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July 21 - July 27, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 466

Council Urged to Restrict Location of Wireless Antennas

By Rick Pezzullo

A non-profit advocacy group is urging the City of White Plains to restrict locating wireless telecommunication facilities in only commercial or industrial zones.

5GAlert Westchester, a group of residents dedicated to educating the public about the risks of 5G antennas and offering solutions to protect communities, is circulating a petition calling on the White Plains Common Council to enact protective amendments to the city's Wireless Cell Antenna Code.

"It is imperative to act immediately in order to promote the safety of life and property," the petition states in part. "We are neighbors from across White Plains. We are all seeking a safe place to live and a decent quality of life for ourselves, our children and our community."

In March, city officials approved the installation of 5G cell antennas in the downtown business area.

However, 5GAlert Westchester members maintain existing code regulations give the telecom industry "free rein" to install wireless antennas in residential neighborhoods, adjacent to houses, apartments, schools and play areas.

"These cell antennas would expose us, involuntarily, to constant wireless radiation, making our homes and schools and the entire

City of White Plains unsafe, and would diminish our quality of life," the petition contends.

Telecom industry experts have long maintained the technology is safe, but 5GAlert Westchester argues, "There is a large body of peer reviewed science that shows significant biological effects from exposure to wireless radiation, including 'clear evidence' of cancer, heart abnormalities, neurological, reproductive and cognitive damage."

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has not updated its exposure standards since 1996, which factors thermal effects, but not other biological impacts. Hundreds of medical and public health professionals have called for a moratorium on the 5G wireless technology rollout and for the FCC to develop rigorous standards for wireless devices and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, 5GAlert Westchester is also requesting the Common Council reinstate Citizens to be Heard sessions at meeting currently being conducted on Zoom. The Common Council has obliged, scheduling a session for citizens to speak in the city chambers on Monday, August 3 at 7 p.m.

Attempts to reach to the council about the petition were unsuccessful.



Camp in a Box

The Salvation Army Greater New York provided a camp experience to children ages 7-12 through its debut "Camp In A Box" that was delivered to campers in White Plains last week. In addition, a camp counselor conducted a Zoom instruction/game time to engage with campers that will continue for the next few weeks.

Legislation Signed Imposing Term Limits on County Execs

By Rick Pezzullo

Westchester County Executive George Latimer's proposal for term limits, imposing a restriction on himself as the chief executive, was approved by the Board of Legislators last week by a vote of 12-4.

The legislation reduces the existing three term limit (12 years) for county executives enacted in 2011 in Westchester, down to two terms (eight years).

"This move not only limits my own

power but sends the message that no executive should deem themselves infallible," said Latimer, who is midway through the third year of his first term. "If eight years is enough for the chief elected of our country - it very well is for our county. While many in power seek to hold on and never let go, this move - at a time when our country is shifting toward progress - flies in the face of that notion."

When he introduced the law, Latimer said, "All of our local governments follow that Revolutionary Era philosophy; restrict-

ing the reach of government. I have been a student of government as well as a practitioner these many years, serving on three different levels: city, county and state. Now, as I complete my second year as County Executive, I see the authority granted this position - and I strongly believe it should be further limited to ensure a balance of interests are better served."

While Latimer's move limits the term of County Executive, no change in legislative term limits, which currently allow a maximum of service of 12 years (six terms),

were proposed or enacted.

"I have included my tenure as covered within the law," Latimer said. "Oftentimes, incumbents are 'grandfathered' in, meaning the restrictions apply to the next occupant of the seat. But, they will apply to me as well. Eight years is a period of time most common where Executive term limits apply, and I think it is a defensible change. The length of my tenure is up to the voters, but to limit the total years to eight makes good sense, and ensures the proper check and balance."

White Plains Resident Named to Iona College Board of Trustees

By Rick Pezzullo

White Plains resident Gabrielle Gambrell, a communications, branding and media expert who is widely recognized for her dedication to diversity and inclusion, has been named to the Iona College Board of Trustees.

She will serve as the appointed representative of the Iona College Alumni Board of Directors, where she has served since 2017.

"I am honored to be appointed to the Board of Trustees and am eager to make a great impact at such a pivotal time in the world," said Gambrell, who earned her bachelor's degree from Iona in Mass Communication with honors, as well as a master's degree in Public Relations with a concentration in Entertainment and Sports. "I look forward to bringing my diverse perspective in shaping the future of Iona, as the College continues to be an institution

of choice for students committed to service and an inclusive and rewarding future."

Gambrell also teaches as a graduate adjunct professor at New York University (NYU). She most recently served as the vice president and head of Marketing & Communications at Barnard College of Columbia University. Reporting to the president, Gambrell made history in her role as both the first Black woman to hold her title, as well as the youngest since the college's founding in 1889. Gambrell spearheaded the creation and implementation of integrated marketing communications campaigns attracting the brightest applicants, recruiting the best faculty and staff, motivating alumnae and donors, and furthering the college's mission.

Iona College Board Chair Patrick C. Dunican Jr., Esq. welcomed Gambrell to the Board, saying: "Gabrielle will be a tremendous addition to the Iona College Board of Trustees. With her impressive career in

marketing and communications and experiences in industry and higher education in particular, she will bring a wealth of ideas and perspectives."

While at Iona, Gambrell not only met her husband, Jeffrey Gambrell and some of her closest friends, but she also gained the kind of real-world experience that gave her an edge in the workplace. "From your very first broadcasting class, you're in the TV studio, control room – everything is very hands-on," she said.

In fact, an internship with ABC on the set of "Live with Regis and Kelly" paved the way for her first professional job as a production assistant for the show in 2007.

Gambrell received Iona's Rising Star Award in 2018 for her early-career achievements. She has been named to PRNEWS' 2020 list of Top Women in PR and PRWeek's 2019 Hall of Femme, as one of 28 trailblazing women who are shaping the future of the communications industry.



GABRIELLE GAMBRELL

White Plains Library to Reopen July 28

White Plains Library will reopen to the public on Tuesday, July 28.

Library Director Brian Kenney called the reopening "a significant event as we work towards reestablishing full library services."

"At this point, we are reopen-

ing the Library for one purpose: to allow our public to browse and borrow material," Kenney stated in an announcement to patrons. "Expect a 'stripped down' library: no chairs, no computers, no programs, not even any coffee! But there are plenty of new books,

movies, and music CDs just waiting to be borrowed and enjoyed."

Beginning July 28, the library will be open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and 1 to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Only a limited number of patrons will be allowed into the

building at any given time, and visitors will need to reserve a spot online or call the library.

"This will allow us to implement social distancing, guarantee that every visitor is using a face mask, and support the Library's COVID-19 Best Practices Poli-

cy," Kenney stated. "In addition, gloves will be available, as well as plenty of hand sanitizer."

For more information, visit www.whiteplainslibrary.org.



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Cuomo Threatens to Roll Back Reopening if Revelers Ignore Guidelines

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned New Yorkers that if they don't comply with mask wearing and social distancing protocols his administration would be prepared to roll back the state's reopening plan.

The comments were made during a Monday morning briefing prior to Cuomo's trip to Savannah, Ga., where he was going to meet with local officials there in one of the numerous COVID-19 hot spots that have flared up throughout the South and Southwest.

Cuomo said that while the state's infection rate, deaths and hospitalizations continue at minimal levels, there were too many reports over the weekend of crowds at bars, restaurants and parties around the state, particularly in New York City and Long Island. He once again called on local governments to enforce the protocols to make sure the spread of the virus remains in check.

"The local governments are not doing their job. We won't allow these congregations to continue," Cuomo said. "If it happens, I'll tell you what's going to happen - we're going to roll back the opening plan and we're going to have to close bars and restaurants."

On Sunday, there were 519 positive tests for COVID-19 out of 49,342 tests administered, a 1.05 positivity rate. The state transmission rate has remained close to 1 percent since early June, although there was a minor blip in the results last Tuesday and Wednesday when results showed a 1.5 and 1.3 percent rate, respectively.

Hospitalizations across New York have fallen to 716, the lowest since mid-March, and there were eight COVID-19-related deaths on Sunday.

Locally, the Mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam, reported a 0.9 percent infection rate, the fourth consecutive day it was under 1 percent. Westchester's active caseload was at 467 while with COVID-19 hospitalizations under 40. Last Friday, during its weekly report, Putnam had 22 active cases and no hospitalizations.

Cuomo said he was disturbed by reports and photos from the lower East Side of Manhattan and Astoria, Queens showing large groups of mostly young people gathering without face masks and what appeared

He said he would crack down on bars and restaurants, most of which have been doing a good job but there are those that are flouting the guidelines. The governor called the actions of those who would risk the health of themselves and others "stupid."

"I understand the frustration, I understand you've been inside for a long time," Cuomo said. "I understand that you're young and you want to socialize. I get that it's the summer. I get that the work environment is not as tough so you have the flexibility to go out. I get all of that, I



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

really do, but I'm telling you it has to stop, and I'm telling you in plain New York speak, as a born and bred New Yorker, it's stupid what you're doing."

Cuomo's strong words aimed at party-goers and local officials comes after one local town became the first municipality in the state last week to approve an ordinance making mask wearing mandatory. The Town of New Castle requires anyone who is not with members of their own household or is unable to socially distance to wear a face covering in most situations (see page 5).

The law was approved after the June 20 Horace Greeley High School graduation and a post-ceremony event triggered as 27-case cluster.

In addition to compliance issues in certain areas, the governor has also pointed to the threat posed by the outbreak of cases nationwide. He said the state is bracing for an influx of cases despite the quarantine he recently imposed on people coming from hot spot states.

"This is a real threat, and I don't see it turning around anytime soon," Cuomo said. "That is a real predicament. We'll do everything we can to help the other states, and we are, but that is beyond our control."

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Rocah Defeats Scarpino in Dems' Primary; Jones, Abinanti Victorious

By Martin Wilbur

Former federal prosecutor and MSNBC commentator Mimi Rocah last week defeated Westchester District Attorney Anthony Scarpino in the Democratic primary.

Rocah said Scarpino called to concede the race last Thursday morning when the latest ballot count numbers revealed Rocah's margin had surpassed the remaining absentee ballots left to count.

"I am tremendously honored to be able to declare victory today in the Democratic primary for Westchester District Attorney after three weeks with more than 50,000 absentee ballots counted," Rocah said. "I am grateful to every voter for making their voice heard during this pandemic. This result is a strong mandate from voters – they want change in Westchester's criminal justice system as our nation reckons with police misconduct, demands greater accountability and ethics reform at all levels of government."

Despite the large number of absentee ballots, Rocah's victory was considered a foregone conclusion after in-person and early voting. She led by more than a 2-to-1 margin after the June 23 primary (27,759-13,082) and widened her lead to an overwhelming advantage, 66,289-25,361. The Board of Elections will certify the election once all the ballots have been counted.

After a contentious and sometimes nasty campaign, Scarpino said he looks forward to supporting Rocah and Democrats up and

down the ballot in the general election.

"It has been my distinct honor to serve as district attorney and I am grateful to the people of Westchester for affording me the opportunity to do so since 2017," Scarpino said. "I am extraordinarily proud of the public servants in the District Attorney's Office who dedicate every day to create a safer, more just county for all. I look forward to completing my term as district attorney, a role which has been an integral part of my four-decade-long career in service to the community that I love."

