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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 729

Pocantico Lake Residents Gear Up for Development Fight

By Martin Wilbur

Residents near a secluded portion of Mount Pleasant are gathering support to fight a proposed 31-home subdivision in an environmentally-sensitive area on the shores of Pocantico Lake.

Developers Brandon and Brian Zappi, of Zappico Development Group, have proposed a cluster subdivision on 36.8 acres at 715 Sleepy Hollow Rd. that would preserve about 60 percent of the site, with each house sitting on about a half-acre of land. They also have prepared a conventional layout in the one-acre residential zone but prefer the cluster proposal because it preserves open space.

The developers outlined their plan at a June Mount Pleasant Planning Board meeting. Brian Zappi called the parcel, which they acquired last year for more than \$2.3 million, "a very unique piece of property."

"One of the biggest key elements in designing this project is making sure that we stay away from the lake, preserve and

protect everything that's between there, between the lake and the project," he said during a June 3 presentation.

But since then, local opposition has been swelling as neighboring residents have panned the proposal as threatening the bucolic and environmentally delicate terrain that has been designated a Critical Environmental Area (CEA).

A CEA is defined by the state Department of Environmental Conservation as a feature that is a benefit or threat to human health; contains exceptional or unique natural settings or has social, historic, archaeological, recreational or educational value; or contains an inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity that could be adversely affected by any physical disturbance.

A petition drive was initiated this summer by residents, urging the Mount Pleasant Planning Board, which is expected to become lead agency for the review, to issue a positive declaration. That would signal the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts and force the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The shoreline of Lake Pocantico where a 31-home subdivision has been proposed.

developers to undertake a robust review under the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). A separate online

petition also was launched in June.

Resident Charles Sanders said he and
continued on page 2

Timeline, Cost Reviewed at Forum for New Pleasantville Pool

By Abby Luby

A public forum on the proposed design for a new Pleasantville municipal pool last week provided suggestions to alter the facility's design, and questions were posed regarding cost, timeline and physical layout.

Pleasantville Pool Task Force Chair Troy Tassier said he and the other task force members worked to design a pool that would meet the needs of the community based on a survey of about 1,000 responses.

"We wanted options for a sustainable future for the pool," Tassier said.

The new pool will measure 11,017 square feet, with an estimated price tag of \$3 million. It will be funded by a bond and what the board has described as "modestly increased membership fees." No approximate date was given for when a bond resolution might



A rendering of the new \$3 million pool Pleasantville officials are considering to replace the existing facility on Lake Street.

be voted on. The project is subject to a permissive referendum.

The plan is to have a new pool completed for the 2023 swim season.

"Is the project timeline realistic and is

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No. Castle Eyes Regulatory Update to Accessory Dwellings, Home Businesses

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle officials are weighing an update to existing accessory apartment and home-based business regulations to reflect the evolving needs of the community while looking to maintain the character of its residential zones.

The town is exploring whether to amend the accessory apartment provision in the code to encourage housing diversity and affordability while considering updating its home business regulations to allow suitable operations that don't fit under the current classifications. It would also establish provisions to regulate home businesses.

Director of Planning Adam Kaufman said the issue of accessory apartments has caught the attention of planners, policymakers and the public, especially after a state Senate bill

proposed earlier this year would force towns to comply with certain accessory apartment requirements, which would impact North Castle.

"I think it's a good time for us to revisit the law which hasn't been revised since the initial adoption in the '80s," Kaufman said. "So taking the sentiment that we want to permit accessory apartments in single-family residence districts but also regulate these apartments and make sure that they're compatible in the town."

Among the changes being considered is to allow an accessory apartment within the primary residence or a detached structure regardless of the age of the home. There are exceptions for some structures built before Oct. 11, 1984, but otherwise the apartment must currently be attached to the primary

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Pocantico Lake Residents Gear Up for Development Fight

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many of his neighbors are prepared to fight the proposal that is near 164 acres of land purchased by Westchester County in 1992 to serve as parkland and preserve the area's natural qualities.

"We are committed to following through on this and do whatever it takes on this to enforce the rights of the public," Sanders said.

Another resident, Todd Shapera, said nature lovers from throughout the metropolitan area come to the county-owned acreage to walk the trails and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. He said it is a popular destination for local residents to walk their dogs or go on a peaceful walk.

If the development is built, hundreds of trees would be cleared, not only destroying the view from around Pocantico Lake but habitats as well, he said. It could also jeopardize the quality of the water in the lake, which is a tributary to the Hudson River and is a backup drinking water source after having served as New Rochelle's main source of drinking water until the late 1970s.

"The parcel that you're talking about is the crown jewel of our county," Shapera said. "It has all the qualities of Vermont and the Adirondacks, in an oasis here."

In June, when the Zappi brothers presented their plan, they pledged to preserve the existing character of the

community. They presented a forestation and protection plan, a traffic study and a bird study.

Following the presentation to the Planning Board, the town's Conservation Advisory Council Chairman Steven Kavee said while the applicant offered a good preliminary description of the site, a key issue that will need to be addressed is the Critical Environmental Area.

While the developers provided some separation between the houses and the lake, there is still the chance of fertilizers and chemicals washing off the lawns, he said. Therefore, the project merits a positive declaration.

"It does go to the possibility of significant

adverse conditions, which would call for a deeper SEQRA Environmental Impact Statement," Kavee said.

Messages left for the Zappis regarding their proposal during the past week were not returned.

Sanders said he is not anti-development, but the proposal is inappropriate for the site. Several decades ago, another development in the same general area was defeated before the county bought its land for \$3.7 million.

"There's no reason why this property in the sensitive area that it is...needs to be the subject of development," he said. "It's insane. It's lemming-like. We don't need to do this."

Timeline, Cost Reviewed at Forum for New Pleasantville Pool

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the budget overly optimistic?" asked former village trustee Jonathan Cunningham. "Is it relative to what the boots on the ground of what other communities are experiencing?"

Pool designer and engineer Steve Rimkunas of Rimkunas Engineering said the schedule leading up to the pool's completion in two years was realistic. He spelled out the process of applying for county approvals and permits, going out to bid and hiring a contractor by next summer.

After the pool closes on Labor Day, there will be a push to obtain necessary permits by April 2022 and accelerate the schedule to go out to bid earlier, Rimkunas said.

"This will give contractors an equal chance to bid. Communities need a pool and it's costly not to have it open on schedule," he said.

Cunningham also asked about the difficulties getting parts and materials and if the estimated cost reflects fluctuating prices. Rimkunas said his company hired an outside cost-estimating service.

"I expect they are aware of any shortages," Rimkunas said. "Also, getting pumps, filters, chemicals and feeders are not a problem. By 2022 we do not expect to have difficulty ordering parts and I expect the supply line and prices to stabilize."

Obtaining a contractor since the onset of the pandemic has been problematic for many local municipal projects. Contractors have generally been unavailable, an issue that was raised at previous meetings for other village projects.

Rimkunas assured residents and officials that the pool project would attract bids from contractors.

"This is considered a large pool project and there are four or five good contractors who I know," he said. "This is a project they all really want."

Other questions centered on functionality of the pool, including depth, lap lanes, the kiddie pool and slides. The 75-foot lap lanes would start at a depth of five feet and continue to 11 feet deep. Six of the lap lanes have starting blocks for swim competitions and lap lane ropes can be removed for recreational swimming. It can also be used for water polo, Rimkunas explained.

The pool design offers the option of

a diving board, and if the community eventually chooses one, this may necessitate hiring an additional lifeguard.

A proposed zero entry would slightly shrink the size of the pool, Tassier said.

Zero entry, a gradual slope into the pool that is ADA compliant, benefits elderly and beginner swimmers. A ramp alternative wasn't aesthetically pleasing, said task force member Jim Kennedy.

Rimkunas said his company could design a facility that provides more shade in areas closer to the basketball court and contain more deck space. When asked if the kiddie pool could be bordered by grass instead of concrete, Rimkunas said a grassy area can be explored.

Another resident asked for more space around the kiddie pool for kids and families to sit.

"Eventually, down the road, a bond resolution will be put in front of the Village Board," said Mayor Peter Scherer. "We are still fielding comments from people and following up on the suggestions and incorporating changes we heard from the public forum."

Scherer also said funds from other village revenue sources could determine the size of the bond. The village may consider bundling other projects into the same bond, he said.

"We have a lot of support (for the new pool) and nobody wants to spend a dime more than we have to," Scherer said.

Kennedy, who early in the forum provided a brief history of the pool and showed a 1975 picture of a newly-renovated pool with then-Pleasantville Mayor Walter Kanwisher, told Scherer he has the opportunity to help the village realize the facility's newest incarnation.

"If we're lucky, you, Mr. Mayor, may preside over the new pool in 2023," Kennedy said.

The village is still accepting comments and suggestions. Residents may view pool renderings at <https://www.pleasantville-ny.gov/projects-initiatives/pages/proposed-pool-reconstruction-project>. Suggestions and comments can be e-mailed to pool@pleasantville-ny.gov.

No. Castle Eyes Regulatory Update to Accessory Dwellings, Home Businesses

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residence.

Another revision that is contemplated is to waive two waiting periods. Currently, an owner of a new house must wait four years after the initial Certificate of Occupancy is granted to be approved for an accessory apartment. If another party buys the property, they must wait two years before applying for the special use permit.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said that could make it difficult for a family to plan if they buy a mother-daughter home, for example, with the intent of having an elderly parent living with them. However, the town also doesn't want to open the floodgates to have absentee landlords, so the provision requiring the homeowner to live in either the primary residence or apartment would remain in effect.

"We don't want to make it difficult, but we want to make sure we're catching what we should catch so nobody's abusing this," Schiliro said.

Other potential changes would be to allow an accessory apartment on a property that also has a home business and to update the utility service section that removes the sampling and testing of wells and septic from the town Building Department and gives that responsibility to the county Health Department.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said she would be hesitant to allow an accessory apartment on the same property as a home-based business because it could cause traffic and excessive activity.

"It could just make a property in a residential single-family house in the neighborhood very busy," she said.

A special use permit would still be needed to have an accessory apartment.

Among the provisions included in Senate bill S.4547, which was introduced in February by state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro), would be to allow the owner to live off-site and to eliminate parking requirements.

Home-based business regulations, which would require Planning Board site plan approval, would set hours of operation and limits on the number of employees and clients to reduce impact on a residential neighborhood.

Proposed regulations would also contain a list of permitted and prohibited home-based businesses. Permitted uses would include professionals, artists, home instruction, workrooms and repair services while kennels, medical clinics, car repair shops, barbers and retail sales would not be allowed.

The Town Board set public hearings for both laws for Wednesday, Oct. 13.

New Cookie to Be Part of Girl Scouts Lineup Next Year

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. and Girl Scouts of the USA announced last week that the new Adventurefuls cookie is joining the nationwide lineup for the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie season.

An indulgent brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt, Adventurefuls take cookie lovers on a delicious taste adventure. Girl Scouts in the Hudson Valley and across the United States will offer the Adventurefuls cookie next season alongside favorites like Thin Mints® and Samoas®.

Every purchase of Adventurefuls, and the whole portfolio of iconic cookies, during cookie season, fuels local Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year.

"The Adventurefuls cookie embodies the Girl Scout spirit of trying new things, learning new skills, and helping girls become the best version of themselves," said Marie Reger, Girl Scout's Heart of the Hudson CEO.

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson kicks off cookie season in February across the Hudson Valley.

Westchester Sees Hospitalizations Uptick as COVID Numbers Continue to Rise

By Martin Wilbur

There has been a steady rise in COVID-19 active cases throughout the state and the local region in July and August, but Westchester hospitalizations related to the coronavirus are beginning to rise.

As of Sunday, the county reported 2,793 active COVID-19 cases; however there are now 84 patients hospitalized, exactly four times the number compared to July 22, said County Executive George Latimer.

He surmised that the Delta variant combined with relaxation of social distancing and mask wearing, which helped the county achieve transmission rates at or below 1 percent this time last year have without a vaccine, have conspired to accelerate the caseload.

On Sunday, Westchester recorded a 3.2 positivity rate, with 154 new cases from 4,787 tests. On the seven-day average concluding Sunday, the county has recorded a 3.1 percent rate.

