



FREE

Serving Mount Kisco, Pleasantville, Chappaqua/Millwood/New Castle, Mount Pleasant, Armonk/North Castle & Briarcliff

February 8 - February 14, 2022

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 16, Issue 753

Traffic Concerns Dominate Discussion at North 60 Public Hearing

By Martin Wilbur

Traffic and congestion in the vicinity of the proposed \$1.2 billion North 60 bioscience, research and development center in Valhalla were the overwhelming concerns heard from Mount Pleasant residents last week.

The town's Planning Board conducted a virtual public hearing on Feb. 3, two months after it accepted as complete the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Fareri Associates is proposing three million square feet of new construction divided into three phases on 60 open acres on the Grasslands campus near Westchester Medical Center. The first phase would see construction of 220,000 square feet of biotech research space, a 100,000-square-foot hotel, 100,000 square feet of medical offices and 80,000 square feet of retail.

Kevin Molnar, director of design for Fareri Associates, said off-site improvements such as construction of a connector road to Route 9A, traffic signal timing improvement near

the site, regular monitoring for potential additional signalization, turn lanes and a possible roundabout would mitigate the extra volume to the area.

"This is a great tool for the Town of Mount Pleasant to make sure everything we have presented is flowing as we all hope it will and is expected to," Molnar said.

Bradhurst Avenue resident Glenn Accocella said his street and other roads in the area are already overloaded, and with the amount of traffic North 60 is likely to generate, it is unlikely the roads are going to be able to handle that additional volume.

He suggested that the Planning Board require the applicant to receive permission from the state Department of Transportation to build an access road between the site and the Sprain Parkway.

"This area is a challenging area with the roadways," Accocella said. "It's a large project, the biggest the county has ever seen, and with all the other projects going on in Mount Pleasant, the roads have to be looked at."

Hawthorne resident Daniel Blaize said



An artist's rendering of the North 60 bioscience, research and development project in Valhalla.

he's heard a lot of talk about the anticipated benefits of the project but little about how the traffic is going to be handled, which will depend mainly on the existing road network. When fully built out, North 60 will feature more than 2.1 million square feet of biotech space, 400,000 square feet

of medical offices and a 142,000-square-foot living science center and museum, in addition to the retail and hotel.

Molnar said there will be 2,000 parking spaces built in the first phase, and if approved, the entire complex would

continued on page 2

New Castle Looks to Attract Members to Race and Equity Committee

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are considering changing the name of its Committee on Race and Equity and potentially expanding the scope of the group in hopes of attracting more residents to serve.

Last week Supervisor Lisa Katz pitched the idea to the Town Board to include topics impacting gender, people with disabilities, age and residents from other populations to encourage participation. Katz proposed changing the name to the Inclusion Advisory Committee.

"Part of that, I feel like we may end up getting more people applying to be on this committee because they're interested in a certain aspect of the diversity and inclusion that is not currently in the mandate of that committee," Katz said.

Last year, the Town Board approved

establishing the committee as permanent after its forerunner, the Council on Race and Equity, was formed in June 2020 in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and several racial incidents within New Castle at about that time. The town is in the midst of filling vacant board and committees.

Councilwoman Victoria Tipp, who will be the board liaison to the committee, said she would support expanding its mission to include ethnicity, gender and LGBTQ issues. She anticipated that there would be different subgroups that would form as well as coordination with other town committees, such as the Holocaust and Human Rights Committee and the Every Person is Connected Committee (EPIC), which focuses on concerns surrounding residents with disabilities.

"I would definitely be in favor of having

continued on page 2

North Castle Officials Encouraged By Summit Club's Residential Plan

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle Planning Board members appear satisfied with the latest version of The Summit Club's residential plan for its proposed 73-unit luxury golf course community in Armonk.

Representatives for the Summit Club presented to the board and the town's Planning Department recently their updated drawings showing the elimination of a seventh residential building, which originally was designed to house the project's seven affordable units. Those units have now been integrated within the six remaining buildings, said the applicant's attorney Mark Weingarten.

Weingarten said his clients still hope to find another location for the affordable units.

"Just to make it clear, it is still our intention

continued on page 2



Last summer's grand opening of the redesigned golf course at The Summit Club in Armonk. Currently, the club is moving ahead with the residential component of the project that would consist of 73 units.

Westchester's Diamond Store



This is where you want to buy your diamond

D'Errico JEWELRY



Scarsdale | Mount Kisco
914-722-1940 914-864-2688
D'ErricoJEWELRY.com

Traffic Concerns Dominate Discussion at North 60 Public Hearing

continued from page 1

eventually have more than 5,000 parking spaces.

"You're adding more people but there's not more roads, there's not more anything," Blaize said. "It's the same existing roads you're using already."

Another Hawthorne resident who focused on the potential congestion and travel headaches, Domenick Vita of Pythian Avenue, said he doesn't understand how traffic mitigation can be achieved. Furthermore, Vita wondered whether the traffic monitoring will translate into improvements if congestion worsens.

"While it's great that they're going to do that, I want to make sure that is looked at obviously by the people there for the town's interest, not just Fareri's interest," he said.

Another nearby resident, Sean Quigley, said if the connector road to Route 9A fails to materialize the town and the applicant have a serious obstacle. He pointed to a larger issue of what he characterized as out-of-control commercial development in Mount Pleasant that has changed the character of the town. Within a few miles of the site, the 153,000-square-foot Amazon warehouse and distribution center under construction

on Route 9A and the Brightview assisted living project on Grasslands Road threaten to snarl traffic throughout the town.

"You know what the board should be doing? Less commercial development and let's get back to the semirural feel of this town," Quigley said. "Every time I turn around, there's another commercial development going through."

In addition to traffic, there were several other points raised about the project. Mount Pleasant Conservation Advisory Council Chair Steven Kavee said the applicant should do more to make North 60 more sustainable. It is proposed that the buildings only be constructed to a LEED Silver threshold, when developers should be striving to achieve the gold or platinum level.

Furthermore, there should be solar panels installed on the roofs of the project's 24 buildings or in some of the parking areas, Kavee said.

Planning Board Chairman Michael McLaughlin added that page 16 of the FEIS states there will be no impact on wildlife.

"There's definitely going to be an impact on wildlife and I think that comment should be stricken and comments like that should be stricken," he said.

Vita also brought up concerns that the proposed three- to five-story height of the buildings could have negative impacts not only on neighbors but throughout the area.

Meanwhile, Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester, encouraged the town to do what it can to move the project forward. The development would augment the important research and medical work being performed by nearby Regeneron, New York Medical College and the medical center.

"This project is the single most important

economic development opportunity for Westchester, the region and (is) certainly very, very significant for New York State," Gordon said.

The Planning Board closed the oral portion of the hearing after just one session and is permitting written comments through March 5. It will then consider adoption of a findings statement before moving on to site plan review for the first phase of the project.

North Castle Officials Encouraged By Summit Club's Residential Plan

continued from page 1

that these units be located off-site. We need permission for that," he said. "That is our plan but in the event that cannot be met, we'll be putting them now in the existing six structures you see before you."

The Summit Club also plans to get its water for the units from wells on its 156-acre property on Bedford Road and have its own sewage treatment plant. Water supply for the residences has been a key stumbling block for the project. Initially, The Summit Club had agreed to join North Castle's Water District #2, which would have reduced costs for the nearby Windmill Farm residents, most notably for infrastructure upgrades completed on that system several years back.

However, the 100-gallon-a-minute requirement that had been set by the town for The Summit Club's residences was unable to be reached when drilling near Windmill's well field. Windmill residents were concerned that the applicant might try to comeingle water from underneath the golf course with District #2 water, potentially drawing down or contaminating their supply.

"I think we're there, basically," said Adam Kaufman, the town's director of planning at the Jan. 24 Planning Board meeting. "We need the details of the water system finalized, we need to understand what's happening in terms of the sewage treatment plant, but in terms of the layout of these buildings, what they look like, where these

roads are going, I'm fairly satisfied."

The applicant's representatives sought to have the board schedule the public hearing for the site plan review, but Town Attorney Roland Baroni recommended holding off until at least the water plans are submitted to Director of Water & Sewer Sal Misiti.

The applicant must also receive approval from the Westchester County Department of Health for those plans.

There are other issues that must be finalized at future meetings. Weingarten said the separate amenities building that had been planned has been eliminated and the clubhouse building will be on the golf course lot. The site plan that was discussed at the most recent meeting only dealt with the residential lot, he said.

Another matter that will need to be addressed is the quantity and size of cottages with hotel-type accommodations which are proposed near the fairway of the ninth hole. Jeffrey Mendell, one of The Summit Club's managing partners, said 10 four-bedroom cottages have been proposed to accommodate golfers who come to the club for a weekend to play in foursomes. Previously, there were 20 smaller cottages proposed.

The two sides must also agree on the landscaping in a roughly 30-foot buffer area between Route 22 and the property line.

There could be as many as 600 members for the golf club, although that number may have to be revised downward if parking counts cannot sustain that attendance.

Mt. Pleasant Town Justice Rubeo to Run for Re-election in November

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant Town Justice Mark Rubeo will be running for re-election for a second full term on the local bench later this year.

Rubeo, who made his official announcement the same day as a Jan. 26 campaign kickoff at Tesoro D'Italia in Pleasantville, said he has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as one of the town's two justices and is hopeful he can continue.

"It's just been an unbelievable experience," said Rubeo, 50, a nearly lifelong Mount Pleasant resident who has his own law practice in Hawthorne. "I look forward to going to work every time I'm there. It's never a burden."

He said he enjoys the interaction with the lawyers who represent clients in the courtroom as well as the different perspective of overseeing proceedings as a judge.

Rubeo, who had previously served as a councilman, was appointed to the post by the Town Board following the resignation for the purposes of retirement of former justice Nicholas Masselli in 2018. He finished the remaining seven months of Masselli's term then won his own four-year term in November of that year.

It isn't known whether Rubeo will have an opponent this year in what is an off year for most municipal offices. However, he said he will run as though he will have



Town Justice Mark Rubeo

competition and he's 10 points behind.

"I made sure to take the time to get a campaign committee together and we had a nice campaign kickoff event (on Jan. 26)," Rubeo said. "We had wonderful attendance. We've got a lot of support already, which I'm very grateful for, so I feel very good about it."

Longtime Town Justice Robert Ponzini is the other judge in town.

New Castle Looks to Attract Members to Race and Equity Committee

continued from page 1

a more encompassing mandate to this committee and there would be different subgroups to it," Tipp said.

Councilman Jeremy Saland said he was conflicted because the biggest catalyst for forming the original Council on Race and Equity was a result of the racial injustices that galvanized protestors throughout the nation and doesn't want that diminished. Conversely, if expanding the issues gets more people involved it would be to the town's benefit, Saland said.

He said he was puzzled why people who were so enthusiastic about participating are hard to come by now. In 2020, eight working groups consisting of more than 100 residents provided the town with roughly 300 pages of recommendations.

"I just don't want to take away from what we had such community involvement in and I want to know why, why can't we get people involved," Saland said. "There's got to be something. We had all of these people. Where'd they go?"

Tipp said whatever form the committee takes will be focused on race but wants the group's work to be effective and meaningful.

"Ultimately, it's the work that gets done, not the structure you put it in," Tipp said.

Katz mentioned that it is her hope that there can be one umbrella committee that can make all groups feel welcomed and valued.

The board made no decision on the committee's structure but will address the matter again.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
914-864-0878

SUBURBAN WINES & SPIRITS

Now you can take us with you wherever you go! Download our Mobile App!

Available on the iPhone App Store

WESTCHESTER'S FINE WINE & SPIRITS DESTINATION

WINE OF THE YEAR

2020 Anne Pichon Grenache Noir



Take what you think you know about Grenache and throw it out the window. As this wine opens, initial dark berry flavors meld into a true jam flavor with floral notes and bitter cranberry. It has such a divine, full mouthfeel that tricks you into not initially noticing that it's more 'dry' than not. While there are a lot of wines that showcase the best flavors of their region, Anne Pichon Grenache Noir did it best this year. Cheers!

\$14⁹⁷

GREY GOOSE Premium Vodka



\$39⁹⁷ 1.75 L
Reg. \$66.99

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

EXPRESS CURBSIDE PICK-UP & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Woodbridge Cab or Chard. 1.5L.....\$9.97	Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75.....\$28.97
Barefoot Chardonnay & PG 1.5L.....\$9.97	Stolichnaya Vodka 1.75L.....\$29.97
Hess Select Chardonnay.....\$9.97	Ketel One Vodka 1.75L.....\$37.97
Mondavi Bourbon Barrel Cabernet.....\$11.97	Bombay Sapphire Gin 1.75L.....\$38.97
Bread and Butter Chardonnay.....\$11.97	Aberfeldy 12yr Single Malt Scotch.....\$32.97
Louis Jadot Macon Villages.....\$11.97	Talisker 10yr Single Malt Scotch...\$59.97

Dan's Wine of the Year

2014 Casa Santos Lima Reserva



The nose on this wine bursts through the seams with dark fruit notes earthy spice-tinged berries that remind you the wine is old school. The palate brings Very complex on the palate with coconut, blackberry, jam and dried fruit, prune and fig. The addition of the Syrah in this blend is what separates this wine from anything ordinary.

\$11⁹⁷

Jason's Wine of the Year

2019 Oak Farm Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon



Deep garnet in color, this Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of complex aromas of black currant, blueberry, cedar, and floral characteristics. The wine is full bodied with echoing aromas on the palate. The finish is abundant in textured tannins, yet smooth and velvety.

\$14⁹⁷

Suburban's Sparkling Wine of the Year

NV Isotta Manzoni Prosecco Rose



Subtle and fresh aromas with hints of small red berries, rose, and pomegranate. On the palate it is silky and full with elegant flavors of strawberry and crushed violets, finishing with well-balanced minerality. You will have no problem finishing the bottle once it's opened. This is crushable!

\$13⁹⁷

Tom's Wine of the Year

2018 Laurent Combier Crozes Hermitage



Mesmerizing deep dark ruby with dark pink shimmers along the rim of the wine. This Syrah emits a nose of black cherry jam, figs, black currants, and subtle notes of bacon fat, cured meat, and violets. The palate is rich with bright and juicy blackberries, blueberries, and cranberries. Black pepper, corn, dried thyme, and subtle notes of river rocks breakthrough the berry medley. A lingering finish of dried blueberries and cacao finalize this wine.

\$19⁹⁷

— EVERYDAY LOW PRICES —



Jack Daniels
1.75 L
\$47.97



Cavit Pinot Grigio
1.5 L
\$11.97



Meiomi Pinot Noir
750 ml
\$17.97



Smirnoff Vodka
1.75 L
\$18.97



Tito's Vodka
1.75 L
\$31.97



Dewar's Scotch
1.75 L
\$32.97



Hess Select Cabernet
750 ml
\$13.97



Josh Cellars Cabernet
750 ml
\$11.97



Kendall Jackson Chardonnay
750 ml
\$11.97



Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio
750 ml
\$21.97



Ruffino Tan Label Chianti
750 ml
\$19.97



Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm • Fri-Sat 9am-9pm • Sun 12pm-5pm • February 8th through February 14th
379 Downing Drive • Yorktown Heights, NY • 914-962-3100 • WWW.SUBURBANWINES.COM
WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS - WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES - SALE PRICES ARE FOR STORE STOCK ONLY

All prices
750ml unless
otherwise
noted

No Word on New York Masking as COVID Cases Continue Nosedive

By Martin Wilbur

Attention is focusing on Gov. Kathy Hochul to see when she will call for an end to the indoor mask mandate in schools as COVID-19 cases continue to fall rapidly.

On Monday morning, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced the mandate for school children will end on Mar. 7. That was followed by Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont's tweet late Monday afternoon stating that the school mandate will end on Feb. 28 in his state.

New York's indoor mask mandate for all public spaces went into effect on Dec. 13, nearly two weeks after the Omicron variant was first detected in the area and has been extended twice. It is set to expire on Thursday unless there is further action by Hochul before then.

There were no signals from Hochul's office on Monday but Westchester County Executive George Latimer said the public is soon likely to see policy shifts, at least from the county's perspective.

"I'm incredibly confident that over the next few weeks you'll see us open up certain policies that are in concert with certain decisions being made by the governor and what's happening around us," Latimer said. "We will make intelligent

decisions as the infection (rate) drops."

The number of cases and the infection rate have been nosediving over the past three to four weeks throughout New York State and locally. On Sunday, there were 3,795 new cases statewide, the lowest number since Nov. 8, from just over 90,000 tests for a 4.2 percent infection rate. On Jan. 7, there were about 90,000 new cases in one day.

Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations, reported at 5,069 on Sunday, have fallen by more than half in a little less than a month. There were 90 new COVID-related deaths statewide, which is just over half of what it was during the January peak.

"The decline in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are cause for celebration and hope, but not complacency," Hochul said in a Monday statement. "There is still plenty of progress that can be made to ensure we stop the spread and keep our businesses and schools open. We know the tools that work; please get vaccinated if you haven't yet, and get boosted once you're eligible."

In Westchester, the latest numbers were similarly strong. On Sunday there were 107 new COVID-19 cases from 2,853 tests, good for a 3.8 positivity rate, according to the state tracker.

Latimer said that active cases, which peaked about four weeks ago at more than 36,000, have now seen a roughly 90 percent drop to 3,257 as of Saturday.

COVID hospitalizations now stand at 237 in Westchester, after reaching an Omicron variant peak of 677 on Jan. 12.

Even deaths, which are a lagging indicator are slowing significantly. In the first six days of February, there have been three virus-related fatalities in Westchester, compared to 200 in January and 60 in December, Latimer said.

"It is now multiple weeks in the making that we've seen a decline in the number of active cases and in the lesser number of hospitalizations," he said.

On Sunday, Putnam County had 15 new cases from 309 tests. The seven-county Mid Hudson region saw positive cases returned at a 4 percent clip.

Despite the highly encouraging recent outcomes, Latimer said he anticipates that the County Center in White Plains will continue to be made available for vaccinations and PCR testing into the second quarter of the year. Public health officials need to have some certainty that



there isn't going to be yet another wave fueled by a new variant, he said.

"If we knew for sure that Omicron was the last variant that could

juice the number of cases, then I could put a date specific and say, 'Okay, we can shut it down,'" Latimer said.

For now, the schedule for vaccinations and testing at the White Plains facility will remain the same. Vaccinations will be offered Wednesday through Friday and every other Saturday by appointment only through the county's website. PCR tests will continue to be offered Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A photo identification is required to receive vaccinations at the venue.

If vaccinations and tests are discontinued at the County Center by spring, it is possible the facility could be prepared to host events by later in the year after the 90-year-old building undergoes some interior refurbishment, Latimer said.

Last fall, he said the county will eventually be engaging the public to explore the future of the center.

Our Examiner+ digital-only publication delivers the smartest, most insightful news and lifestyle journalism in Westchester and the broader Hudson Valley so you can live your most intelligent local life. No soundbites. No clickbait. Visit www.examiner-plus.com to join our community of members.

Happy Valentines Day!



Happy Valentines Day!

Fuel Oil • HVAC • Service • Propane • Diesel

We Make Warm and Now "Cool" Friends Too!
www.SclafaniEnergy.com • 1 (845) 628-1330

Don't Get Caught In the Cold!

Call now for Low Heating Oil Prices
Heating & Cooling System Tune-up, & Installation

Budget accounts, Automatic or call us for next day delivery at C.O.D.pricing! Place an Order online
www.SclafaniEnergy.com

Serving Northern Westchester, Southern Dutchess & Putnam Counties!



Full Service, 24 HR Emergency Heating Assistance!
Installs, repairs and upgrades!
Over 30 years, licensed, insured and bonded!
We are #1 because our customers come first!
Senior Discounts!

WE DELIVER- ORDER EARLY!

VALENTINE'S DAY

Thousands of Roses • Arrangements • Bouquets
 Cards • Candy • Balloons

Roses Starting at **\$45** a Dozen

Curt's Homestead Floral Designs

1062 Oregon Rd.
 Cortlandt Manor, 914 736-0506

Directions from Rt 6, Kohl's: Take Westbrooke Dr to circle, take 4th rt Oregon Rd 1 mile
 From Peekskill; Follow N. Division St. 3 miles from city line
 Open every day 9:00-7:00 • Credit Cards Accepted

Present this ad for a FREE Box of chocolates with \$30 purchase. While Supplies last.

Teleflora
 We Deliver Anywhere!

NWPC PHARMACY

NWPCpharmacy.com

Covid-19 vaccines, BOOSTER & flu shots

WALK-INS
 (no appointment necessary)

Thanks for your Patronage

Send Electronic RX to ↓
NORTHERN WESTCHESTER RX CENTER

19 E. Main Street
 Mount Kisco, NY 10549
 (914) 666-4467

We Deliver Se Habla Espanol

Please scan QR code and leave us a review



Hudson Ridge Wellness Reduces Patient Maximum in Latest Proposal

By Rick Pezzullo

The number of patients that would be served at a proposed luxury drug and alcohol rehabilitation specialty hospital in Cortlandt has been drastically reduced by the operators of the controversial facility as the seven-year battle continues.

During the latest public hearing on the project at Cortlandt Town Hall on Jan. 26, representatives of Hudson Ridge Wellness Center, who are looking to utilize the former Hudson Institute site on Quaker Ridge Road that encompasses 20 acres in Cortlandt and 28 acres in New Castle, urged the Planning Board to wrap up its review and forward plans to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA must grant a variance or the project is derailed.

Since town law requires that a hospital be located on a state road, a variance must also be obtained. The developer needs a special permit to build a specialty hospital in a two-acre residential zone.

Bob Davis, an attorney for Hudson Ridge, said after meeting with adjoining neighbors, many of whom have vehemently opposed the proposal for environmental, traffic and other reasons, a group of undisclosed investors have decided to cap the number of patients in its first year of operation to 49, and 58 thereafter. Since plans were first unveiled, 92 beds were sought.

"The issue is not if we could have had 92 beds. We could have," Davis remarked. "This has been an incredibly long and unprecedented process."

First presenting the project to Cortlandt

officials in 2015, the backers of Hudson Ridge Wellness Center have spent nearly \$3 million to buy three parcels of land, paid attorneys and consultants hundreds of thousands of dollars, carried property taxes costing nearly \$400,000 (although sometimes paying late) and renovated the existing buildings on the site to the tune of \$1.5 million.

However, several residents have raised eyebrows about the criminal background of one of the stated principals of Hudson Ridge and inconsistencies in some of the documents filed. There have also been questions as to why Hudson Ridge hasn't reached out yet to the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), which would license and regulate the facility.

"I'm not a conspiracy guy, but OASAS has asked you for your program," remarked Planning Board member Steven Kessler. "There are inconsistencies here."

Davis contended that "to go to OASAS at this point would be putting the cart before the horse."

Brad Schwartz, an attorney representing Citizens for Responsible Hudson Institute Site Development, which has more than 100 community members, maintained Hudson Ridge's owners have repeatedly declined to identify who their main operator is.

"The applicant hasn't done this before," Schwartz said. "The reduction is not a concession; 92 beds was never a reality."

The property is near Teatown Lake Reservation, a 1,000-acre nonprofit nature preserve and environmental education center with 15 miles of hiking trails and a two-acre

island refuge.

It has also caught the attention of officials and residents in Ossining and New Castle. New Castle officials are concerned about increased water and sewer use in the area and Glendale Road being used by vehicles traveling to the site.

"We're opposed to this application for very sound and practical reasons," Millwood-West End Advisory Board member David Valdez said at the hearing.

The Planning Board closed the hearing on the environmental review and kept the public hearing on the site plan open to an undetermined date. The project is scheduled to be discussed again under old business

on Mar. 1 for the board to determine if it is ready to issue a negative declaration under the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), stating the project should not have significant adverse environmental impacts. The applicant would then be sent to the ZBA for consideration of the variance.

If the Planning Board issues a positive declaration because of the possibility of significant adverse environmental impacts, it would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement by the applicant.

"We're still laboring on how we are going to resolve some of the concerns we have," said Planning Board Chair Loretta Taylor.

An Early Spring?

Get your spring wardrobe ready. Muscote Farm's weather-predicting chicken, Cluxatawney Henrietta, laid an egg last Wednesday morning, signaling an early spring. For the fourth year in a row, Muscote Farm curator Jonathon Benjamin, pictured with Henrietta, celebrated Groundhog Day Muscote Farm style, which mirrors the more traditional Groundhog Day celebration featuring Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil.



American Dishes • Greek Dishes

OLYMPIC DINER

IT'S LOVE AT FIRST BITE!

BREAKFAST SPECIALS
Starting at \$7.99
includes coffee or tea & juice

LUNCH SPECIALS!
Starting at \$14.99
includes soup, coffee or tea & dessert!
Served Daily 11am-3pm

SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER SPECIALS
Starting at \$15.99
Includes Soup or Salad, Ice Cream, Pudding or Jello, Coffee or Tea

SEAFOOD
Combination dinners starting at \$25.99

DINNER SPECIALS
Starting at \$18.99
Our famous Prime Rib dinner, Fresh 1/12 lb lobster dinners, Steaks & Chops
All dinner include soup or salad, potato, vegetables, coffee or tea & dessert.

FREE DESSERT FOR EVERY CUSTOMER ON VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 14TH!

Amazing Desserts - Made On Premises!
Fresh Seafood Specials Served Every Day
All Lunch & Dinner Specials Include Dessert & Coffee

OLYMPIC DINER
Route 6, Mahopac 845-628-0876 • www.olympic-diner.com

February Special:
One Free Glass of House Wine with Every Dine-in Dinner!

OPEN 24/7
PARTY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR ANY OCCASION!

C.O.D. OIL

HEATING OIL ON DEMAND

CALL US TODAY AND SAVE!
914.737.7769

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

The Consumer's Choice for Discount Heating Oil!

SAVE WITH OUR LOW C.O.D. PRICES!

- No Contracts or Commitments
- Oil Burner Service/Tune-ups
- Quality Heating Oil
- Senior Citizen & Volume Discounts
- Expert Burner Service
- A/C Tune-ups
- Price Matching (Restrictions apply)

Order online at: www.codoil.com

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE

GOING ON NOW!

Thornwood Jewelers
A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

968 Broadway Thornwood (ShopRite/CVS Shopping Center) • 914 741 1920

Changes in Representation Loom as State Approves Redistricting

By Abby Luby

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed New York's redistricting into law late last week after both houses of the state legislature completed new lines for Assembly, Senate and congressional districts.

Its greatest impact locally will present itself in significant changes to the congressional district lines. Despite seeing the state's population exceed 20 million, the highest count in its history, New York will lose one of its 27 congressional seats because other states had proportionately larger gains.

As a result, Congressman Mondaire Jones' 17th District will now include nine towns and one city in Orange County and all of Sullivan County. Rockland County is still in Jones' district but he will no longer represent most of northern Westchester, including Peekskill and Cortlandt, which will become part of the 18th District, no represented by Sean Patrick Maloney. Jones will continue to represent a piece of White Plains, Greenburgh, Ossining, Mount Pleasant, New Castle and Mount Kisco.

Maloney currently represents all of Orange and Putnam counties and pieces of Westchester and Dutchess. The new district he will run for relinquishes about half of Orange to the 17th District and loses parts of Putnam and Westchester to the 16th Congressional District represented by Congressman Jamaal Bowman.

Bowman retains a section of the Bronx, but

now extends northward to include a portion of White Plains, North Castle, Bedford, Yorktown and Somers in Westchester and Putnam Valley and Carmel in Putnam County.

It's been speculated the New York congressional seat that will disappear is the 22nd District, held by Republican Claudia Tenney.

Last week, a lawsuit was filed by a group of Republican voters alleging Democrats gerrymandered the districts. The suit was filed in state Supreme Court in Steuben County against Hochul, Democratic lawmakers, the state Board of Elections and the redistricting commission.

"New York Democrats are so drunk on their own power that they feel comfortable enough to brazenly undermine the will of the voters who twice voted to take map-drawing out of the hands of politicians," said state Republican Chairman Nick Langworthy. "Their plan all along has been to subvert the independent process and rig themselves into permanent power. If allowed to stand, these lines will draw a stake through the heart of democracy and put their one-party supermajority rule on steroids, albeit ensuring New York's total and permanent destruction."

The once-a-decade redistricting adjusts districts based on the 2020 Census and New York's population is officially 20,193,858. The Census showed a 4.2 percent population gain in New York from 2010.

The maps also reflect a population shift

from rural areas upstate to downstate cities and counties.

Westchester and Putnam counties saw some Senate and Assembly districts change.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' (D-Yonkers) district now stretches further northeast from Yonkers to include Mount Pleasant, New Castle and Mount Kisco. Her district will no longer include White Plains, New Rochelle or Scarsdale. Scarsdale will now be in Sen. Shelley Mayer's (D-Yonkers) district.

Sen. Peter Harkham (D-Lewisboro) will lose the Dutchess County portion of his currently named 40th Senate District, where he represented voters in the Town of Beekman and the Town and Village of Pawling. The new district will run from the northern border of Putnam County southward to include part of White Plains, which he will share with Mayer. Cut out of Harkham's district is Mount Pleasant and New Castle but he will pick up the towns North Castle and Bedford from Mayer. The district will cover all of Putnam County except Philipstown.

There was no substantive change in Sen. Elijah Reichlin-Melnick's district. Reichlin-Melnick (D-Nyack) will still represent most of Rockland County and Ossining and Briarcliff Manor in Westchester.

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) will lose Edgemont in the Town of Greenburgh, but would now represent a piece of northern Yonkers.

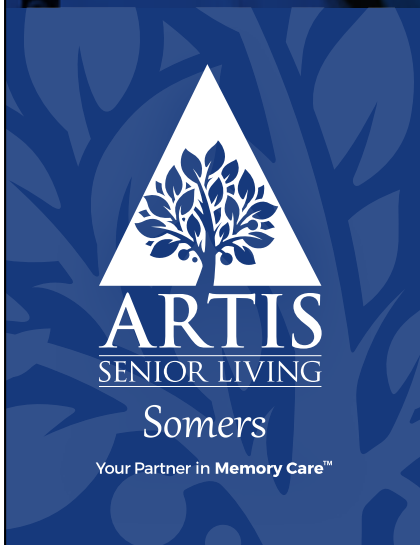


Congressman Mondaire Jones' 17th District will be radically different next year following the redistricting approved by the state legislature last week.

His district will still include all of Mount Pleasant and most of Greenburgh.

"The population growth in Yonkers required that my district move south," Abinanti said. "My district had to shed voters somewhere and those drawing the maps concluded the Edgemont section was a cohesive area that could be moved to another district where it shared a community of interest."

continued on next page



Building Joyful Caregiver Experiences

Presented by Loretta Woodward Veney, an inspirational speaker and trainer who has delivered more than 300 presentations on dementia and caregiving since 2014, offering a wealth of information, encouragement and humor to her audiences. Loretta is the author of "Being My Mom's Mom," "Refreshment for the Caregiver's Spirit," and a coloring book titled "Colors Flowing from My Mind." In 2006, after her beloved mother, Doris, became the first female in the family to be diagnosed with dementia, Loretta began learning everything she could about the condition, becoming a fierce advocate for her mom in the process. Loretta and her mom have been featured in articles in the The Wall Street Journal, Psychology Today, The Washington Post, The New York Times, AARP Caregiver Stories, as well as a PBS special titled "Alzheimer's: The Caregiver's Perspective." In 2019, Loretta was selected as Trailblazer of the Year by Johns Hopkins Medicine.



We build a variety of things throughout our lives and careers, but few of us actually think about building joyful caregiver experiences for those we care for. Using the

concepts of humility, hope, and humor, Loretta will help participants focus on their values and joyful practices to build outstanding caregiver experiences for their loved ones or residents.

Please Register by Monday, February 21st

Join us for a FREE Educational Webinar

Thursday, February 24th

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

To Register

**TheArtisWay.com/WestchesterExaminer
914-214-7927**

Your Partner
in Memory
Care™

Virtually Hosted by Artis Senior Living of Somers: 51 Clayton Blvd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Check out our other nearby communities in Briarcliff Manor and Chestnut Ridge.



Changes in Representation Loom as State Approves Redistricting

continued from previous page

Abinanti is up for re-election in November and will be challenged by Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky in the June Democratic primary.

Edgemont would be served by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale). Her district includes Eastchester, Bronxville, Tuckahoe, Pelham, Pelham Manor, Scarsdale and parts of New Rochelle. Her portion of White Plains has been reduced.

Assemblyman Chris Burdick's (D-Bedford) district will add part of White Plains. His district will continue to include Bedford, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle and Harrison along with the communities in the northeastern corner of Westchester.

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne's 94th District has included portions of Putnam and northern Westchester counties. The new district will include Somers and about half of Yorktown and all of Putnam except for Philipstown. The Town of Yorktown will be shared with retiring Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's successor.

