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August 31 - September 6, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 730

Residents Raise Fear of Water Contamination in North Castle

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle's storage of asphalt millings derived from its road paving program has once again ignited controversy as two town residents have charged that the practice could jeopardize water sources close to where the material is piled.

Longtime Windmill Farm resident Robert Greene, a former town Planning Board chairman, has argued that the storage of potentially tens of thousands of cubic yards of "toxic" millings stored at the highway yard on Middle Patent Road could threaten the water supply for the nearby Windmill development of about 370 houses and Coman Hill Elementary School.

Similarly, the millings that have been stored at the town's Highway Department in downtown Armonk threatens wells in Water District #4 that serves customers near that location, he contends.

It is a nearly identical argument that local developer Michael Fareri has been making for about four years, after North Castle started an aggressive paving program to rehabilitate all 93 miles of town road.

Greene said that the town has failed to take routine measures to prevent stormwater from infiltrating the piles and runoff contaminating the groundwater.

"My position is not that our water is unfit to be used by our residents, but you can't have that amount of millings on top of your aquifer," Greene said. "It leaches."

Instead of sending the millings to an asphalt plant for reuse, the town has been storing them at the two locations for at least the last four years after the repaving work. It either uses the material for its own needs or provides it for free to other municipalities or developers upon request.

Last week Greene corresponded with potentially thousands of North Castle residents using the town's e-mail list to make his points.

By last Monday evening, about 10 hours after Greene's initial e-mail was sent, Supervisor Michael Schiliro fired back with his own response calling Greene's assertions "fraught with misinformation."

Schiliro said that the town follows the guidelines set by the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), which



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The Middle Patent Road highway yard, in a photo taken July 14, where millings and other materials have been stored. Two North Castle residents charge that the town's storage is threatening water supplies.

is the regulatory agency that oversees the issue. If the town were to run afoul of any of the agency's regulations, those would be

corrected as soon as possible, he said.

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Parking, Traffic Flow, Pedestrian Safety Focus of Memorial Plaza Upgrades

By Abby Luby

New sidewalks, streetlights and gazebo stairs will be among the many upgrades that will be incorporated into the south end of Pleasantville's Memorial Plaza.

The work, which was started in late spring, will be completed next year. The project is intended to improve traffic flow, provide more room for parking and offer safe pedestrian walkways.

Improvements to Memorial Plaza are a result of the increased restaurant activity on Bedford Road and nearby retail requiring more parking spaces. Officials focused on the upgrades during last spring's village budget deliberations.

At last week's Pleasantville

Village Board meeting, Superintendent of Public Works Jeff Econom updated the board on the project.

Reducing the center median that separates the two parking areas on Memorial Plaza will create an unspecified number of additional parking spaces, which would require the removal of five unhealthy trees. The trees are expected to be taken out in the next two weeks. Econom said four new trees will be planted, two of which will be at the south end of the plaza. Parallel parking spaces across the street will become angled spaces.

By this fall, the curb line around the gazebo in the middle of Memorial Plaza will be

reconfigured and the crosswalk from the gazebo across Memorial Plaza will eventually connect to a new pedestrian walkway to Cooley Street as part of the ongoing 70 Memorial Plaza project construction.

New sidewalks will be added at the far end of the southern portion of Memorial Plaza and around the gazebo after its stairs are relocated. The Bee-Line bus stop will be closer to the gazebo, which can serve as a shelter for commuters waiting for the bus in inclement weather.

New lighting fixtures will be added on the median and the side of Memorial Plaza closest to the Metro-North train tracks in about

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MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Upgrades planned near the gazebo and on the southern end of Memorial Plaza will center on improving parking, traffic and pedestrian safety.

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Residents Raise Fear of Water Contamination in North Castle

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So far, that hasn't happened. "We have no reason to work against the DEC, but that's the guidelines," Schiliro said. "We can't make up our own guidelines or say that a resident thinks we're doing it wrong, so let's forget what the DEC says and let us do what our resident thinks because they know more."

Fareri said that the millings contain various chemicals when they are taken off the road, including oil, gasoline, salt and calcium. He called it an "environmental disaster" waiting to happen and called on Schiliro to resign from office for failing to follow the town's own procedures and regulations for stormwater runoff prevention.

"He has put many people in this community in harm's way," Fareri said of Schiliro. "That is why you do your due diligence. Mr. Schiliro and the Town Board are not educated on environmental issues."

A DEC spokeswoman said the department is aware of the town's storage of the millings and has been in contact with town officials but that the practice is fairly routine.

Spokeswoman Wendy Rosenbach said municipalities stockpile millings to repair roads, meeting the requirements of a DEC pre-determined Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) under the state's solid waste regulations. The BUD does not include guidelines for storage, nor does it require a specific DEC permit, although it discourages any storage of the material in water, Rosenbach said. Standard wetlands rules also apply, she said.

"In this case, the asphalt millings cease to be a waste when the material meets the requirements for the intended use," Rosenbach said. "Regulations state that recycled material or residue generated from uncontaminated asphalt pavement and asphalt millings meet a municipal specification for use as an ingredient in pavement and other paved surface construction and maintenance."

Typically, millings that come off a road do not contain waste, she added.

However, Greene said that the DEC does not have the personnel to adequately

address all the issues that are brought to its attention. The pandemic has also factored into the agency's inability to investigate many local matters such as this.

While he reiterated that there is currently no emergency, the volume of material near aquifers at both locations could leave the water supplies in peril. He said by his estimates there could be at least 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards of millings at each of the two locations.

"The responsible thing to do is remove that material before you have a problem," Greene said.

Schiliro in his response to residents last week disputed Greene's total, saying there was about 1,000 to 2,000 cubic yards remaining at the Middle Patent Road site. There is additional material at the Highway Department.

He said the material will be removed in the next couple of weeks. The town has used millings at the town pool site on Greenway and provided material to Westchester County for paving near Kensico Dam Plaza.

The biggest challenge, Schiliro said, is combatting Greene's inaccuracies, which are then amplified on social media.

"It has caused a stir in the Windmill community, and not everybody believes him or has a great concern, but some people are concerned based on what he's been talking about," Schiliro said.

Parking, Traffic Flow, Pedestrian Safety Focus of Memorial Plaza Upgrades

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three weeks. A new electric panel will be installed in a few weeks and the additional source of electricity will support two twin electric car charging stations. In previous meetings there were also suggestions for motor bike spaces and carports with solar panels.

The additional electrical capacity will also support parking meters and pay stations, making it easier for motorists to park and pay.

Econom said the project's estimated cost is now \$234,600, a nearly \$50,000 increase from the village's original \$185,000 projection. Officials are considering moving funds from the Memorial Plaza civic space project to help offset the price of the work. Con Ed is also expected to reimburse the village \$41,000 for the electrical upgrades.

The village is receiving about an 18

percent price reduction for the two charging stations, which cost \$6,500 each. The cost will be a little more than \$10,000.

"We are getting a lot more and we're getting a bang for our buck in this project," Econom said.

The upgrades and improvements are not related to the anticipated civic space work at the north end of Memorial Plaza, which is dependent on the completion of the Manville Road Corridor Improvement project. The village is expected to go out to bid for the Manville Road improvements in the fall.

Pleasantville was awarded \$1.6 million for the Manville Road work in 2017 by the state Department of Transportation (DOT). If contractors are available and bids for the project are acceptable to the village and the DOT, the work will move forward. The current estimate for the project is between \$3 million and \$4 million.

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COVID Cases Flat in Area for First Time Since June

By Martin Wilbur

For the first time in two months, active COVID-19 cases have leveled off in Westchester and Putnam counties over the past week, nearly unchanged from the previous week.

On Monday, the Westchester reported 2,797 active cases, up just four from the conclusion of the weekend of Aug. 21-22.

"That's the first time since we have gone through a week since the end of June where we did not have a significant increase in the number of active cases," said County Executive George Latimer.

In late June, active cases fell to between 100 and 200 before the onslaught of the Delta variant, which has ripped through regions of the United States that have poor vaccination rates, causing spikes in hospitalizations and deaths.

While there was a plateau in the number of cases during the past week, hospitalizations continue to tick up. Late last week the number of COVID-19-related hospitalizations exceeded the century mark, with there being 108 coronavirus patients.

Also, in a seven-day span last week there were five deaths, which followed a week with three COVID deaths. There have now been 2,308 fatalities among Westchester residents since the start of the pandemic about 18 months ago.

The trend is very similar in Putnam County where active cases fell slightly from 130 on Aug. 20 to 122 a week later, but hospitalizations rose from two to six in that span. However, there have been no COVID-19 deaths in Putnam since Aug. 20.

An encouraging sign in Westchester has been a recent surge in people receiving their first dose of one of the vaccines, Latimer said. There were 1,093 first doses administered at the county sites – the County Center and at its clinics in White Plains and Yonkers, a level not seen in a couple of months. At one point this summer, the County Center was administering as few as 20 shots a day, down from more than 2,000 a day earlier in the year.

Latimer said the Food & Drug Administration's recent full authorization of the Pfizer vaccine may have contributed to the increase.

"For some people, it's given them a comfort level that the vaccine is safe and is appropriate to try to make their vulnerability to COVID less," Latimer said. "With that, we hope that is a sign."

Nearly 700,000 Westchester County residents have now been vaccinated. The county had reached an 83 percent vaccination rate of its residents 18 years old and up earlier in August, but with Westchester now officially reaching a population of just over one million, that

rate has fallen to slightly under 80 percent, Latimer said.

Before Aug. 12, the county used the estimated population of about 967,000 to help compute its vaccination rate but has reached 1,004,000 with the release of the 2020 Census results.

Another effort being taken by Westchester is a new public service announcement featuring the pop trio AJR will be airing in hopes of boosting confidence among teenagers and young adults eligible to receive the vaccine.

Latimer said the county will continue to partner with school districts that want to host pop-up sites to inoculate students and staff. He said that 10 county

departments are 100 percent vaccinated while another 12 have reached the 80 percent mark.

The county executive said that someone's best chance to remain healthy during the pandemic is to get the vaccine, despite the rise in cases since late June. While active cases are at about 2,800 with relatively few deaths, in January there were about 11,500 cases.

"There's almost a direct correlation to the beginning of vaccinations and the tremendous drop in the number of cases," Latimer said.



Statewide, New York's 10 regions ranged in positivity rates from a low of 2.7 percent in New York City on Sunday to a high of 7.8 percent in the

Mohawk Valley. The Mid Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties, registered a 3.6 percent positivity rate on Sunday. The Mid Hudson region's seven-day rolling average stood at 3.7 percent through last weekend.

Westchester's Sunday positivity rate was 3 percent while Putnam County came in at 4.2 percent with 19 positives out of 457 tests.

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DOT Curtails Evening Saw Mill Work, Extends Length of Project

By Martin Wilbur

Completing work on the Saw Mill Parkway in Pleasantville and Mount Pleasant will take at least a year longer than expected but neighboring residents who've endured persistent noise are now receiving some relief.

State Sen. Peter Harkham (D-Lewisboro) and Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) successfully pressed state Department of Transportation (DOT) officials to curtail most of the crews' activity by 10 p.m. each night rather than continuing into the wee hours of the morning.

However, the project to raise about a 1.3-mile stretch of roadway from about Grant Street in Pleasantville to just north of the exit for the Sprain Brook Parkway to alleviate flooding during significant rain is likely to extend at least until next summer.

"The DOT agreed to honor the request of the community to limit the work to no later than 10 o'clock at night and to start no earlier than a certain time in the morning," Abinanti said. "But they warned that this would delay completion of the project for about a year."

Last November, just before the project was set to begin, the DOT originally forecast that the work would take about eight months. Completion of construction on the southbound side is now projected for December; the northbound roadway is slated to begin early next year and won't be finished until next July, according to Harkham's office.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Part of the 1.3-mile stretch of the southbound Saw Mill Parkway in Thornwood where the state Department of Transportation is elevating the roadway to alleviate flooding.

