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July 13 - July 19, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 517

## Essay Contest Winners Meet with Jones, Express Concerns on Key Issues

By Martin Wilbur

Interest in current issues, politics and writing are among the passions shared by the trio of teens who won this year's inaugural White Plains Democratic Committee's essay contest.

Emiliano Juarez, who will be entering his sophomore year at White Plains High School in September, won first place and the \$500 grand prize in the competition that asked entrants in 1,000 words or less to write their own inauguration address.

The second- and third-place finishers were Gabriel Korin, who will be a junior at White Plains High school, and Ian Rutledge, a senior at Archbishop Stepinac High School, who received \$250 and \$100 prizes, respectively.

The top three finishers all met Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-White Plains) and talked about their work and the issues that they care about during a luncheon Saturday at Via Garibaldi restaurant.

Juarez said had been looking forward to meeting Jones since learning he had won the contest in late May.

"I've always been involved in politics and I love to talk about it with my friends and family and I just thought it would be a really great experience for me to be able to meet somebody of such importance in White Plains because he represents us and it's an amazing opportunity that I actually got

to meet him," said Juarez, who is thinking about becoming a doctor.

Using recent presidential inauguration speeches as his guide, Juarez wrote his essay questioning what the United States' values are at this point in history.

Korin, who said he developed a love for writing during last summer when largely stuck at home during the pandemic, learned of the contest from his parents. He wrote a speech about the state of the nation's current politics and some of the steps that should be addressed, particularly educating citizens about the power that ordinary people have to make change.

Initially, he didn't think that his work was what the judges were looking for.

"When I heard that I was one of the winners, it really put a smile to my face because it kind of reminded me my writing does have some value out there, and that was a big confidence booster," he said.

Korin said he finds it intriguing how many representatives in government can be people that are simultaneously admired and ordinary.

"I think what interests me about (politics) specifically is sort of the interaction between representatives and common person because I think that it's very multi-layered in how we perceive, I guess, representatives because in some cases we see them just like another

*continued on page 2*



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Mondaire Jones with the three White Plains essay contest winners, their parents and members of the White Plains Democratic Committee. In the front row with Jones, from left, are first-place finisher Emiliano Juarez, third-place finisher Ian Rutledge and runner-up Gabriel Korin.

## Waste Hauler Charged with Covering Up Spending on Strip Clubs

By Rick Pezzullo

The manager of a company that provides solid waste removal and recyclables processing for Westchester County and the company itself were charged last week with falsely filing financial records to conceal payments to strip clubs.

According to Westchester District Attorney Miriam Rocah, City Carting of Westchester receives more than \$20 million annually under its contract with the county. The charged false filings were made in

2018 and 2019 and were meant to conceal payments to strip clubs. The total amount of the false filings charged were \$135,000, including one instance in which \$40,000 was spent in a single visit to one such establishment.

Christopher Oxer, 35, of Darien, Connecticut, the manager of City Carting of Westchester, and the company itself are charged with six counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony. Oxer allegedly paid for services at the strip clubs with a City Carting of Westchester

credit card, but the expenditures were entered into the company's accounting records as legitimate business expenses for items such as tires, maintenance, and tolls.

"The Westchester District Attorney's Office has zero tolerance for public corruption and misuse of public tax dollars by government employees or contractors," Rocah said. "The actions of Christopher Oxer and City Carting of Westchester represent a brazen attempt to rip off county residents by including expenditures for items that clearly are not covered under their contract."

Under a contract with the county that has been in place since 2004, City Carting of Westchester operates transfer stations; operates and maintains a materials recovery facility for recyclables and hauls recyclables to that facility from certain locations in the county; and provides landfill capacity and other services relating to solid waste removal.

City Carting of Westchester and Oxer were arraigned before Judge John Collins, Jr. in White Plains City Court. An investigation is ongoing.

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## Thruway Authority Begins \$20M Project on I-95 in Westchester

The New York State Thruway Authority began a \$19.9 million infrastructure improvement project last week on the New England Thruway (I-95) in Westchester County which will increase the vertical clearance of three bridges and resurface a portion of I-95.

"This is an important infrastructure investment project on I-95 to bring lower clearance bridges to modern standards and continue to provide a safe and reliable roadway to motorists," Thruway Authority Executive Director Matthew J. Driscoll said. "We've provided extensive outreach with community leaders and municipalities to prepare for this construction, and we thank them for their support as we move forward with this project."

The Old White Plains Road bridge (milepost 9.5), the West Street bridge (milepost 10.5) and the Boston Post Road bridge (milepost 13.7) will be closed to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic for the duration of the work. The bridges are being raised to a 14'6" vertical clearance that meets current standards. The current height is 14'3".

Detours will be in place at each location and will be posted on signage. The bridges are scheduled to reopen in the fall.

Additional work includes pavement resurfacing and other safety improvements on I-95 at milepost 8.8 (just before exit 18A) to milepost 10.8 northbound (just after exit 18B) and on I-95 from milepost 13.0 (just after exit 19) to milepost 14.1 (just before exit 22) northbound and southbound.

Yonkers Contracting Co., Inc is the contractor for the project. Work is expected to be complete on the entire project in fall 2022.

Motorists may encounter lane closures on the Thruway along with traffic shifts and stoppages while construction is underway.

Motorists are urged to be alert and follow the posted work zone speed limits. Motorists are reminded that fines are doubled for speeding in a work zone. In accordance with the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005, convictions of two or more speeding violations in a work zone could result in the suspension of an individual's driver license.

## County Probation Dept. Chosen to Participate in Police Equity Academy

The Westchester County Department of Probation has been selected as the lead agency in the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Police Equity Academy. The County's Probation Department is one of the first departments in New York State to be selected for the Academy, which will provide targeted training, strategies and action plans to improve outcomes and reduce disparity for youth involved in the justice system.

Through a partnership between DCJS, the Center for Children's Law and Policy and the Youth Justice Institute at the University of Albany, staff at Westchester County's Probation Department will receive funding to help implement programs that will ensure fairness for Westchester's young people in the criminal justice system.

"I applaud the proactive measures our Department of Probation has taken to become one of the first County's state-wide to participate in the Police Equity Academy," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "Through their leadership and willingness to engage in this important work, we will be able to effect change and ensure a better outcome for youth to succeed later in life."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Probation Rocco Pozzi added, "It's an honor for the Department to have been chosen to lead this important initiative. It has always been the Department's goal to divert as many juveniles from formal involvement in the justice system. This initiative will go a long way in helping us to achieve this objective. Together with our partners, we hope to make a significant difference in the lives of the youth that we will serve."

The Police Equity Academy will run for 12-18 months, and each county's team will be composed of eight to 10 members, including service providers, youth and/or family members who have had encounters with the justice system, community and civic organizations, law enforcement, the defense community and the courts. The curriculum includes targeted training, where Probation Department staff will learn about implicit bias, the origins of disparities and the reasons inequities persist. The goal is to develop and implement policy, practices and programs to reduce the number of underprivileged youth whose cases wind up in Family Court.

## Essay Contest Winners Meet with Jones, Express Concern on Key Issues

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person but at other times they can be like a leader that we look up to," Korin said.

Rutledge said he entered the competition since he is part of the law academy at Stepinac. He said he felt it was his responsibility to take a shot at it once he found out about it.

"It comprised mainly of issues that plague society such as climate change to education and it proposed solutions and a call to action of civilians all across the nation as to how they can get involved and respond to these conflicts," Rutledge said of his work.

Jones said before the lunch that he was interested in what the students had to say and what was on their minds.

"It reminds me when I was in high school and it was clear then, based on the people who were involved in the local community,

who would go on and try to give back, and that's why I'm so excited to meet these young students today," Jones said.

Tim James, chair of the White Plains Democratic Committee, which oversaw the contest, said there were 29 entrants. "That's a pretty good start for a new contest during a pandemic when not all students were attending school in person," he said.

The competition was open to any high school student who either lived in or went to school in White Plains. There were eight judges---seven White Plains Democratic district leaders as well as a member of Jones' congressional staff.

"We were very happy with it and we definitely plan to continue it, and all the more so hearing from the winners today and how they felt about it," James said.

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# Health Officials Keeping Watch on Uptick in COVID-19 Infections

By Martin Wilbur

There's the inclination to try and put COVID-19 in the rearview mirror, but the coronavirus clearly is not yet ready to go.

An uptick in infections during the past two weeks both locally and statewide have officials keeping a wary eye on whether the recent mini-wave is a result of unvaccinated people getting infected along with the emergence of the Delta variant or some other factor.

County Executive George Latimer said Monday that there has been no confirmation that the Delta variant, which medical experts say is more transmissible, is in Westchester but county and state health officials are keeping close watch.

"We've seen the increase in the amount of infections and it would lead me to think that there would be some exposure, but we haven't had it confirmed by any of the folks in the medical science (field)," Latimer said.

He said his office would try and find out if there is more information related to the potential emergence of the variant locally and whether those who have been infected most recently have been unvaccinated.

Nationwide, 99.2 percent of the COVID-19 deaths in June were unvaccinated people, the Centers for Disease Control reported.

As of Monday, according to the Westchester County COVID-19 dashboard, active cases had increased to 295, up from 185 two weeks ago. The greatest number of active cases are generally in Westchester's highest population centers, led by 65 in Yonkers, 33 in New Rochelle, 21 in Mount Vernon, 15 in White Plains and 14 each in Greenburgh and Rye City. The only other municipality in double digits in active cases was Eastchester with 11, according to the dashboard.

Despite the case increase – on Sunday, Westchester had 33 positives from 2,925 tests – there are just 14 COVID-19-related hospitalizations, up from 11 two weeks ago after a brief uptick to 19, Latimer stated. During the three-day span from Friday through Sunday, there have been 101 new cases in the county, as fresh infections have seemed to settle in the low 30s on a daily basis during the most recent stretch.

Putnam County had only two infections from 253 tests on Sunday.

Additional good news is that during the past two weeks there have been no fatalities linked to the virus in Westchester. The death toll remains at 2,293.

Over the weekend, the statewide positivity rate reached 1 and 1.1 percent, the first time since May 23 and 24, infections have been as high as 1 percent.

The recent rise has also correlated to a recent sharp slowdown in vaccinations, Latimer said. On Monday, there were just 168 appointments made for the first dose of the vaccination at the County Center in White Plains, a facility that was administering about 2,200 shots a day earlier this year. Appointments are no longer needed to receive the vaccine.

Latimer said there has been no indication that the County Center will be shut as a vaccination site, with appointments booked through Wednesday. That would mean the facility would stay open at least a few more weeks for people returning for their second

dose, he said.

Between the County Center, the clinics at Westchester Community College and the Health Department and the Yonkers armory, Westchester has administered nearly 444,000 since mid-January. That number does not include pharmacies and pop-up sites.

"It appears that everyone who wants a vaccination has received it," said Latimer. "So now we're dealing with that portion of society that is vaccine hesitant or vaccine resistant."

