



FREE



twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

January 25 - January 31, 2022

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 545

White Plains Man Sentenced to Prison for Home Invasion

By Rick Pezzullo

A White Plains man was recently sentenced to 10 years in state prison for violently forcing himself into a home and demanding a female victim perform a sexual act.

Derrick Toone, 35, was also sentenced on Jan. 13 by Westchester County Court Judge Barry Warhit to 10 years of post-release

supervision after he pled guilty to burglary in the first degree as a sexually motivated felony and attempted criminal sexual act in the first degree.

According to Westchester County District Attorney Miriam Rocah, on March 10, 2021, at approximately 1 p.m., the victim was entering her apartment when Toone, who was unknown to her, approached her from behind, placed her in a chokehold and pushed

her into her home.

Once inside, Toone threatened to kill the victim, exposed himself by dropping his pants and demanded the victim perform oral sex on him. The victim managed to escape her apartment and called the White Plains Police Department.

Toone fled the scene, but was arrested by White Plains Police later that day.

In a victim impact statement submitted to

the court, Rocah said the victim stated, "You are evil and a danger to women, you are a true sexual predator. Today, I'm not standing here just for myself. I'm standing here for all the women that don't or can't, because of fear."

After he is released from prison, Toone, a second violent felony offender, will be required to register as a sex offender.

Solidarity for Fellow Officers



WESTCHESTER DES PHOTO

Police from law enforcement agencies throughout the lower Hudson Valley, including officers from White Plains, Greenburgh and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, showed solidarity with their colleagues from NYPD's 32nd Precinct in Harlem to remember Officer Jason Rivera, who was killed in the line of duty last week. For more coverage on the police caravan from the Westchester Police Academy in Valhalla to the city on Sunday, see page 4.

Greenburgh Mourns Loss of Well-Known Fashion Icon

By Rick Pezzullo

The Town of Greenburgh is mourning the loss of an internationally respected fashion icon who was a familiar face in the community.

Andre Leon Talley, who resided in the Worthington section of Greenburgh, died Jan. 18 at White Plains Hospital from complications of a heart attack and COVID-19. He was 73.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner said Talley ate most of his meals at City Limits Diner in White Plains where he often sat at the bar and conversed with other patrons.

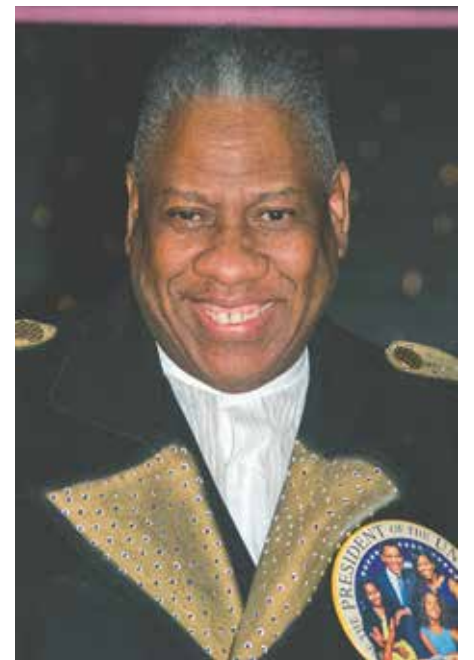
"Andre Leon Talley will be missed. We are grateful that he was part of our community," Feiner stated.

Talley was born in Washington D.C. He was the first Black creative director at Vogue magazine. He worked with Diana Vreeland, Andy Warhol, and Michelle Obama. He was a stylist for President Barack Obama and also styled Melania Trump when she married President Donald Trump in 2005.

During his time at Vogue, Talley often advocated for diversity within the fashion industry. He also was very involved in fighting for more diversity on the runway for more Black models.

In 2020, France awarded him the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres honor for arts and letters. He was also featured in documentaries.

According to his obituary, Talley appeared as himself in the 2008 movie "Sex and the



Andre Leon Talley

City," in the video for Mariah Carey's "Say Somethin'," and in an episode of "Empire." A judge on "Americas Next Top Model," he was known for his unmistakable personal style, featuring voluminous kaftans and capes.

"I scorched the Earth with my talent, and I let my light shine," Talley reportedly said in a 2020 interview.

Teen Task Force to Meet in Greenburgh to Combat Food Insecurity

By Rick Pezzullo

The first meeting of the Town of Greenburgh Teen Task Force is slated to be held Saturday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Greenburgh Library.

The Hartsdale Greenburgh Rotary is partnering with Bridging Dots and the Department of Community Resources at the Theodore D. Young Community Center to

combat food insecurity in Westchester and are organizing local youth to play a role in the effort.

"This collaborative effort will increase the involvement of our young people in the community and civil service to prepare them for leadership roles and careers in local government," Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner stated.

