



Macy's Set to Close Longtime Store at Galleria WP

By Rick Pezzullo

Macy's will be leaving the Galleria White Plains this spring, 25 years after becoming the premiere anchor store at the downtown mall.

It is among 45 Macy's stores that will be shutting down as part of a companywide downsizing that will ultimately result in 125 locations closing nationwide.

"After careful consideration, Macy's has decided to close our White Plains Galleria location. This closure is part of the company's strategy announced in early 2020," the company stated this week in a release.

"The decision to close a store is always a difficult one, but Macy's White Plains Galleria is honored to have served our customers and the community over the past 40 years, and we look forward to continuing to do so," the company stated, mentioning nearby Macy's stores at the Cross County Shop-

ping Center in Yonkers and the Palisades Center in Rockland will remain open.

Macy's first came to White Plains in 1949 on Main Street and later expanded onto Mamaroneck Avenue in 1954. In 1996, Macy's moved to the Galleria, replacing Stern's.

Macy's is planning a clearance sale at its Galleria store for the next two to three months. The company stated any employees who were unable to relocate to another Macy's location would be eligible for severance.

Last November, the last remaining Sears in Westchester County announced it would be departing the Galleria on February 21, 2021. Sears has been part of the Galleria for about the last 20 years and has approximately 60 employees.

Macy's has been part of the Galleria White Plains for the last 25 years.



Latimer Announces Re-election Bid for Second Term

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County Executive George Latimer officially announced Monday that he is running for a second term this fall.

Latimer said there are still plenty of issues for him to tackle over the next four years.

"We still face more challenges ahead," Latimer said in a nearly two-minute video that was released on his campaign Facebook page. "The pandemic is not over; our families and small businesses are still struggling and social inequities that existed before the pandemic have gotten worse. But we'll fix these problems the same way. We'll deal with them openly and honestly and look at the facts, not politics. We'll work on solutions."

He touted his accomplishments that included restoration of the historic Miller House in North White Plains and Memorial Field in Mount Vernon, construction of the new family courthouse in New Rochelle, repairs to the Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers and cutting county property taxes for the last two years.

Latimer, 67, also said that his adminis-



Westchester County Executive George Latimer is seeking another four years in office.

tration has communicated key information to the public on a regular basis since the start of the pandemic nearly a year ago.

The announcement had been expected since after the holidays. Last summer, Latimer said he would likely announce his

re-election plans after work on the 2021 budget was completed in December. A large deficit was expected but with federal funding from the CARES Act, a voluntary retirement program and sales tax revenues that were not as dire as originally projected, there was a small cut in the tax levy for this year.

It is currently unknown who Latimer's opponent may be for the general election. Somers residents Dan Branda, a staffer for former state senator Greg Ball and communications specialist for former county executive Rob Astorino, had announced last August that he intended to run for the Republican nomination. However, he said Monday that he is pursuing "a family opportunity" and has decided to forgo pursuing the seat.

The Westchester County Republican Committee is working on identifying a nominee to challenge Latimer, Branda said.

If Latimer's re-election bid is successful, this would be his last term in the seat. During his first term, he proposed a two-term limit for the county executive's position. The Board of Legislators later approved the measure.

Two Harrison High Students Top Scholars in National Contest

By Rick Pezzullo

Two seniors from Harrison High School were among 300 students named in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2021, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and main competition for high school seniors.

Tyler Burden and Christian Spadini were each awarded \$2,000, as was Harrison High School.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search scholars were selected from 1,760 applications received from 611 high schools across 45 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and 10 countries. Scholars

were chosen based on their exceptional research skills, commitment to academics, innovative thinking and promise as scientists, and hail from 198 American and international high schools in 37 states, Puerto Rico, Chinese Taipei, and Singapore.

On January 21, 40 of the 300 scholars will be named Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists. From March 10-17, all 40 finalists will compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards provided by Regeneron.

Burden was selected for his project titled: Evaluating the Ef-

fects of Dance Improvisation on Brain Activity Using a Battery Cognitive Tests. Spadini was recognized for her project titled: Political Geographical Bias in Congressional House Elections: A Quantitative Analysis of the Real Gap Between the Popular Vote and Electoral Outcomes.

Six WDOC Students Receive High School Equivalency Diplomas

Six young people recently received their high school equivalency diplomas at the Westchester Department of Correction (WDOC) campus in Valhalla.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, WDOC did not have its traditional formal ceremony to recognize this important achievement, which in the past has included onsite participation from student family members, teachers, mentors and County Executive George Latimer.

This year, working within the Coronavirus restrictions, WDOC safely staged a small event in its main chapel, still allowing

the opportunity for the students to enter in their cap and gowns while 'pomp and circumstance' played.

"I sincerely congratulate these students who have overcome insurmountable odds to achieve something truly great. These young people are once again shining examples of the work done at our nationally recognized WDOC under Commissioner Spano, First DC Padilla, DC Diaz and DC Gerald," Latimer said.

Commissioner Joseph K. Spano recognized their hard work and encouraged them to remain focused on a better life path.

Spano said: "As you know firsthand, we did not allow the Pandemic to prevent us from delivering critical rehabilitation programs and services. To your credit, you did not allow your time here to get in the way of your desire to get on a better life path. Instead, you worked hard to further your education, something that is sure to benefit you and your families upon return home and something that you should be proud of."

In her opening remarks, Spain Brook Academy Principal Dr. Michele Darby said: "We take great pride in the hard work and achievements of every one of our students.

Those students earning their diplomas today have demonstrated their commitment to a better life for themselves and their families. None of this would be possible without the support and collaboration of the Spain Brook Academy and Department of Correction staff and their dedication to the students."

Dr. Darby also advised that 19 other WDOC students took the high school equivalency exam this past weekend and were eagerly awaiting the results. The six student's receiving diplomas are now eligible to participate in WDOC onsite college programs.

FISHLIN & FISHLIN, PLLC - ATTORNEYS AT LAW
WESTCHESTER, ROCKLAND AND NEW YORK CITY

Probate | Administration | Wills | Trusts
Estate Litigation | Guardianship
Commercial Litigation | Real Estate

f&f FISHLIN
& FISHLIN

TODD FISHLIN | LEWIS FISHLIN

NEW WESTCHESTER OFFICE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE
118 NORTH BEDFORD RD. 60 EAST 42ND STREET
SUITE 100 SUITE 4600
MT. KISCO, NY 10549 NEW YORK, NY 10165

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
(212) 736-8000 | WWW.FISHLINLAW.COM

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

**84 MILLION
AMERICANS
MAYBE EVEN YOU,
HAVE PREDIABETES.
GUY-WHO-THINKS-TEAM-
JERSEYS-ARE-FORMAL-ATTIRE.**

DoIHavePrediabetes.org



SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS - 914-864-0878

Post-Holiday COVID Spike Continues to Plague Area, State

By Anna Young

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said the COVID-19 infection rate is continually growing, attributing the latest spike in cases to residents flouting safety protocols to host indoor New Year's celebrations.

In the last week, coronavirus cases in Westchester County have jumped by nearly 5,000, signaling a post-New Year's Eve surge that closely resembles the pattern reported just after Christmas. Active cases also rose by more than 1,500 over the last week, with numbers far exceeding 10,000.

During the peak of the pandemic last spring, active cases had reached 12,000.

"That number is jumping dramatically. These numbers are not going down and there's a reason why," Latimer said Monday during a press briefing. "You weren't in Times Square or in Renaissance Square in White Plains to watch the ball drop, but people were together in private settings and these numbers reflect that continued growth of the infection."

Coronavirus cases increased by 789 on Sunday, bringing the total number of positive cases to 77,731 since the start of the pandemic. There are now 10,894 active cases, a number that is nearly identical to the active caseload reported during the height of the pandemic on Apr. 10, Latimer said.

The daily positivity rate stood at 6.55 percent, which is based on 12,051 tests taken last Friday. COVID tests were administered at high rates in Westchester throughout the week, with daily testing reaching a record high of 13,201 on Jan. 7.

On that day, just one week after New Year's Eve, 1,019 coronavirus cases were reported in the county.

Overall, there have been over 1.5 million COVID-19 tests administered in Westchester since March.

The county reported nine more deaths on Sunday, increasing the number of COVID-19-related fatalities to 1,730 since March. Since Jan. 1, 66 people have died from the virus.

"The numbers are not good," Latimer said. "Wishing them to be better does not make them so."

As of Jan. 9, there were 504 virus patients in Westchester hospitals, about a 50-person increase over the last week, Latimer said. While Latimer is disheartened by the hospitalization rate, he said the only positive takeaway is that the county's bed count is much higher than those currently admitted.

Putnam County's total caseload has reached 5,750, with 105 additional positive cases recorded on Sunday. Putnam has seen numbers boom over the last four days with

cases exceeding 100 for three of those days.

There were 116 cases reported on Thursday, 115 Friday and 94 added on Saturday, with a four-day case total of 430. The county's daily positivity rate was 9.23 percent, with 1,138 tests administered Friday.

Putnam currently has 1,234 active cases.

There have been 68 coronavirus-related deaths in Putnam since the pandemic began. No new deaths were reported on Sunday. However, Putnam did report one new death on Jan. 8, its first in nearly two weeks. The last fatality the county recorded was on Dec. 29.

Statewide there were 15,355 new positive cases on Sunday. The daily positivity rate is

6.22 percent.

The state recorded 151 additional COVID-19-related fatalities, bringing the death toll to 31,672 since March.

Total hospitalizations are at 8,484, a decrease of 43 over the previous day. Across New York there have been 1,126,442 positive coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic.

New Cases of UK COVID Strain

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Saturday that three additional cases of the United Kingdom strain of the COVID-19 virus have been identified in New York, bringing the total to four. The first case was detected in a Saratoga County man on Jan. 4.

Two of the new cases are connected to the

Saratoga Springs exposure, while the third has been traced back to an individual living in Massapequa, Nassau County.

Cuomo urged that the U.K. strain is real and frightening. According to health officials, the variant is 70 percent more transmissible, although it does not make you sicker.

"There's no mystery as to how it got here – it got on a plane and flew here from Europe, just like the original strain did," Cuomo said. "Yet, the federal government continues to refuse to learn from the spring and mandate testing for all international travelers. Their failure to act means the rest of us need to be that much more vigilant in our work to stop the spread, as well as do all we can to accelerate the distribution of the vaccine."

SUBURBAN

WINES & SPIRITS

EXPRESS CURBSIDE PICK-UP & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Call us at 914-962-3100

or visit our website WWW.SUBURBANWINES.COM

for more information.



DOZENS OF OTHER ITEMS		ON SALE IN STORE!	
Jack Daniels \$47.97 1.75L	Ketel One Vodka \$37.97 1.75L	Barefoot Chard, Cab & Pinot Grigio \$9.97 1.5L	Smirnoff Vodka \$18.97 1.75L
Josh Cabernet \$11.97	Meiomi Pinot Noir \$17.97	Woodbridge Cab or Chardonnay \$9.97 1.5L	Stolichnaya Vodka \$29.97 1.75L
Cavit Pinot Grigio \$11.97 1.5L	Blackstone Merlot \$8.97	Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc \$12.97	Hendricks Gin \$29.97
Clos Du Bois Chardonnay \$9.97	Apothic Winemakers Red \$9.97	Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio \$21.97	Grey Goose Vodka \$39.97 1.75L
		Bread & Butter Chardonnay \$11.97	Kendall Jackson Chardonnay \$11.97
		Bombay Sapphire Gin \$38.97 1.75L	Mondavi Bourbon Barrel Cabernet \$11.97
		Yellow Tail Pinot Grigio \$9.97 1.5L	Ruffino Chianti \$9.97 1.5L

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

 Available on the iPhone **App Store**

WESTCHESTER'S FINE WINE & SPIRITS DESTINATION

CHECK US OUT AT: www.suburbanwines.com

Mon - Thurs 9am - 7pm • Fri - Sat 9am - 8pm • Sun 12pm - 5pm • January 12th through January 18th

379 Downing Drive • Yorktown Heights, NY • 914-962-3100

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS • WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES • SALE PRICES ARE FOR STORE STOCK ONLY!

All prices 750ml unless otherwise noted

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



@ExaminerMedia

Find us on Facebook



W'chester Officials Appeal to Public to Get Vaccine When Available

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County health officials urged residents to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they have the opportunity in order to protect themselves, their families and people they come in contact with.

During a Facebook Live forum last Thursday evening, Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler and Dr. Dial Hewlett Jr., medical director of the division of disease control for Westchester's Department of Health, said the risks to one's health and society are far greater by avoiding vaccination than by getting inoculated despite reservations by a sizeable portion of the population.

"The most important tool we have right now to get back to life as we knew it before COVID is a vaccine, and we're lucky that we have multiple vaccines done by multiple companies in record time," Amler said. "Right now, we have to help the public understand what vaccines can do for them, who should be vaccinated, what the limitations of vaccines (are), and we just have to work this out."

