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May 12 - May 18, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 456

White Plains Native Coaching in Korean Baseball League

By Rick Pezzullo

With Major League Baseball currently benched due to COVID-19, the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) is the only game in town shown in the United States for those yearning for the games of summer that are not replays on television.

The most popular of the 10 teams in the KBO are the Lotte Giants, and one of its coaches is Josh Herzenberg, a native of White Plains.

Herzenberg, 30, a former left-handed hurler at White Plains High School and SUNY Oneonta, is serving in his first season with the Giants as pitching coordinator/quality control coach.

"It was a professional opportunity that was very exciting," Herzenberg said Friday from the southeastern city of Busan in South Korea. "I feel like I'm in a pretty good situation now. I have a lot of responsibilities to make a positive impact on the organization."

After receiving a Master's degree in economics from Georgetown University in 2013, Herzenberg worked in the scouting department for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers in the minor league system. He also worked as a coach for the Dodgers during his three years with the organization.

"I fell in love with the player development part of the game," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY JOSH HERZENBERG

Continued on page 2 Josh Herzenberg is on the coaching staff of the Lotte Giants in South Korea.

Westchester Pediatric Death Possibly Linked to Coronavirus

By Martin Wilbur

The state Department of Health is investigating the cases of 93 children statewide that have been afflicted with symptoms inconsistent with COVID-19, including the death of one of 11 youngsters at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla.

There have been three fatalities from what has been called Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome. Some of the ailments mimic Kawasaki disease or toxic shock syndrome, health officials said. All of the children have tested positive for the virus or have the antibodies for COVID-19, presumably from an adult member of their household who had been infected.

State Health Commissioner Dr.

Howard Zucker said Sunday the state Department of Health has a team of 30 to 40 members that are analyzing the cases, including the three deaths. Last Friday, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that a five-year-old New York City boy died and Westchester County officials said another child died at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. Since then a third child has been lost, Zucker said.

The other fatalities were an elementary school-age child and an adolescent. A preliminary investigation has not turned up any pre-existing health conditions that may have compromised their chances for recovery, although the Health Department's evaluation is continuing, Zucker said. All three children lived in separate counties.

No other information about the child who died at Maria Fareri's was released.

"We weren't looking for this because these children did not present respiratory illnesses," Zucker said. "So, all of a sudden, we hear about children with cardiac problems, inflammation of their blood vessels, we're trying to figure out what is happening here. So, the CDC is sending people up as well. We have a whole team investigating all these charts and we're going to get to the bottom of it."

Last Friday, Westchester County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said symptoms include a combination of one or more problems such as persistent fever for more than four days, severe abdominal pain, vomiting

and/or diarrhea, a rash, swollen hands or feet and enlarged lymph nodes, Amler said.

Dr. Michael Gewitz, the physician-in-chief at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, said that if parents see that one or more of the symptoms appear in their child, particularly if someone at home has tested positive for the virus, they should immediately contact their health provider.

He said in a few cases, including the boy who died at Maria Fareri, there were some neurological issues related to the syndrome.

Dr. Dial Hewlett, the county's chief of communicable disease, said the children hospitalized in Westchester presented symptoms four to six weeks after initial exposure to COVID-19 was docu-

mented. The symptoms appeared two to four days before they were hospitalized, he said.

Cuomo said the CDC has asked New York State to develop national criteria for other states' health departments to follow so officials around the country can be on the lookout for similar cases.

"This is the last thing we need at this time with all that's going on with all the anxiety we have," Cuomo said. "Now for parents to worry about whether or not their youngster was affected now with symptoms that don't even seem like the symptoms we associate with COVID-19. We still have a lot to learn about this virus and every day is another eye-opening situation."

Mastercard, PepsiCo Pledge \$1 Million to Support WP Hospital

By Rick Pezzullo

Mastercard and PepsiCo last week announced the formation of a local community partnership called Westchester Strong with Healthcare Heroes that will provide \$1 million over two years to White Plains Hospital and support its staff as they continue to fight the coronavirus.

In the initial phase, the program will focus on initiatives to keep patients and staff safe, including funding vital supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as supporting the hospital's efforts to meet government requirements to increase its capacity. The efforts will continue well after the initial recovery to further support the hospital's frontline staff's well-being, knowing that this pandemic has taken a toll on their emotional and physical health.

"We are humbled to help White Plains Hospital provide vital resources to keep neighbors safe during COVID-19," said Jon Banner, Executive Vice President, Global Communications and President, PepsiCo Foundation. "As proud members of the Westchester community for more than 50 years, our thousands of local Pep-

siCo employees are grateful to the Hospital's staff and management for serving on the frontlines during this pandemic and keeping all of us strong."

"Our employees take pride in our New York roots and care deeply about our Westchester neighbors," said Shamina Singh, Executive Vice President of Sustainability and President of the Mastercard Impact Fund. "We thank our hometown hospital and all of its staff for going above and beyond the call of duty. We hope that this new fund provides the relief and support that they need to continue to respond and ultimately recover from this crisis."

Morgan Stanley has also committed to joining Westchester Strong with Healthcare Heroes, with a \$100,000 donation to the hospital.

"We are proud to support White Plains Hospital's frontline heroes who are battling against COVID-19 and saving lives," said Joan Steinberg, Global Head of Philanthropy at Morgan Stanley. "This situation requires urgent action to provide relief to areas heavily impacted by the virus, and at Morgan Stanley, we believe it is our responsibility to help protect the most vulnerable and put the



Hospital workers have been on the front line helping patients battling COVID-19.

full weight of our resources behind a comprehensive COVID-19 response."

White Plains Hospital has cared for the highest number of COVID-19 patients in the region, exceeding 1,000. Susan Fox, President and CEO of White Plains

Hospital, said, "This display of philanthropic solidarity from Westchester businesses is incredible. For global companies like PepsiCo, Mastercard and Morgan Stanley to reach out and ask how they can help their local hospital shows how strong this commu-

nity is and echoes the spirit of the thousands of community members who have supported our staff through efforts both big and small. The outpouring of support has been amazing, and we are exceptionally proud to be their hospital."

White Plains Native Coaching in Korean Baseball League

continued from page 1

Herzenberg took a break from baseball for a few years before his passion returned after he took part in a sabermetrics seminar at Boston University last August. Through networking and an interest in attending a two-week coaching clinic in Korea, he was offered the role with the Giants, which he contemplated for three weeks before accepting.

"Moving to Korea and experiencing a new culture was an opportunity I would probably never get a chance to do," he said.

His journey got off to a rocky start as the day (February 15) he landed in Korea the coronavirus hit, delaying the start of the 144-game season. With the number of cases in the region not severe, the KBO was able to hold Opening Day on May 5, with no fans in attendance.

"It's weird not playing with fans," said Herzenberg, who noted umpires and coaches wear masks during the games. "It's definitely something they (players) have to get used to because they like to feed off the fans. Baseball is the only major sport in the city. Fans are pretty passionate about the sport and the team."

Herzenberg's primary job is to serve as a liaison between the team's research and development department and its players and coaches. Being not fluent in the language, Herzenberg is often accompanied



Josh Herzenberg delivering a pitch while at White Plains High School.

by an interpreter.

"I'm trying to learn. It's a challenge because it's almost like playing telephone," he explained. "I try to be very concise with my message. It's a very different culture. The food is awesome. I came to Korea. Korea didn't come to me. Overall, it's been great."

ESPN is televising games from the KBO once a day. The games can also be streamed internationally.

"Ratings have been through the roof," Herzenberg said. "It's good to stay connected."



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Start of Westchester, Putnam Reopening Likely to Be Delayed

By Martin Wilbur

Three upstate regions are in line to begin the first phase of the state's reopening plan later this week, but it appears that Westchester and Putnam counties may have to wait longer.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that as of Monday morning the Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley and Southern Tier regions have met all seven metrics established by the state last week. If they maintain that standing, they would be the first three areas that begin to emerge from the statewide stay-at-home order that is due to expire on Friday.

Six of the seven remaining regions have either hit five or six of the benchmarks while New York City is in compliance in four categories. The Mid-Hudson Valley region, which includes Westchester and Putnam, complied with five metrics. Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties are also in the region.

"It's an exciting new phase," Cuomo said. "We want to get back to work. We want to do it smartly, intelligently, but we want to do it. That's what this week is going to be all about."

A Phase I reopening would allow for the resumption of construction, manufacturing and select retail for curbside pickup only. Several low-risk activities are expected to be lifted statewide on Friday, such as landscaping and gardening, drive-in movie theaters and certain outdoor recreational activities, including tennis.

Cuomo said businesses that do reopen must prepare a plan outlining safety precautions for its employees, such as adherence to social distancing, providing personal protection equipment and possibly reconfiguring workspaces.

There would be a regional control room comprised of an elected official from each of the seven counties as well as health officials and representatives from academia who would regularly monitor the metrics. County executives George Latimer of Westchester and MaryEllen Odell of Putnam are the government officials from their respective counties.

The criteria requires at least 14 days of declines in total hospitalizations and deaths on a three-day rolling average; it cannot exceed 15 new cases or five new deaths on a three-day average; there must be less than two new COVID patients in hospitals per 100,000 residents and a region's hospitals must have at least a 30 percent vacancy in total hospital beds and ICU beds.

Two other requirements are related to testing. There must be 30 tests available for every 1,000 residents per month and a baseline of 30 contact tracers for every 100,000 residents must be maintained.

Hospitals also must have a 90-day supply of personal protection equipment at the rate it was being used during the height of the crisis.

Currently, the Mid-Hudson region is not meeting the 14-day decline in hospital deaths and exceeds the threshold of two new hospitalizations per 1,000 residents. On Monday, it stood at 2.79.

Latimer said that only regions would open, not individual counties. He said Monday that he was hopeful that by early next week the Mid-Hudson region will be looking to enter the first phase.

"I think we're close, we're not there yet, we

have work to do and that's what we're going to try to do," Latimer said. "We're going to try and get our work done so that by the end of this week, beginning of next week at the latest, we'll be able to report to the state we've met the goals that you've set for us."

The state Department of Health has posted a dashboard outlining where each region stands on its metrics and will be updating it daily.

Cuomo said with the ongoing monitoring, if a region regresses it will have to slow down and potentially shut down again.

"If it does not go well and you see that infection rate moving because the hospitals will tell you they see an increase or your testing rate shows an increase, you have to be

able to pull the plug," Cuomo said.

Last week, the governor said that each region must maintain the qualifying metrics for two weeks before it can progress to the next phase. The state's guidelines, which follow the CDC's standards, calls for professional services, finance and insurance, retail, administrative support and real estate and rental leasing in the second phase.

Phase III calls for restaurants, food services and hotels to reopen while the fourth phase includes arts, entertainment, recreation and education.

Cuomo applauded the efforts of New York

residents who listened to officials' appeals.

"What we have done, thus far, is really amazing and it was because we were smart and because we were unified and because of that we averted tragedy," he said.

Statewide, the number of COVID-19-related deaths dropped Sunday to 166 and new virus hospitalizations fell to 488, the lowest levels since the early days of the crisis in mid-March.

In Westchester, there were nine additional deaths on Sunday, raising the number to 1,227. The number of active cases continued to fall to 3,377. In Putnam County, 56 residents have died from the virus.



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Cuomo Threatens Nursing Homes' Licenses for Non-Compliance

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned operators of the state's nursing homes that they will have their licenses to operate revoked if they fail to follow enhanced guidelines to better protect residents from the coronavirus.

Cuomo issued the stern statement during his Sunday briefing as deaths in the state's nursing homes continue to mount. About 12 percent of New York's more than 21,000 COVID-19-related deaths have been nursing home residents.

"The virus likes nursing homes," Cuomo said. "They are ground zero. They are the vulnerable population in the vulnerable

location."

The additional steps prohibit a nursing home from taking a patient discharged from a hospital who hasn't tested negative for the virus. If a home is unable to provide an appropriately quarantined space for receiving a person referred from another source or is unequipped to care for them, they must transfer the patient to another facility or contact the state Department of Health, which will help arrange to place the person in one of the state's COVID-only or makeshift facilities, the governor said.

In addition, all nursing home staff must receive a diagnostic test for the virus twice a week, Cuomo said.

The new steps announced Sunday are in addition to guidelines set by the state last month that are still in effect. On Apr. 23, it was determined that residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 must be quarantined and there must be separate staff for COVID-19 residents. If a facility is unable to care for the residents properly, then the person must be transferred.

Furthermore, within 24 hours a home must contact the family of a resident who has tested positive for the virus or who has died from a COVID-19-related illness.

Nursing home staff members must also be provided with personal protective equipment and have their temperatures taken daily.

Cuomo bluntly threatened nursing home operators who fail to comply.

"If a nursing home operator does not follow these procedures, they will lose their license," he said. "Well, that's harsh. No, harsh is having a nursing home resident who doesn't get the appropriate care. That's what's harsh, having someone's parent, mother or brother in a situation where they're in a facility where they can't even get a visitor, they're isolated, they feel alone and they're not getting the appropriate care."

