garden opened. We were able to get a parking spot quickly. We noticed the COVID-19 protocol signs as soon as we stepped onto their patio. The staff were properly masked, the picnic tables had been wiped down and there was already a light crowd enjoying their brews. You had to check in at the reservation station before sitting down.

Online reservations are encouraged, though we did not have one. Captain Lawrence was clearly observing coronavirus guidelines. They were printed on the back of the menu. There was no indoor seating.

Overhead, there were mist sprayers gently dousing the crowd and keeping everyone cool, similar to the sprayers you see freshening up fruits and vegetables at Whole Foods. I thought it was a pleasant touch; my partner not so. She was worried about her hair.

We settled in with a couple of Hop Commander IPAs and enjoyed the open-air setting. An order of their house fries from the limited menu sustained us before dinner. By the time we left, the beer garden had filled in. Check ahead for special hours and restrictions.

Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. is located at 444 Saw Mill River Rd. in Elmsford. Info: 914-741-2337 or visit [www.captainlawrencebrewing.com](http://www.captainlawrencebrewing.com).

## Pizza Cucina, White Plains

Before his untimely death just over two years ago, Ernesto Capalbo, a veteran of the restaurant for 30 years and founder of the former Ernesto's Restaurant, had been producing some great pizza and Italian-American dishes. It is now in the hands of Charlie Gambino, his brother-in-law, and it has never been better.

Pizza Cucina is a playful redesigned space offering freshly-made Neapolitan pizza, varieties galore, garlic rolls, stuffed calzones, finger food, soups, entrée-size salads and overstuffed paninis and wedges. There is limited seating inside and seasonal outdoor seating at tables with umbrellas. Everything is available for take-out and catered events.

Pizzas run the gamut from the Margherita to Grandma's Pizza, a thin-crust square pizza with house-made tomato sauce, fresh



The beer garden at Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. provides a pleasant experience on a summer day.



Blue Hill at Stone Barns is serving a picnic basket this summer to enjoy on their patio or elsewhere on the grounds.

mozzarella, sliced tomatoes and basil. The Formaggi White Pizza contains mozzarella, parmigiana and ricotta, while the decadent Chicken Bacon Ranch is topped with chicken cutlet, crispy bacon, mozzarella and ranch dressing.

The Meat Lovers features sausage, bacon, pepperoni and ham, while the Pesto Primavera includes grilled eggplant, zucchini and roasted red peppers with pesto sauce. You can create your own pizza or a focaccia combination with a variety of toppings. Gluten free is also available.

Check out such playful paninis such as the Cuban Reuben (ham, turkey, swiss cheese, provolone, pickles and mustard) or the Caprese (fresh mozzarella, tomato, basil, pesto and reduced balsamic vinaigrette). There are wedges such as the Pepper and Egg Frittata or the Italian Combo (ham, salami, mortadella, provolone, lettuce, tomato and house dressing).

Generously served Italian-American entrees include spaghetti and meatballs; house-made lasagna; chicken, eggplant, veal or shrimp parmigiana; and Chicken Scarpariello. There are daily specials and enjoy their house-made bread to take home.

Over the past few months, Pizza Cucina, in coordination with other local donors, has prepared thousands of meals for frontline workers at White Plains Hospital and first responders in White Plains.

Coronavirus restrictions are in place. Contactless ordering. Please follow all hygiene rules. Limited indoor and outdoor seating.

Pizza Cucina is located at 102 W. Post Rd. in White Plains, across from the Boulevard development. The restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Take-out, delivery and catering. Major credit cards are accepted. Casual dress. Handicapped accessible. Free and municipal parking. Info: 914-752-4611 or visit [www.pizzacucinamenu.com](http://www.pizzacucinamenu.com).

## Keeping sharp with Jack Knife

There has been a large uptick in home cooking during the pandemic. Novice and professional cooks have been busy honing their skills.

So how do you keep those knives and kitchen utensils sharp? You may want to catch up with Jack "Knife" Martin, U.S. Navy veteran and owner of Jack Knife Sharpening in White Plains. He has become a regular at the Wednesday White Plains Farmers Market and at markets across Westchester and Connecticut.

Martin works with professional chefs and home cooks offering knife blade sharpening and restoration services for knives, scissors or garden tools. Gift cards are available.

For information and rates, call 914-434-0522 or visit [www.jackknifesharpening.com](http://www.jackknifesharpening.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 may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at [gutreactions@optonline.net](mailto:gutreactions@optonline.net).