Byrne said he was vehemently opposed to the redistricting process.

"In 2013, a lot of people ran on independent redistricting to ban gerrymandering and here we go again," he said. "I opposed gerrymandering and stood by my word and voted no against all the

maps. The people of New York supported a constitutional amendment for independent districting and the process utterly failed."

Byrne, who is running for Putnam County Executive later this year, blamed the Democratic commissioners serving on the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission with purposely stonewalling so new maps would be kicked back to the Democratic-controlled legislature for partisan support.

"You have firm rules and guidelines that you follow and make sure you're not splitting towns and communities," he said. "This was done very politically with the partisan benefit to the majority members in Congress and the state."

New York's state constitution was amended in 2014 to ban gerrymandering.

The Independent Redistricting Commission held numerous public hearings last summer and fall that produced thousands of pages of submitted testimony from New Yorkers supporting keeping communities of interest together.

David Imamura, chair of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission, said he was very pleased with the redistricting process.

"The legislature has drawn great lines that reflect the public input to the commission, especially voters from Westchester," Imamura said.

Abinanti to Run for Seventh Term in Assembly

By Martin Wilbur

Now that the state's redistricting process is apparently complete for the next decade, one of the area's veteran Assembly members has announced he will be running for another term.

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) is prepared to run for a seventh two-year term in a bid to hold on to his 92nd Assembly District seat. He will first have to survive another primary, this time from County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Dobbs Ferry). Two years ago, Abinanti was challenged and survived a surprisingly competitive primary against relatively unknown first-time candidate Jennifer Williams.

Abinanti said he was endorsed overwhelmingly by the Mount Pleasant Democratic Committee on Jan. 27.

"I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the people of Mount Pleasant," Abinanti said. "I've been getting out there for the people of Mount Pleasant, the people of Westchester and the people of the state of New York."

The longtime public servant who has been in office since the 1980s, first as a Greenburgh councilman followed by time on the Board of Legislators, has been an advocate for people with disabilities. He currently chairs the Committee on People With Disabilities.



Assemblyman Tom Abinanti

In his 12th year in Albany, Abinanti said he is now in a position of leadership that can have greater influence over policy and be more effective for his constituents. In another term he pledged to continue fighting to keep property taxes in check.

He said the strong support from the Mount Pleasant Democrats motivates him to continuing fighting on behalf of his constituents.

"It makes me want to work even harder," Abinanti said.

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine American Craft

Fine Art • Sculpture
• Unique Gifts • Furniture
Home Accessories • Antiques
• Exquisite Jewelry • & more...

4 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville 914-741-6294
Open 7 Days —
Friday and Saturday until 8pm

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.

Not your Average pet store

For all your pet needs
Aardvark Pet Supplies has moved!

1016 Broadway
Thornwood, NY 10549
(914) 747-4848
E-mail: aarvarkpet@verizon.net

La Barberia
EST. 1970

FAMILY HAIRCUTTING ESTABLISHMENT
65 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville
(914) 741-1120

Hours: Mon-Wed 9:30-6
Thurs & Fri 9:30-7
Sat 9-5 • Open Sunday 10-3

Offering Services for Men & Women
HIGH QUALITY
AT LOW PRICES!

**\$5.00 OFF
COLOR/PERMS
HIGHLIGHTS**

**\$2.00 OFF
HAIRCUTS**

Venmo: @Raffaele-Ferraioli

**BUYING
COMIC BOOK
COLLECTIONS!**

★ **Top Prices Paid!** ★

30+ Years Experience!
Reliable & Local (W'chester/Putnam)

Call/Text: 917-699-2496
email: smileLP@aol.com

Is It Time To Rightsize Your Home?

Does your home still fit your needs or is it time to think about the next phase of your life? Whether you're an empty nester with rooms that are no longer used or need more space to raise your growing family, finding a home that's the ideal size for your current lifestyle may be the best option.

Here are some things to consider.

Assess Your Living Space

- ◆ Are some areas of the house, like formal living and dining rooms, rarely used?
- ◆ Is a dedicated office a must?
- ◆ Do you want a hobby area or kids' playroom?
- ◆ Is your kitchen too big or too small?
- ◆ Do you prefer a large yard or a cozier outdoor living space?

Look to the Future

- ◆ If you decide it's time to make a move, consider your current lifestyle as well as potential changes in circumstances that could occur in the next few years to determine what size home is best.

Regardless of your reason for wanting to move, we have the experience, tools and resources to help you sell your current home and find a new one that's right for you!

Call us today because YOU deserve the best!

The Vision Team

Hans Weber
Associate Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-329-8601
HansWeb9@aol.com
cbmoves.com/Hans.Weber

Donna McKenna-Edlund
Associate Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-403-4237
Donna.Edlund@cbmoves.com
www.DonnaEdlund.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
1 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville, NY

Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Jan. 26: A resident reported at 11:15 a.m. that he was in the Croton Diner about 20 minutes ago to pick up food. While he was there, a young white female in her 30s with blue eyes, long blonde hair, thin build, wearing blue jeans and a dark jacket mentioned she was not feeling well. The complainant asked the female if she was vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 and a verbal argument ensued between them as both walked outside. He stated the female got close to him and coughed in his face. He then stated he left the diner parking lot and drove home. He did not see what car the woman got into nor did he recognize her.

Jan. 27: A Morningside Road resident reported at 1:51 p.m. that her son's debit card was stolen from his vehicle then used at a local business in the Van Wyck Plaza off Maple Street. Patrols interviewed victims; the investigation is continuing.

Jan. 28: Croton Fire apparatus and ambulance were dispatched to ShopRite at 1:54 p.m. on a report of a suspicious package in Aisle 9. A man apparently left the package and was acting strange, according to staff. The subject was described as a white male, about 5-foot-10, long hair, about 20 years old wearing blue jeans and a blue jacket. Patrols responded and spoke with the complainant who stated that he saw a male drink from a coffee cup and place it behind some cans on the shelf.

Croton Fire personnel determined that it was just coffee and discarded the item. No further police action required.

Mount Pleasant Police Department

Feb. 1: A male subject that works in Hawthorne reported that he attempted to sell a couch on Facebook Marketplace and was contacted by an unknown individual that agreed to purchase the couch. The unknown subject sent a check for the amount plus an additional \$850 for the seller to pay the moving company. The seller received the check and recognized the check as from a local business. The seller personally knew the owner of the business and contacted her regarding the check. She confirmed that the check was fraudulent. An investigation is ongoing.

Feb. 3: A Thornwood resident reported that while working on his laptop last December, his screen locked and a message flashed containing a phone number to contact Microsoft. The resident called the number and provided \$499.99 via e-check to have the computer repaired. He also stated that on Jan. 28 his computer was locked again with a demand for \$56,000 based on a threat to distribute child pornography using his personal information. The resident sent additional monies to the original computer repair company. He subsequently realized that he had been a victim of a cybercrime. The investigation is continuing and the complainant was advised of proper identity theft protection procedures.

North Castle Police Department

Jan. 28: Report of a male party walking with 15 to 20 dogs off the leash on Oregon Road at 12:15 p.m. The responding officer reported speaking with the listed party and advised him of the town ordinance. The individual secured the dogs in his vehicle.

Jan. 28: A caller reported at 5:21 p.m. that while he was exiting Stop & Shop, he was approached by multiple parties in their late teens and early 20s who were asking for donations for their basketball team. While the caller was about to make a donation, a store employee came outside and advised the caller that they were scamming him and to not give them money. The caller stated that the parties became aggressive with the employee and threatened to harm him. The responding officers advised the parties that they are no longer allowed at the store and can be arrested for trespassing if they return.

Pleasantville Police Department

Jan. 30: A Pleasant Avenue resident smelled something burning. The Pleasantville Fire Department responded but the cause of the smell was unknown.

Jan. 31: Report of black smoke coming from the chimney of a Bedford Road house in the Old Village. It was later discovered the smoke was coming from an oil burner. The fire department responded and shut the burner off.

Feb. 1: A 59-year-old White Plains man was arrested and charged after he allegedly stole a purse from an unlocked car on Wheeler Avenue. The suspect, a previously charged felon, was apprehended at the Pleasantville train station in possession of the purse. He was remanded to the

Westchester County Jail in Valhalla.

White Plains Police Department

Feb. 4: Joseph Saunders was arrested and charged with forcible touching, public lewdness and menacing for an incident that occurred at 274 Battle Ave.

Yorktown Police Department

Jan. 26: Fredi Villagran, 50, of Yorktown, was charged at 5:50 p.m. with driving while intoxicated after police responded to Crompond Road in the area of Old Yorktown Road on a report of a suspicious vehicle. Further investigation revealed he had a previous conviction within the past 10 years for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

Jan. 28: Blerim Morina, 38, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated and other traffic infractions at 5:15 p.m. after police received a report of an erratic operator driving a green van westbound on Route 202. A short time later the van was found parked on Old Granite Springs Road facing east in the westbound lane.

Jan. 30: Alejandro Quiroz Dutan, 48, of Peekskill, was charged with driving while intoxicated and other traffic violations at 9:15 p.m. following a two-car accident on Route 202 near Garden Lane. An investigation determined Dutan's vehicle failed to maintain his lane, crossed the double yellow line and struck another vehicle.

Editor's Note: The policy of providing names for people who have been arrested varies between each department. Also, it is the Peekskill Police Department's policy not to share a weekly blotter.



Trumbull

PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com




Locally Owned & Operated
Serving all Faiths

Hawthorne Funeral Home

**21 West Stevens Ave.
Hawthorne, NY 10532**

Ernest J. Carpentieri ~ Douglas A. Daniels

Tel: 914-769-4404
Fax: 914-769-5306

www.hawthornefuneralhome.com
Serving all faiths ~ Independently owned
Conveniently located on the Taconic State Parkway

Obituary

Joseph Mangini

Joseph A. Mangini, a resident of Cold Spring, died Jan. 31. He was 70.

He was born Sept. 5, 1951, to Ida and Arthur Mangini.

He grew up in Rye and graduated from Rye High School. He graduated from SUNY Purchase with a bachelor's degree. Mangini married Elizabeth Johnson on June 17, 1984, and they moved to Croton-on-Hudson, where they raised their two sons. He was employed by the Gannett newspaper publishing company for many years. He worked the last five years for the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

Mangini was a huge history buff. He enjoyed fishing, golfing and watching Giants games with his sons. He also enjoyed trips to Six Flags amusement parks where he loved riding the roller coasters with his sons. He had a good heart and he was quick to help out people in need. He was the life of the party, always making his friends and family laugh. He was loved by all who met him. He



Joseph Mangini

particularly enjoyed any time he spent with his grandson, Leo. His eyes lit up any time he saw him.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his son, Jason, and daughter-in-law Danielle; his grandson, Leo; his son, Justin; and sister Arline Coffrin.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the “District”) that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:

Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) reconstruct school buildings and construct and reconstruct athletic fields, tracks and related facilities, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which buildings, athletic fields, tracks and facilities are to be used, at a maximum cost of \$9,777,745, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$9,777,745, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such proposition shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

Any resident of the School District who is registered to vote in general elections is qualified to vote at said meeting without having their name placed upon the School District register of voters provided they voted at a general election at least once within the last four calendar years. Further, provided that any person who has previously registered to vote in any annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election and who has voted at an annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election held during the past four years (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018) shall not be required to re-register. The Board of Education has also provided for registration of qualified voters at the District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on any regular school day through March 23, 2022.

The register prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District at the Office of the Clerk of the District, District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, at the polling place on the day of the vote, as well as between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on each of the five (5) days prior to the election excluding Sunday, March 27, 2022, except on Saturday, March 26, 2022 it will be available for inspection only between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on or prior to March 28, 2022 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting for “military” voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for “military ballots” in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive their absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return their original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The District Clerk of the District shall transmit the military voter’s military ballot in accord with the military voter’s preferred method of transmission. Absentee ballots, including military absentee ballots, must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2022.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the vote. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list by making their challenge and reasons therefor known to the District Clerk before the close of the polls.

DATED: January 19, 2022

District Clerk, Board of Education
Mount Pleasant Central School District

AVISO LEGAL

AVISO DE REUNIÓN ESPECIAL

DISTRITO ESCOLAR CENTRAL DE MOUNT PLEASANT

POR ESTE MEDIO SE NOTIFICA que en cumplimiento con una resolución adoptada por el Consejo de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant (el “Distrito”) en el sentido de convocar a una reunión especial de los votantes calificados de dicho Distrito, dicha reunión se convoca por este medio en dicho Distrito, en el gimnasio de la Escuela Preparatoria Westlake, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York el martes 29 de marzo de 2022, de 7:00 a.m. a 9:00 p.m. con el fin de votar la siguiente propuesta:

Propuesta

¿Debe el Consejo de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant recibir autorización para (1) reconstruir los edificios escolares y construir y reconstruir campos deportivos, pistas de atletismo e instalaciones relacionadas, incluyendo los trabajos en el sitio, y adquirir el mobiliario, el equipamiento, la maquinaria o los aparatos necesarios para los propósitos para los que se usarán los edificios, los campos deportivos, las pistas de atletismo y las instalaciones, con un costo máximo de \$9,777,745, (2) gastar esa suma con ese fin, (3) aplicar los impuestos necesarios y cobrarlos en pagos anuales, en los años e importes que determine el Consejo de Educación, tomando en cuenta la asistencia estatal; y (4) en previsión del cobro de dicho impuesto emitir bonos y notas del Distrito Escolar en una sola ocasión o de forma ocasional por un monto nominal que no exceda \$9,777,745 y aplicar un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichas obligaciones a su vencimiento?

El voto para dicha propuesta será con máquinas o papeletas para voto en ausencia. El horario en el que los centros de votación estarán abiertos será de 7:00 a.m. a 9:00 p.m., hora predominante, o durante el tiempo que sea necesario mantenerlos abiertos al final para permitir que los votantes calificados que estén en el centro de votación a las 9:00 p.m. puedan emitir sus votos.

Todos los residentes del Distrito Escolar que estén registrados para votar en las elecciones generales pueden votar en esta reunión sin necesidad de incluir su nombre en el registro de votantes del Distrito Escolar, si han votado en las elecciones generales por lo menos una vez en los últimos cuatro años calendario. Además, si una persona se ha registrado previamente para votar en cualquier reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o en una reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar y ha votado en una reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o en una reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar en los últimos cuatro años (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018), esa persona no necesita volver a registrarse. El Consejo de Educación también ha tomado medidas para el registro de votantes calificados en la Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 3:00 p.m. de cualquier día regular de clases hasta el 23 de marzo de 2022.

El registro preparado en los términos de la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación se entregará en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, y estará disponible para que lo inspeccione cualquier votante calificado del Distrito en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, en el centro de votación el día de la votación, así como entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 4:00 p.m. de cada uno de los cinco (5) días previos a la elección, excluyendo el domingo 27 de marzo de 2022, excepto que el sábado 26 de marzo de 2022 estará disponible para inspección entre las 8:30 a.m. y las 10:30 a.m.

Las papeletas para votar en ausencia pueden solicitarse en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito. Las solicitudes de papeletas para voto en ausencia deben ser recibidas por la Secretaria del Distrito por lo menos siete días antes de la votación si el votante enviará su voto por correo, o a más tardar el 28 de marzo de 2022 si el votante entregará su papeleta en persona. La Ley de Educación contiene disposiciones especiales para el voto en ausencia de los votantes “militares” del Distrito. Específicamente, la ley contempla un procedimiento especial para las “papeletas militares” en las votaciones de distritos escolares. Si bien las papeletas de voto en ausencia deben ser recibidas por el votante por correo, un votante militar puede optar por recibir su solicitud de papeleta de voto en ausencia y su papeleta de voto en ausencia por correo, correo electrónico o fax. Sin embargo, el votante militar debe entregar su solicitud original de papeleta militar y su papeleta militar por correo o en persona. La Secretaria del Distrito transmitirá la papeleta militar del votante militar usando el método de transmisión que prefiera el votante militar. Las papeletas de voto en ausencia, incluidas las papeletas de voto en ausencia de militares, deben recibirse en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito a más tardar a las 5:00 p.m. del 29 de marzo de 2022.

Habrà disponible una lista de todas las personas a las que se enviaron papeletas para voto en ausencia en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito durante su horario regular de atención, hasta el día de la votación. Todos los votantes calificados pueden impugnar la aceptación de la papeleta de cualquier persona de la lista, manifestando su impugnación y los motivos de la misma a la Secretaria del Distrito antes de que cierren los centros de votación.

