

First Baptist Church of White Plains Celebrates 150 Years

By Samuel Rowland

First Baptist Church of White Plains and Iglesia: Misión Bautista Hispana de Westchester came together Sunday to hold a joint service and reception to celebrate the 150-year anniversary of First Baptist Church's founding, as well as their soon-to-be-finalized merger into a single congregation with bilingual services in English and Spanish.

The event began with a bilingual service, led by both Rev. Timothy Dalton of First Baptist Church and Rev. Abner E. Cotto-Bonilla of Misión Bautista. The sermon was given by the Rev. Cheryl F. Dudley, Doctor of Theology and Regional Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York (ABCMNY), a community of 180 Baptist churches in the greater NYC area, including the two congregations at the celebration.

Dudley spoke about performing the

sometimes painful and awkward work of reaching out across cultural and ethnic divides to spread the faith through the story of Jesus Christ's conversation with the unnamed Samaritan women in the Gospel of John, Chapter 4.

Misión Bautista has shared worship space with First Baptist Church since its first service on March 15, 1981, and its official organization on February 19, 1985. Misión Bautista formed from a Sunday Spanish Bible Study class started by First Baptist Church in 1973. Besides sharing space, there has been a deep partnership between the two congregations over the years, including joint Christmas Pageants and Easter and Pentecost services, which the merger will only strengthen. Church Board Member and Property Chair Cathy Burdick noted that the merger is still not complete yet though, as the jointly run Vision Team is working to ensure an equitable merger, with a special

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PHOTO BY SAMUEL ROWLAND

Members of First Baptist Church of White Plains and Iglesia: Misión Bautista Hispana de Westchester came together Sunday for the special celebration.

Feiner Secures 16th Term with Dem Primary Win over Young

By Rick Pezzullo

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner defeated challenger Tasha Young in a Democratic primary last week to secure his 16th term in office.

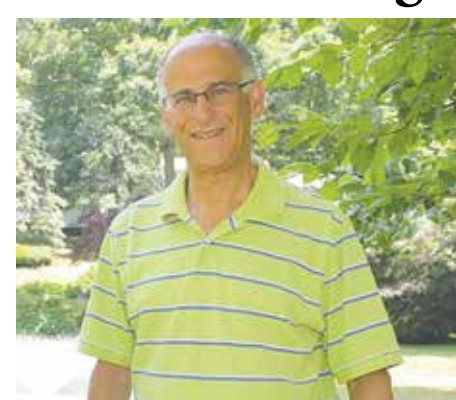
By besting Young 3,343 (60%) to 2,235 (40%), Feiner, 65, who faces no other opposition in November, will have the distinction of being the longest continuously serving supervisor in Westchester County.

"I'm grateful to Democrats for providing me with the chance to be on call for them during the next two-and-a-half years," Feiner said. "I will work very hard to be responsive to concerns of residents and hope that the town will do great things during my next term."

Young, 49, a political newcomer who has spent most of her career in managerial and business administrative capacities for nonprofit organizations before serving as land use policy director and then chief of staff to the New York City Council majority leader, stated she doesn't plan to be a one-time candidate.

"I am grateful and uplifted by how close we came to making history. Since Greenburgh was first founded in 1788, there has never been a woman or a person of color allowed to lead the town. In this race, we didn't stop to ask permission, and for a shining moment it looked like the pattern was about to change," Young stated in a message to friends on Facebook.

"I am so proud of my campaign and the



Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner

fact that I ran. This campaign outperformed expectations and trembled on the brim of success so many times-- first, when I achieved the support of a plurality of district leaders. Next, when we far surpassed the number of petition signatures needed, collecting over 1,200 signatures when only 300 were needed," she stated. "And at last, we presented Mr. Feiner with a robust challenge that brought long neglected issues to the forefront. Congratulations to Mr. Feiner for winning the primary. But I am not done yet. Keep watching me-- with your support, I'll be back and more ready than ever to heal the rifts in our town and bring us to a new level of prosperity.

Two years are short and with heaven's consent, I will be back, stronger and more

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Opening With a Bargain



PHOTO COURTESY OF FUELCO.COM

Westchester County and local officials joined Fuelco.com owner Adam Musa at his ribbon cutting on June 25 in Valhalla. As part of the festivities, Fuelco.com sold discounted gas at \$1.49/gallon on June 26, and also gave away a 2021 Hot Wheels Edition Chevrolet SS Camaro. In attendance at the opening were: (L-R) Harrison Supervisor Ron Belmont; Westchester County Legislator Margaret Cunzio; Assemblyman Nader Sayegh; Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins; Fuelco.com owner Adam Musa; Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi; and Fuelco.com general manager Bryan Orser.

Salvation Army Helping with Food Need in White Plains

By Rick Pezzullo

In March, the nation's poverty rate reached a pandemic high of 11.7%. Westchester County is not immune to such struggles.

According to Majors Samuel and Jenny Alarcon of The Salvation Army, food, childcare and rental assistance are top needs in the City of White Plains. Throughout New York, The Salvation Army provided 7.6 million meals from mid-March 2020 to mid-April 2021.

"With more vaccinated adults and fewer masks, you might think that White Plains has stepped out of the COVID woods. But that's far from the case," the majors stated.

In White Plains, The Salvation Army has

continued and will continue with bi-weekly food distributions on the first and third Fridays of each month, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Meanwhile, The White Plains Corps has several days blocked off for children for the Star Lake Camp experience (July 6, July 16), as well as Music Conservatory at the corps (June 28 – July 2), online music conservatory (July 26-30), and will have some kids participating in the Territorial Star Lake Music Camp (August 8-14).

The White Plains Salvation Army Community Center is located at 16 Sterling Avenue in White Plains. They can be reached at (914) 949-2908, or by email at: contactgny@use.salvationarmy.org.

Feiner Secures 16th Term with Dem Primary Win over Young

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skilled than ever."

Feiner said he had many goals and plans in his next term.

"Among goals: More sidewalks/pedestrian safety. Starting a co-op. We hope to train people who are out of work and high school students who are not college bound --teaching them how to start their own businesses. Will be applying for an economic development grant. Will rent out a vacant

storefront and hopefully open up a grocery store or other needed business. A win for all: We will replace vacant storefronts with vibrant businesses, hope to train people how to start businesses and will involve the community in the process," he stated.

"In my next term I hope to persuade Edgemont residents to stay in the town and also plan to use technology to make government better. We will soon implement Fix It Greenburgh - residents will be able to

First Baptist Church of White Plains Celebrates 150 Years

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emphasis on preventing financial issues.

After the one-hour service ended, the congregants gathered outside for a tent reception and lunch party. As people socialized and ate prepped lunch boxes or Popeye's takeout, more speakers gave speeches from the front steps of the church.

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Deputy Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins, Westchester County Board of Legislators Chair Ben Boykin II, and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins all gave separate framed proclamations to First Baptist Church in honor of its anniversary and years of community and global outreach programs.

Jenkins spoke on behalf of the County Executive's office, as County Executive George Latimer had stayed for the service, but not the reception, and gave a proclamation recognizing First Baptist Church for 150 years as "an outstanding house of worship".

The other three government dignitaries' proclamations all separately proclaimed June 27, 2021 as First Baptist Church Day at the city, county, and state levels. Boykin also noted that the Jumbotron in front of the

Westchester County Center would display this announcement for the rest of the day.

Other speakers included Cynthia Abbot Kauffman, a trustee of the White Plains Historical Society, who spoke in period costume and in-character as White Plains historical figure Sarah Purdy, who was born soon after the Revolutionary War and lived through the Civil War in White Plains. Kauffman spoke about the history of the Baptist Church in White Plains during Sarah Purdy's lifetime, going back before the 1871 opening of the first of three First Baptist Church building.

Two recipients of the David Manierre Scholarship Fund, started to honor the memory of a 16-year-old congregant who died in a car crash in 2002, also gave short speeches.

After all the speakers were finished, congregants and other attendees settled in for lunch as an ice cream truck pulled up and religious songs were performed by the First Baptist Church's lead singer Kate Wiswell and lead musician Matt Perez, alongside performances from Victoria Gonzalez, Spencer Moon and Salomon Rendon.

use their phones, take photos and an App will advise public works where there are potholes, downed wires, etc.," he continued. "We plan to support additional affordable housing within the town, will work with

Metro North to build an elevator at the Hartsdale train station, plan a new farmer's market at Town Hall beginning this August --and have many other plans."

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State COVID Emergency Expires as Infections, Hospitalizations Dwindle

By Martin Wilbur

The more than 15-month COVID-19 state of emergency in New York State expired last Thursday a week after the state eclipsed the 70 percent vaccination threshold.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who made the announcement last Wednesday, said that while the emergency will end and won't be renewed, getting more people vaccinated remains the focus.

"The emergency is over," Cuomo declared. "It's a new chapter. It doesn't mean there aren't challenges for the new chapter but the emergency is over. It's not that COVID is gone. We still have to vaccinate people, especially young people. That is still a priority."

In early June, Cuomo said the state of emergency would be lifted once 70 percent of adults 18 years old and up had received their first dose. Through Sunday, that number had increased to 71.9 percent and 65 percent of adults statewide are fully vaccinated.

Centers for Disease Control guidelines will still be in effect, which requires masks be worn in certain situations, such as riding public transportation and visiting health care facilities, homeless shelters and prisons. Local governments can enforce the mask wearing in those settings, the governor said.

Vaccination statistics in Westchester are even stronger. Through the weekend, 76.6 percent of those 18 and up have received at least one dose, County Executive George Latimer said. He expects that within the next few weeks that figure will rise to 80 percent.

About 570,000 Westchester residents are fully vaccinated with more than 600,000 having received at least one dose.

"The higher the vaccination total, the lower the infection rate, the lower the infection rate, the more we get back to normal," Latimer said.

Local infection rates and hospitalizations continue to slide down to exceedingly small numbers. The statewide infection rate on Sunday was 0.52 percent, but the seven-county Mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam it was just under half that at 0.25 percent. The seven-day rolling average in the Mid-Hudson was at 0.3 percent.

On Sunday, there were just five positive cases from 3,234 tests, or 0.15 percent, and two positive test results from 201 tests in Putnam.

Latimer said active cases have diminished to 185 in Westchester with just 11 hospitalizations. There have been four COVID-19-related fatalities over the past two weeks in the county.

"So we're very comfortable that we're in a good place," he said. "We're not finished with the pandemic; it's not finished with us, but we are encouraged by the numbers that we're seeing."

Cuomo said last week that lessons learned from the pandemic will include making the state's health care system more resilient. He signed the Safe Staffing bills, a plan that will help health care facilities plan for future challenges.

The legislation requires facilities to establish committees comprised of administrators, nurses and staff members who provide care that will develop safe staffing plans. All facilities must submit a plan to the state by Jan. 1 that will detail how many people are needed to provide direct care to treat patients while keeping staff safe, Cuomo said.

All plans will be publicly posted and the state Department of Health will make sure that they are implemented and followed, he said.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Essential Workers Memorial
Cuomo lauded health care staffers among 19 categories of workers who became known as essential workers, including those who kept public transportation running through the pandemic, supermarket employees, first responders, teachers and sanitation and telecommunications workers.

"We had essential workers that did the superhuman," Cuomo said.

To honor their sacrifice, a new memorial is currently being constructed that will

be unveiled in Battery Park City in lower Manhattan on Labor Day. The monument, which will be called the Circle of Heroes, will be encircled by 19 maple trees representing the 19 categories of essential workers, who all had a role in making sure that society functioned while exposing themselves to a deadly virus.

The middle of the circle will have an eternal flame that honors those lost, giving their lives to serve others, Cuomo said.

"The eternal flame says your spirit is still alive in us and in our soul and we will never forget and we are eternally grateful for what you did," he said.



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Idoni Holds Slim Lead in County Clerk Primary

By Martin Wilbur

The Democratic primary for county clerk between four-term incumbent Timothy Idoni and challenger Shanae Williams will be a nail-biter to the finish, decided by the outcome of absentee ballots.

Idoni was leading Williams, a Yonkers councilwoman, 15,471-15,141, according to the Westchester County Board of Elections.

About 3,400 absentee ballots still need to be counted, which is expected to begin on Wednesday. Idoni, 66, longtime New Rochelle resident and former mayor, said he wasn't certain whether the ballot counting will be completed this week or after the Fourth of July weekend.

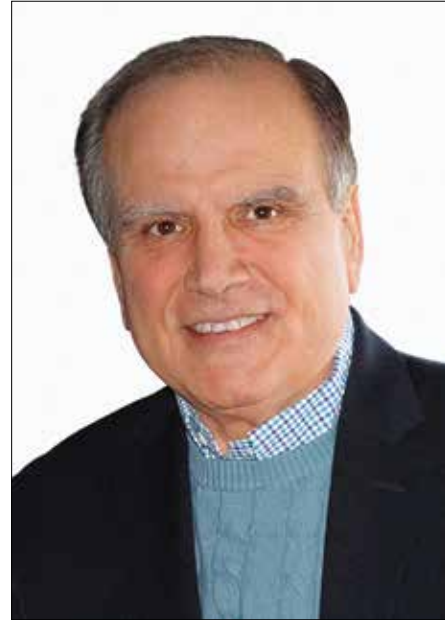
"Everything just seems to be in limbo at this point in time," Idoni said. "We'll just have to wait and see what happens with

these votes when they're opened. I'm happy to be in the lead at this point in time and I'm certainly not declaring victory. It's way too close at this point."