## Mental Health Diversion Program

Latimer also announced Monday that the county is implementing a program to

divert emergency 911 calls for those with serious mental health needs from police to behavioral health services.

The program, called 911 Diversion, seeks to identify those with mental health issues as well as those who are in crisis but who pose no threat to others to receive appropriate services rather than have law enforcement respond.

The initiative came out of one of the 52 recommendations that were made by the county's Police Reform Task Force and submitted to the state.

"The county is embarking on this as a first step in order to try and make sure that we can identify and divert callers who have serious

needs as well as those in crisis who pose no danger to others," Latimer said.

When 911 calls have been received, there has been a response from police, fire or EMS services. Once the training is complete, a fourth category will be behavioral health services.

Latimer said it has been determined by the county that there would need to be eight crisis intervention teams to properly cover Westchester. He anticipates that the first three teams will be trained and in action by October.

The training is being provided through the federal Substance and Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



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# Mixed Feelings as Municipalities Return to In-Person Meetings

By Samuel Rowland

With the expiration of the COVID-19 state of emergency on June 24, local municipal officials have had to relinquish one aspect of a pandemic reality that for some is easier to give up than others.

The emergency order provided for a temporary suspension of certain provisions of the state's Open Meetings Law, officially known as Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, allowing elected officials to not only hold meetings, but also to vote, via videoconference.

Article 7 provides a set of rules for public meetings to promote transparency and public access. While the law currently allows officials to vote while attending remotely, some officials are frustrated with one aspect of it – an elected official must list the address from where he or she is participating remotely in order to prevent them from purposefully denying access to constituents.

Legal opinions, including from the Committee on Open Government, a state committee that advises on government transparency and access issues, and various municipal and state organizations, agree that lawsuits can be filed against government entities that would nullify resolutions approved at those meetings if they fail to follow the law.

"The NYS law should be amended to allow Board members to continue to participate in meetings via Zoom without opening up

their homes to the public to observe their vote," Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner wrote in an e-mail to other Westchester municipal officials. "Even without COVID, normal people don't open their houses to strangers."

The Committee on Open Government's 11 members meet three or four times a year to craft reports advising the state legislature on privacy and transparency matters. According to Shoshana Bewlay, the committee's executive director, in its last report released in December 2020, there was support for potentially removing the in-person access requirement. However, the committee has yet to discuss the subject in a meaningful fashion.

"I think that there is an appetite for further study," Bewlay said. "(But) I think the devil is in the details."

During the last legislative session, five bills were introduced in the state Senate and the Assembly to address the issue, but none of them reached Gov. Andrew Cuomo's desk before the session concluded on June 10.

Opinions among municipal government officials contacted by Examiner Media, however, failed to reach a consensus.

"I have been in the building where our meeting room is, since Day One, running the Zoom meetings," said North Salem Supervisor Warren Lucas. "It would be nice if we had the ability to do Zoom meetings, but I am not losing sleep over it."

Other officials though, see the return



Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner is one of the elected officials who wants to see a change in law allowing for board members to meet remotely without having to give out their home address or allow residents to view the meeting from where the remote participant is stationed.

to primarily in-person meetings as an unnecessary financial burden and even a step backward for public access to government.

Village of Ossining Mayor Rika Levin noted that just having to record and livestream the voting members together in one room required the village to hire a

videographer by the hour and pay for the equipment, neither of which are necessary to record and livestream Zoom meetings.

Other municipalities, such as Pound Ridge and Bedford, are paying for equipment upgrades at Town Hall to be able to allow for hybrid meetings with remote participation from constituents and guests.

"Zoom saved residents money because their consultants, architects and lawyers didn't have to spend the time traveling to Pound Ridge to present their materials to our planning, zoning and water control boards," Supervisor Kevin Hansen said.

Levin also noted that the expectations of Zoom meetings made attending meetings more accessible to busy constituents such as single parents and people with long work days or multiple jobs. Those residents did not have to spend travel time getting to and from municipal buildings, and they could enter and leave meetings at any time.

With the state legislature's next regularly scheduled session not due to start until Jan. 6, 2022, it seems that regardless of what officials think about the current Open Meetings rules, they will most likely stay in place for the rest of this year.

Until then, Rebecca Ruscito, a staff attorney at the New York Conference of Mayors, has this advice for officials concerned about the issue.

"I recommend that they participate from a library," Ruscito said.

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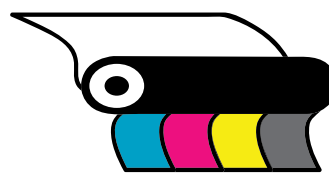
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# W'chester Presses on With \$3.3M Restoration of Tarrytown Lighthouse

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County officials announced last week the planned investment of more than \$3.3 million to preserve a historic landmark that is synonymous with a portion of the Hudson River shoreline.

The county-owned Tarrytown Lighthouse, part of the Kingsland Point Park shoreline, will be rehabilitated with a series of infrastructure improvements that will stabilize and restore the 128-year-old structure.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979, the lighthouse is operated by the Village of Sleepy Hollow through an intermunicipal agreement with the county. It is the only lighthouse built within Westchester County and was built to help ships navigate the Hudson River. It was constructed about a half-mile offshore.

County Executive George Latimer said the facility has been neglected for many years and will now be restored through capital funding made available by the Board of Legislators.

"We understand the value of this lighthouse just as we understand the value of the other parks and our physical infrastructure as we as understand the value of our human infrastructure, and the commitment that is made by this, is made through the Village of Sleepy Hollow, but it's made to the people of Westchester County,

that this is open for people anywhere in this county to come and enjoy and see," Latimer said.

Once the restoration is complete, the plan is to reopen the lighthouse to the public, said Peter Tartaglia, first deputy commissioner of the county's Parks Department.

He said the work first needed to be done well over a decade ago. When it does reopen, it will be as special as any of Westchester's roughly 50 parks that it operates.

"There is a belief to restore and protect what we have," Tartaglia said. "That's our mission in the department and that's what the county overall, every division, every department, every layer of government has worked to this end, and this is going to be another unbelievable example."

Work that will be part of the project includes stabilizing the structure to prevent further deterioration; repairing and painting the exterior of the lighthouse; replacement of windows and doors; repairs to the cellar and caisson area; cleaning and repointing of the foundation masonry; restoration of the interior plaster and to the wood floors; restoration of the intermediate landing between the bridge and the gangway; a new security gate on the side closest to land; and new lighting.

Board of Legislators Majority Leader MaryJane Shimsky (D-Dobbs Ferry) recalled taking her son to visit the



County Executive George Latimer, surrounded by local and county officials, announced last Wednesday the planned restoration of the Tarrytown Lighthouse.

lighthouse when he was a child. By providing a facelift, families will be able to do the same generations into the future, she said.

"This lighthouse is one of the small, hidden historical jewels of Westchester County," Shimsky said. "As we press more and more Westchester County as a tourist destination and as a place to learn more about America's history, this lighthouse

plays a very important role."

Latimer compared the project to the restoration of another valuable historical asset, the Miller House in North White Plains, and other projects around the county. He has also touted his administration's commitment to repairing infrastructure around the county, including the county pools, roads and bridges.

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# Home Care Agency Helps Seniors Live Full Lives in Familiar Surroundings

By Martin Wilbur

No matter their age, most people look forward to summer. Warmer weather, the additional hours of daylight, outdoor activities or the possibility of traveling, it's no wonder why young children aren't the only ones who enjoy this season.

However, for seniors, summer can be fraught with risks, and not just the possibility of being adversely impacted by high heat and humidity, said Glenn Lane, founder and president of Westchester Family Care, a Mamaroneck-based licensed home care agency that provides at-home care and companionship for the elderly and disabled.

The understandable desire for older people to want to get out and enjoy themselves, particularly after lives were put on hold for over a year for the pandemic, could expose them to risks.

"Especially on this side of COVID, people want to get out, they want to enjoy the good weather," Lane said. "Being able to understand what they can do, having someone with them that has this awareness, it's great to be able to get out and enjoy, but to be realistic about the issues of hydration and things like that."

Westchester Family Care, launched by Lane about five years ago and serving most of the county and parts of the Bronx, provides the services that enable seniors to remain independent and live fuller lives with the help of a team of about 150 New



York State certified home health aides or caregivers. Services could include simple companionship during the day, helping the person with errands and chores or assisting with other daily living needs.

The company also provides services for those with more complex medical issues, including live-in caregivers if that's what a client requires, Lane said. About 25 percent of Westchester Family Care's clients have some form of cognitive impairment while roughly another quarter of the clientele experience mobility limitations.

Lane said seniors with mobility issues can be at greater risk because they may be fully capable cognitively but sometimes

don't want to let on that they need to use a cane or a walker.

The services provided by Westchester Family Care allows seniors to stay in their own residences longer rather than forcing an upheaval to a facility, which can be met with resistance.

"We can provide them care to a level that would be comparable with assisted living, and in some cases, they prefer the companionship of our caregivers," Lane said. "The ability of our caregivers being able to keep them out in the community with their social activities in their current situation is better than starting up a new social circle."

Lane, who had previously worked in the financial services industry, started Westchester Family Care in January 2016. Several years earlier, his mother and his mother-in-law and her sister suffered from Alzheimer's, and the lack of reliable home care options was a motivating factor in him launching the business.

In most cases, clients need to guarantee 40 hours of service a week, Lane said. The caregivers are matched with a senior and provide whatever services are needed, whether that be transporting them to doctor's appointments, shopping or social activities, or preparing meals for them at home.

"The companionship element to our seniors is very important," he explained. "So the caregivers are all trained to provide what is called the activities of daily living."

There are also certain situations where families hire a caregiver despite their loved one being in an assisted living facility or even long-term care to provide that companionship, which can sometimes be lacking.

Most of Westchester Family Care's clients pay directly, but for those eligible, the firm can also coordinate a combination of private payment with Medicare and/or hospice. It also accepts payments from long-term insurance.

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# Mt. Pleasant School Business Administrator to Join Chappaqua

The Chappaqua School District announced last week that it has hired Mount Pleasant School District Director of Business Administration Andrew Lennon to fill the vacant post of assistant superintendent of business.

Lennon will begin his tenure in Chappaqua on Aug. 9. He replaces John Chow who held the assistant superintendent of business post for more than a decade before retiring and then resurfacing to lead the Pleasantville School District's business office.

Following a thorough interview process, Lennon displayed extensive knowledge of financial management and planning, accounting and budget development, according to a Chappaqua School District release. He also has experience in contract negotiations, audits, facilities planning, capital projects, food service management and transportation.

Lennon, who received the New School Business Official Leader of the Year Award in 2016, served as district treasurer and later assistant business administrator in the Ossining School District prior to this service in Mount Pleasant.

Before working in the public sector for school districts, Lennon served IBM as a client relations manager and senior financial analyst. He also completed an international assignment in Tokyo where he provided expertise and training to the IBM Japan finance and executive management teams to support their



Andrew Lennon is leaving the Mount Pleasant School District this summer to move over to Chappaqua and fill that district's assistant superintendent of business position.

significant reorganization.