FECHA: 19 de enero de 2022

Secretaria del Distrito, Consejo de Educación
Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant

Letters to the Editor

The Relevance of Black History for Today’s Generation

In 1976, President Gerald Ford called upon Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Thus, Black History Month was officially established.

I recall celebrating Black History Month in grade school. I learned about prominent African-Americans like Booker T. Washington, Madam C.J. Walker and Martin Luther King Jr. I remember the esteem in which I was taught to hold these individuals

and just how natural it seemed to do so. Yet behind this facade of fame and achievement, lie the painful realities of being Black in America.

Realities, like the ostracism by family and friends that my parents faced as an interracial couple in the early 1970s. Realities, like the hatred experienced by my grandmother in the 1930s when a high school teacher, unable to abide having a “colored” student’s artwork on the same wall as the artwork of white students, tore her drawing to pieces

and then re-hung it for all the school to see. Realities, like those experienced by my great-grandfather, who was 15 years old when he was emancipated from slavery in Texas.

Frederick Douglass once remarked that we should “not [be] judged by the height [we] have risen, but [rather] from the depth [we] have climbed.” Black History Month is an opportunity for us as Americans, to pay tribute to the past, recognizing it for what it is and is not, as well as to take stock of

the present so that we can have a brighter future together. Progress, though slow at times, continues to be made. We must keep pushing ahead until everyone can fully enjoy the rights and privileges of liberty.

Colin Smith
Westchester County Legislator
Colin Smith is a Democratic candidate for the 95th Assembly District.

Why Are Books Being Removed From Yorktown High School Library?

Dear Dr. Hattar and Board of Education members,

I am a 26-year resident of Yorktown. My son attended Yorktown schools from kindergarten through high school. I was extremely distressed to hear about books being challenged, and removed, from our high school library right here in Yorktown. Even without having seen a full list of the books in question, I know that I adamantly do not want any of them removed from the library shelves.

While someone may not want their children to read a particular book, that does not give them the right to prevent all students from having access to it. We know that books about gender issues and by people of color are being targeted. As I’m sure you’re aware, books about LGBTQ+ experiences, in particular, can quite literally save lives. Books from a Black perspective, especially from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, are essential to the ESTEAM initiative that we are rightly so proud of.

I have read sections 1420 and 1420-R of the policy handbook. I hope that the books in question will remain available to students while a determination is being made. I also respectfully request that this process be

made transparent to the community. People such as myself, a district taxpayer and the parent of an alumnus, deserve clear and frequent communication. Shining a light on the process can be an important tool for us to support the district.

My asks are that the district start with making public the list of books being challenged. Next, please communicate the process and expected timeline to the community. Most importantly, please make sure that these books are NOT removed from the library during the review process. It would be a rare book indeed that wouldn’t be available to the review committee elsewhere.

With what is going on in our country right now, I am also concerned about the reputation of our fine school district. Do we want to be known for removing “objectionable” books from school libraries? Or do we want to be known as a community that welcomes and supports all students? I believe that you will find that the great majority of our neighbors support our educational professionals and have faith in their expertise.

Judyth Stavans
Yorktown Heights

Rather Than Exercising Censorship, Let Librarians Do Their Job

Books do not end up on library shelves by accident. Librarians have guidelines that include reviews, awards and other factors that they take into consideration before deciding if a particular title is worth adding to the collection. School librarians take into consideration the curriculum and what teachers regularly use.

Book selection is an important part of a librarian’s job. It is important so that a well-balanced collection can be developed that will meet the needs of all and not just reflect a single point of view. Every library needs to have in place a well-defined protocol to use when there is a complaint from any member of their community. It usually includes a committee of people who have actually read the book and can discuss its literary merit and value to various patrons.

Parents certainly have a right to complain and go through the process if, after reading the book, they feel it is inappropriate. Let the process do its job and let the book be considered for inclusion or removal in the collection.

Calls for the exclusion of mass numbers of books by politicians and others to ban books they have not read in totality is

censorship. No one group of parents can speak for the entire community. That is the job of librarians who have worked hard to include books in a balanced collection that represents everyone.

What about parents’ rights? Monitor what your child is reading and talk to them about it. Tell them to stop reading it, if that is the right choice for your child. Because you do not like the book and oppose the topic does not mean that you speak for the rest of the community. Again, it is censorship when one group feels entitled to dictate what everyone else should have access to.

Many thanks to those students who are speaking up at school boards for their right to have books that are important to them. Adults in the community need to take a page out of their book and stand against censorship.

Marilyn Elie
Retired School Librarian
Cortlandt Manor

To advertise in The Examiner, call 914-864-0878 or e-mail advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The PUTNAM
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

THE
Examiner
NEWS
www.theexaminernews.com

Examiner+
www.examiner-plus.com

Letters Policy

Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

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

To inquire about paid subscriptions, email
subscriptions@theexaminernews.com
for pricing and other details

PO Box 611
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878
www.TheExaminerNews.com

Print Team:

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

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs
Sports Editor
ajacobs@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
Real estate columnist

Morris Gut
Food Writer

David Devine
Distribution

Gus Amador
Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt
Reporter
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA



We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

Letters to the Editor

Federal Funds Have No Place Being Used for Putnam Golf Course

In spite of “no” votes from Nancy Montgomery and William Gouldman on Feb. 1, the Putnam County Legislature voted to give \$400,000 to the Putnam County Golf Course to remediate an asbestos issue.

The problem is they are using funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). These funds are intended to help the people of our county recover from the impact of COVID-19. Our people have lost jobs, businesses and homes. Food banks and pantries are struggling to meet the increased needs, just as the cost of food is increasing.

Social service agencies, both private and public, are struggling to help the people who need help because of depression, abuse and addiction, which have all increased during COVID. There is a tremendous need for both physical and mental health services. These funds are also intended to repair roads and improve water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Legislator Neal Sullivan said the legislature is reaching out to the county's towns and social service agencies to find out what they need and make a plan on how to

use the \$19 million in ARP funds.

What are they waiting for? According to Montgomery, they knew in March these funds would become available. Why didn't Putnam County government start planning then, as other counties have done? They say the asbestos issue is urgent and must be addressed now. Do they think failed businesses, homelessness, mental illness and hunger are less urgent?

Sure, the golf course serves some members of the community, but it is a for-profit business and should pay its own way.

According to Katherine Hanrahand, the golf course general manager, it realized a profit of \$271,667 in 2021. Further, the county has been dumping \$250,000 into the golf course each year, so it already has county funds available to make needed repairs.

Maybe the county will get away with diverting American Rescue Plan funds for these repairs. But is it the right thing to do? Clearly no!

**Marsha Waldman
Mahopac**

Future Generations Need Mt. Kisco's Leadership to Protect Environment

We are the Green Team and we are writing on behalf of the Fox Lane High School student body, which includes hundreds of students from Mount Kisco. Many of us are so fortunate to have lived all our lives in Mount Kisco. We love it here and we will always call it home.

We are writing to appeal to Mayor Gina Picinich, personally with sincere and heartfelt concern, for the 500 trees and irreplaceable habitat that village leaders are soon deciding whether to keep or to destroy to make way for a solar farm next to beautiful Leonard Park and the Marsh Sanctuary.

We understand it is an opportunity to get a little more tax revenue for the village. But it

is these kinds of decisions, little by little, year by year, that have brought the world to the brink of ecological collapse because of climate change and mass extinction.

As young people – the next generation – we now have to try to repair the damage that has been done. Protecting what is left of trees and forests is the first step and the most important thing we can do for the planet and people everywhere.

We are so fortunate to live in a privileged community in the United States. Surely here, more than anywhere, we can have the vision and imagination to do the right thing for the planet and for future generations.

We are determined to speak up for the

planet and for future generations who normally have no voice.

The decision village leaders make regarding the solar business will be your legacy. We have attended and spoken at several of the public hearings on this proposal and we have heard many residents and scientists voice their concerns. The company has presented false information and no independent scientific data has been prepared to support the application. Many of us are young scientists and we can tell the difference between real science and science-for-hire. We are suspicious about what is going on.

Many of us know and admire Mayor Picinich as a leader and as a mother of one of our friends where we all go to school. We are counting on her to be the green leader she promised to be when our parents elected you. We look forward, ourselves, to voting and campaigning in future elections.

We have no choice but to hold the mayor and village leadership accountable if they destroy this important area of precious

trees and habitat that sits in the middle of a beautiful landscape.

We are asking for a different way forward. Work with our neighbors to protect the site, build more trails, connect it to wonderful Leonard Park and the surrounding forests and open spaces that we all love and cherish.

We have heard that there could be ways to buy the property and protect it forever. We love that idea and want to help. But we need the mayor's help and leadership to help make this easier.

Let's make Mount Kisco more green, healthy and beautiful together!

**Riley Hester, Jasper Sizer, John Czernyk, Arlie Bremmer, Daniel Mazlish, Sydney Signacio, Helen Crummy, Sophie Kothari, Harrison Mazlish, Jasmine Sizer, Jacob Fields, Rachel Akinla, Margaret Malec, Matthew Krasnow, Colette Brand, Michael Toole, Kyle Vogel
Fox Lane High School Green Team**

Breakthrough Alzheimer's Medication Must Be Covered By Medicare

I am a board member of the Hudson Valley Alzheimer's Association and a relative of several family members that have been affected by this debilitating disease.

Thanks to our bipartisan champions in Congress, we've made great progress advancing research on Alzheimer's and dementia, providing hope to families like mine in the midst of a terrible diagnosis and disease progression.

And now the FDA has approved the first Alzheimer's treatment to address the underlying biology of the disease. It's lifted that hope higher, and there are other treatments close behind in the research pipeline showing even greater promise.

But with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed decision limiting coverage to those in clinical trials, access will be severely restricted to only those few who live near research institutions

or who can afford to pay out-of-pocket. CMS has never limited Medicare coverage like this for any other FDA-approved medication. This is unacceptable.

People like my aunt Georgia, who suffers from Alzheimer's, and her doctors should be able to decide if an FDA-approved treatment is right for her and should have it covered by Medicare.

My aunt Georgia and all those living with Alzheimer's deserve better. Please make your voice heard during CMS's open commenting phase on this new rule change. Together, we can continue to ensure that Alzheimer's patients, their families and physicians have the tools they need to fight this terrible disease.

**Whit Rawlinson
Yorktown Heights**

Look to History to Learn About the Dangers in Current Society

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

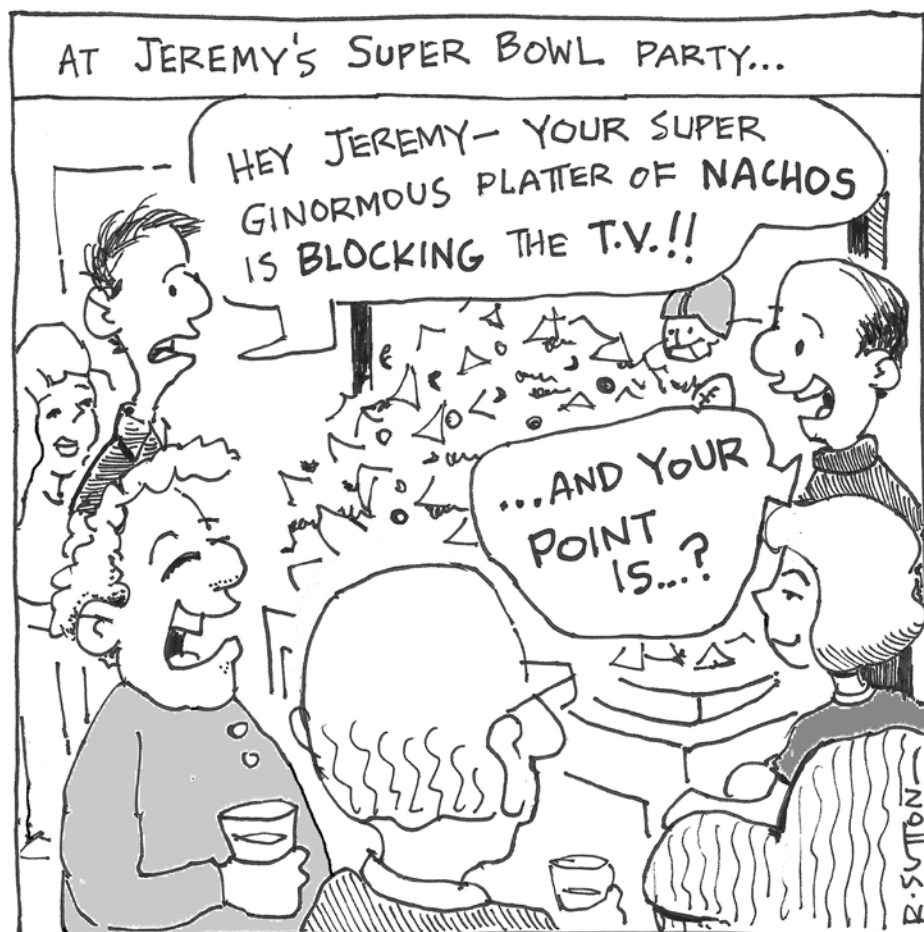
Today, George Santayana's aphorism is as timely as ever, and something the Trumpers, book banners and COVID deniers would do well to keep in mind.

Google the rise of Hitler and the difference in fatalities in St. Louis and Philadelphia during the 1918 pandemic. A little research will render the tone-deaf assertions of the Republican electorate all the more self-serving, self-defeating and

selfish.

Hitler destroyed free elections and banned books, and the masked and socially distanced citizens of St. Louis suffered almost half the fatalities per 100,000 than did the citizens of Philadelphia, which incidentally was the seat of the huge Liberty Bond rallies promoted by Woodrow Wilson, a pandemic denier.

**Jeff Hodges
Carmel**



Hart Library Receives Black Americans of Achievement Books Donation

By Martin Wilbur

Many parents bring home books for their children to read when they're young. Years ago, Melvyn Tanzman sought very specific ones for his kids.

Tanzman, who is white, adopted two Black children, but he wanted to be certain they learned about key figures in American history who looked like them. Over time, he acquired books from the Black Americans of Achievement series, that tells the stories of some of the most famous African Americans but also those whose remarkable achievements have been overlooked.

"We wanted to make sure they were grounded in their culture, so we bought the whole series," Tanzman said.

Now, that his children are 24 and 28 years old, Tanzman, a member of Yorktown for Justice, a community-based nonprofit organization that promotes social justice, donated the entire 51-book series to the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak. The donation was made at the library last Saturday morning, in time for them to be prominently displayed for Black History Month.

Now generations of children of all backgrounds can learn not only about Jackie Robinson, Malcolm X and Duke Ellington, but some of the lesser-known names that were featured in the series. For example, one book is devoted to Madam C.J. Walker, a late 19th century social activist and entrepreneur who founded her own cosmetics line and is believed to be the first self-made Black female millionaire in America. The home she



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Yvonne Cech, front left, and Melvyn Tanzman, front right, are joined by members of Yorktown for Justice at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak last Saturday. Tanzman, an organization member, donated the 51-book Black Americans of Achievement Books to the library.

built and died in is still located on Broadway in Irvington.

Another book features Matthew Henson, a Black explorer who accompanied Admiral Robert Peary on his expeditions to the Arctic, including being part of the first

manned voyage to the North Pole in 1909.

Library Director Yvonne Cech that while the library had other books and materials for many of the subjects in the series, particularly the more widely recognized figures, there weren't any written specifically for young

adults, which generally encompasses youngsters in sixth grade and up.

"The unique part of this collection is, again, is it's written for a younger age, and young adult books, of course, can be read by anyone," Cech said. "You don't have to be a young adult to read it. Adults can read young adult books but the content is good for a younger reader."

Rachel Frederick, a Yorktown for Justice leader, noted that libraries have long been places to learn, keep historical records and promote cultural development, including offering books on Black history, the African American experience and the contributions made by people of color.

"Some still go unacknowledged to this day, often because Americans are simply unaware of them," she said. "Yorktown for Justice is happy to play a small role in ameliorating this with our contribution."

The collection will also not be confined to visitors of the Hart Library. The Westchester Library System allows members of the public to borrow books from any one of the 38 public libraries throughout the county.

Furthermore, by integrating the book series into the library's collection, it will help to stock a new section in the library called The Middle Ground, Cech said. In that section, the materials are geared toward readers that no longer fit into the children's room but may not be ready to make the leap to books for adults only.

"We're very honored and pleased to have this donation and very grateful to Yorktown for Justice for providing the donation," Cech said.



BIG GAME SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13TH

Patterson
Auto Body
Your Complete Automotive Service Center

Just a reminder...