Rocah will now face Republican Bruce Bendish in November. Bendish lost to Scarpino in 2016.

Jones Declares Victory

Three weeks after the polls closed, Mondaire Jones declared victory in the 17th Congressional District's Democratic primary.

Jones, 33, of Spring Valley made the July 14 announcement after the Associated Press projected that he will be the Democrats' nominee in the district and a heavy favorite to succeed the retiring Rep. Nita Lowey next year.

His campaign said that while there are votes still to be counted, Jones leads the eight-candidate race with 32,335 votes, or 42 percent of the total. His next closest rival, Adam Schleifer, has 16 percent.

"From the start, I have said that I am running for Congress because, for me, policy is personal," Jones said in a statement. "We get better policy outcomes when our



Mimi Rocah trounced Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino in the Democratic primary.

elected officials have lived experiences that give them a personal understanding of the policies being debated in the corridors of power, and a sense of urgency to implement big, structural improvements."

He would be part of growing number of progressive candidates representing the area in Washington. Jamaal Bowman defeated long-time incumbent Eliot Engel in the 16th Congressional District.

Jones is expected to take on Republican Maureen McArdle Schulman in November.

Williams Concedes to Abinanti

Challenger Jennifer Williams conceded her race Wednesday after putting a scare into five-term Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) in the 92nd Assembly District's Democratic primary.

The political newcomer lost by nearly 2,000 votes (10,054-8,064) after more than 12,000 absentee ballots were counted. At the close of in-person voting, Williams trailed by just 25 votes.

Williams, an Irvington resident ran as an outsider in the race, taking Abinanti to task for being an entrenched politico.

"I entered the race to renew our focus on the issues that matter to my constituents – public health, the vitality of our villages and towns, and transparency in Albany," Williams said in a statement. "In doing so, we have shed sunlight on the business of politics in New York State. While I am conceding defeat today, I will not concede in our effort to make government work for its citizens. I wish Mr. Abinanti the best of luck in Albany delivering on the progressive promises discussed during our campaign."

On June 24, the day after the polls closed, Abinanti anticipated that he would win by solidly carrying the absentee ballots. He predicted most were older voters who are familiar with his record and were looking to avoid standing in line during the pandemic.

Abinanti is now assured a sixth term with no Republican candidate running for the seat.

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New Castle Approves Mandatory Face Covering Law

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board unanimously approved a local law last week that requires the public to wear a face mask during the ongoing pandemic to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Believed to be the first local measure of its kind in the state, the law closely mirrors Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive orders imploring people to use face coverings but there can now be enforcement.

It mandates everyone wear a face covering in public and on public and private property if they are unable to maintain at least six feet of distance from others. It does not apply to people in the same household.

"What we are doing by introducing a local ordinance is simply giving our police department an enforcement mechanism, which does not exist in the governor's current executive orders," said Supervisor Ivy Pool.

Its July 14 passage comes less than a month after Horace Greeley High School's drive-in graduation at the Chappaqua train station and a non-school sanctioned post-ceremony gathering caused a cluster of 27 COVID-19 cases. Pool said that incident forced more than 300 families in town to quarantine despite an overwhelming number of them having followed the protocols to stay in their vehicles.

Violators will be subject to a fine of up to \$250 for the first offense and up to \$500 for each subsequent offense if it is within one year.

The board's vote followed a nearly hour-long live-streamed public hearing. Chappaqua



New Castle Supervisor Ivy Pool

resident Lori Morton enthusiastically supported the legislation since masks significantly cut down the spread of the virus and help the public to safely resume work, school, childcare and recreation, she said.

"Nose and mouth coverings are an essential component of this plan," Morton said. "Without the public adherence to this simple precaution, local and national data demonstrate that virus resurgence is fast and dramatic."

Several speakers questioned whether it was appropriate to extend the law to private homes. Resident Sean Maraynes said that

could potentially lead to neighbors tattling on each other.

"I think I am concerned that this is going to give people with nothing better to do an opportunity to spin their wheels and talk behind their neighbors' backs," Maraynes said. "That's really my concern, not that people are going to be hauled into court."

Another resident, Margaret Macchetto, said it could give some residents license to call the police on their neighbors if, for example, they have extended family over to visit.

New Castle Police Chief James Carroll said officers won't be driving around looking for large gatherings and harassing residents at home. If there's a specific complaint or if an officer spots a gathering as part of the routine patrol, it will be pursued, he said.

Around the time of the graduation the town received several complaints about large gatherings, Carroll said, including one party on June 28 involving graduates, the day after Cuomo issued an order forcing a quarantine of anyone who had attended the graduation.

"We are not forcing our way into anyone's homes," Carroll said. "We're not seeking a search warrant to enforce this local ordinance. If we pull up and there's 60 people on the front lawn and they're not social distancing, do we have the right to go on the property and investigate? We absolutely do."

Resident Jim McCauley, who also expressed unease that the law includes private property, said the board should have considered more targeted legislation. He said it seemed officials were simply reacting to the

Greeley graduation.

"It just seems like overkill, chaining the barn door after the horses are out," McCauley said.

Pool said the governor in recent weeks has repeatedly implored local governments to enforce mask wearing and social distancing protocols and the town was taking the initiative to accomplish that goal.

Town Board members agreed that protecting the health and safety of residents is the top priority despite any reservations.

"I think that the public policy purpose of this is way too important to let this go and not pass it tonight," said Councilwoman Lisa Katz.

Councilwoman Lauren Levin said for the vast majority of residents the legislation should have little to no impact.

"At the end of the day, if you're already doing the right thing, this law will not change your life," Levin said.

Town Attorney Nicholas Ward-Willis said exemptions would include anyone under two years old; if someone has a medical reason to avoid a face covering; anyone traveling in a vehicle alone or with members of their household; someone playing a sport; and eating or drinking while seated. First responders are also excused if it isn't feasible to wear a mask of if they are on an emergency call.

A resident can apply for a hardship exemption to Carroll, Ward-Willis said. If denied, the decision can be appealed to the Town Administrator within 10 days.

The law would cease once the public health emergency expires.

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County Unveils New Working Group to Help Schools Reopen

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced Monday the creation of a task force that will assist school districts to what they need to protect students, staff and teachers in preparation for the September reopening.

The eight-member school reopening working group will provide information and support relating to public health and emergency preparedness and response. Its goal is to create an efficient way to provide feedback for common issues such as the

bulk purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), suggesting vendors for Plexiglas dividers, assisting with contact tracing and developing a standardized frequently asked questions document.

Latimer spoke of the working group on Monday afternoon, after he had held separate conference calls with leaders of the county's school districts and colleges.

"We're going to try to provide standardized assistance to them as much as we can keeping in mind that the state government is the primary regulatory agency and the primary support agency for

the school districts," Latimer said. "But the county, too, has a role to play and to be helpful."

One of the initial steps for the group will be to create a survey for school districts that will be collected by the superintendents to identify the quantity and type of PPE gear that is needed. The county will assist in procuring the equipment through outside vendors.

Another step would be to host webinars focusing on various aspects of returning to school including how to properly clean the buildings, food provisions for kitchen staff,

protocols for contact tracing and attaining PPE gear. It will also designate points of contact at the county Department of Health to assist with health care concerns as they arise.

The group will be led by Joseph Glazer, deputy commissioner of the county Department of Community Mental Health. He will be joined by White Plains Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca, Susan Spear and Aviva Meyer from the county executive's office, Dr. Dial Hewlett, Peter DeLucia and Marina Yoegel of the county Health Department and Hernane DeAlmeida from the Department of Public Works.

Glazer said the goal is to see Westchester's students return to school in September safely.

"Having provided additional linkage between the Westchester County Department of Health and our schools since the beginning of the pandemic, I understand how important it is for all of us to work together," Glazer said.

Creation of the working group comes a week after the state Education Department released general guidelines for school districts throughout New York State to follow for a September reopening. Districts must submit their reopening plan by July 31.

The state will determine during the first week of August whether district's in each of New York's 10 regions will be able to open based on the result of testing data.

Health Fair and More

Open Door Family Medical Center and Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church partnered last Saturday to provide Ossining with free COVID-19 testing. In addition to the testing, community members received free produce, cloth masks, giveaways, health information and assistance on Census 2020 and voter registration.



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Ronnie

Ronnie Dragoon

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Harckham, Astorino Slug it Out Over School Mascot Bill

By Martin Wilbur

A proposed bill from state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) requiring school districts that use potentially insensitive names, logos and mascots to have community discussions last week touched off a full-scale political brouhaha.

Harckham's opponent in this year's election, former Westchester County executive Rob Astorino, hit the senator hard, accusing him of flip-flopping after a first version of the legislation that proposed state funding penalties was suddenly revised.

In a statement last week to introduce the version of the bill that will now be considered, Harckham said the time has come for the more than 100 school districts that use some reference to Native Americans for their nickname, mascot or logo, to reconsider their position.

"Today, we can no longer simply dismiss the idea that school or team nicknames and mascots are innocuous and do not hurt or offend other people," Harckham said. "The fact is, many mascots are grounded in, or borne from, a systemic racism that does not mesh with the democratic values we share and seek to protect. It's time we hold honest, respectful conversations and public hearings aimed at understanding what's wrong with these kinds of mascots and why they should be retired."

His bill now requires districts that use potentially polarizing names or images to have an annual community discussion in



State Sen. Peter Harckham and former Westchester County executive Rob Astorino, who is Harckham's opponent this fall, kicked off the 2020 campaign season by fighting over a controversy ignited by the senator's proposed school mascot bill.

hopes that each district can reach consensus. The clearest example locally is the Mahopac Indians, where a vocal segment of the district is urging change, although an equally outspoken portion wants to retain the name.

Earlier this month, John Jay High School in Katonah officially unveiled the name the Wolves after the Katonah-Lewisboro Board of Education agreed to retire its Indians moniker last fall.

Last week, Astorino first slammed Harckham for proposing a bill that would potentially penalize districts financially by taking away a portion of state aid from districts during a time of financial crisis for the state and local communities. When he learned that there was a new version of the bill eliminating the financial penalties,



Astorino accused the senator of trying to convince the public that he wasn't the prime sponsor of the legislation.

He said only after Harckham received significant blowback in portions of the 40th Senate District was the proposed legislation revised.

"Mr. Harckham's bill has rightly outraged tens of thousands of his constituents desperate to get their children safely back into schools and resume some form of normalcy in their lives," Astorino said. "Thousands of parents have lost their jobs because of COVID, and the loss of school funds would result in dramatic local tax increases that would literally break them economically. Mr. Harckham really screwed up here – just as he did with cashless bail –

and he needs to own up to it."

Astorino also questioned whether schools such as the Valhalla Vikings of the Horace Greeley Quakers would also be targeted by Harckham's legislation.

Tom Staudter, Harckham's campaign manager, dismissed Astorino's comments, saying that the intention was never to hurt schools financially. He said part of the legislation drafting process is to seek feedback from constituents, many of whom disagreed with a financial penalty.

Instead, the current version requires communities to dedicate one meeting every year to debate the issue.