Lennon isn't the only new Chappaqua's administrator this summer. Last week, the Board of Education appointed Jessica Rappaport as the new assistant principal at Seven Bridges Middle School, effective

this Thursday, July 15.

A broadcast journalism producer for CNN International, Rappaport turned to a career in education in 2006, teaching English at the IN-Tech Academy in the Bronx, where she designed and implemented 90-minute literacy blocks to aid struggling readers and writers, introduced and taught the school's first-ever AP English Literature course and instituted a data-driven instructional model for the eighth-grade team.

In 2010, she began teaching 11th- and 12th-grade English in the White Plains School District before becoming a house

administrator in 2016, responsible for the discipline, attendance and student support service coordination for one-quarter of the building as well as helping to run the day-to-day operations of the school.

Earlier this month, David Leis also joined Chappaqua as the associate director of instructional technology and communications. The post is a newly-created position that is designed to help the district implement state-of-the-art technology, practices and systems within Chappaqua's schools and classrooms.

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## Police Blotter

### Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

**June 29:** Patrol responded to a commercial establishment on South Riverside Avenue at 7:41 a.m. regarding a larceny of cooking oil. Report to be filed.

**June 29:** Patrol received a report from a village resident at 2 p.m. who reported she was scammed out of more than \$5,000 for an apartment attempted to be rented via craigslist. The unknown party said he owns the house and would lease it to the prospective renter. The victim never met the seller; the communication was via e-mail and text only. The victim, who wired money to the unknown party and was to receive a lease and keys, never saw the apartment in person, just pictures. A report will be filed.

**June 29:** Patrol was notified at 3:25 p.m. by a village resident after receiving harassing text messages from an unknown person who said that they were an assassin and paid a large sum of money to kidnap or bring them down. A report to be filed.

**July 1:** Patrol was notified by a village resident at 6:03 p.m. who reported that the doorbell rang, and they opened the front door to find a male lying on her lawn. The male got up, then started laughing and ran off. There was a female who had been standing on the sidewalk that ran off with the male. The caller wanted the incident documented.

**July 4:** A village resident reported at 8:43 p.m. that while riding a bicycle on Cleveland Drive in the vicinity of Thompson Avenue, a group of youths in a silver Volvo SUV shot a water gun. The youths laughed and drove away. The caller was uninjured in the incident but wanted it on record.

**July 4:** Patrol responded to an area on Half Moon Bay Drive for a report of a group of youths that were loud near the beach at 11:15 p.m. Patrols disbursed the group and issued a warning.

### North Castle Police Department

**July 2:** Chief Simonsen reported speaking to the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding bear #211 at 9:45 a.m. The DEC will forward information about the agency's bear biologist.

**July 2:** A caller reported at 2:15 p.m. that a recently evicted tenant has caused property damage at a North Broadway residence. The responding officer stated that photos were taken; a report to follow.

**July 3:** An employee at a Thornewood Road place of business reported at 4:28 p.m. a larceny of a gas card from a work vehicle that occurred sometime in the past. The caller was advised to deactivate the card as soon as possible. The complainant reported that the card has already been deactivated. Depositions were secured.

**July 4:** A caller reported that her card is stuck in the ATM at Chase Bank on Main Street at 11:33 a.m. She attempted to reach someone at the customer service number listed on the machine but was unable to, and she is concerned about the card being stolen. She was advised that the department was unable to do anything on the scene but officers were able to reach Chase Security and that number was provided to the caller.

### Yorktown Police Department

**June 30:** Robert Williams, 40, of Yorktown, was arrested at 6 p.m. and charged with falsely reporting an incident and criminal possession of a controlled substance after police responded to a reported overdose. Police determined there was no overdose or any type of medical emergency.

**July 3:** Alex Sciglio, 25, of Lake Peekskill, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance at 11:08 p.m. after an officer on patrol observed a vehicle occupied and parked on the wrong side of Old Baldwin Road. After an investigation, it is alleged Sciglio was in possession of seven glassine envelopes containing heroin.

**July 5:** Daniel Sears, 38, of Yorktown, was charged with criminal contempt at 9:41 p.m. after violating an order of protection. He's alleged to have forcibly opened a lock door and gained access to a victim's bedroom.

**July 8:** An unidentified 17-year-old male was issued a criminal summons at 11:45 a.m. for allegedly pushing a victim using his forearm and shoulder at the Fox Meadow BOCES/Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES campus.

### White Plains

**July 5:** Marco Torres, 42, was charged with third-degree assault stemming from an incident at 106 Ferris Ave.

**July 8:** John Chin, 59, was charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief relating to an incident at 75 S. Broadway.

## Obituaries

### Charles Hines

Charles E. Hines, a former Ossining and Croton-on-Hudson resident, transitioned from this life on June 9. He was 91.

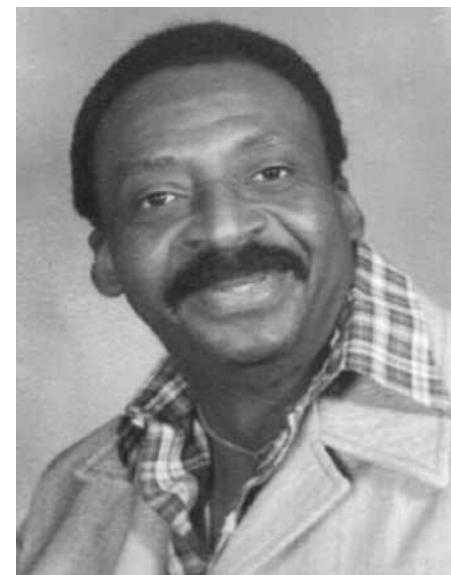
Hines was born in Wilson, N.C. on Aug. 18, 1929, to Wesley and Lucy Hines.

A beloved educator in the Ossining School District for 32 years, Hines taught at Park Elementary School and Anne M. Dorner Middle School. He was the director of the Double Arch Day Camp for several summers.

Hines earned his undergraduate degree from West Virginia State University and was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for over 70 years.

After retiring from the Ossining School District, he volunteered and tutored youths at schools in Peekskill. Later he relocated to Delaware where he volunteered at the East Side Charter School for several years. Hines was a skilled and avid tennis player and golfer. He was also an active member of the Monday Club and ushered at St. Andrew and Matthew Church in Wilmington, Del.

Hines was predeceased by his parents, Wesley and Lucy Hines; brother Herman Hines; former wife, Anna J. Hines; and his grandson, Lloyd Finch. He leaves to



Charles Hines

cherish fond memories of his wife, Sandra Hines; daughter Lori Hines-Jones and her husband, Jesse; a son, Kenneth Hines and his wife, Anja; Sandra's daughters, Carolyn Kelly Bowman and Jill McClenney and her husband, Geoffrey; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and other family members and many friends.

### Carol Butler

Carol Ann Butler was born in Yonkers on Dec. 16, 1937, the daughter of Albert and Emilie (Erm) Porach. She passed away at her home in Valley Cottage on July 4.

Carol attended Sacred Heart Elementary and graduated from Gorton High School where she met her husband of 60 years, Kenneth B. Butler. She worked for both the railroad and Beecher Funeral Home, in between raising her five children.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, of Valley Cottage; her two daughters, Carol Anne Alvarez of Nanuet and Mary Klass and her husband, Louis, of Pearl River; her two sons, James and Michael and his wife, Victoria, of Mount Kisco; her two sisters, Emily Eppler of Yorktown Heights and Florence Van Tassell of Cos Cob, Conn.; and her four loving grandchildren, Nicholas, Matthew, Christopher and William. She is

also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her son, Kenneth; her sisters, Mary Mengel and Ruth Ellison; and brother Vincent Porach.

Carol's love of music and strong faith led her to join St. Paul's choir where she sang for over 40 years. What she enjoyed most was spending time with her family, dear friends and especially her grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was on July 8 at St. Paul's Church in Congers. She rested at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville, where the family received friends on July 7. Interment was at Gethsemane Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Paul's Church Food Cupboard, Memorial Sloan Kettering or Helen Hayes Hospital in her memory would be appreciated.

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# Mt. Kisco Masons Open Time Capsule to Commemorate 150 Years

By Martin Wilbur

The Mount Kisco Masonic Lodge took a step back into history last Friday.

Lodge brothers opened a time capsule that had been placed behind the cornerstone of the 1931 building on Carpenter Avenue, which has served as the local chapter's headquarters, or temple, and meeting space.

"The reason why we're opening it, quite frankly, is it's our 150th anniversary and we feel it's close enough and we're excited to see the contents and see a little bit of history," said Gordon Moccio, commander of the Mount Kisco lodge prior to a ceremony and dinner in commemoration of the milestone.

When the capsule was opened after dinner, there was a copy of the New York Herald Tribune, the Mount Kisco Recorder and a Bedford newspaper, one coin of each denomination from 1921 and commemorative stamps, including one with an image of Teddy Roosevelt. There was also a 1916 copy of the book, "The History of Kisco Lodge 1871-1916," written by James Chapman, who was a brother at the lodge more than 100 years ago.

There were a few unidentifiable coins, which the Masons will look to investigate by coordinating an effort with the Mount Kisco Historical Society.

William Sardone, the grand master of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, said most of the lodges in New York are in the 100-year range, with the oldest dating back 288 years, back before the American Revolution. There are about 35,000 members.



Brothers at Kisco 708 Masonic Lodge, which received its charter on June 9, 1871, and was instituted on July 12 of that year, knew that in its 150th anniversary year it was scheduled to open up the time capsule that had been hidden from view for 90 years, he said.

"One of the things Masonry is steeped in is history and we know, we have minutes that go back to all of these lodges over the years and every year is another anniversary of some kind," Sardone said.

"As you can tell, we have a tremendous amount of legers that go back, so they were planning on this probably in year 120, 130, 140, 150," he added. "This was not something that



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Above: The ceremony outside the Mount Kisco Masonic Lodge last Friday.

Left: The time capsule at the Kisco 708 Masonic Lodge that was opened on the 90th anniversary year of the building and on the lodge's 150th anniversary.

jumped on us all of a sudden. We were ready for this."

Lodge Treasurer William Serratore said the building, constructed during the depths of the Great Depression, cost \$50,000, which is the equivalent of roughly \$900,000 today. The village's population was about 2,000, but the lodge had more than 600 members.

Henry Clay Wallace, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's vice presidents, was a member of the lodge and Alexander Hamilton's great-grandson paid the local Masons a visit in 1893.

"We have been a part of this community, we love being a part of this community and we will continue to be a part of this community,"

Serratore said.

The lodge's original home in 1871 was on the top floor of a farmhouse somewhere in the village, Moccio said. Before the current building was erected, its second home was the upper floor of the Main Street building that houses Bicycle World on the ground level, he said.

Although participation in more recent times has been diminishing, there has been a membership upswing recently in New York, Sardone said. That is also true in Westchester where the Masons in 2019 successfully bid for the College of New Rochelle campus, which is proposed to be the site of senior housing and educational efforts, he said.