Feiner noted one of the first fundraising

projects for the Teen Task Force will be to raise money for local organizations in the county working to feed the hungry.

Bridging Dots is a group of high school-age volunteers who created the "Caring Cupboard" food pantries to address food

insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jan. 29 meeting will be held in-person and on Zoom. For more information about the Teen Task Force and how people can get involved, visit www.rotary.org.

FOLLOW @EXAMINERMEDIA ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO MONITOR THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS AND LOCAL REPORTING TIDBITS
914-864-0878 • advertising@theexaminernews.com • www.theexaminernews.com

Online Forum Slated Jan. 27 on Electrifying School Bus Fleets

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, the County's Office of Energy & Sustainability and 'Mothers Out Front' are teaming up to host an electric school bus webinar. The webinar will be held via Zoom on Thursday, January 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. For additional information, contact mofwestchesterrivertowns@gmail.com.

"My Administration has made it our priority to not only focus on what green initiatives we can immediately control on the county level, but to also work with key local stakeholders to provide information, know-how and support to other leaders in Westchester so they can take the same steps," Latimer said. "This work could not be done without dedicated efforts from our Office of Energy and Sustainability in conjunction with members of the Westchester community. We only have one

planet and it will take collective actions to save it."

The discussion will provide school districts and community members an opportunity to engage with experts about the benefits of going electric and information on purchasing electric school buses for Westchester County school districts. The newest research states children who ride on diesel buses are at a higher risk of lung disease, i.e. asthma, bronchitis, and cancer.

Mothers Out Front is a national movement to take action on climate change and work towards a just transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. The Westchester teams are working on campaigns to avoid fossil fuels in new construction, switch from diesel to electric school buses, and encourage civic engagement.

Mothers Out Front Volunteer Megan

Dyer said: "When members of Mothers Out Front learned that emissions from our beloved Yellow School buses made up a quarter of the transportation greenhouse gas emissions in the US, we realized we could make a contribution to mitigating the climate crisis for our kids—fast. At 8.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year, transitioning to electric would make a massive positive impact, in addition to achieving cost savings and improving the air quality for our students. We urge all our Westchester and Putnam County School Officials to attend the January 27th online event that could make a real difference in the finances for our public schools and give our students hope for a livable climate."

This webinar will present a panel of speakers to include:

• County Executive George Latimer

- White Plains School District - discussing their use of electric buses
- Croton-Harmon School District - sharing their process to get voter approval and apply for state grants
- CALSTART on behalf of NYSEERDA - regarding state grant opportunities
- NY Power Authority - regarding services they can provide to the schools
- Con Edison - regarding services they can provide to the schools
- Croton 100 - calculating the cost-effectiveness of switching to electric

This online forum brings together county school districts and community members to build momentum for the transition to clean, healthy, electric fleets, identifying potential solutions, and opportunities for collaboration and advocacy, to help achieve them.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
Visit **TheExaminerNews.com**
to subscribe to our
FREE
e-mail newsletter
You'll receive the latest local news
delivered straight to your inbox
www.theexaminernews.com/eblast/



Examiner+
HUDSON VALLEY'S DIGITAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Forging community in the Hudson Valley with thoughtful local journalism -- one deep dive at a time.

- In-depth news features
- Local lifestyle coverage
- Bonus content with membership
- First-person columns from award-winning writers

Join the Community Today
www.Examiner-Plus.com

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

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

f&f FISHLIN
& FISHLIN

TODD FISHLIN | LEWIS FISHLIN

WESTCHESTER OFFICE **NEW YORK CITY OFFICE**
100 SOUTH BEDFORD RD. 60 EAST 42ND STREET
SUITE 340 SUITE 4600
MT. KISCO, NY 10549 NEW YORK, NY 10165

FOR ALL APPOINTMENTS CALL OR EMAIL

(212) 736-8000 | WWW.FISHLINLAW.COM

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

Like our SPORTS PHOTOS?



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



SUBURBAN

WINES & SPIRITS

WESTCHESTER'S FINE WINE & SPIRITS DESTINATION

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

 Available on the iPhone
App Store

WINE OF THE YEAR

2020 Anne Pichon Grenache Noir



Take what you think you know about Grenache and throw it out the window. As this wine opens, initial dark berry flavors meld into a true jam flavor with floral notes and bitter cranberry. It has such a divine, full mouthfeel that tricks you into not initially noticing that it's more 'dry' than not. While there a lot of wines that showcase the best flavors of their region, Anne Pichon Grenache Noir did it best this year. Cheers!

\$14⁹⁷



GREY GOOSE

Premium Vodka

\$39⁹⁷ 1.75 L

Reg. \$66.99

EVERYDAY
LOW PRICE

EXPRESS CURBSIDE PICK-UP & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Dan's Wine of the Year

2014 Casa Santos
Lima Reserva



The nose on this wine bursts through the seems with dark fruit notes earthy spice-tinged berries that remind you the wine is old school. The palate brings Very complex on the palate with coconut, blackberry, jam and dried fruit, prune and fig. The addition of the Syrah in this blend is what separates this wine from anything ordinary.