Of the ballots that must still be counted, about half of them are from Yonkers and Mount Vernon, which appear to be strongholds for Williams, he said. The remaining

Williams, 32, could not be reached for comment running her first race outside the City of Yonkers. She campaigned on greater public outreach and helping Westchester's residents, including the poor and immigrants, understand the services that are available through the county clerk's office.

Idoni said poor turnout was likely a key reason for the race being as tight as it is, although that was not unexpected. With



County Clerk Timothy Idoni is in a hotly-contested primary with Yonkers Councilwoman Shanae Williams, a race that will be decided by absentee ballots.

Climate Change Documentary to Be Screened Wednesday in Peekskill

The Peekskill Conservation Advisory Council will hold a screening this Wednesday evening on Esther Street of the full-length documentary "Kiss the Ground." The film, narrated by Woody Harrelson, sheds light on a "new, old approach" to farming called regenerative agriculture that has the potential to balance

the climate, replenish the vast water supplies and feed the world.

A panel discussion will start at 7:30 p.m. and the screening begins at 8:30 p.m. Lisa Gutkin will provide musical entertainment. Residents are asked to bring a chair.

Registration is required. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3j5cpt2d>

a limited number of communities having Democratic primaries for local government seats, the county clerk's race provided little incentive to draw many of the party's voters to the polls.

"What we saw was a tremendous amount of apathy," he said. "People, a lot of people, are just tired of politics and didn't show up to vote. Anytime you get a very low turnout like this anything can happen."

He did not believe that voters were

clamoring for someone new. He said if that was the case, there would have been much greater participation at the polls.

Idoni noted that despite Williams' calls for change, it was the Yonkers political establishment that helped put in in contention to capture the race.

"She was calling for changes and the non-change people were voting for her, basically, in Yonkers," he said.

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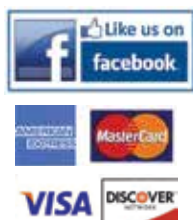
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Mt. Pleasant Likely to Lower Maximum Building Height in Comp Plan

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant officials are strongly considering scaling back the maximum height of buildings proposed in the updated Comprehensive Plan to ensure the downtown hamlets maintain their character.

During the resumption of the public hearing on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) last Tuesday night, Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi attempted to allay fears that proposed zoning revisions to the business districts in Thornwood, Hawthorne and Valhalla would be a detriment to the

hamlets.

Fulgenzi said that Mount Pleasant is seeking to adopt a form-based code that will align older buildings in town that predate the town's zoning code with hopefully new construction that will help invigorate the downtown districts. He said he was hopeful the Master Plan, which hasn't been updated since 1970, would also improve some of the aesthetics.

"I personally don't want to do anything that will ruin the character of our hamlets and we will do everything we can to maintain good, nice looking hamlets for our community," Fulgenzi said. "More walkable communities, more greenspace, more plantings, more decorative lighting, more things like that that will enhance and bring more of our residents into our hamlets. That is the whole purpose we are here."

The town is considering mixed-use development in the center of the hamlets, which is in walking distance to shops and public transportation.

One of the likely changes to the proposed plan, called Envision Mount Pleasant, is reducing the maximum height of buildings from five stories and 50 feet to no more than 35 to 40 feet, depending on the where the property is situated, Fulgenzi said. It was an issue that was raised by town officials at the opening of the

hearing on June 8.

There are many buildings, particularly in the hamlets that were built before 1958 when the town's zoning code was put into effect, he said.

Similar to the opening session, three speakers contributed to the hearing, two of them the same as earlier this month. Pleasantville resident Gibson Craig was one of two residents who largely supported the goals of the proposed plan.

He applauded the town's efforts to bring a greater variety of housing stock, including affordable units, to Mount Pleasant, where teachers, highway department employees and police officers can afford to live.

"I think it's a good idea to redo the code," Craig said. "I think it's way overdue and it can be done very, very well and I think it's almost there."

He also thought that the ideas of encouraging pop-up shops for more temporary storefront tenants and food trucks were also good ideas. Craig also suggested the town consider imposing what he called impact fees on developers, which could include charges such as recreation fees.

Jim Russell, a Hawthorne resident, returned to speak again about the plan and was far more skeptical. He called it "a rather substantial change," and would reconfigure the residential structure

of the hamlets.

"I think revitalization is great, but I don't think reconfiguring the residential patterns with multiple dwellings with apartments is a good idea," Russell said. "I don't think that was part of the initial meetings. I don't think people understand that was part of that."

The town held informational sessions at the community center in Valhalla in 2018 that included public input from residents on what they would like to see in the plan. Representatives from the Pace Land Use Law Center assisted the town in helping to shape the proposal.

Russell reiterated a request to keep the hearing open until at least September so that residents, many of whom may be unaware of the changes proposed by the town, can have a better understanding of what the town is proposing.

Steven Kavee, chairman of the town's Conservation Advisory Council, urged the Town Board to include stronger language in certain spots to bolster protection of natural resources.

Fulgenzi said at the board's next regular meeting on July 13 planning consultant Patrick Cleary will be on hand to answer questions and present more detailed information. There is no tentative date to close the hearing, which will remain open through at least that meeting, he said.

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North Castle Chooses to Opt Out From Cannabis Sales

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of North Castle became one of the first municipalities in Westchester County to opt out from allowing retail marijuana sales and consumption sites within its borders last week.

Preferring to wait and see how the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act works out in other communities, the Town Board unanimously voted against allowing for retail dispensaries and places to be used, at least initially.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the way the law is written, it makes more sense to initially opt out if there is any uncertainty because the town can then backtrack and allow the sites at any time. However, if officials were to allow it from the outset, they would be prevented from changing course if it didn't work out, he said.

"It gives us some comfort that if we opt out now, if we think that it makes sense to opt back in in the future, we can," Schiliro said.

Schiliro added that he has also had concerns about making access to cannabis easier for school-age children, even though the legal age to consume and purchase is 21 years old.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto agreed, saying that the public should understand that the town is opting out from retail sales and consumption lounges. People will still have the ability to use cannabis wherever it is permissible.

"I would prefer to wait and have some time to, first of all, learn from the municipalities that are not opting out and go from there," she said.

Town Attorney Roland Baroni said most other northern Westchester communities appear to be leaning toward opting out, knowing that there is the chance to include the retail dispensaries and/or consumption sites at a later date. Although Schiliro later added that he has spoken with other Westchester supervisors and mayors and there will likely be municipalities that will decide to opt in.

The previous week the Town of Eastchester decided to opt out from allowing retail marijuana sales and consumption venues. Most other municipalities have yet to make a decision.

By formally making the decision before mid-July, it allows any town resident who forces a permissive referendum by collecting enough signatures on a petition to have enough time to have the proposition appear on the general election ballot, sparing the town the expense of holding a special election. Towns have until Dec. 31 to make a decision.

The few people who contributed comments to last Wednesday evening's public hearing were in favor of giving it a try. Armonk resident Jeremy Jacobs said if it's true that most municipalities in northern Westchester appear to be moving toward opting out, there is little that the town will learn by waiting.

Furthermore, municipal officials are frequently concerned about assessables and generating revenue for a multitude of needs,

and this would make sense that the town would have another revenue stream.

Under the law, there would be a 13 percent sales tax on cannabis sales, with 9 percent going to the state, 3 percent to the municipality and 1 percent to the county's offers.

Jacobs also said he was concerned that the town seemed to be signaling that alcohol was okay because there are about 15 establishments in Armonk alone where you can legally buy drinks and consume them.

"I feel like, in effect, what we're doing here is picking which vices we approve of and I'm not really sure, since pot is now the law of the land, it is now legal for consumption and ownership and home growth, why we're

going to treat this specially in terms of not allowing a retail business to engage in that, if they choose to," Jacobs said.

Two North White Plains residents wrote letters that were read into the record by Town Clerk Alison Simon also voicing support to allow for sales.

Schiliro said it isn't clear to him how the state offices that will oversee its regulation will be structured or how they will operate.

"We don't know what the infrastructure is going to look like in Albany, so that's something we do have to get comfortable with, and we need to see how those boards are populated and they also, I believe, will have some say ultimately, I think legally, on the opt-out and opt-in provisions," he said.

Mekeel's Chapel Independence Day Celebration

In keeping with a longstanding tradition, Mekeel's Corners Chapel will offer an Independence Day celebration for the community on July 4 at noon. It is a rain-or-shine event.

The Mekeel's Chapel is planning to host this program as an outdoor celebration, with a maximum of 50 people. Free pre-registration is

required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mekeels-independence-day-celebration-tickets-157845641563>.

The program will include musicians leading attendees in the singing of patriotic songs and hymns. There will also be a reading of select passages from our nation's most important founding documents.

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Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

June 16: A caller reported being followed from Tarrytown to Glengary Road by a black Infiniti at 6:10 p.m. Patrols responded to the area and located the vehicle in the area of Glengary Road. Patrols reported that the vehicle was occupied by private investigators on an assignment.

June 17: A caller requested patrols respond to her residence in the area of Penfield Avenue at 7:44 p.m. to check on a squirrel that was next to her daughter's vehicle. Caller was not sure if the squirrel was dead or sick. Patrols responded and confirmed the squirrel had passed away.

June 18: County police requested Croton police respond to the top of the Croton Dam at 11:25 a.m. on a report of a suicidal male that may be at that location. Patrols could not locate the individual. County police called back shortly after and reported locating the individual at his residence outside of the village.

June 20: Patrols responded to a residence in the area of Mount Airy Road at 11:39 a.m. on a domestic dispute. After conducting an investigation, patrols arrested a 30-year-old Bronx resident who was charged with third-degree criminal obstruction of breathing and third-degree attempted assault. The defendant was arraigned in front of the Croton village justice and released on his own recognizance.

North Castle Police Department

June 18: The store manager reported at 2:09 p.m. that there were youths panhandling for money at the Stop & Shop on North Broadway. The youths did not have permission to be on the property soliciting and he wants them to leave. The responding officer located one youth and confirmed with store management that he was not allowed to solicit on the property and subsequently assisted the employee in instructing the youth to cease. The youth left without incident.

June 19: A caller reported at 12:50 p.m. having an allergic reaction to a bee sting and is currently at the Armonk Fire Department; 60 Control was notified. The responding officer reported that the party

was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

June 19: Report of a porch fire on Hunter Avenue at 7:31 p.m. Armonk Fire Department and Ambulance was dispatched. The responding officers reported that two parties were transported to Westchester Medical Center by two Armonk ambulances for severe burns to their body. The fire department extinguished the fire. Photos secured; report to follow.

June 21: A woman reported at headquarters at 6:27 p.m. that her license plates are missing and she wished to document it for insurance purposes. When questioned, she revealed the car is missing. She would not provide any details as to when or where she last saw it, who had possession of the keys or why she could not locate it. When asked to write a deposition regarding the missing vehicle, she was mostly uncooperative, writing only "I don't know where my car is." The complainant was informed that a report would not be issued for the plates until she could provide further information on the missing vehicle. The complainant reported she would try to track down further information and return at a later time.

June 22: Report of a utility pole sparking on Washington Avenue at 12:07 a.m. The call was transferred to 60 Control, which dispatched the Armonk Fire Department. The responding officer confirmed the pole was sparking. Con Edison was notified and responded.

June 23: The woman who walked into headquarters on June 21 about a missing car reported at 7:01 p.m. that about nine months ago the car was left in a parking lot in Brewster by her son due to mechanical issues. Because they never retrieved the car, at some point the parking lot owner had the vehicle towed. Eventually the vehicle was scrapped since it was not claimed, and they report they no longer have possession of the license plates.

Putnam County Sheriff's Department

June 19: The department's Road Patrol and Narcotic Enforcement Unit, state police and Town of Kent Police Department conducted a joint operation in Kent. During the enforcement effort,

a vehicle was stopped on the entrance ramp to westbound I-84 from Route 311 in the Town of Patterson. During the stop, Daniel F. Quinn of Montague, N.J., a member of the Iron Affliction Motorcycle Club, a support club of the Hells Angels, unlawfully possessed a loaded pistol and a quantity of a substance believed to be cocaine. Another passenger, Joshua Levitan of Port Jervis, a member of the Walkill Chapter of the Hells Angels, was also found in possession of a weapon and suspected cocaine.

Quinn was arrested and charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Levitan was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Both men were arraigned by Judge Leader in Town of Patterson Court and remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility in lieu of bail.

June 21: An investigator assigned to the

department's Narcotics Enforcement Unit developed information that a New Milford, Conn. man was involved in the sale of fentanyl within the county. Members of the unit took the subject, Taurean T. Coleman, 30, into custody at an establishment in the Town of Southeast. Coleman was charged with three counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and two counts of third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He was remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$50,000 cash or a \$100,000 bond.