In upstate Utica, the Masons operate a location where they take care of area residents' health at its Mason Community Care of New York facility.

Then there are always the charitable events undertaken by local lodges that help communities in need.

"We do a lot of charity, and you know what, we can have fun, too," Sardone said. "We can have fun also."

Moccio said the 90-year-old building is showing its age and the Masons are going to have to raise funds to prevent decay, water infiltration and other problems. Despite the hurdles, Moccio said they will get the work done.

"We really owe it to the brothers who came before us," he said.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Most Putnam County Legislators Afraid to Stand Up to One of Their Own

There must be change on the Putnam County Legislature. I attended the July 6 full legislative meeting in order to speak about the importance of having a bipartisan, independent Charter Commission to review the charter. The current makeup of the commission consists only of county government employees and members of the legislature. It is inappropriate that the commission predominantly consists of the same people who will vote on it. That is what I had planned to say, but plans change.

I sat and watched Legislator Neal Sullivan be rude and condescend not only to his usual target, Legislator Nancy Montgomery, but also Legislator Sayegh, Chairwoman Addonizio, District Attorney Tendy and Sheriff Langley. This is the same legislator who recently called the esteemed Captain Tompkins of the Sheriff's Department a mere "underling."

At the meeting, Sullivan called our highest-ranking law enforcement officer "silly," "ignorant," "incapable of understanding" and clueless. During public comment, I confronted Legislator Sullivan, telling him to his face that he was condescending and inappropriate. His response was again to act condescendingly toward me. After public comment ended, Legislator Sullivan again invoked my name stating that he did not know why I had to say anything to him when he did not say anything about me.

And therein lies the difference between most of the legislators and myself; I speak up when I see a bully. Yet with all of his bullying and condescension, nobody save Legislator Montgomery, spoke out against him.

The problem with this legislature is not that it is filled with nine bad people; it's filled with a couple of bad people and many who will not stand up to them. I do thank the two

Republican legislators who spoke with me privately expressing their agreement with me.

When I am elected, I will always speak up and speak out against any wrongs that I see. I will make the workers of this county feel comfortable that if they witness a legislator committing a crime they can report it, write a ticket or make an arrest without fear of retribution. There must be change on the county legislature.

**Scott Reing Mahopac**

*Scott Reing is the Democratic candidate running for the District 7 seat on the Putnam County Legislature.*

## White Plains Deserves Something Special Instead of a Concrete Desert

There is a blight in our wonderful city. Sears is gone. Macy's is gone. Those spectacular July 4th fireworks shows and the New Year's Eve ball drop – they've gone too. What's left is a massive, concrete desert.

So here's an idea. Why not create a vibrant green space in the area that is now the sad, customer-less Galleria mall. Let's bring the community together by building a unique park that can become a destination here in the center of Westchester.

How about a beautiful carousel, an ice-skating rink in winter, a playground, a dog park, a community garden, benches and

trees? During the Christmas season there could be pop-up shops as well.

There are so many possibilities!

Battery Park in Manhattan has created something out of nothing. I've watched it grow and flourish over the decades. Brookfield Mall seems to be well-versed in creating spaces that people enjoy and ultimately, they shop there as well.

Bryant Park was transformed from a resting place for the homeless into a vibrant destination for city dwellers and tourists alike.

I don't know the logistics, but I do know there are talented city planners who could

design such a destination for the people who live and work here. I feel certain that there are many wealthy citizens in White Plains who would love to contribute to the establishment of such a fine park – maybe even a place to engrave their name on a bench or a carousel.

This park can become a magnet, attracting new people to our city to shop, to dine and to find a desirable place to call home.

**Sandy Mayo White Plains**

## There's a Problem With New Castle Politics

I've noticed an alarming trend occurring in New Castle politics. We've failed to maintain a level of civility and respect that has started among our politicians and been reflected in our town. I especially saw this happen at the Town Board's June 15 meeting.

The meeting was about whether Jeremy Saland should resign his position as councilman and be appointed town supervisor or become the acting town supervisor.

The opinion Councilwoman Lisa Katz voiced had a lot of factual argument behind it, but other board members used this as an

opportunity to misconstrue her reasoning with emotional pleas. Other board members kept conveying their "disappointment" that Katz wouldn't appoint him when as acting town supervisor Saland would receive the same pay, responsibilities and authority without causing unnecessary vacancies that could threaten the stability of the town.

But Ms. Katz was shut down for expressing a different view. Rather than try to please other Town Board members, she was giving town residents a more holistic understanding of the implications of an appointed versus acting supervisor.

As an incoming senior at Greeley, I see what's happening in our communities also occurring at my school. People are afraid to offer a different point of view, especially when this allows us to see a new side of a nuanced, complicated issue. This is not the kind of example we should be setting. We need to create opportunities for our community to feel comfortable discussing varying perspectives.

**Nadia Nabeel Chappaqua**

## Tree Hedges Should Improve the Look of Yorktown and Not Be Reduced

The Garden Club of Yorktown strongly opposes the height reduction of the green hedge that borders the Cablevision property and Route 118.

Our club was founded in 1928 with the specific charter to beautify the town. Our 50-plus members work year-round on the street planters, town gardens and numerous beautification and conservation initiatives. As a club we focus on the green elements in the town and seek to improve the quality of the commercial building landscaping.

A walk along Commerce Street portrays

too many examples of commercial buildings with unsightly plantings; even recently approved development. We take our civic duty to safeguard existing green space and improve the overall look of the town very seriously. To reduce the height of the existing trees to facilitate the self-prompting goals of the building renters is detrimental to the overall look of the town.

The existing level of the tree hedge should not be reduced!

Yorktown residents proudly identify the town's natural beauty, open space and parks

as core benefits of living here. The 2010 Town Comprehensive Plan states that the Town should protect our natural resources and promote green building principles whenever possible. To approve the height reduction of the Cablevision trees is contrary to the town's Comprehensive Plan.

**The Executive Committee of the Garden Club of Yorktown**



Guest Column

Hiding From Climate Change Doesn't Work

By Michael Gold

I went walking in a pot of thick soup as big as Westchester.  
That's what the heat wave felt like.  
It was 95 degrees in Pleasantville one day at the end of June, according to Accuweather. That's about 15 degrees above average.  
If this is the new normal due to climate change, I don't want any part of it. Our family hid in the house.  
There are far too many people who cannot enjoy that luxury.  
Not even someone as highly skilled at hiding out as me cannot stay in the house forever, although I have made many valiant attempts to do so.  
In the house, I try to distract myself from the suffocating heat by reading books and newspapers, playing Twister by myself and praying for clouds the size of Jupiter to cover the planet. And rain, lots of rain.  
You cannot attribute one single weather event to climate change. But leading climate scientists have pointed out that climate change makes heat waves far more likely and more intense.  
Climate change also makes intense rainfall more likely. A few days after the sizzling soup-like heat, we saw millions

upon millions of balls of raindrops that seemed to be thrown from the sky by microscopic Major League pitchers hurling 100 mile-per-hour fastballs. Each raindrop finished with a bang on the pavement in front of our house.  
I have driven on the Saw Mill Parkway in torrential rain. The water feels like it's rushing by the middle of my wheels, as the river charges out of its banks, angry and insolent, on a temper tantrum out of all proportion to its size.  
The state is raising about a mile of the Saw Mill Parkway to avoid flooding, but nobody can predict what nature is going to do, especially if we keep handing it weapons to harm us.  
So, we can't hide from climate change in Westchester for very long, even if we build an air-conditioned dome over the whole county, which is about as likely to happen as the New York Jets winning the Super Bowl five years in a row.  
Here's what we can do:

- The easiest, cheapest thing to do is plant more trees, to absorb all that carbon we're putting into the air. Pleasantville features a number of areas near the Saw Mill Parkway that have nothing but weeds. Why not consider planting dozens of small trees in these

areas? I'm not suggesting giant oaks or elms, which could eventually grow so high they might hit somebody's house in a storm. Also, Memorial Plaza could use many more trees, by the strip of land next to the railroad tracks.

- Homeowners can plant a tree on their front lawns, near the road. The village will pay for half the cost of the tree, and all the labor of planting, under its 50/50 tree planting program.
- Install a geothermal air conditioning/heating pump system in your home. You can get rid of your oil heating tank, and you won't have to worry about carbon monoxide poisoning in your house again. New York State and the federal government offer generous tax credits for installing geothermal. We installed a geothermal pump in our home last year.
- Buy 100 percent wind energy for your home. We've been using wind energy for about 10 years. It is somewhat more expensive than energy generated by fossil fuels, but you're helping to keep the climate cooler.
- Install solar panels. Like geothermal, both the U.S. and state offer tax incentives for putting a solar array on your roof. In our house, we hope to install solar in 2022, which will reduce

our electric bill.

- Buy an electric car. They are becoming cheaper and more plentiful by the day. We hope to purchase one in the next two years.
- Lobby state and federal government officials to move faster on addressing climate change. The wheels on both those vehicles move slowly, it's true, but if we don't yell, we're leaving an even bigger mess for our children.

The other day I told my teenage daughter I was sorry she had to live through the terrible distortions we're making of the climate. She said, "It's fine. It's what I know."

These words were not heartbreaking, but they came pretty close.

Since we can't gather up the megatons of carbon dioxide we're generating every year, pump it all into rocket ships and send them to Mars immediately, we're all going to have to move faster and more forcefully to cut our carbon emissions.

*Michael Gold has op-ed articles published on the environment in The New York Daily News, The Albany Times Union, The Virginian-Pilot and other newspapers.*

A Spiritual View

By Cantor Lilah Sugarman

There are so many things to be grateful for in our lives, and collectively, this has been a hard year for our country and the world, a year of quarantine, illness and death. A year of growth, transition and uncertainty.  
Next Saturday, July 16 at sundown to Sunday, July 17 at sundown, Jews around the world observe an annual day of mourning called Tisha B'Av.  
Tisha B'Av means the 9th of the month of Av, so the name of the observance is the date it is observed on in the Jewish calendar.  
Tisha B'Av commemorates tragic events that have occurred in history including the destruction of the first and second Temple in Jerusalem. Traditionally, on Tisha B'Av, people participate in mourning practices, including fasting and chanting the Book of Lamentations.  
I find this observance important and meaningful every year and all the more so this year. I think it is vitally



important to have a collective day of mourning annually so that together as a community we can mourn. We are able to mourn our ancestors' losses and also all our losses and challenges of the year. It reminds us to set aside a day to mourn. It reminds us to spend some time supporting each other through hard times and sadness. It encourages the idea that to move forward, we must acknowledge and process our sadness with the support of our community.  
My hope is that you are able to set aside time in your daily life to notice all the beauty and to celebrate. Also, my hope is that you set aside time to acknowledge, process and mourn when things are hard for you or your community.  
*Lilah Sugarman is the cantor at Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Hillside Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.*