New York State has more than 101,000 nursing home residents, among the highest in the United States. However, the 12 percent of the state's COVID-19-related deaths at nursing homes ranks just 34th in the nation in percentage compared to other states, Cuomo said.

Earlier in the crisis, Cuomo had also issued an executive order that closed off all nursing homes to visitors. That restriction remains in effect.

Westchester Testing All Nursing Home Residents

Westchester officials are preparing for an uptick in COVID-19 cases once mandatory testing of all nursing home patients is completed, said County Executive George Latimer.

Testing by the county Department of Health began May 4 in order to learn the extent of infections among residents in all 44 Westchester nursing homes. The county received authorization last week from New York State to administer the tests as the high number of fatalities during the pandemic has placed nursing homes everywhere under the microscope.

"If we do see some significant concerning patterns, we'll report that to the state immediately since it is the state that has regulatory authority," Latimer said. "We're not going to be able to finish this in a week or two weeks but hopefully with the state, with the county and the Department of Health nurses and assistance from the nursing home staff itself, we'll be able to complete the task."

Through Saturday, there were 192 confirmed deaths at Westchester nursing homes from COVID-19 and 220 presumed deaths, according to the state Department of Health. The state has reported 1,218 total nursing home deaths since the start of the crisis.



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Group Home Residents Navigate a New World During COVID-19

By Sherrie Dulworth

Community inclusion has long been an important part of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Before the emergence of COVID-19, some went to day programs for skills training while others went to work. They engaged in and enjoyed social activities such as bowling, shopping, dining out and visits with family and friends.

To halt the spread of the virus by mid to late March, outside activities and visitors have been restricted for residents of New York's certified residential facilities.

"Their lives have changed drastically," explained Garry Evans, a residential program coordinator with The Arc Westchester in Hawthorne. "They are pretty much stuck at home."

Not only has it affected the residents, but the coronavirus has affected the work of the direct support professionals (DSP). As frontline workers, DSPs offer personal care support. An important part of their role since the pandemic has been helping the disabled adjust socially and emotionally to the crisis.

In late March, a resident in one of The Arc Westchester's (<https://arcwestchester.org>) group homes tested positive for COVID-19. With several employees out ill and others quarantined, Evans, along with DSP Althea Palmer, volunteered to self-quarantine at the group home along with six residents who also needed to isolate.

"We teamed up and took care of everything," said Evans.

Everything included counseling, skills training and monitoring the residents and themselves for symptoms, in addition to their usual personal care duties. They also established practices for physical distancing, including two-person paired round-robin dining instead of the usual family-style meals that are held.

In the 13 group homes operated by Westchester Jewish Community Services (<http://www.wjcs.com> (WJCS)), employees are providing skills training along with devising creative arts, crafts and entertainment. They are virtually linking activities via technology so residents in different homes have the option to participate together. During this time of major adjustments for everyone, Janet Alpert, director



THE ARC WESTCHESTER PHOTO

Garry Evans, left, a residential program coordinator with The Arc Westchester, and direct support professional Althea Palmer help the organization set protocols to protect group home residents through the coronavirus pandemic.

of residential services, said, "Our team is doing an incredible job."

One WJCS home held a high tea party complete with finger sandwiches, fruit, sweets and of course, tea. Later, five homes joined a virtual dance party offered by the JCC of Mid-

Westchester where 15 residents, families and employees moved to music ranging from reggaeton to oom-pah.

"Everyone had a blast participating," said Lauren Bassen, the JCC's assistant executive director of community

programs.

According to The Arc Westchester's Executive Director and CEO Tibi Guzmán, residents at one of its 44 group homes decided to make and donate face masks. So far, they have made more than 100 masks and donated those to Caritas, a food pantry in Port Chester.

"The public may not be aware of it but the people we serve also like to give back," Guzman said.

Caritas Executive Director Bill Cusano said he was especially appreciative that the donated masks were made for children, who he says often get overlooked.

"I was in awe," he said.

Guzmán explained that some developmentally disabled individuals lack language ability and use gestures to communicate. She said the DSPs forge long relationships and provide support to individuals with a strong sense of responsibility and in a passionate and loving way.

Some of the residents do not have close family members. Palmer, who has worked with The Arc Westchester since 2001, said the group home residents depend on staff at all times, not just during a pandemic.

"We become like surrogate family to many of them," she said.

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Memorial Day, P'ville Fire Department Parades Canceled

By Abby Luby

If the local communities want to honor the service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, it will have to be something other than a parade this year.

Communities around the area have canceled their annual parades to comply with the prohibition on gatherings. While some of the most rural regions of the state could see the first phase of a reopening as early as later this week, that is likely not the case in Westchester and Putnam counties.

Furthermore, even if the two counties were allowed to enter into a Phase I reopening, a parade with crowds lining the street wouldn't be allowed so soon.

"Based on the governor's executive orders, gatherings of any size are not permitted," said Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich. "As such, very sorry to say, the village could not host the parade this year unless the governor lifts restrictions."

In addition, Pleasantville Fire Chief Stephane Zapletal said last week that this year's Fireman's Parade in the village, scheduled for Friday, May 29, has also been canceled.

"Out of caution we decided to cancel

this year's fire parade for the safety of everyone," Zapletal said. "In a parade it's difficult for people to keep their distance, not to mention for members who have to put in work to set it up."

The decision to cancel the parade was made at the fire department's last board meeting in April, he said.

"It was not a light decision and we tried to wait as long as we could to cancel, but it comes a point where you have to decide," Zapletal said. "If we are able to reschedule, it might be for later this year, maybe very late summer or early fall, conditions permitting. Right now, we just can't say for sure."

Any updates would be posted on the department's Facebook page.

Cancellation of Pleasantville's Fireman's Parade, is the latest annual tradition to fall by the wayside. Last month, the village announced that for the first time since its inception, the Pleasantville Music Festival.

In North Castle, there has already been cancellation of the Armonk Fire Department's 90th anniversary celebration and the Armonk Lions Club's annual Fo-de-Rol in early June.

Another event, the Stayin' Alive 5K & Fun Run to raise money for northern Westchester first responders, has been



Cancellation of Pleasantville's Fireman's Parade later this month is one of an expanding number of events that has been called off or postponed because of the coronavirus.

postponed until Saturday, Aug. 30. The event, which is held at Windmill Farm in Armonk, was originally scheduled for this

Saturday, May 16.

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.

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Westchester Hospitals Included in \$265M COVID-19 Fed Funding

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-Harrison) announced Monday that eight hospitals in Westchester and Rockland counties will receive more than \$265 million for essential expenses associated with treating coronavirus patients.

This funding is part of the more than \$5.026 billion previously announced for 90 New York hospitals that have provided inpatient care for 100 or more coronavirus

patients each in COVID-19 high impact areas.

The eight hospitals are White Plains Hospital (\$65,283,067); Montefiore Nyack Hospital (\$44,828,287); Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla (\$49,115,383); Good Samaritan Hospital, Suffern (\$39,262,377); Phelps Hospital, Sleepy Hollow (\$20,312,951); Northern Westchester Hospital, Mount Kisco (\$16,295,632);

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, White Plains (\$11,181,812); and New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, Cortlandt Manor (\$19,502,808).

The eight hospitals will use the funding, allocated through the Provider Relief Fund from the CARES Act, for costs associated with operating in a coronavirus disease hotspot. This relief ensures that hospitals can continue to treat coronavirus patients and increase staffing, bed capacity and much-needed personal protective equipment.

"As a hospital in the epicenter of the COVID outbreak, we have been in this fight from the beginning, caring for more than 1,200 inpatients and countless other patients in

the Emergency Department with the virus," said Susan Fox, White Plains Hospital's president and CEO. "This federal funding is critical to help strengthen Hospitals like ours as we face the incredible economic burdens resulting from COVID-19."

Monday's announcement brings the total for COVID-19 high impact areas across the country from \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

"The Lower Hudson Valley will overcome the impacts of this pandemic, but we must continue allocating our federal dollars wisely to save lives, increase testing, and prevent the further spread of COVID-19," Lowey said.

Bedford Schools Look to Preserve Freshman, Modified Sports

By Martin Wilbur

As the Bedford School District faces a \$3.3 million budget deficit, school officials may be able to avoid drastically reducing freshman and modified sports next year.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Administrative Services Cynthia Hawthorne said last week that a proposed reduction of nearly \$42,000 in athletic stipends would have significantly cut back the athletic opportunities for students in grades 7-9.

However, she said that Athletic Director Adam Lodewick suggested the Board of Education tell him how much to reduce the department's budget, and he and his department would make the decision what to cut based on the interest level demonstrated by students.

"So it's not necessarily cutting any one level of sports, for instance freshman sports versus modified sports, but based on enrollment,

based on what the students wanted and signed up for, we would make the determination and he would make the reduction as the year goes on," Hawthorne said.

There's a possibility that fall sports could be called off depending on what is happening with the coronavirus, she said. If that occurred, there could be enough money for most or all winter and spring sports, if athletic competition returned later next school year.

Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg and members of the board said it was a strong recommendation by Lodewick, which would preserve the most popular programs instead of cutting across the board.

"We're trying to save these experiences for kids. He's trying to find other efficiencies," Adelberg said.

Other possibilities could be to eliminate some assistant coaches or to consider merged teams in some sports with another school district.

Never Forgotten



Westchester County Executive George Latimer ties a ribbon to a tree at Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers last Wednesday as part of the Ribbons of Remembrance memorial dedicated to the more than 1,200 county residents lost to COVID-19. The memorial is a short walk from the preserve's parking lot in front of the Wightman Mansion. Visitors are encouraged to write the name of someone they have lost on the ribbon and tie it to one of two trees or the rope structure. Ribbons and permanent markers are available at the memorial and visitors are asked to drop used permanent markers in the designated bin to be properly disinfected by parks staff.

The Peekskill Police Association's Annual Concert at

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This event will be rescheduled for late Summer.

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Obituaries

Charles Burgdorf

Charles Ambrose Burgdorf, 83, entered eternal life on Apr. 17 in Westfield, N.J. after a long illness.

Charlie's family feels blessed that his final wish of dying at home in his own bedroom was fulfilled. He leaves behind his wife, Margaret (McGettigan), of 57 years; his son, Charles Michael, and wife Christina of Manhasset N.Y.; grandson Brendan, and his wife, Jessica, of Philadelphia; granddaughters Sadie, Olivia and Maelyn; grandsons Christian and Toby; son Patrick Hugh and his wife, Erin, and their three children, Eva, Hugh and Ella of Allenhurst, N.J.; daughter-in-law Betsey; and cousin James Barry of Peekskill.

He first saw the light of day on Sept. 8, 1936, in Peekskill, the only child of Ambrose Charles Burgdorf and Catherine Agnes Burgdorf (Taylor). His loving parents raised him during World War II, and even at an early age he was a patriot who practiced conservation. He collected aluminum foil and paper during the war, for which he received an award from his town.

He attended the Peekskill School District through high school where he was an honors student and excelled in baseball, football and basketball. He attended Lehigh University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering and business administration. He was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and a pitcher on the university baseball team. After graduation,



Charles Burgdorf

he began his career at PPG Industries in Newark, N.J. Burgdorf later attended evening classes at Rutgers University in Newark where he received an MBA and professional engineering license.

In 1961, he met the love of his life, Margaret, a young immigrant from Scotland. Married within a year in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Stamford, Conn., they moved to Bloomfield, N.J. and began their married life together. One year later, they became parents as they delighted in the birth of their first child, Charlie. Two years later, they doubled their delight when their second son, Patrick, was born.

They moved to Westfield in 1967, where they put down deep roots. Burgdorf was an original member of The Parish Community of

Saint Helen. At this time, he was employed by M&T Chemical Company in Rahway, N.J., which later became part of Total Fina. He traveled for several years to Carrollton, Ky., where he managed a large engineering project. For his expertise in the handling of the project, the state of Kentucky honored him with the distinction of being named a Kentucky colonel.

Burgdorf remained active by coaching youth sports and was also a member of the Westfield Boosters Association. He was a supporter of the Westfield High School wrestling team and traveled to out-of-town venues for many matches. In 1976, he coached the Bisons, a youth baseball team in the Pony League, beginning a multiyear championship run rivaling that of the New York Yankees.

He was, for many years, a dispatcher for the Westfield Rescue Squad.

Burgdorf had a great love for his nine grandchildren and took delight in all their endeavors, be it theater, dance, sports and academics. He loved his home at the Jersey Shore where he spent many hours walking

the beach. Another great love was fishing off the beach, having only caught one fish ever, which required assistance from Margaret to get it off the hook. He was a prolific reader of the classics and biographies and enjoyed U.S. history, especially the Civil War era. He was a dedicated New York Mets fan.

Charlie will be sorely missed by all who loved him. All who knew him are asked to raise a glass in celebration of the remarkable life he lived and the legacy he leaves behind. May his soul rest in peace.