While 682,000 county residents have had at least one vaccine dose, that still leaves a significant piece of Westchester's now one million residents vulnerable to COVID, Latimer said.

"So we've seen a steady increase and we've seen nothing yet that is a positive factor for us in terms of the speed of the infection," he said. "It seems that nothing is slowing it down, it's not flattening out by its own merit."

The hospitalizations are a warning sign. Even as cases were rising through most of July, the likelihood of the virus landing someone in the hospital was relatively small. However, the jump in the hospitalization rate – now about 3 percent of those who have tested positive – has officials keeping an eye on where COVID-19 goes from here.

Although statistics are problematic, Latimer said compared to the two worst waves, the early high of more than 12,000 active cases in spring 2020 and last winter's peak of about 11,500, Westchester is not currently facing dire conditions.

The best way to guard against the virus is through vaccination, Latimer said, although the county does not have access to numbers breaking down how many who are currently in hospitals from COVID-19 received vaccines.

"We're still trying to convince people that vaccination is the best way to avoid the severest impacts of coronavirus, that mask wearing is the best way to prevent the spread

of coronavirus and it really comes down to how seriously people take the virus itself," Latimer said.

Because of the population increase in the recently released 2020 Census, the percentage of vaccinated adults dropped. Had the county been using the previous estimate of 967,612, its vaccination rate would be at 83 percent. When the Census results were released on Aug. 12, Westchester now has a population of 1,004,457.

The news out of Putnam County, although with about one-tenth the population of Westchester, was more encouraging. County Executive MaryEllen Odell said last week that guidelines developed by the state County Executives' Association

offer a three-tiered approach of strategies depending on a county's infection rates, hospital bed availability and vaccination rate.

Currently, 78 percent of Putnam residents 18 years old and up have been vaccinated and COVID-19-related hospitalizations have remained between zero and three patients during the month of August, she said.

"Right now, based on the numbers from our Putnam County Department of Health, we are at the lowest level – Tier 1 – which calls for face masks for the unvaccinated," Odell said. "If our infection numbers increase dramatically, and if our hospital system gets stressed, we could be looking at Tier 3 – face masks for all, vaccine proof for indoor dining and limiting gatherings to 25. It all sounds

terribly familiar. We thought we were past this. But really, getting everyone eligible vaccinated is the only way out."

There were 130 active cases in the latest weekly numbers released by the county on Aug. 19 with two hospitalizations. On Sunday, the state tracker showed that there were 14 positive cases out of 499 tests administered, for a 2.8 percent average. The seven-day rolling average in Putnam is 4.2 percent.

Since Aug. 13, Putnam has seen one fatality, and 94 since the start of the pandemic.

Westchester has had eight deaths from COVID-19 since July 22, and 2,303 over what is nearly 18 months.

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Area Escapes the Worst Impacts From Tropical Storm Henri

By Martin Wilbur

The lower Hudson Valley may have been spared a direct hit from Tropical Storm Henri, but that doesn't mean everyone in the area escaped unscathed from its impact.

The storm churned a bit farther to the east on its approach, making landfall at about 12:15 p.m. Sunday along coastal Rhode Island, rather than along the south shore of Long Island.

However, with heavy rain pelting the area during portions of Sunday afternoon and evening, flooding emerged in the sections of Westchester that typically experience problems during significant precipitation.

County Executive George Latimer said the Sound Shore, particularly areas of Mamaroneck, Rye and Bronxville that are near rivers and streams, were the most seriously affected.

The Bronx River Parkway also flooded out in spots and had to be closed after persistent downpours saturated the ground.

With the preparation in the two days leading up to the storm and its ultimate track well to the east, Henri was a manageable event. For many areas, in fact, Sunday was a wet but ho-hum day.

"I think we were as prepared as we could be," Latimer said Monday afternoon as the showers and occasional downpours were winding down. "The speed at which the rain came down and picked up can catch anybody by surprise."

With the area to the west of the storm's



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Most Westchester residents heeded the warnings and stayed home on Sunday as the streets of White Plains, including Barker Avenue, were deserted during the height of Tropical Storm Henri.

eye, it received the heavy rain and none of the wind damage that was sustained during last August's Tropical Storm Isaias, where roads were impassable because of downed trees and power lines and residents throughout Westchester and Putnam lost electricity or internet service in many cases for four or five days.

As of 2 p.m. Monday, 582 Con Edison customers were without service, primarily in the Hastings-on-Hudson area, along with 111 NYSEG customers, mainly in Bedford

and Pound Ridge, Latimer said.

Preparations were made in earnest on Saturday when it was announced that all county beaches and pools along with Playland would be shuttered on Sunday.

Latimer issued a state of emergency for the county at about 8 a.m. Sunday, granting him the ability to authorize evacuations or road closures should that be necessary. An emergency was declared by New York State for 26 counties on Saturday.

About a half-hour after his Sunday morning

emergency declaration, Latimer participated in a conference call with municipal leaders from around the county, who are responsible for activating local shelters.

Few communities needed to open their shelters, he said, although three families had to be evacuated from their homes on Howard Street in Mamaroneck due to severe flooding. They were among those who spent Sunday evening at the shelter inside Mamaroneck High School.

"Take this message to heart," Latimer said as the storm was approaching. "We want to be safe through all of this and come through the other side and go on with the rest of our lives and all the other things that are important to us."

The county's Emergency Operations Center in Hawthorne was activated with state and Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives were on hand.

"Our primary concern right now, as the county executive mentioned, is our rainfall totals," said Dennis DelBaro, the county's director of Westchester Office of Emergency Management, said on Sunday. "We could be looking up to three inches of rain, with locally higher amounts associated with these outer rain bands from Henri."

The county police urged residents to stay home and off the roads. Residents were warned never to drive through a flooded roadway, over downed power lines and trees and avoid areas that have barricades, flares or other obstructions set up by authorities.

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Local Officials Still Seeking Answers on Migrant Flights to Westchester Airport

By Martin Wilbur

Two Westchester town supervisors are still demanding answers why flights carrying migrant children from the southern border to Westchester County Airport were allowed without local officials being notified ahead of time.

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi and Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater questioned the practice last week after former Westchester County executive Rob Astorino, and a Republican candidate for governor next year, publicized the flights on a New York City radio station on Aug. 13 and held a press conference at the airport three days later.

The flights had been taking place since April, Astorino later posted on his Facebook page.

Fulgenzi said as a community that neighbors the airport residents in his town deserve answers as to why the children were being flown to Westchester, where they have been going, their health and legal status and how many have been brought to the county to date. He said if the goal was to help children, it shouldn't have been done in secret.

"To me, if this is a humanitarian aid situation why are you bringing them in at four o'clock in the morning?" he asked. "If this is such a good thing, why are you not advertising it? Why are you doing this in the dark of night?"

Congressman Mondaire Jones' office



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Westchester County Airport has received flights of migrant children, irking some local officials and former county executive Rob Astorino who want to know why no one was informed of the arrivals beforehand.

stated that the flights were for the purpose of unifying children of migrants at the southern border who had been separated from their parents. Jones spokesman George Flynn said members of New York State's congressional delegation reached out to the Biden administration but there was no response to questions either from the administration or the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"(It's) children who were separated from their families at the border and either being reconnected with parents or connected with sponsors or other family members," Flynn said.

The decision to fly them to Westchester rather than Kennedy or LaGuardia airports occurred because the flights were chartered, which the New York City airports were unable to accommodate. They are not necessarily staying in Westchester but are on to their next destination either in the metropolitan area or elsewhere in the country, he said.

Slater also demanded that HHS release information about the status of the migrants' health, criminal history, educational needs and projected length of stay at receiving facilities. He said it is HHS' responsibility to inform local and county officials of the

situation.

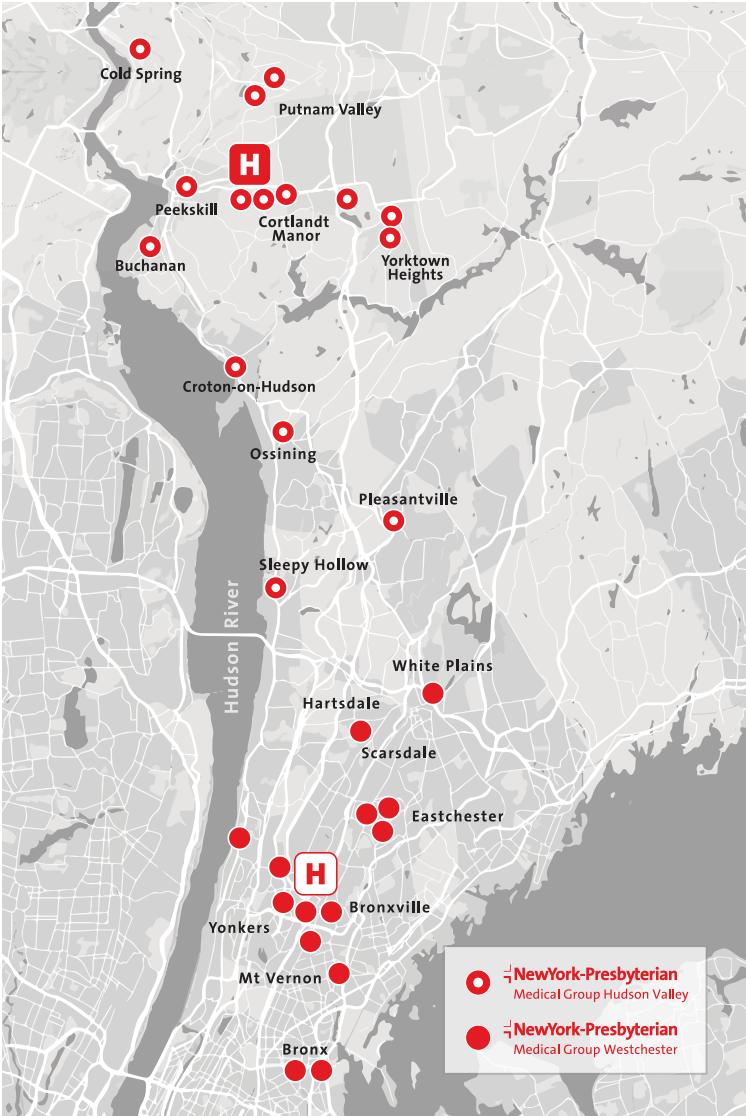
"There are many questions and concerns about this relocation program and the lack of information shared with county and municipal officials," Slater said. "With local COVID-19 cases again surging, HHS officials must tell local officials about the details of their program, the participants and their vaccination status."

County Executive George Latimer said the federal government does not need permission or even to inform the county of what it's doing with one of its operations. However, his office has heard from HHS that the arrivals are not being housed in Westchester.

The highly charged issue has strong political overtones, and Latimer pointed out the loudest voices come from Republican office holders and office seekers in Westchester, none of whom objected to having migrants pass through the county in 2019 when Donald Trump was president.

"The one thing that's clear is that Westchester was given no advance notice and they're trying to tie us to something is just wrong and politically expedient," Latimer said.

However, Fulgenzi said it's crucial for the federal government to provide local and county officials with accurate information to combat the rumor mill on social media. Last week, there was erroneous details of migrants arriving at various sites in Westchester, including one site in Mount Pleasant, which was false.



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New Castle Fire Commissioners to Start Engaging Public on Possible Expansion

By Martin Wilbur

Visitors to the Chappaqua Farmers Market can expect to see a consistent presence from New Castle Fire District No. 1 representatives in the coming weeks and months.

The Board of Commissioners plan on regularly attending the Saturday farmers market after Sept. 11 as they hope to increase public awareness and gather support for a likely referendum to expand the King Street firehouse.

Board Chairman Terence Hoey said at the commissioners' Aug. 12 meeting that they will bring the drawings and rendering to the weekly market to help residents understand the importance of an expanded and modernized firehouse.

While no date for a vote has been announced, commissioners are reaching out to the public in advance of scheduling a referendum.

"We're going to have a semi-permanent presence at the farmers market and we're going to try to man that station, if you will, provide commissioners to work the table so we can start communicating with the residents of the fire district regarding the plan moving forward," Hoey said.