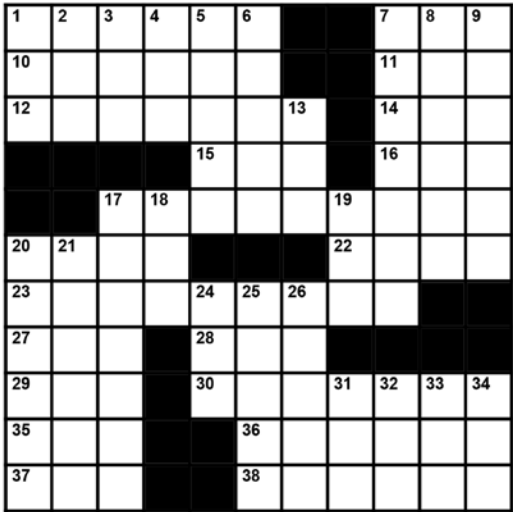
Crossword

Across

- 1. Thornwood bakery, \_\_\_\_ & Sons
- 7. Business watchdog for customers (abbr.)
- 10. Drapery ornament
- 11. Rowing equipment
- 12. Clothing
- 14. Slide on snow
- 15. Young lad
- 16. Cookie Monster's original name
- 17. Pampering
- 20. Severe blow
- 22. "Bus Stop" playwright
- 23. Working OK
- 27. Hispanic aunt
- 28. Proposal
- 29. Lady referred to
- 30. Michael Phelps & Carl Lewis would eat at this Mahopac restaurant
- 35. Post-E.R. place
- 36. "Seinfeld" character
- 37. Prized mushroom
- 38. Ferris's girlfriend in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"

Down

- 1. -- moment's notice
- 2. Séance sound
- 3. Spoon stat.
- 4. Home of 300 million plus
- 5. Novak Djokovic and Ana Ivanovic, for two
- 6. Dairy section selections
- 7. Ordering about



- 8. Kind of soda
- 9. Crossing
- 13. Alkaline liquid
- 17. Resolve
- 18. Above, in an ode
- 19. Metal can
- 20. Middle Ages style
- 21. Individually
- 24. Donor classification letters
- 25. Scrabble pieces
- 26. Long narrative poem
- 31. He was the subject of a Warhol painting
- 32. Actress/singer Zadora
- 33. Lodging
- 34. Clamp shape

Answers on page 13

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# Foodies Delight: Mt. Kisco Gears Up for First-Ever Restaurant Week

By Martin Wilbur

If you're an area foodie and have been longing to try different culinary choices, Mount Kisco is the place to be later this month.

Mimicking the popular Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce next Friday will be launching its own Restaurant Week, with currently more than 20 eateries throughout the village offering specials and deals to patrons.

It kicks off on July 23 and extends

through Sunday, Aug. 1. It not only provides the public with a reason to explore a buffet of dining choices but it's designed to help bolster the local restaurant scene, where many owners struggled to survive the pandemic.

"It comes out of the chamber as another way to help a segment of our members, which restaurants are a portion of the membership in the chamber, and after COVID, we worked very closely with them seeing how they were doing," said chamber Co-executive Director Loretta Brooks.

Each participating restaurant's offerings will be unique to their establishment. The goal is to have the community and residents from neighboring towns learn more about Mount Kisco's restaurants and showcase the wide assortment of cuisine available in the village.

Chamber Co-executive Director Beth Vetare Civitello said many area residents are always intrigued by what there is to eat locally when looking for a night out and this is a great way to bring more choices to people as well as help the restaurateurs.

"We're always looking for ways to bring people into this great town of ours and one of the things we know has worked countywide and statewide has been the Restaurant Week," Civitello said. "So we decided that we should have one that was geared specifically to Mount Kisco, and the restaurant business is a difficult enough business and we have all these world class

restaurants here."

As of last week, 21 restaurants had signed up to participate. A restaurant must be a chamber member to be involved, but if they are they are a member they are not obligated to sign up, Civitello said.

The list of restaurants include Exit 4 Food Hall; Badageoni Georgian Kitchen; Mt Kisco Seafood; Kisco River Eatery; Basilico Pizza, Pasta & Gourmet; Stone Fire; Locali Mt Kisco; Village Social; Skinny Buddha Organic Food & Fitness; Mimi's Coffee House; Sette E Venti by Gianfranco; Mario's Pizza & Pasta; Lexington Square Café; Mardino's Italian Cuisine & Steakhouse; Frannie's Goodie Shop; Captain Lawrence Barrel House; The Hub Restaurant at Holiday Inn; Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream; Mt Kisco Coach Diner; Azteca Mexican Restaurant; Mt Kisco Farm; and Captain Lawrence Barrel House.

Brooks said for many downtowns, the restaurants' success can be the lifeblood of the business district.

"We're really hoping that they do well," Brooks said. "I think it's a nice time for somebody to try a new restaurant that they might have been thinking of and this is a good excuse to give it a whirl."

Civitello said the chamber timed Restaurant Week to be during the middle of the summer when some people may be on vacation and business could be slower, as opposed to the spring or fall when foot traffic typically picks up.



The Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Week logo. The chamber is trying the promotion that is similar to Hudson Valley Restaurant Week where participating establishments offer specials to diners.

## Crossword Answers

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

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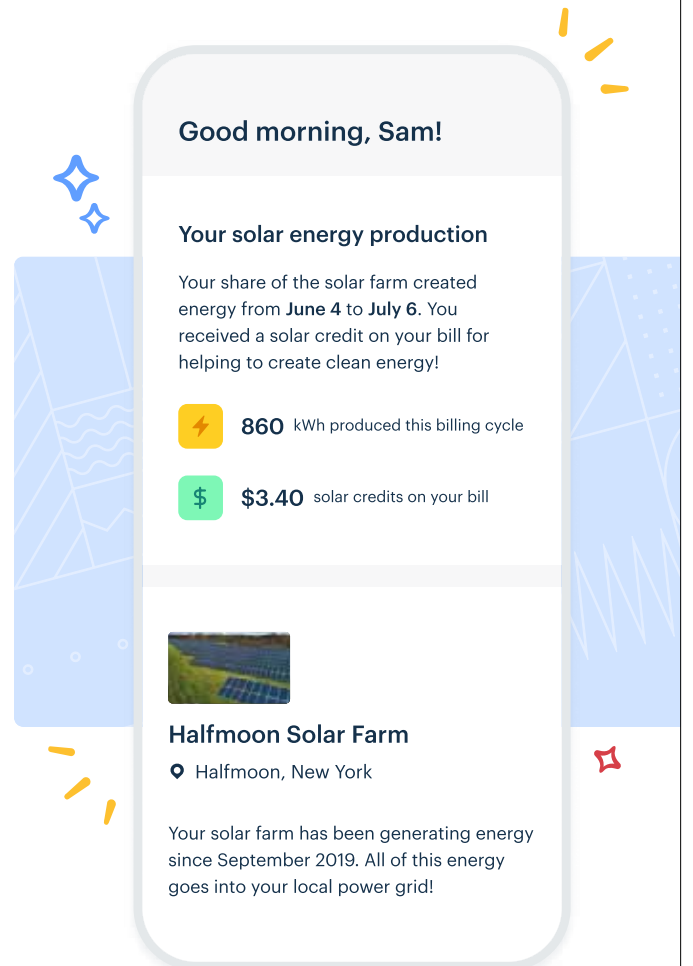


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# Car Club Organizes Show to Raise Money for Ronald McDonald House

By Martin Wilbur

For people who love cars, there's nothing better than spending a summer weekend afternoon with fellow enthusiasts checking out all kinds of cool and classic vehicles.

It's even better when the proceeds of the show benefit a great cause.

On Sunday, Shift Masters of Westchester, a Mount Vernon car club, held a show in the parking lot of the Thornwood McDonald's featuring a combination of classic cars and later model editions. All of the proceeds generated by the show, through the \$20-per-car entry fee, will go to the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley in Valhalla.

Shift Masters member Jim Livecchi, who organized the event, said whenever the club holds a show, it makes sure to donate the money raised to charity, whether it's for hospitals, veterans causes or to help the hungry.

"It's just what we do," Livecchi said. "We feel we have to give back. You have to."

Club President Frank Russo said Shift Masters was originally formed around 1956 but petered out in the 1960s. As someone who loves cars, he and several other members, relaunched the club in 2012 and have been holding shows and participating in other clubs' events ever since.

Christina Riley, executive director



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Several of the cars that were part of Shift Masters of Westchester's car show Sunday afternoon at the McDonald's in Thornwood. The show raised money for Ronald McDonald House.

of the Ronald McDonald House of the Hudson Valley, said there are so many organizations like Shift Masters that look to help the Ronald McDonald House any way possible.

"There are so many out there that do stuff like this," Riley said. "It just helps raise money and awareness. Now, more people know about the house."

Ronald McDonald House offers free accommodations for families who have a

child in Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. It is located across the parking lot from the children's hospital near Westchester Medical Center.

Several dozen car owners who made the trip from around the county brought a personal favorite of theirs, such as Pleasantville resident Cameron Kelly. Kelly brought her 1986 red Pontiac Fiero. Although not a collector, she decided to be part of the show when she saw a recent

notice posted in McDonald's.

Kelly said the car was her father's before he got older and he no longer feels confident driving it any longer because of diminishing reflexes.

She uses it as her primary vehicle and it catches the eye of a lot of other motorists on the road.

"It's a fantastic car," Kelly said. "It's got pickup. It was great. It's so much fun to drive and everybody likes it. People stop me at the corner and they'll jump out and they'll go 'I want your car.'"

Livecchi said of some of the cars on hand wouldn't be considered classics. Generally, cars need to have been from before 1980 to be considered vintage, he said. However, the way Shift Masters runs its shows, if someone loves a car that they have and are willing to pay the entry fee, they'll be part of the show.

"We look at it differently," Livecchi said. "If you have a late model Corvette sitting there, that's a person's, that's their baby, why not let them in the show?"

Joe Ricci, of Pelham Manor, came to Sunday's show with one of his six classic cars, a black 1965 Chevy Corvair. He called it a car that "drives like a big car."

He said the best part of participating in car shows is the camaraderie and looking at what everyone else brings.

"Everyone has a story," Ricci said. "I remember my first car; I drove it to high school; I remember riding in the back."

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# Does Your Street's Name Influence Your Home's Appeal?

For the past few years, I've been living in a condominium whose street name is that of a recent former president. While a highly political friend tells me that she would not live on a street bearing that name even if the home were given to her free, I suspect that she would.

The home is splendid in my view, and I believe that its address projects an image of quality, which follows through in reality. I consider myself lucky to be able to live there.

Besides serving as a way to find where you live, can the name of your street influence the perception of your home and its value, positively or negatively?

The thought occurred to me a while back when I read a report about residents' complaints in a town in Putnam County where a local motel housed a number of sex offenders. Almost as a throwaway at the end of the article, the motel's street address was listed as Sodom Road. You just can't make this stuff up.

The origins of street names can be a fascinating study, ranging from history, their locations, mystery or sheer whimsy.