Our heartfelt gratitude to the hospice team of Atlantic Health System and his devoted doctor, Joseph Clemente, of Warren, N.J. Also, to The Parish Community of Saint Helen and their priests for constantly keeping him in their prayers during his illness.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at a later date at Saint Helen. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Helping Hearts and Hands, c/o Saint Helen, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield, N.J. 07090 or to a charity of your choice.

Evelyn DiBenedetto

Evelyn Katherine DiBenedetto passed away on May 2 at 93 years old due to complications from COVID-19 at Phelps Memorial Hospital.

The daughter of Jesse Roy Hayes and Evelyn Maude Benton of Tampa, Fla., she was an 80-year resident of Ossining and retired as Ossining town clerk in 1981 after 29 years of

service.

DiBenedetto is survived by two sisters, Ann Turco of Cortland, N.Y. and Sandra Panky of Rocky Point, N.C.; two sons, William of Briarcliff Manor and Robert of Montgomery, N.Y.; 5 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



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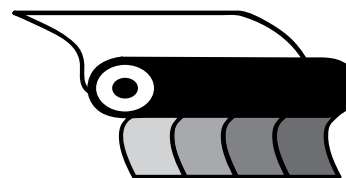
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Chappaqua Service Station Donating Percentage of Sales to Food Bank

By Martin Wilbur

Larry Milton has come up with a plan to help an organization that is assisting thousands of people put food on the table and drive more business to his Chappaqua gas station and auto repair shop.

Last Wednesday, Milton, owner of New Castle Auto Center on the corner of routes 117 and 120, launched a promotion where he is donating to Feeding Westchester in Elmsford a nickel for every gallon of gas sold and 5 percent of labor costs for each repair at his shop.

With community members across the area and the United States coming up with ideas to help those who have lost their jobs, Milton wanted to do something to help. As of a couple of weeks ago, demand was estimated to have nearly doubled at food pantries across the area. Feeding Westchester provides many of the county's local pantries with product.

"It's something we can do," he said. "You try and think of something else where you can help out. It's a promotion. Hopefully, we'll increase our gasoline volume and our service volume that has also been hurt by the pandemic. People aren't driving."

Milton said he is trying the donation drive for 30 days. If it's successful and

drivers stop by his shop to either fill up their tank or get something fixed on their vehicle, he would extend it beyond the first week of June.

He estimated that over a 30-day span, 5 percent of labor costs may translate to between \$1,000 and \$2,000 raised for Feeding Westchester. However, demand for repairs and gas have fallen by about 50 percent since the start of the mid-March economic shutdown, Milton said.

Gas stations and auto repair shops have remained open throughout the pandemic because they are deemed essential businesses.

"It's a tough situation, so we're trying to help a little bit," Milton said.

While business has declined, he has managed to avoid laying anybody off. So far the only significant change has been closing the gas station at 8 p.m., two hours earlier than usual.

As far as gas sales, Milton's hoping for good weather this month. His pumps don't have a canopy, so if it's raining, then sales will suffer, he said. But he has faith in local residents.

"It's a good community," Milton said. "We're fortunate that we are okay. The guys are all healthy. We wear the masks and the gloves."



The sign that went up last week at New Castle Auto Center. The station will participate in a promotion where a portion of its gas sales and repair service fees will be donated this month to Feeding Westchester.

New Castle Auto Center is open for repairs Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings starting at 7:30 a.m. The gas station operates seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. To make an appointment for service or for more information, call 914-238-4461.

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Obituaries

Dominick Anfiteatro

Dominick J. Anfiteatro passed on May 4 to be with our Lord and daughter Andrea. He was 90.

Anfiteatro lived in Putnam Valley but part of his heart always remained in Croton-on-Hudson where he was born and raised. He was a kind and generous man who always had a kind word and good outlook for everyone and everything.

He graduated from Croton-Harmon High School. He met his wife, Patricia Scanlon, in 1951 and they were married that same year. Anfiteatro served four years as a radioman in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955.

Dom was a hard worker all his life. When he received his honorable discharge from the Navy, he cleared trees for a construction company. He then opened a one-room gas station in Croton-on-Hudson where the Croton Diner now stands. The building had one small room and a bathroom. It had a lift outside and he worked all hours, late into the night, in all kinds of weather – summer and winter – to repair cars on the outside lift.

After a few years he moved across the street to manage Eddie's Shell. Eddie loved Dom like a son. His work ethic remained and he worked many 16- to 18-hour days. Eventually he was able to purchase the building and business, which became Dom's Friendly Service.

In the late years, he purchased the body

shop at the top of the hill and it became Croton Auto Body. He had the odd distinction of being born where he worked. His parents lived in a house where Eddie Abrahams eventually built his service station. His dedication to always strive to make a better life for his family was very important to him as was the devotion he had to his customers.

Anfiteatro also volunteered his time with the Croton Fire Department's Hook and Ladder Company and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a proud member of American Legion Post 505 in Croton-on-Hudson and a lifelong parishioner at Holy Name of Mary.

He leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Pat; his daughter, Doreen, and her husband, Vincent DiMilia; son James and his girlfriend, Linda; his son, Adam, and wife Alicia; his son, David; his much-loved grandsons, Christopher and Michael DiMilia, Dominick Anfiteatro, Andrew, Brian and Matthew Anfiteatro, Michael DiGirolamo and Jake and Jared Friedman; his great-granddaughter, Isabella; sister Amelia; and many nieces and nephews. Anfiteatro was predeceased by daughter Andrea last year.

He loved his family with all his heart. Dom was loved deeply by family and friends and we will miss him tremendously.

Due to the coronavirus, a private funeral was held at Edward F. Carter Funeral Home.

Robert Spring

Lake Carmel resident Robert (Bob) Joseph Spring passed away on Apr. 27. He was 87.

A loving husband and father, he was born July 3, 1932, to John and Alice (Frank) Spring. He was an iconic figure in the art casting industry, leading his family-owned company Modern Art Foundry. He worked with legendary artists including Jacques Lipchitz and Louise Bourgeois, and cast internationally recognized classics such as

"Alice in Wonderland" in New York City's Central Park.

Spring will be greatly missed by his wife of 67 years, Betty; his five children, Chris, Mary Jo, David, Laura and Jeffrey; their spouses; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. His sister, Alice, also survives him, as well as many nieces, nephews and other family members. He is predeceased by his parents and brother.

Virtual Candidate Forum for 17th Congressional District Primaries

The League of Women Voters of Westchester County and the League of Women Voters of Rockland County announced last week that they will jointly sponsor virtual candidates' forums for the 17th Congressional District races.

A virtual forum for the two Republican candidates, Yehudis Gottesfeld and Maureen McArdle Schulman, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For the eight Democratic candidates the virtual forum is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The League will use the video conferencing application Zoom. As it is neither practical nor prudent for participants to be co-located for this event, participants will join from their chosen remote locations.

Plans are being made for live-streaming the forums. The forums will be recorded for subsequent viewing on League websites through Tuesday, June 23, when the primary will be held. Questions from the public will be solicited.

To register for the Democratic forum, visit bit.ly/lwvcd17demlive. If you wish to submit a question for the candidates to be asked during the forum, visit bit.ly/lwvcd17demques.

For more information, e-mail www.lwvcd17@gmail.com.

The 17th Congressional District covers parts of central and northwestern Westchester County, and all of Rockland County. Nita Lowey, who is retiring at the end of this year, currently represents the district.

Eric Bender

Eric S. Bender, a longtime resident of Yorktown and later Mahopac, passed away unexpectedly on May 5. He was 28 and had struggled with substance abuse for many years.

Eric was born on Apr. 9, 1992, in Corpus Christi, Texas, the son of Dean Bender and Jenny Stasikewich of Mahopac.

He attended Yorktown schools and was an accomplished guitarist and artist, yet his true love was working with dogs as a trainer and kennel worker. For many years he worked at the SPCA in Briarcliff Manor and later D.O.G. in Putnam Valley.

Bender will be remembered as a gentle and caring young man who loved animals. He was exceptionally compassionate, always helping the less fortunate and homeless. He was profoundly empathetic, sticking up for people who were hurting or being bullied. He was a very quiet person, but when he did speak, people listened because what he had to say was relevant and heartfelt. At the time of his death, Eric was embracing the



Eric Bender

teachings of Buddha.

He is survived by his parents, Dean and Jenny, and his brother, Scott, of Peekskill.

Joseph DeBiase

Joseph Paul DeBiase of Cortlandt Manor died on May 6. He was 73 years old.

For more than 30 years, DeBiase worked for Verizon and also served as a chief steward for Locals 1105 and 1103.

DeBiase was born on Feb. 20, 1947, in Yonkers to Joseph P. DeBiase Sr. and Jeanette Louise Frugis DeBiase. He graduated from Commerce High School in 1965, and earned an AAS in business administration from Elizabeth Seton College.

He was a proud member of the Peekskill Volunteer Fire Department, serving as trustee for Columbian Engine as well as treasurer for the Peekskill Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Fourth of July Parade.

DeBiase is survived by his best friend and beloved wife of 50 years, Dorothy Lynn Altman DeBiase, and his daughters, Dana Louise DeBiase Barti and Deborah Lynn DeBiase and son-in-law John Barti. He was the proud and loving grandfather (Papa) to Madelyn Rose, Adam Joseph and Andrew John, and is survived by nieces Sara Cialdella and Lisa Cialdella; nephew

Salvatore Cialdella; and many grandnieces and grandnephews. In addition, he had a loving and fun relationship with his brother-in-law, George Altman, and sister-in-law Jean Altman. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Marie Cialdella, and infant daughter Denise Lorraine.

Everyone who knew Joe loved him and described him as a great guy. He was quick with a smile and a helping hand. He was generous with his time and always looked for a way to help when needed.

Affectionately known as "Buddy Crocker" and "Grumpy," he was an avid reader, collector and connoisseur of fountain pens and teas and could identify the year, make and model of any car ever at a glance. He could fix or build almost anything and always had a solution for any mechanical problem. He was loved and will be missed by many.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested to be made to the Peekskill Volunteer Firefighters Association, 1141 Main St., Peekskill, N.Y. 10566 Attn: Chief John Rose.

Gladys Mistretta

Gladys M. Mistretta, a longtime Mahopac resident, passed away peacefully on Apr. 28. She was 78.

Mistretta was born in Brooklyn on Jan. 11, 1942, the daughter of John and Olga (Stieglmayer) Richard, and sister to John and Robert Richard.

She enjoyed her work in hospitality and served thousands of customers. She enjoyed dancing, cooking, gardening, helping and caring for animals, spending time near the ocean and bay and time with

her family.

Mistretta is survived by her daughters, Gigi Zimmermann and Elizabeth Honigsberg; her son, Richard Mistretta; brother Robert Richard and his wife, Gloria; sister-in-law Rosemarie; son-in-law Rolf Zimmerman; daughter-in-law Joan Mistretta; eight grandchildren, Derek, Dylan, Mark, Thomas, Talia, Brianna, Gaetano and Joseph; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, John Richard.

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Appellate Division Upholds Democrat's Bid to Challenge Abinanti

By Martin Wilbur

The state Supreme Court's Appellate Division last Thursday validated a Democratic challenger's petition to be on the June 23 primary ballot against Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville).

It now appears that Irvington resident Jennifer Williams will contest the Democratic nomination next month against the five-term incumbent in the 92nd Assembly District.

"My opponent has expended so much taxpayer money on this matter already," Williams said of the decision on her campaign's Facebook page. "I just hope that he is finally ready to let the voters, not the courts, decide who is best suited to represent the Rivertowns in Albany as their Assemblywoman."

Abinanti said that the Democratic chairs in the towns of Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh, the two towns that the district covers, filed objections to Williams' petition at the Westchester County Board of Elections shortly after it was submitted. The Board of Elections agreed with the challenge and kept her off the ballot.

Williams, a small business owner and first-time candidate for public office, challenged the decision in state Supreme Court and received a favorable ruling. Abinanti then went to the Appellate Division, where again Williams prevailed last week.

Abinanti said he has pursued the



It appears Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, left, will have a challenger in the June 23 primary after the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court ruled in favor of Irvington resident Jennifer Williams' bid to be on the ballot.



challenge because at the top of her petition it wasn't clear whether Williams was running for the Assembly or for the state committee from the 92nd District. There are two candidates from the district running for the committee.

"She did not cross anything out when she submitted the petition," Abinanti said. "She used the language public office or party position, so hers basically can be indistinguishable from somebody running for the state committee."

But Williams said that Abinanti as a lawyer was searching for technicalities to deny her a shot at the seat. It's a typical

ploy when members of "the old guard" are unexpectedly challenged, she said.

"Five judges have all agreed on the same verdict and it's a very simple example of the oldest trick in the book – tie someone up, waste someone's time, bankrupt their campaign and win in the courts and deny people a choice," Williams said. "That to me, it's not correct."