In the spring, the commissioners approved a roughly \$35,000 fee to retain consultant Wise Oak Strategies, the same firm that assisted fire officials in Bedford Hills in communicating with the public to help get a nearly \$15 million firehouse project passed in early 2020 after an earlier referendum failed.



The latest rendering of the expanded and modernized firehouse that is expected to be proposed to the public by New Castle Fire District No. 1.

It has been nearly five years since the district's previous expansion vote was defeated. On multiple occasions commissioners have stressed the importance of a larger facility to accommodate the larger modern apparatus, provide firefighters enough room to store and gather their equipment when rushing to a fire and to properly clean their equipment following a blaze.

Commissioner Ed Frank said at the monthly meeting that the site plans for the firehouse construction were still being reviewed by the town engineer.

Hoey mentioned that the plans have been shared with the Chappaqua Fire Department and that a key announcement

would be made public soon.

"The district has been working for many years now and it seems as though in the very near future the board is going to have an announcement with respect to the way forward here in the district regarding the modernization and consolidation plan," he said.

The last cost estimates for a possible two-story addition were made public in March 2020, which came to just over \$12 million. That estimate was later placed on the fire district's website. It is not known whether the final plans will be the same as nearly 18 months ago, and if so, what the updated costs might be.

Forum on American Rescue Plan Act Funds for W'chester on Sept. 13

Share your thoughts on the American Rescue Plan Act Funds on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at the Mount Kisco Public Library, at 100 Main St. in Mount Kisco from 6 to 8 p.m.

The American Rescue Plan Act provides a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout

and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. These community input sessions are to solicit ideas for programs that address these needs.

To join the forum virtually, you may pre-register at <https://bit.ly/3gdOuPH>. For more information e-mail Communications@westchestergov.com.

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Wrong Way Task Force Examines Entrance, Exit Ramps on Bronx Parkway

Westchester County's Wrong Way Task Force made its first trek along the southbound Bronx River Parkway, after a brief pause during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comprised of Westchester citizens and elected officials, the group began at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla and made its way to Yonkers reviewing the signage and messaging along the county-owned and patrolled Bronx River Parkway.

"This task force is charged with taking inventory of potential problem zones," said County Executive George Latimer. "We know not everyone traveling the parkway is familiar with the area, so we want the signs to be clear and visible for motorists to safely get to their destination."

The Wrong Way Task Force stopped at every exit, taking notes on recommendations, including trimming brush where signs were obscured. So far this year, 104 new signs have been installed along the parkway and additional pavement arrows were placed on dozens of exit ramps.

In 2020, there were 35 wrong-way driver emergency calls along the entire county parkway system, which includes the Hutchinson River Parkway, Bronx River Parkway, Saw Mill River Parkway and Cross County Parkway, and seven motor vehicle accidents resulting from a wrong-way driver.

So far this year, there have been 26 wrong-way driver calls throughout the county parkway system, resulting in four



Westchester County's Wrong Way Task Force traveled the length of the Bronx River Parkway recently to review signs in hopes of making the thoroughfare safer and prevent the rash of wrong-way drivers.

accidents. On the Bronx River Parkway in 2021, there have been three wrong-way incidents, none of which resulted in an accident.

"I am delighted to have a fresh perspective from the Bronx River Parkway Wrong Way Task Force to supplement the extensive

sign and pavement marking improvements my department has implemented over the past year," said Hugh Greechan, commissioner for the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation.

"These recommendations could potentially lead to changes in the way

we continue operating, maintaining and patrolling the Bronx River Parkway, said Department of Environmental Facilities Deputy Commissioner Erin O'Shea, who chairs the task force. "We want drivers to feel safe and informed behind the wheel as they travel through Westchester County. Their safety is of the utmost priority of this task force."

The task force's next meeting of the task force is in September where the group will travel northbound on the Bronx River Parkway to examine exit and entrance ramps.

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Guest Column

How Community Solar Projects Can Lower Electric Bills and Help Schools

By Miriam Gold

Schools, businesses, homeowners and local governments can lower their electricity bills up to 10 percent by subscribing to a community solar project.

There is no cost to join and there is no fee if you need to cancel your subscription, according to sustainablewestchester.org.

Sustainable Westchester helps local municipalities adopt clean energy solutions, including community solar.

Community solar projects can be located on commercial rooftops, in commercial parking lots or fields that get lots of sunlight.

"Mount Kisco installed a community solar project on top of a capped landfill about six months ago," said Leo Wiegman, director of solar programs at Sustainable Westchester.

Robert Martin, a real estate company, has installed solar panels on its commercial roofs in Yonkers, Hawthorne and Elmsford.

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' Ossining campus is installing solar panels on canopies in two parking lots, generating 874 kilowatts of energy, which could provide electricity for 100 to 200 homes.

"If you have a roof with 20,000 to 25,000 square feet, with no obstructions, or if you have 300 to 400 parking spaces, you can be a candidate for installing community solar," Wiegman explained.

Organizations installing community solar can send energy to subscribers and earn money for leasing their property.

Malls are especially well-suited for solar array installation because of their size and flat roofs.

If a school, business or local government decides to use community solar, it can



The array that is part of the Mount Kisco community solar project that was unveiled in April.

become an anchor tenant, a subscriber to community solar that has a large electricity bill.

Anchor tenants are crucial to community solar programs because they are financially stable compared to other subscribers, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Anchor tenants help finance community solar projects and ensure that the projects will always provide a constant stream of subscribers, since their

subscriptions are longer and larger than individual subscribers, states the NREL website.

A standard subscription for an anchor tenant is about 20 years and the portion of the solar farm that they are subscribed to is up to 40 percent of the farm's capacity.

The rest of the solar farm's capacity is allocated to other subscribers, including small business operators and homeowners.

School districts in the United States spend about \$6 billion a year on electricity,

according to the U.S Department of Energy. A school saving up to 10 percent on its electric bill can free up money to allow the school to invest more in vital student programs, facilities and technology.

Schools consume lots of electricity. Think of the amount of energy required to power classrooms, interactive whiteboards, hallways, bathrooms, the cafeteria and its kitchen, the gym, weight room, the library, auditorium, administrative offices, copy machines, display cases, basement, kilns for baking clay, closet space, athletic fields and locker rooms.

Also, many public schools issue a computer to every student for use in the classroom and at home. Students charge their computers in the school every day, using outlets in classrooms, the cafeteria and the library.

Schools subscribing to community solar can operate using a renewable energy source without installing any structures on campus. Instead, the energy is provided in the form of a solar farm in any space that can't be used for other purposes, such as a roof, a field or landfill. From there, the electricity from the solar energy goes into the electric grid through local utility services before being delivered to the project subscribers.

New York State's goal is to generate 70 percent of its power using renewable energy by 2030 and generate 100 percent renewable energy by 2040. If a school joins a community solar project, they will help the state accomplish its goal and help stabilize our common climate.

Miriam Gold is a rising sophomore at Pleasantville High School.

Builders as Influencers: Urging Construction Teams to Get Vaccinated is Crucial

By Chuck Petersheim

Lumber prices have gone through the roof. Appliances are hard to find. Stain for floors, hot water heaters, electrical conduits and PVC are scarce. Labor is non-existent.

Just about everything we need to build and service a home is a disrupted mess because of COVID-19.

Yes, the mundane has become the heroic. Little did I know the complex pandemic-related day-to-day problem-solving would be the least of my worries from this crisis.

The "Black Swan" problem I did not anticipate: Those employed in construction-related fields have one of the lowest group vaccination rates nationwide. Smart people. Sophisticated people. Caring people. Unvaccinated.

Builders by nature are doers, and this is a clear call to action. Builders influence – that's what we do, across a broad range of professions and trades. Encouraging our unvaccinated team members to get the shots aligns with our diverse communications strengths. Every day, builders seamlessly communicate across socioeconomic worlds. We speak as easily with architects and engineers holding Ph.Ds, and surveyors and clients

with bachelor's degrees as we do with the blue-collar workforce of painters, framers, masons and plumbers.

I work with smart men and women, old and young, with varying degrees of education. Why does this vaccine hesitancy run through them all at a higher rate than other industries?

They are, at their core, a hardy, headstrong, self-sufficient group. But as valuable as that trait is in performing their jobs, it also can be an obstacle to safe behavior among workers who routinely interact with more people than those in many other professions.

Across the country, construction industry employees leave their homes daily and travel substantial distances, carpooling and ridesharing. They stop at delis, lumber stores and home goods stores. They enter the homes of clients and customers. Many of these workers are likely to be unvaccinated – and likely ignore crucial health and safety advice.

Builders and construction executives are responsible for more than securing certificates of occupancy and laying foundations. We are uniquely suited to serve as influencers when it comes to COVID-19 vaccines. We can – and must – smartly, consistently and directly influence

our employee and subcontractor network by promoting the benefits of those shots in the arm.

Builders have deep credibility and experience influencing their teams. I do it all the time and I deeply care for my teams. I help employees with basic dental and health care visits. I support their financial literacy efforts with 401(k) contribution education and personal debt management. I encourage regular attendance and coach safety in the workplace. I offer counsel regarding family issues and challenges. The advantages of vaccinations should be part of that regimen.

While every building company is unique, all share the same hierarchical structure, and all successful firms benefit from strong leadership at the top. As leaders, we know how to motivate with time off, bonuses and recognition. We know how to influence with smart communications strategies.

This vaccination effort must happen before their hesitancy impacts our operations, profitability and hard-earned reputations. Builders always serve their communities – we build Little League dugouts and are the first to volunteer.

Simply put, this is just another way for us to serve and protect our community.

Chuck Petersheim, the founder of Catskill



Chuck Petersheim

Farms in Sullivan County, N.Y., has built homes for 20 years. His insights emerge from a grassroots perspective built from close contact with a broad cross-section of small businesses, buyers and governments. From this unique perspective, he is an authority on Hudson Valley and Catskills migration trends, real estate, home construction, financing and land use.

Obituaries

Brianna Curry

Brianna Lynn Curry, a 2017 Peekskill High School graduate, died unexpectedly Aug. 13 after a brief illness. She was 22.

Born Feb. 5, 1999, Bri had a smile that would light up the room. Everyone that knew and loved her noticed her innate kindness, a rare quality for a person so young. Whether she was helping a child with a physical disability that she befriended (United Cerebral Palsy was an organization close to her heart) or shopping for the elderly during the pandemic, everyone could always count on Bri to lend a helping hand, or better yet, organize a fundraiser herself. She loved spending time with her family and friends and was an awesome big sister to her siblings.

At Peekskill High School, she excelled academically and athletically. Bri was a member of the soccer and softballs teams. Soccer was her passion. She continued her soccer career at SUNY Morrisville after high school. Bri also enjoyed photography and took the most beautiful pictures.

Brianna was recently promoted to



Brianna Curry

manager of Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco.

She is survived by her mother, Amanda Santos; her father, Rob Curry; her stepdad, Fernando Nin, and her stepmom, Renee Curry; siblings Benjamin, Nicholas, Noah and Adrianna; and many family members and friends.

Ruth Ackerman

Ruth Ackerman (Loeb), 92, of Pleasantville passed away on Aug. 14.

Ackerman was born Apr. 14, 1929, in Giessen, Germany, the daughter of Morris and Clare Loeb.

She came to New York City as a Jewish refugee from Germany in September 1938 with her parents and sister.

She became an x-ray technician and worked in New York City and later in life in White Plains.

Ackerman was very active in her community. She was a trustee of the Mount Pleasant Public Library, a member of the Pleasantville and Byram Hills PTAs, a literacy volunteer and a volunteer at the Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry of White Plains.

After raising three children, she got her degree at Pace University in Pleasantville. She was office manager for her husband's

dental practice in Pleasantville.

Mrs. Ackerman was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Dr. Martin A. Ackerman.

She is survived by her daughter, Jill (Mark) Leinung; her grandchildren, Daniel (Kellie), Andrew (Erica Drennan) and Katie (Ross Glickman); her great-grandchildren, Benjamin and Jackson; her son, Jon (Bonnie) Ackerman, and grandchildren Sarah and Brooke; and her daughter, Lee (Garry) Sawyer, and her grandchildren, Vincent, James, Jessica and Jeremy. She is also survived by her sister, Hannah Mandel.