Yorktown Police Department

June 25: Two Yorktown males, ages 15 and 14, were charged collectively with nine counts of juvenile delinquency at 12 p.m. for allegedly spray-painting graffiti at several locations throughout the Yorktown Heights business district. They are both due to appear before the Westchester County Department of Probation on July 8.

Obituaries

Alberta Hoffman

Alberta Bernice Hoffman was born Mar. 21, 1925, and passed away peacefully on June 24 at the age of 96.

Born to George and Ivy Johnston at Northern Westchester Hospital, she is survived by her husband of 74 years, Henry Hoffman; sons Jeffery and Russell (Catherine); grandchildren Campbell, Anders, Christina, Mitchell, Christopher, Jacquelyn and Thomas; and great-grandchildren Oliver and Savannah.

Alberta grew up in Chappaqua. She was an excellent athlete, achieving recognition as both a top basketball player and softball player while in high school. During World War II, as a young woman with only a high

school diploma, she managed an early detection radar installation for Western Electric.

In addition to being a full-time wife and mother, she was always involved with her sons. She became the first woman head coach in the history of Trumbull, Conn. Little League baseball and the first woman to coach recreation basketball in New Castle. She was an active member of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church for over 50 years.

Beecher Funeral Home in Pleasantville hosted a viewing on June 28. The funeral was scheduled for St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Mount Kisco on Tuesday, June 29 at 10 a.m.

Christopher Meehan

Christopher M. Meehan, a former Pleasantville resident, passed away on June 4 in Florida. He was 43.

Chris was born in Mount Kisco on Apr. 6, 1978. He was a graduate of Pleasantville High School.

Chris is survived by his parents, Theresa and Joseph Meehan, of New York City as well as his sisters, Bernadette M. Meehan and her husband, Evan Medeiros, of Washington, D.C. and Elizabeth M. Bottino and her husband, Michael Bottino,

of Jamison, Pa. He also leaves behind his loving nephews, Vincent and Sebastian; his niece, Amelia; many uncles, aunts and cousins; and countless friends, all of whom love him and miss him dearly.

A Mass of the Christian Remembrance was scheduled for June 28 at Holy Innocents R.C. Church in Pleasantville. A private interment followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.





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New Castle Debates Adding Affordable Component in Downtown Zones

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board and a few community members debated during a public hearing last week whether there should be a minimum affordable housing requirement in two downtown Chappaqua zones.

Councilwoman Lisa Katz has proposed a mandate for developers to provide at least one affordable apartment if they are proposing to build at least five units and to have a 10 percent requirement if 10 or more residential units are built.

The proposed amendment to the zoning code would apply to the Retail Business and Retail Business and Parking districts, areas that have been discussed for the possibility of mixed-use development. There is a 10 percent requirement in most residential zones in town.

"Our current downtown zoning area does not require a 10 percent affordability for housing and that's why things have been built without necessitating any of these units," Katz said.

There was concern expressed by Councilwoman Lori Morton as well as resident and architect William Spade, who spoke during the hearing, whether the requirement for the two zones would prove to be a disincentive for developers.

Morton said there is an existing requirement for first-floor commercial uses in these areas, so adding the affordable

requirement for property owners may prevent them from building additional housing where the town has been looking to add units.

"The open question is whether those projects would have gone forward or any new projects would go forward with this requirement in place," Morton commented.

Katz said that building owners that she has spoken have told her that the affordable requirement would not have been an impediment to developing their properties.

Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull said there has been considerable pushback from developers if they can't get the density that they are looking for on their property. She said there are also other zoning changes that can be made, and not just the Form Based Code, that could help increase the affordable housing supply.

"The onus is on the Town Board to look at that and to determine whether now is the right time to make this change," Hull said.

Analysis of the cost of building affordable units is one of the many issues that are expected to be addressed in the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) stemming from the hearings on the Form Based Code. The FGEIS is due from the town's consultant in July.

Acting Supervisor Jeremy Saland said while the town wants to increase its



Councilwoman Lisa Katz has proposed an affordable housing requirement in the Retail Business and Retail Business and Parking districts in downtown Chappaqua.

affordable housing, it could be too cost prohibitive for property owners with the first-floor commercial requirement and if building heights are limited.

Spade, an architect, said as a local resident affordable housing is a priority for him and the town. However, without

providing incentives for developers, adding the affordable requirement would likely discourage property owners from building.

A vast majority of the lots, perhaps as much as 80 percent in the areas where three stories is the maximum height, are small and would probably prevent development in the hamlet.

"So to have a commercial first-floor requirement and limited parking in a small lot and to add an affordable housing requirement to that, I think would just continue to be a disincentive and you won't see anything happen," Spade said.

Victoria Tipp, who is a running mate with Katz on the Unite New Castle ticket in November, said now that the board has a chance to help increase affordable housing in town, it should be strongly considering the proposal.

The Form Based Code, which a majority of the board supports, is supposed to increase diversity in housing stock, including affordable units, she said.

"So you can't say you believe in something, then say you won't do it," Tipp said. "I have to tell you it's easy to be performative, but it's really hard to do the real work."

The public hearing was adjourned and is scheduled to continue on Aug. 10.

New Castle Town Board Agrees to Up Saland's Salary, Provide Back Pay

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board authorized Acting Supervisor Jeremy Saland to receive a prorated supervisor's salary for as long as he remains in his current role.

From June 16, when he took over from former supervisor Ivy Pool, until sometime in November, Saland will receive a portion of the supervisor's annual \$42,865 salary. He moved out of his council chair after Pool resigned from the post effective June 15.

The vote was unanimous among the remaining three board members.

The board also will be providing Saland retroactive pay for a little more than a month for stepping in for Pool from about Mar. 1, 2020, until a yet-to-be-determined date in April of last year. Serving as deputy supervisor, he stepped in for Pool following the death of her son.

Once the completion date of his substitute service from last year is finalized, Saland will receive the retroactive pay.

"I think the retroactive (pay) is a great recognition of the service that Jeremy gave to the town in that very difficult time and certainly I'm fully supportive of Jeremy

having access to all of the privileges of the supervisor role while he's still in that role," said Councilwoman Lori Morton.

Saland will remain in the post until the November election for supervisor between Councilwoman Lisa Katz and Holly McCall is certified. He then will complete the remaining two years of his council term.

The winner of the supervisor's race will be sworn in before the customary Jan. 1 date because of the circumstances.

While there was no disagreement on the issue during last Wednesday evening's Town Board meeting, eight days earlier it was a different story. Saland had requested that he be elevated to supervisor, which would have forced him to resign the council seat. Therefore, he would have no longer been on the board once this fall's supervisor's race would be decided.

However, Katz said she didn't want Saland to leave the board because there would then be the possibility that the entire board could change by the end of the year. With Pool and Saland not voting on the matter, the board failed to have the necessary three votes for him to become supervisor.

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Letters to the Editor

Sensible Development One of the Main Goals of Cortlandt United Slate

Hello fellow residents of the Town of Cortlandt, my name is Tom Walsh and I am a candidate for Cortlandt Town Board.

I have been a Cortlandt resident for the past 12 years and truly feel blessed to have this wonderful community to call home and raise my family. I am married to my amazing wife, Meghan (O'Sullivan) Walsh, and we have two children, Tommy and Maggie who attend the Hendrick Hudson School District. We also share our home with our two rescue dogs, Molly and Irish; no home or outfit is complete without a little dog hair!

For the past 23 years I have been employed by a national building code consulting firm in New York City as the executive vice president and director of New York operations. I have worked on thousands of development and construction projects during my tenure. I have successfully led my division through the dot.com bubble, Great Recession and now managing us through the pandemic while growing and keeping my employees healthy and safe. My company manages cutting the

red tape and steering new developments to fruition. I hope to accomplish this task as one of your elected Town Board members.

For the past four years I have been a member of the town's Zoning Board of Appeals, and this year I joined the newly-formed North Cortlandt Visionary Committee. Both committees have given me the opportunity to grow my knowledge of our town government and apply my experience and skills to move projects forward in our great community.

I am enthusiastically running as part of the Cortlandt United slate of candidates. We have been fully endorsed by the Republican and Conservative parties. I share the slate with Laurie Ryan, who is running for town supervisor, Warren Smith who is running with me for Town Board, Kylie Fitzgerald Bernard for town clerk, Peter Marengo for receiver of taxes and Robert Chapnick for town justice.

One of our main goals is to encourage sensible new development and support growth of our existing businesses. We are looking to further streamline the town

approval process for businesses to open and grow faster in our community. Throughout these ever-changing times we are striving to keep our families healthy, happy and safe.

I look forward to meeting as many people within our community over the next several months and for years to come. If you see me around town or on the train, please come talk to me. I am here to listen and hopefully will be able to assist in any way I can.

We are a community, and as a community we all must do our part in making the Town of Cortlandt the best place to live and raise our children.

I can be reached at tom@vote4tomwalsh.com, www.vote4tomwalsh.com or on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter at [@vote4tomwalsh](https://twitter.com/vote4tomwalsh).

Follow Cortlandt United at www.cortlandtunited.town for all of the latest information about our other candidates and our schedule of community events.

Tom Walsh
Cortlandt

Greater Transparency a Must From Proposed Cortlandt Treatment Facility

My neighbors in Greater Teatown and the Town of Cortlandt have spent the past six years stuck in a back-and-forth with a secretive developer who is attempting to ram through approvals to create a self-described "luxury substance abuse treatment facility" at the former Hudson Institute on Quaker Ridge Road.

When our community first learned of plans to develop the site, we did what any neighbors would: we sought more information – logistics, details and formal proposals – so that we and the town could properly assess the project's merits, feasibility and impact on our community.

We have been stonewalled every step of the way, and when we have gotten information, we have found fatal flaws in the developer's plans.

This project demands more scrutiny – from the town, from our local media outlets, and from the state – and I am confident that a hard look will reveal the development is not a good fit for our community. Here's why.

First and foremost, the developer's math does not add up. The project is simply unfeasible.

The developer is proposing a 92-bed rehabilitation facility targeted toward "high-end" clientele from New York City and across the country, claiming to emulate the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif. But at the same time, they promise that the site's building footprint will not change, with the entire program fitting inside the site's existing 38,560 square feet. That means every service that supposedly will be provided for the 92 high-end clients – sleeping, eating, bathing, recreating, receiving therapy and more – will be squeezed into the existing square footage.

If the developer is to be believed, the Hudson Ridge Wellness Center would allocate approximately 419 gross square feet per client. On the other hand, the Betty Ford Center, which the applicant compares its facility to, allocates about 1,372 gross square feet per client – more than three times what

Hudson Ridge Wellness is proposing.

This is physically impossible – and it is only one of many serious discrepancies and red flags that lead us to worry that this project is unfeasible and will not actually provide the services the developers claim they will.

If a developer with a track record of success and a true desire to serve our community came forward, I would happily work with them to ensure the best outcome for my neighborhood, but it is obvious that is not the case with this project.

I urge my fellow residents, our town officials and this newspaper to continue asking questions and ensure that only smart, safe and sustainable development is allowed. If we take this responsible step, it will become abundantly clear that this project is unworkable and is not the right fit for our community.

Jill Greenstein
Croton-on-Hudson

New York State's Voter Rolls Need to Be Updated

There are many things that need to be done for us to have fair, honest and secure elections, and updating our long-neglected voter rolls should be a high priority.

I am a registered Republican and I receive, especially at election time, mail from the Westchester County Board of Elections. I also receive the same mail for one member of our household who is no longer a registered Republican and three members of our family who no longer reside in New York State. In other words, these four persons are listed on the Republican voter roll and they absolutely shouldn't be.

For the June 22 primary, I requested, for

the very first time in my life, an absentee ballot. The process was remarkably simple. I went online to <https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov> where I had to select my county and type in my last and first names, date of birth and zip code. I then had to select how I wanted the ballot delivered, which elections I wanted a ballot for and why I needed an absentee ballot. Of course, I had to swear that all the information was true and correct. Easy-peasy!

It then occurred to me that, if I was an unscrupulous person, I could, just as easily, request absentee ballots for these other four individuals and I could submit these

four votes with little fear of being caught. Fortunately, I'm not unscrupulous, but think about this: I could have fraudulently submitted four votes. Think about how many other people are on the roll that shouldn't be! Think about how many votes could be submitted that shouldn't be.

Our vote is our only way to have a say in how we are governed. It is our sacred right! It's time for all of us to step up and push our legislators to do something about this very serious problem.

Ken Noonan
Valhalla

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Guest Columns

How an Ancestry Test Led to My Breast Cancer Diagnosis

By Laura Markowski

It was the call that changed my life. My best friend, Cheryl, suggested I try 23andMe. She had just done it and found some long-lost relatives and thought it would be fun. Maybe we would figure out we were distant cousins?

So I downloaded the app, filled out the paperwork and ordered the ancestry DNA testing and health screening. I thought nothing of it. I signed my name over and over again indicating I understand that I may find something out that I don't want to know. After all, you can't un-know something.