"This is not about causing any financial hardship to school districts," Staudter said. "This is about finding a common understanding about how offensive these racist symbols are."

Staudter said that if a sizeable portion of the Valhalla or Chappaqua communities somehow found the Vikings or Quakers offensive, then those districts would also need to have that discussion. However, there has been ongoing intense debate in Mahopac, he noted.

In 2001, then-state education commissioner Richard Mills asked school districts around the state to voluntarily replace Native American names, logos and mascots. Close to 70 schools made the switch, including Ossining High School a couple of years later. However, just over 100 school districts maintain Native American names, symbols or imagery.

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P'ville School Officials Ponder Reopening Plans With Guidelines in Place

By Abby Luby

The Pleasantville School District is pursuing multiple scenarios to effectively re-open its schools this fall through the coronavirus pandemic.

At last week's live board meeting, Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter presented the Board of Education with a variety of models, the challenges and how alternative would operate.

"Our primary focus is the health, safety and wellness of all our students and staff," Fox-Alter said. "We have multiple committees working on reopening."

The meeting came a day after the state Education Department released its long-awaited guidelines with recommendations. Every district must submit a plan for the state's review by July 31.

Each of Pleasantville's three schools has a building-level committee comprised of teachers and staff who have been reviewing different possibilities that adhere to social distancing and outlines specific movement throughout the buildings.

The state Department of Health has stressed screening students, faculty, staff and visitors with temperature checks, a daily questionnaire for faculty and staff and a periodic questionnaire for students and parents. Masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) are required if social distancing can't be practiced.

Since cleaning is a key reopening component, the board discussed having two shifts of custodial staff. There would be a

checklist in each classroom detailing what was cleaned and what must be addressed. A cleaning company may be hired if needed, although district officials mentioned that cost is an issue.

One model being considered is daily morning and afternoon sessions with scheduled cleanings of desks and frequently touched areas between sessions using detailed cleaning and disinfecting protocols. This is a popular model being discussed for younger students in grades K-2 because many educators believe it is more critical that younger students attend class every day. If this model were to be used in higher grades, the challenge would be having enough staff in place to clean between the sessions.

A second model would use an alternate-days schedule of Tuesday-Thursday or Wednesday-Friday with the other weekdays used for remote learning. On Mondays, students would check in with counselors and support staff.

Remote learning will be available for students whose families decide against returning to school and in the event school buildings are forced to close due to another outbreak.

"Clearly because of the potential for a rolling outbreak of COVID-19, we really do need a more robust remote eLearning platform," Fox-Alter said. "And if we are able to do a hybrid (model), you will have accountability measures in place if you have to do that. We are putting every model through its paces."

Prior to the July 14 board meeting, the district sent out a brief, general survey to

gauge what parents favored regarding school reopening. There were 910 responses and about 700 comments.

Most parents supported a full return to school with social distancing when feasible. The survey also revealed parents wanted masks worn by students and staff when social distancing is not possible.

The next preferred model would provide students with in-person instruction for a full day on some days and remote learning on days when students were not in the building.

There was less enthusiasm for half-day morning or afternoon sessions at school. The least favored option was remote classes with no access to school buildings for in-person instruction.

Among the survey's respondents, 673 indicated they were likely to send their children to school knowing the district would be in compliance with health and safety guidelines. Another 59 said they were unlikely to send their children to school while 178 were undecided.

Board members raised issues including what subjects were better suited to remote learning.

"I'm thinking about high school and if certain subjects are easier to teach online over subjects that need more in-person interaction," said Trustee Jill Grossman. Science with lab components should be in-person as opposed to math courses, she said.

"You can always replay a lesson if you don't understand a math problem," said Trustee Angela Vella.

Other discussion items included a

counseling component to ease students into social and emotional adjustments.

Board President Lawrence Boes suggested an in-person orientation period before school begins to familiarize students and parents with how classes and hallways will look.

"Perhaps we can have instructional videos online as well," Boes said.

Last week Gov. Andrew Cuomo laid out the guidelines that would allow schools to reopen. For a district to reopen, the infection rate in its region must be 5 percent or lower over a 14-day rolling average. Through last Saturday, the state's seven-day rolling average was 1 percent and none of New York's 10 regions were higher than 1.5 percent.

Cuomo will announce a decision during the first week of August.

Boes Elected School Board President

At the annual organizational meeting, Boes was voted president by his board colleagues, succeeding Angela Vella who served in the role for the last four years. Emily Rubin Persons was elected vice president.

Boes was first elected to the Board of Education in 2012, serving as vice president in 2016-17. He is a senior vice president and special commercial counsel for Fidelity National Title Insurance Company.

Persons has been a board member since 2012, and served as vice president from 2013 to 2015. After 22 years as an importer and wholesaler of decorative gifts, she is now a certified ADHD Life Coach.

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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

SummerT-Storm. Summer afternoon often bring a chance of thunderstorms, also known as T-storms. The quiz this week features a T-storm of its own, as all the vocabulary words begin with the letter "T." While summer T-storms can sometimes be dangerous, you should be able to weather this word T-storm quite safely.

1. toothsome (adj.)

A) agreeable

B) ineffectual

C) extreme

2. tutelage (n.)

A) practical information

B) a suggestion

C) guardianship

3. traipse (v.)

A) to transmit

B) move wearily

C) fly away

4. true penny (n.)

A) a zealous supporter

B) a final result

C) an honest person

5. trine (adj.)

A) threefold

B) nimble

C) feasible

6. titivate (v.)

A) to provide for

B) tidy up

C) giggle

7. trammel (n.)

A) a restriction

B) a hike

C) a tranquil state

8. tautology (n.)

A) study of grammar

B) needless repetition

C) classification system

ANSWERS:

1. A. Agreeable; attractive (something); spruce up; tidy up

2. C. Protection or authority; guardianship; care

3. B. To walk or move wearily or reluctantly; trudge

4. C. An honest or trusty person

5. A. Threefold; triple

6. B. To make small enhancing alterations to

7. A. A restriction or impediment to someone's freedom of action; constraint; restraint

8. B. The saying of the same thing over and over again in different words; needless repetition of an idea

Some Local Boards Slowly Return to the Meeting Room for Business

By Martin Wilbur

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every facet of life, including how municipalities and school districts conduct business.

But after four months of adjusting to meetings in a virtual setting through Zoom, Facebook Live or some other online platform, several area boards have been slowly and cautiously transitioning back to live meetings when practical.

Of course, that includes mask wearing, social distancing of at least six feet between everyone in the room and strictly adhering to capacity limits, which is capped at 50 percent with no more than 25 people in a room.

Since late June, two town boards in Putnam County, Patterson and Putnam Valley, have gone live with limited attendance without much fanfare. Patterson Supervisor Richard Williams said since the town opted to return to its Town Hall meeting room for its second June meeting, it has been constantly monitoring active cases and the status of the virus in the county.

"We are trying to get back to as much normalcy as we possible can around here – and try to do so safely," Williams said.

Under the current arrangement, eight members of the public are allowed to attend by pre-registering on a first-come, first-served basis. The only others in attendance are the board members and essential staff such as the town attorney, town clerk and cameraman. The Town Board meetings continue to be live-streamed on YouTube, although not the



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

The socially spaced Pleasantville Board of Education on July 14, one of several area boards that is trying to slowly transition to some in-person meetings.

planning and zoning boards are not.

There have been a few residents, but like most boards summer attendance is generally sparse, Williams said.

In Putnam Valley, as many as four members of the public are allowed, also first-come, first-served. Supervisor Sam Oliverio said the size of the meeting room, which is relatively small, remains a factor. The Town Board conducted its second regular June meeting and its July meeting last Wednesday at Town Hall.

However, when a public hearing is on the agenda, Oliverio said, it will go virtual. The Aug. 5 Town Board meeting will have four hearings and will be conducted via Zoom. Residents may also call in their comments and questions.

"At a public hearing you have to have the public speak. You can't disenfranchise anybody," Oliverio said.

One of the first area school boards to go live was the Pleasantville Board of Education. For its last two meetings the board has conducted a socially distanced meeting at the high school library and media center.

Trustee Angela Vella said the July 14 meeting featured a discussion on goals for the upcoming year and new officers were sworn in, making a virtual meeting less efficient. There was also discussion last week on what the start of the new school year may look like.

"We've been keeping our agendas very simple because of the remote nature of the meetings but we need to get back to business and start discussing things so we thought it would be better to have this discussion in person," Vella said.

The Aug. 4 meeting is scheduled to return to a virtual setting because a less robust agenda is likely, she said.

Meanwhile, the Village Board will continue to meet virtually, said Mayor Peter Scherer.

"It still seems like the right thing for the month of July, although I do look forward to being in the same room as folks," Scherer said.

Another arrangement was offered for last week's Mount Kisco Planning Board meeting. The board conducted the meeting over Zoom, but allowed residents to come to Village Hall for comments if they were more comfortable. Several residents chose that option.

Earlier this month, Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended boards' ability to continue meeting virtually. That is extended for 30-day intervals and will currently run through Aug. 5, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi said.

Although Cortlandt has one of the largest meeting rooms in the area, limiting attendance would not be fair or feasible when discussing hot-button issues, Puglisi said. For example, there was a major public hearing last month on the proposed mixed-use Medical Oriented District (MOD) project near New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital. There were about 140 participants for that hearing.

"How do you social distance?" Puglisi asked. "It's very, very difficult. We're trying to do our small part in stopping the spread."

Williams said if there is a controversial issue that large numbers of residents want to attend, the town will switch its venue to the gymnasium at Patterson's recreation center. He hopes that won't be needed.

"I'm working very hard to make sure we don't have any controversial issues," Williams said.

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Obituaries

Anthony Haruch

Anthony Haruch, formerly of Mahopac and Somers, died on July 5 from COVID-19. He was 94.

The last of six siblings and a lifelong bachelor, he devoted his life to art education. Haruch received his bachelor's degree in education from SUNY Buffalo and his master's from Columbia University and spent his career teaching in the Mahopac Central School District. In retirement, he continued educating, publishing teaching materials and teaching jewelry making.

He traveled extensively and was devoted to underrepresented groups, including American folk art and aboriginal art of Australia and New Zealand. He is remembered fondly by many of his former students and helped influence numerous careers.

Haruch is survived by his niece, Bonnie Haruch, of Pendleton, Ind.; great-nephews Kyle Kenyon of Sutton, Mass. and Cory Kenyon of Worcester, Mass.; and great-



Anthony Haruch

niece Kyra Kenyon of Fishers, Ind.

James Hughes

James R. Hughes, beloved son and brother, passed away on July 14 at the age of 61.

Jimmie was born in the Bronx to James W. and Jo-Ann Hughes. He is survived by his father, James, and his wife, Eileen, siblings Rich, Kevin, Ronda, Scott and Michael and his cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home for visitation on July 19. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 20 at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville. Interment immediately followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in New Rochelle.



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Carl Herzner

Carl Walter Herzner passed away peacefully at home in Boca Raton, Fla. on July, 10. He was 88.