A graveside service was held at Sharon Gardens on Aug. 16.

Donations may be sent to the Mount Pleasant Library or the Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry of White Plains. Arrangements were handled by Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville.

Dr. Robert Hales

Dr. Robert J. Hales, a Montrose resident and longtime Peekskill dentist, died Aug. 20 while working on his boat at the Cortlandt Yacht Club. He was 77.

He was born July 21, 1944, at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver. He was the oldest son of Helen A. (Benedict) and John C. Hales, originally from North Tarrytown. His father was serving in the U.S. Army at the time in Denver. The Army transferred the family and they lived in North Tarrytown; Heidleberg and Kaiserslautern, Germany; Brooklyn; and Orleans, France before settling in North Tarrytown in 1959.

Dr. Hales graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School in 1962, Iona College in 1966 and Georgetown University Dental School in 1971. Upon his graduation from dental school, he was commissioned a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps. He trained at Fort Sam Houston, Texas that summer and transferred to Erlangen, Germany where he served as a dental officer and the director of the dental clinic. He was honorably discharged from the Army and returned to New York. Shortly thereafter, he purchased a dental practice on Main Street in Peekskill, where he remained practicing until his death.

As a young man, Hales was an altar boy, a Little Leaguer, Babe Ruth baseball player and played baseball in high school. He was a car enthusiast, a proud owner of a 1954 Packard Sedan and was always intrigued with how things worked. He had an infectious smile, a huge personality, a wicked sense of humor and was always ready to entertain with one of his many stories.

Hales had a real zeal for life, cared deeply about his family and was the best dad ever. He enjoyed taking road trips with his children, often to NASCAR events, giving tractor rides to his grandchildren and celebrated every day with an ice-cold Pabst Blue Ribbon. He was a vital member of the community and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

A longtime member of the Peekskill



Dr. Robert Hales

Rotary, he served as president as well as holding many other leadership positions over the years. Dr. Hales was equally active in the Cortlandt Yacht Club and Shattemuc Yacht Club where he served as commodore from 2004 to 2008. He was a member of the Lincoln Society in Peekskill as well as being president and was instrumental in the establishment of the Lincoln Depot Museum. He was also a member of the Cortlandt Fire Department and the New York State Dental Association.

Dr. Hales is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Mary Jane (Ross); daughter Maggie of Croton-on-Hudson; son Robert M. and wife Mary (Hehir) and son Kevin J. of Montrose; grandchildren Robert M. Jr., Jack James and Audrey Elizabeth of Montrose; daughter from his first marriage, Heidi Hales Dugan (Matt), of Waterbury, Vt.; brother John and wife Vicky of Stafford, Va.; cousins Helen Rae and Ben Ginnetti of Chantilly, Va., Phyllis Weaver of Tarrytown, Barbara Kleinman of Okatie, S.C., Peter and wife Geri Ordini of Wayne, N.J.; and several nieces.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Yorktown Funeral Home. A Funeral mass will be on Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Church in Ossining. Interment to follow at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

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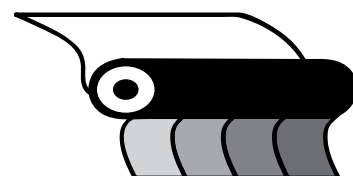
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Mt. Kisco Ready to Welcome Back Farmers Market This Sunday

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco is planning a test run of monthly farmers markets for the remainder of 2021 in hopes of having it become a regular fixture in the village by next year.

The first market will be this Sunday, Aug. 29 at the South Moger municipal parking lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nikki Sturomski, a member of the Farmers Market Committee, said between 20 and 30 vendors are expected for the kickoff, which will feature local and regional farms, local businesses who produce their own produce as well as local restaurants.

It won't just be vendors, who will be selling eggs, meat, produce, bread and olive oil. They will be joined by artisans making jewelry and crafts and musicians. There will also be a children's table.

Sturomski said the goal is to create an experience not just for shoppers but for the entire community.

"We feel like this is what the collective message from the community is, that everyone meets at the Mount Kisco Farmers Market," she said. "We're excited and happy to include local farms and businesses."

The idea to try a market once again in the village presented itself a few months ago, Sturomski said. The nonprofit organization Women United and Mimi Tesfaye, the owner of Mimi's Coffeehouse, hosted a sustainability event and the sentiment was that Mount Kisco should have a farmers market, she said.



Along with Marisa De Zego, they formed a committee and took it upon themselves to organize the market and get the village on board. Sturomski said she is hopeful that this time around a farmers market will be part of Mount Kisco for the long run.

"Everyone wants to go green, become sustainable and there's more of an awareness toward the farmers and small businesses," she said. "We're giving them a chance in a platform to be featured and also it's great education for the community and we've got family educational events as well."

There have been previous farmers markets in Mount Kisco but none during the

past 15 or 20 years have endured. Previous sites have included the St. Mark's Episcopal Church and in the parking lot at the Boys & Girls Club.

The vendors will be set up along the long side of the parking lot closest to South Moger Avenue from near the gazebo down toward opposite the Charles Schwab building. Vendors will be spread out enough to ensure good flow and leave enough separation so they and the patrons will feel comfortable visiting during the pandemic, Sturomski said.

On Sundays, the South Moger lot is typically at its emptiest, giving market

patrons the opportunity to park there and walk to the vendors.

Village officials commended the organizers for trying to bring a farmers market back to Mount Kisco. The monthly markets will be held the final Sunday of each month through December before it is evaluated for next year. Sturomski said they hope they can eventually do a weekly market.

Mayor Gina Picinich said the committee had explored an aisle in the Shoppers Park lot and then she had suggested the lot behind Village Hall before South Moger was agreed to.

"I applaud them for stepping up, and if this is the timeline for when they want to give this a try, I support their efforts," Picinich said.

Trustee Karen Schleimer, who wondered whether the Sunday before school is the best time to kick off the market, said she was looking forward to having it operate in the village.

"I think this is a tremendous undertaking," Schleimer said. "I think the possibilities are exciting. I want them to succeed, so my comments are geared toward making it as successful as possible, more than anything."

Sturomski said although there are other markets in the area, most of those are on Saturday, so Mount Kisco won't be competing directly. She is hopeful they can draw on the communities of Bedford, South Salem, Cross River and elsewhere in northern Westchester as well as Mount Kisco.

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Americans throw out between 30 and 40 percent of the food that is produced in the country, which is an economic, social and environmental problem.

There are many reasons food gets wasted: on the farms it could be due to bad weather or overproduction, or it could sit too long in the grocery store.

But household food waste is a result of overbuying, poor planning, improper storage and confusion about sell by labels and expiration dates.

The Hudson Valley Food Waste Challenge is an interactive, community initiative to raise public awareness about these issues. Participants will learn how to cut down their "foodprint" with easy strategies that will not only reduce what they are tossing in the garbage, but also save money and time. They will get ideas on how to better organize the refrigerator and store food so that it has a maximum shelf life along with safety tips for preparing leftovers and how to substitute ingredients into recipes so you can use what you have on hand.

The challenge will begin Sept. 20 and last for six weeks. The only things needed to participate are small garbage bags, a small kitchen scale and the desire to feel good about making a positive change in your current waste habits. Through



short videos, text messages and e-mails, participants will stay connected with the community, share their experiences and see what others are up to through hashtags, stories and live videos.

They will also hear from local chefs, farmers and other food experts on best practices when it comes to shopping, keeping food fresh and creating delicious recipes from what you have in the house.

The \$25 registration fee provides access to the online community, a toolkit and resources to help track your success,

a very cool t-shirt and the opportunity to win great prizes.

"The Food Waste Challenge is a great activity for the whole family to do together, do in your neighborhood or get your school involved in," said Janet Irizarry, founder of Hudson Valley EATS. "The United States Food Waste Reduction Goal is to reduce food waste by half by 2030; the U.N. Global initiative is to do it by 2050. As Hudson Valley residents, wouldn't it be great to do our part to support these efforts as best we can? Each one of us by ourselves may feel

there is nothing we can do about climate change, but I promise you, together we can make a difference."

About Hudson Valley EATS

Hudson Valley EATS was started five years ago to focus attention on the great food entrepreneurs and restaurant owners in the Hudson Valley. Over the years the organization has written many articles and highlighted great food escapades as well as the people who make the Hudson Valley food scene so magnificent. Last year Hudson Valley EATS launched "Cooking for a Cause," which raised thousands of dollars to combat hunger.

There are other ways to strengthen the sustainability of the Hudson Valley by connecting the caring people of the community with opportunities to make a difference. The Food Waste Challenge is a way everyone can make a difference together.

Hudson Valley EATS is a community-based website where all are welcome to contribute to become part of the conversation of "everything" food in the Hudson Valley, from farm to landfill.

More information can be found at <https://www.hudsonvalleyeats.com>.

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ENTREE (Choose One)

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ACCOMPANIMENTS (All Included)

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SIDES (Choose Two)

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Kasha Varnishkes • Broccoli Almondine

Sweet Potato Pudding • Noodle Pudding

Potato Pudding

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APPETIZER

6 pieces of Gefilte Fish

1.5 pts. Chopped Liver

SOUP

2 qts. Chicken Noodle Soup & 7 Matzo Balls

ENTREE (Choose One)

3 Roast Chickens with Tray of Stuffing

2.5 lbs. Fresh Turkey Breast

2.5 lbs. Fresh Brisket

ACCOMPANIMENTS (All Included)

1 pt. Cranberry-Pineapple Compote

1.5 pts. Fresh-Cut Cole Slaw

Round Challah

SIDES (Choose Two)

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Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Aug. 9: Patrol responded to an area on Franklin Avenue at 9:41 p.m. on a report of an injured skunk on a resident's property. Patrol located the injured skunk and put it down.

Aug. 11: Patrols responded to Old Post Road South at 7:56 p.m. on a report of a dispute between juveniles. There were no reported injuries. A report was filed.

Aug. 12: Patrol responded at 1:30 p.m. to Benedict Boulevard on a report of a juvenile who was walking carrying a table

and other items and appeared to be looking for someone. Patrol located the party who wasn't in need of assistance but was attempting to set up a lemonade stand with a friend.

Aug. 14: Report of a dispute between employees in a commercial area of Main Street at 8:59 a.m. The parties were interviewed; the situation was mediated with no arrests.

Aug. 14: Patrols and other Westchester County agencies responded to an area on the Hudson River at 3:37 p.m. on a report of a party in distress in the water. The Croton area was canvassed with negative results. The scene was south of Croton-on-

Hudson and handled by water rescue from another agency.

North Castle Police Department

Aug. 13: A caller reported at 7:48 a.m. that his wife was struck by a vehicle while riding her bicycle on northbound Route 22; 60 Control was notified. Officers responded and reported that the injured party was transported to Westchester Medical Center via ALS.

Aug. 17: Fire department pager dispatched the Valhalla Volunteer Ambulance Corps to a North Broadway address at 12:55 a.m. for a male party who suffered a laceration to his hand while he was cutting fruit. The call was transferred to 60 Control. The responding officer reported that the party refused medical attention; units cleared.

Aug. 17: At 12:11 p.m., police received a 911 call from the party who reported accidentally stabbing himself in the hand earlier this date; 60 Control was notified. The responding officer reported that the party is being transported to White Plains Hospital.

Aug. 17: A caller reported at 4:22 p.m. that her vehicle was parked on Clove Road in front of the community center when it was apparently broken into at some point overnight or earlier this date. The responding officer reported that a deposition was secured; a report will follow.

Yorktown Police Department

Aug. 18: Brian Rios, 26, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped on Crompond Road (Route 202) for speeding at 2:59 a.m.



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White Plains Home to Westchester's Newest and Largest Commercial Art Gallery

By Martin Wilbur

You don't have to leave Westchester to find special pieces of contemporary art to enjoy and to purchase.

Last week, the county's newest art gallery, the One Martine Gallery, celebrated its grand opening in part of the ground-floor space of City Square in downtown White Plains, a mixed-use project that saw a former office building transformed into 188 luxury rental apartments and retail at 1-11 Martine Ave. and 50 Main St.