Since late last year, motorists traveling southbound have put up with delays as the parkway narrows to one lane from about Grant Street to south of Marble Avenue in Thornwood.

But the inconvenience for motorists pales in comparison to how some residents have been subjected to the pile driving and other loud work that on some days started between 7 and 8 a.m. and sometimes didn't end until after midnight.

Residents along Pollywiggles Lane, which is just outside the Village of Pleasantville,

and along Booth and Hopper streets within the village, have been the most seriously affected, said Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer.

Scherer said since the work has been ending earlier there appears to be an improvement, but some residents are still not satisfied with the steps taken. Some would like to mitigate any potential changes in sound once the project is finished along with a more effective buffer.

"It's a big and difficult project," he said. "It easy to see to see why it takes so long."

A representative for Harkham said the senator and Abinanti walked through the work area with the DOT's regional director, urging the agency to revise the daily work schedule.

"We understand that the New York State Department of Transportation is trying to get this project done as quickly as possible so there's a balance that needs to be achieved for the residents there and we're going to continue to work with them to make sure it's acceptable for people in that area," the representative said.

However, Abinanti has been highly critical of the DOT, especially for failing to address impacts on the community with local residents before work got underway. He also blamed the Cuomo administration for looking to get work done as quickly as possible without regard for residents. The assemblyman said he hopes there will be a more effective approach under Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"The end result is it was a one-sided view, which is how to fix a roadway, without taking into consideration the concerns of the community," Abinanti said. "Now they're responding to the concerns of the community, but that should have been done before the project started."

Elevation of the roadway is necessary to meet 100-year flood projections and provide necessary drainage improvements, the DOT said in a statement before the work started last fall. In past years, that stretch of roadway was prone to flooding and closures during persistent or heavy rains.



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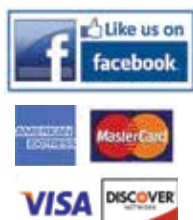
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Guilty Verdict in Chappaqua School District Kickback Scheme

By Martin Wilbur

A Yonkers man who paid a Chappaqua School District employee more than \$5,000 in bribes and kickbacks faces five to 15 years in state prison after being found guilty of two felony counts last week.

Ricardo Jimenez, 57, was convicted on Aug. 26 of second-degree bribery and second-degree rewarding official

misconduct following a two-week trial, Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced. Jimenez faces a sentence ranging from a conditional discharge to the maximum sentence.

Between November 2014 and August 2017, Jimenez paid a school district maintenance employee over \$5,000 to ensure district-related maintenance projects were awarded to a company

Jimenez owned, RJ Summit Services, Inc., and approve each invoice Jimenez sent to the district. When the district paid RJ Summit Services, Jimenez kicked back portions of the payment to the district employee in cash and checks made out from another company.

The district employee, Jorge Barreiros, pleaded guilty in December 2019 to second-degree corrupting the government

and third-degree bribe receiving. His sentencing is still pending.

The district attorney's office's Investigations Division launched its inquiry in 2017 after being contacted by Chappaqua school officials and Johnson Controls, Inc. Jimenez was also an employee of Johnson Controls, Inc., a vendor to the district.

"Bribery and kickback schemes like this one take money out of the hands of hardworking public employees and everyday workers and this kind of corruption won't be tolerated here in Westchester," Rocah said in a statement. "I thank the Chappaqua Central School District and Johnson Controls, Inc. for alerting the district attorney's office of this fraudulent activity so justice can be served."

Jimenez is scheduled to be sentenced Nov 29. The case is before Judge David Zuckerman in Westchester County Court and is being prosecuted by Deputy Bureau Chief Brian Fitzgerald.

Bear Sightings Reported Near Chappaqua Crossing Last Weekend

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle police received several calls last Saturday morning of a black bear sighting in the vicinity of Roaring Brook Road near Chappaqua Crossing, but there were no reports of interactions with humans.

A Nixle alert was sent out by the police department at 10:35 a.m. advising the public of the sightings as well as tips on how to avoid interaction with bears, said Sgt. Daniel Maldonado. He said that there were multiple calls in a short period of time before the alert was posted.

It was not believed that the animal had entered the former Reader's Digest property and no further calls were

received following the alert, police said. It is possible that the bear went back into the woods to get away from people, Maldonado said.

"They're really looking for a food source," he said.

Police listed the state Department of Environmental Conservation recommended precautions to avoid contact with bears.

1. Do not feed bears under any circumstances.
2. Clean up areas around garbage cans and do not put garbage outside overnight. Put garbage out only on pick-up days.
3. Bird feeders attract bears and are often torn down by the animals. Take down or clean up all feeders,

including hummingbird feeders, for several weeks following a bear visit.

4. Feed pets in the house and clean up all leftover pet food.
5. If a resident has had a bear problem, stop cooking outside on your grill, clean it up and store it in a bear-proof area for a couple of weeks.
6. Stop adding refuse to your compost pile. If it is located close to the house, it should be moved as far away as possible.
7. Bears have an extraordinary sense of smell. If you store pet food, fish food or any other items that might appeal to a bear under an open shed or in a wooded shed, remove it to a secure location.

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Mt. Kisco Weighs Delaying Summer Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers Until 2023

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials are considering a revision to a key piece of the village's proposed leaf blower legislation that would delay the phase-out of the gas-powered machines during the summer months until 2023.

Mayor Gina Picinich said the postponement of the summer prohibition for an additional year is to give residents and landscaping businesses that have relatively new gas-powered equipment the time to start making the transition to electric or battery-operated blowers.

When originally proposed in April, the village had planned on instituting the summer ban on two-stroke gas-powered engines by next summer if the legislation was approved this year. Those machines will still be permitted to be used from Oct. 1 through Apr. 30 through 2024 to allow residents to clean during the fall leaf season and in spring.

In May, the Village Board tweaked the dates that the gas-powered machines can be used until the gas blowers are phased out in a few years, adding the final two weeks of September.

Picinich said the feedback the board received is that the two-

stroke gas blowers have about a three- to five-year lifespan, so it would provide homeowners and commercial landscapers the opportunity to start changing their existing equipment during the next year-and-a-half and replacing them with electric or battery-operated machines.

"So this provides them the opportunity to start immediately, to start making these purchases," Picinich said. "So at the very least, some of their equipment will be able to be electric so they will continue to do the job that they do."

However, a couple of residents who have urged officials to approve leaf blower regulations said they were disappointed that the board was considering the delay for another year, should the legislation be approved in 2021. Lilian Burgler, who joined Trustee Peter Grunthal in April to pitch the regulations to the rest of the Village Board, said that several municipalities are making second rounds of revisions to strengthen their existing regulations. Mount Kisco shouldn't be delaying when the gas-powered blowers have such negative environmental and health consequences, she said.

Furthermore, there are landscaping companies that want

to modernize, and would not experience a serious hardship, Burgler added. The current situation wrongly frames the issue as a pro-business versus a pro-environment fight.

"I would really like to ask and really beg the board to please consider instituting the summer ban as soon as feasible," Burgler said. "This law should have been passed decades ago. This delay is unacceptable. It fails the citizens of Mount Kisco."

Conservation Advisory Council Chairman John Rhodes also urged the board to reconsider the delay on the summer ban for another year.

"There's little benefit for the residents of Mount Kisco," Rhodes said. "It literally means that the residents will have to put up with another summer of noise and air pollution."

Two-stroke machines are considered the worst alternative for people's health and the environment. It is the most toxic because motor oil is combined with gasoline to operate them, as opposed to four-stroke blowers that only use oil for lubrication.

Picinich said the village was trying to balance all constituents' needs.

"We're thinking in totality for



everyone, and what we're trying to do is to do it the right way, the transition to electric equipment for those who made that investment," she said. "We've heard from many businesses that may not want any ban at all, so our goal in all that we do is to try and find the balance for everyone across the whole community and it's not an us versus them at any level."

The delay on the summer ban is being written into the legislation and will be included when the public hearing resumes in September.

Under the current proposal, landscapers and other commercial outfits would be able to use the

gas-powered blowers from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Businesses would not be allowed to use the machinery on Sundays and holidays.

Residents would be able to operate their leaf blowers from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

There would be no limits on electric leaf blowers.

More than two leaf blowers being operated simultaneously will be prohibited on less than two acres.

Violators would face fines of \$75 to \$1,000.

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Obituaries

Irving Farber

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Irving O. Farber, longtime resident of Mount Kisco and Bedford, who passed away on Aug. 22 at age 79.

He was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sept. 19, 1941, and moved to New York as a young child. He graduated from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1968. He excelled as a trial attorney for over 50 years. During his career, he litigated and tried hundreds of cases involving defamation, explosion cases, medical malpractice, airline deregulation claims, legal malpractice, elder law and guardianship matters. Over the years, he authored multiple articles in various legal publications and lectured extensively on trial practice.

He served his community in Mount Kisco as a volunteer fireman with the Independent Fire Co. for 14 years and served as a former engineer, member of the Bylaws Committee and a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, creating a granite monument fountain and park in Mount Kisco honoring firefighters and all those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

Irving was a longtime member of the Northern Westchester Hospital Ethics Committee, which he contributed from an attorney's point of view and as a member of the community. Irv was recognized as



Irving Farber

Man of the Year by the Hispanic Democrats of Westchester and was inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Irving married his wife, Jean Mamlin Farber, on Nov. 25, 1978. They were blessed to share almost 43 years of marriage and beautiful memories.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his devoted son, Brian, adored daughter Lauren (Sean Kelly) and precious twin grandsons Andrew and Patrick Kelly who were the pride of his life. Irv is also survived by his two sisters, Sarah (Ted Hawkins) and Marge Saberg, sister-in-law Bonnie Kupper and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held at Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford on Aug. 25. Irv will have a fireman's funeral where he will have his last ride on the fire truck from the temple through the Village of Mount Kisco to Oakwood Cemetery, followed by lunch at the Independent Fire House. Shiva was at the family's home in Mount Kisco.

William Hershfield

William W. Hershfield of Port Orange, Fla. passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 10. He was 85.

He was the son of the late Dr. Barnet and Beatrice Hershfield and was born on May 30, 1936, (the real Memorial Day) in New York City and grew up in Riverdale. His residences included Croton-on-Hudson, Yorktown Heights, Montrose and he retired to Port Orange in 1991.

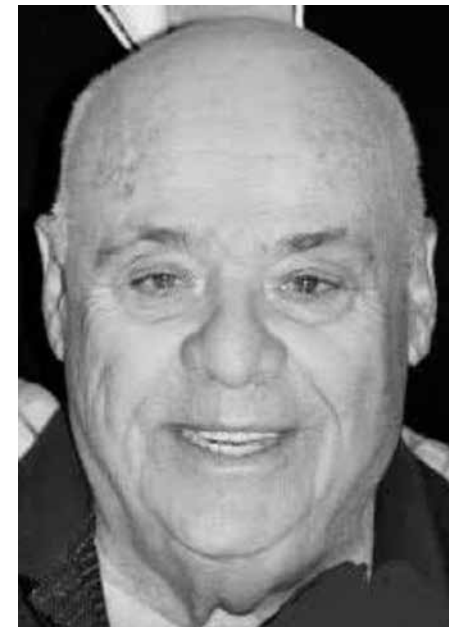
Bill graduated from Brooklyn Tech High School, SUNY Albany, Sienna and New York University where he obtained a master's degree. During his career as an educator, Bill worked at Hudson High School as a social studies teacher, at Croton-Harmon Middle School as a guidance counselor and psychologist, taught English to foreign-born students to obtain citizenship and had a private psychology practice.

Bill was married to the love of his life, Myra, for 61 years. He was a devoted husband, loving, caring father, grandpa and Grampy. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother and wife, Bernard (Sondra) Hershfield; and his son-in-law, Josh Daar. He leaves behind three children, Sheri (Josh) Daar, Michael J. (Rosalie) Hershfield and Joanne Iadarola; he was the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren, Rivka (James) Kinzer, Jacob, Adina, Baruch (Libby), Ora, Ronen and Mordi Daar and Michael D. (Adriana) and Nicholas (Jenny) Hershfield; great-grandfather to Hannah and Naomi Kinzer and Rose Daar; and lifelong friends to Ron and Linda Fiore.