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continued from page 22

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# How to Revise Your Estate Plan After Divorce

By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

Some marriages end in noise and pain. Other marriages drift away quietly with the signing of documents and only a hint of acrimony.

Planning an estate in the aftermath of a divorce involves learning a different type of arithmetic. Without a spouse to anchor an estate plan, the executors, trustees, guardians or agents under a power of attorney and health care proxies will have to be selected from a more diverse pool of people that are connected to you.

Beneficiary forms tied to an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) and life insurance must be updated to reflect the dissolution of the marriage. Paperwork marks the end of one life and the beginning of another.

Estate provisions are usually included in agreements that are created during the separation and divorce. These provisions may call for the removal of both spouses from each other's estate planning documents and retirement accounts. In New York, bequests to an ex-spouse in a will prepared during the marriage are voided following the divorce. Even though the old will remains valid, a new will has the benefit of realigning your estate assets and matching them with the right people.

Trusts made during the marriage are governed differently. Revocable trusts can be revoked and

the assets held by those trusts can be part of the divorce. Irrevocable trusts involving marital property are less likely to be broken up. In fact, following the death of the grantor, distributions may be made to an ex-spouse as directed by the irrevocable trust.

A major part of post-divorce estate planning is changing beneficiaries. Request change of beneficiary forms for all retirement accounts – IRA, 401(k), 403(b) – and life insurance policies. Without a stipulation in the divorce decree terminating their interest, an ex-spouse still listed as beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy could lead to problems upon your death.

Divorce pushes children into positions of responsibility at an earlier age. Adult children in their 20s or early 30s take the place of the ex-spouse as fiduciaries and health care proxies. This includes agents under powers of attorney, executors and trustees. For divorcing parents with minor children, selecting guardians

under a will to care for the children should both parents pass away may involve more delicate negotiations between the parties to achieve a consensus.

Trusts are often the preferred estate planning vehicle for divorced partners. Their assets pass outside of probate, which can be helpful in situations where the divorce's impact was felt by the children and led to internal strife. Trusts are also useful when a divorced partner is contemplating remarriage, but wants to protect the estate legacy left to children from the first marriage.

Once the whirlwind of emotions surrounding a divorce begins to subside, a few clear-headed estate planning tasks will mark a new chapter in a family's history.

Alan D. Feller, Esq. is managing partner of Sloan & Feller Attorneys at Law, located at 625 Route 6 in Mahopac. He can be reached at [alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com](mailto:alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com).



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## THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**Words of the Month Club - July Edition.** This week the quiz words come from the July entries found in the book "The Cabinet of Linguistic Curiosities" by Paul Anthony Jones. The book is "A yearbook of forgotten words" that features a "curious or long-forgotten word of the day, picked from the more obscure corners of the dictionary."

- |                            |                             |                         |                          |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>insulet</b> (n.)     | A) a gross indignity        | B) a small island       | C) instantaneousness     |
| 2. <b>whither</b> (v.)     | A) to move with great force | B) rotate rapidly       | C) gloss over            |
| 3. <b>handfast</b> (adj.)  | A) made by hand             | B) shackled             | C) clumsy                |
| 4. <b>steganogram</b> (n.) | A) an inscribed stone       | B) a footnote           | C) a coded message       |
| 5. <b>decurt</b> (v.)      | A) to shorten               | B) prioritize tasks     | C) treat disrespectfully |
| 6. <b>lawrence</b> (n.)    | A) a day of delay           | B) shimmering heat haze | C) an open space         |
| 7. <b>Augean</b> (adj.)    | A) horrendously filthy      | B) of a golden color    | C) marked by dignity     |
| 8. <b>basiate</b> (v.)     | A) to modify                | B) block off            | C) kiss                  |

- ANSWERS:**
1. B. A small island. From *insula*, the Latin word for island.
  2. A. To move with great force; to buffet like the wind.
  3. B. Manacled, shackled, or handcuffed.
  4. C. A coded text or message. From a Greek word, *steganos*, meaning "covered" or "concealed."
  5. A. To shorten or abridge. From the Latin, *curtare*, meaning "to cut short."
  6. B. A shimmering heat haze seen over the ground on scorching hot days.
  7. A. Horrendously filthy. From the cleaning, by Heracles, of the never cleaned stables owned by legendary King Augeas of Elis.
  8. C. To kiss. Derived from a Latin word for a kiss on the hand.