I was first aware of how streets got their names while attending elementary school in Philadelphia. The nuns taught us that the derivation of street names was based on the plan developed by William Penn, where the major east-west streets were the names of

trees: Vine, Mulberry, Chestnut, Walnut, Locust, Spruce and Pine among them, intersected by a numbered grid.

When we took a class trip to Washington, D.C., I found that all 50 states have streets named after them and most of them cross diagonally through an alphabetic and numbered grid system. Rather than making an address clear, the intention of that system was to confuse invaders and to guard the Capitol, but today it serves to confuse tourists as well.

When I moved to New York City, I was relieved to find a grid that made finding any address very easy, except for the wildly erratic system in Greenwich Village, which was established before the grid system. It resulted in having West 4th Street somehow managing to intersect West 12th Street.

Around 1850, with increased value placed on nature, it became common to name streets after trees. As a result, my past neighborhood, an early one, features Hickory, Hemlock and Birch streets.

The roads in our communities might reveal the types of industries they originally supported, such as Mill Street, Milk Street, Commerce Street and Mechanics Road. Also, Presidents were honored in every town: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison and Kennedy boulevards abound across the nation. And some streets simply reflect the surroundings, such as Mountain View,

Lakeside and Hudson View.

But the most creative names came with modern housing track developments where builders became responsible for naming streets, harnessing the suggestive power of words that shape a neighborhood even before the first home was built.

Sometimes the personal interests of builders attached themselves to street names. The most interesting I've found is a Mahopac neighborhood known as the "fish bowl" where the streets are named Pike Place, Perch Drive and Trout Place. I also have friends who live in the "flower" neighborhood of Astor, Dahlia, and Tulip.

In Yorktown, we become American literary aficionados with such names as Whitman, Emerson and Thoreau.

From the 1970s and '80s, newer developments frequently adopted names of the developers' wives or daughters, and only infrequently, sons. Today, that practice is generally discouraged by town planning boards because those street signs tend to be stolen more frequently, presumably by young people of the same names.

We can be drawn to or repelled by the mystery of some street names. I had a real estate client who challenged me to find a house for her on Watermelon Hill Road simply because she loved the name so much. My personal favorites in this region are Pudding Street, Bullet Hole Road and Lover's Lane in



Putnam Valley and Fiddler's Bridge Road in Dutchess County. Where did those haunting names originate, I wonder?

As I travel our byways, I also ponder such questions as whether Church Street or Seminary Road lead the traveler to heaven?

And let's not forget all the names that reflect our native

American roots, such as Wiccoppee and Taconic.

There's no denying that whether your street suggests picking a flower, enjoying the comfort of a shade tree, paying tribute to a founding father, making love or catching a fish, its name can indeed add character, charm or mystery to where you live.

Can you guess the most popular street name in America? No, it's not Main, Maple or Elm. It's 2nd Street. Surprised?

The reason is that most towns in America started with a simple grid of numbered streets, but many times 1st Street was renamed Main Street, boosting 2nd Street to the lead. So you might say that 2nd is second to none.

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



By Bill Primavera

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# Here it is: The Most Expensive Wine in the World



By Nick Antonaccio

What is it that makes a wine desirable? Is it its underlying ethereal essence that sets it apart from others? Is it the prestige of its provenance? The exorbitant price that makes it unattainable to all but a wealthy few?

Or is it simply its scarcity?

Certainly, there are multiple examples of coveted goods in our society. Italian race cars have a measurable value. The finest components, superior design and engineering require significant investment. These costs contribute to the lofty \$277,000 price tag of a Ferrari 458 Spider.

The finest materials, top architectural design houses and ocean vistas contribute to the stratospheric prices for luxury homes in the Hamptons. For each of these examples, mystique and scarcity are a major component of their steep price tags.

However, for the world's coveted wines, the components of price are more subjective than the aforementioned luxury items. The singular expression of a bottle of wine strikes an inner chord of mystery; its scarcity sets in motion a buying frenzy for the bragging rights of tasting a wine that very few people in the world will ever enjoy; or adding such a wine to one's trophy room; or both.

One such wine is La Romanée-Conti

*'its scarcity sets in motion a buying frenzy for the bragging rights of tasting a wine that very few people in the world will ever enjoy'*

Grand Cru produced by the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, most commonly known by its acronym, DRC, and perennially the most expensive wine sold.

What are the elements of this wine that contribute to its worldwide prestige and command such exorbitant prices?

First and foremost, DRC's reputation and price are attributable to its prestigious location, both the region and the specific locale; second, the winemaker's production philosophy; and third, its scarcity. As with many coveted goods, the end result is greater than the sum of its parts.

Located in the Côte de Nuits region of Burgundy, DRC is a relatively small plot of land that has been highly coveted since the Benedictine monks toiled in the vineyards and winery eight centuries ago. Even then, it was recognized as a near perfect section in the premier sub region in Burgundy, which itself was highly regarded throughout France.

Three unique soil components – limestone, red clay and gravel – contribute to the richness and velvety texture of DRC. Following in the footsteps of the

ancient monks, successive owners further enhanced the DRC reputation.

The forbearers of the present owners purchased the land in 1869. Jacques-Marie Duvault-Blochet and his family assiduously expanded their envied holdings to 62 acres, which now encircle the present four acres of La Romanée-Conti. So land cost is not a major component of the price of DRC, since the vineyards have been owned by the same family for nearly 150 years.

The second component of DRC's reputation is the owners' commitment to sustainability. The vineyards and winery are managed biodynamically. No chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used, only organic products. No mechanical equipment is employed, only the power of horses. These and other practices produce silky, natural wines that are well-balanced, complex and have long-term aging potential

(which, in turn, affect prices). In years of below standard crops, much of the fruit may be discarded, rather than produce a lesser wine.

The third component is a matter of economics. With only 450 cases – 5,400 bottles – produced annually, demand can never be fully met. While this is an envious position for any winery, the DRC reputation has created an auction frenzy that pushes prices higher and higher each year.

Whether the current vintage (2017) at \$15,000 per bottle (\$3,000 per glass), or the most highly regarded bottle (of any wine) ever sold at auction (1945 vintage) at \$558,000 (An astounding \$111,600 per glass, which may never be consumed!), DRC has stood at the pinnacle of the luxury goods market for generations, highly desirable and fanatically coveted – and deservedly so.

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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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# Bird By Bird, or, One Bird at a Time

By Brian Kluepfel

Author Anne Lamott wrote a book several years ago called "Bird by Bird," which was about both the writing process and life itself.

It began with the story of her panic-stricken younger brother freaking out over a pending book report on birds. Lamott encouraged him to do it "bird by bird." In other words, you can only complete one piece of a puzzle at a time.

I am often reminded, too, of the 1976 Johnny Cash novelty hit "One Piece at a Time," wherein the singer goes to work in a Cadillac factory. Year by year, he steals in dribs and drabs all the components of a Cadillac. When he tries to put them together in the last verse, the result is predictably comic.

These stories and songs relate to many of my birding experiences with friends, where one memorable sighting often became the focus of the day.

I recall a trek through the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge in northern California with my friend Ed, "stalking," as he put it, a great blue heron. Similarly, one afternoon at Cesar Chavez Park, a reclaimed dump across from the Golden Gate, we watched in awe as a cormorant struggled mightily for several minutes to swallow a fish. (It finally succeeded.)



At the same park, I discovered, and later took friends to see, burrowing owls, which lived among the rip-rap and abandoned gopher holes of the reclaimed parkland.

On the eastern seaboard, I have sat with my wife at the Mariandale Center on the Hudson, nothing going on, when seemingly out of nowhere an osprey appears with a struggling fish in its talons. At the same site, on another day when nothing out of the ordinary seemed to be happening, we spied a great horned owl high in a pine tree.

Just this week, on a very hot day at the Kensico Dam, a clever white-breasted nuthatch appeared in front of us, navigating the trees in reverse as only this species does, making its unique "beep" as it patrolled for insects.

Early this spring, we visited the Weir Farm National Historic Park in Ridgefield, Conn. (well worth a visit, just for the trails). After investigating a familiar and repetitive drumming, we finally spotted the culprit, an outstanding pileated woodpecker, king of the woods, and an absolute favorite in this house.

One day, walking the North County Trail near Briarcliff Manor, my sister and I spied an oriole flying in and out of the shrubbery. It was the only bird I recall

seeing that day, but how could you forget an oriole?

As a teen, my father spent an entire family outing on Sanibel Island, Fla. pointing out the anhinga, perched and sunning its wings in a now-familiar fashion. (Familiar because we saw it about 100 times on that trip.)

Further afield, friends and guides have taken me on special excursions to see Andean cock-of-the-rock in Ecuador, something I won't forget, despite the hangover, an incredible jabiru stork in the marshy llanos of Venezuela and a bee hummingbird in a backyard somewhere in the Cuban countryside.

I don't keep a life list of birds, but I do hold special memories of certain species seen with good friends or amazing guides. It is the company of good people, along with the wonder of nature, that produce these magical moments.

When you're out and about, and not seeing any birds, focus on the next one you see. It might be the only one of the day, so make your own magical moment around it.

Remember, we can only go bird by bird, or as the man sang, one bird at a time.

Brian Kluepfel writes for the *Lonely Planet* travel guide series and is a proud member of Saw Mill River Audubon (SMRA). He encourages you to get involved in local birding with SMRA, and when you travel, to support community and eco-tourism whenever you can. Find him at [www.birdmanwalking.com](http://www.birdmanwalking.com).