Still, I thought nothing of it. Absent-minded, I signed my name and checked boxes. A few days later, a small box arrived in the mail. I unpacked the box, spit in the vial and mailed it back. I did think for a moment about how amazing the process was as I dropped the package at the post office. How could some saliva figure out who my sixth cousins are? Science really is hard to wrap your head around.

About three weeks later, an e-mail popped up. "Your reports are ready for viewing."

I sat down at my computer. And there it was. BRCA2. I knew what that was. I remembered the famous New York Times column by Angelina Jolie about her experience with finding out she had the BRCA gene mutation and her decision to have preemptive surgery. She had lost her mom to breast cancer and didn't want her

children to lose their mom.

I thought of a friend of mine who lost her mom to breast cancer when she was young and decided she would test herself. Even before she got her results back, she had made the decision that if she too is BRCA positive, she would have preemptive surgery. She didn't want her children to grow up motherless. She knew what that meant. She was BRCA positive and also found out she had early-stage breast cancer. This was years ago. She went through a lot, but she is fine now.

The next month was a dizzying combination of doctor visits, confusion, fear and shock. I did the research. I read the numbers. They weren't good. The chances of breast cancer for me were up to 86 percent. I also had up to a 26 percent chance of getting ovarian cancer and an increased risk of melanoma and pancreatic cancer. It didn't take me long to decide that I was not willing to live with these risks. I made the decision to have a double mastectomy and to have my fallopian tubes and ovaries removed.

The combination of these surgeries would drastically minimize my risk of breast and ovarian cancer. As scary as it was, I was not willing to take the risk. As a mother, wife, sister, daughter and friend, I have too much to live for. Too many people who count on me. I have more to accomplish. More life to live. More adventures to take. I need to be here to watch my children grow up. I haven't seen enough yet.



Laura Markowski, second from right, with her family.

And so I set everything in motion. The research had been done; the doctors had been chosen. It was on to the pre-op testing. I had a breast MRI done as part of the process. Before the test, the doctor told me not to be alarmed if I received a call that there was something suspicious found. MRIs are known to have a lot of false positives.

So when I got the call that I needed a biopsy, I did as the doctor instructed. I didn't panic. A few days after the biopsy, I got the call. It is the call that nobody thinks they will ever get. It is the call that you are never

prepared for. CANCER. It is hard to listen to the details after that. Your mind goes blank. But I wrote down what the woman on the other end was saying.

When I hung up, I stared at that piece of paper. It had the word cancer on it. But it also said Stage 0. I don't know much about the different stages, but I knew enough to realize that is the best possible news you can get if you have to get the diagnosis. I was told that it was so small that it probably would not have been found in my next mammogram. I knew that the doctor was saying that by the time this was found through traditional screening methods, my outcome would probably be very different.

Am I terrified? Of course. But am I forever thankful for my friend who suggested I take this test? Yes. Knowledge truly is power. Finding out I am BRCA positive gave me the chance to change my destiny.

I write this because I know there must be others out there in blissful ignorance like I was. Maybe somebody will read this and get tested. Maybe they will have the opportunity to save their own life, too. Or the life of their sister. In fact, my friend, Karen, just ordered her kit after hearing my story. She's the one that encouraged me to write this.

And in case you are wondering, Cheryl and I found out we are, in fact, fifth cousins.

Somers resident Laura Markowski is Examiner Media's associate publisher and the sister of Publisher Adam Stone.

Eastchester Dems: Fair Housing Mismanagement Hurts Our Seniors

By John Eickemeyer, Niamh Hartnett Merluccio, and Eileen DeLucia

The settlement of the fair housing lawsuit by the Eastchester Town Board shows that its discriminatory policies and mismanagement have hurt our seniors and cost all of our taxpayers money.

The town supervisor justified the housing preference system he and his Town Board enacted as allowing Eastchester seniors to "age in place." But the preferences actually went far beyond

that, favoring many people who never lived in the town.

Court filings revealed that many applicants were discouraged by the town and faced a minimum 10- to 15-year wait for an apartment. In short, the town administration defied federal guidelines citing such preferences as discriminatory and flirted with violation of federal law – the same laws that the supervisor swore an oath to uphold.

Now, the lawsuit and settlement, which the supervisor termed "no big deal," have

eliminated all of the preferences. This hurts Eastchester seniors, who were promised by the supervisor – falsely as it turns out – that all of the town's affordable housing would be available only to them. The current administration tacitly acknowledged its inability to manage affordable housing when it gave away control of the program to Westchester County after the discrimination lawsuit was filed.

Is this a big deal? You bet. Creating affordable housing isn't about "changing" Eastchester, it's about preserving what makes us great. If we want seniors and young families to be able to make their greatest contributions to our community and our economy, they need sensible housing options to be able to live here.

By deliberately enacting discriminatory preferences, the current town leadership invited the lawsuit that eliminated our

chances for any legitimate zoning policy designed to keep our seniors in our neighborhoods. As a result of the lawsuit and settlement, they cannot deliver on the promise to provide our seniors with more affordable housing options.

Moreover, the town had to pay approximately \$100,000 in legal fees and now pays increased insurance premiums, which were raised after the town was sued. That's just plain bad management.

Eastchester residents shouldn't settle for elected officials who mislead and mismanage – and certainly not in the name of discriminatory policies. We can and must choose to do better.

Supervisor candidate John Eickemeyer and candidates for Town Board Niamh Hartnett Merluccio and Eileen DeLucia are running on the Eastchester Now ticket, a Democratic slate of candidates.

Letter to the Editor

Facing a Critical Blood Shortage, Donors Are Desperately Needed

Just an hour of your time this summer can truly help save a life.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, and the Red Cross needs the help of individuals like you today and in the days ahead, as the blood supply has fallen to critical levels.

Blood transfusions are one of the most common hospital procedures in the U.S., used to help treat kids battling cancer, accident victims being rushed to emergency rooms, individuals experiencing extreme sickle cell disease pain and people with complicated childbirths.

Patients need the help of the American people. Please schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

On behalf of the Red Cross, thank you to all blood and platelet donors who volunteer to give the gift of life to patients across the country.

Stephanie Dunn Ashley
CEO, American Red Cross Metro
New York North Chapter



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New Arrival in Town



Atlantic Appliance opened its doors in Mount Kisco last Saturday, expanding to a second location from its Yorktown store. It moved into the space at 128 E. Main St. that had been previously occupied by longtime tenant J.H. Crane & Son, a furniture store. After an interior remodeling, Drana Vukaj, center, who owns Atlantic Appliance with her husband, Joey, is surrounded by her family for a special event held at the store last week. The store is open Monday through Saturday.

Westchester Welcomes USGA Back to the County for August Event

Westchester County will continue to build on its golf legacy this year when the USGA brings the 122nd U.S. Women's Amateur Championship to Westchester Country Club in Rye this August.

The best female amateur golfers in the world will play the challenging "West Course" from Aug. 2-8. Among this year's competitors will be WMGA board member Ina Kim-Schaad.

A record-breaking 1,560 women applied to play in the championship, with 26 of them exempt into the field and more than 1,500 set to vie for a spot in the 156-player field at Westchester County Club through qualifying.

Two rounds of stroke play will be contested Aug. 2-3, with the top 64 players earning a spot for the match-play rounds beginning Wednesday. The final 36-hole match will be conducted on Sunday, Aug. 8. The championship is free and open to spectators and will air on the Golf Channel and Peacock.

Westchester County plays an essential role in the history of golf and many claim Westchester as the birthplace of American

golf. It was in Westchester where the first national amateur championship was played and the first national "open" that included professionals.

"We are pleased to welcome our friends at USGA and golf enthusiasts back to the county after hosting last year's U.S. Open at Winged Foot," said County Executive George Latimer. "We are proud to show off our world-class courses and share our slice of New York State with the competitors and fans."

"We are so pleased to be back in Westchester County, a place that has so much golf and USGA history," said John Bodenhamer, senior managing director, championships. "The U.S. Women's Amateur is one of our fastest growing championships, something that was evident this year with record-breaking entry numbers, and something that is not surprising given the growing popularity and momentum in women's golf. We cannot wait to crown a champion at Westchester Country Club in just a few short weeks."

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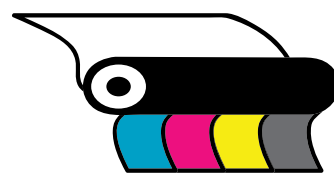
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Farewell to Site of Former Radio Studio and Howard Stern's First Job

By Martin Wilbur

A piece of radio history in Briarcliff Manor will soon be lost to the wrecking ball.

The deteriorating house at 55 Woodside Ave. in the village may appear to be just another decaying structure, but for much of the 1970s and into the early '80s it served as the studio for progressive rock station WRNW.

WRNW, which could be found at 107.1 FM, was not just beloved by local rock 'n' roll aficionados more than 40 years ago. It served as the training ground for legendary radio personality Howard Stern, renowned disc jockey Meg Griffin and many others who launched their careers at the station.

"The story of WRNW is the story of radio," said Christian Larson, who has created a documentary on the story after the publication that he works for, The River Journal, ran an article on the house's pending demolition in March. "It started with creativity and chaos and then it became business, it became corporate, it became formatted and the soul was taken out of it."

Last Saturday afternoon, many of the station's alumni returned to the house, swapping stories and taking a trip down memory lane. The house, which for many years afterward was home to a hair salon, will soon be taken down once property owner Landmark Enterprises obtains the demolition permit, said its President John Saraiva.

His company will be erecting a new mixed-use structure with Landmark Enterprises' offices on the ground level and five apartments upstairs.

But for former WRNW employees who

remember the current building's spartan surroundings, stifling summer heat in the attic studio and the noise from the construction yard down the street, that all added to the station's unique charm.

"This building was never really much to look at. It is not much to look at today," said Pleasantville's Bruce Figler, who was hired by Stern in 1977 to initially work overnights and moved on to WNEW-FM in the city and later 107.1 The Peak in White Plains. "However, what took place inside of that, that was something and somehow the most creative people in the world came out of here, and what came out of here in terms of product was amazing."

But it was also about letting young, talented personalities, most of whom were right out of college or no more than a few years removed from school, make the decisions about the music they wanted to play. It also served as a farm system for New York City radio stations.

Gary Axelbank, another of the station's on-air personalities, said WRNW was able to speak to its listeners and was "what real radio is about."

"If it's raining you play 'Riders on the Storm,' if it's a sunny day you play 'Summer in the City' and you really relate to people's lives," he said. "Unfortunately, the consultants came in and formatted everything. I wouldn't read from the cards. It didn't work."

DJ Harris Allen, who worked at the station from late 1976 until early 1978, said program director Donald Barnett was the one who let the on-air personalities make the music choices.

"He was the guy who gave us the free rein



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Many of the alumni of WRNW in Briarcliff Manor who returned last Saturday to the house where the radio station's studio was housed from 1972 to 1981.

to play literally anything we wanted to play, and also decided on who he was going to take a chance on and give this responsibility to," Allen said. "That was an amazing thing."

One of those people was Stern. Those who remember him described him as a bit of a geek back then. Larson said he invited him to the event but Stern didn't return his calls.

Originally, WRNW was based in Mount Kisco, created in the early 1960s and playing big band music. It changed to the progressive rock format in 1972 with an odd mix of funk, jazz, blues, reggae and later on new wave and punk. The move to Briarcliff Manor came in 1974.

The village's mayor, Steven Vescio, said he loved hearing about the days of WRNW.

"You would have never known that this megastar, multi megastars, came out of this small space, which is kind of neat," Vescio said. "I think there's a lot of stories like that around Westchester."

One of the few news reporters who worked for the station was Bob LeMoullec, known back in the day as Bob L. LeMoullec, who would go on to a lengthy career at 1010 WINS, brought an old WRNW jacket and reminisced about the old days.

"Every other place I worked it was news, news was the thing," LeMoullec said. "So that was my fondest memory, being around people who were really knowledgeable (about music) and a lot of fun to be around."



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Westchester, Putnam Issue Advisories as Heat Wave Intensifies

With high temperatures expected to reach into the mid-90s coupled with high humidity Tuesday and Wednesday, Westchester and Putnam counties each issued a heat advisory on Monday.

Residents should avoid strenuous activity outside, drink lots of water, avoid alcohol and caffeine and take precautions to prevent heat-related illness.

Dr. Sherlita Amler, Westchester County's commissioner of health, said people who are most vulnerable to adverse effects from the heat include the very young, seniors, people who are obese and those with high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes or lung conditions.

"Heat stroke and dehydration can take you by surprise," Amler said. "High humidity, chronic health conditions and some medications can also increase a person's risk for heat stroke."

Amler reminded residents never to leave children, pets or people alone in a car. Temperatures can quickly rise to unsafe levels, so motorists should always look before they lock their vehicles.

Those who plan to travel by car should prepare their vehicle before hitting the road. Always travel with a spare battery, and avoid leaving radios, phone chargers and other accessories running when the engine is not.

Check to make sure your air conditioning is properly functioning and coolant is at the proper level. If you plan to travel in less

populated areas, bring water and an umbrella for shade if it becomes necessary to leave the car. Always keep air flowing throughout the vehicle, and try to park in the shade.