Bill gave his service as EMT to the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Yorktown Heights for 20 years, holding many titles, including captain, was a member of the Knights of Pythias and coached girls' softball.

As an avid sports fan, Bill enjoyed ice hockey (New York Rangers), baseball (New

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in his memory to the Independent Fire House in Mount Kisco. Arrangements were under the direction of King David Memorial Chapel, Inc., 288 E. Main St., Mount Kisco, NY 10549 (www.kingdavidmemorialchapel.com). May His Memory Be For A Blessing.



William Hershfield

York Mets and Chicago Cubs), football, golf and college basketball (Hartford and UConn).

Bill loved his family with all his heart and especially loved celebrating birthdays together. Among his greatest pleasures were long walks on the beach, swimming and watching the ducks at the pond. His love for history, and World War II in particular, took him around the world to Israel, Europe, Egypt, China and South America. Amsterdam, the beaches of Normandy, Las Vegas and Biloxi, Miss. were among his favorite destinations.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital (www.stjude.org), the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps (www.yvac.net), The Jewish Federation of Volusia & Flagler Counties (jewishfederationdaytona.org) or the Port Orange Fire Department.

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Taghkanic Chorale Welcomes New Singers for its 55th Season

The Taghkanic Chorale invites singers to kick off the 2021-22 concert season with the Bach "Magnificat" and Vivaldi's "Gloria." (RV 588)

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, located at 2880 Crompond Rd. (Route 202) in Yorktown Heights. The church is located near the Route 202 exit off the Taconic Parkway.

Rehearsals are open during the month of September with no obligation to join the chorale. Rehearsals are fun and educational with a focus on disciplined musicianship and collegiality.

Concert performances will be held on Dec. 11 and 12.

With the recent rise of COVID cases,

singers' health is of supreme concern. Our plans include:

- Wearing masks in our rehearsals. While we all enjoy singing without masks, this will comply with the suggestions from the Centers for Disease Control and New York State for indoor activities such as ours. Once guidelines change, we can revisit this.
- Live-streaming rehearsals for those uncomfortable with an in-person experience, or who are not feeling well.

The Taghkanic Chorale is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization that serves enthusiastic singers and concertgoers from throughout the lower Hudson Valley. For more information, call Deborah J. May at 917-848-3764 or visit at www.taghkanicchorale.org.

Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Aug. 17: Patrols responded to a dispute inside of a commercial establishment on Croton Point Avenue between a customer and owner at 12:31 p.m. The owner requested the customer leave the establishment. The customer reported being pushed by another customer and was not pleased because he was complying with exiting the establishment. After conducting an investigation, the situation was resolved and no arrest was made.

Aug. 17: Report of people swimming in the park after hours on Truesdale Avenue at 7:45 p.m. The parties were located and they were fishing, not swimming. They were warned and admonished. While patrol was at the location, they noticed a village resident in need of medical assistance, which was unrelated to the call. The party was transported to the hospital by Croton EMS.

Aug. 19: Patrols responded to Brook Street at 10 p.m. to assist a village resident who had locked the keys inside their vehicle. Patrols gained entry without incident.

Aug. 20: Report of an unattended backpack on the bridge on Croton Point Avenue over the railroad tracks at 3:13 p.m. The area was checked with negative results.

North Castle Police Department

Aug. 21: Caller reported an injured bicyclist was struck by a motor vehicle

near the Summit Club on Bedford Road at 10:17 a.m. The call was successfully transferred to 60 Control. The responding officers reported that the injured party was transported to Westchester Medical Center.

Aug. 23: A CVS employee reported at 1:36 p.m. a larceny of goods from the pharmacy on Main Street that occurred about 15 minutes in the past. The responding officer reported that depositions were secured; a report will follow.

Aug. 25: A Cedar Hill Road resident reported at 6:41 a.m. that two vehicles were stolen out of the driveway overnight. The responding officer reported that depositions were secured along with surveillance. A report will follow.

Yorktown Police Department

Aug. 25: Police were dispatched on Aug. 24 to Heights Drive on a report of a subject breaking into a vehicle. An individual was located walking on the road with a miniature baseball bat in hand at 12:09 a.m. this date. Following an investigation, Raymond Nunez, 49, of Yonkers, was charged with three counts of criminal mischief for damaging multiple vehicles with the bat. During the investigation, a vehicle drove up to officers on the scene and stopped in the roadway. Carlos Ponce, 40, of Yonkers, was charged with driving while intoxicated.



Preserving a Gem

State Sen. Peter Harkham, left, enjoyed a recent visit to Rockefeller State Park Preserve, where he announced that the Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Inc. are receiving a \$60,000 state grant to fix the Overlook Trail and carriage roads near Swan Lake. Joining him were preserve manager Peter Iskenderian and George Gumina and Evelyn Hadad, president and vice president of the Friends, respectively. Harkham saw a monarch butterfly release, which was overseen by the preserve's monarch ambassadors, Shayla and Hailey Schott. The 2022 New York State budget included \$110 million in new capital spending for state parks and another \$7 million for operations.

TOWN OF YORKTOWN REVISED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6-10 *NO COLLECTIONS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th LABOR DAY

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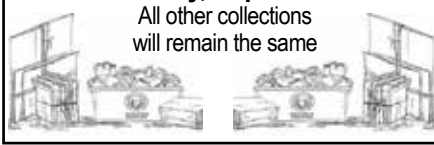
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Tuesday, September 7th

Tuesday collections will be picked up on

Wednesday, September 8th

All other collections
will remain the same



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Tuesday

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Letters to the Editor

Pocantico Lake is a Treasure That Should Not Be Developed

We thank The Examiner for Martin Wilbur’s comprehensive story last week, “Pocantico Lake Residents Gear Up for Development Fight.”

If you were on the Mount Pleasant Planning Board and meeting on Sept. 2, would you need to know more, or see more than the photo with the article, before deciding that the proposed 31-McMansion development would destroy the wooded shoreline and must never be built?

Couldn’t you just look at that photo, or stand on the shoreline and take your own cell photo, to know that the proposed

development is egregious, arrogant, unseemly and would cause irreparable harm to the lake and our community?

It’s not just a local issue about a developer removing thousands of trees on a rare, pristine lake for lots of housing – and all of the environmental impacts that will roll off the rooftops, down the asphalt driveways, across the chemically fertilized lawns, down the steep, deforested hillside and into the water where herons and osprey feed on bass and sunfish.

There are key stakeholders beyond the narrow geographic confines of Pocantico

Hills, who might, respectfully, want to share their expertise with you. A few come to mind:

*The state Department of Environmental Conservation designated Pocantico Lake and nine-mile Pocantico River a “Critical Environmental Area.”

*The Westchester County Parks invested millions of dollars in hiking trails on the opposite shoreline.

*Briarcliff Manor Parks just invested to develop trails off the adjacent shore.

*The Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Inc. know that all of the water from Pocantico Lake courses for miles and miles through the Preserve, helping to create that park’s signature magic.

*Riverkeeper undertakes monthly surveys of the water quality above and below the lake as part of its monitoring of

Hudson River wetlands from upstate Troy to Battery Park.

It’s also true, if you are on the Planning Board, you don’t really need to become steeped in any of the urgent environmental and legal issues that inform and complicate this matter. Simply walk the shoreline with your dog, talk to the community here and marvel at an eagle perched on the developer’s shoreline.

Using only common sense, you might, with deep conviction, arrive at the conclusion that Pocantico Lake is an irreplaceable treasure in our community, and it’s worth preserving just as it is.

Todd Shapera
Pocantico Hills

Business Owners Should Remain Nonpartisan and Nonpolitical

The Yorktown Small Business Association/Westchester Independent Business Alliance is nonpartisan and nonpolitical, and so should you.

During these tough economic times, many businesses and community organizations are being asked to take a position by supporting a certain political party or candidate. It is selfish and unfair for political parties and candidates to put any group in a position where they feel pressured to make a choice.

Local businesses are operated by people who come from a variety of political persuasions, as do the customers upon whom they rely. The same is true of individuals who belong to one or more organizations or members of community organizations who also own a business. Pressuring either businesses or community organizations to post political signs, posters and brochures in their establishments could put them in a difficult position.

If your business or organization is

approached by any political party or candidate to display signs, posters and brochures, just say no! But, if like many people, you feel obligated to do so, simply say yes! Say yes, to all parties and candidates by displaying opposing campaign literature, too.

Remember, don’t risk harming your business or organization by taking a stand that could cause shoppers, donors or clients to take their business elsewhere. It’s hard enough running a business or organization without turning off half the electorate – and it’s the fair and equitable thing to do.

Do the right thing! Businesses and community organizations need to be inclusive, not exclusive.

Bob Giordano
Founder/President
Yorktown Small Business
Association
Westchester Independent Business
Alliance

Pocantico Lake is a Resource for All of Westchester County

Thank you for featuring a story about the ill-advised proposal to site a 31-home subdivision on Pocantico Lake last week.

Your article left the impression that the opposition to the project consists entirely of homeowners residing close to the lake. This is not the case. The undersigned, for example, live five miles away in Tarrytown. We visit the lake regularly in summer because, in Westchester County, there is simply no other publicly owned park in such a beautiful, natural setting. In other words, our opposition to development near this rare environmental and recreational resource arises not from NIMBYism, but rather from sensible conservationism.

The lake is better understood as a unique

county resource rather than a local one. The proposed development affects residents beyond the borders of the Town of Mount Pleasant, where the project proposal is currently pending.

For this reason, Westchester County should assume the role of lead agency for the project’s SEQR review to ensure a full environmental impact statement that considers the countywide social, recreational and environmental importance of Pocantico Lake.

Fred, Cathy and Margaret Ruhland-Mauhs
Tarrytown

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Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

Peter Stone
C.F.O.
pstone@theexaminernews.com

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Print Team:

Martin Wilbur
Editor-in-Chief
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Rob Diantonio
Assistant Sports Editor
rdiantonio@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardi
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
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David Rocco
Distribution

David Devine
Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt
Reporter
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

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Guest Column

Learning the Hard Lessons of Vietnam Once Again in Afghanistan

By Donald B. Smith

Like most Americans I have been watching the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan with horror and dismay. Last Thursday's suicide bombings outside Kabul airport, which killed 13 U.S. servicemembers as well as killing and wounding scores of Afghan civilians, was a tragic and meaningless act of violence. It may also be a harbinger of future such attacks.

After 20 years of success in keeping terrorists at bay and thwarting attacks against our American homeland, we now leave Kabul in control of the very people who gave Osama bin Laden safe haven. This debacle will make America less safe for a generation or more, just as defeat in Vietnam did.

The American people only support putting our sons and daughters into harm's way if U.S. national security is truly threatened. This was certainly the case in the wake of the horrific September 11, 2001, attacks.

However, many Americans grew weary of 20 years commitment in Afghanistan and believed it was time to bring all the troops home. This was understandable, but the alternative should not be allowing Afghanistan to again become a breeding, training and staging ground for international terrorist groups who hate the United States, our values and way of life.

Unfortunately, our political leadership placed politics over our national security and the safety of the American people. Not only

was the decision completely to withdraw from Afghanistan flawed, but the way this withdrawal – or more properly retreat – has been executed has become an international embarrassment.

We made mistakes that were unworthy of a global superpower. For example, announcing the withdrawal with a date certain that was not condition-based. Or not coordinating the pullout with our coalition partners. Or giving up our major military air base at Bagram early in the withdrawal instead of as the final move, thus denying our forces and those of our Afghan allies the air support necessary to stave off the Taliban advance.

Furthermore, we abandoned Bagram Air Base in the dead of night on July 6 without any prior coordination with our NATO allies or the Afghan commander, thereby undermining the confidence of the Afghan forces in American support.