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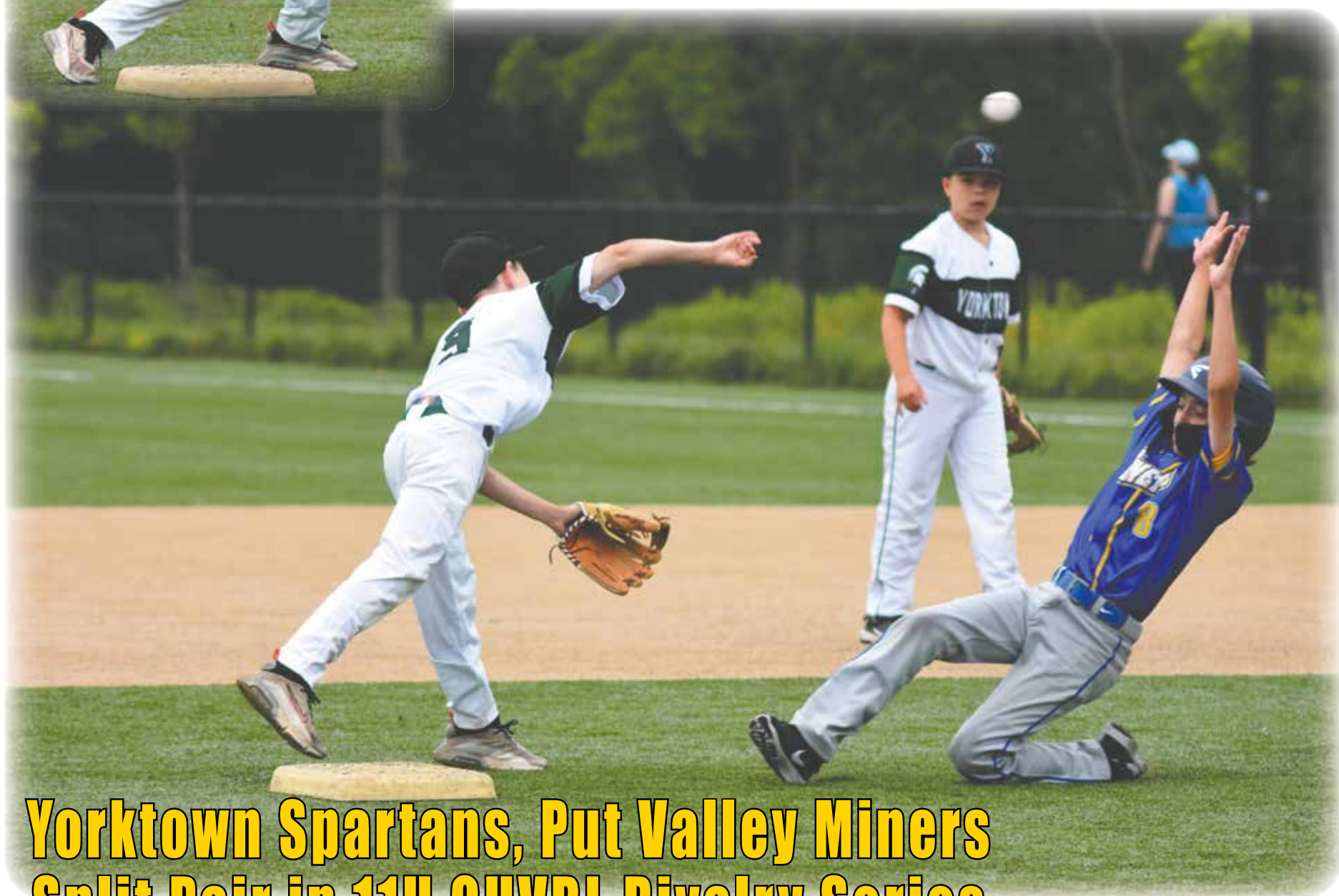
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# Examiner Sports Going to the Matt!



## Yorktown Spartans, Put Valley Miners Split Pair in 11U GHVBL Rivalry Series

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown Spartan SS Matt Caroleo (inset) turns two as Putnam Valley Miner IF Roman Catalano does his best to break things up in Spartans' 2-0 win over visiting Miners in division one 11U Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League action last Sunday at Granite Knolls Parks where the Miners would win the second game of the double header, 11-4... see Focus on GHVBL



# FOCUS ON GHVBL

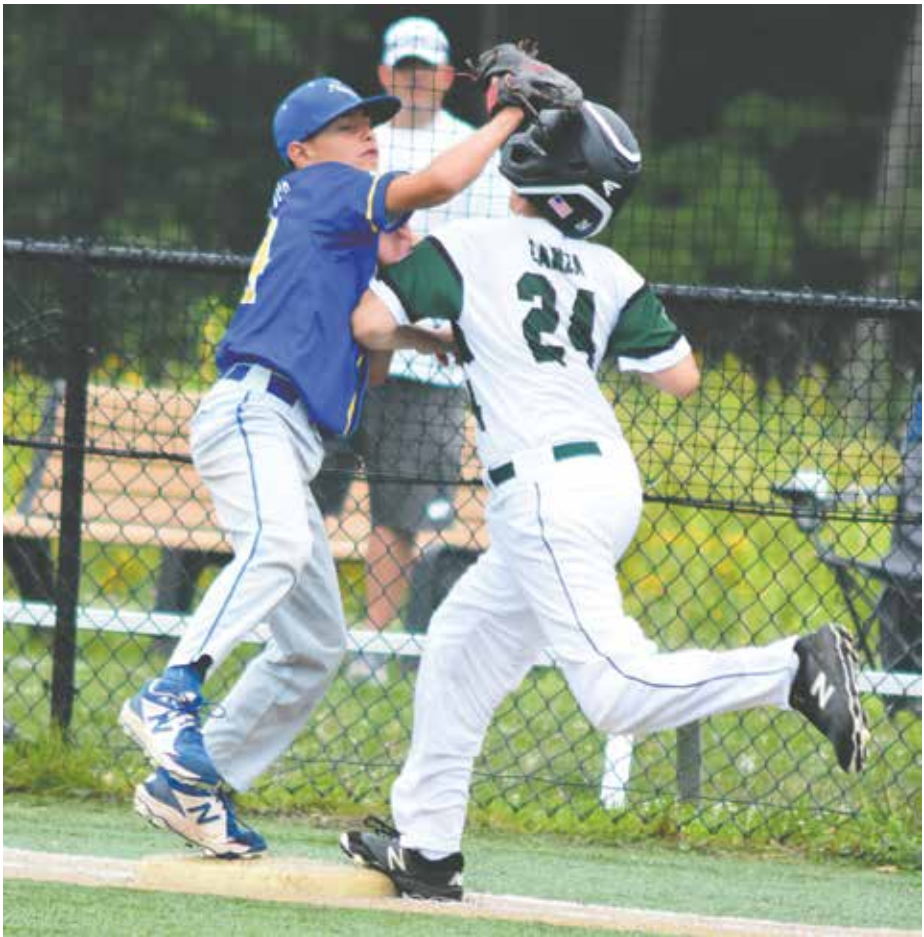
**Yorktown, Put Valley Split Pair in 11U Action  
Spartans Win 2-0, then Fall 11-4 to Miners**



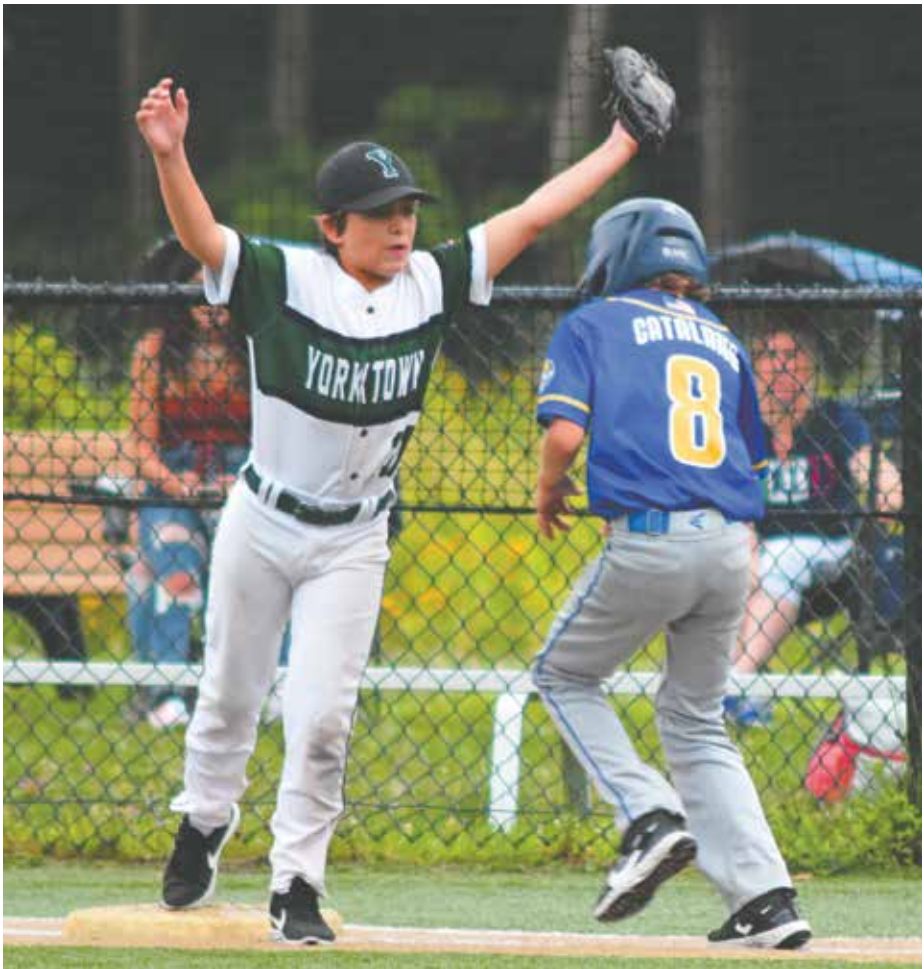
Northern Westchester Thunder's Scott Brauning cracks bomb in 11-1 win over Lewisboro in 9U GHVBL action Saturday.



Yorktown Spartans confer for strategic moment in 2-0 win over visiting Putnam Valley Miners in 11U GHVBL D-I action Sunday.



Putnam Valley 1B Nick Delfico makes put-out on Yorktown's Christopher Lanza in Miners' 2-0 loss to Spartans in Sunday's GHVBL 11U action.



Spartan 1B Frankie Ofrias makes last put-out in 2-0 win over 11U PV Miners Sunday at Granite Knolls Park.



Sports



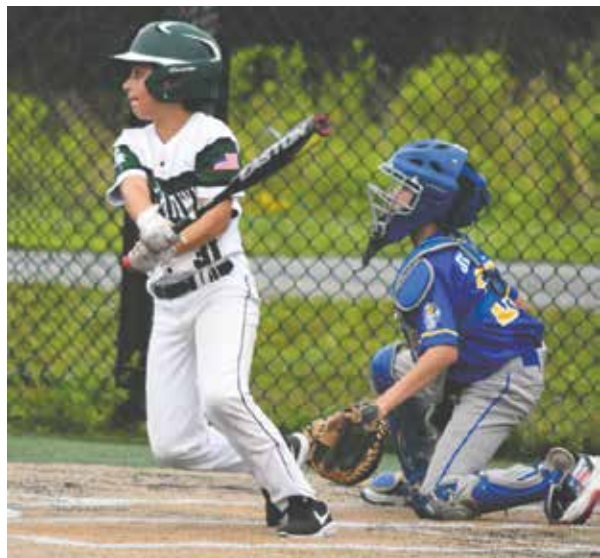
Putnam Valley Miner Chris Constantino swipes 2B as Yorktown Spartan Matt Caroleo takes late throw in PV's 2-0 loss to Spartans Sunday.

PVPR Hoops Camp  
Huge Success



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

More than 40 youths from Putnam Valley and Mahopac (grades 3-8) honed their skills and took their hoops game to the next level at the Putnam Valley Parks & Recreation Department-sponsored four-day basketball camp at PV High School under the watchful eye of assistant varsity Coach J.D. Apolistoco.



Yorktown Spartan Frankie Ofrias drive home game-winning run with RBI single in 2-0 GHVBL 11U win over Putnam Valley Sunday.



Putnam Valley Miner IF Roman Catalano tries to break up double play turn by Yorktown Spartan SS Matt Caroleo in Miners' 2-0 loss to Spartans Sunday.



Yorktown Spartan Jayden Nunez gets first bump from Christopher Lanza after scoring run in 2-0 win over Putnam Valley in 11U GHVBL action Sunday.