Pfizer and Moderna were the first two pharmaceutical firms that developed vaccines with more on the way. Westchester has thus far only received Moderna's product, Amler said.

Although the hour-long forum led by County Executive George Latimer was to discuss issues related to COVID-19, it predominantly focused on the vaccines, including distribution challenges, who is



County Executive George Latimer last summer with Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler, right. Amler and Dr. Dial Hewlett Jr., medical director of the county's division of disease control, addressed issues related to the vaccine last week.

COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Info

On Monday, New York State activated its website that helps the public determine eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine and identified various locations at <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

Health care workers, which comprised the first group of recipients, along with education workers, first responders, public transit workers, public safety workers and people 75 years old and up are now eligible to make an appointment.

Also on Monday, the state COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline opened for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829). Prior to receiving the vaccination, the New York State COVID-19 vaccine form must be completed online at <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine>. After registering, you will receive a submission ID.

For more information about eligibility, phased distribution and more, visit <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/what-you-need-know>.

eligible to receive them and where to get them. Local, state and national health officials have said that a minimum of 70 percent of the population needs to receive the vaccine for society to reach herd immunity. Some experts have pegged that number as high as 80 to 90 percent.

Hewlett said data collected from the first two million doses administered nationwide revealed 21 cases of anaphylaxis, four of which required hospitalization. The odds of serious health problems are far greater if people fail to get the shot when they have a chance, he said.

The COVID-19 mortality rate is close to 2 percent with at least a 10 percent chance, and as much of a 40 percent chance, of the virus causing long-term chronic symptoms, Hewlett said.

"So I think that people have to weigh that out, and certainly, if you think about it and you're rational, it's much better and the odds are with you in terms of getting the vaccine versus risking getting COVID," Hewlett said.

At least half of those who receive the vaccine are likely to have temporary side effects, Hewlett cautioned. The most common is a sore arm with fatigue or tiredness also being reported. After the second dose, which comes four weeks after the first shot for the Moderna vaccine and three weeks later for Pfizer, it has been common to experience a mild fever for a few hours before it wears off, he said.

Those who receive the vaccine will get *continued on page 16*



**The New Year is
Upon us and This Year
More Than Ever People
are Ready to Commit to
Living a Healthier Life...**

After enduring this on-going pandemic for months, people are coming to realize the importance of health and wellness in order to resume "real life." Since many have reverted to old habits and comfort food, now they are looking for help to change unhealthy behaviors.

Elizabeth Pecoraro, MS, RDN of Katonah, NY offers private nutrition counseling (currently virtually) as well as coaching through an already established comprehensive wellness program. *"When a potential client comes to me I learn about their lifestyle and personal health goals and we discuss which route is best for them. I am not a one-size fits all dietitian. I work with each person individually and together we map out the best plan for them."*

If you would like to work with Elizabeth in achieving your goals she is currently taking on new clients virtually in her private practice as well as in her wellness program. Contact her via her website, www.eatinghealthy4life.com or email at elizanne1@gmail.com.



**Like
our
SPORTS
PHOTOS?**

To purchase a digital file, email us at photos@theexaminernews.com. Just include the name of the student athlete featured in the picture or pictures you're interested in buying, the Tuesday publication date in which the image or images appeared and the page number or numbers. Photos are \$25 each.

YOUR PRIMARY CHOICE FOR PERSONAL INSURANCE & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



Charles Newman Co.
906 South St., Peekskill, NY 10566
Phone: 914-345-1000 ext. 101 • Fax: 914-345-1005
www.charlesnewman.com
chuck@charlesnewman.com

Life, Disability, Health Insurance, Employee Benefits

906 South Street, Peekskill, NY 10566
WWW.CHARLESNEWMAN.COM

**CHARLES
NEWMAN CO.**
INSURANCE — EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Cuomo Vows to Help State Recover From COVID, Economic Pain

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo pledged Monday to prepare New York to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic through short-term health and economic measures while also strategizing to make long-term change by investing in the state's future.

In his annual State of the State address, Cuomo laid out steps his administration will pursue, including vaccine distribution and tackling a projected \$15 billion deficit in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

"First, we must defeat COVID and beat back the assault as the virus rages in the next few months," Cuomo said. "It will not be easy. A high-performing hospital system and the diligence of New Yorkers are the keys to stop the spread."

The speech will be followed by supplemental addresses in the coming days that zero in on more specific details of a post-COVID-19 economy with emphasis on making major improvements to infrastructure and technology and transforming New York into the "green energy capital of the world." He also vowed that New York would lead in racial and economic justice.

"If that wasn't ambitious enough, all of those plans must move forward simultaneously," Cuomo said. "It will be hard. It will be the greatest test for government since we mobilized to fight World War II. It will be the greatest opportunity for advancement since post-World War II."

For most of Monday's 43-minute live-streamed talk, Cuomo focused on the

ongoing COVID-19 crisis and nursing the state back to fiscal strength.

He urged all New Yorkers to guard against COVID-19 fatigue and stop the spread of the virus to avoid overrunning the state's hospital system. Cuomo warned that if any of the 10 regions' hospitals become overwhelmed, his administration will be forced to shut down the economy in that region.

On Monday, the first day of sign-up for the second group of eligible vaccine recipients, he announced the distribution system is being expanded to include more sites for the currently eligible four million New Yorkers to be inoculated. The list of eligible workers and the form to register is available at <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener>.

While appointments for vaccines will likely stretch several weeks into the future, Cuomo said it is better to have people waiting for the vaccine rather than having the product and too few people signed up.

Cuomo was adamant that the vaccines will be administered fairly across the state by supplementing private health care systems to reach underserved communities, predominately communities of color.

"We will not allow politics or wealth to dictate the distribution of this life-saving vaccine," he said.

Other health-related measures include a proposed comprehensive telehealth bill to ensure availability to all state residents; significantly increase the number of rapid testing sites across the state; create a public

health corps in partnership with Cornell University and the Northwell hospital system to hire 1,000 fellows to be trained and serve for one year to help coordinate the statewide vaccination effort; and develop a citizen's public health training program through Cornell to train up to 100,000 residents to protect themselves, their families, friends and co-workers in a public health emergency. The online training will be free.

For part of his address Cuomo reprised a familiar theme, assailing the federal government for failing to act quickly enough before New York and the Northeast was ravaged by COVID-19 in the spring. That has been followed by the current Senate and administration's refusal to assist state and local governments.

"New York is suffering and New Yorkers are tired of being abused and demand Washington stops causing damage and starts resolving the damage they caused," Cuomo said.

In addition to aid for state and local governments, he called on New York's congressional delegation to repeal the cap on the state and local tax deductions. Even if the state reneges on its contractual obligations to public employees, cuts education spending by 20 percent across the board, increases taxes on the wealthy and other belt-tightening measures, it won't come anywhere near closing the \$15 billion budget gap, he said.

Meanwhile, Cuomo mentioned an ambitious reinvestment plan. He hopes to



Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivered his State of the State address Monday that promised combatting COVID-19 while rebuilding New York once the pandemic ends.

improve roads, rail and airports; use empty office and commercial space to increase affordable housing and having New York become a green energy hub, bringing thousands of jobs to the state.

Expanding access to affordable broadband and invest in worker retraining is also essential.

While many people may expect returning to a pre-pandemic world, Cuomo said there are changes already underway that have changed the world and New York needs to be prepared.

"This is a moment that is made for New Yorkers," Cuomo said. "This will be a moment to re-energize, reinvent and re-create."

Want Quality Banking Services
with a Personal Touch? It's Academic!

"The Westchester Bank
exceeded our expectations
and were extremely friendly
and professional."

MICHAEL GEISLER
President
Manhattanville College



John Tolomer
President & CEO
The Westchester Bank

Michael Geisler
President
Manhattanville College



The Westchester Bank
Banking Made Personal®

MAMARONECK
305 Mamaroneck Ave.
(914) 315-2486

MT. KISCO
51 S. Moger Ave.
(914) 752-4262

OSSINING
240 S. Highland Ave.
(914) 502-4421

RYE BROOK
800 Westchester Ave., 4th Fl.
(914) 368-0987

THORNWOOD
994 Broadway
(914) 984-5446

WHITE PLAINS
464 Mamaroneck Ave.
(914) 290-6330

YONKERS
1900 Central Park Ave.
(914) 337-1900

Member
FDIC

TheWestchesterBank.com



PERSONAL SAVINGS • MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS • CHECKING WITH ONLINE BANKING AND BILL PAY

January Pick Me-Up Sweets!

Lil' Chocolate Shoppe SINCE 1986

Sweet & Sour Crudite Plates!

Includes: Chocolate Covered Pretzels & Nuts, Sour Gummies,
Regular Gummies, Milk & Dark Chocolates

SURPRISE
BAGS!

Plan Ahead For Custom Valentine Hearts & Boxes

Belgian Chocolate Truffles, Custom Novelties,

This is the place for chocolate wafers, supplies and much, much, more!

RETRO
CANDY

Back to
Curbside
Pickup

Call 914-769-0771

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

Special Orders
& Repairs,
Done On
Premises While
You Wait!

Through Challenging Times,
Jewelry Still Brings a Smile!

WE BUY

GOLD, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS
SILVER, WATCHES &
SILVERWARE



Thornwood Jewelers

A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

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

Police, Committee Stress Importance of Outreach to Public in Mt. Pleasant

By Martin Wilbur

Strengthening trust and communication between the community and Mount Pleasant's officers was a key focus of last week's Mount Pleasant Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative.

The fourth session held by the 14-member committee last Wednesday night centered on how outreach to the public can be bolstered.

Chief Paul Oliva said that interacting with students in the local schools along with having a presence at various town events, such as Mount Pleasant Town Day, assist in building good relationships, although they can always be improved.

"I don't know that we really have a rift in the community, per se, that we have to heal at this point but I don't think we have strained relationships with any particular group," Oliva said.

Programs such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), addressing classes and youth groups and having a school resource officer help build relationships among the student population so they feel comfortable speaking to officers and know that they can turn to them for help, he said. Arrests in the event of wrongdoing are a last resort, Oliva said.

Committee member and town resident Kelsey Padgett appealed to the chief and Lt. Sean Forde, who is also part of the group, to continue reaching out to teenagers.

"I think it's a good idea to engage with high schoolers because right now we're

living in a world in which the relationship is pretty broken and more so for that generation than generations before, the relationship of police to community," Padgett said.

Forde said being an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Westchester Community College has been an education for him, seeing the perspective of the younger generation.

"It's an extraordinary exchange," Forde said. "It's absolutely fantastic."

While there have not been many documented hate crimes in Mount Pleasant, the town has not been immune from episodes. Hussein Elzoghby, a committee member representing the Upper Westchester Muslim Society, said there had been harassment of local Muslim residents.

Oliva urged him and other to report incidents. Elzoghby also offered that many of the society's members speak various foreign languages and can help the department with interpreters should that need arise.

The most common language barrier is for Spanish-speaking people, Oliva said, although there is occasionally a need for someone who can converse in other languages. He stressed that the department does not target the immigrant community in search of undocumented individuals and hand them over to federal authorities.

"We want immigrant communities to trust us and come forward," Oliva said.

The chief said he continues to reach out to the different constituent groups in Mount Pleasant, including the clergy and the business community, and encouraged residents to reach out to his office if they have questions or problems.

Oliva also said he stresses to his officers that how they interact with the public will help determine residents' opinion of the police.

"If you have a contact with (an) individual police officer and it doesn't go well that leaves a bad taste for a person," Oliva said. "I tell (the officers) that they really are the best part of community engagement and outreach."

He reiterated from last month how the department continues to work with personnel at the two residential homes for youths in town, The Cottage School and Hawthorne Cedar Knolls. The staff takes the lead on handling incidents since they are specially trained to help that population, but the police are there as a support presence, said Margarita Carson, the director of security at the JCCA campus.

"Our experience has just been that generally the police are very respectful, very caring, very understanding of our youth, their needs," Carson said.

Oliva said that he and all department members are held to a high standard.

"You lead by example," he said. "We follow the rules and I think we have to set the example for that. I think it's just being open and knowing that we expect a lot from



Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul Oliva, above, and members of the Mount Pleasant Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative discussed last week how the department and the community can support strong interaction and cooperation with one another.

our officers but we don't expect them to be perfect. If you make a mistake, you've got to own it and that's how you learn."

Padgett mentioned that she didn't believe that a citizens' advisory board was necessary for Mount Pleasant, but would like for the public and the department to periodically continue dialogue after this series of meetings has produced the mandated report to the state. She called for formalized meetings semiannually or quarterly, she said.

"I would hate for it to never happen again," Padgett said.

The next Mount Pleasant Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative is this Wednesday, Jan. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by:

 **PUTNAM COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL**

 **The Examiner**
news.com

Join us for an inspiring virtual breakfast presentation with local author Joe Massaro

.....



.....

Finding your Upside:
"From the First Seat in the Dumb Row to Owning my own Private Island"

Thursday, January 28th at 7:30 am
Info & Registration:
putnamcountybusinesscouncil.com

Insuring New York and Connecticut businesses and families for more than 30 years.