The message from the White House to the free Afghans was clear and deadly: you are on your own. The government in Kabul was told plainly not to expect any of the air, materiel or intelligence support their forces had always depended on from the U.S. and NATO. Facing the brutal reality of being abandoned by their patrons, is it any wonder the Afghan troops collapsed in front of the determined and well-supported Taliban? We now face a humiliating defeat that has diminished U.S. credibility and threatened global stability.

It did not have to be this way. Even sustaining a minimal commitment would

have bolstered Afghan morale, kept the Taliban guessing and ensured stability in Afghanistan as it has for two decades.

The irony is that even before the White House set the withdrawal deadline the United States had mostly already pulled back from Afghanistan. Since 2018 our mission under the leadership of General Scott Miller transitioned to an air support, training, logistics and leadership role with limited U.S. troops. We reduced American forces in Afghanistan to 2,500 troops, and many military leaders believed this would have been enough to maintain the status quo. There were also more than 10,000 NATO and allied troops from 38 nations supporting the effort. Despite disparaging comments from President Biden, the Afghan military was doing the bulk of the frontline fighting and taking almost all of the casualties.

The 2,500 support troops in Afghanistan allowed us to maintain our intelligence capabilities, have an embassy on the ground and secured access to Bagram Air Base. This modest deployment of troops had a more direct impact on our national security and the safety of the American people than the current 39,000 troops in Japan, 35,000 troops in Germany, 24,000 troops in South Korea, 6,300 troops in Kuwait and 5,500 troops in Bahrain, just to name some. And before the Kabul airport bombings the United States had not had a combat death in Afghanistan since February 2020.

But now we are faced with a meltdown reminiscent of the endgame in Saigon 46

years ago. Make no mistake, this is not a military defeat but a political calamity, just like in Vietnam. And now Afghan War veterans will experience the same deep frustration we Vietnam vets felt, that after decisively defeating an enemy on the battlefield, politicians have squandered our victory.

The more than 2,400 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan deserve better. As a nation we must finally learn this hard lesson and never again let politics drive our national and homeland security strategy.

As we watch a third rate, ragtag military force dictate the terms of our withdrawal and force a weak president to adhere to their chosen timeline, we must pledge that we will return to a policy of "Peace Through Strength" – including all the elements of national power, whether economic, diplomatic, military or intelligence. And we must also restore the power of moral leadership not hampered by progressive notions of political correctness unconnected to national security.

We cannot afford to allow defeat in Afghanistan to return our country to the "hollow forces" of the 1970s. This tragedy should inspire a new commitment to build the best equipped, best trained, and very importantly, the best led military in the world. And never to let politicians throw away another military victory again.

Retired Brigadier General Donald B. Smith is a veteran of the Vietnam War and is former sheriff of Putnam County.

Letters to the Editor

Sidewalk for Chappaqua's Douglas Road is Badly Needed

I am in favor of a sidewalk on Douglas Road. I live on Park Drive in Chappaqua, less than a mile from the train station. When I purchased my home, one of the selling points was that we could walk to the train. Today, many homes in my subdivision are sold with the promise that one could walk to the train.

Several of my neighbors own one car and do not take a parking spot at the station. In fact, my husband and I both commuted daily before the shutdown and only took one spot. We each walked in one direction so that we could more easily make our daily step goals and do our part to reduce the car congestion in town and the strain on our parking lot. Our walk takes us down a winding stretch of Douglas Road for about a quarter mile.

Walking down Douglas Road is the favored mode of transportation for many to get to the train station, Robert E. Bell Middle School and even the Saturday farmers market with strollers and dogs in tow. The former owner of my home prided himself on walking to town daily from when he purchased the house in 1964, until he passed away. Longtime neighbors talk about how their children found their first bit of

independence walking or biking as teens to Bell or to their first jobs as lifeguards at the pool club on Hardscrabble Road. Back then, Chappaqua was less populated, and the sleepy rural roads could safely accommodate many modes of transportation.

Today, we have more residents and busier lives. Car traffic has increased, making it more dangerous for the pedestrians that share Douglas Road with cars and bicycles. Our infrastructure has failed to keep up with this growth making it more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists on our local roads. We need to add protected walking, and biking, infrastructure so that our residents can enjoy the same freedom to walk and bike that past generations have in New Castle.

I strongly support a sidewalk on Douglas Road so that the homes on Douglas, Park, Spring, Wynnewood, Dunbow, Martha, Begg and even Oak Hill and Elizabeth can continue to live up to their real estate billing as a "walk to the train."

Jen Bounds
Democratic candidate for New
Castle Town Board

Pocantico Lake Must Be Protected From Development

Pocantico Lake should be 100 percent preserved, as it was intended. Any development will totally ruin the lake and surrounding areas.

As a longtime Mount Pleasant resident, I have learned firsthand how the development of a cherished green space can go wrong.

The green space near my home that was part of the Summit office park was leveled; 26 luxury homes (Summit Estates) now occupy the area. I hiked with my children there for years, and we walked our dog there

until recently. We were informed while walking our dog through the subdivision that "this is private property; you can't walk here." There are signs posted, but we thought they pertained to solicitors. The gent went on to say he pays taxes of \$50,000, and that entitles him to chase me from where I tread previously for 30 years.

Frank Leone
Hawthorne

Our National Anthem: Why is it Played?

- Revolutionary War: 4,435 died for our independence.
- War of 1812: 2,260 died for our independence.
- Indian Wars: 1,000 died for our independence.
- Mexican War: 13,283 died for our independence.
- Civil War: 498,332 died to save our Union.
- Spanish-American War: 2,446 died for our protection.
- World War I: 116,516 died in The War to End All Wars.
- World War II: 405,399 died making the world safe for democracy.
- Korean War: 36,516 died in U.N. police

- action.
- Vietnam War: 58,220 died advising and supporting South Vietnamese troops.
- Persian Gulf War: 1,565 died kicking Iraq out of Kuwait.
- Global War on Terror: 6,852 died in response to 9/11.

*"And they who for their Country-die, shall fill an Honored Grave,
for Glory lights the soldier's tomb, and beauty weeps the Brave."
--Joseph Rodman Drake*

Joe Pettit
Yorktown Heights

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Alzheimer's Association, Renegades Partner on Awareness

The Hudson Valley Renegades and the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter are partnering to educate the community about Alzheimer's disease during Alzheimer's Awareness Evening to be held at the Sept. 10 game.

The same evening the Renegades, the high Class A affiliate of the New York Yankees, will host the Brooklyn Cyclones at 7 p.m. at Dutchess Stadium.

The \$22 ticket package will include reserve seating and a Renegades hat. The Alzheimer's Association will have a table

at the game with staff on hand to talk about the organization's programs, services and fundraisers.

"It is important for our Hudson Valley Renegades team to partner with organizations to make a difference in our community," said Steve Gliner, president and general manager of the Renegades. "I am happy that we are able to support the Alzheimer's Association to bring awareness to those impacted by this horrible disease."

David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley

Chapter, said the organization is thrilled to partner with the Renegades.

"We want families affected by dementia to know we're there for them as research continues to find a cure," Sobel said. "We are looking forward to a fun and informative night at Dutchess Stadium."

Some facts and figures about Alzheimer's disease:

- An estimated 5.8 million Americans of all ages are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2019, including 200,000 under the age of 65.

- Without development of medical breakthroughs, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's dementia may nearly triple from 5.6 million to 13.8 million by 2050.

- Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., and it is the fifth leading cause of death for those age 65 and older.

- Total national cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated at \$290 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2019, of which \$195 billion is the cost to Medicare and Medicaid; out-of-pocket costs represent \$63 billion of the total payments, while other costs total \$32 billion.

- More than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Fans can help find a cure by participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, held at more than 600 locations nationwide. The Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at SUNY Purchase and the Dutchess/Ulster Walk will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, starting on the Highland side of the Walkway Over the Hudson.

The walks will be held in person, observing safety protocols, but participants can also choose to participate remotely at the locations of their choice.

More information about all five of the Hudson Valley's walks is available at www.HudsonValleyWalks.org.

Putnam to Participate in Statewide STOP-DWI Labor Day Campaign

Putnam County Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr., Town of Carmel Police Department Chief Anthony Hoffmann and Kent Police Department Chief Kevin Owens announced Monday that Putnam County police agencies and STOP-DWI coordinators will participate in special efforts to bring awareness to the dangers of impaired driving.

The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign will run through Labor Day, Sept. 6. It is one of the busiest travel times of the year and marks the official end of summer. State

police, county sheriffs, municipal law enforcement agencies and local STOP-DWI programs will collaborate across the state and will be out in force in this coordinated effort to reduce the number of impaired driving-related injuries and deaths.

The campaign is one of many statewide initiatives promoted by STOP-DWI NY and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign also targets Memorial Day, July 4th, Halloween, Thanksgiving, the end-of-year

holiday season, Super Bowl weekend and St. Patrick's Day.

Highly visible and highly publicized efforts such as the STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign aim to reduce drunk and impaired driving incidents.

You can help to make a difference by having a sober plan. Download our mobile app – "Have a Plan" – and you will always be able to find a safe ride home at www.stopdwi.org/mobileapp.

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Center Helping Autistic Adults Expanding Operations in Westchester

By Abby Luby

The Nicholas Center for Autism debuted in Pleasantville earlier this year and already is expanding its space.

The nonprofit organization moved into 175 Tompkins Ave., holding a grand opening in April hosted by then-Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul who cut the ribbon. The new, enlarged space in the center's building triples the size of its Pleasantville operation.

Located on the first floor of the same building as the Westchester Table Tennis Center near the heart of downtown Pleasantville, The Nicholas Center is one block away from its partner organization, Spectrum Designs Foundation. Spectrum has been operating out of a renovated building at 199 Tompkins Ave. that officially opened its doors last year.

"The Nicholas Center for Autism and the Spectrum Designs Foundation share the same mission," said Lee Anne Vetrone, director of development for The Nicholas Center. "Both organizations advocate helping people with autism lead productive lives."

The Nicholas Center teaches and coaches clients a variety of job skills, offers work-readiness classes and helps launch microbusinesses. Spectrum Designs is an apparel enterprise, which prints and sells reflective vests for Metro-North and custom prints and stitches logos on a variety of items. Participants can learn these skills at The Nicholas Center and then work at Spectrum Designs down the street.

"There have been four individuals who



Personnel from The Nicholas Center and its partner organization, Spectrum Designs Foundation, celebrated the former's grand opening last spring with then-Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, center.

participated in on site-learning at The Nicholas Center in Pleasantville who are now paid employees at Spectrum Designs," Vetrone said. "Not everybody at The Nicholas Center is over at Spectrum Designs. Some have little experience, and depending on individual abilities, (that) decides how we work and partner together."

The Nicholas Center first opened a facility in Port Washington in 2011. It was founded by Stella Spanakos, a Long Island parent of an autistic son. Spanakos was unable to find work opportunities for her only child, Nicholas, after he completed high school.

The Nicholas Center's Pleasantville space is an educational center offering academic classes, recreational programs and a health and wellness are equipped with a gym. Helping to design and organize the 175 Tompkins Ave. space is Waldner's furniture in Manhattan.

"They are wonderful," Vetrone said of Waldner's. "They are donating their services to develop our working space for maximum efficiency."

Since becoming part of the Pleasantville community, many of the participants at The Nicholas Center have connected to and worked with other local nonprofit organizations.

"We have participants not only working on site but at a myriad of community organizations including the Pleasantville Food Pantry and the Pleasantville Community Garden," said Vetrone.

The Nicholas Center's participants also work with Delta Airlines putting together passenger packets that hold items for travel. In May, The Nicholas Center donated three trees to the Pleasantville Collaborative Garden in celebration of Arbor Day.

The Nicholas Center and Spectrum



The Nicholas Center's staff supports pre-vocational training and jobs at its partner agency, Spectrum Designs Foundation.