Abinanti is going to the Court of Appeals in a final attempt to end her candidacy. He indicated that he doesn't think the courts right now are willing to knock anyone off the ballot even though there are multiple precedents around the state where a nearly

identical miscue was made and the courts upheld the Board of Elections decision.

But the assemblyman said he believes that a representative can't make an error that only a novice would commit.

"This is a legal document," Abinanti said. "You're going to have to read the laws you'll have to vote on. You're going to have to draft laws your going to vote on. If you don't know what office you're running for, how are you going to do the job?"

No Republicans are running for their party's nomination to contest the seat in November.

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White Plains Fire Department Salutes a Fallen Comrade

The White Plains Fire Department remembered Deputy Chief Edward Ciocca on Tuesday, May 5 with a ceremony outside McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. Ciocca, a nearly 35-year veteran, died on May 1 from complications from COVID-19. He was given a full department funeral with family friends and his colleagues on hand to mourn his passing. He was a third-generation firefighter and was set to retire later this year.



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Eagle Scout Project Captures Proud Local Veterans' Stories on Video

By Clever Streich

In every community there are heroes who have served the United States military but never have had the opportunity to share their story. They're honored in parades, dinners and ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. But we need to discover who these people are and what they accomplished.

I wanted to hear from the members of the Mount Kisco American Legion, men who had protected our rights and freedoms as Americans, and I had the chance to present their stories for my Eagle Scout service project.

I had grown up down the street from the Moses S. Taylor American Legion Post 136. I have attended many events at the hall, including with the Boy Scouts. As I grew older, I recognized the importance of the men and women at the American Legion.

As a future communications major in college, I decided to make my project's statement through media. "Proud to Serve: The Mount Kisco Veterans Story" is a documentary featuring interviews with five local veterans representing each branch of the military who served in conflicts from World War II to the War on Terror. Framed around Veterans Day 2019 during the annual 24-hour honor guard outside Mount Kisco Village Hall, we get to meet these veterans through personal firsthand accounts.

"It was important for me to show others what the Legion is about and what our military services do," said Rodger Guest, a



The 'Proud to Serve' film crew poses with Peter "Barney" Bambase, a 97-year-old World War II veteran, after an interview.

Coast Guard veteran and current commander of Post 136.

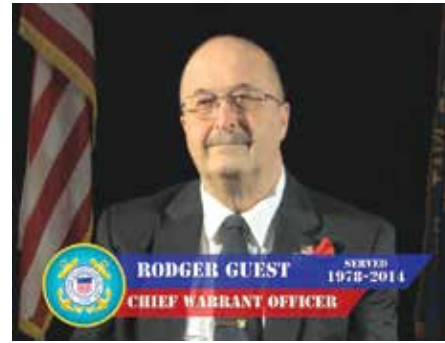
During his interview, Guest recounted life-changing memories in boot camp, enduring rigorous exercise to achieve top physical condition.

"I want to show this film to my family, friends and some veterans I know," said Eric Thompson, a Vietnam era draftee.

Growing up in the Bronx, Thompson received a subway token in the mail from the U.S. Draft Board, "so Uncle Sam gave you no excuse not to go."

As an Army radio teletype operator, he specialized in Morse code during his time in the service. The newest member of the Post, Thompson encourages recruitment. "Every vet should consider becoming a member of the American Legion," he said.

The nearly 45-minute film features 97-year-old Army Air Corps mechanic Peter "Barney" Bambase, former Mount Kisco mayor and Marine Michael Cindrich



Coast Guard veteran Rodger Guest, the current commander of American Legion Post 136 in Mount Kisco.

and Navy man Constantino Procopis. Their stories cover topics such as race relations, homecomings, culture shock and loss.

Behind the scenes, the production crew was composed of my fellow Troop 1 Boy Scouts and several of my high school peers. For the majority of the crew, this was their first experience in the world of filmmaking.

During this project, I became aware of an important parallel that existed between the veterans and our crew. Each serviceman spoke of the camaraderie they felt during their service and afterward at the Legion, making friends and experiencing challenges in new environments. Each was branching out at a young age, just as my friends and I were in helping bring the film to life without any prior experience. By venturing into the unknown, we all took risks and stepped out of comfort zones.

The crew built an interview set and

operated lighting rigs, microphones and camera equipment. Team members ranged from 11 to 18 years old, with more than 15 participants helping throughout the process, generating over 300 community service hours.

"One of my favorite experiences was recording the Veterans Day ceremony," said Toriana Sauro, a Fox Lane High School senior who served as one of the interviewers on set. "This movie was made for the best reasons and we were all together as a team. I really felt a part of something special."

Maya Stark, a Fox Lane sophomore, had a meaningful experience on set.

"We should all be extremely grateful to live in a country where we are free and we owe that to the people who fight for this country," said Stark, the film's assistant director. "It was nice to be able to work with people that I love toward something that will benefit our community."

I am grateful to the servicemen for sharing their stories, and thank everyone who assisted with this project and helped foster the community we created along the way.

To watch 'Proud to Serve,' visit www.proudtoservemovie.com and hear the stories of these local heroes who feel truly honored to have served our country and continue to serve their fellow veterans at the American Legion.

Clever Streich is a Fox Lane High School senior who is on the verge of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

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Editorial

State's Reopening Metrics Should Provide Confidence to Skittish Public

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has received predominantly stellar reviews over the past two months for his handling, or even more so, his messaging of the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic.

But perhaps the most valuable and substantive of his numerous valuable and substantive daily briefings have been in the last week with the outline of how New York State is going to slowly get back to work.

It's not what anybody wants, at least not in a perfect world. But the analytical and deliberate blueprint for getting society moving again is the only credible way to get a skittish public to ease back into the world.

There are plenty of opinions circulating, including some locally, about getting back to normal. Everyone is antsy to return

to their routines. It's easy to become impatient, particularly those who've lost their livelihoods and don't know when they will see a paycheck again.

But the risk of exposing too many people too fast is too large of a gamble with such an easily transmissible and lethal virus.

First, it's good to see someone follow the Centers for Disease Control's guidelines for reopening. The fact that this national health institute has been minimized during the greatest public health threat in at least a century is a scandal.

It makes sense that it appears that three of the state's most sparsely populated regions have met the metrics that have been devised by health officials. It also makes sense that there be testing, tracing and isolation to control the rate of infection and enough hospital capacity to handle

any spikes. These are real standards, not fantastical make-believe reasons, that are easy to understand and that most of the public should be happy to embrace.

It's also no surprise that New York City is trailing among the 10 regions. This virus loves to attack people, and the more of them that are around the better.

That Westchester and Putnam may have to wait an extra week or two shouldn't be cause for concern. The hospitalizations, active cases and deaths have been trending downward for days. When the standards are met, there will be the public confidence necessary to dip our toes into the water again.

It's critical as a society we get this right. We've seen enough illness, death and despair the last two months to last a lifetime.

Letters to the Editor

Mt. Pleasant is Hard at Work to Help Residents Despite Challenges

During these challenging times, I want to personally thank our medical professionals, first responders, emergency personnel and those who unselfishly dedicate their time, energy, resources and food to our seniors, those who cannot leave their homes and those devastated by the loss of jobs and who are experiencing a true financial hardship. Each of you have truly shown what Mount Pleasant is all about.

Thanks also goes out to the members of our Town Board who have, day in and day out, dedicated their time to help others. Laurie and Peter Smalley have delivered hot meals to senior citizens and veterans each week. Danielle Zaino is running our Feeding Families in Need hotline and Jerry Schulman is out delivering donated food and groceries. Tom Sialiano has been a great help to keeping town business moving. My assistant, Amanda Jasilli, has been extraordinary managing office and residents' needs seamlessly from work and at home, at all hours of the day.

Thank you to our residents who have been understanding while Town Hall has been closed and to our devoted employees who have

dealt with rotating schedules, remote working conditions and focusing on the safety of others. Most of our departments have been working to keep potential projects moving forward and issuing permits, with the anticipation of work commencing as soon as possible. Without future projects and the interest developers have in our town, the financial impact would be more serious than it is.

Although I am thankful for remote meetings in times like these, nothing is better than face-to-face discussions and seeing all of you in person. A big thank you to Nick DiPaolo for launching and moderating our remote board meetings, as well as assisting with COVID-19 communications.

The disinfecting process we initiated from Day One will most likely continue, and we have already proceeded with safety measure that will protect our residents, as well as our employees in the immediate future.

There has been an obvious economic toll, not only on so many of our residents and businesses but also on our town budget. Thankfully, intelligent financial planning and savings has kept us in a better position than

most communities. Rest assured we will continue to watch every dollar and we will cut where we can while delivering the necessary services our residents deserve.

You should be aware that there are property tax measures that took place May 1 to assist those STAR recipients and those who need more time to pay their town and county taxes. It was a collaboration of all town supervisors, the Westchester County Board of Legislators and New York State to create a fair way to assist those in need. Information is posted on the Receiver of Taxes' web page under Updated Guidance for 2020 County/Town Taxes due to COVID-19.

Finally, Census 2020 is a very important process that we must focus on. It will affect future funding for our state, county and our town. Please remember to reply, if you haven't done so already. Reminders have been mailed to you to fill out online.

I am hopeful that we can get back to a new normal very soon.

Stay safe.

Carl Fulgenzi
Supervisor, Town of Mount Pleasant

Motorized Vehicles Are Damaging Yorktown's Hiking and Biking Trails

How have you been spending time outside during this time of social distancing? If you are like me, my wife and many of our neighbors, you are probably spending more time walking on the streets within your neighborhood or hiking on nearby town trails.

It's good to get outside for fresh air and exercise, and I've noticed that most people that we've encountered during the pandemic have been respectful of the distancing recommendations that have come from our state and local officials. Most people have been complying, even as the requirements have ramped up from maintaining a six-foot separation to now wearing masks or face coverings when in public.

One thing that has shocked us, however, has been the increasing damage to our local hiking and biking trails from motorized

vehicles, which are not permitted on these trails. Recently, we have observed riders on motocross cycles riding through FDR Park, both on and off trails. These powerful machines dig up the landscape, killing groundcover plants, which causes erosion and increased runoff and silt deposit into our streams and lakes. We have noted that this damage was not a one-time event but is increasing as motorcyclists continue to ride on the trails within the park.

Why does this matter? These trails are on the grounds of FDR Park, part of the state public park system. As public trails, they belong to all visitors, giving us the privilege to use them in exchange for accepting the responsibility of following park rules. The rules banning motorized vehicles on these trails are needed to protect the fragile groundcover and established trails that were

designed and constructed for light usage by hikers and mountain bikers. Continued use by motorcycles will only increase the damage, negatively impacting the park environment and outdoor experience for the rest of the residents.

If you have been hiking or bike riding the trails, please continue to enjoy them while following the social distancing rules for as long as they are in effect. If you have been riding your motorcycles on these trails, however, please stop. As an alternative, please consider riding on local roads or private property trails (with permission) that are designed to handle these vehicles, and reserve the park trails for hikers and mountain bikes.

Michael Epting
Yorktown Heights

Local Teens Produce Video to Stress the Need for Social Distancing

By Martin Wilbur

Teenagers and young adults can often feel invincible, believing they are immune from anything bad that can happen, including the ravages of a pandemic.

What better way to tell them otherwise than from a group of their peers?

That's what members of the Northern Westchester Hospital's President's Leadership Council recently did, producing a one-minute public service announcement video last month urging young people and the larger community on the importance of social distancing and staying home to protect oneself and others. The council is comprised of roughly 50 high school-age students from the surrounding communities served by the hospital.

"We were kind of confused by teenagers who still weren't listening, so we thought that it would be impactful for people their age to tell them that you guys need to stay home and stay safe because sometimes people listen to their peers a lot," said Sydney Levy, a Byram Hills High School sophomore and one of the council members instrumental in producing the video.

The video has been circulated

among many of the schools in the 10 northern Westchester communities represented in the council, at the hospital itself and on various social media platforms.

Another student, Madison Mezzatesta of Mount Kisco, a junior at Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Conn., said she and Levy were hoping to make a difference in the community, particularly early on in the crisis. She said the first couple of weekends following the stay-at-home orders she had seen and had heard of a lot of socializing among teenagers, not taking the guidelines from public health officials seriously.

"I think part of it is a lot of people are bored and they're kind of sick of the situation, which makes sense, and that's why we had to put this (video) out as quick as we could," Mezzatesta said.

To address that understandable boredom and anxiety for teenagers who socialize regularly at school and with friends, Levy and Mezzatesta were part of a council subcommittee that came up with the idea for the video and its theme – engaging in enjoyable activities that can be done at home.

The video features students at high schools throughout the council's area engaging in dancing, artwork, playing basketball in



The final shot of the 60-second public service announcement that students from the Northern Westchester Hospital's President's Leadership Council produced emphasizing the importance of social distancing.

the backyard and cooking. In the video's final frame, 10 students are shown at one time in separate boxes, each holding a sign with one word that collectively posts the message "The Shorter It Will Be Is Up To You And Me."