Herzner was born on Sept. 24, 1931, in Ozone Park, Queens to Frieda and Karl Herzner. He had a twin sister, Ella, and two brothers, Werner and Herbert. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Nancy Guastella; his five children, Donna, Charles, Daniel, Paul and Mark; and his six grandchildren, Olivia, Sophia, Justin, Carl W., Julia and Daniel C.

Upon graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School in Jamaica, Queens, Herzner was drafted into the Marine Corps to serve his country in the Korean War. There, he specialized in electronics, and continued

his post-secondary education at the RCA Institute and the Remington Rand Institute to prepare for a career in technology. He enjoyed a long and successful career at the International Business Machines Corp., working with computers from the earliest mainframe models to the advent of the personal desktop computer.

He was an avid golfer and gardener, a devoted husband, and an active and involved father and grandfather. He was known to all his neighbors as the person who could fix anything. Carl will be sorely missed by his family and all whose lives he touched.

Memorial services will be held at a future date upon Mrs. Herzner's return to her family in Westchester County.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

July 10: An officer reported monitoring a black bear on Banksville Road at 10:08 a.m. The bear was later spotted at Byram Hills and the area was monitored throughout the tour without incident.

July 11: Report of larceny at Stop & Shop on North Broadway at 10 a.m. An employee stated that a tall Black male, wearing bright blue Hawaiian shorts filled two bags with more than \$500 in merchandise and believes he will walk out of the store. Officers responded and the subject was arrested.

White Plains Police Department

July 19: Police responded to a report of a shoplifter at Macy's at 100 Main St. A store employee reported \$2,000 of merchandise was stolen and that the perpetrators used a U-Haul truck as a getaway vehicle. The employee reported that one of the subjects matched the description of perpetrator a July 18 larceny. The officers learned the nearby location of the U-Haul truck and arrested Cory Richards for third-degree grand larceny and Jose Roman for fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property.

July 13: Police received a call about a burglary at 144 Mamaroneck Ave. The subject entered a lower common alleyway and stole cigarette cases that are worth about \$2,000 as well as \$1,500 in cash. The department has developed some leads and is making progress with the investigation.

July 13: A suspect entered the employee locker room of a store behind the rear of the Westchester Mall at 125 Westchester Ave. and stole a purse from Weekend Max

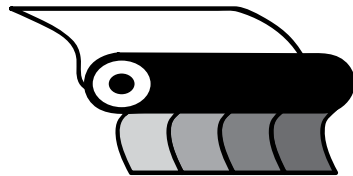
Mara. Police have developed a suspect and making arrangements to make contact with him.

Yorktown Police Department

July 12: At 3:49 p.m., Yorktown police responded to a resident on Friends Road to investigate a report of gun shots fired. Connor Scanlan, 21, was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment and criminal mischief, both felonies, and prohibited use of a weapon, a misdemeanor, for allegedly discharging a rifle inside the home, causing a bullet to penetrate the side of a neighbor's residence. Damage to the victim's home was estimated to be more than \$1,500. A temporary order of protection was issued to the victim.

July 13: Police responded to a report of an erratic driver in the area of Wildwood Street at 9:26 a.m. A traffic stop was initiated and an investigation revealed that Jamie Sweeney, 23, of Putnam Valley, was allegedly driving while ability impaired. She was found to be in possession of Alprazolam, a controlled substance, and a quantity of marijuana.

July 18: An officer on routine patrol on Gomer Street near Alden Drive at 12:42 a.m. observed a vehicle, driven by Kristian Singh, 20, of Yorktown, crossing over the double yellow line. After the officer activated emergency lights to conduct a traffic stop, Singh allegedly sped up before coming to a stop on London Road. He was charged with driving while ability impaired by drugs after a quantity of heroin and marijuana were found. Further investigation revealed he had a previous conviction for the same charge.



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Mt. Pleasant Considers New Zoning in Push for Senior Housing

By Madeline Rosenberg

The Mount Pleasant Town Board is considering a change to the town's zoning code to accommodate a Valhalla senior housing proposal, the latest in a years-long push to create a range of local senior living facilities.

Brightview Senior Living representatives proposed creating a floating zone district to the board at a public hearing last Tuesday evening. The proposal comes after the Mount Pleasant Planning Board recommended the floating zone and opposed Brightview's original plan to change the proposed housing site in Valhalla from residential to an office business zone.

The developer is proposing to build 170 units of independent living, assisted living and memory care at a largely undeveloped site near Westchester Community College on Grasslands Road. Under the current town code, assisted living facilities cannot be combined with independent living housing, The Examiner previously reported.

Town Attorney Darius Chafizadeh told the Town Board last week that creating a floating zone would help Mount Pleasant develop senior housing in a more commercial area, meeting standards that include at least eight acres of land that run along a state or county road.

"The concept was to give the board some flexibility here," Chafizadeh said, "but to limit (the senior housing) to certain types of properties so it doesn't go into a residential neighborhood, to keep it in an area that is

more commercialized and accessible from a more heavily traveled road as opposed to a residential street."

David Cooper, an attorney for the law firm Zarin & Steinmetz representing Brightview, said the developer would build more than \$800,000 worth of public water infrastructure upgrades during the housing construction process by installing a water main to connect over 50 homes to the town's water system. Brightview would also agree to add a traffic light outside the facility's entrance on busy Grasslands Road.

The plan to develop senior housing along the thoroughfare drew sharp public criticism last October during a preliminary discussion about the project. Concerns over traffic congestion, even with the proposed signal, escalated during a meeting last fall before the Planning Board.

In May, the Planning Board, in its zoning amendment referral to the Town Board stated that it "remains concerned about the maximum permitted density, and associated site plan issues, which will be addressed during the specific site plan application submitted in support of the development of the Grasslands Road site."

But advocates for the senior housing project say the development won't cause a traffic surge and will bring community and financial benefits, including increased tax revenue.

"Such specialized housing would provide significant benefits to the Town of Mount Pleasant, as the senior population forms a stable part of the community, generates

limited traffic on area roadways, does not utilize schools, and can serve as a source of sustained patronage of local businesses," the proposed zoning amendment reads.

Chafizadeh added that Mount Pleasant has for years found senior housing a "very positive, necessary thing in the town."

Some residents praised the senior housing project, while others called the development necessary for reasons beyond housing. The new water main would address water supply issues that have gone unresolved for years in some areas of town, resident Sanjiv Khattri told the board.

Khattri said his water supply has switched

back and forth between Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh water. Now, his home uses well water, which has a "set of issues."

"I strongly encourage the authorities to make sure this thing happens as soon as possible," Khattri said. "I applaud all of you for resolving it and trying to get it done, but it has already been very long and I want the record to show that as a citizen I am frustrated by the delay."

Residents can provide written or spoken comments to the Town Board on the senior housing proposal until the board's August meeting. The hearing will resume on Aug. 11.

Mohegan Lake Celebrates Yearly Lake Day Safely



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

The Mohegan Lake Improvement District pulled off its annual Lake Day, blending online events with live action on the lake. On July 13, state Sen. Peter Harkham and Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater visited each of the seven beach communities by boat and were greeted by Mohegan Lake residents. Other activities included scavenger hunts on land and water, a State of the Lake meeting via Zoom and music on the water where musicians were scheduled to perform from their beach.



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Drive-in Movies to Be Presented at Playland on Two Fridays

For the first time, the Playland parking lot will be transformed into a drive-in theater, presenting "Aladdin" on Friday, July 31 and "Dolittle" on Friday, Aug. 7, allowing moviegoers to enjoy classic live-action, family-friendly films in a socially-distanced way. The movies are part of Westchester County Parks' Screenings under the Stars series.

"We have established these drive-in movies so folks can have another family entertainment opportunity," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "These are family- and children-oriented movies so you can get out of the house on Friday night and enjoy Playland.

We are aiming to make lemonade out of the lemon that is Playland Park being closed in the age of COVID."

Both movies will be ticketed-admission events, with purchase available by online pre-sale only. Tickets go on sale for "Aladdin" on Wednesday, July 22 at 2 p.m. at <https://wcparksplayland.ticketleap.com/DriveIn>. "Dolittle" tickets will go on sale at the same link on Wednesday, July 29, also at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per car and there will be limited capacity following social distancing protocols.

The ticket link will also be listed at playlandpark.org and parks.westchestergov.com.

westchestergov.com.

Moviegoers will be asked to maintain a six-foot distance from others when exiting their vehicles and to wear a mask at all times when outside their vehicles. No gatherings will be permitted. Exiting your vehicle will be permitted when using the restrooms. Restrooms at Lake Boating will be available and will be serviced routinely. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Screenings Under the Stars is sponsored by Entergy and is presented by Westchester County Parks and Sharc Creative with

Westchester Parks Foundation and support from Westchester Talk Radio, 100.7 WHUD, 107.1 The Peak, Hamlethub, Robison, ENT and Allergy Associates, LLP, Inspira Outdoor Advertising, and Westchester Magazine.

**SMALL NEWS IS
BIG NEWS**

Pleasantville's Dining in the Street on Wheeler Ave. is Done for Now

By Abby Luby

Pleasantville's dining in the street on Wheeler Avenue on four consecutive Saturdays in June and early July got mixed reviews at last week's Village Board meeting.

The July 11 was canceled because of weather.

Of the three dates, outdoor dining didn't attract as many people and was expected. The July 11 was canceled because of inclement weather.

Started on June 20, the southern portion of Wheeler Avenue was closed to vehicular traffic from 4 to 10 p.m. from Manville Road to the exit of the Bedford Road parking lot near Soul Brewing Company.

Viewed as an experiment, the evenings were scheduled to help some of the downtown restaurants rebound once outdoor dining was allowed during the state's phased reopening.

Although the first evening seemed to attract a good crowd, other nights saw fewer patrons.

"It had an impact on some of the take-out business because it made it harder to pick up food," Mayor Peter Scherer said. "Most of those nights were pretty quiet. It doesn't make sense to keep doing it."

Some board members thought the effort was a good model to possibly recreate at a later date.

"I was very happy with the experience and would love to do it again in other circumstances," said Lord.

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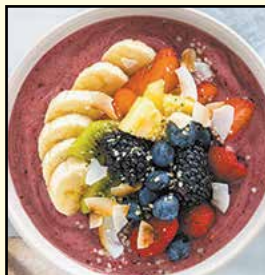
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Letters to the Editor

Drive-in Movies, Concerts May Be the Answer for Empty Office Parks

Most people I know are experiencing COVID-19 pandemic fatigue. We feel locked in, there is not enough variety in our lives and we don't know when the pandemic will be over. And we miss going to the movies, theater, live jazz concerts. Praying at a Zoom service is not the same as going to a service!

I have a suggestion that I am proposing to the Greenburgh Town Board: Rezone some of the office parks on Route 119 (heading to Tarrytown) to allow for drive-in movies, theater, concerts after hours. The operators of the business could even rent their drive-in facilities to religious institutions for prayer services on weekends.

This proposal, if implemented, would enable the arts to come alive while COVID-19

remains a risk. The office complexes usually empty out after 5 p.m. and the parking spots are empty the entire night. It's a wasted resource, with hundreds of vacant parking spots available. The Town of Greenburgh hosted a drive-in movie this past weekend. The turnout was great and we provided space between each car so even cars were socially distancing from each other.