Designs were the recipients of the Workforce Development Initiative, a New York State grant that supports expanding apprenticeships and helps with long-term needs of growing industries. Vetrone said both The Nicholas Center and Spectrum Designs will be awarded \$48 million for the second time through the state's initiative.

Last year Spectrum Designs received \$240,000 from a New York State Regional Economic Development Council grant that helped pay for the renovation. The new expanded space at The Nicholas Center is expected to open sometime this fall.

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P'ville Chamber, Officials Undecided on Whether to Pursue Oktoberfest

By Abby Luby

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce is cautiously optimistic that a planned Oktoberfest for Saturday, Oct. 2 will be able to be held as local COVID-19 cases continue to spike.

The current plan is to close Wheeler Avenue to traffic in the afternoon and evening in the village's downtown, which would allow patrons to stroll to restaurants and retail shops. Live music will likely be performed by local musicians and student groups.

Businesses have been invited to participate in the event but because of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 cases in Pleasantville, the chamber is being careful about whether to hold the planned street festival. When the organization started working on the event in June there was one active case in the village.

At last Monday's Village Board meeting, Mayor Peter Scherer announced there were eight new positive COVID-19 cases and 34 active cases in Pleasantville.

"In June the number of COVID cases was much lower," said Village Board Trustee Paul Alvarez, who is also vice president of the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce. "Now that's changed, and it impacts everyone so we may have to scale it back."

At the end of last week, the chamber



The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce is trying to organize an Oktoberfest celebration on Wheeler Avenue for Oct. 2 but it is unclear whether COVID-19 cases or a lack of interest will derail the effort.

reached out to village businesses and restaurants to see how many were interested in participating. The deadline for responses is this Wednesday.

"If we decide to have Oktoberfest, businesses will have to be flexible the closer we get to the date in case we're going to cancel," Alvarez said. "That way they won't purchase extra inventory, food

or hire extra people."

The idea for an Oktoberfest celebration was first proposed by Soul Brewing Company owner Allen Wallace last year but it had to be canceled when COVID-19 safety precautions declared by the Centers for Disease Control and the Westchester County Department of Health restricted the size of gatherings.

The plan for this year is to have the live music venue in the parking lot of Holy Innocents Church around the corner from Wheeler Avenue on Bedford Road. Discussions at the last two Village Board meetings revealed trustees were increasingly troubled with holding performances in a parking lot that could accommodate a large crowd.

Concerns include whether attendees would need to provide proof of vaccination, whether the church parking lot should be fenced in and the possibility of alcohol being bought and passed to an underage drinker.

"I personally, and other board members, are increasingly nervous about COVID," Scherer said. "Not so much about the outdoor dining, but the concert venue. In August, the (COVID-19) numbers have been higher, and nobody wants to make it worse."

The plan has since been scaled back with alternative settings for live music now being considered for Nonna Plaza near the corner of Wheeler and Manville Road and in front of the former Pleasantville Pharmacy, also on Wheeler Avenue.

"If enough businesses on Wheeler want to do it then we can move forward," said Alvarez. "If those on Wheeler are not for it, we would cancel and hold the idea for next year."

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Westchester Orthopedic Surgeon Says Health Care is Social

By Bailey Hosfelt

Dr. Howard J. Luks, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine, believes that because human beings are social, health care, by extension, is as well.

"Each injury or issue has its own personality," Luks said. "A certain issue in a knee in an ultramarathoner or cyclist is going to present itself differently than someone who leads a much more sedentary life."

Looking not just to an MRI finding but also to the patient's lifestyle and the pain they're experiencing, Luks tries to operate on his patients only when all other options are exhausted and it is entirely necessary.

"You need to paint a complete picture, and you need to listen to people to understand how it is impacting them," he said.

Luks noted that because health care is one of the largest industries and drivers of gross domestic product in the United States, many physicians operate exclusively on MRI findings.

"(Surgeons) make more money by operating on someone than they will from telling them that they don't need anything done," Luks said. "But I think it's very important to let people know that a lot of these findings on the MRI are actually age-appropriate findings, likely not a cause of their pain and, more often than not, don't require an operation."

Because almost all of the issues Luks deals with regarding sports medicine aren't life-threatening, providers and patients have time to make a decision about whether surgery is

the right option.

"We definitely need to be cautious and careful," Luks said. "We need to digest all the information available, and, as patients, we need to seek second or even third opinions if necessary."

A trail endurance runner and amateur cyclist himself, Luks works with many patients who are a part of various running groups in the region, of which he is also a member.

"Once you start to get a name and a reputation in those communities, you tend to see a lot more of them, and it's great," Luks said. "I love working with runners, cyclists and people who are very motivated to return to optimal health."

Throughout his 25-year career as an orthopedist, Luks has returned many athletes to the playing field and replaced more knees than he can count.

However, Luks highlights that he's also passionate about helping patients, and sometimes entire families, improve their health with simple lifestyle modifications. In doing so, Luks helps patients understand what is going on in their bodies as they age, and what improvements they can make.

"Those are now the biggest success stories in my practice," Luks said. "That being said, if I can get a 50-year-old runner back out on the trails with a complex procedure and they do well, that's also very enlightening to me."

Growing up, Luks was an avid athlete who learned his way around an orthopedist's office with injuries.

"I was in an orthopedist's office more than



Dr. Howard J. Luks

SYMPHONY MEDICAL PHOTO

Dr. Luks' website, <https://www.howardluksmd.com>, where he posts blogs and educational materials about shoulder, knee and elbow injuries, has garnered a global reach, with 6,000 to 8,000 new visits every day.

As a result, Luks often gets calls from individuals across the United States and sometimes internationally. Through these consultations, Luks helps refer individuals to local orthopedists who can help carry out their care.

"By putting my information and articles out on social media and by having an evidence-informed website, I hope to give people beyond the four walls of my practice a very clear understanding of what these issues are all about, how they may or may not impact your life and what their true treatment options are," he said.

After many years at Westchester Medical Center, Luks is now at Symphony Medical, located at the St. John's Riverside Hospital Dobbs Ferry Pavilion.

Luks works alongside a team of physicians and nurse practitioners who specialize in addiction medicine, emergency medicine, OBGYN, hospital medicine and general surgery.

He underscored that the staff at Symphony Medical is like a close-knit family, working hard together every day.

"We discuss how to make things better for people, better for patients, easier to schedule, easier to get through," Luks said. "And it's working very well."

my pediatrician's office," Luks said.

The experience, coupled with observing orthopedic surgeons while training in medical school, inspired Luks to take up the specialty.

"It seemed like a natural fit."

Luks has been named one of the top sports medicine physicians in the United States by U.S. News & World Report. He has also been named one of the Top 10 "Social Health Makers" for Osteoarthritis, one of Twitter's top 10 doctors, one of the top sports medicine physicians in New York for nearly 10 years in a row and served as an advisory board member of the Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media for three years.

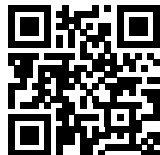
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- No one under 21 will be admitted to any event. No infants, strollers or pets.

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WED | SEP 22

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THU | SEP 23

Burger & Beer Blast

6:00PM-10:00PM | Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

FRI | SEP 24

Wine Collectors' Dinner

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The Magic of Water: Just Turn the Spigot, and Poof

Don't think that I'm weird, but one of my favorite movies is Disney's "Enchanted." The animated fairytale princess finds herself banished to real-life Manhattan, and one of her first discoveries of modern life is the magical waterfall when she turns on a spigot in the shower. Where does the water come from, she asks her host?

From the pipes, she is told.

But where do the pipes get it, she then asks?

When you turn on that faucet in your kitchen or bathroom without a thought as to where the pipes get it, you can know that the water you enjoy represents centuries of sophisticated engineering from the time of the Egyptians and Romans. The latter civilization developed the first underground aqueduct in 312 BC, which created the fundamental design for the construction of our own Croton Aqueduct, completed in 1842 and stretching 40 miles from the Croton River Dam to New York City. The enormity of the project made it the greatest engineering feat in the United States at the time.

Since then, our municipal water system has expanded with a New Croton Aqueduct, built in 1890, the Catskills Aqueduct in 1910, from which most of Westchester gets its supply now, and the Delaware Aqueduct in 1928, which is constructed on the other side of the Hudson River.



By Bill Primavera

Thanks to well-protected wilderness watersheds, New York's water treatment process is simpler than in other American cities. One advantage of our system is that 95 percent of the water is delivered by gravity; the other 5 percent needs to be pumped to maintain pressure. More than 90 percent of homes in Westchester enjoy municipal water, while Putnam still depends mostly on well water due in part to its topography and more rural nature.

Along with some house hunters' demands for sewer, many demand municipal water as well.

The odyssey of our water supply originates with the streams and lakes in the Croton watershed, the

Catskills or in the Delaware system, where water collects into the 19 reservoirs in the New York City system. From the reservoirs, water travels via the aqueducts and through our communities in mains that are as large as 17 feet in diameter.

From the main, water is siphoned off by our local water departments and delivered to a local treatment plant in pipes that are 24 inches in diameter. Some treatment plants are shared by several towns.

At the plant, the water is filtered through a two-part process, which includes a 24-inch sand filter, and certain protective elements are added to it. These include chlorine to kill organisms; fluoride to prevent tooth decay; sodium hydroxide to raise the pH level; and

orthophosphate, a substance that coats pipes and keeps them from leaching lead into the drinking water.

Once treated, the water is sent on its way via pumps through pipes 12 to 16 inches in diameter to a water tower, usually 40 to 50 feet high and placed on a higher elevation. It is the release of water from these towers in pipes of similar diameter, and then in progressively smaller pipes, which builds the pressure, until it arrives from the street into our homes in a three-quarter-inch pipe.

There, it passes a meter that registers the home's consumption. Currently most meters are read individually but such old meters will eventually be replaced with automatic reading technology. In my last single-family home (I live in a condo now where I don't have to worry about my water source), I know my meter was checked regularly because I received a call from the town Water Department soon after I filled my pool and was asked if my system should be checked for a leak.

From the meter, the water travels to our bathrooms and kitchens for our toilets, shower and tubs.

Putnam County operates somewhat differently for its lesser requirements for municipal water, with its own series of reservoirs that comprise the Croton



watershed. Towns like Brewster and Southeast, for instance, take their water from their own reservoirs.

Today, only Ossining gets its water from the Old and New Croton Aqueducts, which supply only 10 percent of New York City's water today.

According to my research, our municipal water has a strict daily testing schedule, which obviously bottled water does not, and it enjoys a great reputation for taste. In my past professional pursuits, I would sometimes dine or host tastings with food and restaurant critics. While hosting a tasting some years ago for

the inimitable food and restaurant critic Gael Greene, I was delighted when she declined bottled water in favor of "plain old New York City water. It's the best!"

Fearing more water for our community than we may want from the remnants of Hurricane Ida this week, I'll enjoy a great tasting glass of water directly from the tap, followed by a nice hot shower in soft water with great pressure, not even thinking twice about where the pipes get it.

Bill Primavera, while a writer and public relations practitioner, is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate. To engage the talents and services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Family Days and Date Nights at the Yorktown Grange Fair

Finding an activity that the whole family can agree on is a challenge. The same goes for deciding where to go to eat or even for something new for a date.

From Sept. 10-12, the Yorktown Grange Fair has solved that problem. During the day, Westchester County's only true country fair is full of fabulous activities that kids and adults will love. The food options are plentiful and varied and the evenings are built for fun.

Ride tickets are reasonably priced, with wristband specials. Friday wristbands are only \$25 for an evening of fun, while on Saturday and Sunday, the all-day bands will have you riding from open to close for only \$30.

But the Grange Fair is much more than rides. Once everyone has had their fill of twisting, tilting and whirling, be sure to take time to enjoy the contests and exhibits. You'll love the livestock exhibits and shows, the LEGO exhibit and the beautiful handcrafted items on display.