BIG DAY MONDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

2597 Rt. 22 Patterson PattersonAutoBody.com

Don't Be a Heart-breaker...

50% OFF
Every Card, Bag & BOW EVERYDAY!

Our Shelves Are Bursting With New Items For Every Occasion!

Chocolates
Jewelry
Stuffed Bears

We Have The Perfect Gift For Your Sweetheart And Everyone Else!

Pulnam County's Largest Card & Gift Shop!

"Where Smart Shoppers Shop"

CARD\$MART & GIFTS of Mahopac

2 Clark Place, Mahopac
845-628-0300

New York LOTTERY

Facebook icon

Café Piccolo Bakery

Gluten Free Cookies & Cannolis • Chocolate Covered Strawberries
Heart-shaped Cookies! • Heart-shaped Chocolate Chip Cookies for Two! Heart shaped Pastries

THEY'VE ARRIVED!

Saint Joseph Sfinigi & Zeppole

Don't forget to order your special treats for your Valentine!

Look for our Daily Specials
Our grill is open for Hot Sandwiches

Make any day delightful with our sweet treats & desserts.

845.628.2233

Visit us at www.cafepiccolobakery.com
2 Mahopac Plaza, (next to Kwaliti Ice Cream) - Route 6N, Mahopac

Facebook icon

Follow us on Facebook at Fred's Hair Salon

Happy Valentine's Day

Fred's Hair Salon

"Bringing your Hair to Life Since 1982"

We follow all NYS COVID guidelines, including 6 foot spacing and barriers between chairs, to make your visit as safe and comfortable as possible.

Katonah Shopping Center • 270 Katonah Ave. Katonah.
(914) 232-5201
www.fredshairsalon.com
Tues. -Wed.- Fri. 9-6 Thurs. 9-7, Sat. 8-5

Call for your appointment today!

Facebook icon

Find a stunning selection of jewelry, trendy gifts for girls of all ages, beautiful scarves, bags and home accessories, as well as adorable baby items and so much more.

wishes

1811 Commerce Street • Yorktown Heights NY • 914-962-9474

In the Heart of Yorktown

Store Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5:30

Find us on instagram @ wishesboutiqueyorktown

Facebook icon

Genesis Jewelers
Yorktown

The Origin of Fine Jewelry

Andréa Candela

Facebook icon

www.genesisjewelers.com

Instagram icon

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 6

914-245-3899

32 Triangle Center, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Four Seasons Flowers

322 E. Main Street
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
914.666.7240

Specializing in
Custom Designed Floral Arrangements
For Every Occasion

Show Your Love with Flowers!
We are a Full Service Florist



Happy Valentine's Day!
Bring in this ad and get a
30% DISCOUNT
on Any in Stock Silver Jewelry
for Your Valentine's Day gift.
54 Miller Road • Mahopac, NY 10541
845.628.3447
www.aljanjewelersltd.com

aljan jewelers
Mahopac's Oldest Retail Jeweler Since 1975

Repair Work
Gift Wrapping

Our 53rd Year

We Buy Gold,
Silver & Platinum

All
you
need
is
love...

But
some
jewelry
couldn't
hurt!

Always Unique

8A South Moger Avenue, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 • (914) 241-2232
Open Tuesday through Saturday 10AM- 5:30 PM

Celebrating 10 Years

We are proud to have served
the local community for 10
years and extend heartfelt
gratitude for the generous
donations that make
what we do possible

Yorktown LOVE IN ACTION INC.
OUR LOVE IS THERE FOR WHOMEVER WE CAN HELP

*Please join us for refreshments
Monday February 14th*

Your donation benefits Westchester & Putnam neighbors in need
1736 Front Street Yorktown Hts • 914-743-1314 • www.YorktownLoveInAction.com
Like Us & Share    Search Yorktown Love In Action

• TIFFANY • BURBERRY • NIKE • ARMANI • KATE SPADE • VALENTINO • COACH • PRADA

50% OFF

Frame Sale
When you purchase
A complete Pair
Of Eyeglasses

See store for details.
Hurry, offer expires 3/31/22

Vision World
Kohl's Shopping Plaza • Bedford Hills
914-666-3150

• TIFFANY • BURBERRY • NIKE • ARMANI • KATE SPADE • VALENTINO • COACH • PRADA

My Cousin's
NEW AMERICAN RESTAURANT

OPEN MONDAY

VALENTINE'S DAY
FEBRUARY 14TH

**CALL (845) 648 - 2600
FOR RESERVATIONS**

954 ROUTE 6, MAHOPAC
WWW.MYCOUSINSMAHOPAC.COM

914-214-8215

Pizzazzles
Imagination at Play

WINTER
Party Camp Series
February 21-25th
8:30am-5:00pm
info@pizzazzles.com to register

Ages 4ish-10ish for drop off only.
\$75 day, \$250 per week.
Themed days with tons of fun!

Happy Valentine's Day from

 **YORKTOWN PHARMACY**
Serving the Community Since 1930

Health & Beauty Aids • Medical Equipment

Valentine's Day Gifts

1905 Commerce Street
Yorktown Heights NY 1059
www.yorktownpharmacy.com

914-962-2600
Fax: 914-962-6319
yorktownpharmacy@yahoo.com

THORNWOOD WINES & SPIRITS

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 9:30am -9:00pm
Sunday: 12-5pm

GREY GOOSE
VODKA
1.75 L
\$39⁹⁹

BELVEDERE
VODKA
1.75 L
\$46⁹⁹

KETEL ONE
VODKA
1.75 L
\$39⁹⁹

CHOPIN
VODKA
1.75 L
\$41⁹⁹

MAKER'S MARK
BOURBON
1.75 L
\$51⁹⁹

JACK DANIEL'S
BOURBON
1.75 L
\$47⁹⁹

*Happy
Valentine's
Day!*



Shoprite/CVS Center • 1004 Broadway Thornwood • 914-747-8071

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH SALE 750 ML

SINGLETON 12YR \$33.99

GLENMORANGIE 10YR \$39.99

THE DALMORE 12YR \$59.99

TALISKER 10YR \$59.99

DALWHINNIE 15YR \$64.99

GLENLIVET 15YR \$69.99

JOHNNIE
WALKER BLACK
1.75 L
\$69⁹⁹

BASIL HAYDEN'S
BOURBON
750 ML
\$42⁹⁹

WIDOW JANE
BOURBON
750 ML
\$59⁹⁹

DEWAR'S
SCOTCH
1.75 L
\$32⁹⁹

JOHNNIE
WALKER RED
1.75 L
\$33⁹⁹

ABSOLUT
VODKA
1.75 L
\$29⁹⁹

SMIRNOFF
VODKA
1.75 L
\$20⁹⁹

SVEDKA
VODKA
1.75 L
\$20⁹⁹

BACARDI
SILVER
1.75 L
\$22⁹⁹

WESTERN
SON VODKA
1.75 L
\$21⁹⁹

SOBIESKI
VODKA
1.75 L
\$19⁹⁹

JIM BEAM
BOURBON
1.75 L
\$29⁹⁹

MIONETTO
PROSECCO
750 ML
\$12⁹⁹

CAKEBREAD
CABERNET
NAPA VALLEY
750 ML
\$74⁹⁹

SILVER OAK
ALEXANDER
VALLEY CAB.
750 ML
\$69⁹⁹

CAYMUS
NAPA
CAB
750 ML
\$79⁹⁹

SMITH &
HOOK
CAB
750 ML
\$16⁹⁹

E. GUIGAL
COTES
DU RHONE
750 ML
\$13⁹⁹

SEBASTIANI
CABERNET
750 ML
\$14⁹⁹

HENNESSEY
COGNAC
750 ML
\$39⁹⁹

JOEL GOTT
CAB
\$15⁹⁹

MEZZA
CORONA
PINOT GRIGIO
1.5L
\$11⁹⁹

BOGLE
MERLOT
\$8⁹⁹

BOGLE
CHARDONNAY
\$8⁹⁹

SIMI
CABERNET
\$18⁹⁹

WOODFORD
RESERVE
BOURBON
1.75 L
\$61⁹⁹

STAGS LEAP
ARTEMIS
CABERNET
\$59⁹⁹

RUFFINO
CHIANTI
TAN
\$20⁹⁹

KIM
CRAWFORD
SAUV. BLANC
\$13⁹⁹

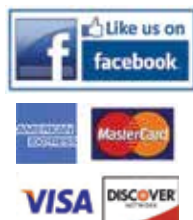
KENDALL
JACKSON
CHARDONNAY
\$12⁹⁹

STAG LEAP
WINERY
NAPA CAB. 750 ML
\$44⁹⁹

20% OFF
A CASE OF WINE
MIX & MATCH.
SALE ITEMS EXCLUDED



LOCAL DELIVERY!
CALL FOR DETAILS



CELEBRATE WITH CHAMPAGNE!

ALL 750 ML

VEUVE CLICQUOT \$49.99
TAITTINGER \$45.99
POL ROGER \$42.99
PIPER HEIDSIECK \$39.99
G.H. MUMM \$39.99

MOET & CHANDON \$39.99
ROEDERER ESTATE BRUT \$22.99
DEUTZ \$44.99
LOUIS ROEDERER \$49.99
MARTINI & ROSSI \$12.99

7% OFF
ANY SINGLE
BOTTLE
SPIRIT PURCHASE

Not valid on sale items.
May not be combined
with other offers.
with coupon only.
Expires 2/15/22

EVERYDAY
SPECIALS
ALL TYPES
BLACK BOX 3L
\$19.99
WOODBRIIDGE 1.5L
\$11.99
YELLOWTAIL 1.5L
\$11.99
BAREFOOT 1.5L
\$11.99
LINDEMAN'S 1.5L
\$9.99

Prices good through Feb. 15, 2022
Must present ad for sale prices

Is This a Good Time to Buy or Sell a Home?

When it comes time to consider a topic for another Home Guru column, I sometimes check with my wife Margaret for ideas. She usually comes through for me.

This time, she suggested that I research the first Home Guru column I ever wrote, which would have been 13 years ago, and to update the topic in today's home market.

Interestingly enough, the first column I wrote was titled, "Is This a Good Time to Buy or Sell a Home? And that is certainly a reasonable question for anyone at any time.

So how about right now?

In short, the situation is that the COVID-19 pandemic has upended the home-buying process. Historically low mortgage rates coupled with an inventory shortage has created a red-hot market, with houses selling within hours of being listed, often for well over asking price.

But, no one knows for sure what the future has in store. Housing experts opining on CNBC's "Make It" predict that in 2022 buyers can expect similar trends to the past two years: elevated prices, low inventory and fast turnaround.

That said, although it will continue to be a seller's market – home values are expected to increase by double-digit percentage points, Zillow predicts – it won't be quite as wild as it was this year.

Here's what the experts say you need to



By Bill Primavera

know if you plan to sell or buy a house in 2022.

First, inventory will remain scarce.

Even before the pandemic, there was low housing stock in the country. And COVID-19 supply chain troubles and a labor shortage have only made things worse. Though builders are trying to ramp up production, inventory will remain scarce.

In fact, the number of homes listed for sale fell to a record low at the end of November. Though there will likely be more listings in the spring and summer, as is typical, it is unlikely there will be enough to meet demand, Zillow research suggested.

The gap shrunk in 2021 and will likely shrink again in 2022, but the housing shortage will be a defining feature of the market once again, according to Zillow's 2022 housing outlook.

Second, interest rates will rise.

The Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates a few times in 2022, which means mortgage rates will likely increase. Both Redfin and Realtor.com predict a 30-year-fixed mortgage rate will reach 3.60 percent by the end of 2022, compared to an average of 3.30 percent now.

That's not necessarily bad news for buyers. The silver lining of higher mortgage rates is that fewer speculative buyers will be in the market, because there is less money



to be made. That could help the average person.

When you have higher interest rates, more of the people buy homes to live in them. That's something the market will benefit from.

Third, prices won't drop.

Those hoping competition will slow in 2022 are out of luck, according to economists from Zillow and Realtor.com. Economic trends including tight supply, elevated demand and low mortgage rates, will continue to give sellers the upper hand.

Potential buyers can expect bidding wars on many homes, particularly in the spring and summer. While no one can predict exactly what will happen, the trends listed above mean prices will continue to climb. In fact, Zillow predicts home values will rise by 11 percent in 2022, which is not as much growth as in 2021, but still substantial.

Young buyers will be at a disadvantage.

Millennials, who are at peak first-time home-buying age, will remain at a disadvantage compared to older generations when it comes to buying a house. This is

not only because homes are so much more expensive now than they were when baby boomers and older generations were buying their first homes, but because boomers are staying in their homes longer as they live longer.

That means more and more first-time homebuyers are likely to need financial help from family and friends to make a down payment. Obviously, that will limit who can buy a house.

Housing affordability in the U.S. has been an issue for buyers, particularly young ones, for some time. But the issue has only been exacerbated since the onset of the pandemic, and will continue.

All of that said, experts say to be prepared. Buyers should research ahead of time so they are ready to go when they find the right listing.

When buying a home in the next year or longer, it will be important to watch new listings and be prepared to not only visit the home quickly, but to decide and extend an offer almost immediately.

Still, buyers shouldn't overpay. Prices will be up, but that doesn't mean anyone should take something outside of what's reasonable for their budget.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



Now is the time to focus on the interior of your home - Call to schedule your free indoor PAINTING estimate!




MIRACLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NO \$ DOWN
ON JOBS UNDER \$20,000

WC. Lic. #10415H99
P.C. Lic. #1817
YNK 307
H-12519-07-23-00
FINANCING OPTIONS FROM **GreenSky**

914★271★9119

2010 Albany Post Road, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners

Visit our office & showroom to see the variety of products on display, or we will bring the showroom to you.

Family Run. Owner Supervision on All Jobs.
Exceptional Quality and Service at Affordable Prices.
www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

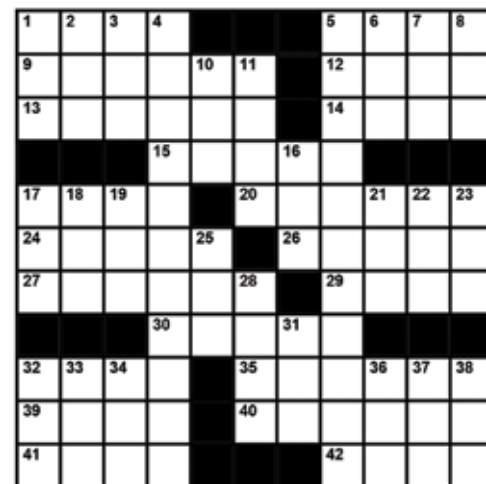
Crossword

Across

1. Emit light
5. Stat start
9. This JV Mall clothing emporium will help you "blast off" into Spring, ____ Boutique
12. Mideast port
13. Auto home (2 words)
14. Feelings of woe
15. Little pieces
17. "Battle Cry" novelist
20. Sandpiper
24. "À votre ____!"
26. Pointless
27. Muscle connectors
29. Nest of a squirrel
30. All ____ (not too soft)
32. Movie "Bang the ____ slowly" or Peekskill senior residence, ____ Hill
35. Horse operas
39. Sicilian volcano
40. Bears children
41. Broadway lights
42. Subj. with graphs

Down

1. Corporation type
2. Auto insurer with roadside service
3. Big ____, Calif.
4. US military member (2 words)
5. Reason for existence (3 words)
6. The good cholesterol that clears arteries
7. "Electric" fish
8. Switch settings
10. Dove call



11. Start of many addresses
16. The "greatest" boxer
17. Ship title
18. Truly international Bollywood star (last name)
19. Place to stay
21. Alt. spelling
22. Compass direction
23. Ferdinand, e.g.
25. Mrs. sheep
28. Nose-in-the-air type
31. ____ chi
32. Study
33. Map abbr.
34. One in Madrid
36. And the others, for short
37. Part of the Greek alphabet
38. Nine-digit ID, abbr.

Answers on page 26



What To Know As A New Landlord

March 2, 2022
6:00 pm

Sonesta White Plains

66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY

Presented by
The Building & Realty Institute (BRI)

Register for this
FREE TRAINING at
www.buildersinstitute.org/training
(914) 273-0730

Did you recently purchase or inherit a rental building in Westchester, Rockland, or Putnam Counties? Or have you managed a building for a few years already but still have a lot of questions about how to protect your tenants, your investment, and yourself? This training course is for you!

Learn how to navigate your first years as a landlord. Experienced property owners and real estate experts will provide their knowledge and best practices to help improve your business.