The proposal could be a win-win for everyone. The office market is difficult with lots of vacancies. And now that people are used to working from home, we can expect more vacancies. Landlords would benefit from the additional revenue. Residents of Greenburgh and the county would be able to look forward to quality entertainment

with drive-in movies available for adults and children. Restaurants near the office complex would benefit with more customers. And, it's possible that empty office buildings could be converted into other uses; a deli or pharmacy near a drive-in movie theater might be very successful. We have to be creative, economic development after COVID-19 will be different than before.

So far, the reaction to this proposal has been fantastic. If you are a musician, entertainer, religious leader, resident, let me know what you think. Please e-mail me your thoughts at pfeiner@greenburghny.com.

Paul Feiner
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

Westchester Board of Elections Has Lots of Work to Do for November Vote

Too much is at stake in the next few months leading up to the Nov. 3 election. We don't want to repeat the Westchester County Board of Elections (BOE) fiascos that happened in the June 23 primary. The BOE needs to get their act together, prepare before the voting begins by addressing the problems NOW.

The BOE needs to:

- Recruit and train poll workers, recruit and train observers, prepare mailing infrastructure and educate the voters.
- Voter registration and maintenance of poll books.
- Explain to voters the absentee ballot application and mailing process required by the BOE.

- Receipt of ballots by voters, counting and tracking of ballots and U.S. Postal Service issues.
- Consider drop-off boxes or drive-in balloting.
- The day before the election, ballot counting should begin.

Many voters were unaware of the following June 23 issues:

- BOE postcards never arrived at voter addresses.
- Incorrect polling places were given to the public.
- Polling places were not vetted early enough.
- Voter registration needs the guarantee of back-up print poll books at polling places.

- Many voters' records had been dropped and design of the ballots was difficult to understand.

You thought your vote got counted; maybe not. It's our responsibility to hold the BOE accountable for their mishaps and start to correct the problems ASAP. The BOE needs to know we've been educated and we have our eyes on them.

A new day is coming. If you, like myself, want a new government in power that has our best interests in mind, vote in the presidential election. Change can only happen if we make it happen.

Karen Sevell Greenbaum
Croton-on-Hudson

Time for Mahopac Schools to Retire its Racially Offensive Nickname

Mahopac's decision to retain the "Indian" as its mascot is wrongheaded. As a 1984 alumnus, I would ask that rather than reflexively defend the past, the school district follow a more enlightened path and reconsider its position.

Rather than defending the decision to retain the mascot based upon the specious argument that in so many words, "some descendants of the Native Americans said they liked it" (according, apparently, to the volunteer town historian) and that keeping Indians in some fashion honored the history of the native peoples who once lived in the area (Why did they leave again?), the district should recognize that cultural appropriation of the type symbolized here should properly

be relegated to the dustbin of American history.

As no Wappinger Algonquians remain in the school district (the tribe is extinct), the superintendent would be well advised to ask actual Native Americans what they think. He could, for instance, review the National Congress of American Indians' position on "Harmful Indian Mascots" in which they state that "[R]ather than honoring Native peoples, these caricatures and stereotypes are harmful, perpetuate negative stereotypes of America's first peoples, and contribute to a disregard for the personhood of Native peoples; and that Indian sports mascots have serious psychological, social and cultural consequences for Native

Americans, especially Native youth."

Since leaving Mahopac for the American West, I have had the privilege of spending time on the Navajo reservation. If the school district wants to honor Native American peoples, I can think of no better way than for them than to advocate that these American citizens are honored with running water, electricity and the means to fight the COVID pandemic that is ravaging their nation.

Maybe a fundraising drive at the next Mahopac Lakers High School football game could be organized?

Matthew Alexander Natt, Esq.
1984 Senior Class Vice President
Park City, Utah

Political Correctness to Some Means Progress for Others

I am always suspicious whenever I hear or read someone using the term "political correctness."

My suspicions were confirmed as I read Mr. Gallagher's piece ("Harclockham Shouldn't Mix Politics with Sports, Education," July 14-20). This piece morphed in and out of a political endorsement for politician Rob Astorino and a general endorsement of the GOP manifesto.

One thing COVID-19 has enabled us to do as a community, a nation and people the

world over, is to have a clearer lens on the inequality and prejudices in all parts of life. And fortunately, many are active in rectifying many of these inequalities. What might be a cute little cartoon character to some may be a very painful reminder of times gone by when racism and prejudices were looked at as normal.

The idea that the world is going through an important change in attitude on these issues clearly doesn't sit well with some in the community. Unfortunately for them, the

world is passing their archaic views by, for the better.

This isn't "political correctness" gone mad, it is the world growing up and admitting the failed past and moving forward to fairer days.

Sports, education and politics shouldn't mix? Maybe sports journalism and politics shouldn't mix either.

Peter Daicos
Armonk



WHICH FUTURE MAKES SENSE FOR WESTCHESTER?

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The illustration above is an artist's depiction of the Indian Point property after the completion of major decommissioning work.

Indian Point Energy Center



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We Save Stuff and More Stuff, But Where to Put It?

Our homes are where we eat, sleep, play, sometimes work and store things we've finished using but somehow can't bear to throw away.

There are many reasons we may want to hold on to stuff we no longer need, but where do we put it all?

Granted, some homeowners achieve living on the light side where nothing is hidden and what you see is what you get. Or, they've gotten religion just before the sale of a home.

As a real estate agent, I advise my seller clients that homes on the market that show best are those where all the traditional storage spaces – the attic, basement, garage and large closets – are bare. Granted, I know that can cause apoplexy just thinking about it.

In my last home, an 18th century colonial with a huge attic within a high-pitched roof, the space looked like a commercial storage facility, but not as neat. When we decided to sell that home more than five years ago, we cleaned out the attic but hired a crew to clean out our basement, which had been packed with stuff from cement floor to beams overhead. There was clear evidence there of many different careers and lifetimes, including those of our parents and grandparents, along with tools and leftover materials from house renovation.



By Bill Primavera

One helper took me aside and told me how dangerous it was to have saved enamel paint and paint thinner so close to the boiler. Fortunately, it was before I started writing as The Home Guru, so I was only half, instead of totally, embarrassed.

At first, it was a visceral experience to instruct the workers what to throw out for bulk pick up. But as the project wore on and I wore out, memories were discarded wholesale. It felt liberating.

Actually, my wife is the more practical one between us. When she took charge for having our garage cleaned out prior to the move, she was asked by a worker what he should save. She responded, "Just keep the cars."

My propensity to hang on to stuff started young. Maybe I had thought that someday I would be so famous that future generations would want some piece of who I was and what I did in life. But since I turned out to be just an ordinary guy, I have no excuse.

It all started when I was an adolescent and my mother gave me a white envelope on which was written, "My Son William's First Haircut, Aged 2." Inside were titian red curls that bear little resemblance to my hair today. It was a real curiosity for me.

That was the first item I tucked away in a sturdy cardboard box that originally housed



Florida oranges we would receive each Christmas from my Aunt Helen. Through the years, that box accommodated all my other official documents from my birth certificate to a special blessing from the Pope (my wife had connections) when my wife and I married. Since then, that one box has multiplied like loaves and fishes.

By the time I was a teenager, I was collecting books and phonograph records before the time of downloading audio files, never thinning them out and always saving them. (Anybody want a rare collection of impressive 33 rpms from the '60s?)

By the time I married, I went to work for Polaroid when it was big in photography, well before the days of digital images. I documented every move my family and I made, starting with our honeymoon, and still have boxes and boxes of pictures.

Then my wife and I started collecting things together, and by the time we got into the antiques business part-time, the floodgates opened. We never got to the point

of hoarding and our house was always tidy, but we never really organized our storage of the things we didn't have room to display.

As homes get downsized, efficient storage is more important, and today, there are many resources for creative solutions for tucking things away.

The internet and big-box retailers are rich with the tools needed to store things properly. Home Depot boasts a wide assortment of containers for the garage or outdoor shed.

For those who need industrial strength help with storage, there is always the great PODS concept (www.pods.com), which has a slogan of "The Best Moving & Storage Idea Ever." I'm inclined to agree. While the company will deliver a POD to a private home for "temporary" storage during house renovation or preparing for a move, I have seen them stay on properties seemingly indefinitely, and there may be some local ordinances discouraging that.

If I were to dispense any advice about storage, it would be as simplistic as to suggest that we should all better manage what we collect in the first place. Now, if only I were able to accept that advice years ago.

Bill Primavera, while a writer and public relations practitioner, is also a licensed realtor (PrimaveraHomes.com) affiliated with William Raveis and a marketing practitioner (PrimaveraPR.com). Anyone considering selling or buying a home and seeking expert advice can reach Bill directly at 914-522-2076.



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Fall School Sports Delayed; Fall Championships Canceled

The officers of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) voted last Thursday to delay the official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season until at least Sept. 21.

In addition, the Fall 2020 Regional and State Championships have been canceled and there are plans to implement a condensed season schedule in January if high school sports remain prohibited throughout 2020 due to COVID-19.

This decision comes at the recommendation of the NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force.

"As the state considers reopening, it is unrealistic to believe athletic seasons can start on Aug. 24 as originally scheduled," said NYSPHSAA President Paul Harrica. "The priority will continue to be on the educational process and a return to learning in the safest way possible."

The NYSPHSAA officers' decision includes:

- Delay fall sports start date until Monday, Sept. 21
- Cancel fall regional and state championship events
- Waive the seven-day practice rule
- Maintain current practice requirements
- Encourage geographic



The high school fall sports season has been delayed until at least Sept. 21 after a vote last week by the state Public High School Athletic Association.

scheduling for games and contests

- Schools would have the option, if permitted by state officials, to offer off-season conditioning workouts.

"We recognize this is challenging for everyone, but the decisions made at the state level are based upon data and statewide infection rates all in an effort to stop the spread of COVID and reopen responsibly," said NYSPHSAA Executive Director Dr. Robert Zaya. "At this time, Department

of Health guidance presented on July 13 prohibits interscholastic athletics across the state. The association will continue to follow state guidance and will work collectively with State officials to ensure high school athletics will start up responsibly in the future. As an association, we must be willing to be flexible and continue to explore all options with students' safety as our main focus."

With regional differences, schools and areas will be impacted

differently by the COVID-19 crisis. At the discretion of the NYSPHSAA officers and authorization from state officials, if the fall sports seasons are interrupted or impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, then a condensed seasons plan will be implemented.

The condensed season plan would entail the following. The stipulated dates are tentative.

Season I (Winter Sports)

Dates: Jan. 4 to Mar. 13 (Weeks 27-36) Sports: basketball (girls/boys), bowling (girls/boys), gymnastics, ice hockey (girls/boys), indoor track and field (girls/boys), skiing (girls/boys), swimming (boys), *wrestling, *competitive cheer. (Because of the high-risk nature of wrestling and competitive cheer, sports may have to be moved to Season II or season III.

Season II (Fall Sports)

Dates: Mar. 1 to May 8 (Weeks 35-44) Sports: football, cross country (girls/boys), field hockey, soccer (girls/boys), swimming (girls), volleyball (girls/boys), Unified bowling.

Note: Weather will have an impact upon outdoor sports in some parts of the state in March and potentially early April. Girls

tennis moved to Season III.