Although the inclusion of art has been a staple in many of developer Martin Ginsburg's recent projects, the 2,700-square-foot gallery is a unique space that will allow the building's residents to receive complementary art curation services. But art enthusiasts from around the area are encouraged to visit and perhaps take home a piece as well.

Many of the featured works will highlight local and regional artists, said Ginsburg.

"Much of it is done by painters from the area but a lot of them are from other places and we plan to use it continuously for local artists," Ginsburg said. "It's a large gallery; I think it's the largest (commercial) gallery in Westchester right now. I think it will be an opportunity to be a resource for the community as well."

Gallery Director Walker Manzke selected the approximately 45 pieces that are on display for the opening weeks. Manzke said he doesn't have a particular theme yet at the gallery, which has sparkling hardwood floors and track lighting, preferring to see how the local clientele reacts. For now, visitors will be



Prints from digital artist Arthur Bonanno's History of Energy series at One Martine Gallery in White Plains, which celebrated its grand opening last Thursday.

treated to varied styles in a wide price range, from abstract expressionism to pop art, graffiti, digital art and prints, he said.

Manzke, whose expertise is in contemporary art, said that he's always had success selling work that appeals to him, so he'll start off using that as his guide.

"This is a beautiful space," said Manzke, a lifelong Westchester resident from Pound Ridge. "They spared no expense. I like to say we're a New York City gallery but based in Westchester. It gives the art a real chance to shine."

Pieces range from Reza Torabi's "Life in Motion" series, including his painting "5th Avenue," which is a takeoff of the Beatles' Abbey Road album cover of the legendary Fab Four crossing Manhattan's 5th Avenue with Michael Jackson following, to digital artist Arthur Bonanno's "History of Energy" series, from about 770,000 BC to the future of



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

The space at One Martine Gallery in White Plains is now Westchester's largest commercial art gallery. Right: Reza Torabi's "5th Ave." from his Life in Motion series.



hydrogen implementation.

The gallery is displaying several of Bonanno's 32-panel series of photos.

"They were built to be developed into animation," Bonanno said. "I've had conversations with different museums about doing stuff at planetariums. They're made for multimedia."

The gallery is the first new retail space at City Square. A French bistro is scheduled to open later this year with the significant retail additions along Main Street in the future.

In addition to the gallery, a nearly 18-foot sculpture was scheduled to be installed outside City Square at 50 Main St. on Monday under the

arches of the office tower owned and managed by Ginsburg Development Companies.

However, the delivery and installation of the stainless-steel piece on a pedestal titled "Fragments of Something Bigger" by Bulgarian sculptor Georgi Minchev, was postponed until Tuesday because of inclement weather.

The sculpture was selected through a competitive open call process managed by ArtsWestchester.

One Martine Gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m.

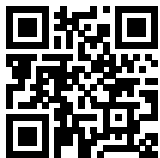
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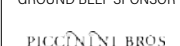
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Land Trust Protects 125 Acres in Hudson Highlands Corridor

Westchester Land Trust announced last week the acquisition and conservation of 125 acres across three land preservation projects in the Town of Cortlandt.

The newly protected open space is a critical addition to an existing 2,700-acre conservation corridor within the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Area, which includes the town's Hudson Highlands Gateway Park, the Hudson Highlands State Park and the Appalachian Trail. The land will be protected in perpetuity as a nature preserve and open to the public as soon as practical for hiking and nature study.

"This is an extremely important landscape-scale conservation project because it preserves one of the largest remaining pieces of unprotected open space in Westchester County and is located near other large blocks of open space," said Lori Ensinger, president of Westchester Land Trust. "We have been working on this project for six years, and we are deeply grateful to all who contributed to its success. It is truly an investment in clean air and clean water for the residents of Cortlandt, Peekskill and the surrounding communities."

The property has a rich history. Originally inhabited by the indigenous peoples of the Lenape, or Delaware tribe, the proximity of the property to the Hudson River and its tributaries made it a likely seasonal Lenape camp site or hunting ground.

The land also played a role in the American Revolution and is documented as the site of a military parade ground

and gallows. Most recently, much of the property was used as a private camp until the 1980s.

The land has remnants of an unmaintained trail system, a diversity of forested wetland habitats and views toward the Hudson Highlands. Permanently conserving this property protects locally unique habitats and woodlands that sequester carbon, buffers the Hudson River from stormwater runoff and ensures that the land will not be further fragmented by development.

Westchester Land Trust's stewardship staff will develop a plan for opening a formal hiking trail system to the public and for conducting research with conservation partners to study the land use history and unusual biodiversity on the property. Opportunities for local school groups and volunteers to participate in this work will be publicized locally.

"The land is remarkable in many ways," said Brendan Murphy, Westchester Land Trust's director of stewardship. "Most impressive are its stunning, but fragile wetlands and diverse terrain. This means the property is more resilient to the effects of climate change and provides shelter for important plants and wildlife, including several species designated by New York State as threatened or special concern."

More than 100 acres of the conservation assemblage on Sprout Brook Road was donated to Westchester Land Trust by the property owner, who has chosen to remain anonymous. This property had long been identified as a priority for preservation by



Part of the 125 acres in the Town of Cortlandt's Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Area that will be protected in perpetuity through the efforts of the Westchester Land Trust.

the Town of Cortlandt, and the Land Trust has collaborated with the town over the past few years to plan for the future public enjoyment of the property.

The donation also included a separate parcel that has been heavily damaged by extensive ATV trespass over the years, and the Land Trust and the town will be evaluating its future use.

The town, in its May 2004 Open Space Report, identified the assemblage as "Very Highest Priority" to preserve, in an area of town where "open space is at a premium."

"I am delighted to see the completion of a land protection project that has long been a goal of the town," said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi. "We are so thankful to the

land donors, and to the Westchester Land Trust, for investing their own funds in this property for the benefit of our community. It illustrates the balance we are trying to achieve between conservation of the most environmentally sensitive areas of town with development where it can reasonably be supported."

To add to the assemblage, another landowner donated four acres on Kingston Avenue. In addition, Westchester Land Trust purchased a nearby 13-acre parcel on Birch Brook Road that protects the water quality of the Peekskill Hollow Creek, the drinking water supply for Peekskill residents.

This project was privately underwritten in its entirety. In addition to the land donations, it was funded by a generous bequest from the Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith, a former Westcheser Land Trust director, a grant from The Nature Conservancy of New York's Resilient and Connected Network grant program and the Land Trust's land acquisition fund. It is notable that these properties fall within one of seven priority linkage areas in New York State that were identified by The Nature Conservancy as providing critical connections between core forests.

Westchester Land Trust will be working with the Town of Cortlandt and conservation partner Hudson Highlands Land Trust to put a conservation easement on the preserve, adding an extra level of legal protection to the property.

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Teens Sought to Share Their Stories About Living With Cancer

There is a call for entries for teens to share their stories through writing, art and video about how cancer has impacted their life.

The Teen Cancer Story contest is sponsored by Gilda's Club Westchester, a free support community for anyone impacted by cancer in partnership with the Westchester Library System (WLS), the Rockland County Library System (RCLS) and the Library Association of Rockland County (LARC). It is looking for "original, honest, detailed, and heartfelt creative entries in the form of essays, poetry, artwork or video submissions."

The contest, which has been made possible by the generosity of The Westchester Bank, is open to teens ages 13 through 17 who live in Westchester, Rockland and Fairfield counties, who have either been diagnosed with cancer, have a loved one who was diagnosed or have experienced the loss of a loved one to cancer. Teens may only submit in one category of the contest. Teen Cancer Story submissions are not open to previous contest winners.

"A cancer diagnosis can unleash a storm of emotions, questions and unexpected discoveries, not just for the person with cancer, but for the whole family and even their friends," said Jen Scully, director of Gilda's Club Westchester. "Sharing your experience can be both good for you and helpful to someone else who may be in a

similar situation."

The first-place winners of each category will receive cash prizes of \$250. The runner-up in each category will also be recognized. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 1, 2021, at 5 p.m. It is preferable that all entries be submitted electronically. Artwork can be mailed or delivered in person to Gilda's Club Westchester, located at 80 Maple Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10601. If submitting artwork in person, e-mail Jaime Aker at jaker@gildasclubwestchester.org to schedule a

drop off by Oct. 31.

Once submitted, any creative materials become property of Gilda's Club Westchester and may be displayed in publications and on gildasclubwestchester.org.

For more information about the Teen Cancer Story contest and the requirements for each category, visit <https://gildasclubwestchester.org/teen-cancer-story>.

Gilda's Club Westchester, located in White Plains, offers an essential

complement to medical care, providing welcoming communities of free support for everyone living with cancer – men, women, teens, children and families. The mission of Gilda's Club Westchester is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community through individual counseling, support groups, workshops, education and social activities.

Celebrate the High Holidays With Chabad of Putnam County

Chabad of Putnam County invites the community to its traditional High Holiday Services, which will be held at the VFW in Carmel.

Services will include a traditional prayer service with contemporary insights, Hebrew-English prayer books and prayer instructions and a supervised children's program. There will be security and police presence at all services.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah,

Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. on the shore of Lake Gleneida, we will be providing a 30-minute outdoor service that will include Shofar blowing, Tashlich, several selected meaningful prayers and a brief holiday message delivered by Rabbi Avi Korner.

Chabad of Putnam is located at 5 Fair St. in Carmel. RSVP for events at www.PutnamChabad.org or by calling 845-225 4770.

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Sit and Take a Load Off Your Feet: The Ever-Evolving Styles of Chairs

As a realtor who really enjoys his work, I have no regrets about any of the deals I've brokered for either my buyers or sellers – except for one detail I brokered for the sale of my own home a half-dozen years ago.

I sold a big old colonial home, which I exchanged for a spanking new condo at Trump Park. Because I was downsizing from a 14-room home to a space that's more appropriate for my lifestyle, I was delighted when my buyers told me I could leave behind any of the furnishings, which they liked. I didn't have to worry about unloading them.

Frequently since that time, I have been reminded of my one regret about that deal: leaving behind a big, comfortable wingback chair because I thought it was too bulky for my new space. Now, many times when I sit to read or meditate in a pared-down and boney Martha Washington-type chair, I regret that decision.

Readers of this column know that I like to discover where everything around the house comes from, and I wondered how long people have sat in chairs? When sharing that apple, Adam and Eve must have sat on a rock or fallen log, but that would assume that trees fell to the ground in paradise.

Or if you're more evolution minded, you might consider that our ancestor, the ape, had no rump at all for comfort and probably just squatted.

But once man stood upright and developed a more ample derriere, there surely was a need once in a while to take a load off his feet by sitting.



My earliest memory of a reference to sitting was when, as a five-year old, I giggled uncontrollably over a comedic line from Groucho Marx where Margaret Dumont was told to sit to take a load off the floor.

Plopping down in a chair is something one never usually thinks about unless it's excruciatingly uncomfortable, too low to get out of or used for some lesson or cautionary tale, like my first nun threatening that any misbehavior would involve our having to "sit in the corner." My mother once told my older siblings and me that we must always sit in a chair when eating so that the food would not travel down and give us fat ankles! My brother, always more a wiseacre than I, responded, "But if we sit in a chair when we eat, won't we get fat rear ends?"

While it is not certain when the first person crafted a seat with a back and sat in it, archeological evidence at Neolithic sites indicates bench-like seating areas. The earliest physical evidence we have of chairs is from the Egyptian tombs from about 2800 BC, but such comforts were normally reserved to denote higher elevation in society.

It wasn't until the Renaissance in Europe that the chair came into more general use. Since that time, the style of chairs has reflected the times in which they were crafted as much as fashion for clothing.

But it was the industrial revolution in which chairs could be machine-made that placed them into every household.

Almost from the beginning, chairs of plain utilitarian design sat alongside those of great style and beauty. Chair design came into its own in our culture when nurtured by our original settlers who brought style along with function from their mother land, starting with the Jacobean style, then Queen Anne, followed by Chippendale, Sheraton and Hepplewhite to Victorian, the uncomfortable Hitchcock chair, then art deco and what we enjoy today as modern.