You'll learn:

- ❖ **Tips for finding—and keeping—the best tenants**
- ❖ **Best practices and what to avoid in writing a lease**
- ❖ **What you need to know before you make modifications and repairs**
- ❖ **What your present and future insurance needs might be**
- ❖ **How to interact with NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Section 8, and other government programs**



The Builders Institute
The Building & Realty Institute
of Westchester & the Mid-Hudson Region

Building Westchester, Together



The British are Here

Anglophiles in search of a nosh or hemmed in by COVID travel restraints can satisfy their cravings at these nearby establishments.



By Jena A. Butterfield

You are reading this week's excerpt of an article from our Examiner+ digital newsmagazine. To read the entire article and others like it, visit www.examiner-plus.com and join our community as a member.

It's been a bloody long two years. So, COVID be damned, my Westchester-based crew flew to London for the holidays to gather with family we'd been deprived of for so long. Once we'd masked, quarantined, and nose-swabbed our way back into the arms of the people we love, we headed to the parlor for a cup of proper tea (above).

That feeling, of returning to a culture

we'd longed for since the world shut down, intensified with an accompanying crumble of a McVitie's digestive biscuit. British fare. We were back and chuffed to bits about it. From mince pies to paper-wrapped fish and chips to pub lunches, cream teas, and that big, red box of Celebration chocolates, we happily and hungrily noshed our way to feeling whole again.

Now, back in New York, we feel renewed but miss our Cornish pasties. Luckily, there are purveyors right here that'll help us get our cheeky fix. So, for those who miss living like a Brit or just can't help but love themselves some hearty Scotch eggs at a picnic, check out these UK-centric local spots and quit your whinging.

The Hamlet British store in Mount Kisco. Here you can get your hands on all manner of biscuits, crisps, and treats including steamed puds (puddings) like spotted dick, for the fun of that phrase. Grab a box of Mars Celebration Centrepiece, a classic crowd-pleaser for gatherings. (Or maybe you're more of a Quality Street kind of person.) You can also choose from a great selection of vinyl records or find your favorite football club coffee mug. Fancy a cuppa? Florrie Kaye's Tearoom in Carmel has



Treats on offer at The Hamlet (Facebook/The Hamlet)

an afternoon tea that includes assorted tea sandwiches and their popular scones which come served with clotted cream, jam and butter. Or try the sausage rolls, bangers and mash or curry-tinged Coronation Chicken Salad and top it all off with sticky toffee pudding. For a hybrid classic, try the Union Jack steak burger topped with HP sauce. McLean Avenue, Yonkers. OK, admittedly this is the Irish mecca, but it's lined with



The tea room at Florrie Kaye's (Facebook/Florrie Kaye's)

shops selling all things British Isles, from parsnips and potatoes to chocolates and crisps. (Tayto's reigns supreme here but you can find Walker's too.) At its center is The Butchers Fancy, which makes their sausages in-house and sells comfort foods like steak and kidney pies and Cornish pasties. Don't forget to pick up some Bramson's chutney in the specialty grocery section on your ...

To read the rest of this article, and others like it, visit examiner-plus.com and click subscribe. We hope you've enjoyed this week's excerpt from Examiner+. We love honest feedback. Tell us what you think: examinerplus@theexaminernews.com

"The World's Top **ABBA** tribute act"
- London Times

the FABBA Show



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 | 8PM | ALL AGES

PARAMOUNT THEATER

1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Gene DiNapoli presents

GOLDEN OLDIES

DOO WOP REUNION SHOW
Vol. 2



Hosted by
Jimmy Russo

Valentine's Love Song's

STARRING



Barbara Harris
of The Toys
"A Lovers Concerto"
(How Gentle Is The Rain)



The Knockouts
"Darling Lorraine"



Terry Kings Drifters
"Under The Boardwalk"
"This Magic Moment"
"Save The Last Dance For Me"



Jerry Schall's
The Mello Kings
"Tonite, Tonite"



Bobby Valli singing
the love songs of his
brother Frankie Valli
"My Eyes Adored You"



Acapella by
Still In Style

--- **FRIDAY FEB 11, 2022 @ 8PM** ---



11 City Place White Plains NY
914-328-1600
www.wppac.com

Bring this original
Ad in for **FREE Beer,**
Wine or Snacks (PP)

Helping Adult Children Navigate the Pitfalls of Caregiving for a Parent

By Martin Wilbur

Being a caregiver to an aging parent is something that millions of Americans have experienced. But until it happens to you and your family it is difficult to fully understand the impact it has on your life.

Licensed clinical social worker Curtis Au has seen its effect on individuals and families he has helped counsel over the years, especially those who have had a loved one linger with dementia.

Starting Mar. 3, Au will be conducting a new 10-session virtual caregiver support group specifically for adult children caring for an aging parent. In addition to bringing comfort to people in very similar circumstances as themselves, the group promises to help participants navigate the many ancillary issues that accompanies those who are faced with being a caregiver to a parent.

"Really, there aren't a lot of groups for people in their 40s, 50s, 60s. What do we do with mom, what do we do with dad and adjust our lives accordingly, and unless you're in it you don't really understand it," said Au, who operates a private counseling practice in Pleasantville called Calm in a Storm. "That's where the support comes in. You're with people who get it and understand what you're going through and together you kind of find your way."

As people generally live longer, having the responsibility of caregiving for a parent while raising young children or sending older children to college – the so-called sandwich generation – adds to the financial pressure and demands on time, Au said.

An elderly parent sometimes moves into a household while a grandchild, now a young adult, is returning from college before becoming more independent, he



Pleasantville-based licensed clinical social worker Curtis Au will lead a virtual support group starting next month to help adult children balance the demands required of them while caregiving for an elderly parent.

said.

Au said many adult children are surprised to learn there aren't more resources to help offset the prohibitive cost of care, whether that's home care or admittance to an assisted living facility or nursing home. Locally, many families have too many resources for Medicaid, but the cost of care is so expensive that the parent

may use up what they've saved to pay for proper care.

On average, the adult child is a caregiver to a parent for about five years, said Au, who has overseen support groups for many years on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. For somebody with dementia, that can double to a decade or sometimes even longer, he said.

Au said that the United States could use a federal policy that allows for family caregivers to take time off from work. Difficulty juggling work, caregiving and their own children and spouse takes its toll on everyone.

"The other thing is caregivers don't think to take care of themselves," Au said. "You're just exhausted and that's the most important thing, because as the old saying goes, if you don't take care of yourself, you're not really there to take care of other people. It's a lot of challenges."

Even before an elderly parent reaches the point where they may no longer be independent, there are questions about how to address the gradual slowing down process, he said. For example, how does one suggest to an older adult that they should consider giving up driving or when is it time to downsize a home?

While so many people have been

through this, certain circumstances that all caregivers face are unique.

"You're sort of learning while you're doing," Au commented. "That's why I hope this group will be a benefit to people, that we can all kind of learn together."

During the course of the group, he plans to invite friends and colleagues who have worked professionally with families on certain aspects of the caregiver process, including bringing in experts on wading through the rules and regulations of Medicaid, where to look for community resources and how to search for the right type of geriatric care.

"Just being able to look at things strategically and saying, 'Okay, what's the best way to approach this?' because it's not easy and there's no easy answer for any of these things," Au said.

The adult child caregiver support group will be held for 10 consecutive Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting Mar. 3. Registration is required and there is limited space. A fee of \$250 covers all 10 sessions.

For more information or to register, e-mail curtis@calminastorm.com or call 914-400-8935.

Burke Rehabilitation Launches Outpatient Orthopedic, Sports Therapy Site

Burke Rehabilitation has expanded its outpatient therapy services with the opening of a newly-renovated site in the first floor of the Billings Building on its White Plains campus at 785 Mamaroneck Ave.

The Billings Outpatient Orthopedic and Sports Therapy location serves patients with musculoskeletal and orthopedic diagnoses, including those in need of post-operative care.

The 3,400-square-foot space is brightly lit and open, providing an ideal environment for therapists to work one-on-one with individual patients for 45-minute sessions. Each patient receives a comprehensive evaluation and then an individualized plan of therapy is implemented.

The Billings Outpatient Orthopedic and Sports Therapy site is outfitted with cardiovascular equipment including a treadmill, recumbent bicycle, upper arm ergometer, NuStep and an elliptical machine, as well as other strength training pieces. In addition, there is a Biodex balance system for patients to improve agility and balance.

Therapists offer various modalities including moist heat therapy, cold therapy, ultrasound and electrotherapy, along with other therapy accessories to support overall strengthening, flexibility, balance and function.

"We are very proud to continue expansion of outpatient therapy services on the main campus," said Barrie Arth, Burke's supervisor of White Plains outpatient facilities. "It is conveniently located adjacent to the Medical Specialists Practice, situated on our well-known White Plains campus and offers plenty of



Burke Rehabilitation has expanded its outpatient therapy services with the opening of a newly-renovated site on the first floor of the Billings Building at its White Plains campus.

free parking. We hope to serve patients whose needs range from sports injuries and post-operative care to the weekend warrior. This includes individuals with chronic orthopedic and musculoskeletal conditions. Our goal is always to help patients reach their maximum potential and provide outstanding hands-on care."

An appointment and a referral from a physician are required for patients to receive treatment. The location is staffed with highly trained physical therapists who specialize in treating musculoskeletal and orthopedic diagnoses.

The new addition complements Burke's robust outpatient therapy programs located in communities throughout Westchester and the Bronx. Burke's services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, language and swallowing therapy, concussion management and other specialty therapies.

Playland Job Fair for 2022 Season to Be Held This Saturday

Playland announced last week that it will be holding a job fair this Saturday, Feb. 12 for those seeking employment this spring and summer at the amusement park. More than 400 positions are available.

Open positions include ride operators and attendants; ticket sales and admission attendants; cashiers; guest services; game and arcade attendants; park services team members; beach and pool attendants; lifeguards; retail associates; and parking attendants. Employees can earn as much as \$20 per hour and flexible schedules are available.

Employee benefits include unlimited access to Playland,

employee discounts and the opportunity to earn free admission for family and friends.

"This is an exciting time for Playland," said General Manager Ernie Blundell. "Some great improvements are coming to the park and those working with us will have an opportunity to be a part of them while earning competitive pay."

The job fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Radisson Hotel, located at 1 Radisson Plaza in New Rochelle.

Those interested can also seek more information and apply at www.playland.com.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

How You Can Avoid Becoming a Victim of Computer Viruses, Scams

After being on the backburner for years, home computer virus threats are again on the upswing, warned a Westchester computer non-profit organization.

The Westchester PC Users Group (WPCUG) alerts that scammers, hackers and other bad actors increasingly employ fake e-mails, fake alerts that pop up when viewing legitimate websites, telephone scams and anti-virus marketers peppering cyberspace with hard-sell sales messages.

All these efforts touch homes in the region – and particularly try to trick untrained senior citizens into downloading malicious software.

WPCUG President Pierre Darmon, a White Plains-based computer consultant and a former career IBM employee, senses a false sense of security by home users who think that computer viruses are aimed only at big companies and big industry. He said that home users on websites can encounter a takeover of their web browser software by scammers with large-size messages such as “your computer may be infected” and other chilling warnings.

“This is scary because it makes you think that you’ve lost control of your computer since it is a full-screen message,” Darmon said. “And there’s a worry that the scammers may have done some more serious damage in the background.”

In reality, the scammers have only put the user’s browser in full screen mode that makes it difficult to close the page. WPCUG advises that users can make a safe exit most of the time by using Alt-F4 (on Windows) and Cmd-Q (on macOS). That closes the



browser and lets users regain control of their computer; after such force-closing, the browser can then be reopened.

Browsers are software to surf the internet such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge for Windows and Apple Safari for macOS. Malware, a contraction of the phrase malicious software, is software that is harmful. One type of malware is a virus, self-replicating software designed to spread from computer to computer.

Viruses typically infect computers through “phishing,” (think of fishing) whereby users accept a computer prompt, ostensibly from reputable sources, that really is from scammers; scammers seek unauthorized access to digital devices such as a home computer, often with the aim of hijacking online banking or credit information to make

purchases.

“Once you let someone with bad intentions into your machine, it’s usually downhill from there,” said Jonathan Hauff, a computer consultant based in Larchmont and a former WPCUG president and current member. Regarding telephone calls from scammers, “these are not nice people, though they try to sound nice on the phone. It’s a con game to them. They really are heartless criminals out to take advantage of people, especially older people.”

On Jan. 27, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued an alert stating that scams involving online social media climbed a staggering 18-fold from 2017 to 2021.

Here are the growing malware issues impacting home computer and personal devices:

- When in doubt about a phone or computer message for a bank transaction or online purchase such as with Amazon, don’t use links or phone numbers provided. If from scammers, those connections are not legitimate. Instead, independently dial or connect to a bank or retailer website to check the real status of an account.
- Beware of pop-up messages when browsing websites urging software updates, which are sometimes legitimate but also can be phishing disguised to download malware.
- Some computer security firms say that they can remove ransomware, which may be true; but once a ransomware executes a computer takeover, just removing some of the core malware software may not unlock computers and data.
- Sometimes legitimate anti-virus companies blast hard-sell messages online to push consumers into buying high-price protection. WPCUG recommends simple anti-virus software from reputable companies that typically is offered in a free version to home users or an upgraded premium version at modest cost.
- In what is a rare scam from the most sophisticated hackers, computers infected by malware can be used as listening devices to literally picking up sounds keystrokes from other devices within audio range. These aim to capture passwords being typed and are referred to as an “air gap,” a reference to two computers that are not directly connected.
- It’s advised to check with professionals if encountering persistent malware on

personal devices, because simply making malware disappear from screens doesn’t necessary mean it’s gone.

Bad actors are active in several areas, said George Hauss, a Yonkers resident who teaches computer classes at Westchester Community College. They “are basically trying to get information from you such as banking and other financial passwords so they can transfer money out of your accounts. Some are trying to get your personal information for marketing purposes and are more benign so you’ll just get more targeted e-mails, although those can drive you crazy. Others are hackers who are trying to get into your computer without your consent to extract information or install encryption programs to make the computer inaccessible, and then hold the access for ransom.”

Computer safety measures include:

- Staying up to date on software updates, which will include patches to block the latest viruses.
- Realize that all software on a home computer needs to be updated, not just the core Microsoft or Apple operating systems. For example, hackers are known to target browsers and their extensions, and specialized home management software (controlling household lights, door cameras, etc.) on smart phones.
- Make backups of personal data as insurance in the event of data loss; this creates a copy of data as of that moment.
- Full backups, when installing software and external hardware storage devices, can be complicated. Duplicating personal data is simple with online subscription backup services and free cloud storage offered by software companies. Having a duplicate of personal photos, Word files and an address book is a blessing in the event of a data loss.
- If one does receive a call or computer connection that raises suspicion, immediately terminate the phone call or the online connection, which means hanging up or shutting down the computer. If challenged by a victim becoming suspicious in a phone conversation, the scammer will simply accelerate installation of malware.
- It’s usually better not to respond to suspicious e-mails and calls because doing so confirms to the scammer that contact information is valid. Simply disconnect. Check without using links or phone numbers provided in the alarming messages.

Westchester PC Users Group (<https://www.wpcug.org/>) was established in 1981 as a nonprofit that conducts workshops and serves as a sounding board for practical knowledge regarding computers and mobile devices. The focus is on technology that increasingly surrounds us such as hardware and software from Android, Google, macOS and Windows; PCs, Macs, tablets, mobile phones; smart home tech; internet security; photo editing; digital cameras; and equipment upgrade and repair. Members can get answers to basic questions from resident experts, attend drop-in workshops and tap crowd wisdom to solve their tech problems. Its 150 members are adults from Westchester, the Bronx, Fairfield and Putnam counties.

Using Trusts to Avoid Estate Recovery

Dear Mr. Di Costanzo:
Can Medicaid take my
assets after I die?

Absolutely! In New York this is known as estate recovery. In short, if you receive Medicaid benefits during your lifetime, those amounts can be recovered from your estate after you die.

Here’s the important part. For purposes of estate recovery, the term “estate” means your probate estate, meaning those assets passing under the terms of your Last Will and Testament that are subject to the probate process. Without proper planning, what the government giveth, the government taketh away.

To avoid the horrible consequences of an estate recovery, one must structure their estate to avoid probate. This is primarily done using revocable or irrevocable trusts, since trusts avoid probate.

For instance, consider an individual



By Salvatore M.
Di Costanzo, Esq.

living at home receiving community Medicaid. If that person owns their home individually and only has a Last Will and Testament, probate will be necessary upon death, and in turn, the house will be subjected to estate recovery. If that same person worked with an elder law attorney to create a trust and transfer his or her house to that trust, probate would be avoided as well

as an estate recovery.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with the firm of Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP located in Rye and Yorktown Heights. Di Costanzo is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and estate

planning. He can be reached at 914-245-2440 or via e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com. Visit his practice’s website at www.plantodayfortomorrow.com.