Once the idea was settled upon, members shot a short bit at home, and while working remotely, pieced the brief scenes together. Levy and Mezzatesta said it took about a week to plan and another

week to put together.

They each asked the principals at their schools to share and circulate digitally within the respective school communities.

Levy said another objective was to remind parents not to let their kids talk them into letting them socialize with friends.

"We wanted parents to watch it to make sure they weren't persuaded by their kids and let the kids leave," she said.

Margaret Ribaud, a registered nurse and community educator at Northern Westchester Hospital, said what was impressive about the video and other unrelated projects is that the council is completely student-driven. She said the council was formed so hospital representatives could get a better understanding of what affects teenagers and their lives.

In this case, Levy and Mezzatesta presented the idea to Amy Rosenfeld, who leads the council.

"It's very representative of how these kids always function," Ribaud said. "They just blow your mind. They have the pulse and they use it to make an impact. They were bothered how people were not necessarily – their peers – were not necessarily taking this seriously and wanted to make an immediate impact, too."

Since this video was produced, the council made another one as a tribute to the frontline workers at the hospital.

"We hope our video inspires others in the community to find things that they love doing at home to make the most of this difficult experience," Mezzatesta said.

To view the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0-9yp54HZU>.

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An Extended Quarantine and the Home Design it Inspires

As a realtor, I marvel at the creative ways that homeowners and sellers are maintaining distancing requirements to avoid COVID-19 while marketing homes for sale.

Real estate agents have been told that they must conduct business from their homes, which has led to a vast increase in virtual showings. All open houses and in-person showings have been explicitly banned. It's a different world for anyone seeking to sell or buy a home.

Looking back into my files of Home Guru columns, I found an article written almost exactly 10 years ago on the subject of "cocooning," which was yesterday's term for isolating – or quarantining – oneself. The difference between isolating yesterday and quarantining today, of course, is that cocooning was done by choice, a lifestyle, while quarantining ourselves now is by necessity to avoid the deadly coronavirus.

With cocooning, homeowners chose to hunker down at home enjoying more activities there, rather than going out. With the quarantine, we isolate ourselves to save our lives. Quite a difference.

Futurist Faith Popcorn (a name of creative device) first coined the term cocooning and its meaning in the early 1990s. At the time, as a public relations practitioner, I was participating in a project with her, but personally was very

much doubting her projections, at least for myself. What, me? A stay-at-home? Never. Who could have predicted COVID-19?

Today, any of us with any concern for our health is isolating because we must, and that is impacting the way our homes will look and function in the future.

Popcorn's forecast was for a home-centered lifestyle to be supported with gadgets, furnishings and accessories to make one's abode a more welcoming entertainment and work hub. She even projected the advent of shopping at home through technology long before the concept was developed. In fact,

the re-emergence of this lifestyles trend was aided and abetted by 21st century technology.

The trend today is renamed as a quarantine to better communicate the desire to remain healthy in the face of a pandemic. Supporting that message is our use of face masks and gloves and distancing from each other.

The world has suddenly changed, becoming a hostile environment, and we find that we must change with it to protect ourselves. Cocooning could be a slow procedure, but with the necessity of quarantine, we must take quick action.

This lifestyles phenomenon has necessarily led to the quick design of home offices, not just spare bedrooms, and designated entertainment rooms fashioned as theaters



By Bill Primavera



and gaming rooms. We will no doubt be seeing more flat screen televisions in living rooms, hot tubs in garden rooms and more home gyms.

And we must be creative in satisfying our need to socialize. Of course, there is Zoom, where we can all tune into our social network. My wife Margaret, wishing to see a dear friend in real time, has come up with the idea that we both take our cars to a mall parking lot, park next to each other, roll down the windows and have a normal conversation as though the world is as it was.

In answer to any argument that spending less time outside the home will stall the economy's recovery, just consider all the new technology, accessories and furnishings we'll be needing to turn our homes into work and

entertainment hubs.

While writing this column on my new laptop, I'm lounging in my pajamas in a comfortable easy chair in my bedroom, intermittently watching TCM on my large screen TV and, in my left-over brain space, enjoying Bette Midler streaming from Netflix on my iPad, while periodically checking for e-mail and voicemails on my iPhone. Case closed.

Bill Primavera, while a writer and editor, is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the talents and services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding during this difficult time. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

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Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners

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Peekskill Industrial Development Agency Elects Post as Chairperson

The Peekskill Industrial Development Agency (PIDA) has announced the election of Deborah Post as chairperson.

Post, who joined the organization in 2010, previously served as secretary and vice chair of the board of directors.

Post's commitment to community improvement is demonstrated by more than 30 years of work experience in community and economic development, affordable housing development and planning. Her career has spanned the non-profit, public and private sectors.

Since 2009, Post served as senior director of housing development and finance for Community Housing Innovations, Inc., a nonprofit housing agency that operates in Westchester and the surrounding region. In this role, she secured funding and approvals and completed the development and rehabilitation of emergency, transitional and affordable permanent housing that reinforce the agency's mission to provide housing and human services that support social and economic independence.

Most recently, Post took over the agency's development and communications role. She previously worked for a for-profit affordable housing development company in Westchester.

"Appointing Deborah Post to the Peekskill IDA is exciting for the City of Peekskill, especially during these times," said Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey. "We're looking to continue moving the city forward and, in order to do so, we need individuals with drive, passion and skill who are ready to give our city a well-deserved new beginning. The PIDA is a great asset to our great city and having great people on board will result in great things happening. We look forward to the continued partnership with the IDA under her leadership and the progress of this place we all call home."

The PIDA, a corporate governmental agency constituting a public benefit corporation, was created to assist the City of Peekskill in financing projects within the city's limits that would enhance the social and economic fabric of the community.

A 24-year Peekskill resident, Post was employed by the city in the 1990s as its director of economic development, deputy director of planning and as the assistant director of the PIDA. During her tenure with Peekskill, the successful Downtown Artist Lofts Program was initiated and more than 500,000 square feet of light industrial development was completed at Peekskill's Charles Point Industrial Park.

"Before the COVID-19 pandemic, economic

development efforts in Peekskill were gathering momentum," Post said. "There has been a renewed interest in Peekskill as a destination point and as a place to live. That interest, coupled with the \$10 million DRI grant, puts our city in a position to hit the ground running once distancing restrictions are relaxed. We expect the PIDA and its sister agencies, the PLDC and the PFDC, will be instrumental in the implementation of the various development plans that are being considered. We at the PIDA are looking forward to being an integral part of Peekskill's recovery and growth."

"Deborah's economic development expertise is extensive and Peekskill is fortunate to have such an accomplished

PIDA chairperson," said Matthew Rudikoff, director of the Peekskill Office of Economic Development and IDA executive director.

"I particularly look forward to working with Deborah, the IDA Board and the City Council to achieve innovative and high-impact economic development projects in the coming years,"

Post graduated from the Yale School of Management with a master's in business administration. She also holds a bachelor's of science degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

Deborah Post was recently named the chair of the Peekskill Industrial Development Agency.



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Chappaqua Schools to Present \$128.2M Budget to Voters

By Martin Wilbur

Chappaqua school officials will present a \$128.2 million budget to district voters next month, a spending plan that reduced final spending and lowered the tax levy increase to 1.49 percent.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the document on Apr. 29 with much uncertainty regarding state funding and

how the start of next school year will unfold. The 2020-21 budget increases spending by nearly \$2.1 million, a 1.65 percent increase, but is about \$1.4 million less than originally proposed.

Projected tax rate increases are 1.61 percent for New Castle residents and 2.79 percent for Mount Pleasant residents.

Board President Jane Shepardson said all districts will be facing funding challenges in

the upcoming year. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has stated that schools could see as much as a 20 percent cut in state funding unless the federal government helps the states. New York has an estimated \$13.3 billion state budget deficit.

"We feel that tonight's budget is a fiscally responsible one, but we also know that state uncertainties may cause us to change items throughout the year," Shepardson said.

District officials have tried to balance

the needs of the students with that of the taxpayers. The district is adding a STEAM support teacher at the middle school level, giving each middle school its own full-timer in that role. Another assistant principal and a 0.5 full-time equivalent physical education teacher and assistant athletic director at Horace Greeley High School are being added.

There will be three new full-time psychologists throughout the district.

Reductions include a core elementary-level teacher, three teachers at the middle schools, a 0.2 Latin teacher, two special education administrators and a 0.5 special education chair.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman said the budget maintains all of Chappaqua's strategic goals and the quality of education but keeps the taxpayers in mind. Initially, the tax levy increase was 2.79 percent but has been cut nearly in half.

While the district could lose as much as 20 percent of its budgeted \$9.6 million state aid, Ackerman said Chappaqua is in good position. The district could also realize about \$1.13 million in savings from this year because of the school closure.

"We're able to manage that pretty easily," Ackerman said. "The potential issue we are facing because of the crisis, the governor may make a pandemic adjustment over the course of three periods."

The budget vote and Board of Education election is by absentee ballot only and must be received by the district's clerk's office by June 9 at 5 p.m.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

May 1: A Frog Rock Road resident reported an unknown elderly female in the area appeared to be picking random plants from residences at the beginning of the street at 5:34 p.m. A police officer responded and reported that the party was gone on arrival.

May 3: A caller reported hearing what he believed to be the sound of six gunshots in the area of Banksville Road at 8:38 p.m. The responding officers reported negative results.

May 4: At 6:37 p.m., the 13-year-old daughter of the caller was suspected of having an allergic reaction to food on Banks Farm Road. An officer responded and reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

May 5: A Chestnut Ridge Road resident report that a raccoon in the backyard appeared to be rabid at 5:07 p.m. The dispatched officer reported that the animal appeared to be gone on arrival.

State Police/Cortlandt

May 1: State police from the Cortlandt and Somers barracks arrested Karan Kanojia, 19, of Cortlandt, for leaving the scene of an incident without reporting, which resulted in a fatality. On Apr. 30: At about 9 p.m., police responded to a report of a pedestrian hit on Route 6 in Cortlandt near Locust Avenue. An investigation determined Kanojia, operating a motor vehicle westbound on Route 6, struck Luis A. Rivera, 37, of Peekskill, then left the scene of the crash without reporting the incident.

Rivera was transported to Westchester Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead. Kanojia was issued an appearance ticket returnable to Town of Cortlandt Court on June 29, at 9 a.m. An investigation remains ongoing.

White Plains Police Department

May 8: Police arrested and charged a man with two counts of third-degree burglary. One count was in connection with an incident at the Westchester Mall on Jan. 16 and the other count was involved an auto detailing shop in White Plains on Apr. 5. The suspect was booked and issued an appearance ticket for July.

Yorktown Police

May 4: A 60-year-old Yorktown man was charged at 1:34 p.m. with two counts of second-degree menacing, a Class A misdemeanor, after allegedly threatening two individuals with a hatchet. A temporary order of protection was issued on behalf of the subjects. The suspect is due in Yorktown Town Court June 2.

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Timely Musical Experienced Through a Podcast

By Martin Wilbur

It seems almost surreal the first project that Chappaqua native Katie Rosin would collaborate on with the Broadway Podcast Network is a musical called "Bleeding Love."

The story, loosely based on Oscar Wilde's "The Nightingale and the Rose" and readapted in a book by Jason Schafer, features a teen cellist who risks leaving her apartment in a world where it's too dangerous to go outside to win the love of the rebel next door.

The show, which was divided into three separate episodes and went live over the past three Thursdays on the Broadway Podcast Network, was in the works this winter before the world changed for everyone in mid-March. The show will be played in its entirety this Thursday evening on the network, and the episodes, each about a half-hour long, can be accessed for free on the network's website.

The story and music should be uplifting, especially those stuck at home who have had their fill of the choices on cable or even Netflix.



The musical "Bleeding Love" has been adapted and presented as a podcast on the Broadway Podcast Network.

"It's a story of hope, it's a story of rebirth, that even in a world that's overwhelming, one small person can still change the world," Rosin said.

Recorded in about four weeks through March, the six-person cast, comprised of professional actors, each completed their parts in the comfort of their own home. Through technology, the cast was able to see each other and communicate with one another as they recorded.

However, with uneven acoustic quality from each actor's residence, the cast had to get creative. One member had to

talk with a pillow over their head while another was forced to deliver dialogue underneath bed covers to achieve the right sound.

"It was all really very exciting and we had to be as inventive as possible and work with what we had," said Rosin, a Horace Greeley High School graduate who now lives in Nyack and is actually an arts and theater publicist. "There were no sound boards, anything to absorb the sound around us, so we had to sort of make-do with what we could do."

The music, recorded in 2016 during its run at the Fredericia Teater in Denmark, was infused into the production, Rosin said.

She said there were some relatively minimal revisions to the script because it was written for stage but otherwise stood up well.