FEEHAN INSURANCE AGENCY

845.278.7070
Service@feehaninsurance.com
FeehanInsurance.com
2350 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509

 **Cocktails Anyone?** 

Quality Bar Tools For The Discerning Home Bartender

Recipes And All Things Mixology

A New Westchester Company



themillenniumroad.com

P'ville Ponders Small Group Meetings to Discuss Police Reform

By Abby Luby

Pleasantville officials are planning to schedule informal meetings to discuss police reform issues since the live-streamed format may limit some residents who are reticent about airing concerns and grievance to the wider public.

At the Pleasantville Village Board's Dec. 28 work session, the board discussed the public's hesitancy and decided to reach out to certain individuals and groups who have expressed a deeper interest and desire to be involved in the police reform process.

"We could put together three or four working groups and perhaps a pair of trustees could sit in on one or two," said Trustee David Vinjamuri at last month's work session. "It would be a manageable number, like 10 to 12 people. It could also be cross-functional and include students, teachers, youth officers and a school board member."

Trustee Nicole Asquith supported the idea of meeting with particular groups who could more comfortably voice their opinions in a more informal environment.

"This would allow them to dig into the material a little bit more and develop ideas or suggestions in a substantial way," she said.

Asquith also suggested the meetings not be recorded. Vinjamuri said he would mention that board members are meeting with certain groups in his monthly update,

"What's Happening in Pleasantville," that he has started to post on the village's Facebook page.

At the start of the webinars in the fall, the village established a dedicated e-mail address for people to submit their concerns. The pandemic has forced the meetings to be aired via Zoom, and Scherer pointed out that before COVID-19, community comments would be handled differently.

"Absent COVID, if folks had an issue, they didn't feel comfortable discussing in a public arena and one that was being recorded, we would meet to discuss in living rooms or over coffee," Scherer said. "That way we were able to dig into it, respect each person as we converse face to face. The webinar format is a much more stilted means of getting at that."

Scherer said he has reached out to various organizations, including faith-based groups, the Interfaith Council, the Cottage School, Pace University and the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce. He echoed Asquith and Vinjamuri sentiments.

"We need to reach out to folks who are interested in a deeper engagement," Scherer said. "I think the notion of faith-based groups, diversity and inclusion groups and minority communities are three groups we should reach out to right now."

The fourth public Pleasantville police reform meeting will be live-streamed this Thursday, Jan. 14 and will focus on police training and the complaint review

process. The next forum is on Jan. 28 and will examine community policing, general outreach/communications and outreach to specific communities.

Public participation was robust for the first two forums but diminished considerably at the most recent forum. The format of the webinars has generally included detailed reports by the Pleasantville Police Department, Village Board comments and questions and comments from the public.

According to Scherer, Asquith and Vinjamuri, if items discussed in the smaller groups were pertinent, they would be mentioned in the report to the state.

Scherer proposed the board and Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner generate a draft of recommendations based on community feedback and data gathered from the forums.

"We would reflect that (draft) back to the community as actionable recommendations that we have come up with, items that seem actionable now and we can send to the state as our immediate plan," Scherer said. "We would also present items that we've heard from the community that we are looking to do a deeper dive for significant change going forward."

He compared meeting with certain groups as a future feedback mechanism to "laying down railroad tracks we can use going forward."

"David and I are interested in more transparency on things like the complaint

process and how that works," said Asquith. "We are interested in knowing where people are coming from and if there are people who want to be heard but who are uncomfortable about coming forward, we want to make this process as inclusive as possible."

The Jan. 14 and Jan. 28 forums will be held at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom with links posted on the village website. For more information on the process and to see videos of prior meetings, visit <https://www.pleasantville-nj.gov/police-reform-reinvention-collaborative>. Written comments can be submitted to policereform@pleasantville-nj.gov.

**get
NOTICED!**



**Advertise in
The Examiner.**
Call 864-0878 today!

**MUSIC LESSONS
ONLINE!**



Guitar Piano Drums Strings
Brass Winds Voice

Virtual Performance Opportunities

ROSEHILL MUSIC ACADEMY

747-2585 call/text
office@rosehillmusic.net

**HOTEL
CLEANING
White Plains**



T&L Cleaning is looking for housekeeping staff for a hotel in the White Plains area. Room attendants, Laundry attendants. Apply on-line at ticleaningservices.com/apply or call **(800) 610-4770**

**Thinking of Running for Office or
Getting Involved in Your Community?**

We need dedicated public servants in local government, especially in these difficult times. If you are a resident of the **Town of Cortlandt** or the **Village of Croton** and you think you may want to get involved either by running for local office or just getting involved in your community please contact me. This year in the **Town of Cortlandt: Town Supervisor, Two Town Council persons, Town Clerk, Receiver of Taxes and Town Justice Village of Croton Mayor and Two Trustee positions County Legislature Districts One and Nine** We will be interviewing candidates this **January 2021**. Individuals of any political party and background are invited. **Contact us and get involved.** Please contact the committee at daniel.paganolaw@optonline.net. We look forward to meeting you. Thank you and keep safe. **Daniel L. Pagano, Esq.** Chairman, Town of Cortlandt Republican Committee **Steve Winkelman**, Chairman Town of Cortlandt Conservative Committee

Think Spring!

The Vision Team



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

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

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
#1 office in Pleasantville residential sales!

1 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Now is the time to ask us how we can help you prepare your home for the 2021 Spring Real Estate Market.

Professional Photography & a Home Staging Consultation

are included in our services when you sell your home with us!

The End Result: Your Home Sold!

Call, text or e-mail us today for the current value of your home and to advise you on how best to market it for sale.

Call us today because YOU deserve the best!

Property Marketing That Works For You!

To advertise in The Examiner,
call 914-864-0878

or e-mail
advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

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

Examiner
MEDIA

also publishes

The **NORTHERN WESTCHESTER**
Examiner

The **WHITE PLAINS**
Examiner

The **POTNAM**
Examiner

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

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

Letters Policy

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



Member of

NYPA
NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editorial

Pleasantville Police Reform Meetings Must All Be Accessible to the Public

For the past few months, municipalities across New York and throughout the area have earnestly engaged in forums to discuss how policing can be improved.

There have been some very constructive discussions locally relating to appropriate use of force, communication and interaction with the public and de-escalation training and practices, among many other issues.

What has been learned is that Westchester and Putnam counties have some very fine police departments. In many instances the conversation centers not on what is wrong but how policing can be even better.

Even if there aren't major problems within a department, the mere exercise of police representatives speaking with community members that they might not otherwise have ever met helps break down barriers. These forums were mandated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo following the racial justice protests that erupted after George Floyd's killing last May and adds to everyone's workload, but conversations about problems or how to improve police

work is critically important.

That is why it is intensely disappointing and misguided for Pleasantville officials to be strongly considering the addition of informal get-togethers to the process. These meetings would apparently be offline and wouldn't be live-streamed or recorded to allow for public viewing or participation. The Village Board must put the kibosh to such a notion.

One of the reasons given for having informal meetings is that there are people who don't feel comfortable airing concerns or grievances with everyone watching. That's understandable, but it's not how democracy works.

First, this process is mandated by the governor, one of the branches of government (unless a community wants to risk losing state funding for its police), that would be part of a formal submission to the state. It ought to be completely transparent and open to scrutiny for anyone who wants to participate.

Second, the outcome of some of these discussions could influence policies and procedures that apply to everyone in

Pleasantville. As a result, members of the community should have an equal chance to weigh in.

Additionally, leaving it up to a board member or resident to summarize the sum and substance of a meeting on social media or the municipality's website is insufficient. Everyone can draw different conclusions from a forum, and unless there's going to be a stenographer, each person should be allowed to formulate their points of view on what is important.

Last week, Mayor Peter Scherer explained that in the past meetings over a cup of coffee or in an environment more relaxed than a meeting or Zoom call proved more productive in many cases. In the past, and in the future, that is perfectly acceptable. It's commendable when residents or members of organizations reach out to their local elected officials or their police chief to discuss issues that might be of concern to them.

But in this instance, for the development of a document where public policy could be influenced, every discussion needs to be public. There can be no exceptions made.

Letters to the Editor

Yorktown Supervisor's Term Should Be Increased to Four Years

Over the past several decades some area municipalities have changed the length of term for a number of elected offices. In our own town of Yorktown, the terms of office for highway superintendent and town clerk were changed from two to four years. To me, it is common sense to do the same for the Yorktown supervisor's position.

Now more than ever it is important to have our supervisor focus on addressing the serious issues facing the town without the distraction of campaigning and running for office every two years.

First, it takes time to learn the job and

two years is a very short window to do so. Some elected officials hit the ground running and win several terms; others take a bit longer and are not re-elected to second terms. Over the past two decades we have had six supervisors elected, and three of them served one term. I have worked with and had the opportunity to observe many of our town supervisors over the past three decades, most all of whom had no experience running an organization of hundreds of employees with budgets of tens of millions of dollars. It takes time to learn the ropes of such a

large organization, time we cannot afford to waste.

It's time to put this to the voters of Yorktown. I encourage all Yorktown residents to contact their elected officials and ask for a public referendum to be placed on the ballot this coming election cycle to consider changing the town supervisor's term of office from two to four years.

Bob Giordano
Yorktown

Apology is in Order After Baseless Claims Made Against Yorktown Officials

There she goes again. Last week Susan Siegel kicked off the new year with a new volley of accusations and conspiracy theories against our town government ("The Truth About Yorktown Town Taxes in 2021.") Does she ever have anything positive to say? No, she has proven to be an obstructionist and conspiracy theorist.

Her latest assault is especially shameful

because it accuses our town government of using a spreadsheet that she claims is inaccurate. What she doesn't want you to know, or what she doesn't want to admit, is that she used the same spreadsheet when she was a Town Board member not long ago. Not exactly breaking news when all the facts are presented now is it?

Ms. Siegel owes this community,

Supervisor Slater and Comptroller Caporale and the entire Town Board a public apology for her hypocritical criticism, but knowing her I wouldn't hold my breath.

Brian Sillik
Yorktown Heights

Local Officials Also Need to Take Stand Against President's Lawlessness

In my 50 years of participating in demonstrations and peaceful dissent, I've been teargassed and sprayed with mace by "peace" officers. In 2016, I demonstrated peacefully against the new President; I was teargassed for simply gathering on the street.

I have never seen the violence and lawlessness I'm seeing encouraged by Trump. How could these thugs be treated with kid gloves? We know what would

have happened if the complexion of the demonstrators were darker.

I believe that all politics is local, thus I call upon Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater and councilmembers to condemn the behaviors of this mob inspired by and encouraged by President Trump. Calls to recognize systemic racism are heightened by seeing justice being unequal.

Yorktown's Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement has been meeting

regularly, and we have heard that our police do a fine job. I wonder if the coalition meetings will be held in a vacuum, ignoring what happened in D.C. I challenge our local elected officials to take a stand against these bigoted, dangerous and violent terrorists supported by the Republican President and his local supporters.

Melvyn R. Tanzman
Mohegan Lake

Guest Columns

America at its Best But We Still Have an Awfully Long Way to Go

By Adam Stone

Attention progressives: America, in many critical ways, is a better place than it has ever been.

In the 1600s, indigenous people were trampled.

In the 1700s, we seeded our nation with slavery.

In the 1800s, we endured a great Civil War, a reckoning over our Original Sin.

At the start of the 1900s, women didn't attend college.

In the 1910s, women didn't possess the right to vote.

In the 1920s, anti-Semitic legislation was enacted to limit immigration from Eastern Europe.

In the 1930s, no Black player had yet been allowed to play Major League Baseball.

In the 1940s, under FDR, we created internment camps to imprison Japanese-Americans.

In the 1950s, Blacks were ordered to the back of the bus.

In the 1960s, segregated water fountains belittled our highest values.

In the 1970s, a woman had not yet served on the Supreme Court.

In the 1980s, police brutality went widely ignored, with little public resistance or consciousness.

In the 1990s, gays were prohibited from serving openly in the military.

In the early 2000s, the War on Terror heightened anti-Muslim sentiment as sexual harassment ran rampant, unchecked by a subsequent #MeToo movement.

In the early 2010s, gay people remained barred from marrying those they loved.

At the start of 2020, we hadn't yet elected a woman to be vice president.

At the start of 2021, after violent insurrectionists egged on by our commander-in-chief desecrated our Capitol, our (admittedly dreadful) political system rose to at least one moment, certifying Joe Biden's election victory, condemning in bipartisan (but woefully insufficient) fashion a rogue, wild-eyed, figuratively frothing-at-the-mouth president.

The political nightmare we're enduring, while certainly featuring unique and terrifying characteristics, remains in many

important ways an extension of our tortured but incrementally improving past, not a departure from our history. And, it should be noted, we'll be severely tested in the days, weeks, months and years ahead; the tests will be painful, navigating the historically choppy waters. Optimists can hope we eventually emerge stronger, as we have in the past when we lived through bitterly divided eras.