Plan Today For
Tomorrow®

We're Living in Our Own Private EagleFest

By Brian Kluepfel

The annual Teatown Hudson River EagleFest was celebrated last weekend, and though limited in pandemic times, it remains a crucial Hudson Valley event marking the preservation of our national bird and nature in general.

Saw Mill River Audubon Executive Director Anne Swaim did her usual fine job of educating in her staple Raptors for Rookies class.

Just across from Croton Point, in our Eagle Bay eyrie, we had our Own Private Eaglefest (with apologies to director Gus Van Sant for nicking the title).

On Saturday and Sunday morning we watched multiple bald eagles fly past our windows and down the river. The groups were up to five in number and included immature eagles, which don't have the distinctive piebald coloration of adult birds (Thanks, Anne, and Raptors for Rookies!).

Among the sights we witnessed were two birds cartwheeling in what may have been a courtship flight and one adult bird trying to make off with a freshly-caught fish while a trio of others

harassed it. (The final outcome played out behind the trees at Mariandale Center.)

Another birding event we'll gladly participate in from the warmth of our kitchen is next weekend's Great Backyard Bird Count, an annual National Audubon Society event since 1998. Hailed as the first online citizen science project, you can now use a favorite birding app, eBird, to enter your sightings (and have a chance to win a pair of binoculars).

This data helps track bird populations from year to year, and you can do it from the comfort of your own home. I'd personally consider it a success if we can count more than 10 species in a somewhat narrower winter birdscape.

For The Birds

During the winter months I sometimes opt to stay indoors and read about birds. I picked up a 1923 treasure, "Bird Biographies," by Alice E. Ball, which was illustrated by a painter from the American Museum of Natural History and explains the habits of common East Coast avian life. I found a nice passage on the purple martin, a lovely bird.

"Martins are so useful that they



should be protected and encouraged wherever possible. A friend of mine told me that she was never obliged to have her trees sprayed while the martins remained. They feed on wasps, bugs, and beetles, several varieties of which are harmful, and they devour many flies and moths."

Ball's passage brings me to my final point – and an upcoming Saw Mill River Audubon program. We often feel paralyzed by the sheer magnitude of problems in the world, be they environmental or otherwise. In a case like the purple martins, we can help their population and encourage natural pest control by building them nests; hollowed out gourds were the preferred method of Native Americans and early settlers and still work just fine. There are many varieties on the theme. (There's a great

example of a functioning martin colony at the Croton Point Nature Center.)

On Feb. 24, Becca Rodomsky of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will present a program on how property owners can cultivate native plants to encourage dwindling bird populations. She'll help answer this question: What differences can we make in our yards or on any property in our communities that might help birds? You can register for the class at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org. Then you'll be part of the solution in a global struggle to restore and rebalance nature.

It's hard to see past the current clouds of negativity and name-calling. But every day you can take a positive action on behalf of yourself, the natural world and the world at large. We at the Saw Mill River Audubon invite you to part of that conversation, and part of the healing.

Brian Kluepfel is a former board member of the Saw Mill River Audubon and an author of the acclaimed Lonely Planet travel guides. He is also a contributor to BirdWatching Magazine when he is not craning his neck to watch eagles from his kitchen window in Ossining. Check him out at thewritingkoop.com.

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"The place to turn in your time of need!"

Personally Owned and Supervised By

William F Flooks, Jr. & William J Flooks
Proprietor Licensed Funeral Director

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

418 Bedford Road...Pleasantville, NY 10570...769-0001

www.beecherflooksfh.com



Connecting People & Nature Since 1953

Thursday, February 24, Backyards That Help Birds

Learn about healthier backyards for people and birds from Cornell Lab of Ornithology educator. Via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Zoom Bird Chat 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm,

Learn where local birders are birding & what they are seeing and, if you wish, share your bird observations or questions.

Weekly Guided Bird Walks

Registration required. Limited to 20. Visit local birding hotspots.

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

for more info, recordings, and free registration for above events, for no-contact bird seed purchases, and for SMRA sanctuary maps. SMRA sanctuary maps also available free on Avenza map app.

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

020822

Classified Ad Deadline
is **Thursdays at 5pm** for the
next week's publication

ANTIQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-235-0302**

****COMIC BOOKS WANTED!**
TOP PRICES PAID!** 30 years experience. Reliable and honest! Call or Text: 917-699-2496, or e-mail: smileLP@aol.com.

ATTORNEY

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable.

Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. **518-274-0380**

AUTO DONATIONS

Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call **24/7: 855-905-4755**

BUYING/SELLING

Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call **Barry 914-260-8783** or e-mail **Americabuying@aol.com**

EDUCATION/CAREER TRAINING

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain

programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online

at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call **855-543-6440**. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

HIGHEST PRICES PAID - Visit West- chester's Top Buyer for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins & Currency, Watches, Jewelry. Licensed, Professional, **No Appointment Necessary.** Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am-6pm, Mt. Kisco Gold & Silver, 139E Main Street. **914-244-9500**

HEALTH

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! **1-855-579-8907**

HELP WANTED

K&A Engineering Consulting, P.C. (White Plains, NY) seeks Electrical Eng. to design elec. substation med. & high voltage comp., transmission prot., coordination study review, buses, MOD & disconnect switches, instrument transf., CCVTs & line coupling equip. Travel to client loc. Req. Master's in Electrical/Electronics Eng. & 4 mos. Exp. w/ US elec. Util. or pwr. Sys. Full descript. At <https://careers-kapower.icims.com/jobs/1676/electrical-engineer/job>. Email resumes to **Morgan.Gidley@kapower.us**.

continued on page 24

NOTICE TO NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Homeowner Funding enables families to make necessary energy efficient home repairs who:

- **ARE UNABLE TO PAY CASH FOR NECESSARY HOME REPAIRS.**
- **CANNOT AFFORD HIGH OR ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS.**
- **HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR FREE STATE OR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.**

REPAIRS INCLUDE:
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • DOORS & MORE...

up to **\$25,000**

NO Money Down / NO Equity Required

QUALIFY TODAY: (800) 736-9629
or visit **NYImprovementFund.com**

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button
sends help fast, 24/7.



Life Alert®

Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a **FREE** brochure call:

1-800-404-9776

Upgrade Your Home with a

NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER

60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION

+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs
Warranty: Limited Lifetime. Transferable to subsequent owner from original purchaser. Terms and conditions apply. Not up to 2.5". Appearance of the surface coating beyond normal wear and tear. Expires 3.31.22

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic style reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-492-6084**

ERIE
Metal Roofs

Made in the USA



New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires March 31, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

GENERAC®

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

877-516-1160

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Visit **TheExaminerNews.com**
to subscribe to our

FREE
e-mail newsletter
You'll receive the latest local news delivered straight to your inbox

The **Examiner**
news.com



NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Ways to Tackle Heartburn on Game Day

The Super Bowl represents one of the largest eating days in the United States, with gatherings serving up everything from spicy buffalo wings and pizza to sliders and nachos.

Between all these go-to treats and the stress brought on by watching the game, many fans experience heartburn.

Though common, heartburn can be very uncomfortable, with many feeling a painful "burning" sensation in the chest. Some may also experience pressure or pain just behind the breastbone that can last minutes or continue for a few hours. Other symptoms include the feeling that food is "sticking" in the chest or throat, a sour or acid taste in the back of the throat and discomfort that gets worse after eating, burping and bloating.

But heartburn doesn't need to sideline you on game day.

Tackle Heartburn Symptoms

To avoid heartburn, take a look at the spread you're serving up. Incorporate foods that are low in fat and high in protein or that have a high water content. Healthy choices include hummus, crudité, grilled chicken skewers and non-alcoholic beverages. No matter what you're snacking on, though, be sure to stop eating before you're full.

It's also smart to cheer from a sitting or standing position. When you lie flat, your esophagus and stomach are on an even plane. This makes it easy for stomach acids to flow into your esophagus, which



VESELOVAELENA/ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

can cause heartburn.

Dodge wardrobe malfunctions by wearing clothing with a little give. Tight clothing or belts can put constant pressure on your stomach, giving acid nowhere to go but up and out. An easy fix? Wear your favorite jersey and don't be afraid to loosen your belt a notch or two.

If you do need fast heartburn relief, you can also turn to TUMS, which takes seconds to start neutralizing gastric acid in the esophagus, where the pain of heartburn generally starts. It keeps

working as it dissolves, going to work fast to relieve the pain of heartburn. To learn more, and for more heartburn relief tips, visit www.tums.com.

Stress Less, Have Fun

Stress is increasingly being recognized as a contributing factor to heartburn, so make the Super Bowl less nerve-wracking and more fun with some friendly heated competition. America's number one heartburn medicine, TUMS, is hosting the first-ever TUMSworthy Big Game Trivia – putting fans' knowledge to the test for

an opportunity to win a piece of \$88,000 in prizes.

Shortly before and during the game, TUMS will live tweet links from @TUMSOfficial leading to brief videos hosted by comedian and television personality Scott Rogowsky, where participants can answer multiple-choice questions related to football and food. Each correct answer represents one entry into the sweepstakes, and one grand prize winner will be drawn randomly to receive a \$56,000 cash prize.

Participants will also have an opportunity to win a piece of an additional \$32,000 in prizes throughout the game. Satisfy your appetite for competition by sharing your standing on the live leaderboard via Twitter using #TUMSworthyTrivia. To enter for a chance to win, visit @TUMSOfficial.

"To avoid stress-induced heartburn, take a cue from my playbook and try to have some extra fun during the big game," said Hall of Fame running back and two-time Super Bowl champion Terrell Davis. Davis will be competing against Pittsburgh legendary wide receiver and two-time Super Bowl champion Hines Ward in a special head-to-head trivia challenge on Feb. 10, to be live-streamed via @TUMSOfficial.

"Heartburn is painful. Flex your trivia skills to help you relax and enjoy this year's big game," Ward added.

This article was printed by permission of statepoint.net.

24 Hour

Appalachian Deli Grill & Pizza

**LET US
CATER
YOUR
FOOTBALL
PARTY!**

**Gourmet Hot Food!
Boar's Head Deli!
Low Gas Prices!**

1467 Route 9 • Garrison, NY
(where Route 9 & Route 403 merge)
845-424-6241

**Let Us Keep
You Warm!**

Like us on Facebook

ALL FUEL CO.

The Shelley Family
Home Heating Fuel
1606 Rte 22, Brewster

- Burner Sales, Service & Installation
- Tank Removal & Installation
- Propane Available for Cooking & Heating

845-278-7312

Sweets For Your Sweetheart

Lil' Chocolate Shoppe

SINCE 1986

Custom Valentine Hearts & Boxes

♥ Belgian Chocolate Novelties

♥ Sweet and Sour Gummies

♥ Chocolate Roses, Pops!

♥ Unique Packaging And Much, Much More!

Curbside
Pickup
Available

Call 914-769-0771
15 Washington Ave • Pleasantville, NY
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 11am- 3pm

RETRO
CANDY

SILVIO'S

RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

Silvio's is your Football Party Headquarters!

***Make your "Big Game" gatherings a blow out
with our 2-6 ft heros and party trays.***

914-769-6077
Rose Hill Shopping Center
628 Columbus Avenue
Thornwood, NY 10594
www.silviosrestaurant.com
CLOSED MONDAYS

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the
next week's publication

continued from page 22

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Friendly
Certified Computer
Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon
code **42513** and get
\$20 OFF
any service you need!

Geeks on Site
Call Now for a **FREE** Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

One time use only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or offer. Coupon offer good until December 31, 2022. Valid for any new service except subscription fees. Must mention coupon at time of sale.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Never Pay For Covered
Home Repairs Again! Complete
Care Home Warranty COVERS
ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND
APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK
FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE
Months! **866-440-6501**

The Generac PWRcell, a
solar plus battery storage system.
SAVE money, reduce your reliance
on the grid, prepare for power
outages and power your home. Full

installation services available. \$0
Down Financing Option. Request a
FREE, no obligation, quote today.
Call **888-871-0194**

HOTEL CLEANING

NYC-Queens-LI-WP
T&L Cleaning is looking for
housekeeping staff for various
Hotels. Room attendants, laundry
attendants, House-persons and
Supervisors. Apply on-line at:
tlcleaningservices.com/apply or
call **1-800-610-4770**.

MISCELLANEOUS

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2
Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo
with 190 channels and 3 months
free premium movie channels!
Free next day installation! Call
888-508-5313

TV INTERNET PHONE

**DISH TV \$64.99 For 190
Channels + \$14.95 High Speed
Internet.** Free Installation, Smart
HD DVR Included, Free Voice
Remote. Some restrictions apply.
Promo Expires 1/21/22. **1-888-
609-9405**

Get DIRECTV! **ONLY \$69.99/
month!** 155 Channels & 1000s of
Shows/Movies On Demand (w/
SELECT All Included Package.)
PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE
Screens Simultaneously at No
Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV
1-888-534-6918

ELEVATORS • STAIR LIFTS • WHEELCHAIR LIFTS • RAMPS

• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks
New and Reconditioned Lifts

Stay in the home you Love!
Locally Owned & Operated

**The ALBANY
Lift Company**

Stairlifts • Elevators • Wheelchair Lifts • Ramps
747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park NY 12065
(518) 393-2274 • (888) 558-LIFT
www.thealbanyliftcompany.com
Visit Our Display Center: 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Call to get your **FREE** Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
Dental50Plus.com/nypress

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250D); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-0721

**ESTATE SALE
LOG HOMES**

PAY ONLY THE BALANCE OWED!

JUST RELEASED: AMERICAN LOG HOMES
is assisting estate and account
settlement on houses

LOG HOME KITS
selling for **BALANCE OWED** with **FREE DELIVERY**

Model #101, Carolina, \$40,840	BALANCE OWED \$17,000
Model #203, Georgia, \$49,500	BALANCE OWED \$19,950
Model #305, Biloxi, \$36,825	BALANCE OWED \$14,500
Model #403, Augusta, \$42,450	BALANCE OWED \$16,500

NEW HOMES: Serious Inquiries only Call: **704 368-4528**

- Never been manufactured
- **NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY**
- Comes with complete building blueprints and Construction Manual

* Windows, Doors and Roofing not included

Before Calling View House Plans at
www.americanloghomesandcabins.com

**Prepare for
Power Outages
& Save Money**

**GENERAC
PWRCELL**
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated
solar + battery storage system, stores
solar energy that can power your whole
home during utility power outages and
save you money on your electric bill.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

**ACT NOW
TO RECEIVE
A \$300 SPECIAL
OFFER!***
| (888) 871-0194

\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!*

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
**Financing available through authorized Generac partners.
Solar panels sold separately.

To Place a
Classified Ad
Call
914-864-0878
or e-mail
classifieds@
theexamin-
ernews.com

**Follow
us on** **twitter**

twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

**Find us on
Facebook** **Search for
EXAMINER MEDIA**

914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews.com • www.theexaminernews.com

**Give
Something
that Means
Something®**

**American
Red Cross**

Camp Organization Looks to Increase Access to Counselor Programs

The American Camp Association (ACA) has embarked on an exciting new project that includes a three-year grant program designed to cultivate evidence-informed planning, testing and improving initiatives to increase access to and engagement in counselor-in-training (CIT) programs and other leadership programs among young people with diverse backgrounds, abilities and identities.

Previous research suggests that CIT programs represent an important step in the process by which many campers go on to become camp staff. This project is seeking to disrupt the pathways that currently allow some young people to move through this camper-to-staff pathway more readily than others.

The ACA will award grants to as many as 20 day camps and overnight camps, half of which represent existing CIT programs, while the other half proposes new CIT programs. Grantees will be paired across cohorts facilitated through a series of virtual and in-person gatherings to maximize opportunities for mentorship and collaboration.

At these gatherings, grantees share and refine ideas, make meaning of formative evaluation data gathered by an external research team and engage in professional development related to access and inclusion. Over the next three years, grantees will design, test and improve



their CIT programs or outreach initiatives through this work.

Supporting the granting program, the ACA is conducting a landscape scan of effective access and inclusion strategies used in camps and across selected national organizations that serve youths. Led by an external evaluation team and in partnership with the ACA's diversity, equity and inclusion consultant, findings will be used to inform the organization's

strategic initiatives related to expanding equitable access to camp and shared with grantees to support their design processes.