Rosin, the co-producer, became involved with the project after attending the New York Theater Musical Festival last summer. She ran into a friend at the festival who was involved with developing "Bleeding Love" as a show. It had had previous runs at The Spirit of Broadway Theater



Members of the cast and crew of "Bleeding Love."

in Norwich, Conn. in 2014 in addition to its performances in Denmark.

Throughout the latter part of 2019, Rosin and her friend began shopping it. She was introduced to the Broadway Podcast Network, which had nearly exclusively presented dramas. So a musical was a welcome change.

Although podcasts of shows can't replace the theater experience, Rosin said being involved in the production

was a fascinating way to work and believes it could gain in popularity.

"Everyone's creating right now," Rosin said of theater people now at home. "People are creating and trying to figure out how to create in a digital world, and so podcasts are just one way in which we can do that."

To listen to the "Bleeding Love" podcast, visit bpn.fm/bleedinglove.



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PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CHAIRWOMAN, TONI ADDONIZIO
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DR. MICHAEL J. NESHEIWAT
PUTNAM COUNTY BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, KENNETH CLAIR JR.

A Few Stops Along a Westchester Culinary Road Trip



By Morris Gut

We were out for a drive and decided to make a quick stop at Yaranush Mediterranean Foods in White Plains. We have been cooking up a storm at home during the COVID-19 crisis with no particular cuisine in mind.

So, why not catch up on some wonderful flavors of the Mediterranean?

It's been a while since our last visit to Yaranush, which has been operating since 1987, so we were pleasantly surprised by the overall updated clean appearance of the store's interior. All the larder was neatly displayed along the aisles and refrigerated cases. The fresh prepared goods beckoned from behind their displays. We were greeted with a warm hello upon entering.

We filled our basket with assorted goods with future recipes in mind: tahini, yogurt, French lentils, fresh baklava and halvah, along with a few Israeli and Greek products. Can't wait to prepare our homemade hummus! We hurried back to our home kitchen.

Yaranush sells a variety of imported products and homemade goods from Armenia and Greece, Eastern Europe, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey. Shelves and display cases are stocked with dried fruits and nuts, spices, organic grains, beans, Greek cheeses, olives and olive oil, specialty breads, pita and more. Homemade Mediterranean appetizers and desserts are also on hand.

Yaranush is located at 322 Central Ave. in White Plains. Open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday. Info: 914-682-8449 or visit www.yaranush.com.

Lobster Rolls?

When I first spotted a bright red lobster roll sign while driving down Halstead Avenue in Harrison, it felt like I was traveling through a quaint town in Maine. It read LOBSTER ROLLS! Hot Soups, Chili, Chowders, Hot Dogs. Below that it said: Wellington's Soup Shack. There were people waiting outside for their order, with proper social distancing, of course.

Bill and Ally Powell operate Wellington's Grill on Halstead Avenue, a bustling restaurant/tavern known for its music nights and burger Mondays, lobster Tuesdays and prime rib Wednesdays. They added a New England touch to the property, an actual open-air shack which sits on the side of the eatery's parking lot. There are rustic signs galore touting the



The customer service counter at Stew Leonard's in Yonkers.

day's specialties: lobster roll and chips; double cheeseburger and eight-ounce soup; chicken wings, (Buffalo or barbecue style); soup of the day; and more.

Wellington's Soup Shack is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wellington's Grill is open for take-out next door.

Wellington's Grill is located at 110 Halstead Ave. in Harrison. Info: 914-315-1532 or visit www.wellingtonsgrill.com.

Stew Leonard's Birthday Pick-up

We received a lovely call recently from a Manhattan family offering to buy a birthday dinner for my companion at Stew Leonard's in Yonkers via curbside pick-up. They linked us with the online menu, which included a list of

10 complete dinners for four. We chose a brisket dinner with a choice of two sides – asparagus and au gratin potatoes – and apple pie for dessert. That was on a Friday for a Monday pick-up at 6 p.m. Such a nice gesture.

We got there early for our pick-up, so we did a little shopping. The market was as subdued as I have ever seen it. Our bottle of wine was waiting for us at the wine shop next door. Once we arrived at the customer service desk in the main store, the order taker was on top of it. It took a few minutes, and our boxed dinner came out of the back. It felt warm. It had been neatly packaged and sealed for temperature retention.

When we got home there was hardly any



The Greek pecan baklava at Yaranush in White Plains.

A Cookbook for Charity

A group of concerned Westchester residents affiliated with the culinary world have partnered in creating "Westchester Cooks," an online cookbook. It raises funds for Lifting Up Westchester, an organization that provides food, shelter and support to those in need in Westchester.

Susanna Sussman of Meals on Wheels in White Plains, Johnny Livanos of Moderne Barn in Armonk and City Limits in White Plains and Jessica Klein, a local publicist, have gathered simple recipes from area chefs, restaurateurs, writers and cookbook authors, illustrated with appetizing colorful photos, of their eclectic dishes for prep in your home kitchen.

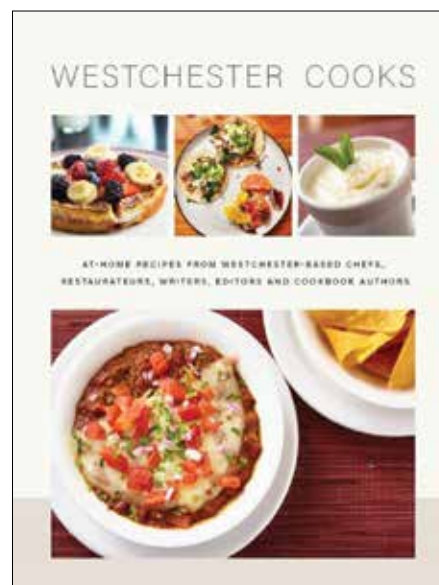
Contributors include a culinary potpourri of Westchester: Peter Kelly of X20, Yonkers; chef Constantine Kalandranis, 273 Kitchen, Harrison; John Sasso, Sam's of Gedney Way, White Plains; Elmer Oliveros, Brothers Fish & Chips, Ossining; chef Raphael Palomino, Sonora, Port Chester; David DiBari, The Cookery, Dobbs Ferry; John Livanos, Livanos Restaurant Group; Lulu's Bakery, Scarsdale; chef Giovanni Cucullo, Maria's, New Rochelle; David Starkey, ERL Restaurant Group, Tarrytown; Antonio Abbate, Le Fontane, Katonah; and many others. A \$10 donation is suggested to access the cookbook at <https://liftingupwestchester.salsalabs.org/westchester-cooks/index.html>.

Lifting Up Westchester is located at 35 Orchard St. in White Plains. Info: 914-949-3098 or visit www.liftingupwestchester.org.

Wegman's Opening Delayed

The much-anticipated grand opening of Wegman's Food Market off Westchester Avenue in Harrison has been postponed. It is now scheduled to open sometime this fall. Took a sneak peek at the construction site last week as they were putting up the new signage.

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



The cover of this online cookbook, which raises funds for Lifting Up Westchester, an organization that provides food, shelter and support to those in need in Westchester.

extra work to do. We did heat up a few of the snowball rolls that were included. We feasted, and everything was pretty darn good. Wish we could have shared it with family. There were plenty of leftovers. We never even sliced into the apple pie. It lasted for a good part of the week. We would try a Stew Leonard's take-out dinner again.

Stew Leonard's is located at 1 Stew Leonard Drive in Yonkers. Info: 914-375-4700 or visit www.stewleonards.com.

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Global Big Day: 19 Species and Two Winter Squalls in May

By Brian Kluepfel

I find myself shivering in a wooden hut on the edge of the river; it is where two years ago I scrawled a missive to a higher power, asking that my new marriage be blessed. Today, I'm just praying for the snow to stop.

I've come to the Mariandale Center to count birds, as many thousands did last Saturday in honor of Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Global Big Day. This is an annual event to encourage use of the lab's e-bird, a tracking app which allows the user to count avian species by location. It's what's known as "citizen science," where normal folk like you and I can contribute to the overall body of knowledge. It's a nice feeling, generally.

Right now, I'm not feeling too nice, generally, as a second episode of icy gusts batter the little mediation hut. (It's a nice hut, but has no door and the opening is allowing some of the nasty weather to come in.) Like the earlier squall which drove us back to our car and my wife home, this weather event is over in about 10 minutes. Time to get back to birding.

Today should be an optimal day for spring migrants, but then again, nobody counted on it being 34 degrees on May 9. Or on sheets of icy rain and sleet interfering with observation. My wife joked earlier that we should use last week's sunny day list for the Big Day, but that would take all the fun out of it, wouldn't it?

I wander to the southwest portion of the property, where some tall reeds lead down to the Croton River, right where it meets the majestic Hudson. Last week I saw a red fox darting around the water's edge. (I'd see him later today, too.) I know this is a good spot for the yellow warbler, and sure enough, I get one in my sights. (Warblers are lovely, and bright, but move very quickly.)

Another fortunate warbler sighting is a common yellowthroat, a tiny, black-masked species with a colorful splash of yellow, too. Further down the hillside, the common "chip" of a northern cardinal signals the arrival of our bright red friend; a commonly-seen species here, but I never get tired of seeing them.

Last week we saw tree swallows (metallic blue, incredibly agile) battling an eastern bluebird for a nest box, next to Mariandale's labyrinth. We thought the swallows had won the day, but today, lo and behold, we saw the bluebird in the box's entryway. Huzzah! A victory for New York State's bird, which is in serious competition with several aggressive

species for survival.

This week we missed two other representative birds of Mariandale: the bald eagle, our national bird, and the wild turkey, mooted by Ben Franklin as the country's symbol. We saw both last week, which shows how happenstance birding can be. While I was wowed by the eagles, I also took note of how incredibly beautiful the turkeys are when the sun hits them just right, reflecting about six different colors.

I take in a few other favorite species: the northern flicker, winged edged in gold, and the chuckling red-bellied woodpecker. The boisterous pileated woodpecker, a giant of the forest, remains hidden, and I refuse to use the "h.o." (heard only) designation. I WILL see that bird one day.

I settle on 19 species, having aimed for an even 20, but satisfied that I've managed to see that many on a snowy May day. But the sun'll come out tomorrow.

Brian Kluepfel is a writer for the Lonely Planet travel guide series in Latin America and a contributor to Birdwatching magazine. He edits the Saw Mill River Audubon newsletter and encourages you to join the SMRA and participate in their activities.



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Westchester Earns Award for Re-opening of Elijah Miller House

The National Association of County Park and Recreational Officials (NACPRO) last week announced it has selected the newly-reopened Miller House in North White Plains as a recipient of a 2020 Award in the Historical/Cultural Facility category.

Following a \$3.5 million capital project, the historic house, a Westchester County Park property best known to have housed George Washington on three occasions during the American Revolution, was re-opened to the public last Oct. 28. The re-opening ceremony took place on the 243rd anniversary of the Battle of White Plains. Two descendants of the Miller family were in attendance.

"We are extremely proud to have the opportunity to restore this piece of Westchester's great history and happy to see the public's enthusiasm for the house and the interpretive programs that our

Parks Department has coordinated there," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "Although we're temporarily on pause due to the pandemic response, we look forward to resuming soon. I am happy to receive NACPRO's recognition for this accomplishment."

The project, which was begun following years of deterioration due to a lack of funding, was accomplished through a combination of county and New York State funding. The project rebuilt the farmhouse roof, shored up the walls, chimneys and foundation, rehabilitated areas of the interior and created an on-site visitor center/classroom.

Originally built in 1738 by John Miller, the house is set up as it was in 1776, when his son, Elijah Miller, and his wife, Anne Fisher Miller, were its residents. Artifacts in the house are the table and chair



The restoration and re-opening of Miller House/Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains was nationally recognized last week. Last October, Westchester County celebrated the refurbished colonial era farmhouse.

reportedly used by Washington during his stay there.

The Westchester County Parks Department works with county-based groups and organizations such as the Daughters of Liberty's Legacy (DOLL) and the Friends of the Miller House to provide educational opportunities to the public. Though temporarily



suspended due to COVID-19, programming such as guided tours, lectures about Washington, the Revolutionary War and various aspects of colonial America are offered for school groups and the public. Resumption of

programming will be announced.

The Miller House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the New York State Register of Historic Places and the Westchester County Inventory of Historic Places.

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\$1M in Grant Funding Available for Westchester, Putnam Nonprofits

In response to the unprecedented need for food and housing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Way of Westchester and Putnam has announced its second round of crisis funding, which will disperse \$1 million in grants to local nonprofits through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

“COVID-19 has created an economic crisis the likes of which we haven’t seen in 90 years,” said United Way President and CEO Tom Gabriel. “In response, the United Way is honored to announce the availability of \$1 million in Emergency Food and Shelter funding to help our nonprofit partners address the basic human needs of hundreds of thousands of families in our community.”

The United Way of Westchester and Putnam is accepting applications for Phase 37 and Phase CARES of the Emergency Food and Shelter Funds available through the Local Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Boards in Westchester and Putnam counties. This program provides federal funding, which helps to extend currently available services for the hungry and homeless.