## Sports

# Hen Hud Seniors Trending in Right Direction, Prayers Still Needed



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor @Directrays

What else can you say about 2020 other than it's among the most tumultuous and frustrating years in the history of our nation.

Between the ginned-up impeachment of 45, COVID-19, George Floyd and the subsequent protests and riots, plus the toppling of historic statues, this has been a nasty, divisive period that has shredded the fabric of America.

But if you're part of the Hendrick Hudson School District in any way, shape or form, you've had it rougher than most the last couple of weeks. As if COVID-19 and the controversy surrounding the 2021 closing of Indian Point nuclear power plant hasn't been enough for the river communities of Cortlandt, Montrose and Verplanck, the Sailors are also dealing with the mishaps of two graduating seniors who are lucky to be alive after two similar accidents.

The families of recent Hen Hud grads Michael Alaio and Matthew Rivera need your prayers to keep these two beloved student-athletes headed in the right direction, which both seem to be trending toward after the scare of a lifetime.

Alaio's accident occurred in Wildwood, N.J., while on a senior trip in late June,

where he sustained a serious head injury. He had surgery to remove the left side of his skull. He has significant swelling of his brain and was fighting for his life, which he has done better than anyone could have imagined after this dire situation occurred.

The original prognosis, while he fought for his life on a ventilator, was grim, to say the least. The Hen Hud community – between hopes and prayers – was reeling, but the power of both has given the Sailor faithful a robust expectation as Michael's condition improves by the day.

"This kid of mine is so strong and determined," Alaio's mom, Liz, exclaimed in a recent Facebook post. "He will get through this! The doctors are amazed at his strength! He's trying to remove his tubes and is trying to sit up and he is aware of everything! The doctor said 'He's wild!!' We couldn't ask for more! If anyone can get through this it's Michael. Thank you everyone that is praying and thinking about him. God is listening."

Now, more than ever, we need God to hear us, as our nation has hit a crossroad. COVID-19 is still spreading and America's great melting pot is boiling over, and the good folks in the Hen Hud community are dealing with additional stress, including the Rivera situation. The young lad took a fall off a bridge and landed somewhere between

55 and 60 feet below, just days after Alaio's tumble.

Rivera fractured seven bones in his spine and might need a brace. He had his four top front teeth pushed back, lacerated his bottom lip and fractured the top of his jaw, which needs extensive surgery and implants. His spleen ruptured and detached from the vessels and needed emergency removal due to internal bleeding. His lungs and pancreas were severely bruised and he suffered some cracked ribs.

"He is lucky to be alive and we are grateful to still have him with us," Rivera's sister, Victoria, said on the GoFundMe page to assist with Michael's numerous needs. Please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/matthew-rivera-medical-funds>.

As a track and field star at Hen Hud, Rivera has the power of speed accelerating his healing process, but I can't imagine what these families are dealing with, including these horrific, life-threatening falls and a pandemic that has crushed the spirit of the Class of 2020.

As if life wasn't tough enough already, the Alaio and Rivera families are being tested. While both families have a significant fight ahead of them, both are passing with flying colors due to the resilience of their sons. May God bless and watch over y'all #PrayersUp...

**RANDOMNESS:** Chirp at me until the cows come home, but I will always stand at attention, my hand over my heart, for the anthem of any country I'm chillin' in while the anthem of said nation resounds. It's just the respectful thing to do.

Instead of "defund police," how about we "refund police," seeing how they risk their lives each and every day for the safety of law-abiding Americans.

Oft-injured Mets' slugger Yoenis Céspedes in a walk year – with the DH in play this season – has some interesting appeal. Can't wait to see this guy go full bore (pun intended) as the retooled Mets make a run at the NL flag.

I said a couple of weeks ago that the NFL's Washington Redskins should consider a name change, given the disparaging nature of the nickname, its branding and its headdress logo. And it looks like owner Dan Snyder is finally about to cave in to the pressure, but imagine if cancel culture comes for the Yankees next since that might be considered offensive to the south, or the Brewers for obvious reasons.

In the end, I always went to sports to get away from politics, but now the NFL, NBA, NASCAR and MLB have become embroiled in the fray, so I'm not sure what to expect but I do know that most folks from my generation (the 50-somethings) are against mixing sports and politics since the two rarely mixed in the past. I reckon we'll see how this plays out in the days ahead.

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