The third component of the project is the creation of a toolkit to support the design and implementation of accessible and inclusive CIT programs at day and overnight camps.

The toolkit being developed by a writing group of camp professionals will include:

- Summary of access and inclusion

strategies identified via the landscape scan;

- Case studies of camps with "exemplar" CIT programs;
- Lessons learned from the grant program, including challenges and promising practices related to developing a new CIT program and implementing outreach initiatives.

Toolkit content will be shared through at least three interrelated platforms, including an anchoring workbook; other potential platforms include digital/downloadable content, curricula to support in-person training and recorded webinars.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion are at the very core of ACA's strategic plan," said Tom Rosenberg, its president and CEO. "This exciting new program will enable ACA to take meaningful steps toward a more diverse, equitable and inclusive future for the field of organized camp."

This work is made possible by a grant from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

The American Camp Association is a national organization with more than 12,000 individual members and 3,100 member camps. The ACA is committed to collaborating with those who believe in quality camp and outdoor experiences for children, youth and adults. For more information, visit ACAcamps.org or call 800-428-2267.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



JUNE 27- AUGUST 18

REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT SPROUT WESTCHESTER JEWISH DAY CAMP

Ages Pre-K – 6th Grade • 8 Weeks
Instructional and recreational swim
Art • Drama • Nature • Ropes Course • Sports
Transportation included



*Camp will operate under the CDC and NY COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

camp@sproutwestchester.org | (914) 271-7563
www.sproutwestchester.org

ATTENTION JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Opportunity is Knockin'!

ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT?

DO YOU KNOW A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO WANTS TO EARN \$2,600 THIS SUMMER?
Paid Summer Internship Positions Available

The New York Press Association Foundation is sponsoring a paid summer internship at this newspaper for a qualified journalism student.

Any student currently enrolled in a recognized journalism program is eligible to compete for an internship with a net \$2,600 stipend provided by NYPA. Applicants must attend college during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Don't delay! Application deadline is **March 1, 2022.**



Apply by contacting Publisher Adam Stone
at astone@theexaminernews.com

Virtual Panel Discussion on Refugee Resettlement to Be Held Feb. 17

Films on Purpose, in partnership with Ossining for Refugees, Neighbors Link and Pleasantville Community Television (PCTV), will host a free virtual screening of “A Home Called Nebraska,” a 2020 documentary about the welcome that refugees have received in the conservative state of Nebraska, which has been a hub of refugee resettlement activities for close to two decades.

The film is currently available for streaming on PCTV by using the link <https://www.pctv76.org/video/2908>.

A Zoom panel discussion on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. will feature the filmmakers, Beth and George Gage, and Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg, a founding member of Ossining for Refugees, who will discuss the resettlement activities going on as a result of their efforts and what residents can do to help that effort.

Carola Bracco, executive director of

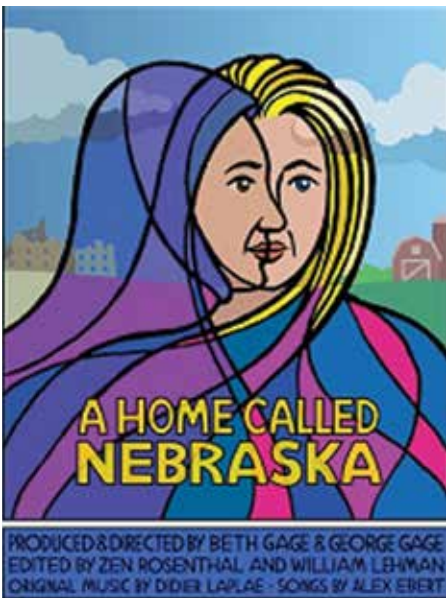
Neighbors Link, and an attorney from that organization will discuss issues surrounding immigration and the legal and social challenges that immigrants face. The Zoom panel, like the film, is free. The public can register for the Feb. 17 discussion by visiting <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=neighborslink&id=48>.

In 2016 Nebraska resettled more refugees per capital than any U.S. State. “A Home Called Nebraska” is an inspiring film about how some Americans have embraced those who are forced to flee their homes and to help them find a new sense of community in a strange land. The activists and refugees in the film demonstrate how compassion, understanding and untiring energy can make the transition easier for those who are traumatized by the dangers and upheaval that refugee status brings.

Films on Purpose is continuing a

partnership begun with PCTV to support its efforts using film to foster conversation and community by discussing pressing issues of the day. Ossining for Refugees is a newly-formed organization based in Pleasantville, Ossining, Briarcliff Manor and Croton-on-Hudson created to provide the grassroots support required to resettle refugees though the U.S. refugee resettlement program. Local volunteers are currently working to welcome refugee families and help them thrive independently as valuable members of our local communities.

Neighbors Link is based in Mount Kisco and is dedicated to the idea that our community is strengthened by the positive integration of immigrants within it. Their work provides services for new immigrant families and education and empowerment programs.



Hoff-Barthelson Music School Faculty in Performance

The 2021-22 Hoff-Barthelson Music School Artist Faculty Performance Series continues Friday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the school’s Joan Behrens Bergman Auditorium, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale, New York.

The concert will feature performances of Manuel Infante’s exciting “Danses Andalouses” and Moisés Simons’ “El Manisero” for two pianos; solo works for guitar by Dušan Bogdanović, Fernando Sor and Carlos Rivera; and will conclude with Samuel Barber’s delightful “Souvenirs Suite for Two Pianos.”

Faculty performers are pianists Eleonora Rotshteyn and Vered Reznik and guitarist Andrew Marino. Joining the faculty is guest artist Elke Velazquez, piano.



Andrew Marino is one of the faculty performers scheduled for the Hoff-Barthelson Music Faculty concert on Feb. 18.

Admission to the concert is \$20, but is free to students under 18 and adult Hoff-Barthelson students. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/3r4rSFL>, by visiting the school’s website at www.hbms.org, by calling 914-723-1169 or e-mailing hb@hbms.org.

Seating is limited to 60 individuals. Please note that masks are required. All guests must provide proof of vaccination. Students between the ages of 5 and 11 must have

received at least one dose of their vaccination in order to attend. No one under five years old will be admitted.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School is located at 25 School Lane in Scarsdale.

American Heart Association, Northwell Combat Top Threat for Women

An important fact to understand is cardiovascular disease remains the number one killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year and claiming more women’s lives than all forms of cancer combined.

The American Heart Association (AHA) in New York City, Westchester and Long Island is proud to announce an expanded relationship with Northwell Health designed to address cardiovascular health and the unique issues facing women.

The sponsorship will continue to raise awareness that heart disease is the top health threat for women, empower women to take action on their health and continue to help remove the barriers women face in order to achieve good health.

“Women, especially Black and Hispanic women, are disproportionately impacted by heart disease and stroke, and research shows that heart attacks are on the rise in younger women,” said Dr. Stacey Rosen, senior vice president of women’s health at the Katz Institute for Women’s Health and member of the American Heart Association Eastern States Board of Directors.

lives of other women and men.

“As we head into this new agreement, both organizations want to raise health for women by providing education, earlier diagnosis, treatment and prevention so women’s lives can be saved,” said Michael J. Dowling, president and chief executive officer of Northwell Health.

For any woman who has felt slightly off-center during the pandemic, now is the time to reclaim their routine and the things that matter most: health, family, friends and the rhythm of their life.

“Women experience unique stages through their lives which affect both overall health and cardiovascular health,” Rosen said. Unique risk factors specific to women are pregnancy and menopause/

The relationship between the American Heart Association and Northwell Health will inspire all women with information they need to know including awareness; your cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar and Body Mass Index; family history; and take charge of your health.

Yet, younger generations of women, Gen Z and Millennials, are less likely to be aware of their greatest health threat or know that 80 percent of heart disease is preventable.

Since 2004, the AHA’s signature women’s initiative, Go Red for Women, has increased women’s heart health awareness and served as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women globally.

“The Go Red for Women movement is vital to our work to save and improve women’s lives,” said Nicole Aiello Sapio, executive vice president of the American Heart Association’s Eastern States Region. “We are so grateful for our relationship with Northwell Health and with their support we’ll be able to better harnesses the energy, passion and power women have to wipe out heart disease.”

Go Red for Women is a catalyst for women to stand together and take charge of their own health as well as improve the

Yorktown Small Business Association Seeks Board Members

Established in 2014, the Yorktown Small Business Association has been instrumental in advocating, advising and mentoring local small independent businesses in Yorktown and throughout Westchester. It is a non-partisan, rapidly growing, grassroots, local small business organization whose mission is to foster a progressive and sustainable economic entrepreneurial development environment in which local small businesses can be supported collaboratively and thrive. This allows for business growth and

development while improving the economic health of Yorktown and Westchester County.

The organization is seeking board members who are passionate about local, small independent business and willing to volunteer time and energy to ensure their success.

If you have an interest, contact Bob Giordano at 914-874-4347 or at yorktownsba@optonline.net.

For more information, visit www.yorktownsba.com.

Crossword Answers

1	2	3	4				5	6	7	8				
L	A	S	E				R	H	E	O				
9	L	A	U	N	10	11	12	A	D	E	N			
13	C	A	R	L	O	T			14	I	L	L	S	
				15	I	O	T	16	A	S				
17	U	R	I	S			20	P	L	O	V	E	R	
24	S	A	N	T	E	25			26	I	N	A	N	E
27	S	I	N	E	W	S	28			29	D	R	E	Y
					30	D	E	N	31	T	E			
32	D	R	U	M			35	O	A	T	E	36	37	38
39	E	T	N	A			40	B	I	R	T	H	S	
41	N	E	O	N						42	E	C	O	N

Super Bowl LVI: Culinary Matchups of the Rival Cities



By Nick Antonaccio

This weekend we celebrate two uniquely American traditions, both on the same day.

On Sunday, we will gather with friends and family to be entertained by the most-watched sports event of the year, Super Bowl LVI.

The second? A feast above all feasts, which I have dubbed my own National Junk Food Sunday.

While the Super Bowl contestants display their skills, strength, agility and (mostly) trim bodies on the field, millions of Americans will be consuming food and drink that will likely detract from their athletic skills, strength and agility – and perhaps add a few pounds in the process.

Here are several food facts for Super Bowl Sunday. According to the National Chicken Council, 1.42 billion chicken wings will be devoured. That's the equivalent of four wings for every man, woman and child in the United States. As for beverages, Americans will spend more than \$1.3 billion on a combination of mass-market and craft beers and \$600 million on wine.

As I have for the past few years in this column, I thought of the rivalry on the gridiron and began transposing it to the bars and living rooms across the locales

of the Super Bowl participants. Does the West Coast star-laden ethos prove to be an advantage over the youthful social fabric of the Central Midwest?

First, the gridiron statistics.

On the field: The Rams franchise seems like America's itinerant team. Founded in 1936 in Cleveland, it moved three times before landing in Los Angeles for the second time in 2016. They will be appearing in their fifth Super Bowl and seeking their second championship.

The Cincinnati Bengals will be appearing for only their third time, the first in 33 years. They will be seeking their first Super Bowl win.

Experience and proven talent favor the Rams, while the Bengals have youth and momentum on their side. Both quarterbacks are first-round draft picks. Matthew Stafford is a 13-year league veteran, while Joe Burrow is in his second year. Early odds favor the Rams by four points, but the Bengals have been surprising opponents all season.

Food: Each region has its unique dishes. Which is superior? A 21st century Los Angeles New Wave dish of sea urchin with oxtail and congee? Or the blue-collar delight of Cincinnati chili, local-style chili over a bowl of spaghetti and topped with a mound of shredded cheese?

A Hispanic-inspired chorizo breakfast burrito from L.A.'s Latino quarter? Or goetta, a breakfast staple made from pork, pinhead oats and spices?

The verdict? It's nouvelle cuisine versus old-world standbys. I give the nod to the vibrancy and experimentation of Los Angeles chefs over the appeal of Cincinnati comfort dishes.

Wine: Both cities have reputations as wastelands for fine wine production. The consensus is the climate is too hot in Southern California and too severe in Ohio.

A pleasant surprise is on the southern West Coast, the Temecula Valley wine region. Warm days, cool nights and a constant Pacific mist make for a longstanding region with great sustaining potential. Look for consistently high-quality Bordeaux blends from Bailly, Callaway, Churon, Doffo and Leoness wineries. So, too, with the Rams' consistent offensive production, led by Cooper Kupp, first in the NFL in receiving in 2021.

I have sampled several wines from Ohio, courtesy of my resident brother-in-law, an enthusiastic spokesperson for local wines. He failed to win me over. Yet the Bengals are the pride of Ohioans, with a bright future, including the stellar contribution of their rookie receiver, Ja'Marr Chase, fourth in the NFL in receiving.

The verdict? Kudos to the Temecula Valley for its combination of balance and exuberance. Can this be a catalyst for a Rams Super Bowl victory? Or will the upstart Bengals – and Ohio wines – have their moment to shine?

Beer: With the proliferation of small-batch craft beers across the nation, consumers have their favorite local breweries; more power to the people. The verdict? To each their own.



Super (Snack) Bowl Sunday: Nirvana for football enthusiasts and junk food aficionados alike. Whichever camp you fall into, just kick back and enjoy the game and the camaraderie.

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

Routine Medical Exam Reveals an Existential Epiphany

"Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself. Such is the first principle of existentialism"

--Paul Tillich

This month, I share a humorous story from a friend who had an existential epiphany during a routine medical procedure – while going for an annual sonogram of the abdomen.

We are all aware of how intimidating such visits can be, as we are declothed, robed, poked and probed, not to mention the co-pay we have to turn over. It can be humiliating and takes away all sense of modesty, and can make us feel small.

As medical centers expand and become even larger, we feel at times they make the patients feel smaller. Well, maybe there is a movie here – "Honey, I Shrunk the Patients." Well, even existentialists have a sense of humor.

About a week later, my friend received a call from the doctor that everything is fine, good news for sure, then asked to have a copy of the radiologist's report.

The report stated that the stomach, spleen, pancreas and gallbladder were all normal. This proved to be a bit of an existential conundrum since my friend's gallbladder was removed a few months prior. I guess it was a cut and paste oversight?

Well, the sonogram needed to be repeated, complete with the declothing, robing, poking and probing. Maybe in this report the Flying Dutchman or Lincoln's Ghost Train will show up in the sonogram. The younger crowd may have to google this to appreciate my attempt at humor.

For my friend it was an existential epiphany that confirmed the absurdity of life, having experienced a humbling experience while a technician probed and poked them in a skimpy gown with loss of all modesty. In such a state, of not knowing the results, with no sense of vanity and ego to hide behind; with only a naked existential mind now exposed to our frail condition.

It confirms that one does not have

to be an existentialist to have an existential epiphany. We may also be unaware that we are more existential than we thought, as we view and navigate life in the deep and quiet recesses of our private thoughts and fears.

"All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better"

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Maybe there is something to these funky and skimpy medical gowns that make us think at a deeper level as we try to turn our existence to essence in the uncertainty of life. After all, life is a lottery with the first drawing being our birth.

As the psychologist Abraham Maslow once stated that existentialism is the dimension of seriousness and profundity of living contrasted against the shallow and superficial life, and uses



By Richard Cirulli

personal subjectivity experiences as the foundation which we build upon our abstract knowledge. Existentialism helps us build a fully evolved self.

In closing, my friend came to the conclusion that the medical center did not shrink their beingness, but rather experienced an existential epiphany that expanded their essence of life. Now

free of the designer cloths, titles and expensive cars to hide behind as a false façade, becoming the true person they were meant to be.

Be well. Be safe. Be happy, Be nice! Amor fati!

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a published author, playwright, and retired professor. His body of works can be viewed at www.demitasseplayers.com. He looks forward to your comments and can be reached at profcirulli@optonline.net.

Existentially Speaking

This is Fun.

(And it Feels Good, Too!)



Saw Mill Club wants to reward you for getting into a healthy routine of regularly working out.

**Each time you check in,
the more you earn back.**

Join by 2/28 and for every check-in during your first 30 days we'll reward you with \$25 as an incentive to begin a regular exercise routine. Maximum earn back of \$150. Not to be used towards membership dues.

Offer expires 2/28.

Earn Back Your Enrollment Fee.
For every workout we'll reward you with \$25.

914-241-0797 | 914-242-9760 | membershipteam@sawmillclub.com

Two award-winning locations in the heart of Mount Kisco.
One amazing experience.

SAW MILL CLUB | SAW MILL CLUB EAST
77 Kensico Drive | 333 N Bedford Rd

www.SawMillClub.com

  @SawMillClub #MySawMillClub