Today we have modern works of art realized in chair design, created with both ergonomic and functional considerations. But then chairs were always functional. The

original intention for wingback chairs, for instance, was to shield its occupants from drafts in the room, but the design has survived to this day.

Before they were machine manufactured, chairs were of great value as witnessed by the last will and testament of the original owner of that 18th century home I owned who specified that his "kitching" chairs were to be left to his oldest son.

Until recently I have been a traditionalist, living as I did in antique homes and collecting antique furnishings, and I've owned different types of chairs, ranging from early Queen Anne, and later Hepplewhite, to a prized barrel back chair from the 1930s that I am told was the favorite of Mayor LaGuardia in his office at City Hall.

Most of them were uncomfortable compared to a cushy new Lawson-style sofa I bought for my current residence. Now I can just plop down in comfort, not caring a fig about what influenced its style.

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. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera



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How Important is it for Children to Learn to Code?

By Caryna Wong

As technology continues to permeate every aspect of our lives, coding is becoming an essential skill for children to acquire in an increasingly digital world.

When presented in a fun and stimulating atmosphere and applied to the creation of games, design and more, it can help ease children onto a path that can lead to in-demand and lucrative careers.

Last year, it was estimated that one million programming-related jobs went unfilled in the U.S. Software development is among the 20 fastest growing occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the median salary for a software developer is \$100,690 while the starting compensation at Google and other comparable firms is around \$190,000 with just a bachelor's degree. Compare that with the average debt of \$134,600 after law school or \$232,300 after medical school, with median incomes of \$122,960 and \$206,500, respectively.

As the executive director of Mount Kisco's Code Ninjas learning center, my Senseis

(teachers) instruct kids to code in a fun, safe and inspiring game-based learning environment. As parents think about enrolling their children in these types of classes, I have found that they often have questions about how it all works and the benefits of such a program.

The following are some of the most frequently asked queries. Perhaps the answers can help you decide if you are thinking about educating your children in coding.

Do I want my kid to be a computer geek?

Aside from the future financial benefits, coding also has been shown to improve creativity, literacy, teamwork and resilience as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills. All of these can be applied across many different areas, industries, professions and hobbies. The ability to truly be able to deep dive and understand topics fosters interest and passion and allows children to reach their full potential.

Plenty of jobs don't require coding

More jobs are requiring basic programming skills and the ability to quickly adapt to various software packages. These include art and design, music, financial services, sales, marketing and auto mechanics.

Technology allows artists and designers to fully flesh out their ideas and aids musicians in sampling and composing. Auto mechanics are having to understand how to use and interpret various computerized diagnostic tools to service newer vehicles. Surgeons are utilizing robotics in surgery and artificial intelligence (IA) to solve problems.

"There are very few positions that don't require a technical background at this point," said Peter Weinbaum, president and owner of Insight Resource Group, Inc., a recruiting firm specializing in financial services. "Most trading is program trading, algorithmic and quantitative in nature and traders need to be technical. There are very few people on trading desks who can't write code."

Kevin Donohue, director of finance operations for patient access at IQVIA, started as a customer service rep for Reader's Digest and was taught how to code in the mainframe.

"It's all about data and access to data," Donohue said. "Everything is self-serve. If I know SQL, I can be a better consumer. I can frame questions more intelligently if I know how data is structured."

Coding is for boys

A 2016 study titled "Gender



Differences and Bias in Open Source: Pull Request Acceptance of Women Versus Men," showed that women programmers were considered better coders and their code was accepted more often than men's but only when their gender was unknown. While there are gender issues in the industry, there are also women in top positions working for tech giants Facebook, IBM and Youtube, as well as women entrepreneurs who started companies such as Canva, Bumble, Houzz and theSkimm.

My child can study coding in college

Forty-seven percent of states in the United States have computer science as part of the high school

curriculum. New York is part of the 53 percent that lacks that requirement. Japan and the U.K. are rolling out programs to introduce the subject as early as kindergarten. By the time your child gets to college, they will be up against kids who have been doing this for five years or more. Computer science is not a subject that one can easily navigate their way through. Starting your child young will give them an advantage.

Caryna Wong is the executive director and owner of Code Ninjas Mount Kisco, a center for coding and STEM education. Kids have fun. Parents see results.

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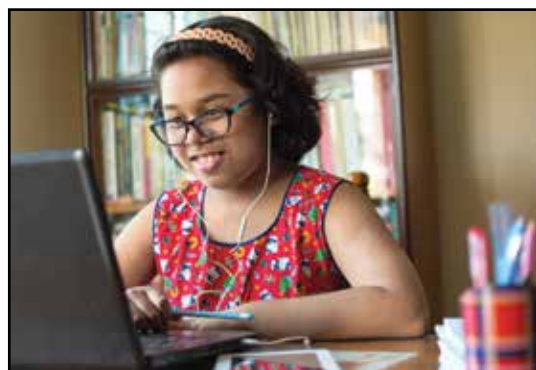
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Ways School Communities Are Forced to Reassess in Light of the Pandemic

Schools are soon reopening, meaning less isolation and more social time for students.

Even though many students have been learning virtually for the past year, the pandemic has exposed issues that have never been thought of, let alone addressed.

Patrick Quinn, a parenting expert at the online learning platform Brainly, father of three school-age children and former teacher, has outlined five silver linings for the U.S. education system that have come out of one of the most turbulent times for students and teachers alike.

Here are five positive lasting effects and emerging trends in education that the pandemic serves as a catalyst for.

1. Internet and online education. Over the past year, the economic inequality impacting education has come to the forefront on people's minds. This year, policymakers at both the state and federal levels are working together to make broadband ubiquitous. As we look ahead, positive change is on the horizon as we work as a society to address these types of challenges and problems.

2. Prioritization of social-emotional learning. The past year has been an extended period of collective trauma and isolation during some of the most important formative years for



students. We don't know the lasting impacts it will have, but we do know that students need support from their teachers, teachers need support from their administrators, and so on. Social-emotional learning is rising to the forefront as key to academic recovery, for both students and teachers.

3. Embracing formative learning and assessment models. After the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the last few months of that academic year were basically put on hold. Learning, testing, assessments and more were canceled, which led us to a unique opportunity to rethink learning models. Over the past year, we saw a move toward competency-based, student-centered models that promote student engagement and agency in the learning process, while easing

learning loss.

4. Parents are more actively involved in their kids' education. Prior to the pandemic, kids had a way of talking themselves out of conversations surrounding their grades and education to their parents and guardians. With students now learning from their homes, parents and guardians have no choice but to be more attune to what they're learning and how they're performing. Virtual learning led to an increase in parents using Brainly, and Brainly followed suit with the creation of Brainly for Parents. This platform allows parents to find deeper answers, for better understanding and explanations for their children. This allows students and parents to learn together.

5. Students are learning better time

management and taking control of their own educational outcomes.

Students are learning that it's their responsibility to find the time and energy to finish their school assignments on time, without being micromanaged. Virtual learning requires teachers to trust their students, and it requires students to follow through on their own. While this may require a great amount of self-discipline for anyone, let alone an adolescent child, many students are not only proving themselves capable but starting to thrive in this new self-directed learning environment.

Thanks to Brainly's peer-to-peer learning community that provides 24/7 help, along with the recent addition of new products to its suite of online learning tools like Brainly Tutor and the AI-powered Math Solver app, it's now easier than ever for students to find all the help they need online so they can become self-directed learners.

Though the pandemic made everything seemingly more challenging, it exposed many flaws that occur throughout our public education system on a daily basis. Many improvements can be made systemically, improvements that would not have been brought to the public's attention without the pandemic occurring. The silver lining that is COVID-19 acted as a catalyst for positive change and has challenged Americans to care about the flaws in educational equity.



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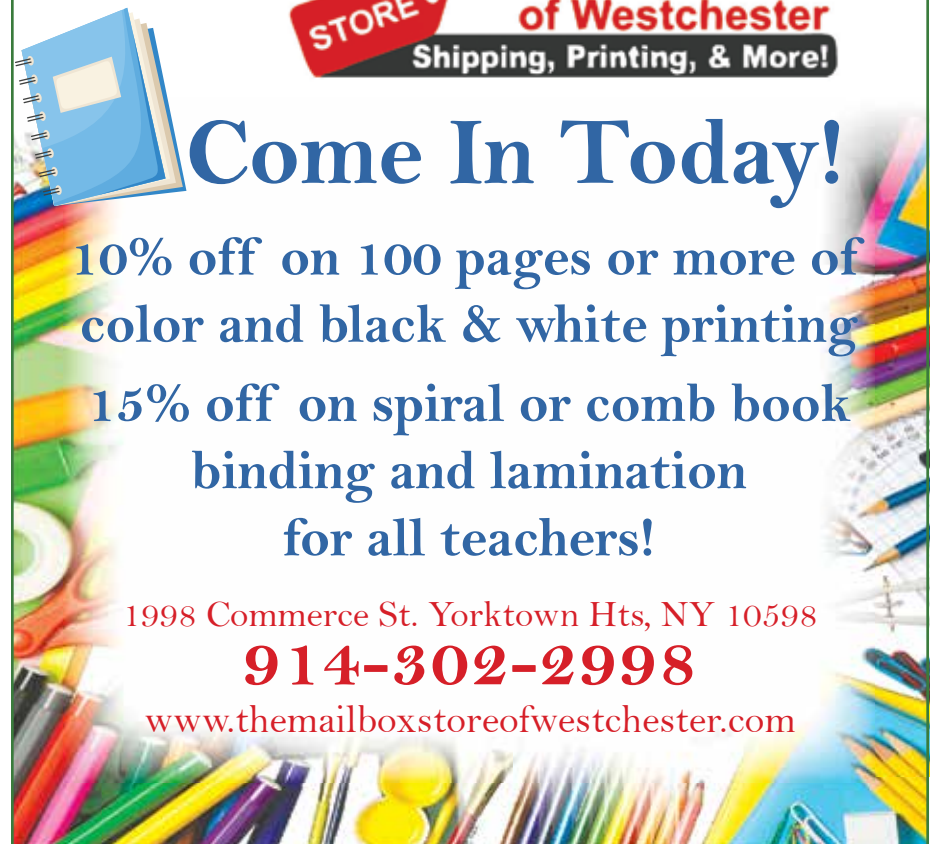
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Creative Ways to Connect Kids to Science and Encourage STEM Learning

The pandemic has deeply impacted learning experiences for students across America. As educators and students return to school this year, they will continue to navigate these challenges as they look for ways to redefine learning.

The pandemic also put a stark spotlight on inequities in the sciences and science education, especially the lack of equal access. The good thing is that this has sparked an increased awareness and a desire for change to begin addressing these issues.

With new norms of educational learning still being defined, there is a real opportunity to find creative and engaging ways to expose young and diverse thinkers to the vast world of science around them. One of the ways to do this is by connecting science to the things kids are already passionate about – sports, music, dance, art, gaming or anything else they may be interested in.

America's favorite rapping teacher, Dwayne Reed, shares creative ways educators and parents can help kids find a "way-in" to science that will ignite their passion for STEM learning and make science more approachable.



1. Extend STEM beyond the classroom. Show kids how to apply the scientific method in their day-to-day lives and activities. As individuals, we make

observations daily and ask questions – or hypothesize – based on what we observe. Parents and educators can foster an inquisitive mindset by challenging kids to explore the world around them. This creates fun and relatable learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

2. Connect personal passions to STEM learning. When students lack confidence in a particular subject, it can feel intimidating. As a result, they can often have a hard time seeing themselves as successful in that subject or can lose interest altogether. As teachers and educators, we want to encourage our kids and show them they can be anything they want. One of the ways to do this is by connecting what they already love to something they are not as confident in. STEM is a perfect example of this. Show students how science can be applied to their other interests, including sports, music, dance, gaming or art. By helping connect the dots for students, they can turn their passions into something that can benefit the world around them.

3. Keep a pulse on new educational resources. Stay updated on new resources and information that could positively impact students. The great thing about this is that teachers and parents can both get involved. A few ways you can stay up to date are reading blogs, educational articles and



looking for resources on social media. One learning resource to check out is 3M's Science at Home video series. This online library of DIY science experiments uses common household items to help make STEM learning fun and accessible while showing children they can connect science to just about anything. Teachers will also note that the step-by-step resources include national science teaching standards for easy lesson planning.