Season III (Spring Sports)

Dates: Apr. 5 to June 12 (Week 40-49) Sports: baseball, softball, golf (girls/boys), lacrosse (girls/boys), tennis (girls/boys), outdoor track and field (girls/boys), unified basketball.

The NYSPHSAA officers have the ability to adjust seasons with the authority granted within the NYSPHSAA Constitution

In an effort to assist schools in complying with recently released state Department of Health guidance, the NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force is supportive of the use of the ezSCRN application. The ezSCRN application provides a unique online tool for schools to utilize if screening is part of their reopening plan as it complies with New York state and national restrictions and guidelines. The EzScrn application allows a school or team to easily screen, trace and track students and staff and immediately notify school administrators and health care officials if anyone exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.

A full report will be released soon. The next meeting of the COVID-19 Task Force has not been determined.

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Free Yoga Sessions to Kick Off This Week at Playland, Croton Beaches

The Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) and Tovami Yoga kick off the 2020 Sunset Yoga in the Parks series on Wednesday, July 22 at 6:45 p.m. at Playland Park.

The free classes are open to any level of flexibility and take place throughout the summer at Playland Park and a new northern Westchester location this year at Croton Point Park along with Flowers City Park in New Rochelle.

"Yoga in the Parks is one of our most popular events," said Christine La Porta, deputy director of Westchester Parks Foundation. "With this year being very stressful for parents, we decided to expand the series to Croton Point Park and Flowers City Park to give more residents throughout Westchester County a way to relax

and energize."

Participants must register in advance and bring their own mats or towels. No walk-ups will be allowed as in previous years. Mats must be spaced six feet apart, and participants must have

masks and follow all mandated social distancing protocols.



Sunset Yoga in the Park is hosted by the WPF, Tovami Yoga of Mamaroneck and Westchester County Parks and sponsored by NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital.

The series will take place on the following dates and locations. All sessions will take

place from 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Playland Beach
Wednesday, July 22
Wednesday, Aug. 12

Croton Point Park
Wednesday, July 29
Wednesday, Aug. 26
Wednesday, Sept. 16

Flowers City Park
Wednesday, Sept. 9

In the event of weather-related cancellations, participants will be notified of rain dates.

For more information, visit <https://www.thewpf.org/event/5th-annual-sunset-yoga-in-the-park-playland-beach>.

Philipstown to Implement Solar Pump Irrigation System

New Leaf Restoration, Inc., a new community garden nonprofit organization, along with Butterfield Library and the Desmond-Fish Library, will present a town-wide Zoom webinar, "Getting Water from the Sun: Implementing a Solar Pump Irrigation System in Philipstown," on Tuesday, July 28, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Rural Power Systems (RPS), a national company based in Woodlands, Calif. that specializes in solar-powered water pumps, will have representatives on hand for the segment.

Founded in 2012, RPS is a family-owned company of laser-focused mechanical, electrical and software engineers whose

goal is to "arm you with the equipment and knowledge to take control of your water."

Co-owner Mike Ragsdale grew up on a ranch climbing windmills. After working as an aerospace solar design engineer, he founded the company with Jeremy Van Fleet to combine his experience with wells on the ranch with solar technology to create a simpler and more reliable solution for accessing remote water.

"The RPS solar pump kit will automate the New Leaf garden's drip irrigation plan and hopefully eliminate the need for daily watering trips. The plan is to reduce our members' time, expense and carbon footprint," said New Leaf Restoration co-founder Tim Donovan. "It's always exciting to find new and innovative

ways to optimize delivery of our precious resources."

This segment is the sixth in the cosponsored webinar series, "Supporting Habitat Through Community Gardening and Agricultural Stewardship in Philipstown," which began on June 9 and runs through the summer. Previous guest speakers include the Philipstown Climate Smart Community, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County, the Philipstown Pollinator Pathway and Dr. Dorothy Peteet, senior research scientist at NASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies and adjunct professor, Columbia University.

New Leaf Restoration's mission is to plan

and implement intergenerational community gardens in the pasture at the intersection of routes 9D and 403 in Garrison. The parcel was donated to the Town of Philipstown by Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson in 2017. The Town Board, in agreement with the Philipstown Recreation Commission, passed a resolution on June 4 approving New Leaf Restoration to begin working to develop collaborative town-wide community gardens on the property.

For information on this or future segments in this series, visit newleaf-restoration.org, butterfieldlibrary.org or desmondfishlibrary.org. To learn more about Rural Power Systems, visit rpssolarpumps.com.

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But if you purchase a one-way ticket for your vacation on your last day away, you can make the joyful decision to stay one, two or three days longer. To keep basking in the sun, exploring that great city you're visiting or to return to your favorite museum or have one more outrageous meal in the restaurant you loved so much.

Most boutique hotels are delighted to allow you to stay a few more days at a discounted rate. Then when you're absolutely ready to head home, just purchase your best deal return ticket. It's that easy. A beautiful concept to insure your most memorable vacation ever with no regrets.

After all, you deserve a few more days, especially after this life-altering plague and lockdown you will survive. Two one-way tickets cost a bit more, but it's worth it for the few extra days of unbridled pleasure.

On our next trip, my girlfriend and I are buying one-way tickets for the first time. I'm looking forward to experiencing my first vacation with no return date to haunt me throughout the trip.



By Richard Levy

For the best one-way fares, download the Hopper app, my favorite. They send you lower fares as they materialize, so when a super-low fare pops up you can grab it. When ready to come home it will find you the most affordable fare. Some one-stop flights even allow you to get off in their "one-stop city" for free a few days and get back on another flight to your original destination.

If you're retired, the one-way ticket concept is a great idea. For the first time you won't have that haunting return ticket causing vacation anxiety every day you're trying to lose yourself.

This is the perfect time to start planning your spring or summer 2021 vacation. Airlines and hotels have the lowest prices and best deals ever and desperate to secure advance bookings. This life-altering pandemic will be gone – hopefully – by next year. Don't wait, make plans now for the most decadent, adventurous and fun-filled splurge vacation you've ever taken.

Perhaps reach into your bucket list and take that once-in-a-lifetime vacation you've been saving or always dreamed about taking. Just do it!

My three most OMG vacations were the river cruise down the Mekong River from Cambodia to Vietnam on AmaWaterways (most adventurous); Bellagio, Lake Como at the five-star Grand Villa Serbelloni, voted the best luxury hotel in Italy (most romantic); and the Amalfi Coast in the hilltop town of Ravello, staying in the beautiful La Dolce Vita villa overlooking the coast (most breathtaking).

Importantly, for international travel, be sure your passport does not expire six months before your departing flight or six months after your returning flight or you'll be turned away at the airport. Always have travel insurance, because as we know, stuff happens.

So consider buying a one-way ticket for your next vacation. For the first time you'll have the option of staying just a few more days. After all, life is short and you're worth it.

Note: If you can manage it, my advice is don't take the kids; couples desperately need a romantic getaway once in a while to keep their sanity. Bon voyage!

Hastings-on-Hudson resident

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

The Travel Maven

A Spiritual View

By Cantor Lilah Sugarman

We all breathe, and usually, we do not even notice. It is something we do and often do not think about throughout our day; like so many things in our lives, we only notice once it is not there or if it has changed or become belabored.

In Judaism, the concept of breath, life and soul are all intrinsically related. In Hebrew, the word soul, neshamah, and breath, neshima, are linked by the same root. Our breath is our life force. We must breathe to live, and our breath also brings life.

In more recent months, breathing has become heightened in our individual awareness as well as our cultural consciousness. We are more aware of each breath we take when it is through a mask we are wearing to protect ourselves and others from the spread of COVID-19. "I can't breathe"

has become a slogan that points out the realities of police violence and institutionalized racism within our country. We are reminded each black life matters as each black breath matters.

Let us all take time to notice and appreciate our breath. Notice our breath and bring gratitude for our lives. Let us bring awareness and honor to those

keeping us safe that must wear a mask an entire shift at work. Let us use our breath to raise our voices through our masks to cry out against injustices. Let us take a deep rejuvenating inhale and a prolonged freeing exhale. Inhale, exhale.

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



Pleasantville Blood Drive Returns July 29

During the last four months, local blood drives were all canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic. The demand for blood had dropped because hospitals had converted surgical and treatment units into COVID units.

With services now fully restored, the demand for blood is as high as it was before the onset of the pandemic and donors are desperately needed to step up and help fill empty storage shelves.

The Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps will be hosting a summer blood drive next Wednesday, July 29 from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pleasantville Firehouse, located at 75 Washington Ave. Since it is difficult to organize community

drives during the summer, blood donors from all towns are encouraged to come to lend their help.

Appointments will be required. To assure adequate physical distancing of donors and to meet additional sanitation requirements, walk-ins are not allowed. Donors will be given a health prescreening prior to entering the facility and will be required to wear a face covering.

Make an appointment by calling 800-933-2566 or visiting www.nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood. Direct access to the July 29 appointment schedule can be found by visiting https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/272455.

For questions regarding eligibility, call 800-688-0900.

Mount Kisco Expands Tree Art Contest

Mount Kisco's popular Arbor Day My Favorite Tree competition is now open to youngsters under 18 years old. There is no entry fee, and the deadline for submitting entries is Monday, Aug. 17.

"We have also opened up the contest and exhibition to include all students in the Bedford Central School District," said Jim Gmelin, one of the organizers and chairman of the Mount Kisco Tree Preservation Board. "In addition, we've launched a writing competition in conjunction with the art category. Our youth are encouraged to also express their love for trees in poetry, song or essay."

This year's entries will be judged in three age groups: age 6 and under, ages 7-12, and ages 13-18. Winners will receive an award at

an event in Leonard Park during the town's postponed Arbor Day celebration, which will be held later this year. All entries will be displayed in an online gallery.

Entries should be sent to mkarborday2020@gmail.com. Participants, parents, teachers or other helpers should photograph or scan the painting and send it by e-mail with the artist's name and age in the message area. Entries in the writing category should be e-mailed as well.

"Mount Kisco has beautiful trees, walking trails and parks, and we hope residents and visitors will enjoy this summer discovering nature at its best," said John Rhodes, chairman of the Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council, the competition's co-sponsor.

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Culinary Pleasures Await Amid Coronavirus Guidelines

Gov. Mario Cuomo has issued a new COVID-19 directive: no alcoholic drinks may be served without a food order at restaurants, bars and tasting rooms throughout New York State.

It is meant to cut down on crowds and promote social distancing at eating and drinking establishments. There are plenty of summertime indulgences waiting for you. Follow the rules, enjoy and stay safe.

Patio Dining at Southern Table

We were happy to return to Southern Table Kitchen & Bar after a long hiatus. We were a bit hungry after a visit to Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. in Elmsford, so we drove over to Marble Avenue in Pleasantville. It was a lovely early evening, and right from the start quite pleasant on their outdoor patio. The staff wore masks and tables were properly distanced.

We lingered over two glasses of wine. We had forgotten how ample the portion sizes were here. We ordered a big juicy burger with house fries and skirt steak salad. Plenty of flavor in each dish. We shared, and still had plenty to take home. We knocked off a decadent banana fudge sundae before we left.