For tips to prevent heat-related illness and places to stay cool, residents can visit the Health Department website at www.westchestergov.com/health.

Residents who need a place to cool off can go to an indoor mall. Senior centers, libraries and community centers often serve as cooling centers, but call before you go.

Choose lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing, schedule outdoor activities for the morning or evening when it is cooler and stay in air conditioning as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, a cool shower or bath can help, or visit a cooling center for more extended relief.

In Putnam County, two public spaces are currently open with air conditioning and can offer a break from the high temperatures. The Mahopac Library, located at 668 Route 6 in Mahopac, and Kent Town Hall at 25 Sybil's Crossing in Kent Lakes, offer air-conditioned space for residents.

The library telephone number is 845-628-2009 and the best number for Kent Town Hall is 845-225-3943 (An alternate number is 845-225-2067.) Kent Town Hall is planning to be open Tuesday, June 29 through Thursday, July 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents may wish to call ahead to



ensure there are no last-minute changes.

Two cooling centers opened in Yorktown Monday in response to extreme heat.

The cooling centers at the John C. Hart Memorial Library and the Jefferson Valley Mall will offer air conditioning during normal business hours through Wednesday. If a power outage occurs, Yorktown will activate an emergency cooling center at the Albert A. Capellini Community & Cultural Center.

"We recognize that some of our neighbors may not have air conditioning, or their conditioners have broken down, so we encourage these residents to seek cooling shelters if needed," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "Anyone needing a cooling shelter should also be prepared to observe social distancing rules, including the use of face masks."

Westchester's Department of Emergency Services is monitoring the

weather forecast, tracking the opening of local cooling centers and is in contact with Con Edison and NYSEG concerning the potential for power outages.

For tips to prevent heat-related illness and places to stay cool, residents can visit the Health Department website at www.westchestergov.com/health.

Utility Announce Preparations

Con Edison is ready to respond to any service problems that arise due to the heat and humidity forecasted for the area this week and urges customers to conserve energy.

The heat, humidity and increased demand for electricity to power air conditioners can cause cables to overheat and lead to outages. The coming days could also bring thunderstorms, which can affect the overhead delivery system and cause outages.

The company urges members of the public to stay away from any wires that are downed during storms. Call your local police department or 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633) to report downed wires.

Customers can sign up for text alerts at coned.com/text. Customers can also report outages and check service restoration status at conEd.com/reportoutage or with Con Edison's mobile app for iOS or Android devices, or by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).

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Chappaqua Orchestra to Move to P'ville, Rebrand and Go Countywide

By Martin Wilbur

After more than 60 years, the Chappaqua Orchestra is rebranding and will move its home base to Pleasantville for the start of the upcoming 2021-22 season.

Co-executive Director David Restivo said the decision to call itself Orchestra 914 is to broaden its base of support and remove any misconception that the group isn't a fully professional orchestra. He said it hopes to perform in venues throughout Westchester, including the Tarrytown Music Hall, the Capitol Theater in Port Chester and the Paramount in Peekskill, where it gave its season-ending performance on June 11.

By moving to neighboring Pleasantville, Restivo said it will also join a community that has become a local hub for the arts, which includes the Jacob Burns Film Center, Arc Stages, the Pleasantville Music Festival and regular music performances at the village's farmers market.

Restivo said he and Co-executive Director Amy Harter hope to raise the level of community support to something similar to the Ridgefield Orchestra.

"Every show was so well supported by the local people and the surrounding people in Connecticut and I said, 'Wow, this is amazing,'" Restivo said of the Ridgefield Orchestra. "So the idea was we didn't feel like, and for whatever reason, we weren't getting that kind of support in this town. So we felt like we needed to find a town that really was in Westchester, that was really kind



Orchestra 914 at its June 11 concert at the Paramount in Peekskill. Formerly the Chappaqua Orchestra, it has rebranded and is moving to Pleasantville to expand its reach.

of like Ridgefield, that supported the arts, and Pleasantville really does that."

The changes will coincide with the anticipated announcement in the next couple of weeks of the orchestra's new music director and conductor. It has been without a permanent leader since longtime director Michael Shapiro left the orchestra several years ago after a 16-year run. Shapiro was able to attract top-flight talent from New York City to

Restivo said it had been Shapiro's goal to bring the highest quality performances to the Chappaqua Orchestra. When Shapiro departed, Restivo said he pledged to him that work would continue.

The annual schedule will continue to include a children's concert, the Together in Music family concert suitable for special needs children and its concerto competition.

He and the board of directors also need to

make sure that Orchestra 914 has progressed to the point where sufficient funding is in place to present consistent high-quality programs.

"We won't do it unless the funding is there and the orchestra quality is there," said Restivo, a violinist who has been with the orchestra for eight or nine years. "Hopefully, we can get the supporters and the funding we need to make that happen."

While Pleasantville doesn't have a large venue for the full orchestra to perform, he said partnerships are being worked on, particularly with Arc Stages, which has a smaller 99-seat theater and has plans for a larger 200-seat auditorium at its site, he said.

"They don't have a venue," Restivo said. "We would like to work on developing some sort of venue there. But in the meantime, because of our name, we feel like we can be anywhere in the county and perform."

He said the orchestra plans to schedule at

least one performance a year in the village, most likely one of its smaller chamber music quartets. There have also been rehearsals at St. John's Episcopal Church, which can also be used for smaller performances.

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer said he was "delighted" to have heard from Restivo about the orchestra moving their base to the village and he believes the community will embrace it.

While there may not be a permanent place to perform, he's optimistic that their presence will create synergy with the village's other arts organizations, which can provide greater opportunities for all.

"So I'm delighted to think that Pleasantville is a good place for that and we're also delighted to think that over time there's going to be some opportunities with all else that goes on here," Scherer said.

Restivo said New Castle officials had hoped to make the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, formerly the Wallace Auditorium at the former Reader's Digest site, into a venue that could support its needs, but the acoustical challenges in the facility were too great.

Internal discussions within the orchestra had been occurring for several years about broadening its base, but plans were waylaid by the pandemic. With the area having emerged from the emergency and a new director coming aboard, Restivo said Orchestra 914 needed to make its move now.

For more information, soon look for Orchestra 914's new website at www.orchestra914.org.



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Mitchell S. Roslin, MD
Director of Bariatric Surgery
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Q: Myth or truth? You don't need bariatric surgery – just diet and work out if you're obese.

A: Myth. Obesity is an energy-storage disease – a problem with the body's central regulator. Obesity occurs when your body's regulator is set too high, and that elevated "set-point" drives you to consume more food to produce the energy to meet this increased demand. Once you're obese, exercise and low-calorie diets may only make a small difference. With bariatric surgery, we change your gastrointestinal tract and set-point, so you get full faster, feel less hungry, and therefore lose weight.

Q: Myth or truth? Bariatric surgery is dangerous.

A: Myth. Risks are minimal when compared to the complications of obesity, which include cardiovascular disease, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, sleep apnea, and dementia.

Q: Myth or truth? I'm too young/old for the surgery.

A: Obesity is a serious disease that impacts you physically and emotionally, no matter how old you are. Surgical weight loss has been found to be very successful in adolescent patients, helping them physically, emotionally, and academically. The surgery is also safe and effective for obese who are older, many of whom are functionally

impaired, meaning they have radically limited their activities because of their condition. At Northern Westchester Hospital, I've had patients as old as 78.

Q: Myth or truth? You can't have children after weight-loss surgery.

A: This is a big myth. Actually, surgical weight-loss boosts fertility, because the leading cause of infertility in women is obesity. Polycystic ovary syndrome, a common cause of infertility, is associated with obesity. And obese pregnant women have a higher rate of miscarriage and diabetes.

Q: Myth or truth? After surgery, you'll have a large scar – and you'll lose your hair.

A: We do minimally invasive surgery so scarring is minimal – four to six tiny marks. As for hair loss, there's some truth to this. Some patients undergo hormonal changes after surgery and may experience thinning hair.

Q: Myth or truth? You'll eventually gain the weight back.

A: The truth depends on the patient. If you have the surgery and refuse to develop healthier habits, it's possible that you'll experience regain. That's why it's important to exercise regularly and choose healthy foods that make you feel full. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we have a registered bariatric dietitian and support groups to help you stay on track.

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The Chandelier: From Basic Function to Decorative Beauty

It's been almost six years since we moved into a new condo, and all during that time, one big question mark remains in completing the decoration of its great room, and it doesn't seem likely to be answered any time soon.

That is, the choice of chandelier to be hung in our dining area.

For the first time in our long marriage of agreeing over most things that surround us, my wife Margaret and I are not in accord about what device of illumination should hang above our heads as we entertain guests at a good meal.

Right now, there is just a small ceiling fixture that came with the condo that provides light from the nine-foot-high ceiling, but just empty space from there to the table top with nothing decorative to fill the space in between.

Margaret wants something airy and simple, but is not sure what. I know exactly what I've wanted for a long time and it's not simple. It's a knock-off of the constellation-type chandelier created in 1966 by Hans Harald Rath for the lighting at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. Are you aware of them?

They feature central round metal orbs that looks like "sputniks" from which metal rods radiate with sparkly moons and satellites spraying out in all directions, laden with



By Bill Primavera

Swarovski crystals. The effect is really dazzling. From the time I first saw them in the lobby and auditorium, I was transfixed. I remember reading that they were designed to symbolize the opera company's transitioning from the Gilded Age to the Space Age in its new home.

I discovered online that there is a facsimile available, but it seems that Margaret wants something a little more down to earth rather than a starburst from out of space orbiting over her head when she entertains.

In the past, when we lived in historic homes, choosing chandeliers was always a simple matter, with our having gone toward the 18th century designs to be found in Colonial Williamsburg.

The idea of a device shedding light from the ceiling goes back as far as the Middle Ages, first as a matter of practicality, but it wasn't long before chandeliers came to represent prestige and power.

Early in the 14th century, the first chandeliers were made of wood and iron in a wooden ring, designed like a crown, and intended originally to be moved from room to room. These simplistic devices could have one or many wooden arms with small iron plates upon which a candle would rest. The device would be connected to a chain, which could be hung from the ceiling

of a great hall or, more often in churches, when they would have been adorned with religious iconography.

By the 15th century, chandeliers were utilized by the wealthy to demonstrate their power and status, and that is when different designs were created to show the individuality of the various houses of nobility, palaces, clergy and merchants.

The arms of chandeliers adopted curves and many more candles into the design by the 18th century and they were beginning to be placed in the homes of those who were of the working class as well as the upper class. At the same time, Greek and Roman influences became popular, along with production from cast metals.

Also in the early 18th century, the crystal chandelier was introduced by Bohemian and Venetian glassmakers. By the time crystal chandeliers were hung in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace at Versailles, they had become a magnificent art form that continues to this day to impress.

The mid-19th century saw a revolution in chandelier production with the introduction of gas lighting, replacing candles. And

by the 1890s, with the introduction of electric light, chandeliers became truly free for artistic expression from the most reasonably priced that you might find at Home Depot to the most expensive viewed at decorators' showrooms.

It's interesting to note how much lighting fixtures that hang from the ceiling can influence the perceived value of a home. The owners of a home I listed as a realtor recently retained a home stager who suggested that all the chandeliers be updated with moderately priced, more contemporary looking designs. That one recommendation

made a significant difference in updating the entire look of the home's interior.

As for the choice of my own chandelier in my dining room, let's just say it's an extended work in progress.

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



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Show Off at the 2021 Yorktown Grange Fair in September

The Yorktown Grange Agricultural Society has preparations underway for the 2021 Yorktown Grange Fair scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 10-12.

This year's theme, "Out and About at the Fair," expresses the excitement and anticipation of an in-person fair after a time of uncertainty and isolation. Imagine the delight of experiencing the sights and sounds of the midway, the taste and aroma of the food, the fun of seeing beautiful farm animals up close and personal and the joy of experiencing it all with family and friends.

It all adds up to a feeling of true community as people from in and around Westchester County enjoy being out and about at the fair. You can be a part of the fun by entering one of the Grange Fair's many contests, which are open to people of all ages and skill levels.

The Grange Fair is proud of all the local artists, farmers, livestock owners and artisans who participate each year to compete for a blue ribbon. Westchester County's only true country fair is the perfect place to share the projects that you're



passionate about.

The 97th annual Grange Fair will have contests in creative pursuits including art, needlework, Legos, baking, woodworking and photography. Agricultural interests will be shown off in the flower, livestock, poultry, produce and rabbit shows.

In a fun new twist, the Grange will be adding a video contest with the top prize going to the best video showcasing the weekend of the Grange Fair. With multiple skill divisions and age groups for so many of the competitions, there are options for everyone.

Since its inception, the goal of the fair has been to allow members of



the community to exhibit their best work, whether it be homegrown or homemade. From vegetables and livestock to quilts and cake, make it, grow it or bake it and the Grange Fair is the place for you to show it off.

Visit yorktowngrangefair.org/ contests for complete contest rules. Prefer a hard copy of our contest

booklet? Call the office at 914-962-3900 and one will be mailed out to you right away.