The deadline for submission of completed applications is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 22.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program

National Board, which is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency, announced that Westchester has been awarded \$911,325 for the concurrent phases while Putnam was awarded \$95,198.

Eligible applicants must be nonprofit; eligible to receive federal funds; have an accounting system or an approved fiscal agent; conduct an annual audit if awarded \$25,000 or more in federal funds; practice non-discrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and shelter services; have a voluntary board; have the capacity to either charge back or expend Phase 36 funding during the jurisdiction’s selected spending period; and must be able to completely and accurately obtain, retain and submit required documentation with reports and use DocuSign and online reporting.

Qualified organizations are encouraged to apply.

The application is available online at www.uwwp.org/efsp2020. Further information on the program may be obtained by contacting Faith Ann Butcher, EFSP director and chief impact officer at United Way of Westchester and Putnam, at 914-997-6700 ext. 753.

Westchester County Police to Mark National Police Week

Westchester County police will mark National Police Week through virtual means this year as the COVID-19 crisis has caused the cancellation of both its annual awards ceremony and the countywide Police Honor Awards and Memorial Service it hosts each May in White Plains.

County police will use social media channels to pay tribute to its 18 fallen officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. These officers were members of the Westchester County police or its predecessor agencies – the Westchester County Parkway Police and the Westchester County Sheriff’s Department.

In addition, an online memorial tribute is planned to honor the 88 members of law enforcement who died in the line of duty in Westchester County in the last four centuries. Along with Westchester County’s 18 officers, these fallen heroes were members of city, town and village police departments, the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office and the New York State Police.

“Each May, we generally come together at the Westchester County Center to recall the service and sacrifice of those who gave their lives protecting the people of Westchester,” County Executive George Latimer said. “While we are prevented from gathering in person this year, we will not be prevented from keeping our commitment to remember

those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These fallen heroes, and the loved ones they left behind, will be in our hearts during National Police Week.”

Public Safety Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said Police Week, which began Sunday, was also a time to honor all officers serving currently for the risks they have faced during the COVID-19 crisis.

“Police work is a challenging and dangerous profession at all times, but never more than this year,” Gleason said. “This pandemic has posed an additional and silent threat to police officers along with all essential workers who are on the front lines in this crisis. I salute them for the work they have done to keep Westchester safe.”

The 18 county officers who have died in the line of duty are: Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith, 1792; P.O. Raymond Tehan, 1925; Special P.O. John Murphy, 1928; P.O. George Segnit, 1929; P.O. Clifton Cypher, 1930; P.O. Michael Erdley, 1933; P.O. Manuel Borgos, 1938; P.O. Reuben Conklin, 1943; P.O. Carlos Bishop, 1946; P.O. John Chabala Jr., 1948; P.O. George Ruthven, 1954; P.O. Francis Bradley, 1960; P.O. James Groark, 1966; Deputy Sheriff William Fitzgerald, 1968; P.O. John Gonda, 1969; Deputy Sheriff Kieran Grant, 1979; P.O. Gary Stymiloski, 1985; and Sgt. Charles Rice Jr., 2009.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS 914-864-0878

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

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

1. **dactylogram** (n.)

A) finger painting B) a fingerprint C) finger spelling

2. **raccommode** (v.)

A) to make acceptable B) move at top speed C) restore

3. **three-pipe** (adj.)

A) requiring much thought B) requiring much skill C) requiring much patience

4. **tandle** (n.)

A) a pungent odor B) a bonfire C) a serious dispute

5. **dedititious** (adj.)

A) yielding to another B) being on the defensive C) devoted to a cause

6. **periegesis** (n.)

A) an account of a journey B) a first look C) a good start

7. **transnate** (v.)

A) to navigate at night B) turn around C) swim across something

8. **word-grubber** (n.)

A) a plagiarist B) a noisy quarrel C) someone who uses obscure words

ANSWERS:

1. B. A fingerprint taken for the purposes of identification

2. C. To restore; to put back into place

3. A. Extremely complex; requiring much thought

4. B. A bonfire

5. A. Surrendering; yielding to another

6. A. A geographical survey; a description of a place, or account of a journey

7. C. To swim across something

8. C. Some who uses obscure or difficult words in everyday conversation

Crossword

Across

1. Biblical pronoun

4. Companies, for short

7. Kitchen meas.

10. Brazilian city

11. “Raiders of the Lost ____”

12. Colorado Native American

13. ____ roll

14. Luau souvenir

15. Distant

16. Military uniform cloth

18. Bird ____

19. Frigid

21. Moray, e.g.

22. White water rafters, for example

25. Winter house ingredient

26. Dope

27. Drinks location

28. Gift of the Magi

32. Truck track

33. City transport

35. Yes form

36. Our 50 states

37. Third guy with the same name

38. Commercials

39. No. on a business card

40. Bow-shaped

41. Pacifier

6. Aspen action

7. Footstool

8. Where horses live

9. Lima’s locale

17. Royal card

20. 60’s and 70’s rock band

21. See

22. Rider

23. Relating to an artery

24. Pentameter type

27. Champagne name

29. Swedish weaves

30. Get a makeover

31. Door fastener

33. Spy’s org.

34. Melody

Answers on page 28

The Age-Old Question of the Age-Worthiness of Wines



By Nick Antonaccio

"I purchased a wine that I thoroughly enjoyed and would like to save a few bottles for consumption over time. Will my wine age well?"

I am frequently asked this question. Invariably, my response is "It depends."

As a living, breathing organism, every bottle of wine undergoes changes as it ages. Yet each ages differently, depending on its heritage, construct and the imprint of its winemaker. Certain grape varieties have age-worthy genes; many do not. Certain regions produce grapes that mature under ideal terroir conditions; many do not. Certain barrels of fermented wine juice benefit from winemakers whose express intent is to produce wines that will mature over time, even foregoing early drinkability; many do not.

A fine wine's life cycle can span a long period, as it evolves from a raw, unbalanced bottling to a complex, nuanced embodiment of the influence of its maker. This evolution in a bottle, if you will, takes place with varying results. In many ways, this is similar to the developmental stages of a

'The evolution in a bottle...takes place with varying results.'

child, who 1) is born into the world with the imprint of his or her genealogy, 2) is nurtured in unique familial surroundings and 3) ultimately matures as a unique representation of his or her upbringing.

Just as human development is impacted by an individual's history and environment, so it is with wine. Certain wines reach their peak early in their life cycle, never to improve, while others have an intrinsic potential that evolves and blossoms over time. These latter wines require the patience of a wine consumer, often measured in decades, before their full potential is reached and a superior product is achieved.

Which brings us to the ultimate question: is fine wine a result of nature or nurture? Which exerts the greater influence: genetic code or environmental circumstances?

My personal viewpoint is that each is equally influential in determining the age worthiness of wine. Without a certain

genetic makeup, the ability of a wine to develop and mature over time is limited, despite the skills of a winemaker. Likewise, in the hands of a less inclined or unskilled winemaker, wines produced from highly lauded grapes or growing regions may be stunted and their potential may dissipate after several years.

However, when the alchemy of nature and nurture are in sync, the result can be extraordinary. This is why I believe select wines from Bordeaux, Burgundy, Piedmont and Napa Valley (and other regions) command such high regard and concomitant prices, compared to other regions or winemaking traditions.

This pontification on my part carries a natural caveat. The influences on wine are not always in alignment. Many examples exist of widely varying results from highly regarded grapes in the hands of highly regarded winemakers. This is the essence of one of life's paradoxes – consistent excellence, in spite of esteemed genetics and environment, can be highly elusive.

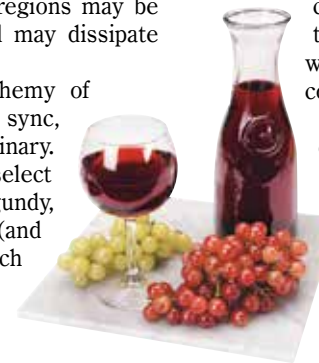
Experts agree. Kevin Zraly, a Pleasantville native and author of the highly acclaimed book "Windows on the World Complete Wine Course," states: "More than 90 percent of all top wines made in the world should be consumed within a year, and less than 1 percent of the world's wines should be aged for more than five years."

How does nature influence a wine's longevity? There are four basic components of wine, each present in varying degrees and exerting varying influences: tannins, acidity, taste and alcohol. The combination of each determines the final style and life cycle of wine. More on these in a future column.

The influences of nurturing on a wine's longevity are more evident. A select group of winemakers have garnered reputations for producing fine, age-worthy wines. Seeking them out is just a mouse click away, but be sure your PayPal account link has a three -or four-digit balance.

Just as we observe our fellow humans as they age and mature, developing our own perception of their personality and character, so too with wine. But try not to over-think either.

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



You Heard It Through the Grapevine

Help Our Heroes!



David and Andrea Schechter of Mount Kisco, NY are sibling heroes on the front lines of COVID-19 as NYC doctors. Thank you to all of our healthcare workers around the country. Please consider donating PPE.

[NYC.GOV/PPEDONATIONS](https://nyc.gov/ppedonations)

Putnam County Continues to Increase Remote Senior Programs

Seniors have been singled out as vulnerable since the COVID-19 outbreak first began. The physical health of older Americans became a priority, but as the benefits of staying at home are obvious, so are the troubling social and emotional effects of isolation.

Every May, the national Administration for Community Living brings into the spotlight the observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2020 is "Make Your Mark," paying tribute to the countless contributions seniors have made in their communities. It invites communities, in turn, to pay it

forward by supporting the health and well-being of the older generation.

"The connections created by our senior programs are truly a bright spot during this difficult time," said Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "We know our seniors are anxiously waiting to be able to reconnect in person at their local centers. The staff at our Office for Senior Resources have designed and implemented wonderful ways to serve the community. From fresh, home-delivered meals to connecting seniors with pen-pal groups in their local towns, we are supporting our seniors in ways we may

never have imagined before."

"Many of us are counting down the days until we will again be able to visit with the seniors in our lives," said Michael Cunningham, director of Putnam County's Office for Senior Resources. "The reality is, we aren't sure yet when our doors will safely reopen – but that uncertainty drove us to create and implement innovative program offerings for all Putnam seniors using both voice and video conference calling tools."

All seniors in Putnam, whether or not they have previously participated in a senior center program, are encouraged to call the Office for Senior Resources. The staff, currently working remotely, will assist in identifying programs that suit the callers' needs and their interests.

An innovative program called robotic pet companionship is one of the many new offerings. Robotic pets look, sound and feel like real pets. This alternative form of pet therapy has been proven to enhance the well-being, sense of purpose and quality of life of individuals living with dementia. During COVID-19, these robotic pets are being utilized to address the emotional challenges that often accompany social distancing.

To learn more about the programs offered, call 845-808-1700 or visit www.putnamcountyny.com/OSR.

Chappaqua Church Hosts Community Food Drive

Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua accepts food donations for the Community Center of Northern Westchester. The back of a car will be open and anyone who wishes to bring an offering of food, can place it there while maintaining social distancing. It will then be delivered to the Community Center's food pantry.

It is not required that anyone make a special trip to the grocery store. But, if you are going, please

consider purchasing some of the items that the pantry needs – canned fruit and vegetables; tuna fish; soup; pasta and sauce; rice; canned and dried beans; peanut butter and jelly; hot and cold cereal and shelf stable milk; fruit juice; Depends; soap; toilet paper; feminine hygiene products; diapers; wipes; and paper bags.

Soup donations are particularly in high demand as are paper bags that can be used to give people food.

Crossword Answers

T	H	Y		C	O	S		T	S	P
R	I	O		A	R	K		U	T	E
E	G	G		L	E	I		F	A	R
K	H	A	K	I				F	L	U
				I	C	Y		E	E	L
				C	A	N	O	E	I	S
				L	O	G		S	A	P
B	A	R						M	Y	R
R	U	T		C	A	B		Y	E	A
U	S	A		I	I	I		A	D	S
T	E	L		A	R	C		S	O	P

A MESSAGE FROM
MARYELLEN ODELL
PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
DIRECTOR, PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE FOR SENIOR RESOURCES

TONI E. ADDONIZIO
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CHAIRWOMAN
AND PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

#SENIORCITIZENS
#INTHISTOGETHER
#PUTNAMCOUNTYSTRONG

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FOR YOUR WELL-BEING, WE STICK TOGETHER.**



TOMORROW ALONG THE HUDSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.indianpointdecommissioning.com
www.holtecinternational.com
www.hdi-decom.com

Indian Point Energy Center



Croton Caring Committee Awarded \$10G From Insurance Companies

By Rick Pezzullo

The nonprofit organization Croton Caring Committee will receive \$10,000 from the Donn Gerelli Associates Insurance Agency, which earned a 2020 Make More Happen Award from Liberty Mutual and Safeco Insurance.

The mission of Croton Caring Committee is to enlist the resources of the community to help the frail, elderly, homebound, handicapped and families in need of temporary assistance, enabling them to maintain their independence and dignity.