4. Challenge students to try something new. Challenge kids to put themselves into roles they may not naturally see themselves in. Provide encouragement, resources and confidence to get them to the next level. With a bit of creativity, you

can open their eyes to a whole world of opportunities they may not be thinking about. Make STEM learning feel relatable and fun – even if it's new for them. It's all about reframing the way students look at the world and giving them assurance and an opportunity to explore what's around them.

The importance of maintaining a stable and engaging learning experience for students remains a priority. And with just a few creative learning techniques and models, educators and parents can ensure their students are connected, actively learning, and feeling encouraged both in and out of the classroom.

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Health Coverage Helps Students Safely Return to School

As a new school year kicks into gear, make sure your child is ready to safely return to in-person learning and extracurricular activities.

This means being on top of routine medical visits and ensuring they are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and mumps. While parents may have delayed their children's vaccinations and preventive care due to the COVID-19 outbreak, medical offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time. Call to schedule an appointment today.

And if your child is 12 years or older and hasn't received their COVID-19 vaccine yet, talk to their doctor about getting it as soon as possible. If your children don't currently have

health insurance, it is not too late to get them covered.

Nationwide, millions of school-age children and teens qualify — and are enrolled — in free or low-cost health coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). These health programs can provide vital access to care, including well-child visits and vaccinations, to keep students focused on learning and give parents the peace of mind that comes with knowing their children are covered inside and outside the classroom.

The start of the school year is a good opportunity to catch up on important well-child visits and ensure children are up to date on their immunizations. Vaccinations, such



as those for seasonal influenza, measles and mumps, are particularly important this year and are covered for children by Medicaid and CHIP.

Not only can routine vaccinations, as well as the COVID-19 vaccination, protect children from getting sick and developing serious complications, but they can also protect others who may be vulnerable to serious illness, such as babies and other young children, older people and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Studies have shown that academic performance and health insurance go hand in hand. Children who have health coverage miss fewer classes and perform better in school than those who are uninsured.

But health coverage doesn't just benefit students. Fewer missed days of school also mean fewer missed days of work for parents. With health coverage, children can get the routine and emergency care, immunizations, check-ups, eye exams, dental visits and mental health services they may need to fully participate in school class. Health coverage also provides access to important care if children get sick or injured.



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Montauk: The Less Trendy Sister Hamlet to the Hamptons

Where does a travel writer go now that it's safe to travel again?

One of my favorite destinations is Montauk. If you drive any further than Montauk on Long Island, you'll drop into the Atlantic.

The fall is the very best time to be there. Weekenders are gone. There's no frustrating traffic, the weather's absolutely delightful and the water is still nice and warm from the summer's sun. It's like a picturesque New England village, not trendy like the Hamptons.

The charming hamlet of Montauk has captivating shops and amazing restaurants. You can ride horses on the beach, play golf on an award-winning course, go fishing on a party boat, play tennis or turn your engines off on one of their lovely beaches.

Visit the historic national landmark Montauk Lighthouse, authorized by the Second Congress and President George Washington in 1792.

My favorite spot for seafood is Inlet Seafood Restaurant. Nestled on the bay,



By Richard Levy

it's a temple of seafood, where every table has sunset water views. Order their fried whole sea bass in a tangy sauce, seared scallops over sweet potato and Swiss chard or their OMG! crispy whole cauliflower tempura covered with a delicious sauce.

When planning a Montauk escape, unequivocally the hotel you must splurge for is Gurney's Resort & Seawater Spa. It's the ultimate, luxury beach and palace of the rich and famous. At Gurney's,

you'll be pampered endlessly by their attentive, professional staff. Gurney's powdery sand beach is one of the most renowned in the country with sexy cabanas to escape to like on the Cote d'Azur. There's a wellness spa with two classes every day.

Gurney's renowned Scarpetta Restaurant has been declared the "best in the Hamptons." Every mouthwatering dish is more impressively prepared and presented than the next. Order their melt-in-your-mouth yellowtail sashimi,

their seared sea scallops and delicate fluke crudi with a splash of ocean.

The entrees that blew me away was the lobster Tagliolini Nero, squid ink pasta with chunks of delectable lobster, perfectly grilled branzino and the lamb ragu cavatelli, which was more delicious than any in Italy. This mecca of gourmet delights deserves to be a 3-star Michelin restaurant. Be spontaneous and book your decadent getaway at Gurney's now.

If you can't get into Gurney's, check out their sensational sister hotel Gurney's Star Island Resort & Marina. It's smaller and more affordable, 117 lovely rooms and suites facing the gorgeous harbor. It's Showfish restaurant has some of the freshest seafood dishes in Montauk.

There's another spectacular hotel I love that's the antithesis of the chic Gurney's; it's the historic Montauk Manor. Built by a Florida billionaire in 1927, it was the favorite Montauk escape of New York's high society with formal balls and socialite events.

Today Montauk Manor is still an impressive mansion and now they have 140 luxury condominium apartments you can rent by the weekend or week. There's a large heated outdoor and indoor pool,

fitness room, day spa, tennis courts and delightful restaurant. Their shuttle takes you into town, to the beach or restaurants and pick you up, so you can leave your car at the hotel.

Given the fact Montauk Manor is a gorgeous mansion and former getaway for the rich and famous, it's surprisingly affordable. You're going to love its old-world tranquil and gracious atmosphere.

You can drive to Montauk, take the Long Island Rail Road or the Hampton Jitney. Just because the traditional summer season is soon ending, there's no reason to fret. The very best time to visit magnificent Montauk is the fall. You'll

have the lovely beaches and wonderful restaurants all to yourself.

Gurney's Resort & Seawater Spa: 631-668-2345; Gurney's Star Island Resort & Marina: 631-

668-3100; Montauk Manor: 631-668-4400. Inlet Seafood Restaurant: 631-668-4272; Hampton Jitney: 631-283-4600.

Hastings-on-Hudson resident Richard Levy is a former advertising "Mad Man" creative director and now a travel writer. He's also an inventor of innovative new products and is writing and illustrating a new children's book. You can contact him at RichardLevyTravelWriter@gmail.com.

The Travel Maven

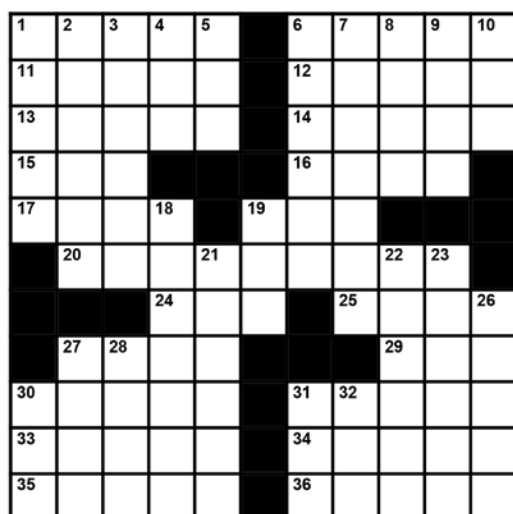
Crossword

Across

1. Terrible
6. Superman's alter ego or Yorktown funeral home _____
11. "Little House" author, first name
12. Chart anew
13. Orgs.
14. Disconcert
15. It follows April in Paris
16. Trig. expression
17. Wind instrument
19. Affleck of the movies
20. Shoe part
24. Growling sound
25. Bete- _____
27. Astronomical effect
29. Luminesce, in ad-speak
30. Overzealous
31. German philosopher
33. Occupied
34. Window type
35. Places to soak
36. Flat Indian breads

Down

1. Southwestern aspen
2. Sushi condiment
3. This Mohegan Lake salon "brings together" cut, color & style _____
4. Still-life subject
5. Vegas or Palmas start
6. Jalopies



7. Beirut is its capital
8. "He's _____ of few words"
9. Foolhardy
10. Trans-Canada Hwy. rate
18. Language
19. "It's cold!"
21. Wears down
22. Robert of "Big" and "Jagged Edge"
23. "Private Benjamin" co-star
26. Dinner breads
27. Mandlikova of tennis
28. Locate next to
30. Messy morsel at a barbecue
31. Sweetie
32. "Big Band" period

Answers on page 28

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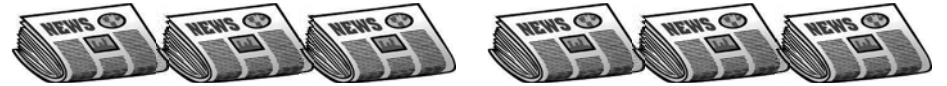
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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF PUTNAM

AMERICAN ADVISORS GROUP

Plaintiff,
vs.

JOHANNA MULARADELIS; if living, and if she/he be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

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

Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff’s attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of up to a maximum principal amount of \$696,000.00 and interest, recorded on January 19, 2016, in Liber 6555 at Page 274, of the Public Records of PUTNAM County, New York., covering premises known as 6 EAST BELVEDERE STREET, COLD SPRING, NY 10516.

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

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

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: June 9th, 2021

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Veronica M. Rundle, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590
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INDEX NO. 500329/2021

Plaintiff designates PUTNAM as the place of
trial situs of the real property

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Following the Trail of Women Winemakers Around the Globe



By Nick Antonaccio

In previous columns I've been exploring the landscape of the wine regions of the world, seeking out women winemakers and assessing their impact on the current state of the industry.

Thus far, having traveled the virtual vineyards and wineries of the United States, Italy and France, my reports have attempted to identify the changing role of valiant women breaking into the industry leadership. Although lagging significantly behind their male counterparts for centuries in key roles in the industry, women are now succeeding in becoming respected and prestigious voices.

The last quarter-century has seen women take over the reins of a number of wineries, either through advanced education, changes in generational lineage, spousal death, marriage or pure happenstance.

We have witnessed significant changes in the breadth and depth of the worldwide winemaking industry in the span of one generation: new grape varieties hybridized, new wine regions established,

game-changing technological advances and a plethora of new wineries. There are more wines – and wineries – in place today than ever before in the history of the world. And women are carving a niche in this brave new world.

For too long, women had been tethered to their roles as “homemakers.” Today women choose professional careers, such as those in the ever-expanding wine industry, and their ranks are increasing at a rapid pace. In several countries, it is estimated that nearly one-third of the ranks of chief winemaker, assistant winemaker, vineyard manager or enologist are women.

In the last four columns, I've explored the changing role and gaining prominence of women winemakers. This week I wrap up my travels and reporting with an eye on

the areas that have gained more recent prominence in the global wine industry: Chile, Argentina, Australia and South Africa.

Here are several examples of successful women winemakers.

Chile: Several generations ago, Chilean women wine professionals were very few and far between. Today, they hold nearly one-third of critical winery jobs. Since 1989, Cecilia Torres has been the head winemaker of Viña Santa Rita. One of her wines, Casa Real Cabernet Sauvignon, is one of Chile's most sought-after wines.

A contemporary, Alexandra Marnier Lapostolle, is the winemaker at Casa Lapostolle. To her credit, each year she teams up with two other Chilean women to produce a number of high-end wines.

Argentina: Susana Balbo is the winemaker for her famous line of Crios wines. Since 1981, she has made wines in seven countries. In 1999 she founded her eponymous winery in Mendoza. Her legacy is assured by the contributions of her daughter and son at the winery.

Laura Catena is the daughter of Nicolas Catena, the owner of the prestigious Bodega Catena Zapata winery. She began her dual career of winemaker and homemaker in 1999, excelling in both.

Australia: Mary Penfold took over the reins of her eponymous winery in 1870 when her husband died. Her legacy as one of Australia's leading producers lives on. “Grange,” one of the most highly acclaimed wines in the world – which commands stratospheric prices – is a testament to her vision and tenacity.

South Africa: Although the winemaking tradition dates back nearly six centuries, it is only since the end of apartheid that this country's wine industry has been accepted worldwide and that women have made inroads within it. Ntsiki Biyela founded her winery, Aslina Wines, in 2017, after 13 years working in the industry. She has the distinction of being the country's first black female winemaker and was named Female Winemaker of the Year in 2009,



besting 28 other entrants. Now that's progress.