The fringe elements have always been here. Certainly, over the past four years, the dangerous wackos have been elevated and tolerated in a way they weren't previously. But, also, it's not just the Capitol-storming freaks and their ilk who constitute the split electorate. It's also the good people of the country who, for example, resist cultural change. Change that seems inevitable and obvious in retrospect but change that was met with fierce resistance by generally good people since our founding.

Most of the more than 74 million Americans who voted for Trump are nothing like the rioters who engaged in treason on Wednesday. But some of the 74 million-plus do share political sensibilities with

Americans of an earlier time who held beliefs that are widely rejected in 2021.

Some political descendants of those Americans of an earlier age harbor unfortunate ideas of the day. The good news: the overwhelming majority of Americans hold cherished ideals – near unanimous ideals – that would have been considered enlightened in an earlier era but are mainstream today. Ideals politically like-minded decedents refuted. But this, perhaps counterintuitively, is what slow progress looks like.

It should also be stressed that today's progressive outlook will eventually appear outdated and lacking. If you want the ultimate proof of this general point, look to Lincoln. The Great Emancipator himself didn't believe in racial equality even as he fought ferociously to unshackle slaves.

Keep the faith and keep on fighting. As the famous Martin Luther King Jr. quote goes, the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. There's enormous work to do, as there's always been.

Adam Stone is publisher of Examiner Media.

If You Don't Condemn the Insurrection, You Condone It

By Brian McGowan

On Jan. 6, just 14 days before our nation's duly and fairly elected President and Vice President will be sworn into office with a vow to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, we witnessed a horrific assault on that constitution by a mob incited to violence by a man who swore that same oath less than four years previous – Donald J. Trump.

The scenes that screamed across media were more than shocking. They bordered on the surreal, a movie set gone insane, with a director more fit to rage and misrule than to preside at the helm of the greatest democracy the world has yet seen.

Shocking that others once considered as presidential in caliber – Rudy Giuliani, Ted Cruz and others – lent their encouragement to a mob who did more than desecrate the sacred halls of Congress. They desecrated the American dream, the spirit of our

Founding Fathers and our flag that many chose to wave or wrap themselves in as they stormed the chambers where our elected government worked to carry out their constitutional obligations, and fulfill the oath each and every one of them had made when they entered public service, if not before.

This insurrection has festered for too long, fueled by fanatics once considered on the fringe, and thus not really anything we needed to concern ourselves over. There will always be lunatics, right? But were they ever led before by anyone as lunatic as the current occupier of the White House? The litany of his character deficits is too long to repeat, or ignore. Shame on the elected opportunists who have supported him and his baseless lies, afraid to put principle ahead of voting blocs they have made themselves captive to. Shame!

I am an independent voter, from a family with a strong progressive Democratic ethic,

but with many Republicans as well. I have friends, associates and relatives in both major political parties, and have voted for candidates on both sides of the aisle when their positions seemed reasonable and likely to move our nation forward. I have voted in every election since I became eligible, and it was easy over many of those decades to make choices other than what my "political genes" might have dictated.

Sadly, that has been made more difficult in our recent past, as the party of Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower has fallen into the clutches of something far-removed from what it once stood for. Would Nelson Rockefeller, Republican governor of New York, presidential candidate and vice president under Gerald Ford, have survived in today's Republican Party? I think not.

And so we must condemn all those culpable for the violent attack on our democracy last Wednesday, beginning with the President who has committed acts against this country very short of, if not

bordering on, treason. We must condemn every supporter who has continued to lend their voices and encouragement to his delusions. We must condemn the reckless, lawless and criminal behavior of the mob of tens of thousands of this President's core supporters, who thought they could halt the working of our democracy.

We must condemn hatred, racism and any action that denies to our citizens, and those who would seek to be citizens, the rights of Americans to believe in our democracy, and know that it stands for something more than the twisted, warped beliefs of those who profess to revere it, but by their actions would bring it down.

If we do not condemn these things, then we condone them. Silence is not condemnation. Silence is collusion.

God bless America, and God preserve our democracy, both from our enemies abroad, and those within.

Brian McGowan is a longtime Pleasantville resident.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



@EXAMINERMEDIA



Find us on Facebook

FACEBOOK.COM/EXAMINERMEDIA

Follow ExaminerMedia on social media to monitor the latest breaking news and local reporting tidbits

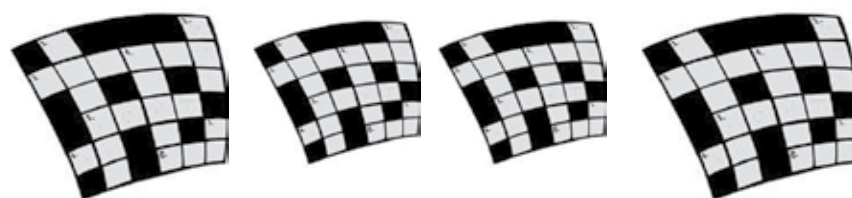
914-864-0878 • advertising@theexaminernews.com • www.theexaminernews.com

Visit

TheExaminerNews.com

and click on Puzzles

at the top of the homepage to play today's crossword!



Vacant Pleasantville Building Destroyed By Fire

By Anna Young

A vacant building in Pleasantville that is expected to become the site of a residential community went up in flames last week.

The Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Jan. 5 about 5:04 a.m. in the area of Vanderbilt Avenue and Depew Street, which had most recently been home to the former DeLuca Auto Body site. Fire officials arrived at the scene to find heavy smoke emitting from the vacant structure.

Due to the severity of the fire, the village received help from the Chappaqua, Thornwood, Valhalla, Briarcliff Manor, Hawthorne and Pocantico Hills fire departments, and Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Officials said members performed search, hose line operations, master stream operations, ventilation, and overhaul. Units were able to successfully clear the scene around 11 a.m.

Fire officials were still investigating the cause of the fire.

The property, which housed the vacant building, will where Lighthouse Living's 71-unit, three-story residential building. The project was approved by the Pleasantville Planning Commission in March.

The vacant structure located was scheduled to be demolished last Wednesday.

The project will include 10 studio apartments, 51 one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units. Developers have previously said they're looking to appeal to millennials and empty-nesters.



Flames shoot out from a vacant building at Depew Street and Vanderbilt Avenue in Pleasantville during the early morning hours on Jan. 5.

Obituary

Robert Crawley

Robert "Bob" J. Crawley, 85, of Ossining passed away on Jan. 7. He was 85.

Crawley was born on Dec. 14, 1935, to Edward and Amelia Crawley. He was a graduate of Ossining High School.

Bob was a local businessman, owner of Crawley's Grocery, Campwoods Deli and Roosevelt Deli. He was a lifetime

member of the Ossining Fire Department where he served for 58 years with Holla Hose. There, he was ex-captain and served on numerous committees. In addition, he had been president of the Ossining Rotary Club, Exalted Ruler of the Elks #1486 and a member of the St. Augustine Golden Eagles.

Crawley is survived by his daughters, Debbie (Mike) Cafarelli, Kathy (George) Lawrence and Kelly (Chris) Lovell; seven grandchildren, Amie (Richard)

Berry, Nicholas (Jenn) Cafarelli, Zachary Cafarelli, Rachel (Alex) Bateman, Ryan and Brendan Lawrence and Christopher Lovell; two great-granddaughters, Audrey and Evelyn Berry; and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by two sisters, Doris Smith and Judy Crawley.

He was predeceased by his sister, Jean Lippert, and his brother, Leroy Crawley.



Dwyer & Michael's FUNERAL HOME

In light of the current situation, we have put measures in place to continue to serve our beloved community.



LIVE STREAMING OF ALL SERVICES

- Viewings with religious services available
- Offering families the opportunity to mourn their loved ones and pay their respects

LARGE CHAPEL ALLOWS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Pre-Planning Services Offered
- Most Affordable Funerals in the Area
- All Life Insurance Policies Accepted for Funeral Payments

Serving All Faiths
We proudly welcome Rabbi and Cantor Eliyahu (Alexander) Hirsh to serve our Jewish Community



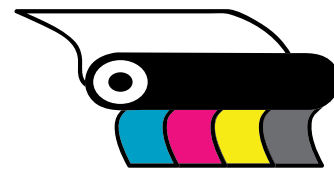
Dwyer & Michael's
FUNERAL HOME



Owned & Operated by the Carpinone Family with over 100 years of experience

90 N Broadway • Tarrytown, NY • 914-631-0621

dwyermichaelsfh.com



Trumbull
PRINTING

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

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



Locally Owned & Operated
Serving all Faiths

Hawthorne Funeral Home

21 West Stevens Ave.
Hawthorne, NY 10532

Ernest J. Carpentieri ~ Douglas A. Daniels

Tel: 914-769-4404

Fax: 914-769-5306

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

Jones Calls for Impeachment as Local Officials React to Capitol Riot

By Martin Wilbur

Local elected officials universally condemned the rioting at the Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump, with freshman Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-Suffern) calling within hours for the president's impeachment or removal through the 25th Amendment.

Reaction from across the area was swift in the hours following the deadly Jan. 6 mayhem in Washington, D.C. that delayed Congress's affirmation of President-elect Joe Biden's and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris's electoral college victory until after 3 a.m. the following morning. Five people, including a member of the Capitol police force, died during the lawlessness.

Jones was among a growing legion of congressman across the nation that supported impeachment or urging Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump, describing the president's actions as inciting "an armed insurrection against our nation's legislative branch."

The House officially introduced an article of impeachment on Monday.

"Consequences must be swift," Jones said. "I have signed onto articles of impeachment against President Trump for abuse of power and high crimes and misdemeanors. I have joined my colleague, Congresswoman Cori Bush, in calling for the expulsion of the members of Congress who have flagrantly violated the 14th Amendment. And I have

joined a letter calling on Vice President Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office. I urge my colleagues to join me. The fate of our republic is on the line."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said in a statement last Wednesday that the barriers that protect the country's democracy have broken down in recent years.

"In the history of this nation, no matter how much conflict we have had – and there is conflict built in every day in the halls of government – we never go from disagreements as fellow Americans to inciting violence or expecting that a mob can control a legislative body in order to impose its will outside of its legislative structures," Latimer said.

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said the nation has lots of work to do to make sure the country remains a shining example of democracy.

"The world is watching. Americans have the right to protest, but not to break the law while doing so," Odell said. "For the future of our children, I would hope we could put our country first, despite any differences."

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) said he was "disgusted and angered" by the attack on the Capitol and commented that the nation's "stands in the shadow of shame."

"The attempt to overthrow our presidential election deserves a full investigation, and anyone complicit in this anarchic free-for-all



Rep. Mondaire Jones (left) supports impeachment of President Trump for his role in last week's riot at the Capitol. Other local elected officials, including state Sen. Peter Harckham, had strong words of condemnation.

should be held accountable," Harckham said. "It is entirely beyond belief that a lawless mob was able to force its way into the Capitol building without being apprehended."

Several local officials also joined the large chorus who reacted last week. One of those, Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey, said the rioting was a result of a lack of leadership which has emboldened thousands of citizens to disrespect fundamental American values.

Joseph Kaidanow, chairman of the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center in White Plains, said the organization tries to remain apolitical, but the events of last Wednesday "drew us over the line."

Kaidanow said there was no other way to describe Trump's role other than incitement,

and the reality of government sanctioned violence and authoritarianism has advanced before the nation's eyes.

"The reality of Mr. Trump's power places more, not less, responsibility on him as the leader of our nation," Kaidanow said. "The issues we confront as a nation are clearly complex and run deep. They were not created over these last four years, nor will they be remedied over the next four. However, leadership matters. Words matter. Body language matters. The incendiary messages, both overt and implied, that have been utilized for political purposes, to galvanize and divide the country, have had a corrosive effect which culminated in yesterday's tragedy."

BRAND NEW ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE! SPECIALIZING IN ENHANCED AND SPECIAL NEEDS CARE **NOW OPEN!**



"I'm so happy to be here. It was worth waiting for!" – Theresa S. (resident)

"I feel my mom is in excellent professional hands.

Your whole team was outstanding." – Gary K. (son of resident)

**CALL TO LEARN ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY
AND HOW WE MIGHT HELP YOUR FAMILY.**

**YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS
914-350-2588**



THE CHELSEA AT GREENBURGH

ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE • RESPITE/TRIAL STAYS

715 DOBBS FERRY ROAD | GREENBURGH, NY 10607 | CHELSEAFORYOU.COM

Pleasantville STRONG Names Village Resident to Lead Coalition

By Abby Luby

Laura Moore was recently named the new coordinator of Pleasantville STRONG, a coalition dealing with youth substance abuse in the community.

Moore replaces Nicole Malgarinos, the five-year-old organization's first coordinator. She is a longtime Pleasantville resident with two children currently attending Pleasantville High School.

Moore, whose neighbor, John Mueller was one of Pleasantville STRONG's founding members, said his involvement inspired her to apply for the coordinator's position.

"I remember John taking this on in true John fashion and how motivated he was," Moore recalled. "He worked so hard to rally the community and I was in awe."