The annual tractor parade is always a hit, and don't miss the canine agility demonstrations, bubble gum blowing contest and the rubber chicken throwing contest. Adding a little music to the mix, fan favorite kids' entertainers Beth & Scott and Friends return to the fair on Saturday for two shows, one at 11 a.m. and another at 1 p.m.

With so many activities, it will take some effort to make time for food but make it a priority because the Grange Fair



There will be fun activities, delicious food and great rides for everyone at the Yorktown Grange Fair, scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 10-12.

selections are top-notch. Kids will love all the normal fair fare, and with quesadillas, hot dogs, French fries, ice cream, funnel cakes and candy apples, there will be more than enough to get them through the day.

But you don't have to settle for the ordinary. Enjoy craft beer selections from Hopwood Handles, wood-fired pizza from Five Alarm Pizza and savory Puerto Rican specialties. Bab's Baking will be on hand to provide yummy goodies to tempt everyone with a sweet tooth.

The fun of the fair isn't just for children, so plan on coming to the Grange Fair with your favorite date. Start by taking a ride

on the Ferris wheel for a birds-eye view of the festivities. Grab a beer and some food. Take in the photography exhibit and see a horse-riding demonstration. If you love live shows, the concert lineup is sure to please. The main stage comes alive in the evenings. No Options, the Dude of Life Band and River of Dreams will delight rock fans, Phish Phans and Billy Joel lovers. Add a little hilarity to the mix by participating in the Topsy Waiter Relay or demonstrate your skill in the nail driving contest.

The price is right for family fun and for fabulous dates: \$10 per car \$5 for single riders and walk-ins. Children under the

age of 2 are free.

The 2021 Yorktown Grange Fair will be held at the Grange Fairgrounds, 99 Moseman Rd. in Yorktown Heights. The fair is open on Friday, Sept. 10 from 4 to 11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is the perfect weekend activity that everyone can agree on.

For more information, visit <https://yorktowngrangefair.org>. We can't wait to see you out and about at the fair!"

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Hoff-Barthelson Announces New Music Class Offerings for All Ages

Hoff-Barthelson Music School will launch its 2021-22 school year by offering exciting new classes for all ages and resuming in-person delivery of most of its programs – including lessons, classes and ensembles – following an immaculate safety record during last school year and the 2021 summer session.

Students wishing to continue private lessons and perform online may do so; additionally, the school has installed two state-of-the-art smart classrooms so that students may continue to participate in online musicianship classes as well.

Over the past year, the school has developed and refined rigorous safety protocols and, with generous support from the Scarsdale Foundation, made major investments in its HVAC systems. It has also just announced that 100 percent of its staff and faculty are fully vaccinated.

“We are excited to be resuming our full range of ensembles, classes and lessons for students of all ages on campus this fall,” said Executive Director Ken Cole. “At the same time, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure that all in-person activities are conducted safely. I encourage everyone in our community with an interest in music education to visit www.hbms.org to review our newly-



STEVEN SCHNUR PHOTO

Hoff-Barthelson Music School offers new group guitar classes for all ages this fall.

revised campus-wide safety plan.”

There will be exciting new offerings in the early childhood, K-12 and adult divisions. Cole said.

Group guitar classes. For students from four years old through adult, it provides opportunities for students to enjoy making music together, engage in group discussion and support one another. For the youngest learners, group classes are an ideal way to prepare for private instruction.

Chamber music. For intermediate and advanced youth and adults,

chamber music instruction has always been an important part of Hoff-Barthelson's program over the school's 77-year history. Members of the New York Philharmonic visit annually to lead master classes for students enrolled in the chamber music program.

This fall, Hoff-Barthelson is excited to announce a new Piano Ensemble Program within the school's larger Chamber Music Program. The Piano Ensemble Program, held in the state-of-the-art piano lab, is for intermediate

to advanced piano students who would like to develop ensemble and sightreading skills as well as enjoy the social and emotional benefits of participating in music-making with others.

The school will also introduce new Advanced Track Musicianship (ATM) classes tailored for students from upper elementary school through high school with an avid desire to develop a comprehensive understanding of music theory. For adult learners seeking to develop a strong foundation in music theory, an Adult Music Theory and Ear Training Bootcamp in partnership with the Scarsdale Adult School will be offered.

The Adult Handbell Class welcomes new members starting Oct. 1. Playing handbells is a wonderful way for adult amateur musicians of all levels to make beautiful music together.

Hoff-Barthelson's unique comprehensive program for students at all stages of development combines individual lessons on more than 20 instruments and voice with regular access to professional accompaniment, musicianship classes, myriad performance opportunities, an ensemble program featuring orchestras, choruses, chamber groups and jazz ensembles

and written performance critiques and progress reports.

The tiered pricing structure introduced last year, which ties prices to levels of utilization within the comprehensive program, remains in effect as does the newly expanded financial aid program available to families with incomes up to four times New York State's Reduced Price Lunch eligibility levels. This includes families whose incomes have been temporarily impacted by the pandemic.

Hoff-Barthelson will be hosting open houses for the Chamber Music and Piano Ensembles Program, the Suzuki Program, the Youth Orchestra Program and the Early Childhood and Adult Divisions in September. Masks, social distancing, adherence to the school's fall safety guidelines and RSVP are required for all in-person event participants. Learn more about these events and RSVP by visiting <https://hbms.org/news/fall-open-houses-and-orientation-sessions/> or by calling 914-723-1169 or e-mailing hb@hbms.org.

The new school year begins Sept. 9. Enrollment is ongoing throughout the year. For additional information, visit www.hbms.org, call 914-723-1169 or e-mail registration@hbms.org.

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New Fitness Studio to Open in Downtown Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

If you're still leery of going to a large gym due to COVID-19 or just want more privacy or personal instruction, there's a new fitness center in the area to try.

Sam Gomes is opening G-Fit Training & Health Solutions in downtown Chappaqua this Monday, his first effort as an entrepreneur after working for about eight years as a certified personal trainer.

With the pandemic persisting over the past 18 months, Gomes reasoned that there would be plenty of local residents who would want to work on their fitness without the uneasiness of exerting in crowded quarters.

His roughly 5,000-square-foot North Greeley Avenue studio will cater to people's individual schedules and training needs, he said.

"It seems that most people are doing Zoom training, in-home training, at a park," said Gomes, who is also a corrective exercise specialist, a precision nutrition Level 1 coach and Titleist Performance Institute certified. "In general, I've noticed that the whole industry seems to be kind of moving away from bigger gyms because you don't know who's in there, what their habits are. Are they washing their hands? Are they vaccinated? So I kind of took all of that into account and part of it was like opportunity, too, because I saw the chance."

Whether a client wants to gain strength, lose weight or improve their overall fitness, Gomes will design a personalized regimen for them. One-on-one sessions are an hour, typically starting with a five- to 15-minute warmup and

progress depending on the needs of the client.

Unlike some boutique training facilities, you won't have to look as though you've stepped out of a fashion magazine or off a runway to come to G-Fit Training. It's geared for anyone who wants to improve their health and fitness.

"It really doesn't matter what the fitness level is," Gomes said. "I just like helping people become better and that's the philosophy I really adhere to. By tomorrow, you should really be better, whether you're physically stronger. You should be consistently progressing, not regressing."

Gomes, a Westchester native who now lives in Danbury, grew up in Mount Vernon before moving to Yorktown for high school. He was a media and communications major at Pace University but his interest in fitness dated back to his high school years. Gomes helped friends and relatives with their workouts, some of whom suggested he consider training as a potential career. He got his certification and gave it a little bit of time to see how it would progress.

"As time went on, it kept snowballing," Gomes recalled. "I got one client, then three, then a couple more. As time went on, I could definitely do this as a career. It's exactly what I wanted. I had a lot of passion for it."

Gomes learned of the vacant space on North Greeley Avenue and reasoned that it was centrally located for him to draw on Chappaqua and neighboring communities.

For the first few months, Gomes plans to train clients on his own. He hopes by the end of the year he will have gained enough of a following to hire a couple trainers. Gomes



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Sam Gomes, a certified personal trainer and owner of G-Fit Training & Health Solutions in Chappaqua, will open his studio's doors on Labor Day.

is also looking to eventually add a physical therapist and perhaps a message therapist to his operation as well.

At some point, small group classes of up to eight participants are likely to be offered, but the demand will help shape the schedule, he said.

"My goal was to see where the people's wants are," Gomes said. "If they're like I'm really looking for a high-intensity interval

class, we'll open up a spot for it."

Gomes is also developing various packages for those who want to come once or twice a week and those who need more frequent training.

G-Fit Training & Health Solutions is located at 75 N. Greeley Ave. in Chappaqua. For more information, call 914-623-8684 or visit www.gfittraining.com.



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Shop for Food Like a Restaurateur at Ace Endico Marketplace

By Morris Gut

It was a beautiful late summer day and we took a drive up I-684. Our destination: Ace Endico Marketplace in Brewster.

Ace Endico, founded some four decades ago by William Endico and Murray Hertzberg, has become a major wholesale food supplier and distributor to the food service and hospitality industry in the tri-state area. You may have noticed their colorful trucks over the years delivering goods throughout the region.

I enjoy alternative shopping experiences, and this was another opportunity. Ace Endico is open to the public, so on this day we decided to shop like restaurants do. We had been hearing about it through the grapevine.

Pulling up to their 200,000-square-foot main distribution warehouse was awesome. Trucks were busy loading with supplies for delivery. The retail marketplace is on the side of the facility and offers plenty of parking.

We got a shopping cart and once inside starting combing through the aisles. They were well-stocked with assorted merchandise: fruit and produce, meat and seafood, frozen foods, gourmet items, olive oils, pastas, imported goods, paper goods and more. Shoppers would be hard-pressed to find some of the products and merchandise anywhere else. You can easily locate many of the items listed on their website.

While most products were packaged in larger quantities for wholesale buyers, there were also plenty of goods sold in smaller sizes. You could pick your own fruits and vegetables, for example. You might consider forming a shopping group with friends and family and share. The best part is that many products were reasonably priced compared to mainstream markets. The staff were very helpful with our questions, too.

By the time we got to checkout, we had filled our cart with more than anticipated, and that was okay. We have since been enjoying the larder.

Ace Endico Marketplace is located at 80 International Blvd. in Brewster. Open daily. Curbside pick-up. Info: 845-230-9886 or visit www.aceendico.com.



Squire's fresh house salad.

Hearty Tavern Fare at Squire's

Always on the lookout for a solid vintage tavern, I pulled into the busy strip mall on North State Road, just off Route 9A, for a visit to Squire's of Briarcliff. Proprietor Kurt Knox, his family and staff have been serving patrons since 1967. No easy task in this business, for sure, and when I entered the bar and lounge area for the first time I was made to feel right at home. That's one mark of longevity, and that's the way it should be in the hospitality trade.

Why do I enjoy old venues like Squire's? The place has character and stories. Chat with staff and patrons and you often get stories filled with all the local color. A little history to go with the memorabilia on the bar and dining room walls.

In the case of Squire's, I recall hearing of their award-winning burgers year after year. So that's what I wanted on this visit. I zeroed in on the Squire's Burger topped with bacon and cheese and served on a soft bun with a mountain of fries. Their basic burger probably has not changed in years and has withstood the test of many palates over time. Mine, too, I am pleased to report. It was a retro-delish indulgence.

I came back a couple of weeks later to check out more of the menu. There are a lot of choices with no pushing of the culinary envelope. Familiar options with built-in appeal. On this visit, I decided on their steak sandwich – short rib, sauteed onions and cheese with onion rings on the side. My companion ordered the fish and chips with fries. Both were large orders and were served with the appropriate condiments and dipping sauces. The dishes satiated our hunger big time. We had enough to take home for snacking the next day.

I did notice prime rib listed on the menu, but that will have to wait. Not too many restaurants serve it these days. By the time we left on this early Saturday evening, the place was filling up inside and out on the patio. The phones were ringing consistently for take-out and delivery, too.