The 2021 Yorktown Grange Fair will be held at the Yorktown Grange Fair Grounds located at 99 Moseman Rd. in Yorktown Heights.

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Playland Reopens With Refurbished Carousel and Hope for the Future

By Martin Wilbur

It was a bit unusual to find Westchester County Executive George Latimer sitting on top of a horse last Friday afternoon.

It wasn't a real, live equine, but one that is part of the century-old Grand Carousel at Playland amusement park, which had its roof and 66 hand-carved horses significantly damaged in a 2017 fire.

Latimer, accompanied by a host of county officials, welcomed Playland back the day before its scheduled reopening on Saturday to the general public. Playland's opening day was a bigger deal than usual after COVID-19 shuttered the 93-year-old facility last year.

He said the refurbishment of the Mangels-Carmel Carousel, part of more than \$100 million in capital improvements that the public will see over the next few years, is emblematic of the park's rebirth after some thought saving the ride was unnecessary.

While Playland has certainly had its ups and downs over the years, Latimer vowed that it will thrive for generations to come.

"We want you to appreciate that the restoration of that carousel is a symbol of our commitment to



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

County Executive George Latimer cuts the ribbon on the 2021 season at Playland, a year after the park was closed due to COVID-19. Right, Latimer goes for a ride on the newly-refurbished carousel to kick off the 2021 season. The carousel had been badly damaged in a fire four years ago.



the tradition of this park, that this park existed long before any of us were in public office or had public responsibilities, and we respect that tradition, and that tradition will be renovated and revived by the work we do all throughout the park," Latimer said.

Another original ride on the other side of the park's lawn is the Derby Racer, which has also been improved. It is one of only three steeplechase rides in the United States, where the horses move back and forth as well as up and

down to simulate a gallop.

Other capital improvements the county plans to undertake at the facility during the next couple of years include the overhaul of the Playland Parkway Pathway, rebuilding the roof of another popular ride, The Whip, and modernizing the Cross Axis Games Building and Towers, the North Administration Building and the swimming pool. The pool is scheduled to reopen next summer.

In 2019, the county unveiled a new ride, the Dragonator.

While the county had planned June 26 as Playland's opening day since earlier this year, it wasn't known until recently what form that would take, said Kathy O'Connor, the commissioner of the county's Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

There had been frequently changing state guidelines, but Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced earlier this month that once the state reached the 70 percent vaccination threshold nearly all restrictions would be terminated. Officials were then able to assemble the workforce necessary to open the park by the scheduled date.

"Here it takes a massive effort to put Playland back together every year," O'Connor said.

Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) said some other amusement parks throughout the country have not reopened because it has been difficult to find staffing. He lauded young adults and seniors who signed up to work to make this summer's season possible.

Boykin said on Friday that the operation of Playland is important to the county and it was sorely missed during last year's closure.

"That hurt all of us but now

we're here, tomorrow, reopening this park," he said.

This will be the last summer that the county operates Playland, although it will continue to own the facility, Latimer said. Starting Dec. 1, New York City-based Standard Amusements will take over after several years of legal wrangling with Westchester.

Playland will be open Wednesday through Sunday through Labor Day weekend. It will also operate on two Mondays, July 5 and Sept. 6. Hours are 12 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 12 to 9 p.m. the other days of operation.

Admission is \$20 per person for unlimited rides and \$15 for a junior rider. County residents may come as a free spectator, while those who live outside of Westchester can get in for \$10. Parking costs \$10 per vehicle.

"Come and enjoy Playland," Latimer said. "Come and enjoy it the way that people 50 and 70 years ago enjoyed it and let's hope they'll enjoy the park 50 years from now the same way."

For more information, including purchasing wristbands in advance, visit www.playlandpark.org.



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Ossining Schools Hold Hearing on Use of \$10M Federal Relief

By Samuel Rowland

The Ossining School District held a public hearing on Zoom last week to discuss a proposed long-range plan prepared by the superintendent's office for allocating more than \$10 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds.

In attendance were Board of Education members, Superintendent Raymond Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent for Business Alita Zuber, District Clerk Ileana Ortiz, 12 members of the public on the Zoom call and an uncertain number of viewers for the concurrent YouTube

livestream.

The funds, courtesy of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, come with a built-in fiscal cliff. All funds must be spent by Sept. 30, 2023. The deadline to submit plans to outline how the money will be spent is this Thursday.

A survey was sent out the day after the meeting to all parents with children in the district to gather wider feedback on the plan before it is finalized and sent to the state government for approval. The draft plan shown at the hearing failed to show dollar amounts

tied to specific budget items, but it did provide a detailed technical summary of the district's budgeting priorities. Sanchez promised that the board would get detailed figures to the public soon.

Among the programs discussed were the minimum spending requirements included in the \$5,975,123 of funding from the American Rescue Plan. At least 5 percent of the money has to be spent on providing summer school programs to address pandemic-related learning loss. One percent each has to be utilized for extracurricular summer programs and after-school programs.

The other required use for those funds and the \$4,324,464 in Coronavirus Response money is planning and preparing the district for future long-term remote learning, such as in the event of another pandemic. A regular program for teaching parents how to help their kids navigate educational technology, as well as improving air conditioning in district buildings for summer programs, was also discussed.

In response to questions about potentially using the money to fund programs the district had been looking into before the pandemic, Sanchez emphasized the need to make up for lost learning time.

Board of Legislators Reopen for In-Person Public Access

Last Friday, the Board of Legislators' offices, committee and board meetings reopened to the public for in-person access, Board Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) announced last week.

The re-opening comes after Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the New York disaster emergency – declared on Mar. 7, 2020, to fight COVID-19 – expired after Thursday, June 24.

During the emergency, the board has maintained remote public access to its meetings via web streaming and Webex teleconferencing. The board is excited to be welcoming the public back in person to the people's house.

Pursuant to Centers for Disease Control guidelines and to protect the health and

safety of the public and board staff, the board will implement the following procedures for in-person public access:

- Members of the public coming to the board's offices, including for committee and board meetings, will be required to sign in and provide contact information in case contact tracing needs to be done in the future.
- Temperatures will be checked, and people with fevers will not be allowed in the board's eighth-floor offices.
- Masks will be required to be worn in common areas such as the board chamber, committee room, hallways and Geist Library, other than when a person is speaking during the public comment session at a board meeting.

Galef Introduces Bill to Allow for Hybrid Municipal Meetings

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) announced legislation that would allow municipalities the ability to conduct hybrid meetings and hearings.

The legislation would allow a municipality to include remote participation if officials would like to. All board members would appear in person and the public could attend in person as well.

Using this option would be a boon for discourse, allowing for wider engagement in public spaces, Galef said. COVID-19 has shown the power of technology in bringing people together, she added.

"Our meetings have seen increased attendance through Zoom and other technologies," Galef said. "With this increased

engagement, it is important that we keep this option available to municipalities that choose to. Our public discourse is made more robust and inclusive through this legislation. We have proven that it can work, and it is important that we make adaptations to encourage public participation when we can."

Municipalities may opt to use hybrid meetings but will not be obligated to do so, Galef said.

Remote meetings and video conferencing have taken off during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the state's emergency declaration having ended last week, she said it is time to learn from the past year and incorporate increased access to public meetings.



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

The Oxbow Coincidence: Who Owns Your Shadow?

"There is no darkness but ignorance"

—Shakespeare

Many of us can recall watching a western with the common scene where the camera pans the merriment at the local saloon as the patrons play cards, listen to honkytonk piano, drink and dance in their utopian environment.

All seems well, until an innocent stranger enters through the swinging doors that silences the crowd. As all eyes are fixed on this stranger as he approaches the bar for his shot of liquor, he is viewed with suspicion, the projection of the crowd's insecurity.

We all know where this is going. The stranger receives his cold reception and soon the crowd's insecurity and fragile projections lead to harassment, that eventually lead to condemnation and judged guilty of the crime of just being new in town. The posse is now ready to execute "justice" with noose in hand. This common theme is the retelling of old morality myths set to a more contemporary time and venue.

As the drama unfolds, viewers offer their empathy for the stranger – victimized by the herd – who they view as their champion of good will and true justice and

a victim of provincialism and prejudice. The stranger is the innocent bystander that challenges the small-minded herd mentality that takes the "law" into their own hands mocking true justice.

The audience clearly sees his innocence and quickly throws scorn with disdain upon the herd mentality seeking to hang him or run him out of town. Merely because he looks and talks different and is just passing through.

There is a bit of irony in this, as the audience is quick to pick up on this injustice of the mob behavior. They fail to see their own affinity of thinking like the herd. Though audience members find themselves applauding the stranger, they themselves should be becoming more conscious of also having at times finding themselves guilty of following the mob mentality when introduced to a new person who enters their social network.

How many times have we made false judgments against a person's character just because they are not a replica of ourselves? This egocentric behavior is the unexpected source of our own dark shadow. The dumping ground for all those characteristics of our character that we disown. Our shadows can be powerful tools to improve our emotional health if we are dauntless and honest enough to not run from them and confront them.

What is common with all myths is that they are our symbolic language. A language where our inner experiences, feelings and our thoughts are expressed as if they were sensory experiences in the real world. Our body is a learning device of the mind. Humankind's crowning achievement is the ongoing civilizing process that requires the culling out of our frail characteristics that are necessary to advance our psychological anthropology, hence our social psychology.

What the author of these myths is saying is not to focus on the stranger, but on the herd mentality quick to judge, predicated on insecurities. The result of our dark shadow we fail to seek out of fear. When the herd reaches its frenzy, what is happening is that the principal conscious activity of the individual is substituted by the unconscious actions of the herd mentality. It results in a display of a singular inferior mentality.

We can use the example of the classic western movie, "The Oxbow Incident," based on the book by Walter Van Tilburg Clark, with its star-studded cast. The movie is an excellent example of the retelling of this morality tale, where our shadows are owned by the herd mentality



By Richard Cirulli

and not by us.

The herd mentality is a form of peer pressure we often submit to when we lack the emotions, character and strength to think for ourselves with principle and logic. That slanders innocent bystanders with our lies that we use to mask our own insecurities and shortcomings.

It's a sad commentary on our human condition that having been told this morality tale for ages, it

still needs to be retold, for many today have not learned its lesson. We can see at times that humanity is not a quick study.

We should strive to own our own shadows, so we can mount our white horse of logic and truth and to ride off into the sunset as the conquering hero knowing that will we no longer cast dark shadows in our wake.

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

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

Existentially Speaking

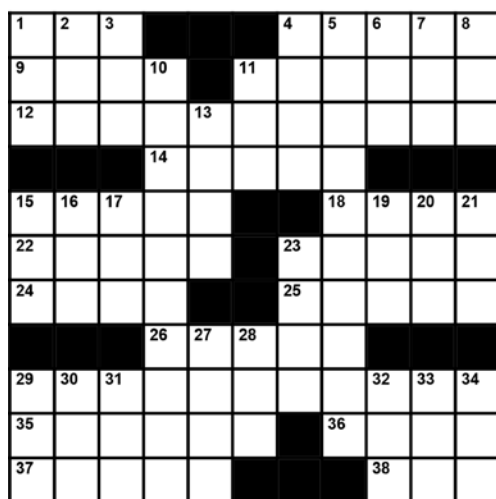
Crossword

Across

1. Lawyer: Abbr.
4. Belonging to comic Carvey or new Mahopac eatery ____ Diner
9. Donkey foot
11. Professional escort
12. Luxury car
14. Gibson's "Ransom" co-star
15. "Dilbert" cartoonist Adams
18. Takes home
22. Scottish lakes
23. Sci-fi machine
24. Crowd sound
25. Burnt or raw
26. L'Enfant Plaza designer
29. Insurance saleswoman Flo would take her pet to this Somers facility ____ Animal Hospital
35. Actress Loren
36. Go after
37. Exams
38. Zero

Down

1. Exclamation of many uses
2. Lean-____ (sheds)
3. Two year old
4. End of a Spanish greeting
5. Expert in field-crop production
6. "Nicht" German
7. "I am the greatest" boxer
8. Ham, to Noah
10. Direct
11. Baseball V.I.P.'s



13. Airline snacks
15. Photog's purchase, perhaps
16. Get lovey-dovey, in a way
17. Edible tuber
19. Fall back
20. Boot part
21. Atlas abbreviation
23. Regrets
27. Dr.'s orders
28. Word with coat or green
29. Wash. setting
30. Potential school
31. "Black" CIA doings
32. "The Lord of the Rings" actor Holm
33. Lucky Roman number
34. Right-angled pipe

Answers on pag 25

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Westchester Swimmers to Hit the Water to Fight Cancer

Swim Across America's Long Island Sound Chapter (SAA-LIS) is gearing up for its 29th year of Westchester swimming events to raise critical funds for cutting-edge cancer research, prevention and treatment.

This summer participants will have seven opportunities to swim and volunteer in SAA-LIS events in Westchester. The open-water signature swim will take place on July 31 in Larchmont's Long Island Sound, with pool swims scheduled between July 11 and Aug. 7.