Moore said she has seen firsthand the importance of connecting to teens concerning different types of substance abuse. She pointed to the impactful classes taught by Mary Ann Flatley, a licensed mental health counselor and the Pleasantville School District's student assistance counselor, addressing addiction to vaping, marijuana or alcohol.

"Mary Ann was a big draw for me," said Moore, who holds a doctorate in education, health and behavior and a master's in science, health and behavior, both from Columbia University. "I'll be looking to learn a lot from her, what she's learned and what the needs are."

Malgarinos, who served on the

Pleasantville STRONG Steering Committee to select a new coordinator, said she encouraged the hiring of a local resident. She called Moore a "perfect fit and a huge benefit." The committee was impressed with Moore's 20-plus years' experience in nonprofit settings.

"She will be of great assistance when we move in that direction," said Malgarinos, who works for Westchester County's Mental Health Services and will help Moore transition into the position. "We have an on-boarding process that's mostly administrative, but then I will be introducing Laura to those connected with the Westchester Coalition, Student Assistance Services and other coalitions who work for drug-free communities."

Five years ago, the coalition received an annual \$125,000 Drug-Free Communities federal grant, which has recently been renewed for Pleasantville STRONG for another five years. The grant stipulates that community groups collaborate to fight substance abuse.

"Laura comes to the table with much knowledge and she knows the community," said Shane McGaffey, chairman of the Pleasantville STRONG Steering Committee and Pleasantville Board of Education member. "One of the goals (for Pleasantville STRONG) is to become a sustainable, nonprofit organization and Laura has the experience to do that. She is the right person to continue our work and to move us to the next level."

Moore said teens face tougher decisions today than those from previous generations, and she stressed the importance of school programs such as Flatley's classes.

"The programs in high school are wonderful and it would be good to push those programs into the seventh and eighth grades," Moore said. "The younger the child we can talk to about these issues, along with families and the community, the more comfortable it will be talking later on when they are teens."

Because the coordinator position is part-time, Moore will continue as director of education and research at The Harbor Lights Foundation, an organization that provides education and psychosocial support for children, teens and families living with grief. Before working at Harbor Lights, Moore was the director of the Children, Teens & Families Program at Gilda's Club Westchester in White Plains, which provides intervention, including coping and anxiety reduction.

Moore said she hopes to cast a wide net when it comes to messaging about youth substance abuse.

"Kids don't live at school. They are at home, at sports groups, clubs or church. The message has to go to all different places," she said. "We need to ask how we can best work



Laura Moore, the new coordinator for Pleasantville STRONG, which fights substance abuse among youngsters.

with our great community and neighboring communities as well. It's exciting to think about the next five years and what will come next."

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
914-864-0878

A GOOD READ WHILE YOU'RE STAYING SAFE INSIDE

Four days after being temporarily assigned to the detective division of a sleepy suburban police department, a young officer is thrust into the task of investigating a double homicide. The investigation takes the upstart officer through unfamiliar and dangerous encounters, including suspicion that his agency is incapable of an investigation of this magnitude.

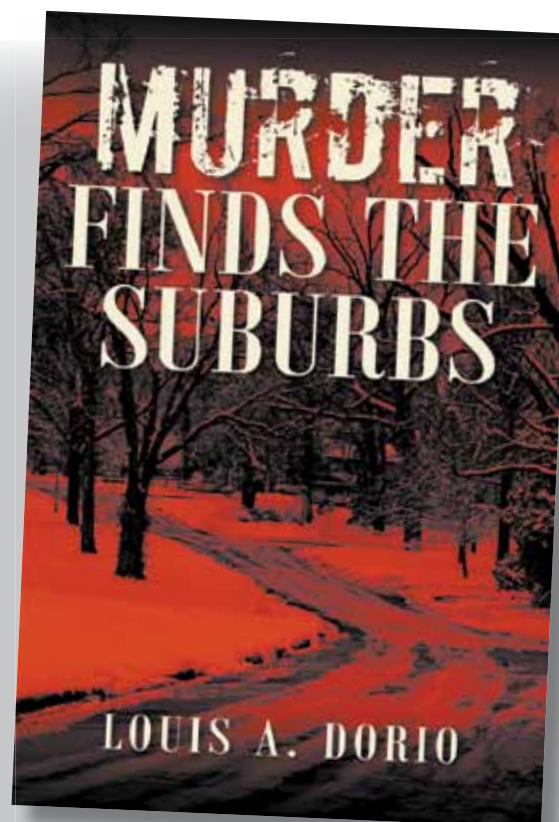
Inspired by a case Louis A. Dorio worked during his twenty years in a "bedroom community" police department, *Murder Finds the Suburbs* is thrilling true-crime drama that shows evil—as well as service and justice—are everywhere, not just big cities.

Louis A. Dorio retired as Chief of Police after a 20-year decorated career with a suburban NY Police Department.

"Amazing Crime Story! What a great book! I found myself so involved with the story that I couldn't stop reading. Without giving any of the story away I can say there were times where I was holding my breath waiting to see how the situation turned out. I recommend this book 100%. Great, fast read. Perfect for a cozy weekend." ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Couldn't Put It Down. Finished the book in two days. I couldn't put it down and have received the same feedback from everyone I have passed the book along to. Louis Dorio does an amazing job of making the reader feel like they are right there with him on the case. I highly recommend Murder Finds the Suburbs." ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Captivating-This was a fantastic read! A truly captivating story that kept me on the edge of my seat. I couldn't put it down!" ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Available at Amazon in paperback or Kindle
Visit the author's webpage at
<https://outskirtspress.com/murderfindsthesuburbs>
For more Information

KENNEDY CATHOLIC PREPARATORY SCHOOL

★★★★★★★★★ **HOME OF THE GAELS** ★★★★★★★★★



**Join the Class of 2025 and Start Your Own
Journey to Success in Mind, Body & Spirit!**

Take Our Entrance Test*

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 4:00p

Apply Today & Invest In Tomorrow!

Contact Mr. Brian Bruder – Director of Admissions

bbruder@kennedycatholic.org | 914-232-5061 Ext. 137

***Available to any 8th grade student who did not take the November 2020 TACHS**



**Go to KennedyCatholic.org to learn more
about what makes Kennedy Catholic
Prep stand out from every other school in
Westchester, Putnam & Dutchess!**

KennedyCatholic.org | (914) 232-5061 | 54 Rt. 138, Somers, NY 10589

Household Scents: Good and Bad, From Hmmm to Pee-Yew!

When it comes time to sell a house, there are many issues to be addressed to make it attractive to prospective buyers, from curb appeal to functionality of all systems. Realtors are eager to provide advice to guide sellers through the process of "getting ready."

Probably the most sensitive issue to address is unpleasant odor in the house. My sense of smell isn't what it used to be, and as a realtor, I find that sometimes that can be a good thing, such as occasions when an old house is riddled with mold or when a home is overpowered with the aroma of spicy cooking.

Every home has a particular smell. Sometimes it's good, sometimes not. When it's good, we might want to savor it and remember it, but when it's bad, both we and a prospective buyer want to escape it.

I can still recall that sweet smell of the home I grew up in. Maybe it was a combination of my mother's cooking, largely tomato- and olive oil-based, with her perfume (My Sin), which today I remember as smelling like a mixture of rose, jasmine, lilac and lily-of-the-valley. I recall that our house smelled particularly sweet when she would can tomatoes in the basement. Today, my own home projects



By Bill Primavera

the wonderful smell of my wife's perfume, Lauren by Ralph Lauren.

When I rented my first apartment, the air quality was awful. I lived in the basement of a private house, which was only slightly above grade and faced north. It had a musty smell caused by the moisture in the air that was so thick the walls would sometimes weep from it. Being a proactive tenant, even as an 18-year-old college student, I petitioned the landlady to buy a dehumidifier for me, and I kept it running day and night to make the air quality acceptable.

The next time I was keenly aware of objectionable house smells was in the apartment of a very senior woman who had invited me, as a part-time antiques dealer at the time, to buy some of her things. When I entered her apartment, located in an old former hotel in Brooklyn Heights, I was hit with a smell that was very unpleasant, yet difficult to describe.

The windows were shrouded in heavy curtains and shades, and the furniture was all deeply tufted. When she showed me her things, some quite beautiful, I would ask her how much she wanted for them. She would often give me a low price, which she must have pulled from her value of things in the 1920s. It would have been

unconscionable of me to not give her more.

Whenever I would offer her two and three times the amount she requested, which was still a bargain for me, she would say, "Oh," with delight. She was lovely and I was getting tremendous deals, but I couldn't wait to leave the terrible smell of her living environment.

I'm embarrassed to admit that I thought the smell was coming from what I had heard was called "old people smell," but that was a wrong assumption.

"There is no such thing as an 'old people smell,'" I was told by the owner of an air quality restoration service. "It's the circumstances of the old person's environment. 'There may be closed windows and no air flow; it could be their personal habits, how often they bathe and clean their clothes, and the odors just don't have an opportunity to dissipate with circulation.'"

Smoking, pets and mold are the three most common causes of house odor, he said.

"Usually no one does anything about the first two – smoking and pets – because people are not aware of those odors when they live with them," he continued. "They are very aware of mold, however, either because of the smell or allergic reaction, and that is something they want to do something about."

Toxic mold produces a chemical called mycotoxins, which can cause serious and

even fatal illnesses.

While the smell of lingering smoke and pets may be offensive to those not used to it, they aren't harmful and might be corrected by household remedies. However, toxic mold, which is reputed to have hastened the death of television personality Ed McMahon, should be handled by a professional remediation service. There is just too much at stake, especially in the remediation process, to approach on one's own.

If a house is being readied for sale and the owner is advised to eliminate the smell of smoking or pets, the best cure is good ventilation. The process can be expedited with good old-fashioned baking soda. Baking soda can be sprinkled on furniture and carpeting that has absorbed smoking or pet odors. After sitting for several hours, it is vacuumed.

The worst thing to do about household odors is to try to mask them with candles, incense or other odor-combating products. The layered smells can be worse than the offending odor.

Bill Primavera is a residential and commercial realtor® associated with William Ravies Real Estate in Yorktown Heights, as well as a publicist and journalist writing regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to buy or sell a home, he can be called directly at 914-522-2076.

★ ROOFING
★ WINDOWS
★ SIDING
★ DOORS



**DON'T BE THAT
HOMEOWNER WHO WAITS
UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO
BUTTON UP THEIR HOME.
THERE IS STILL TIME.
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE
ESTIMATE BEFORE YOUR
HOME CATCHES A COLD!**




WC. Lic. #10415H99
P.C. Lic. #1817
YNK 307
H-12519-07-23-00

MIRACLE
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

NO\$DOWN
ON JOBS UNDER \$20,000




914★271★9119



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

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

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

www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

★ SEAMLESS GUTTERS
★ LEADERS
★ REPAIRS

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Visit **TheExaminerNews.com**

to subscribe to our

FREE

e-mail newsletter

**You'll receive the latest local
news delivered straight
to your inbox**

www.theexaminernews.com/eblast/




Don't Be Left in the Cold

**Generator
Tune-up Kits
Available!**



**QUOTZEL
TIMELESS DESIGNS
KICHLER
GENERAC**

*Most models made in USA. • Generac generators are preferred by
7 out of every 10 homeowners who invest in home backup power.*

P.O. Box 894, 240 Rte 6,
Mahopac, New York 10541
845-628-9106
midcountylighting.com



Form Based Code Poses Traffic, Parking Hurdles in Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

Members of the New Castle Town Board indicated the likelihood of revisions to the proposed Form Based Code for downtown Chappaqua during discussions last week regarding the code's potential impact on traffic and parking.

The board, which has listened to significant criticism during public hearings on the proposed rezoning at the recent public hearings, reassured the public that all comments and questions will be reviewed and addressed in writing by the town's consultants.

"We really want to be able to get our consultants going and to start to do these initial analyses and really sort of write the answers to the questions that have come through this public process," said Supervisor Ivy Pool.

Last Tuesday's discussion came before this Wednesday's scheduled joint Town Board-Chappaqua Board of Education work session and the scheduled continuation of the public hearing on Jan. 19. The Board of Education hired its own consultant in the fall after it disputed the town's consultants who estimated less than 100 school-age children would be generated by nearly 1,000 units under the full build-out scenario.

The town is required to include the full buildout under the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

Town officials are considering rezoning up to 72 acres in the hamlet in hopes

of encouraging developers to invest in downtown Chappaqua by introducing mixed uses in certain areas. The hope is by adding apartments and having residents live downtown, there will be increased activity and vitality.

There are issues that will need to be resolved by the board and its consultants before officials feels comfortable moving forward. Pool mentioned that any substantial downtown development would require improvement to the triangle intersection at the base of the Route 120 bridge.

Improvements such as a T-intersection or a roundabout at that location have previously received a frosty reception from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) during previous administrations.

"In my mind, we need to understand whether New York State DOT is going to support that," Pool said. "They haven't in the past. Do we believe they will going forward, and how will this work from a potential standpoint of the costs associated with that?"