Squire's of Briarcliff is located at 94 N. State Rd. in Briarcliff Manor. Open daily. Free parking. Info: 914-762-3376 or visit www.squiresbriarcliff.com.

Goosefeather Reopens in Tarrytown

Chef and restaurateur Dale Talde and Goosefeather are back. Talde had made a big name for himself in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with his take on pan-Asian cuisine. After closing for a time during the pandemic, his newly formed restaurant group updated Goosefeather at the lovely Tarrytown House Estate. The eatery specializes in Cantonese- and Hong Kong-inspired cuisine, including dim sum. Sounds exciting! Always on the lookout for good Asian restaurants around Westchester.

For information, visit www.goosefeatherny.com.

DeCicco to Open in Sleepy Hollow

This innovative food market chain has really been growing throughout Westchester and Putnam counties. Construction on their 11th 30,000-square-foot operation is about to get underway in Sleepy Hollow at the site of the Edge-on-Hudson development, which formerly housed the GM plant. Plans are for the store to open by early next year.

For more information, visit www.deciccoandsons.com.



Customers can buy all their food supplies as though they owned a restaurant at Ace Endico Marketplace in Brewster.



Squire's is one of the few restaurants to include prime rib on its menu.



The steak sandwich and onion rings at Squire's of Briarcliff.



Squire's restaurant in Briarcliff Manor serves mostly delicious tavern-style fare.

deciccoandsons.com.

Processing Fees to Your Restaurant Bill?

Have you double checked your dining bill lately? Some restaurants have been adding what they call a "processing fee" or "convenience fee" to the final charge. It's not much, but what is it for? Some owners say it goes toward helping the staff, while others say it is meant to defray part of their credit card fees and rising costs.

While I fully empathize with all the difficulties the restaurant industry continues to experience, should this be the customer's problem? Can a patron dispute the charge and refuse to pay? Can't always carry a big load of cash around. Credit card companies should offer some slack, too. What do you think?

For those of you celebrating, have a healthy and happy Rosh Hashanah. L'Shana Tova!

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing

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

Westchester County Seeks Nominations for Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

Do you know a senior who is making a positive difference in Westchester County through his or her professional life, volunteer work or both?

If so, the county invites you to submit a nomination to the Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, now in its 39th year.

Department of Senior Programs and Services Commissioner Mae Carpenter said that the Seniors Hall of Fame is an important tradition because the senior community has helped Westchester to become known for its quality of life.

“Today’s older generation molded a way of life that reflects the caring and generosity of its people,” she said.

To be nominated, a person must be at least 60 years old and live in Westchester; made significant contributions to improve life in the county; be an outstanding leader or advocate; and have professional achievements that reflect innovative solutions to fulfill unmet community needs if the nomination is based on paid professional work. Past Hall of Fame inductees are not eligible. (See the list of former inductees at westchestergov.com/seniors.)

All nominations will be reviewed by a judging committee and are due by Sept. 17. Forms may be obtained online at westchestergov.com/seniors.

While an in-person celebration is once again not possible this year, every effort will be made to showcase the inductees in an exciting new medium. Those selected will be inducted during a multiplatform virtual event on Friday, Dec. 3. The community will be invited to view the event for free through the Westchester Public Private Partnership for Aging Services website at www.westchesterpartnership.org.

The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, Westchester County Parks and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services are hosting the gala.

Please submit your nominations online at westchestergov.com/seniors or if you prefer to mail your nomination, contact Rose Cappa at rose@theeventdepartmentny.com or at (914) 747-0519. Rose Cappa is also the contact to learn how to become a Senior Hall of Fame sponsor or to sponsor a particular honoree.

For additional information, call (914) 813-6300 or visit www.westchestergov.com/seniors.

WCC Awarded \$50G for New Metallica Scholars Initiative

Westchester Community College (WCC) was selected from a competitive field of community colleges across the country to receive \$50,000 to transform the future of students in the community.

Funded by the rock band Metallica’s All Within My Hands and led by the American Association of Community Colleges, the Metallica Scholars Initiative was designed to directly support students while also elevating the importance of career and technical education.

This work is highlighted at a global level by leveraging the influence of Metallica who continue to speak out on the dignity of professional trades and community colleges that prepare students. This is WCC’s second grant from the program, which last year helped more than 250 students receive training and professional certifications, increasing their employability.

The Metallica Scholars Initiative is now in its third year and has fundamentally improved the earning potential for students. WCC and Metallica will continue to “Rock the Workforce” by focusing this year’s grant on training skilled workers for Westchester’s growing advanced manufacturing industry. WCC will prioritize non-traditional students who are looking to re-enter or upskill in the workforce in advanced manufacturing fields.

At least 24 Metallica Scholars will receive curriculum and certifications to qualify for Manufacturing Skill Standards Council certifications or National Institute for Metalworking Skills certifications, leading to employment in middle skill positions. They will be showcased to promote varying skilled trade pathways to economic development.

“WCC is proud to partner again with Metallica’s All Within My Hands to develop a new generation of trained middle skills employees,” said WCC President Dr. Belinda Miles. “Companies look to WCC to train the advanced manufacturing workforce that helps drive our region’s economic engine. This generous grant will help us reach dozens of students who might otherwise never have recognized or reached their full potential.”

James Hetfield, Metallica’s vocalist/guitarist and co-founder said, “As a touring entity we are in direct involvement with multiple essential career choices along our path. From electrical, professional driving, culinary, mechanical maintenance, public safety, logistical organizers. And that just scratches the surface. Those, along with a multitude of other technical careers, make our touring and our performances possible. We are passionate and grateful to these trades and tradespeople.”

For more information on WCC’s 2021-22 Metallica Scholars Initiative, visit <https://www.sunywcc.edu/about/foundation/fund-for-wcc/metallica-and-wcc-rock-the-workforce>.

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski


It’s a Jumble Out There! The quiz has a different format this week. For each vocabulary word, a clue that includes the definition of the word will be provided. You then must unscramble the jumbled letters of the word below the clue to reveal the correct answer. Dogo ulck.

- 1. The definition of this adjective is “socially shy or timid.” It is also the name of one of the Seven Dwarfs in Snow White. **SHUFABL**
- 2. A synonym for this verb, which means “to affirm to be true,” is “certify.” **ETSTTA**
- 3. This verb means “to weigh in the mind, appraise.” **RDEONP**
- 4. This noun is “a person or thing of marked excellence.” As two words, it’s a trademark used for “a candied popcorn confection.” **KRKRAJACEC**
- 5. The definition of this of this verb is “to proceed without pause from one musical number or theme to another.” **UGEES**
- 6. The first know use of this noun, which means “one of a series of short sharp turns, angles, or alterations in a course,” dates to 1712. **GAZGZI**
- 7. As a noun this word means “practical know-how,” as an adjective it means “having or showing perception, comprehension, or shrewdness.” **YAVSV**
- 8. An antonym of this noun, which is defined as “a naive or gullible inhabitant of a rural or small town,” is “cosmopolitan.” **LEOYK**


4. Crackerjack and Cracker Jack
3. Ponder
2. Altest
1. Bashful
- ANSWERS:
8. Yoke
7. Savvy
6. Zigzag
5. Segue

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EVENTS

ANTIQUA LOVERS TAKE NOTE! BRIMFIELD IS BACK- ALL SHOWS! September 7-12. New shows open daily! BrimfieldAntiqueFleaMarket.com 2022 Show Dates: May10-15, July 12-17, September 6-11.

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continued on page 24

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Pre-dawn Sky Watching Brings Plenty of Wonder in September

We usually spend most of our time around here talking about the comings and goings of things in our nighttime skies. This month, I thought, it'd be fun to skip past the evenings' prime time and look at the sky in the mornings, just before dawn.

I'll be the first to admit there isn't a lot of appeal to getting out of bed early to look at, well, anything. The truth is, a few times a year, I like to make myself an early cup of coffee and slip out into the pre-dawn darkness. There's a certain calm that comes in the early morning solitude when the neighborhood and the skies belong to us alone. The last couple of weeks of summer are one of my favorite times to do it.

Let's fast-forward through the night just as the calendar flips to September and look toward the south and southeast at around 5 a.m. There, on the 1st, the first thing we'll notice is the moon. Do you notice anything unusual about it? It starts the month as a waning crescent, with its lighted left-hand side trailing behind it as it makes its way into morning. In just a few hours, once the stars are washed out by sunlight, we'll see it arcing above the roofs and trees, etched into the blue and hidden in plain sight.

I always find them a little off-kilter and unsettling because they're backward from what most of us are used to. It's just before its "new" phase now. It'll be back to "normal"

in just a few days once the moon slides past the sun and reappears in the evening sky.

Widening our gaze, we'll see our nearest neighbor is tangled among some familiar faces. These last weeks of summer also give us a sneak preview of Orion, Taurus and the rest of winter's bright lights. Just above the horizon, we can see our old friend, the brilliant Sirius.

Sirius, which is the brightest star just in our sky (other than the sun), is also the brightest in constellation Canis Major – the greater dog. So, it has the nickname "the Dog Star." Ancient people believed that the heat from its reappearance in the morning's skies added onto the sun's and made the weather hotter than it's been all through the summer. These last weeks of summer



By Scott Levine

became called the "Dog Days."

Over the years since, we've learned that this simply isn't true. Sirius is a little over eight light years away. (A light year is about six trillion miles.) That's so far that if you have a third-grader nearby, you can tell them that its light left for their eye right around when they were born. That's very close as these things go, but 48 trillion miles is much too far for its heat to have any effect on our weather.

These stars are here now, but it'll still be a few weeks before we see this full arrangement in the evenings. We'll talk more about them then.

There's something extraordinary about sitting alone and watching the skies before the birds wake up and the delivery trucks make their rounds. I hope you will this month. Clear skies, everyone!

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

Clear Skies



New Moon
September 6



First Quarter
September 13



Full Moon
September 20



Last Quarter
September 28

Sports Injury Prevention Techniques for the Young Athlete

The end of summer marks the return of fall sports. For most of our local middle school and high school athletes, this year is more exciting because most sports were either altered or canceled last year due to COVID-19.

Since COVID-19's onset, many different aspects of our lives have changed; however, because of safety precautions and protocols we are able to see some sense of normalcy with our



By Rachel Amarosa

youth teams returning this year. Currently, most of our schools are a few weeks into their preseasons, which is usually when we start to see the repetitive-stress and sports-related injuries begin to plague our teams.

About 62 percent of sports-related injuries occur during practice rather than in games. The most common types of injuries among youth athletes are muscle strains, sprains, growth plate injuries and repetitive motion injuries. Our goal as health care providers is for our athletes to enjoy and excel healthfully in their sports participation. One way we promote this is

through education, which can help to prevent many of these injuries.

The first way we can prevent injury is knowing and implementing a proper warmup, necessary prior to all participation, whether it be practice, training or competition. A warmup should consist of 5 to 10 minutes of aerobic activity such as jogging or skipping. In addition, starting with low-intensity sports, specific actions such as dribbling a soccer ball

or light throwing along with short periods of dynamic stretching is important.

Begin slowly to increase your heart rate and skill development, then increase your intensity with more sport-specific skills and movement such as jumping, sprinting, bounding and cutting. These activities continue to add benefits by increasing blood flow, deep muscle temperatures and respiration rate.

Another essential component to injury prevention is making rest a part of an athlete's week. Having an athlete understand the need for rest can prevent injuries throughout their

entire season. Overloading the joints, muscles and tendons cause your body to break down. Adequate rest allows for the appropriate recovery between sessions along with encouraging long-term athletic participation.

Youth athletes should have at least one to two days off from any sport each week. Absolute rest is not recommended or necessary. Building in a day of dynamic stretching appears to be the best recovery mode to enhance performance and cardiorespiratory responses.

To help promote recovery and soft tissue mobility, self-massage techniques such as a foam roller or stick massager can be extremely beneficial to implement throughout the season. In addition, proper nutrition and hydration should be a major focus along with maximizing an athlete's sleep. Sleep is one of the most important factors in recovery with 8 to 10 hours nightly. This will assist in an athlete's adaptation to physical, neurological and emotional stresses of their training.