Although much progress is yet to be made to achieve overall equality with men, in many countries women winemakers are increasingly being recognized for their talent and innovation. I encourage you to seek out their wines; they rarely disappoint. However, the question remains: is there a glass ceiling – or an ancient, padlocked, oak cellar door – preventing further progress?

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and Program Director of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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Mahopac Resident Honored By Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association

The Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association (ENYYSA) is pleased to announce that longtime volunteer Ken Gulmi is being honored as a Life Member, a version of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The decision was made by a vote of member leagues at the ENYYSA Annual General Meeting on Aug. 7.

"I am humbled to be one of about a half-dozen people in Eastern New York history to be included on such a short list that includes such giants of youth soccer as Peter Masotto, Peter Collins and Howard Rubenstein," Gulmi said.

The Mahopac resident volunteered as East Hudson Youth Soccer League (EHYSL) president for 22 years, from 1990 to 2012, and was on the Board of Directors of the ENYYSA for 25 years, from 1993 to 2018, starting as registrar and moving to numerous vice president positions. The EHYSL grew from a little over 4,000 players (with 80 percent of them boys) in three counties to nearly 19,000 players in seven counties and nearly split evenly between genders during Gulmi's 22 years in charge.

Additionally, he was a certified referee and kept busy as youth soccer coach, leading his teams to more than 80 tournament titles, both indoors and outdoors.

Gulmi, who works as an advertising account executive for The Examiner, started as an intramural coach in 1983,



Ken Gulmi was recognized earlier this month for his contributions to soccer in the Hudson Valley over more than 30 years.

moved to travel teams in 1985 and coached until his retirement in 2016. He coached the Mahopac Hurricanes for 11 years, the Mahopac Indians and Mahopac Spirit girls for a combined five years as well as a Mahopac intramural team, the Golden Eagles, for six years.

His coaching career ended coaching three boys' teams for 17 years – the

Mahopac Knights for seven years, the Somers Knights for one year and the Yorktown Knights for nine.

In 2016, when his Knights players had aged out of youth soccer, they moved on to compete in the Under-23 division of the Greater Hudson Valley Soccer League (GHVSL). Those players agreed on the name FC Knights and on two uniforms – one light blue, one in purple – with Gulmi's face on the front of the jersey as a tribute to their longtime coach.

Additionally, Gulmi coached a boys Under-16 team in the East Hudson

Academy in 2002 and 2003 as an unpaid volunteer when the chosen coach had to withdraw for health reasons.

Gulmi said his greatest accomplishments in youth soccer have been impacting so many kids as a coach, referee and administrator, growing soccer in the Hudson Valley, modernizing EHYSL operations from yellow pad and pencils to computers, instituting and championing local TOPSoccer, plus serving on the U.S. Soccer's Disability Committee from 2005 to 2020.

Crossword Answers

A	W	F	U	L		C	L	A	R	K
L	A	U	R	A		R	E	M	A	P
A	S	S	N	S		A	B	A	S	H
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Examiner Sports



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

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NY Extreme AAU hoops founder Kristi Dini brought the house down when she hosted Orlando Magic guard Cole Anthony last Friday at Solaris Sports Club in Yorktown Heights where Anthony -- a former UNC stud, 15th overall pick in the 2020 NBA draft and son of former NY Knick Greg Anthony -- delighted the masses with whirlwind dunks (inset), exuberant joy (inset) and a presentation of developmental skills... see Focus on NY Extreme

FOCUS ON EXTREME HOOPS

Magic G Anthony Delights Hundreds at NY Extreme Clinic



Orlando Magic G Cole Anthony serves up some top-notch advice in NY Extreme skills clinic at Solaris last Friday.



Orlando Magic G and NYC high school star Cole Anthony revs up crowd at Solaris Sports Club Friday.



Young ladies were a big part of the NY Extreme hoops gig that featured Orlando Magic G Cole Anthony last Friday at Solaris in Yorktown.



Mahopac's Justin Beberman gets an autographed ball from Magic G Cole Anthony Friday.



Mahopac's Matt Reilly and Sal Garufi get after it in NY Extreme's skills clinic that featured Magic G Cole Anthony.



Orlando Magic G Cole Anthony strikes a selfie with NY Extreme founder Kristi Dini at hoops clinic Friday at Solaris Sports Club.

Sports

Play Ball! 2021 Fall Season Set to Get Underway



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

So, it looks like local school districts are going to let our kids play ball – at least for now.

A week after rendering some distressing guidance regarding COVID-19 and the Delta variant and the potential limitations of “high-risk” sports, the state Education Department’s counsel was met with pushback by some of the more local authorities, which seemed to indicate that sports in Section 1 would proceed as scheduled without much of the mask mandates we saw last March and April.

Monday was the day we’ve all been waiting/hoping for, for quite some time now, a quasi-normal start to the 2021 football, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, swimming, cheer and cross country seasons. The varsity and junior varsity squads were set to take the field yesterday for tryouts and/or practices across the board, and the usual suspects were lining up to take their rightful place in Section 1 history. There are some adjustments to deal with, but, for now, we’re in a much better place than we were at this time last fall.

“I am definitely jacked up to officially get going (Monday),” Lakeland boys’ soccer Coach Tim Hourahan said. “There are some minor tweaks to traditional training and game-day operations, but it is way better

than last fall.”

Some school districts, like those in Yonkers, are mandating masks for their student athletes at all indoor and outdoor sporting events, including their opponents. At this time, most other districts are allowing outdoor events to proceed without masks or fan limitations.

“At Lakeland, there are no masks needed to be worn outdoors,” said Hourahan. “We also do not have any spectator rules at this time for outdoor events and let us hope it stays that way.”

Volleyball players, and some other indoor sports, will have to wear a mask because school districts are mandating students to wear masks while in school. That makes sense since student athletes cannot take the mask off when playing volleyball after school if they can’t take them off during the school day.

“Every school is going to have different rules, which will make it interesting,” said Section 1 boys’ soccer co-Chairman Matt Allen, the boys’ soccer coach at reigning regional champion Byram Hills. “Right now, Yonkers schools are masking up on outdoor fields, but they are the only ones that I know of. Should be a good year if COVID Delta can stay out of the way.”

Whether the Delta variant can stay out of the way is anything but a given. Whether it’s politically driven or not, cases are on the rise, said Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam

Direct Rays

Oliverio, who noted we could find ourselves in an all-too-familiar scenario if we don’t adapt to rising cases.

“Unfortunately, our town has reached numbers that are both very depressing and alarming to me,” Oliverio said. “In Putnam County (as of 8/13) there are 86 new cases of this virus, almost all the new Delta variant. In our town, we make up almost a third of the cases within the county (28). One-third of these cases involve young people under the age of 20. I would hate to see our area go back to forced mask wearing, remote work and/or schooling and increased quarantine tracing. But unless these numbers improve, we may very well find that those restrictions are reapplied in our county and our town once again.”

The underlying message is simple: We’re not past this pandemic yet, and things can turn on a dime if we don’t take the necessary precautions. I’m not here to offer advice but understand that your team’s season can end in the blink of an eye if you don’t take this seriously, whether you believe it or not. Every program is just one positive test away from a collapse, so proceed with caution.

I mean, just imagine you’re part of the

Carmel football team, Somers soccer program or Lakeland field hockey this fall. Expectations are through the roof, right? One positive test and those championship dreams fizzle.

“We all understand that the situation is fluid, and we need to pivot when needed and remain flexible at all times,” Hendrick Hudson High Athletic Director Tommy Baker said. “Student-athletes were tremendous in following the protocols last year. The guidance districts utilized last year allowed our student-athletes to participate.”

“This year, it is vital that we continue to follow any necessary protocols and guidance provided. All of the athletic directors I have communicated with are consistent in that there will continue to be protocols across the section. Last year was very rewarding for the athletes. I remain confident that with the proper planning, and cooperation from all parties, athletes can have the same rewarding experience this year.”

It won’t be 100 percent normal, gang, and we’re all heartbroken for the youngins we’re raising during this pandemic, but it’s better than it was at this time last year, so take the good with the bad and understand that life’s not fair and nobody knows that better than y’all.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Byram Hills juniors Jesse Goldstein (7), Christian Bellantoni and rest of Section 1 student athletes are hoping for some form of normalcy in 2021.

Randy Twirls a Dandy

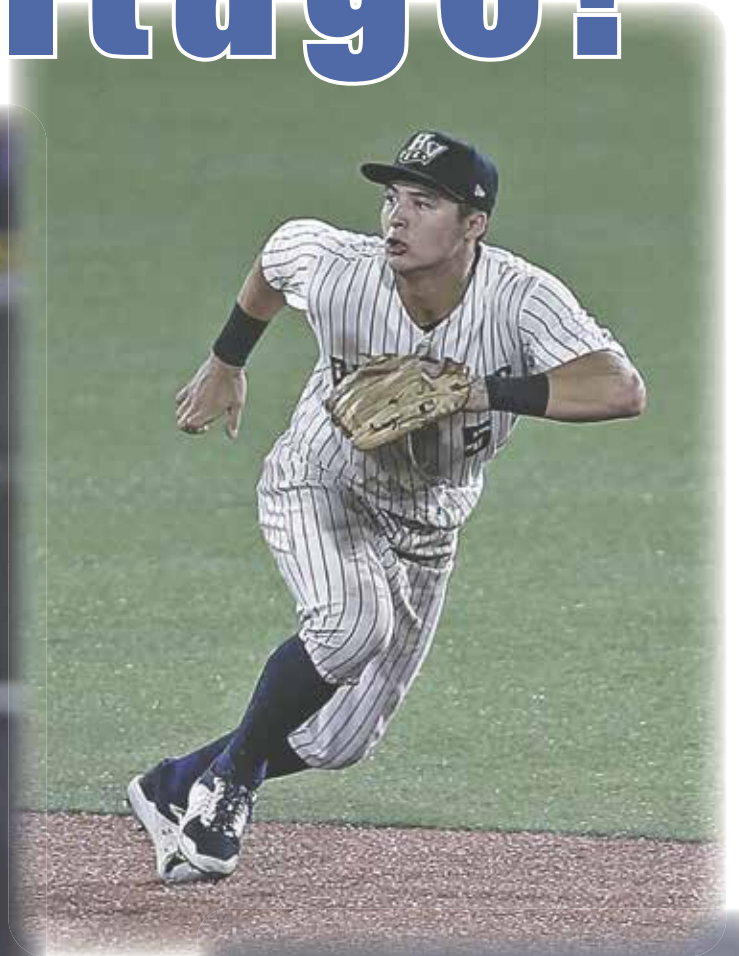
Renegades Surging Toward Division Crown



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Hudson Valley RHP Randy Vasquez, now 3-0 this season with a 1.75 earned run average, blanked the Brooklyn Cyclones and struck out eight in his six innings of work Friday night as the Renegades (NYY) maintained their stranglehold on first place in the High-A East North Division with an 11-game lead.

Volpe Voltage!



Top Yankee Prospect Powers 1st Place Renegades; Walks it Off vs. Cyclones

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Prized Yankee prospect Anthony Volpe (5) belted a walk-off, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning last Thursday as the Hudson Valley Renegades rallied to beat Brooklyn, 7-6, at 'The Dutch' where Volpe -- the Yankees' 2019 No.1 pick -- has led a charge that sees the Renegades (60-35) running away with the High-A NY Penn League division with an 11-game lead over second place Aberdeen. The hype surrounding the versatile 5'11", 180-pound shortstop, the current No.15 prospect in baseball (according to MLB.com's new rankings), evolves from the .305/.438/.617 slash line, 20 home runs and 28 steals he has this season, in the 85 games he's split between Low-A and High-A, entering the weekend. With just 12 home games left in Hudson Valley's regular season, time is running out for locals to catch an up-close-and-personal glimpse of the winsome Volpe before he moves on to AA or AAA-ball next year. Visit Hudson Valley Renegades ticket options | Renegades (mlb.com) for great family fun, including fireworks (Sept. 10, 11, 17) and a laser light show (Sept. 18).

by Ray Gallagher