Councilwoman Lisa Katz said she was very concerned about parking and traffic. She said that with previous studies showing a traffic service Level F downtown at certain times, there would need to be improvements to accommodate the likelihood of increased volume.

Another key issue facing officials is parking. Pool said getting a clear picture of how much additional parking may be needed, where it can be built and how much it would



There are still many unanswered questions about multiple aspects of the proposed Form Based Code for downtown Chappaqua.

cost is a critical component of the proposed Form Based Code.

There has been discussion about the possibility of a parking structure in the town-owned land at the train station, but any use of municipal property is subject to a permissive referendum.

The town and its consultants need to guard against losing parking if there is development downtown, Deputy Supervisor Jeremy Saland said. But if there were to be a parking garage, which should be explored, it would need to be done so it's not constructed in an offensive manner, he said.

"If we need town land to do it, then does that mean it just stops, does that mean it

just doesn't happen if we can't get the land in play to make the development work?" Saland asked.

The town's director of planning, Sabrina Charney Hull, said there have been many examples of when parking issues scuttle development plans.

New Castle officials and their consultants have plenty to consider in the weeks ahead.

"I've not made up my mind how I feel about the Form Based Code other than I am not going to adopt it in its current iteration, I can guarantee that," Katz said. "But we're still in the process of figuring out, evaluating what's best for the town."



Fuel Oil • Gasoline • HVAC • Service • Propane • Diesel
We Make Warm and Now "Cool" Friends Too!
www.SclafaniEnergy.com • 1 (845) 628-1330

TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS:
 Sclafani Energy is dedicated to serving our community during these challenging times. All of our personnel wear face masks and practice proper procedures when making deliveries and service calls to keep you and your family safe.



Don't be Caught Out in the Cold!
Let our certified technicians get you ready for the season.

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



Serving Northern Westchester, Southern Dutchess & Putnam Counties!

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



1821 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY
914-245-0391



\$25.95
Oil Change Special
Includes 5 quarts of conventional oil. Coupon expires on 1/31/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must present coupon.
SAVE 10%
On any repair over \$300
Coupon expires on 1/31/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must present coupon.
FREE GAS
fill up with the purchase of 4 new tires with mounting & balance (20 gallon reg gas max)
Coupon expires on 1/31/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must present coupon.
A/C SERVICE \$135.00
Coupon expires on 1/31/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must present coupon.
COOLANT FLUSH & RENEW SERVICE
Avoid costly repairs by getting your car's cooling system ready for the winter with the proper antifreeze protection
\$119.95
Coupon expires on 1/31/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must present coupon.

Under New Management • NYS Inspection Station

DON'T PAY DEALER PRICES
WHEN WE CAN INSTALL PARTS AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE!
Our labor rate is half the price of the dealers!!

WHY YORKTOWN SHELL...

- 3 technicians on-site with more than 30 years of foreign & domestic experience, specializing in Mercedes Benz
- Complimentary ride back home/work while your car is being worked on
- All commercial accounts welcome! Ask about our charge accounts for your fleet.
- One stop shop convenience store offering many new products.

ASK US HOW TO SAVE
30¢ per gallon off of gas

Get a FREE cup of coffee with every fill up

1821 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY • 914-245-0391

Mt. Pleasant Police Arrest Connecticut Man on Weapons Charge

By Martin Wilbur

An 18-year-old Connecticut man was arrested early Monday by Mount Pleasant police on a weapons charge following a struggle with two officers when they spotted a gun in his waistband.

Malik Walker, of Hartford, was charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon in Thornwood about 2:30 a.m.

While on patrol, Officer Samantha O'Conner pulled over a vehicle occupied

by three males after she observed it being operated erratically in Thornwood. She followed the car into a residential neighborhood where there have been numerous incidents of stolen property from vehicles and reports of stolen cars.

Once stopped, O'Conner engaged the driver in conversation and had reasonable suspicion to detain the men for further investigation.

After Officer Nicholas Mann arrived at the scene to provide assistance, the two officers

asked Walker, the backseat passenger, to get out of the car. Police said he was uncooperative after exiting the vehicle, continuing to keep his hands near his waist.

Mann observed what later turned out to be a Smith & Wesson .40-caliber semiautomatic pistol, which was fully loaded with 16 rounds of ammunition, police said. Upon observing the gun, both officers brought Walker to the ground and a struggle ensued.

The suspect was handcuffed and brought to Mount Pleasant police headquarters

in Valhalla. On Monday, Walker awaited arraignment on the weapons charge.

A second individual, Giovanni Gorency, 21, also of Hartford, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and released on an appearance ticket. The car's third occupant was not charged.

**FACEBOOK.COM/
EXAMINERMEDIA**

W'chester Officials Appeal to Public to Get Vaccine When Available

continued from page 4

a card with an appointment for when they should return for the second dose, Amler said. When multiple vaccines are available, they cannot be mixed, she said.

It is unclear how long the vaccine provides immunity, but studies suggest that protection is four to five times stronger than having had the virus, according to Hewlett.

Perhaps the most serious challenge facing Westchester, New York State and the nation is the slow rollout of the vaccines. New York State is receiving 300,000 weekly doses of the vaccine from the federal government, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday. Health care workers have been the first recipients.

Cuomo announced that the second group of eligible vaccine recipients – police, firefighters, other public safety workers, educators, transit workers and people 75 and up – can start registering for their vaccination

appointments starting Monday.

A state website and a call center were activated on Monday (see accompanying info box).

The governor said unions will organize the appointments for the various workers. Participating pharmacies and health care providers will administer the vaccine for seniors.

"This is the group that's the most at risk," Cuomo said. "This is the group with the highest death rate."

So far, about 1,200 of the state's 5,000 pharmacies have committed to giving the shots, with an initial group of 500 ready to accept registrants, he said.

Those 75 and older comprise, by far, the largest contingent in the second group eligible for the vaccine, totaling about 1.4 million state residents. In all, there are 3.2 million people in the second group and about

one million health care workers who still need to be vaccinated, he said.

However, Cuomo said at the current slow pace of distribution it will take until mid-April to complete vaccinating the first two groups and 47 weeks to reach the minimum 70 percent herd immunity threshold.

Latimer said the third eligible group will consist of people with chronic medical situations, including the immunocompromised, followed by the general population. No date has been given when the next two groups can begin signing up.

He said the task to immunize the population just at the county level is daunting.

"We haven't done anything like this...in our lifetime and I'm not sure 100 years ago that pandemic could not have dealt with this," Latimer said. "So we're in new territory."

Amler said while most of the population

waits its turn for the vaccine, it is crucial to continue the oft-repeated strategies to stay safe and for officials to educate the public.

"We're in the middle of vaccinating the public right now, it doesn't mean we can stop wearing masks," Amler said. "It doesn't mean we can stop social distancing and doing all the things that we've done before. It just means that we have to vaccinate about 70 to 80 percent of our population and we'll reach herd immunity, which means that we will have less of a risk of widespread outbreaks of this virus."

Hewlett also exhorted the public to avoid airplane travel and large gatherings.

"If we behave in the right way, we can keep our schools open and our pre-schools open and our children will be safer, and also it will allow the parents to do the kinds of work that they need to do," he said.



Patrick J. McNulty Jr.



Daniel J. McNulty



There is a Difference

- Exceptional service
- Respectful of all religious backgrounds
- Superior facilities
- Personalized and compassionate services
- Price flexibility
- Preplanning services
- Family owned and operated
- Cremation specialists
- Three generations of superior services
- Unique Tributes
- Abundant parking
- Strong community roots

Discover the Difference Pleasant Manor Funeral Home has to offer

**Family Owned
And
Supervised**

Pleasant Manor Funeral Home, Inc.

575 Columbus Avenue, Thornwood, NY 10594

914 - 747 - 1821

www.pleasantmanorfh.com

**Trusted,
Compassionate
Care for
Three Generations**

Patrick J. McNulty Sr. • Patrick T. McNulty • Patrick J. McNulty Jr. • Daniel J. McNulty

New Shop to Provide Residents With Taste of Britain in Mt. Kisco

By Sydney Stoller

Stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic, local Anglophiles and British expats have been unable to take a trip across the pond.

They may instead be satisfying their need for English culture by watching "The Crown," "The Great British Baking Show" or "Bridgerton," all trending shows on Netflix based in the U.K., and by drinking breakfast tea.

Fortunately, there will soon be a way for local residents to get a taste of Britain close to home.

A new retail shop called The Hamlet will be opening in Mount Kisco in late February at 23 S. Moger Ave. The Hamlet will mainly sell British food, books, gifts and vinyl records. The food items, mostly nonperishable snacks and dry goods, will be imported from England, which means that customers have the opportunity to try authentic delicacies like Cadbury chocolates and Monster Munch potato chips.

Monster Munch chips are a favorite of co-owner Drew Hodgson, who moved to the United States from England to tour as a musician in a 1990s alternative rock band. Born in Kendal, a small town in the Lake District near the Scottish border, Hodgson eventually moved to Manchester before relocating to America and settling in Mount Kisco with his wife, Leigh, and their daughters.



The Hamlet in Mount Kisco will be selling merchandise that will make visitors feel as though they've stepped into a shop in the U.K. It is scheduled to open next month,

Opening the store alongside part-owners Karen and Mike Ransom has been a longtime dream for the Hodgsons. And their passion for The Hamlet and its merchandise is palpable.

"Ninety percent of the food in our store, you will not find in your local food store," he said. "If you live in town and you are used to British groceries, then you will be able to do your grocery shopping at our store. From the curries, the jams, the jellies, the teas, to the frozen foods, the pies, the pasties (a British meat pie) and the sausages, it's all here."

They are dedicated not only to stocking British delicacies and records, but to providing customers with an experience each time they enter the shop. With murals of the English countryside

painted on the walls, a red vintage phone booth in the middle of the store and music of The Beatles playing from the speakers, walking into The Hamlet will make anyone feel at ease.

"I want people to walk in and feel like they walked into a little piece of England," Hodgson said. "I'm thinking about what I would want as an expat, as someone who is missing home."

In a climate where many local businesses are struggling to survive, opening a new store with enthusiastic proprietors is a breath of fresh air.

"It's exciting to see a new business open, especially one so unique," said Jen Gerken, owner of Porch, a shop on Main Street, which sells home accessories. "It's encouraging and energizing to

see people invest in our community, especially during this challenging time."

By selling merchandise unavailable almost anywhere else, The Hamlet should help it lure new clientele to Mount Kisco.

As a musician who believes that records are the true way to enjoy music, Hodgson is committed to having a large catalog of vinyls, ranging from Motorhead to Harry Styles. Similarly, as a public school teacher, Leigh Hodgson has worked tirelessly to provide literature for customers of all ages. She has stocked British authors spanning the generations, from Charles Dickens to J.K. Rowling.

Just as its merchandise covers a variety of interests, the name of the shop has many meanings. In a reference to the classical British literature that the shop will be selling, The Hamlet is an homage to the famed Shakespeare tragedy. It is also the brand name of one of the U.K.'s most famous cigars.

Finally, a hamlet is a word commonly used in England as well as in America to refer to a small village, which is fitting given the shop's location.

By the end of February, area residents may add a new meaning to the word – a place where they are able feel like they're at home and in England.

Until then, British television shows will have to suffice.

A WINTER WONDERLAND COULD BE YOUR BIGGEST NIGHTMARE!

2021 CAR CARE SPECIAL

***OIL & FILTER CHANGE SERVICE INCLUDING:**

BG Gas and Oil additives* • Check all fluid levels & top off as needed

• Check lights, belts & hoses • Test antifreeze protection

• Inspect brakes, steering & suspension • Rotate tires if needed

Inspect tires & adjust pressure • Check cabin air filter.

*Most cars & SUVs, up to 5 quarts of conventional motor oil. Some restrictions may apply.

CALL FOR DETAILS AND APPOINTMENT. **OFFER EXPIRES: 1/31/21**

THE MOST COMMON WINTER CAR TROUBLES...

■ Dead Battery or Faulty Spark Plugs

■ Bald or Unseasonal Tires

■ Fluid Malfunction and Bad Wipers

Patterson
Auto Body

Your Complete Automotive Service Center

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy New Year

Visit us on Facebook
for exclusive specials!

2597 Rt. 22 Patterson
PattersonAutoBody.com

COLLISION REPAIR
We Handle your Entire Claim using
Only Factory Authorized Parts
NYS Inspection • Air Conditioning
Wheel Alignment & Balancing
Preventive Maintenance • Towing & Tire Center

845.878.3456

SCHNEIDER

FINANCIAL GROUP, LTD

ACCOUNTING - TAXES - FINANCIAL SERVICES

Schneider Financial is open to be a resource for our community. 2020 has been a rollercoaster for new legislation and tax updates.

Schneider Financial is here in person, on call or through videoconference, to ensure your taxes are filed right.

824 Route 6

Mahopac

info@sfgtaxes.com

Phone: (845) 628-5400

www.sfgtaxes.com

Securities offered through Cantella & Co., Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. Cantella and Co., Inc. does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal or accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.