"Last year was challenging for everyone on so many levels, and we are looking forward to coming together again as a community to raise funds to fight cancer and broaden awareness," said SAA-LIS Chapter President Tony Sibio. "Everyone who participates is taking a powerful, personal stand against this formidable disease and helping to turn the tide against cancer. We're all ready to go."

Proceeds from the swims will support the Swim Across America research lab, Dr. Luis Diaz and the MSK Kids Department of Pediatrics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; pediatric oncology research at Morgan Stanley Columbia University Medical Center; and patient services with Cancer Support Team.

The summer program will encompass seven pool swims (with the option of half-mile and one-mile efforts) plus an open-water swim course on Long Island Sound that will offer participants the option of swimming 2K, 5K or 10K.

The open-water swim, which starts at Larchmont Yacht Club and ends

at Larchmont Shore Club, has been recognized by the World Open Water Swimming Association as one of America's Top 100 Open Water Swims.

The full roster of participating locations, dates and times is as follows:

- **NYAC Travers Island**, Pelham. July 11, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- **Chappaqua Swim & Tennis Club**, Chappaqua. July 18, 3 to 6 p.m.
- **Orienta Beach Club**, Mamaroneck. July 24, 6:15 to 9:30 a.m.
- **Coveleigh Club**, Rye, Date TBD, 3 to 5 p.m. (Members only)
- **Westchester Country Club**, TBA
- **Long Island Sound Open Water**, Larchmont, July 31, 6 a.m. to noon
- **Lake Isle Country Club**, Eastchester, Aug. 7, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Those interested in participating in 2021 Swim Across America-LIS events can register to swim, kayak, sponsor a swimmer or volunteer to help at www.swimacrossamerica.org/long_island.

Donations can be sent to SAA-Long Island Sound, P.O. Box 217, Larchmont, N.Y. 10538.

Those who prefer not to swim also have an opportunity to contribute to the chapter's fundraiser. SAA My Way is a virtual offering where participants decide their activity and timeline. It can be anything from jogging to golfing, playing tennis to basketball. All SAA My Way participants are encouraged to set a minimum fundraising goal of \$250. All donations raised for My Way will support the SAA-LIS event.

"Our motto at Swim Across America



Swim clubs throughout Westchester, including the Chappaqua Swim & Tennis Club, will participate this summer in Swim Across America's fight against cancer.

is 'hope has no finish line,' and we will never stop supporting cancer research and education until all cancer is eradicated," Sibio said. "Our SAA community of swimmers, kayakers and volunteers are offering hope to cancer fighters and survivors and helping to light the way for a better tomorrow. We couldn't be more grateful to every one of them."

Swim Across America, Inc. was founded in 1987 and has raised over \$100 million for cancer research and prevention programs at the country's finest hospitals

and managed-care facilities. Since Swim Across America's inception, it has grown from having a single event in Nantucket, Mass. to 22 open water benefit swims across the country.

The Long Island Sound chapter was started in 1992 and has grown to be the largest in the organization, having raised over \$20 million since its inception.

For more information about Swim Across America Long Island Chapter, call 914-769-8411 or visit www.swimacrossamerica.org/long_island.

Paulin Bill to Ensure Fair Redistricting Passes State Legislature

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) and state Sen. James Skoufis (D-Woodbury) announce the passage of their legislation to require all counties in New York to follow set standards for fair legislative redistricting.

"Fair redistricting is fundamental to democracy," said Paulin. "This legislation will prevent towns like Scarsdale from being split and ensure redistricting standards are complied with regardless of whether the county happens to operate under a charter."

Paulin first began fighting for fair county legislative districts when she was the president of the Scarsdale League of Women Voters (LWV) in 1991. At that time Scarsdale was split into two separate districts, and along with the Scarsdale LWV, sued Westchester County on the grounds that the state Municipal Home Rule Law prohibits towns from being divided.

Scarsdale's lawsuit was dismissed due to lack of standing, and although the LWV lawsuit proceeded it was never decided by the courts.

Scarsdale, a small town of only 6.6 square miles, was then split into 3 districts in 1993. At that time Paulin, who became president of the county LWV, again sued the county over unfair redistricting. The case went to the state Supreme Court and then the appellate level.

Ultimately the Appellate Division upheld the lower court decision that Westchester County was not required to follow the criteria in the Municipal Home Rule Law because it operates under a charter form of government and is bound only by the redistricting criteria in its charter.

The county had two subsequent redistricting cycles in 2001 and 2011, and the leadership in place at those times, settled on a fair redistricting plan that involved members of the chamber's minority party

and outside "good government" groups, even though the legal requirements were not in place to require it.

Paulin and Skoufis' legislation now requires the 23 counties in New York that operate under a charter to follow the same redistricting standards as all other counties in New York. Their bill also modernizes standards to further ensure towns from being divided for unjust purposes and to bring the standards in line with generally accepted best practices for redistricting.

Importantly, the updated standards include ensuring that equal weight is given to all residents in the allocation of representation; that districts are not drawn to favor voters of one political party; that districts are compact and contiguous; that districts are formed to promote the orderly and efficient administration of elections; and that districts are not drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minority groups to participate in the political process.

"Representation matters, and for those living in self-chartered counties such as the three I represent, this legislation takes us one large step toward preserving the will of the people by standardizing how legislative districts are drawn and redrawn," Skoufis said.

"Just shy of 20 years in the making, this is a bill with serious teeth and I call on the Governor to sign it so that these reforms are enacted just in time for the 2022 once-a-decade county redistricting proposals. I am grateful to Assemblymember Paulin for her partnership and years of dedicated leadership on this issue."

Henry Neale, a Scarsdale resident and the attorney who represented the LWV in its lawsuit applauded the legislation.

"All counties in New York State should follow the same standards for redistricting – something I have been advocating for a long time," Neale said. "It is not logical and clearly unfair that voters in a chartered county can have their votes diluted by splitting towns or packing members of one political party or another into a district, when voters in the rest of the state are protected."

"This legislation will prevent towns like Scarsdale from being split into multiple legislative districts, which dilutes the vote of residents and leaves them without a clear, singular representative to advocate on their behalf," Paulin said. "With this legislation, the integrity of cities, towns and villages in Westchester and other chartered counties will be preserved."

Crossword Answers



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continued from page 24

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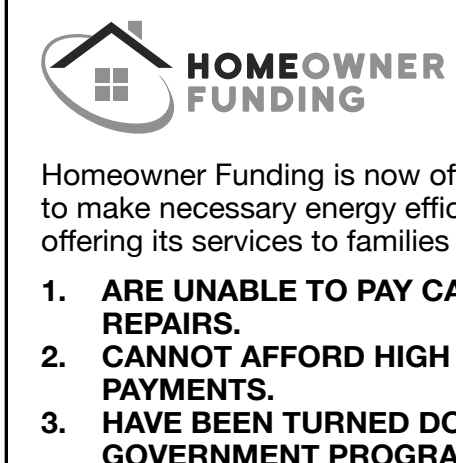


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A History of Champagne - and its Alluring Bubbles



By Nick Antonaccio

Ah, Champagne. Historically referred to as the wine of kings and the king of wines, Champagne has a storied and checkered past, often as much by happenstance as by astute winemaking. It has become a

fabled, preferred beverage for special, celebratory occasions as a symbol of good fortune and happiness.

The history of the Champagne region is replete with tales of ostentatious royal dinners and nights of debauchery – all attributable to the allure (and alcohol content) of Champagne. Even in war, Champagne was held in high regard and copious amounts were consumed. When Napoleon reigned as the emperor of France, he was obsessed with Champagne.

“I drink Champagne when I win, to celebrate; and I drink Champagne when I lose, to console myself,” he said.

Often overlooked or shrouded in intrigue, the historical backdrop to its popularity is worthy of mention.

The Romans traveled through this region, in northeastern France, east of Paris, before the time of Christ. In their wake they left a

thriving still wine industry that continued for centuries as a major source of wine to Parisians. Its proximity to Paris – and England – provided an advantage over other French wine regions, in spite of the fact that regions such as Burgundy produced higher quality wines.

The birth of the French nation was celebrated in the heart of Champagne – the Reims Cathedral – in the fifth century. The region flourished as a still wine producer for centuries. The Parisians and the British buoyed its financial success into the 17th century.

However, the wines were not of high quality, but rather of high alcohol and great quantity – for a number of reasons.

The northern climate was not reliably conducive to warm weather or long growing seasons. Hence, the wines tended to be thin and austere. Worse, after the grapes were harvested and fermented, the early onset of winter prematurely halted the full fermentation of the wines, leaving residual sugar and yeast in the wines when they were subsequently bottled.

By the time these partially fermented wines were sold into the retail market, the weather warmed, which triggered a second fermentation, creating an effervescence that dismayed the French producers and their French customers. After all, their goal was to produce still wines.

But not the British customers. English distributors purchased barrels of the still wines to defray costs and bottled the wines themselves for onward sale to consumers, adding sugar to enhance the taste. British nobility and royalty developed an affinity for the sweet, bubbly style. But the wines were inconsistent at best.

Worse, the built-up pressure in the bottles caused many to explode. Enter Christopher Merret, a British scientist. In 1662, he posited that the natural (and added) sugars in the partially fermented bottles created the carbon dioxide-induced bubbles. The British began experimenting with methods to improve the wines during bottling. It is believed the British distributors were producing the modern-day version (Méthode Champenois) shortly thereafter.

At this time, back in Champagne, a Benedictine monk was tasked with finding a way of improving the still wines being produced by his monastery. After numerous attempts to improve the poor quality and remove the undesirable bubbles, he gave up. Instead, the monk, Dom Pérignon, decided to cater to the British desire for the intentional bubbly style.

Using the techniques he had developed

to improve his wine, he turned to creating a superior bubbly product, which was very successful and later emulated.

Therein lies the irony of modern Champagne. While Dom Pérignon was painstakingly seeking to prevent the bubbles in Champagne, the British were busy enhancing them. Rather than being the widely believed father of the Champagne style, the good monk was rather the father of the refinement of Champagne.

Since the breakthroughs of the British and the French in the 17th century, Champagne's popularity has continued to grow in sales and esteem. In the midst of the pandemic

during 2020, a whopping 245 million bottles were sold, receiving high accolades for their quality, complexity and finesse. A far cry from its feeble beginnings.

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**

Where to Find Two Zodiac Symbols in the July Nighttime Sky

Some of my favorite conversations about astronomy start with people asking about a group of stars, usually their zodiac sign, and then having a hard time seeing that figure mapped out in the sky.

The word zodiac comes from zoo-, which is the same Greek root that brings us the word for the park with the animals and related sciences.

In astronomy, these are the constellations that we see the sun travel through year after year, and it's long been seen as the path of life. All but one of these, Libra (the scales), represent a person or a creature of some kind – bulls, rams, twins, fish, you name it.

In July, two of the zodiac's – and the night's – most striking constellations come back to the primetime sky.

While many other patterns can leave us scratching our heads – “Really? Those three stars are a ram?” – Scorpius is one that does a pretty good job of looking like the thing it represents. Let's start with the famous bright red supergiant at the scorpion's heart, Antares. It's a truly enormous star, so big and hot that it puts out more than 2,500 times more energy than our sun does.

With all that power behind it, we can still see it as obviously red, even though we're looking at it across 500-plus light years of space, and through the lingering dusk of another long summer sunset. All month, it's a stunning sight low in the south as night settles around us.

Once we find it, let's see if we can

make out the small closing parenthesis-shaped group of three stars that represent the scorpion's head and claws to the right of Antares. Toward the left, the rest of the scorpion's body fills in, with its tail curling just above the trees and rooftops down the road.

Following right behind it, toward the east, is the constellation-slash-spelling test, Sagittarius. The most prominent part of this group doesn't look much like the archer it represents, but like a teapot with its spout pointing toward the west and its handle toward the east.

None of these are big-name stars – the most famous is called Nunki – but I love that quiet anonymity. There are few things better than seeing these hanging over the hills across the river on another night spent battling away mosquitoes.

Together with Scorpius, a quick glance along the zodiac lets us spend summers laughing at a cartoonish



By Scott Levine

teapot racing and chasing a terrified scorpion across the sky. Who says there's nothing funny in the sky?

Far behind these is the central part of the Milky Way galaxy, our home in the universe. From our point of view out here in the galactic suburbs, it summers along the eastern horizon from southwest to northeast. It's tough to see, though. Westchester's light pollution has pushed the light from those countless stars back, sending them retreating into the night. Under darker skies, we'd see those stars' light pushed together into a smoky blur, like the light from countless city windows

25,000 light years away.

Night falls late this month, but with the sights in our southern sky's zodiac, it's worth the wait. I hope you'll have a look this month. Clear skies, everyone!

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

Clear Skies



Last Quarter
July 1



New Moon
July 9



First Quarter
July 17



Full Moon
July 23



Last Quarter
July 31

A graphic of July's phases of the moon.

Latest Sustainable Westchester Podcast on Peaker Plants Now Available

Nonprofit group Sustainable Westchester has released the third episode of its podcast "Conversations in Clean Energy."