Southern Table Kitchen & Bar, located at 39 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville, offers a big dose of southern cooking with house specialties such as cheddar biscuits, grit bowls, Cajun-style seafood boils and chicken and waffles. Seasonal patio dining. Open daily. Pick-up and delivery. 914-618-3355 or visit www.southern-table.com.

Benjamin Steakhouse Reopens

Proprietor Benjamin Prelvukaj of Benjamin Steakhouse in White Plains has been offering pre-cut prime meats for take-home during the COVID crisis. The dry-aged steaks like the porterhouse, rib-eye and rack of lamb are deliciously tender. The salmon and Chilean sea bass are top of the line, too.

Since the start of Phase 3, their outdoor patio seating has been expanded. Now they have brought back their popular Happy



The oversized burger with house fries is one of the many delights to choose from at Southern Table Kitchen & Bar in Pleasantville.



By Morris Gut

Hours inside at the bar from 4 to 7 p.m. We visited on the first day and noticed bar seating had been properly distanced. Some seats had been removed. There is a bar menu featuring a good deal on fresh Blue Point Oysters for \$1.50 per piece.

Look for additional house specialties such as classic Caesar salad and New York strip sirloin. Their clubby dark wood floors, fireplace, banquette seating and chocolate leather chairs make for a handsome setting. The bar/lounge is highlighted by a stunning glass-enclosed wine room. The professional staff keep it all very accommodating.

Benjamin Steakhouse is located at 610 Hartsdale Rd. in White Plains. Free and valet parking. Take-out and delivery as well as special deals on packaged prime meats for home cooking. Open Tuesday through Friday 4 to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 12 to 10 p.m. Three-course prix-fixe lunch menu served on weekends from 12 to 4 p.m. for \$39.95. 914-428-6868 or visit www.benjaminsteakhouse.com.

The Dog Den is Back!

Hot dog maven have been buzzing about the reopening of The Dog Den at the former bus depot at the White Plains Metro-North station.

Hot dogs are an ode to the ultimate comfort food, according to dynamic owner and founder Dennis (Big Dennis) Rubich. On a beautiful late afternoon, Big Dennis, who stands 7-foot-1 and once played pro basketball in Europe, was chatting with customers as they ate their dogs and sides with gusto.

There are a lot of combinations and toppings on the menu along with alternative bites galore. Dog Den uses Sabrett all-beef certified gluten-free dogs and Martin's Potato Long Rolls. On this visit we tried the Bernie Mac n' Cheese wrapped in bacon and loaded with decadent mac n' cheese topping. The other, The Cool Beans, was topped with bacon bits and baked beans. We ordered a pile of crinkle cut fries, too.

On previous visits, I consumed the Cali - D - O - double G (bacon strips, guacamole, tomato, ranch dressing and celery salt) and the Chili Willy (chili, nacho cheese and chopped white onions). Both were well-assembled by the staff and delicious.

There are free half-hour parking spaces, or you can walk over. Seating is well spaced apart. According to Rubich, who is leasing the space from Westchester County, there are plans for a breakfast menu and beer and wine service.

The Dog Den is located at 1 Main St. in White Plains at the Metro-North train station. Open seven days a week. 914-328-3288 or visit www.thedogdenwhiteplains.com.

New Chef at Bedford Post Inn

Roxanne Spruance has been named



The Bedford Post Inn has lush patio dining to enjoy a summertime meal.



There aren't just incredible steaks at Benjamin Steakhouse in White Plains. There's a good deal at the bar on Blue Point Oysters.

executive chef at the Bedford Post Inn in Bedford. She will oversee the culinary at the formal farmhouse and the more casual The Barn.

Spruance arrives at Bedford Post with formidable experience. She has put her talents to work for highly-regarded restaurants such as Blackbird in Chicago, WD-50 in Manhattan and Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills where she had worked her way up to sous chef.

Current specialties range from grilled wedge salad; bone marrow luge (roasted veal bone marrow topped with yellowfin tuna); summer squash pasta; fried chicken; barn burger on brioche; pan-roasted hanger steak au poivre; and striped bass.

Spruance originally entered the culinary world as a pastry chef so watch for seasonal desserts including roasted strawberry



The Bernie Mac n' Cheese and Cool Beans Dogs with fries are a couple of the more than 30 types of hot dogs to choose from at The Dog Den in White Plains.

short; rhubarb pistachio tart and yuzu lemon curd brulee.

Bedford Post Inn is located at 954 Old Post Rd. in Bedford. It was originally founded by actor Richard Gere and partners. It is currently owned and operated by Relais & Chateaux properties. Current dining hours on the patio are 4 to 10 p.m. daily. Curbside pick-up is available by advance order. Reservations are strongly recommended. Overnight accommodations. 914-234-7800 or visit www.bedfordpostdining.com.

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

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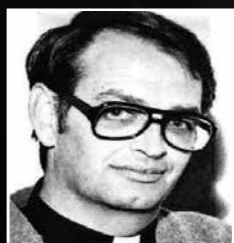
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Chianti in Tuscany: An Overview and an Ancient Legend



By Nick Antonaccio

Chianti. Utterance of the word evokes fond memories of a place and time. Of indelibly etched meals enjoyed on a patio overlooking rolling hills of vineyards. Of trattoria house wines, at times sans label, always delightful and always paired perfectly with any local offerings on the menu.

Why does Chianti imbue in us a feeling of comfort, a sense of pastoral bliss and enchanted evenings?

Certainly, the landscape, sunsets and local inhabitants are major factors in influencing our psyche. But somehow, the totality of our senses is influenced primarily by the storied history of this idyllic region. For centuries, this land of limitless bounty has impressed visitors.

Internal politics, unseen by these same visitors, have influenced the region and the wines and have forged a culture that, to this day, contributes to the lore and beguilement of Chianti.

What is the essence of Chianti? Herewith a (very) brief backdrop to the intriguing world of 21st century Chianti – a modern wine steeped in ancient history.

Chianti is a regulated region within Tuscany, consisting of 600 producers/growers and 300 wineries. By far its most prestigious member is Chianti Classico (that's right: Classico is a geographic, not style, designation). There are seven subregions that carry the name Chianti and the designation DOCG (the highest ranking for top Italian wines) on the label, from the area just north of Florence (Rufina) to that surrounding Siena (Colli Senesi).

Since the year 1000, the political and military rights to the 100 square miles of Chianti lands – and its bounty – have been contested in many fierce battles. Many of the stately villas that dot the Chianti terrain were once castles and fortifications for the land-hungry Medicis of Florence and the wealthy families of Siena.

About 70 percent of Chianti land is designated as Chianti Classico, which has been awarded its own, distinct, DOCG status. To oversee and protect the fabled reputation of its wines, winemakers of the Chianti Classico region have banded together to form the "Consorzio Vino Chianti Classico."

The current crop of producers co-exist in two different camps: those who purposefully carry on the flavor profile of traditional Chianti Classico (lean and slightly acidic) and those who espouse a more modern, fruit-forward wine. Whether traditionalist

or modern, Chianti Classico producers have forged an alliance that has catapulted their offerings to worldwide prominence.

To distinguish themselves from the remainder of Chianti, they have chosen as their symbol a black rooster, itself the subject of one of the most famous feuds in Chianti history.

The black rooster (Gallo Nero in Italian) symbol is displayed on the neck of every bottle of Classico as the Consorzio's symbol of excellence. A red border surrounding the Gallo Nero designates a young Classico; a gold border indicates a Riserva, aged for 24 months before release.

I find the legend of the origin of the black rooster particularly fascinating.

Florence and Siena had fought for centuries over strategic control of the choice Chianti Classico land between their kingdoms. In the 13th century, after many grueling battles, their leaders decided to settle the dispute once and for all, in an arbitrary fashion. Each side would select a rooster, and in the morning, when the cocks crowed in their respective cities, a designated knight on horseback would gallop off from his home base toward the enemy city.

Wherever they met along the nearly 50-mile route, the boundaries for the kingdoms would forever be set. The Sienese chose a beautiful, well-fed white rooster; the Florentines a ragged, starving, cooped-up black rooster. On the designated morning, the ornery black rooster crowed well before dawn, while the complacent white rooster crowed at the first beams of sunlight. The two horsemen met a mere six miles from Siena and to this day the Chianti Classico boundary remains the same.

The Chianti region, famous for its wine and coupled with a storied history and deep culture, is a must-visit during your COVID-19 travel-shortened lifetime.

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



The familiar black rooster denoting Chianti Classico is a symbol of excellence in the world of wine.

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Lakeland Grad DeMarte to Play in All-American Challenge

When the first pitch in the All-American Baseball Challenge is thrown this week on July 23 at Palisades Credit Union Park in Pomona, there will be a distinct local flare.

A number of former local scholastic standouts, who have recently wrapped up their college careers on the diamond or would have been playing either affiliated minor league baseball or independent league ball, will dot the rosters of the two squads based in Rockland County.

One name that jumps off the roster sheet is former Lakeland High School standout Jonathan DeMarte, who, after three years of independent ball, including stints in Australia with the Perth Heat in the winter of 2019 and with the Frontier League's Quebec Capitales later that summer, signed a contract with the Chicago Cubs this past spring.

However, like all professional players not on a Major League Baseball roster, DeMarte was on the outside looking in when MLB shut down its spring training facilities in March.

The All-American Baseball Challenge has given the 2010 and 2011 Gatorade New York State High School Player of the Year and former Richmond University Spider the opportunity to continue to hone his skills.

"It is great to have the chance to compete again," DeMarte, 27, said. "I am



Lakeland graduate Jonathan DeMarte will be a featured performer in the All-American Baseball Challenge in Rockland County this summer. The season starts on Thursday.

so thankful for the opportunity. I am also thankful that the Cubs allowed me to do this. As an older guy, I need to get my work in and face batters."

The All-American Baseball Challenge is

a six-team league that will be played at the home ballparks of three Frontier League franchises – Palisades Credit Union Park in Pomona, Skylands Stadium in Augusta, N.J. and Yogi Berra Stadium in Montclair, N.J.

PCU Park is the home of the New York Boulders, while Skylands Stadium is the home base of the Sussex County Miners and Yogi Berra Stadium is the host diamond for the New Jersey Jackals.

A highly recruited pitcher coming out of high school in 2011, injuries and surgeries sidetracked DeMarte's college career. The surgeries were numerous and ran from a torn rotator cuff to a hernia.

It was last winter playing in Australia that a scout for the Cubs noticed DeMarte, who, after coming home after New Year's, threw for the Cubs, San Diego Padres and Oakland Athletics at a tryout.

He signed with the Cubs a short time later, fulfilling a lifelong dream. DeMarte is also a member of Team Israel and was set to play in the postponed 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2021 World Baseball Classic.

While next spring's WBC has already been canceled by Major League Baseball, DeMarte is still optimistic that he may get the chance to enjoy the Olympic experience.

"The Olympics was devastating,"

DeMarte said. "Even more devastating than this year's minor league season getting canceled. The Olympics are a once-in-a-lifetime experience and if it's canceled again next year, I may never get that chance because baseball is not in the 2024 Games."