Putnam Land Trust Accepts 31 Forested Acres in Southeast

The Putnam County Land Trust (PCLT) announced last week it has accepted the donation of 31 acres on Joe's Hill Road in the Town of Southeast.

The property is 90 percent woodlands and consists of mature maple-beech and oak-hickory trees, many of which are two to three feet in diameter (estimated to be 100 to 150 years old). Plant communities are red maple swamp, oak-hickory forest and maple-beech forest. There are also rock outcroppings which make the preserve fascinating to walk and explore.

Joe's Hill, 847 feet in elevation, is .5 miles to the south. This property's land slopes westward to the reservoir from a peak

elevation of 670 feet near the road along the eastern boundary to a low point of 430 feet at the wetlands and reservoir at the western boundary. This wetland along the western boundary is part of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation wetland BR-31. A wetland just east of the property feeds a stream that runs across the

These woodlands and wetlands provide a high-quality breeding, nesting, foraging and stopover habitat for birds, reptiles, amphibians, beneficial insects and a variety of other wildlife. Birds observed on a June 18, 2018, visit include the wood thrush, red-eyed vireo and veery, all of which are interior-forest dwelling migratory birds that

require large, unfragmented blocks of woods such as these in which to breed.

Spotted turtle, bobcat and river otter may breed here or use this habitat.

This property helps to protect the quality of the water entering the East Branch Reservoir and provide much-needed wildlife habitat. Over the past 50 years, three billion birds have disappeared due to loss of habitat and use of pesticides. By conserving this property, PCLT is helping to provide undisturbed habitat for them.

The property requires work to make it accessible for visitors, and there are plans to have it open for walks by early 2022.



A portion of the land recently donated to the Putnam County Land Trust that protects 31 acres on Joe's Hill Road in Southeast. The property is a key habitat for a variety of birds and wildlife.

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews.com

ArtsWestchester Seeks Art Created During Pandemic for Exhibit

ArtsWestchester has issued a call for submissions of artistic and creative projects made during the COVID-19 pandemic for a new curated exhibition that will open in the spring.

Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester's CEO, said at a time of great loss and physical distancing, many have turned to creative outlets to help cope and express anguish when feeling helpless.

"Painting, photography, sewing, crafting, singing, writing and other everyday creative

activities are helping us to reclaim a connection to our friends, families and self," Langsam said. "We invite you to share your creativity with us – your homemade puppet theater, your 'COVID cookbook,' your family Zoom concert – and tell your pandemic story. We are open to all of your creative ideas."

The exhibit is expected to open in late April, with a parallel virtual presentation. However, depending on health guidelines and policies in place at the time, the exhibition may be solely virtual. The exhibit's title and

opening date will be announced in February.

ArtsWestchester will consider submissions in the following categories: crafts, visual arts, performing arts, cultural/traditional practices, writing and fashion, among others.

Artists must be Westchester County or Hudson Valley residents. Adults may submit up to three works in any category; minors are limited to one submission. The submission deadline is Mar. 3 at 11:59 p.m. Selected artists will be notified of submission status

no later than Mar. 15.

ArtsWestchester will offer two 7 p.m. workshops on Jan. 19 and 26 to help artists and members of the public prepare submissions. Those who would like to view a recording of the sessions, e-mail Logan Hanley, gallery manager, at lhanley@artswestchester.org.

All submissions must be digital through <https://artswestchester.submittable.com/submit/181676/pandemic-creates-call-for-submissions>.

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

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

Personally Owned and Supervised By

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

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

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

www.beecherflooksfnh.com

Special Offer for *Examiner* Readers

NOSTALGIA
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

*Reconnect
with your past!*

Remember the
shows, movies
and music you
grew up with?
Relive those
happier, simpler
times with the
stars you loved.



Only
\$1
a month!

Subscribe Today 1-855-322-8784
remindmagazine.com/rmcp

Exploring the Changes in the Wine World During the Past Quarter Century



By Nick Antonaccio

The world is changing – rapidly. The wine world is changing – also rapidly.

As we leave 2020 behind and venture into the uncertainty of 2021, let's focus on the last quarter century – a mere speck of sand in the continuum of humankind's presence on this amazing planet.

Over the span of the last 25 years, the global community has witnessed, and been directly affected by, greater advancements in science, medicine, technology, world health, world peace and human longevity than in the cumulative history of humankind.

In 1995, we were primarily tethered to wired phones, receiving much of our information from the Postal Service and broadcast and print media. The internet was just beginning to surface as a consumer tool for information research and shopping.

What a phenomenal journey it's been since then: smartphones have largely replaced traditional soft technology sources, not to mention still and video cameras and film, maps, board games, music and music storage on hard media, shopping carts,

even face-to-face conversations.

Adults live longer than in 1995 due to advances such as laser surgery, stents, statins, genetic sequencing and MRIs. The level of worldwide poverty is the lowest in history and much of the world's population lives in relative peace.

In 2021, we can also enjoy life to the fullest (notwithstanding the obvious effects of the pandemic), including indulging in our favorite wines. Allow and indulge me, in the shadow of these momentous changes in our lives, to ruminate on the transformation of the wine world over the last 25 years.

Let's focus on the change in the proliferation and influence of wine producing regions.

New major players. A number of today's major wine-producing countries were not even on the international radar screen 25 years ago. Nowhere has the surge in wine

over this period been the greatest than in the United States; all 50 states now produce quality wines. The result of this surge? We have become the largest wine consumers in the world, and 75 percent of what we consume is produced domestically. American cult wines now garner similar respect as a number of esteemed French wines.



Resurgence of Old World producers.

After languishing in the world markets for decades, winemakers have revitalized their wineries with bold, exciting new representations of wines – and at very affordable prices. In addition to numerous producers in France and Italy, those in Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria and Switzerland have embraced New World technology, producing quality wines that were subpar 25 years ago.

Eastern Europe has an Old World wine heritage dating back to the early Romans. Virtually non-existent outside of their homelands 25 years ago, high quality/price ratio wines from Croatia, Romania, Czech Republic and Hungary are entering the United States market.

Surge of New World producers. Gallo's Barefoot brand has risen from domestic sales of 140,000 cases in 1995 to an industry-leading 18 million today. And don't forget the other New World behemoth, Yellowtail, which is still dominant in the United States market with over 11 million cases sold today. Add to the mix: New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and Canada.

New horizons. This is where it is truly amazing. Today, wine is produced in far-flung regions never thought to be commercially possible, let alone successful,

in 1995. Primarily sold in-country, these wines haven't hit our shores yet, but they have received acclaim for their high quality. Down the road, look for wines from the Black Sea countries (Russia and Georgia), North Africa (Morocco, even Ethiopia), Israel, Brazil and India. The newest giant entering the market is the United Kingdom, producing acclaimed sparkling wines.

Where is the world market for wine headed? There are a number of wild cards. Experts anticipate significant changes in the wine world in the future, influenced by global warming and the rise of the Chinese market, amongst others.

One thing is certain: Just as consumers and wine lovers everywhere have benefited from historic changes in the last 25 years, so too will we benefit from the ever-evolving world of science and wine production. Enjoy the ride.

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

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

Crabtree's Kittle House: A Dining Masterpiece in Chappaqua

As a travel writer I've been lucky enough to devour incredible meals in some of the world's finest restaurants, from Paris to Saigon, Berlin to Los Angeles and Madrid to Florence.

Now that COVID-19 has sadly "clipped my wings," the world's Michelin-starred restaurants of my travels are now just a delicious memory.

But recently I've discovered an incredible, world-class, Michelin-worthy restaurant just 30 minutes away from home in Hastings-on-Hudson.

A magical, very special restaurant that's blown me away in every possible way.

That charming, Old World, romantic restaurant is Crabtree's Kittle House

nestled in the woods in Chappaqua. Over 200 years ago this was a family farm, then a Prohibition era roadhouse, a private girl's school, country playhouse where Henry Fonda and Tallulah Bankhead starred and a bed and breakfast during Hollywood's Golden Era.

The white, classically gorgeous building was constructed in 1879 and has 14 antique-decorated guest rooms upstairs, a beautifully decorated restaurant

downstairs, with picturesque patio for outdoor dining and another patio for one-of-a-kind country weddings.

The delightfully charming owner of Crabtree's Kittle House is John Crabtree. Just as Leonard Bernstein was acclaimed by music critics as the renowned maestro of the New York Philharmonic, Crabtree is acclaimed by food critics as the renowned maestro of his establishment.

Like a great conductor, he orchestrates every facet of his outstanding restaurant.

His attentive staff is Old World, serving every dish so artfully. They make you feel very special, explaining how each dish was prepared and how the ingredients were locally and sustainably

sourced.

Upon being seated they'll bring you a basket of home-made sourdough bread, served warm with a crunchy crust and gossamer dough. Each course is presented to you as delicious works of art. My favorite dishes included their Highland Farms venison osso bucco, pan roasted Hudson Valley pork belly, winter truffle and wild mushroom Gnocci and slow-braised grass-fed short ribs. Their seafood selections are

beyond outstanding. Order a side of their seductive parmesan truffle fries with chipotle aioli.

Their incredibly delicious, artful desserts were even more impressive than ones created by Vienna's masterful pastry chefs. Order their Valrhona Chocolate "Gift" with Crème Anglaise.

Crabtree glows when he talks about his world-class wine collection that critics have called one of the most impressive of any restaurant in the country. Wine Spectator Magazine gave it one of their highest ratings.

The tables inside the lovely main dining room are safely distanced. Dining on their expansive patio is a warm and cozy experience, thanks to the towering heaters.

You can also pick up most items on their menu curbside with family meals for four to six people. On weekends they have the most delicious four-course brunch in Westchester.

Until I take off again on my next travel adventure, I'm so thankful that I discovered Crabtree's Kittle House, which has been as rewarding a dining experience as I've had in



By Richard Levy

all my travels. This unique restaurant unequivocally deserves to be awarded two stars by the discriminating folks at Guide Michelin.

So take my advice, make plans today to treat yourself and your significant other to a delightfully decadent one-of-a-kind memorable meal. Of course, it's a bit pricy, but with all you've had to put up with this year and unable to celebrate all the special holidays with your loved ones, it's absolutely worth the splurge. More importantly, you're worth it.

Crabtree's Kittle House is located at 11 Kittle Rd. in Chappaqua. For more information, call 914-666-8044 or visit www.crabtreeskittlehouse.com.

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

The Travel Maven

HELP US FUND LOCAL COVID-19 REPORTING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

<https://www.theexaminernews.com/donate/>

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

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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

ADOPTION

Single woman looking to build her family by adoption. Any ethnicity welcome, expenses paid. Please call (347) 470-5228 or my attorney: (800) 582-3678 for information

ANTIQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

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

AUTO DONATIONS

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

BUYING/SELLING

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

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

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

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

EDUCATION/CAREER TRAINING

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Now offering a \$10,000 scholarship for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained,

Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

HEALTH

HEARING AIDS!! Buy one/get one FREE! High-quality rechargeable Nano hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Nearly invisible! 45-day money back guarantee! 833-448-0751.

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

HELP WANTED

HOTEL CLEANING - White Plains: T&L Cleaning is looking for housekeeping staff for a hotel in the White Plains area. Room attendants, laundry attendants and house-persons. **Apply on-line at tlcleaningservices.com/apply or call (800) 610-4770.**

\$18.50 NYC, \$16 L.I. & up to \$13.50 Upstate NY! If you need care from your relative, friend or neighbor and you have Medicaid, they may be eligible to start taking care of you as a personal assistant under NYS Medicaid CDPA Program. No Certificates needed. Phone: 347-713-3553

HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money,

reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-871-0194

INTERNET AND TV

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$35/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

DISH TV \$59.99 for 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-800-943-0838.

SERVICES

Fiber Optic Products and LED Signs Manufacturer Direct plus installation services. Signs available on NYSID Fiberdyne Labs, Inc. Frankford NY Sales@Fiberdyne.com WWW.Fiberdyne.com Call or Click today 315-895-8470

Private care for your loved one in their own home. Caregivers available. Call Maya Tsereteli at 929-231-4870.



DENTAL Insurance

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

A less expensive way to help get the dental care you deserve!

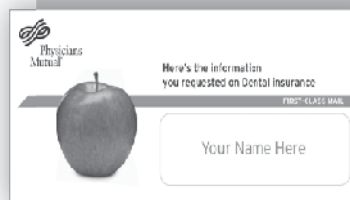
CALL NOW! 1-855-225-1434

- ✓ Get help paying dental bills and keep more money in your pocket
- ✓ This is real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan
- ✓ You can get coverage before your next checkup

Don't wait! Call now and we'll rush you a FREE Information Kit with all the details.

Insurance Policy P150NY
6129

FREE
Information Kit



1-855-225-1434

Visit us online at
www.dental50plus.com/nypress

MB17-NM003Ec

FREE!

Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)

American Standard
Walk-In Tubs

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500



- ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
- ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting
- ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology
- ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard
- ✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage



Limited Time Offer! Call Today!

888-609-0248

Or visit: www.walkintubinfo.com/nypress

LeafFilter®
GUTTER PROTECTION

CALL US TODAY FOR
A FREE ESTIMATE

1-855-478-9473

15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*

AND!

10% OFF
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

5% OFF
TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Promo Number: 285 Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

ELEVATORS • STAIR LIFTS • WHEELCHAIR LIFTS • RAMPS

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

Stay in the home you Love!

Locally Owned & Operated

The **ALBANY**
Lift Company

Stairlifts * Elevators * Wheelchair Lifts * Ramps

747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park NY 12065

(518) 393-2274 * (888) 558-LIFT

www.thealbanyliftcompany.com

Visit Our Display Center: 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065



Woodpeckers of Westchester: A Portentous Pileated

By Brian Kluepfel

We have considered the pileated woodpecker a bird of good fortune since we saw one just outside our apartment on moving day four years ago.

Such a massive, beautiful creature, we were compelled to watch, even as the rain drizzled down our necks and dampened our hair on a dank March morning. I even asked the landlord not to remove the tree where the woodpecker was situated. The tree is still there, but probably not due to my request.

As big and bodacious as the pileated woodpecker is (if you haven't seen one, they're crow-sized, with a bright red crest), they're not easy to spot, especially in the spring and summer. They tend to be high up in the canopy of thick woods, and eastern deciduous forests are dense with foliage until late autumn. While we often hear one on our walks through Mariandale, only once have we seen one there. We did see another, out in the open by the Ossining Metro-North station, a few years ago.

On New Year's Eve I met a good friend at Pruyn Sanctuary for a coffee and a quick hike. (It was another drizzly day.) As we strolled through the lowland swamp, we heard the unmistakable tapping of a woodpecker, and a loud tapping at that. After inspecting the treetops for a moment, my friend spied the pileated woodpecker, and pointed it out to me. I had the advantage of binoculars and

got a good view; a nice way to end the year.

I kidded with my friend that the American Birding Association was naming its Bird of the Year that night at 10 p.m. and that he should stay up for the announcement. We had a good laugh and went our separate ways, driving into the mists of 2021.

To my delight, on New Year's morning I read that the pileated woodpecker had been named Bird of the Year. It was almost like the previous day's sighting was a portent. Maybe a good sign in dark times. Perhaps as the woodpecker raps its head repeatedly against the trunk to get a reward of insects, collective humanity bashing our head against the wall of intolerance and misunderstanding will result in something positive. Or maybe we'll have to fly to another tree.

There are 22 woodpecker species native to North America (for die-harders who insist the ivory-billed is still around, 23). You can see several at our Saw Mill River Audubon sanctuaries in Westchester. Among them are the red-bellied woodpecker (we just saw one at Cedar Lane Park), the hairy woodpecker, the downy woodpecker, the northern flicker (often visible on the ground, with gilt-edged wings), the yellow-bellied sapsucker, and naturally, the pileated woodpecker. In recent years, Muscoto Farm in Somers had been home to a nest of stunning red-headed woodpeckers.

Brian Kluepfel is the editor of the Saw Mill River Audubon newsletter and a

For The Birds



SUZANNE O'ROURKE PHOTO

The hard-to-spot pileated woodpecker, one of more than 20 woodpecker species native to North America and the American Birding Association's 2020 Bird of the Year.

correspondent for Lonely Planet and Fodor's travel guides, as well as Birdwatching and Westchester magazines. You can find him at birdmanwalking.com and [@briankluepfel](https://twitter.com/briankluepfel) on social media.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

BUYING COMIC BOOK COLLECTIONS!

★ **Top Prices Paid!** ★

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

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

La Barberia
EST. 1970

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

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary
No Appointment Necessary
Hours: Mon-Wed 9:30-6
Thurs & Fri 9:30-7
Sat 9-5 • Open Sunday 10-3
Venmo: @Raffaele-Ferraioli

WE ARE NOW OPEN!
By executive order, to enter the premises you must wear a mask. Our hairstylists will be wearing masks.

\$5.00 OFF COLOR/PERMS HIGHLIGHTS
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday. Only with this Coupon.

\$2.00 OFF HAIRCUTS
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday. Only with this Coupon.

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine American Craft

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

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

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.

Not your AAverage pet store

For all your pet needs
Aardvark Pet Supplies has moved!

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

SMRA
SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON™

Connecting People & Nature Since 1953

Online Public Programs

Wed Jan 6: Birding Workshop—Intro/Review Waterfowl ID
Thu Jan 14: Westchester Solar Siting: Panel Discussion on Zoom
Thu Jan 21: Author Talk—Susan Fox Rogers, *When Birds Are Near*
Wed Jan 27: A Bird's Eye View of Food—What We Eat Matters

Small Group Guided Bird Walks
by registration, for 10 people, masked, with social distancing

Zoom Bird Chat 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm,
Learn where local birders are birding & what they are seeing and share your bird observations or questions

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org
for more info and free registration for above events,
for no contact bird seed purchases, and for SMRA sanctuary maps.
SMRA sanctuary maps now available on Avenza map app!

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

011221

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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

continued from page 20

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

*I'm never
alone*
*Life Alert® is always
here for me.*

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

Help at Home

Help On-the-Go

Life Alert® Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

GENERAC®

Prepare for
power outages
with a Generac
home standby
generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME
ASSESSMENT TODAY!
877-516-1160

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

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

Geeks on Site

GET YOUR COMPUTER FIXED IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

Remote Support for:

- Adware/spyware
- Speed up computer
- Install software
- Email issues
- Pop-ups
- Printer & scanner support

\$40 OFF
FLAT FEE UNLIMITED
SERVICE

Must mention code
86407
for promo price

Call Us Now at 844 245 3414

When you need a
new roof, windows
or doors and need
help paying for
them, call
**Homeowner
Funding.**

800-736-9629
NYImprovementFund.com
PROGRAMS AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW FOR NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Roofing | Windows | Siding | Insulation | Walk-In Tubs

Give Something that Means Something®

**American
Red Cross**

Sports

Lax Community Rises for Injured Bocklet

#Time2Advocate Gaining Steam on NYS Sports Circuit



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor@Directrays

For a variety of reasons, lacrosse is more like family than most sports, so make no mistake: Laxers are there for each other, especially when the chips are down.

There is genetic royalty at just about every legitimate high school lacrosse program across the country. Families with two or more children often form the lineage that shapes the pedigree and stock of a particular program: the Fuscos of Yorktown High, the Lindsays of Walter Panas, the Pruntys of Lakeland. Heck, Yorktown has a ton of families worthy of royal mention (the Marrs, the Nelsons, the D'Andraias, the Kavovits, the Carcaterras, the Dooleys, the McElduffs, the Harringtons, the McCalls, the Vercruysses, et al.), but given the three All-American men -- Frank, the dad in 1980, and sons Frank Jr. (2012) and Austin (2013) -- and one All-American daughter, Rilea -- the Fuscos are about as given at Yorktown as the Bocklets of John Jay Cross River, who are dealing with a major setback to one of their three All-American sons.

The Bocklet family means as much to the lore of Section 1 lacrosse as any family in history, including four siblings who all played Division I lacrosse. Mike Bocklet (Fairfield '07), Matt Bocklet (Johns Hopkins '08), Chris Bocklet (Virginia '11) and sister Casey Bocklet (Virginia '15) starred at John Jay prior to their NCAA and professional careers.

But, now-31-year-old Chris Bocklet, the former three-time UVA All-American and high school All-American, remains in critical condition after a longboarding accident ended in calamitous fashion and placed Chris in a Florida intensive care unit with severe head trauma last week.

Lacrosse brethren from far and wide rushed in to support the Bocklet family. Casey Powell, a former Syracuse All-American and professional hall of famer, established a GoFundMe page at Fundraiser by Casey Powell : Helping Chris Bocklet, which had raised \$203,412 and counting as of Saturday afternoon.

Many of us in Section 1 see Chris' dad, Barry, running up and down the sidelines as one of the top football and lacrosse referees in the area (not to mention a true gentleman), so it's time to rally around Barry's pride and joy and donate whatever you can to help Chris get back on his feet...



Student athletes like Putnam Valley senior gymnast Caitlin Pellegrino deserve a plan that lets them fully compete in 2021.

In light of the COVID-19-driven postponements of high-risk sports last fall, #Time2Advocate has taken on a life of its own after Mahopac High football Coach Dominick DeMatteo took to social media recently in an effort to revive and initiate a statewide push for varsity football in the spring of 2021. Several local politicians have jumped aboard the mission in an effort to get NYS Gov. Andrew Cuomo to give the green light for "high-risk" sports like football, basketball, ice hockey, wrestling and cheerleading.

It was less than a decade when we couldn't classify cheer as an actual sport, but now it's a high risk activity. Enough already! Depression is running rampant among our student athletes and academia in general. We need to turn these kids loose this spring -- with strict protocols and safety guidelines -- in an effort to bring back some form of normal, just like they have done in neighboring NJ.

"If Governor Cuomo will allow thousands of fans to attend a Buffalo Bills game, it's only fair we work together and find a way to safely let these young people have a season," said NYS Assembly Member Kevin Byrne.

Make no mistake, futures are at stake. We need to trust the data from the 35 other states who have played football -- and other sports

-- last fall and currently. Cuomo recently released a report based on contact tracing data from throughout the state. It focused on the 46,000 cases from September through November, which is approximately 20% of all confirmed cases. More than 70% of cases were traced back to social gatherings. Sports accounted for just 1.04% of cases, making it the seventh-leading cause for infection behind college students, education employees, restaurants, bars, travel and vacations.

So kids like Putnam Valley All-American senior Caitlin Pellegrino are being cheated

of their last big shot based on a one percent metric. Pellegrino, the 2020 Section 1 gymnast of the year, is set to lead a crew of talented performers from the Lakeland/Panas/PV unit into the 2021 campaign after snagging the Section 1 all-around title (36.825) last year on the strength of first-place finishes in the vault (9.4), uneven bars (8.75) and floor (9.525). Pellegrino finished last season with a sixth-place finish on the vault at the state championships and finished 11th in the all-around, but any hope of truly embellishing her status as the most decorated gymnast in Putnam Valley school history became limited with the cancellation of the 2021 NYSPHSAA winter tournaments on account of COVID-19.

In my opinion, that is one of the saddest

parts of this situation; the fact that the Pellegrinos and the Shannon Beckers and Katie Turks of the world won't have the chance to pad their historical legacies due to cancelled junior seasons and abbreviated senior campaigns that, otherwise, would likely ensure their all-time greatness at PV, Mahopac and Carmel, respectively.

"We have adjusted the initial "metrics" established last March for a variety of things, so why not interscholastic athletics," Mahopac P.E. teacher and football coach Dominick DeMatteo asked? "We had 13 off-season workouts for Mahopac football with 40 student athletes per session with zero contact tracing and zero COVID transmission, so what are we doing? It's time to advocate for our student athletes."

Upwards of 189,000 high school athletes in NYS have missed their seasons so far. Statistics show 70% of these athletes are suffering from depression and anxiety due to missing school and athletic experiences because of COVID. That's about 132,000 high school kids.

This is why it's #Time2Advocate on behalf of all student athletes: Professionally and respectfully, call your local politicians and ask them to espouse on behalf of NYS student athletes to #LetThemPlay before another 11th-hour cancellation ends all hope....

Coach Thibbs' NY Knicks are, evidently, going to go through their fair share of ups and downs in 2021, as evidenced from their 5-5 start and Friday's 101-89 setback to OKC, but even without No.1 draft pick Obi Toppin (calf strain) in the lineup, I'm far more entertained by this unit through 10 games than I have been much of the last decade, or two...

The puck drops on the 2021 NY Rangers season this week and Blueshirt fans are hoping to see the rebuilding of a potential empire should Rangers GM Jeff Gorton and team president John Davidson hit on all these recent draft picks, including No.1 pick Alexis Lafreniere. Procuring a top four seed in the newly-revised eight-team East Division is anything but a sure thing given the top-heavy contenders within the division, including the Boston Bruins, NY Islanders, Philly Flyers and Washington Caps. That said, I'll settle on qualifying in 2021 with an eye on Lord Stanley's Cup in 2022.

When the nation was going to hell in a handbag last Wednesday, NY Mets owner Steve Cohen put an end to my personal gloom and doom on Thursday when he, Sandy Alderson and Jared Porter aggressively traded for All-Star SS Francisco Lindor and P Carlos Carrasco. It got me thinking -- just #35DaysTillPitchersandCatchers #Metsmerized. Thanks, Uncle Stevey, for putting the smile back on my face.

**Direct
Rays**

SUPPORT

LOCAL NEWS

The
Examiner
news.com

SUBSCRIBE. DONATE. ADVERTISE.

**During times of crisis, crucial
information about your community
comes from local reporters.**

This message supported by



LocalMedia
association



Subscribe:

www.theexaminernews.com/eblast/