This series covers topics in the clean energy sector in Westchester County and New York State, ranging from the current clean energy landscape, to developments in policy, technology, financing, feasibility, siting and workforce development.

The latest episode that is now available, "The Elimination of Peaker Plants. A Conversation on Grid Demand Solutions," explores renewable energy and storage solutions through two interviews with three distinguished guests: state Sen. Kevin Parker (D-Brooklyn), who is chairman of the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, renewable energy industry expert James Spano and Michael Gilbert, director of Energy & Sustainability at Fairstead.

Podcast host Radina Valova is the regulatory vice president at the Interstate Energy Council as well as a staunch environmental justice advocate.

The podcast focuses on grid demand solutions as tools to eliminate polluting and costly oil and gas-fired peaker plants. These plants supply energy during the times when there is peak electricity demand. Peakers differ in age and construction, but all of them emit harmful air pollution such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides.

There are more than 45 peaker plants in the state, and about three-quarters of these plants are over 30 years old. These inefficient plants result in extremely high rates of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of generated electricity. Ten peaker plants in the state have more than a million people living within three miles and one-



One of New York State's 45-plus peaker plants that pollute the atmosphere. Sustainable Westchester's latest podcast centers on alternatives for these facilities.

third of the plants are in state-designated environmental justice communities.

Parker plays a critical role in his role as committee chairman in the policies which could shape the future of the energy grid as well as how it relates to the vibrancy and prosperity of historically disenfranchised Black, Brown and low-to-moderate income communities.

"The question is not how do we take negative aspects out of Black, Latino and poor communities, but how do we create opportunities for them?" Parker said. "Because we are not just in the process of cleaning up our environment but creating a clean energy economy, too, and we want to make sure those who have been left out of the broader economy get their fair share in the context of this clean energy economy."

Spano and Gilbert emphasize storage

as a key part of renewable energy asset utilization.

"Renewable energy solutions like solar or wind are great at cleaning up the grid in theory, but they are intermittent and not constant like traditional energy from fossil-fuel combustion," Spano said.

"Energy storage is the key to eliminating these peakers, ensuring we can use our increasing renewable energy in a reliable, constant way in New York State," he added.

Gilbert explains that while some states deliberately push back on energy storage and grid optimization, New York is trying to let ambitious policies be achieved.

"Though technology is changing faster than the regulatory regime can change, and it's always a game of catch up, an enabling policy landscape is opening doors to conversations about how utility safety and reliability can be increased through energy storage technologies," he said.

Innovative solutions regarding grid management will be critical to stay ahead in an ever-evolving energy landscape. This discussion is critical given New York State's ambitious climate goals of 70 percent renewable energy by 2030 and 100 percent zero-emission electricity by 2040, along with the directive to earmark 40 percent of the benefit to disadvantaged communities.

The episode can be heard on iTunes, Google Play, Spotify and everywhere you find podcast content or through the Sustainable Westchester website at <https://sustainablewestchester.org/podcast/>.

What it Means to Get 'Ghosted' and How to Prevent it Happening to You

Have you been "ghosted" and don't know why?

Whether you're a seasoned dater or fresh on the market, understanding ghosting can mean fewer surprises and bring romantic success.

"To ghost is to vanish from a romantic or prospective partner's life. And when girls ghost on you – or guys – it can sting. Unfortunately, as more of our lives go digital, it's increasingly common," said Chase Amante, founder of Girls Chase, one of the most popular men's dating advice sites in the world.

He specializes in helping men build confidence to bring the women they want into their lives and keep them.

Dating experts say 74 percent of people have been ghosted, and while it's tempting to blame callousness or uncaring, these are the top reasons ghosting happens:

- Mismatched expectations. If your date is less invested in the relationship, they may not know how to communicate that. For instance, if you reach out but they'd prefer to de-escalate things, they may think, "I'll come back to this later," and put it off. As more messages come in, responding gets more awkward.
- Someone new comes along. If things get serious with someone else, your date may ghost to avoid giving an explanation.
- Personality disconnect. You and your date may just not be a match. Whether it's a personality disconnect or a deal-breaker scenario (e.g. one person doesn't want kids) this can lead to ghosting.
- Something happens to them. From job loss to unforeseen health issues, it's possible you simply met at the wrong time. Life circumstances can lead many to retreat from the dating scene.

Dodging It

- Amante notes you can avoid being ghosted by following these habits:
- Make a strong impression. Someone is more likely to keep talking to you when you stand out in their mind.
- Follow texting best practices. Online guides like "How to Text a Girl" will help

you become a pro texter who can keep dates interested.

- Listen. If you're in a relationship, be a better listener. When someone feels like you're on different wavelengths, they're more likely to ghost.
- Resolve issues. Festering issues affect people unpredictably. Some may just opt to cut their losses and ghost.

Handling Ghosting

- Being ghosted can happen to anyone, despite best efforts. Chase recommends the following strategies for handling it:
- Figure out why. Were there any complaints or disconnects? Did you have a sense something was wrong?
- Address possible complaints. "Hey I know we might've crossed signals on XYZ issue. I just want try to get back on the same page."
- Change tactics. Ignoring texts can be easy. Switch things up. Send a voice message. Even pick up the phone and call. "Lots of people are scared to call, but it still works, even for Gen Z," Amante said.
- Spark curiosity. If the standard "let's hang out" isn't working, try an invitation to an art opening or hike.
- If you get your ghost out, make it count. Undo any negativity. Provide value and make it fun so that next time you text, your date is thrilled to hear from you.

"In our study we found when men manage to get in touch with their ghosts, they're more than twice as likely to get dates that lead nowhere than they are to get a new girlfriend," Amante said.

So how do you make your date pay off? Check out "One Date," which focuses on helping men deliver a date good enough to turn a girl into a girlfriend. For more information and dating advice, visit www.girlschase.com.

For better or worse, ghosting is a trend. However, there are steps you can take to avoid it, and great ways to handle it.

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Alzheimer's Association to Offer Free Virtual Programs Throughout July

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter will host the following free virtual events via Zoom in July. To register for any of these programs, call the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900.

Something for Alz: Musical Mornings: 11 a.m. to noon, Mondays, July 5 and 12. An interactive musical program for people with dementia and their loved ones with music therapist Shannon Pelcher.

Memory Café: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 8. Music for people with Alzheimer's and their loved ones featuring Carmine Grillo.

Virtual Visit with N.Y. Therapy Animals: 11 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 13. Meet new friends while interacting virtually with N.Y. Therapy Animals.

Something for Alz: Mindful Movement: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Thursdays, July 15, 22 and 29. A free virtual movement program for people with dementia and their loved ones. Participants are guided in gentle movements according to their ability as a means of self-expression. No prior experience is necessary. Led by Taryn Smith, a creative movement facilitator, dancer and expressive arts therapist.

AlzWell Social Club: 1 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays, July 17 and 24. Creative

interactive fun for people with dementia and their loved ones.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 21. Learn strategies to respond to typical dementia-related behaviors with Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County. To register, e-mail sullivan@cornell.edu or call 844-292-6180. Call the Alzheimer's Association with any questions at 800-272-3900.

Virtual Tuesday Social: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, July 27. A virtual social event for people with dementia and their loved ones.

Something for Alz: Musical Moments: 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 31. An interactive musical program for people with dementia and their loved ones with music therapist Timothy Doak.

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

The Hudson Valley Chapter serves families living with dementia in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Examiner Sports

Storm's a Brewin'!



Somers Reigns on Mahopac, 14-3, in 10U GHVBL Action

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

Somers' Evan Murolo slides safely into third base in the Red Storm's 14-3 rout of Mahopac in 10U GHVBL action on Sunday night when Somers hurler Max Haran (inset) fired a gem before giving way to Harry Dugmore in relief... see Focus on Baseball

Sports

Baseball Notebook



Putnam Valley Wild IF Jay Constantino (2-4, 2 RBI, 2R) turns two as 9er OF Tony DelCampo gets low in Wild's 10-2 win in GHVBL 13U action Saturday.



Putnam Valley Wild speedster Aaron Pierre (2-4, 2 RBI, 2 runs) slices single in Wild's 10-2 win over 9er Baseball club in Saturday's GHVBL 13U action.



Putnam Valley Wild slugger Christian Martin cracks RBI base hit in 10-2 win over 9ers Baseball Club Saturday.



9er slugger Colin Murphy takes whack in 10-2 loss to Putnam Valley Wild in GHVBL 13U action Saturday.

FOCUS ON GHVBL PV Goes Wild on 9ers, Somers Cruises Past Mahopac



Putnam Valley Wild's Andrew Waters connects in 10-2 win over 9er Baseball Club in GHVBL 13U action Saturday.



Mahopac's Cole Brandstetter hustles to third in loss to visiting Somers in a 10U game Sunday.



Mahopac's Mason Kugler makes the running catch on a pop up against the Somers Red Storm in 10U action.



Putnam Valley Wild P Dylan Morales (3 RBI) kept visiting 9er hitters off stride for 3 scoreless innings in 10-2 GHVBL win Saturday at Union Field.



9er C Mike Aquilino tries to turn DP in 10-2 loss to Carson Male's 13U Putnam Valley Wild Saturday.



Giovanni DiFilippo of the Somers Red Storm runs to third in a 14-3 win over Mahopac in 10U action.

Calling all Local Shutterbugs: Please Keep Us in Mind



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

The 2020-21 school years were unlike anything we've ever witnessed thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic: Disheartening on so many levels. But our student athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and everybody associated with prep sports deserves a tip of the cap, a nod of approval and pat on the back for a job well done. It wasn't easy on anybody remotely involved, including behind-the-scenes folks like the administrative assistants, T.A.'s, school monitors, etc. The oft-unbearable mandates -- wearing masks in 90-degree heat and distancing from people we love to hug -- made it tough at times, but we trudged through and found the finish line while folks across the globe meandered through a series

of inconceivable trials and tribulations.

As spring turned to summer last week and the restrictions have eased, we'd like to give one last shout out to everybody associated with the local sports scene; for giving our kids some sense of normalcy, for providing the outlet our student athletes desperately needed.

As we move into the summer phase of local sports coverage, we'll be dipping into everything from the Hudson Valley Renegades (NY Yankees High-A affiliate) to the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League and all points in between, including YOUR submissions. We can't do this alone, because we can't be everywhere, but we can work together to acknowledge the summer exploits of all from ages 8-to-18 and then some.

Send us your schedules. Tag us -- @examinermedia, @rjd_photos and @

Direct Rays

Directrays -- in your Twitter and Instagram photos. Coaches, please email us at raygallaghersports@gmail.com and robertdiantonio@yahoo.com with weekly recaps and highlights by 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Send us your team celebration shots with

tournament trophies in tow. No team or individual accomplishment is too small to recognize.

Summer is the time to acknowledge the little guy/gal. Little Leaguers and travel ballers will become the primary focus over the next six weeks as we await a somewhat normal fall varsity football/soccer campaign, so we're hoping you shutterbugs out there can keep us in mind and send us your detailed contributions. Thanks in advance and have a great summer, gang!

P.S. On a personal level, I would love to see 2018 Fox Lane grad Henry Davis,

the extraordinary Louisville catcher, slip to No.10 in the upcoming MLB draft where my beloved NY Mets would have a chance to nab the former Section 1 standout, but, in a draft where shortstops and pitchers are in high demand, I highly doubt Davis lasts beyond the No.5 pick. We all knew "H" was going to be a big-time, can't-miss prospect when he went next level, but top 5, possibly No.1??? #HolyMoly #PayDay.

P.S.S. Best of luck to soon-to-be-appointed Putnam Valley Athletic Director David Kantowitz, who hails from Monroe-Woodbury area and has cut his teeth in the NYC PSAL. He's totally new to the Section 1 terrain, so my P.V. brethren will need to give the 31-year-old D.K. some time to see if he can flex #PatienceIsAVirtue.

P.S.S.S. Horace Greeley hit the nail on the head with the hire of A.D. Geoff Curtis, the former John Jay CR baseball coach and teacher. Curtis, flat-out, is a terrific call, and he will thrive as the leader of the Quakers (if YOU let him!).

photos continued from previous page



Somers' Nicholas Whipple cruises into second base after his second bases-clearing double on his way to six RBI in 14-3 win over Mahopac.



Somers' Harry Dugmore sends it to the outfield in the Red Storm's 10U win at Mahopac.

11U Yorktown Spartans Off to Sizzling Start



The Yorktown Spartans 11U team recently won the Baseball Heaven "Tommy Lasorda Summer Showdown" tournament (June 11-13) going 4-0 and beating Heat Baseball, 12-7, in the championship game. The Spartans followed that up with the Diamond Nation "Father's Day Classic" tournament title with a 5-0 record, beating the Diamond Jacks Super, 6-2, to capture the championship.

Spartan players include bottom row (left to right): CJ Velardo, Nico Masillo, Jayden Nunez, Christian Maratos, Frankie Ofrias, Jaden Renzo.

Top Row (left to right): Ryan Stevenson, Louis Peduto, Alex DiLorenzo, Jake Sgobbo, Christopher Lanza, Brayden Guss.



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