The 32-game schedule that is set to begin this Thursday, will feature the Rockland Boulders (not affiliated with the New York Boulders) and New York Brave playing at Palisades Credit Union Park; Sussex County Miners and Skylands Cardinals at Skylands Stadium; and the New Jersey Jackals and the Jersey Wise Guys will play at Yogi Berra Stadium.

All games will be held Thursday through Sunday and will run through the weekend following Labor Day in September.

A full promotion schedule for the baseball games will be announced shortly. In accordance with New York State guidelines, crowds will be extremely limited and masks required as part of the ballpark's guest separation safety protocol. Schedule and ticket information is available at www.palisadescreditunionpark.com.

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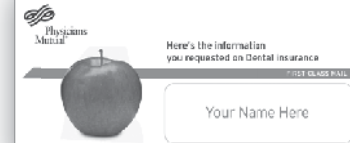
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Examiner Sports

Mahopac (16U) Mercy's Mount Pleasant; Somers (9U) Defeats Bedford Hills

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League (GHVBL) action is beginning to heat up on diamonds across the Hudson Valley.

The Mahopac Indians (16U) won their B-Division season-opener at Crane Field last Thursday in a 12-2 win over Mount Pleasant.

"It was an encouraging start to our season, considering it was our first game and we were only able to have two practices prior to it," Indians' Coach Paul Mante said.

Erik Andersen got things rolling for the Indians with a clutch two-out, two-strike, two-run single up the middle in the second inning.

"We then broke the game open in the third inning with a 10-run, eight-hit inning, which saw 15 batters come to the plate," Mante said. Ten out of the 11 hitters in our batting

order scored throughout the game. All in all, a very well-rounded offensive, defensive and pitching performance."

Gianluca Santoro pitched a gem, going four innings and yielding two runs before RJ Horvath fired a scoreless fifth to close out the game. Steven Perrone went 2 for 3 with an RBI and two runs. Anthony Mante went 2 for 2 with a walk and 2 RBI. Dominic Campo had a hit and scored two runs.

The Mahopac Wolves (11U) lost in walk-off fashion to the Patterson Pirates, 4-3. Patterson pitchers combined to fan 15 Wolves and hold them to five hits. The game was tied at three when Logan Martucci came up with the clutch hit, singling on a 2-2 count to plate the winning run while send the Peckham Field faithful home. Owen Gabriele started the game for Patterson Pirates, lasting four innings, allowing two hits and two runs while striking out eight. Mikey Covell

threw three strong innings in relief out of the bullpen. Gavin Mammola (2 for 2) led the Patterson Pirates at the plate. Affy Middlebrook went 1 for 1 at the plate and led the Pirates with three stolen bases. Patterson (2-2) didn't commit a single error in the field. Max Sorrentino drove home two runs to lead the Wolves, who got even in Sunday's 12-7

win over Patterson behind three RBI from Jake Cotter and two apiece from Lorenzo Echandy and Nick Lucia. Tommy Vitello was a menace on the base paths, stealing bases and scoring multiple runs.

Nevan Nystrom singled to knock in the go-ahead run that led the Mahopac Indians

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RAY GALLAGHER/NICOLE GALLAGHER PHOTOS
Mahopac's TJ Wolf turns two on Mount Pleasant's Stephen Pryor in Indians' 12-2 win over Wildcats in 16U GHVBLA action Thursday.



Mahopac's Anthony Mante slides in under tag of Mount Pleasant 3B Jack Marino in Indians' 12-2 GHVBL win over the 16U Wildcats last Thursday.



Mahopac's Nevan Nystrom cracks go-ahead single in Indians' 9-8 come-from-behind win over Bedford Hills-Katonah in 14U GHVBL action.

Sports

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Somers players C.J. Steinberg (26) and Max Grodio share a light moment in the 9U Red Storm's come-from-behind win over BH/K.

(14U) to a thrilling 9-8 come-from-behind win over Bedford Hills/Katonah Saturday. The Indians (2-1) handed BH/K (3-1) its first loss in the B-Division action.

Yorktown Rebel (16U) Ryan Campobasso drove home four runs in a 11-1 win over the

NY Drillers as the Rebels improved to 4-0 in GHVBL A-Division action. Yorktown hurlers Patrick Ryan and Jacob Krauss combined to scatter three hits and whiff six.

The Yorktown Heat (9U) are 2-1 in a very competitive A-Division of the GHVBL.



Putnam Valley P Mikey Venezia singled home the game-winning run in Pride's 8-7 come-from-behind win over Yorktown in GHVBL (14U) action Friday.

The 17U Patterson Pirates took 7-0 win over the Hen Hud Sailors behind two hits apiece from Sandor Kozma and Mike Peters. P Matt Demme fired a gem, throwing five



Bedford Hills-Katonah slugger Michael Sullivan takes rip in 7-4 GHVBL loss to Somers last Wednesday.

scoreless innings with six strikeouts, zero walks and one hit. The Pirates also posted a 2-1 win over Minisink earlier in the week when P Tim Albano threw a complete game

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Sports

Harckham Walks Back Senate Bill to Exclude Race-Based Mascots



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

Surely, it was a coincidence, but shortly after my column was published last week state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) had amended Senate Bill S8708, which originally called for state education law to exclude schools with race-based mascots from receiving some state funding.

Harckham's original inclination sought to add section 3602-g, which included language that excluded schools with race-based mascots from state appropriation. This act was to take effect three years after it became law, giving schools that time to abolish their current mascots, rediscover themselves and get all sports new apparel (for grades 7-12) and designs. Under the original measure, school districts wouldn't receive state funding until they stopped the use of race-based mascots, which is pretty darn subjective if you ask me.

Facebook, and other forms of social media, took Harckham to task and he promptly

walked it back last Tuesday in a likely effort to save his political career, perhaps anticipating a firestorm of criticism. Subsequently, Harckham amended his bill while his fall election opponent Rob Astorino pounced.

It no longer includes the threat to school districts that they would lose state funding. If he wins re-election this November, do you think Harckham drops this notion entirely, or does he pick up where he left off and run with it?

Currently, there are about 100 schools in New York State whose sports teams are named respectfully after Native Americans – such as the Indians, Chiefs, Arrows and Red Raiders, etc.

Instead, Harckham now implores school boards in districts that use race-based mascots to discuss racial sensitivity during a meeting at least once a year. I can live with that bill, because it leaves matters to be handled internally, not forced down our throats by Democratic legislators, who should have potential solutions to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and social justice reform on the front burner, not school mascots.

**Direct
Rays**

We know all about the obvious mascots that have created a buzz for years, the Redskins, Chiefs, Braves, Indians, etc. But if you look hard enough you can find fault in just about every mascot. These days, in an era where everybody gets a trophy and nobody gets disciplined accordingly, some hifalutin millennials will take offense to anything, including statues of George Washington and Christopher Columbus, moments before tearing them down at some baseless hootenanny.

The Cornhuskers are on the brink. Surely, there's a farmer out there ready to bean someone with a can of lima beans if we continue to use them as mascots.

The Yankees gotta go. Confederate flag-toting rednecks, who rarely take offense to anything, will want to even the score for their loss in America's Civil War.

The Cougars are no good either, for obvious reasons. Divorced, middle-aged woman stalking younger 20-somethings will certainly take offense.

The Brewers are on the cusp. Every kid in Wisconsin is subliminally encouraged to

do 12-ounce curls over an actual workout.

The Spartans are finished. Surely there must remain someone associated with ancient Sparta (195 BC) that holds a grudge.

The Fighting Irish and the Gaels must be ditched. Even though millions of Irish across the globe are proud to be honored at places like Notre Dame, despite the naysayers who claim it's rooted in negative stereotypes of Catholics and immigrants. Newsflash: The Irish don't give a rat's arse!

The Padres and the Angels best be careful. They are too closely affiliated with Christianity, so the mob is coming.

The Quakers are on the hit list, too: Even though they played a major role in the abolition movement against slavery in both the United Kingdom and the U.S. Do your homework before you come for the Quakers.

Some of these grandstanding politicians in Albany literally want to abolish the respect folks in Chappaqua-based Horace Greeley have for the Quakers and, likewise, the Indians at places like Mahopac. Innocuous school mascots should be nowhere near the front burner of state senators just because a few squeaky wheels need some grease. I'm just so tired of this B.S. Who's with me?



Despite the solid cuts from Nate Jerrett Bedford Hills-Katonah suffered a 7-4 loss to Somers Red Storm last Wednesday in GHVBL action.



Putnam Valley IF Michael Martorano tracks a laser off his bat in Pride's 8-7 win over Yorktown in GHVBL 14U action Friday.



Bedford Hills-Katonah P Cristian Ormazabal delivers pitch in a 7-4 loss to Somers Red Storm Wednesday in 9U Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League action.



Yorktown's Cameron Baker slides home safely ahead of tag by Put Valley Pride C Jack Moriarty in Rebels' 8-7 loss to Pride at Union Field in PV Friday.



Mahopac's George Palmiero whoops it up after scoring run in 12-2 win over Mount Pleasant in GHVBL 16U action Thursday.

with seven K's and zero walks. He also went 1-2 at the plate.

Somers Red Storm (9U) had a nice come from behind victory over Bedford Hills/Katonah last Wednesday at Reis Park. Down 4-2 in the fifth, Somers scored five runs to take the lead and get the 7-4 win. Johnny DeVito had the big hit -- a two-run double in the fifth -- to plate the tying and go-ahead runs. P Chris Azimi came away with the win.

Somers also swept a doubleheader on 7/12 against the Cornwall Dragons, winning 9-8 in the first game and a 4-0 shut-out in the second game.

Lifeless through the first five innings,

the 14U Putnam Valley Wild erupted for eight runs in the sixth and seventh to secure a thrilling 8-7 triumph of the Yorktown Bandits. Mikey Venezia stroked the game-winning single for the Wild. Putnam Valley racked up 12 hits in the game. Tommy Tan, Ryan Moriarty, Ricky Meister, Chris Borassi and Jason Douglass all managed multiple hits for Putnam Valley.

PLEASE HELP: GHVBL coaches are encouraged to send weekly recaps and photos to raygallaghersports@gmail.com to highlight local players' exploits.



Pirates Pillage Mets in White Plains Little League Action

By Gordon Moccio

The scorching sun and brutally high temperatures this past Saturday afternoon did not stop White Plains' Little Leaguers from answering the call to

duty. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Little League was back up and running last Saturday, allowing youth sporting events to commence with precautions. Players must wear masks and social distance when not in the field, and the um-

pire must be social distancing also from the players. Saturday afternoon's game at Gedney Field featured two home teams pitted against each other; the White Plains Pirates and the White Plains Mets. The game was a close one, with a tight

score up until the top of the fifth inning when the Pirates managed to score five of their six runs in a 6-4 come-from-behind win over the Mets, who started to catch up toward the bottom of the sixth, but the Pirates held on to secure the win.



White Plains Mets' batter Andrew Gally sets up a sweet swing.



White Plains Pirates huddle with coaches after beating White Plains Mets at Gedney Field Saturday.



White Plains Mets Pitcher Oliver Gaukin delivers.

GORDON MOCCIO PHOTOS

White Plains Met Sean Alfalla slides in safely under the attempted tag of White Plains Pirate P Eli Friedberg, who held on for the 6-4 win over the Mets Saturday at Gedney Park.