Finally, the best advice is to listen to your body. There is a fine line between soreness and pain from an injury. Athletes can, unwittingly or not, often cross this line. The advantage of

understanding when pain is present and getting treatment at the start of an issue instead of trying to play catch up, helps keep an athlete's time on the sidelines to an absolute minimum.

Our philosophy with physical therapy and athletic training is always to take care of the injury immediately and completely to prevent progression. It's much better to miss a few days taking care of a small injury rather than having that small injury linger and progressing into a significant season-ending injury.

Whether you are an athlete, coach or parent, you can play an important role in ensuring a young athlete's experience and success in sports. For everyone participating this fall, we wish you good luck and a great season!

Rachel Amarosa is a certified athletic trainer for ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic. She is the marketing and patient relations director for its three locations in Armonk, Pleasantville and Ardsley. For questions about this article or about ProClinix,

Amarosa can be reached at 914-202-0700 or at ramarosa@proclinix.com.



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Recreation Department is looking for part time parks laborers. Duties could include, but not limited to, garbage pickup, garden bed weeding, ball field maintenance, field prep, and more. Please contact the **Village of Pleasantville Parks and Recreation Department, 914-769-7950.**

The Village of Pleasantville's Parks & Recreation Department is seeking eligible Group Leaders and Nurse/EMT for their 2021-2022 Panther Club program. Panther Club is an after school child care program that operates during the school year, Monday - Friday, from 2:45pm - 6:30pm. Group Leaders are required to supervise a specific grade level of children through creativity games, outdoor play, and during homework periods. EMT/Nurse requirements must be

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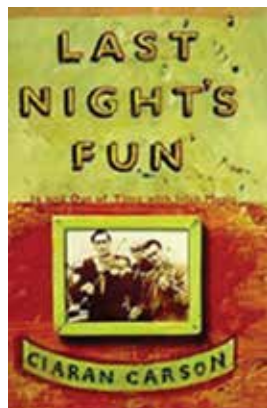
Last Night's Fun: A Curtain Closes, Too Sad, Too Early

It was with sadness and embarrassment I learned recently of the death of Ciaran Carson, poet, musician and author of what is surely one of the best books written on Irish traditional music I have ever had the pleasure of reading.

I am speaking, of course, of "Last Night's Fun," which borrows its title from the tune of the same name. Sadness, at the premature death of a man through who's writing the world of Irish traditional music, was made eminently accessible; embarrassment, because I didn't recognize the death of a master until two years had passed. Inexcusable!

The tune, "Last Night's Fun," is a simple tune. Listen to it a few times and you'll have the gist. Listen a few more and your feet will be tapping and your head will nod in time to the tune's rhythm.

Carson's book, released in 1992, is the same. It's 31 short chapters, most bearing the name of an Irish trad tune, give the reader a fascinating trip through tunes, performers and the whimsical nature of Irish music and musicians. Some of the tunes you may be familiar with ("Boil the Breakfast Early," "Dowds No. 9," "The



Mountain Road"). And the book itself is one of the most eminently readable and entertaining treatises on music and life that you'll ever read.

Carson died in 2019, at the age of 70, of lung cancer, the same ailment that laid low his favorite musician, and the major subject of the first chapter, the fabled, if not widely famous accordionist Joe Cooley. He plays his final performance with a cigarette clenched firmly in his mouth, a few weeks before his passing.

That first chapter alone is worth the purchase price. I didn't pay much for my copy, having gotten it second-hand. The prior owner, a girl named Colleen, must have received it as a gift from a friend, named Ellen, all of this deduced from a penciled note on the fly cover: "6/98 To Colleen, who opens my eyes and ears! Ellen." Ten years later the book was mine, and I have often wondered who Colleen and Ellen were, and what they are doing now.

For those of you to whom Carson is unknown, he was one of Ireland's most eminent modern poets, winner of numerous awards, with a wealth of

publications to his credit. Honing up on his poetry is keen on my to-do list. But it was his book on the music that truly moved me. As a fitting tribute, I have set a goal: to learn every tune Carson mentions, starting with "Last Night's Fun."

There's a nice YouTube clip featuring Cape Breton Island fiddler Chrissy Crowley playing it, the first of several in a set (<https://youtu.be/T96DdnK7cuU>). You can also access it at "The Session," a treasure trove of Irish traditional music (<https://thesession.org/tunes/63>). Use the Play Audio feature.

Here's a tip if you are learning a tune from YouTube: Play it at a lower speed (settings /playback speed) than normal, say .75 or even .50. The sound will be horrible the slower you go, but it will be far easier to, first, whistle along, and then, when you've got it solidly in your grey matter, start trying it on your instrument of choice.

For those of you who'd like to take it further, perhaps we can build up a group of like-minded people, and when COVID



By Brian McGowan

finally releases its grip, get together once in a while for a good, old-fashioned "kitchen session" where we can share some tunes, play our hearts out or just listen and enjoy some good times and camaraderie. If you play an instrument, all the better. If you'd like to learn one, there's none easier (or less expensive) than the tin whistle. Considered humble by some, it can produce the most beautiful of tones and

tunes when put to good use.

Now, what makes a reel a reel? That's for another day! That, and the difference between a tune and a song.

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach

him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). He is the author of two books, "Thunder at Noon," about the battle of Waterloo, and "Love, Son John," about World War II. Both are available at Amazon.com.

Irish Eclectic

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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
516-280-7675

INDEX NO. 500329/2021

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises:
6 EAST BELVEDERE STREET, COLD
SPRING, NY 10516

Section: 48.8, Block: 4, Lot: 14

When it Comes to Wine, Whose Critique to Rely On?

It seems that several time-tested paradigms may be falling by the wayside, replaced by 21st century “truths.”

One of these paradigm changes is occurring in the time-honored tradition of selecting wines based on ratings offered by established wine critics.

Published wine ratings have been sacrosanct measures of wine quality for decades.

Before the coming of age of the Millennial generation, this paradigm was accepted at face value. Wine critics routinely published reviews and numeric ratings that one could “take to the bank.”

Of course, much of the hype surrounding these proclamations was self-generated and then feverishly promulgated by winemakers and retailers. Rather self-serving, these ratings became the de facto arbiter of superior versus inferior wines. The variable element of these ratings is that they are individual assessments, based on personal likes and dislikes; they are subjective.

It is fairly common knowledge that every wine drinker's palate is nuanced, making every wine drinker's palate a unique receptor of the aroma, bouquet and taste of a particular wine. I've always felt that if your unique palate is aligned with that of a



By Nick Antonaccio

particular critic, you should rely on the opinions expressed by him or her. But if the opposite is so, then are these expert opinions not reliable?

Unfortunately, Americans tend to seek out the opinions of others for their consumer purchases – the standard rationalization being that we don't have the product knowledge or time (or energy)

to form our own opinions, so we seek out others who have the “cred” we can rely on. This draws us into a potential trap: If I don't agree with the experts' opinions, there must be something wrong with me;

I'm now totally lost in selecting new wines.

Millennials are changing this angst-producing behavior. A new term has been coined in the realm of wine appreciation: the “democratization of wine ratings.” Who needs subscriptions to wine magazines, online wine

blogs or numbers beaming at us on wine shop shelves? We now have each other's opinions and recommendations at our fingertips. We can text or tweet our wine thoughts to our circle of friends; we can find like-minded lovers of wine on multiple social media platforms and wine-centric apps. This is the age of instant access to a street cred brand of trustworthiness. The

use of technology has turned wine reviews and wine knowledge from a monologue into a dialogue.

My opinion? The inevitable tide of info sharing is a good thing for wine consumers, be they 1) novices seeking out like experiences of contemporaries, 2) indecisive souls seeking point-of-sale advice regarding choices of similar wines or 3) wine sophisticates seeking validated opinions on the nuances of a specific wine or producer.

Having recognized this sea change, I embrace it, all the while recognizing it as the latest media arena that technology has infiltrated and may eventually obliterate.

I will also state that the traditional wine media continues to be a valid and effective tool for seeking out wine info and opinions. Many established wine critics' evaluations have lost the allure and luster they once had, but they still possess one element that provides value in the world of wine consumption – vetted insights. Many critics have spent decades acquiring an intuitive palate along with a hands-on knowledge base.

Herein lies an advantage over consumers' growing reliance on fellow consumers for evaluations and opinions. A professional



critic has acquired insights that results in reliable wine advice separate from numeric ratings and forged by continuous discussions with winemakers, numerous walks through vineyards and frequent exposure to wine as the ultimate expression of nature. It is in the nuances of wine that the truest expression of value emerges. The skills to identify these nuances are honed over time.

My advice: Personal experience is the best source of reliable information. Text with your friends; tweet with winemakers; seek out like-minded social media contacts. But don't discount traditional sources. The ultimate outcome of wine info sourcing is yet to be determined.

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.

**You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine**

10 Refreshed Etiquette Tips for Today's Wedding Attendees

Even before the pandemic, wedding etiquette was tricky. After a year like no other, the do's and don'ts around “I do's” and being a good guest have become even more complicated.

Some protocols remain true. Do RSVP quickly. Don't be late to the main event.

Others are less clear. Should you send a gift for virtual ceremonies? What's the best way to greet others at in-person events?

Hilton, a global hospitality company that hosts thousands of weddings annually, encourages travelers to make new memories when going to a wedding. And to help you maintain perfect wedding guest status, they've partnered with international etiquette expert Diane Gottsman to provide these tips.

1. Put a stamp on it. Even if the invite says you have months to respond, it's best to reply within one week. Waiting too long is a sign you are hesitant.
2. Dress to impress. Let the suggested attire on the invitation or couple's website be your guide. Still unclear? Reach out to the hosts. As a general rule, dress up rather than down to show you put thought into the event. Finally, don't wear white. It's reserved for the bride.
3. Honor air hugs. “Everyone has a different comfort level with closeness right now,” said Gottsman. “Pay attention to non-verbal cues. If someone reaches out for a handshake, hug or fist-bump, reciprocate if you feel comfortable. If you're not ready for physical contact, offer another friendly gesture, such as a heartfelt nod. It's okay to pull back, smile and say cheerfully: ‘I can't wait until I feel comfortable with hugs; I'm just not there yet.’”
4. Know posting protocol. Unless the couple guides you otherwise, “They get the right to post the first photos on social media,” said Gottsman. If they

encourage you to post at will, it's A-OK to share your snaps. Use provided hashtags and remember that the official wedding photographer and videographer get first dibs on great shots.

5. Stash your smartphone. Use your phone to take photos, but once you're done, tuck it away. It's potentially distracting for you and off-putting for others.
6. Get accustomed with other customs. Before attending a wedding incorporating cultural customs unfamiliar to you, do some pre-nuptial prep. “Every culture has different customs,” Gottsman said. “Knowing how to dress, how to gift and what to expect is the responsibility of a good guest.”
7. Connect with courtesy. If staying at a hotel with friends and family, keep courtesy top-of-mind. While you and your roomies may embrace the up-all-night slumber party vibe, nearby guests may not. Keep the volume down and the fun contained.
8. Duck debate. “Conversation will no doubt turn to hot topics, like politics, religion and vaccines. A gracious guest will make every effort to steer clear of volatile debate,” Gottsman said.
9. Give comfortably. The first etiquette rule: send a gift, even if you can't make the event. The second: don't feel pressured to give more than is comfortable. Gone are the days when guests are expected to cover their per-head cost. Not sure what's appropriate? Follow the registry. Cash and checks are great alternatives as well.
10. Get glam for the cam. Attending virtually? Grab the suit instead of sweats. “The same courtesies apply,” Gottsman said. “RSVP swiftly, dress for the occasion, arrive on time, show your smiling face and send a gift. Even if it's virtual, a wedding is a celebration and time to reconnect.”



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Before attending a wedding, brush up on etiquette tips.



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