Yorktown Spartans hurler Christian Maratos (10 K's over 6IP) was close to unhittable in 2-0 win over Putnam Valley Miners in 11U GHVBL action Sunday.



Putnam Valley P Logan Moriarty fires pitch in 2-0 hard-luck loss to host Yorktown Spartans Sunday.



# FOCUS ON RENEGADES/HIGH A BASEBALL

## Cyclones Can't Energize as Renegades put Hammer Down Hudson Valley Takes 4 of 5 from Brooklyn in High A MLB Action



Cyclones shortstop Ronny Mauricio, a top Met prospect, makes the throw to first after making a diving stop in Brooklyn's loss to the Renegades Friday night.



Renegades pitcher Jhony Brito struck out seven over seven innings in Hudson Valley's 6-4 win over the Brooklyn Cyclones on Friday night at Dutchess Stadium.



Hudson Valley 3B James Nelson throws to first in the team's 6-4 win over the Brooklyn Cyclones on Friday.



Brett Baty, a big-time third base prospect for the Mets, was promoted to Double A-Binghamton after the Cyclones' 6-4 loss to the Hudson Valley Renegades on Friday.



Renegades first baseman Chad Bell fields a ground ball in HV's 6-4 win over the Cyclones on Friday evening at Dutchess Stadium.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

## *Renegades Drop Series Finale, Take 4 of 5 from Cyclones*

By Spencer Pierce

The Renegades weren't able to end their series with the Brooklyn Cyclones on a high note, as they fell to the Mets' affiliate Sunday, 10-3. The Gades have won 13 out of 18 from Brooklyn. The Renegades will travel to Wilmington Monday and will return for a home series against the Blue Rocks on July 27th.

Per the State of New York, the Renegades are now open at 100% capacity. Tickets continue to be a tremendous value starting as low as \$6. Visit [HVRenegades.com](http://HVRenegades.com) for ticket information and so much more.

Follow the Renegades on Social Media and listen to the "Renegades Weekly" Podcast wherever you get your podcasts.



Renegades catcher Anthony Seigler plays the air guitar after belting a double against the Cyclones, who dropped 4 of 5 games to the Renegades last week.



Cyclones catcher Francisco Alvarez, who played in Sunday's Futures Games in Colorado, rips the ball in Friday night's loss to the HV Renegades.



## Sports

# Cortlandt American Cops Another District 33 12U Title

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

The Cortlandt American Little League baseball program has long been the model guide to local baseball success. At a time when travel teams -- spring, summer and fall -- have taken over most communities, Cortlandt American continues to provide a top-notch, in-town venture for little leaguers within its district.

The outcome, year after year, has seen the program produce scores of legendary players like Shawn Tarkington and Mike Anderson and multiple District 33 championships, including last Wednesday's 11-1 win over visiting Ossining for the 12U championship (46-60).

It helps to have great coaching in place, which CALL often has, including 2021 Manager Lou Vernagallo, who played the game at a very high collegiate level (LIU) before playing professionally in West Virginia in the Frontier League. Flanked by assistants Jon Clyman and Mike Silvestri, the CALL-stars went 3-0 and advanced to the NYS Little League Sectional round and will begin play against a yet to be determined opponent on July 15 in Stony Point, NY.

Going into the District 33 title game, CALL only needed to win last Wednesday's game to become D33 champs as it was 2-0 going into the game and Ossining came out of the losers bracket and needed to win twice.

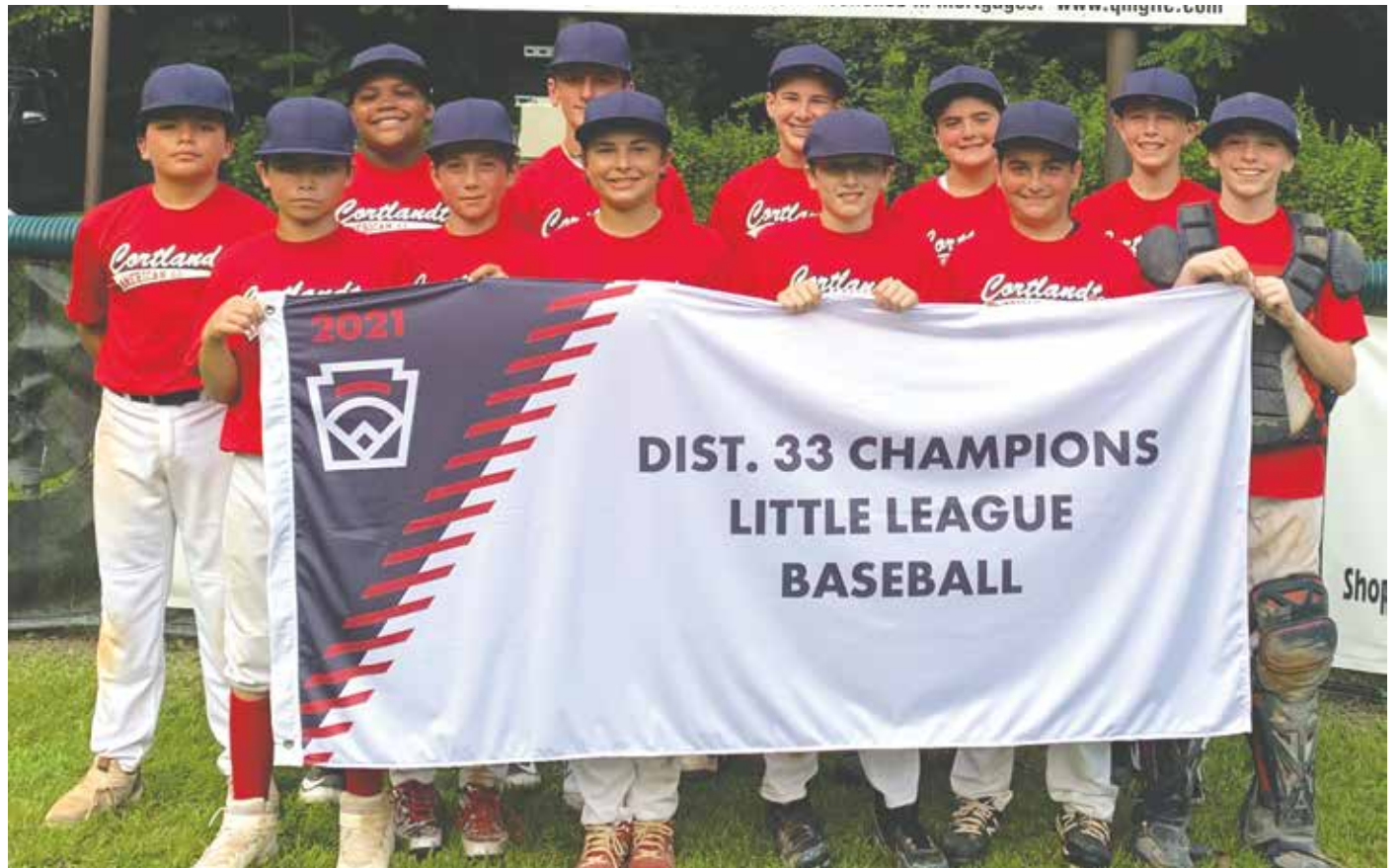
It was a pitching rematch of District Game 1 with Louie Vernagallo of CALL facing Ossining ace Owen Brennan. Vernagallo had already shut down Ossining in game one on June 26th, pitching 4 1/3 brilliant innings (0 ER, 3 H, 0 BB and 12 whiffs). CALL won that game 3-2 playing short handed with only players and missing stars Thomas Imperati, Matt Clyman and Max Selinger.

"We needed a team effort without those guys in the lineup that night and that's what we got from one through nine, whoever we call upon delivered," Coach V said.

CALL got off to the fast start in the title tilt, going up 2-0 in the first on a groundout RBI by Vinny Lugo, which scored Max Selinger and a single by Clyman, which plated Imperati.

In the 3rd, CALL jumped out to a 3-0 lead when Vernagallo got drilled on his helmet by a 60 mph Brennan fastball, which allowed Lugo to score. In the top of the 4th, CALL opened it up on a Lugo single to CF, which scored Selinger and a three-run HR to dead center by Clyman scoring Lugo and Imperati for a 7-0 lead. In the 5th, a Selinger single to CF scored Chris Silvestri making it 8-0. CALL blew the game open in the 6th on an opposite field RBI double by Vernagallo (Clyman scored), a John Valentino single (Vernagallo scored), a Silvestri Sac Fly (Valentino scored) and finally a monster three-run dinger to dead left by Imperati (Jayden Randolph, Selinger & Imperati scored).

Vernagallo went 4-1/3rd again giving up 1ER, 4H, 1BB and 7K's. Alex DiLorenzo and Clyman provided 1-2/3rds innings of masterful relief to close out the game.



The entire CALL roster is comprised of Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School students, including District 33 banner includes: Vincent Lugo, Thomas Imperati, Nicholas Gilleo, Max Selinger, Matt Clyman, Louie Vernagallo, John Valentino, Jayden Randolph, Chris Silvestri, Brady Luft, Alex DiLorenzo & Aiden Plouffe (Jake and Frank Medico are also on roster).



Cortlandt American's Matthew Clyman and Thomas Imperati celebrate CALL-Stars' District 33 12U title win over Ossining last Wednesday.



## Mahopac 15U Crowned Boys at Beach Champs



Members of the Mahopac Indians 15U travel baseball program pose at the Sports at the Beach Tournament in Georgetown, Delaware after winning top honors last Sunday. Members include: Top row L-R Coach Jim Castrataro, Owen Ryan, Tyler Castrataro, Quentin Bally, Kevin Dwyer, Casey Brandstetter, Nevan Nystrom, Coach Reid Nystrom; bottom row L-R: Phil Scuderi, Joey DeFeo, Joe Luczkowski, Chris Sapienza, Coach Dan Brandstetter



# Hometown Heroes Go Pro!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

## Fox Lane's Davis No.1 Pick in MLB Draft to Pittsburgh, Lakeland's Mikulski Follows at No.50 to San Fran

Ever since their respective heydays at Fox Lane High and Lakeland High School, former Section 1 standouts -- Louisville C Henry Davis and Fordham P Matt Mikulski -- showed the kind of promise that had scouts knocking down their doors at an early age, and both were rewarded for years of dedication in last Sunday's Major League Baseball Draft where the strong-armed Davis, a former 2018 first team All-NYS Fox, went No.1 overall to the Pittsburgh Pirates after a sophomore year in which he .370 with 15 home runs and 10 stolen bases in leading the Cardinals to a berth in the NCAA College World Series. Mikulski, a 2017 former second team All-NYS Hornet, went 49 picks later in the second round to the San Francisco Giants after recently garnering 2nd team All-American honors at Fordham after finishing senior year with a perfect 9-0 record to go with a 1.45 ERA and 124 strikeouts in 68.1 innings pitched, leading to his being named both a Golden Spikes semifinalist and the Atlantic 10 Pitcher of the Year.

by Ray Gallagher





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