Alana Jessie, co-owner of Donn Gerelli Associates, has been volunteering for years with the committee, which includes monthly visits at its senior luncheons, one of the many valuable services provided to their neighbors in need.

The free monthly luncheon is a time where isolated senior citizens come together to socialize and enjoy a hot meal. From the food, entertainment and transportation, the Croton Caring Committee covers all costs.

Jessie and her team also participate in food distribution, visiting the homebound, tutoring and driving patients to medical appointments. In addition, the agency's IT analyst, Mario Roberto, a native Spanish speaker, recently provided the committee with much-needed translation services, including translating its brochures, letters and other material. This has permitted the Croton Caring Committee to expand its reach into previously underserved portions

of the community.

The Croton Caring Committee is a completely volunteer organization, and more than 90 percent of its funding comes from members of the community. The \$10,000 awarded funds will host additional senior luncheons and breakfasts, allowing for 1,500 more hot meals, which doubles the attendance. The funds will also go toward expanding existing programs including the School Supplies Program, Holiday Food Basket Program and the Medical Transportation Program.

"Such a small-time commitment is so rewarding when we are delivering backpacks to children for school or a food basket with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal to a family who would otherwise go without," said Jessie. "Because we feel so personally committed to (the) Croton Caring Committee, we are truly grateful to Liberty Mutual and Safeco for the Make More Happen Award for the incredible opportunity to bring awareness to the Croton Caring Committee and to provide them with the much-needed funds to support their important work."

Throughout 2020, Liberty Mutual and Safeco Insurance will select 34 independent agents nationwide for a Make More Happen Award donating up to \$340,000 to the nonprofits the companies support. Agencies became eligible for the award by submitting an application demonstrating commitment to a specific nonprofit, along with photos of a project they worked on.



Members of the Croton Caring Committee, which recently received a \$10,000 award from the Donn Gerelli Associates Insurance Agency. The money will help fund the committee's programs.

"Our agents truly carry the ball when it comes to stepping up and volunteering for important causes in their local communities so we are pleased to support their game-changing dedication to the nonprofit organizations they support," said Safeco Insurance Northeast Region Territory

Manager Jenna Gordillo. "The Make More Happen program gives our agents an opportunity to make an even greater impact in areas like Croton-on-Hudson and we hope it inspires local residents to get out and support local charities."

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Time to Find Out Who You Want to Be

Who do you want to be?

I think about this every day. I want to be that person who helps friends and family, is “there” when you need me; anticipating what might be happening and there to catch you when you fall.

The pandemic has us all thinking, coping and hoping for the best. I miss my friends and family fiercely. No Zoom, Facetime or Teams call can replace that human touch, hug, the look in your eye, face to face. At any time in the day I wonder what my people are doing.

I miss my work team nearly as fiercely. Never in my career have I had a team like the one I have now. Strong, smart, I-have-your-back women who inspire and amaze me every day. Our leader motivates us, empowers us and guides us to find the solution with unwavering support.

When we were first mandated to work remotely, I thought, “I’ve got this!” Four more hours in my day not spent commuting to New York City. The opportunities were endless. I got the landscape ready for the summer season, organized, baked, cleaned and did projects with my kids.

Homeschooling came next and that was a real harbinger of things to come, or an epic fail. I still have no idea how to manage my time, working eight-plus hours a day and overseeing the independent study of a curious second-grader. While I work on all the digital meeting platforms for my job, I struggle to get it together for class assignments, and forget about streaming ballet and tap. I get to my “desk” early each morning and manage to navigate my day with ease, while in my head is the constant hum of what is not happening and not going well.

Fortunately, my daughter seems unfazed. She is fine doing her work, dancing and later connecting with her friends on Messenger Kids. Her entire lacrosse season canceled, she still manages to hit the ball against our makeshift backboard and practice cradling. She is resilient.

My son, who still lives at home with multiple developmental disabilities, has stepped up to help her get started on her assignments when he sees my frustration. Ask him to brush his teeth or clean his room and you will be reminded of his rights and hear a diatribe about how much he doesn’t care about these tasks, how unfair life is in general. However, during the pandemic, when his job as a bagger, carts and cans associate at the local grocery store deems him essential, and when left at home with his family with few external outlets, he becomes “the man.”

Stepping up with the chores, the daily rhythm of our household and even some of the schoolwork set-up has become his comfort zone. This is who he wants to be. I miss my other son who lives on his own, but happy he is safe, well and working remotely. We are all adjusting.

My husband, who really is “the man” around here, somehow found a new job during pandemic isolation, while his former job laid off most of its staff. So, while he is out slaying dragons, interacting (at six-foot distances) with co-workers and other humans, I remain left to find my way to my usual, nearly unrealistic optimism, while everything around me has become insecure. The career that I adore, for a cause I am passionate about, in a city I love, with incredible colleagues has suddenly become tenuous. The entire landscape,

literally and figuratively, has changed, and we are suddenly out of control. Our constituents need us more than ever and we are giving more than we knew we had. We are trying to be resilient.

The endless reality of pandemic casualty weighs heavily on me and my people. We are empathic, kind, roll-up-your-sleeves doers, sidelined in the 21st century. While we are physically apart, and worrying, sometimes crying, frustrated and mystified that this is even our reality, we search for control.

I see my friends, often those struggling themselves, donating time and talent, lifting up a neighbor, tutoring, fostering pets, giving, giving, giving. This is who they are. This is our point of connection, shared values and character. I pick up groceries regularly for friends and neighbors when I drop off and pick up my son at the grocery store. I volunteer to deliver food from the food bank to the elderly and when I can – or really, when I remember – sending pick-me-up treats to friends. These are some of the things I can control. This is also who I want to be. Now, and always.

I was thinking about so many that I miss daily, maybe some I have taken for granted even, and I yearn for coffee in person, dinner, sharing a seat on the train and all the lovely ladies in my aquatic exercise



By Nancy Sorbella

classes. I also know that when we aren’t together that my friends are doing such good, sharing their strength and their talents because that is who they want to be, too. We share those values, in good times and bad. Sometimes, selfishly, when they are not accessible, I forget that. But they are “here.” They are here for the long run. They are a call, a text and a heartbeat away.

There is enough advice to go around the world twice during the pandemic, and I’ve got nothing to add. I can’t imagine walking in the shoes of those on the frontlines. They have my endless, bottomless gratitude. Being “in this together” takes many shapes. I’m not even sure what that really means when some have so much, and some have lost all. What I do know for sure is that who I want to be is still who I am.

My people, too, they are the same; they know who they want to be. And I am comforted every day knowing that I feel the glow of their love and support whenever I need it. We strive every day at work to “meet our constituents where they’re at.”

I think that works for us all during this pandemic; it is meeting us where we are at and it’s up to us to rise to the occasion.

Nancy Sorbella is community engagement director at the Arthritis Foundation.

Red Cross Virtual Assistance Center to Help Families Cope With Loss

The American Red Cross is operating a virtual Family Assistance Center to provide comfort and support, information and referrals for New York State families that have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

The virtual Family Assistance Center will link families to crisis counselors who will provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as information and referrals to help them navigate the challenging process they might be facing as a result of their loved one’s death.

“These families are dealing with the emotional trauma of losing a loved one, while facing logistical challenges caused by this public health emergency,” said Northeast Division Disaster Mental Health Adviser Tara Hughes, who will be leading the program. “We’re proud to use mass casualty experience of the Red Cross to join our community together and provide comfort and support to these families across New York State during these difficult times.”

A team of 30 specially trained Red Cross disaster mental health, disaster spiritual care and health services volunteers will be available to support families with their emotional and spiritual needs and provide information and referrals to state and local agencies as well as other community organizations to help families meet their immediate needs.

This may include challenges with moving their loved one’s body through overwhelmed

systems; legal resources for estate, custody, immigration or other issues related to the death of their family member; information on how to obtain travel services; and more. All Family Assistance Center support is virtual and completely confidential.

Families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 can fill out an online intake form and a Family Assistance Center volunteer will contact them. For a form in English, visit www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDFamilySupport. In Spanish, visit www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDApoyoFamiliar.

Intake forms can also be filled out by a friend who thinks someone needs help, or an agency working on behalf of the family. Those without online capabilities may call 585-957-8187, and a volunteer will assist them with the initial intake process. The Family Assistance Center is expected to operate for as long as families will benefit from the service.

Communities across the country count on the Red Cross for help every day – and supporting those communities is at the heart of what it does. The work never stops, even during this coronavirus crisis, and Red Cross remains focused on delivering its lifesaving mission each day.

The Red Cross is also supplying blood products for patients in need of transfusions, including those who need surgery, cancer treatments or trauma victims. It is

coordinating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and blood industry partners to collect plasma from individuals who are fully recovered from COVID-19 to help with treatment for the most seriously ill patients.

The Red Cross helps families after house fires and other disasters by making sure they have a safe place to stay and food to eat. It offers essential courses such as

resuscitation, CPR and first aid, which help medical professionals and other workers stay current on their certifications. It is also supporting military families and veterans with emergency communication messages and online workshops, while helping communities worldwide through the Red Cross and Red Crescent network.



NORTHWELL HEALTH PHOTO

Success Story

Staff at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco cheer last Friday’s release of a patient who recovered from COVID-19, marking the 10,000th discharge of a patient at a Northwell hospital since the pandemic struck New York in March.

A BIG TIME THANK YOU TO OUR READERS!

"Thank you for keeping local reporting alive! Our community is better when everyone knows what is going on! Keep up the good work."

"Keep up the good work. You are so important to our community."

"Keep us informed, be safe and continue to do an excellent job as you usually do. God bless you and be healthy."

"Your efforts to bring us local news are appreciated."

"Thank you for keeping our community informed and showing us all that small news is big news!"

"Thank you for sharing our messages about trees, recycling, food scrap drop off etc - all things for a sustainable life."

"We're in this fight together. Times are tough, but we'll get through this. Stay strong."

"Thank you for all you do to bring local news to the community. We're all better for having you around, and I'm glad to be able to do my part."

"Great local news. Apple Pie and the Examiner!"

"Keep up the great journalism and important work. Old school community journalism at its best."

"We are devout readers of The Examiner. A publication like this is a necessity in our small local com-

munities. Rarely do we go into Starbucks, the barber shop or the lobby at the Jacob Burns without seeing people engrossed in an issue. We are proud to support a paper based on integrity and a generous community spirit."

"It's an honor to support such a fantastic enterprise that means so much to our communities."

"I Thank You, Mount Kisco Thanks You and William Raveis Real Estate Thanks You. I Love The Examiner"

"This community is in desperate need of a local, community news source, especially as we wade into these uncharted waters caused by coronavirus. Adam is an amazing journalist who's built an upstanding, quality news outfit. He's been there for all of us, now it's time to be there for him and his team. Godspeed, Adam."

"Proud supporter of The Examiner. It's my favorite resource for news and happenings in our community."

"We have been fans and friends of Adam Stone and were fortunate enough to watch him create and print the first edition of The Examiner in 2007. Adam, his team, and the paper are a shining light in our community. It's not a flim flam local rag, it's real journalism that addresses the tough issues while celebrating and documenting the lives of our neighbors. Local news is important, it's where national news starts... I'm proud

that they are in my community and happy to support them in any way I can."

"Your service to the community deserves support in regular circumstances too, but especially in these difficult times."

"You've always supported our community and it's with great pleasure that we return the favor. May The Examiner continue to serve and thrive."

"I worked for The Examiner for about 3 1/2 years as a freelance sports writer and newspaper distributor. I learned a lot working with Adam, Ray and Andy, and they helped and supported me as I moved on to become a full-time sports reporter at the Poughkeepsie Journal. The Examiner is a venerable weekly, and I'm more than happy to offer my support during these hard times."

"I thank you for balanced informative local news. we gladly support you."

"Looking forward to continued fair and accurate local reporting. Wishing your staff and readers good health."

"As a member of CD17Indivisible, I much appreciate the outlet you have provided for the many letters to the Editor published in support of key local issues. We believe in a Free press that provides a voice to those who seek to call attention to Community concerns. As such, I am pleased to contribute

to your continuance and success in these challenging times."

"So proud of what you are doing for your community!!! Thank you!"

"Thank you for always covering Lakeland & Panas Sports!"

"We look forward to reading the hard copy of your Examiner every week. Martin Wilbur's reporting is accurate and always right on target."

"Putnam Examiner does a great job promoting student-athletes in our community Stay safe and healthy."

"Your reporting on local government news is excellent! We also enjoy your columnists, especially Nick Antonaccio on wine, Bill Primavera ("The Home Guru"), and Brian Kleupfel on birding. Keep up the great work!"

"You've always been there for Fox Lane so we're here for you."

"Adam, Martin and team, The Examiner is an important and valued resources for our community!"

Thank you to the 352 readers who, as of late Sunday morning (in contributions of mostly \$25 to \$100) donated \$26,675 and growing. We appreciate all of the ongoing generosity and kind words.



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