\$11⁹⁷

Jason's Wine of the Year

2019 Oak Farm Tievoli
Cabernet Sauvignon



Deep garnet in color, this Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of complex aromas of black currant, blueberry, cedar, and floral characteristics. The wine is full bodied with echoing aromas on the palate. The finish is abundant in textured tannins, yet smooth and velvety.

\$14⁹⁷

Suburban's Sparkling Wine of the Year

NV Isotta Manzoni
Prosecco Rose



Subtle and fresh aromas with hints of small red berries, rose, and pomegranate. On the palate it is silky and full with elegant flavors of strawberry and crushed violets, finishing with well-balanced minerality. You will have no problem finishing the bottle once it's opened. This is crushable!

\$13⁹⁷

Tom's Wine of the Year

2018 Laurent Combier
Crozes Hermitage



Mesmerizing deep dark ruby with dark pink shimmers along the rim of the wine. This Syrah emits a nose of black cherry jam, figs, black currants, and subtle notes of bacon fat, cured meat, and violets. The palate is rich with bright and juicy blackberries, blueberries, and cranberries. Black peppercorns, dried thyme, and subtle notes of river rocks breakthrough the berry medley. A lingering finish of dried blueberries and cacao finalize this wine.

\$19⁹⁷

Woodbridge Cab or Chard. 1.5L.....\$9.97	Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75.....\$28.97
Barefoot Chardonnay & PG 1.5L....\$9.97	Stolichnaya Vodka 1.75L.....\$29.97
Hess Select Chardonnay.....\$9.97	Ketel One Vodka 1.75L.....\$37.97
Mondavi Bourbon Barrel Cabernet.....\$11.97	Bombay Sapphire Gin 1.75L.....\$38.97
Bread and Butter Chardonnay.....\$11.97	Aberfeldy 12yr Single Malt Scotch.....\$32.97
Louis Jadot Macon Villages.....\$11.97	Talisker 10yr Single Malt Scotch...\$59.97

— EVERYDAY LOW PRICES —

 Jack Daniels 1.75 L \$47.97	 Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5 L \$11.97	 Meiomi Pinot Noir 750 ml \$17.97	 Smirnoff Vodka 1.75 L \$18.97	 Tito's Vodka 1.75 L \$31.97	 Dewars Scotch 1.75 L \$32.97
 Hess Select Cabernet 750 ml \$13.97	 Josh Cellars Cabernet 750 ml \$11.97	 Kendall Jackson Chardonnay 750 ml \$11.97	 Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 750 ml \$21.97	 Ruffino Tan Label Chianti 750 ml \$19.97	



Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm • Fri-Sat 9am-9pm • Sun 12pm-5pm • January 25th through January 31st
 379 Downing Drive • Yorktown Heights, NY • 914-962-3100 • WWW.SUBURBANWINES.COM
 WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS - WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES - SALE PRICES ARE FOR STORE STOCK ONLY

All prices
750ml unless
otherwise
noted

Dozens of Police Agencies Show Support to NYPD Precinct of Slain Officer

By Martin Wilbur

Hundreds of police officers throughout the lower Hudson Valley participated in a caravan Sunday afternoon to the Harlem police precinct that saw one of its officers fatally shot Friday night and another fighting for his life.

About 50 law enforcement agencies were represented, many from Westchester and Putnam counties, in a show of support and a tribute to the fallen officer, Jason Rivera. They brought flowers, food and cards and various Police Benevolent Associations and police fraternal organizations in Westchester made donations to the fund established by the NYPD to support the family of Rivera, who married last fall.

The caravan started at the Westchester County Police Academy in Valhalla and made its way down to the 32nd Precinct on West 135th Street in Manhattan. The New York City police escorted the caravan from the Westchester-Bronx border, down the Major Deegan Expressway and to the stationhouse.

"It's really just to show the NYPD and to show everybody that when something bad happens to anybody in law enforcement it affects the entire community," said Westchester County police Sgt. James Dress. "We all wear different patches but we're all from the same family. So it's just an opportunity to show our support from all the northern precincts of the area north of New York City."



WESTCHESTER DES PHOTO

Police officers from throughout the Hudson Valley stand with NYPD members for the laying of wreaths outside the 32nd Precinct in Harlem on Sunday. On last Friday night, a 22-year-old NYPD officer was shot and killed and his partner is fighting for his life.

Rivera and his partner, Officer Wilbert Mora, were ambushed Friday night while responding to a domestic violence call. When they arrived at the apartment, Lashawn McNeil allegedly emerged from a rear bedroom firing his gun, hitting Rivera and Mora.

Over the weekend Mora underwent two surgeries to remove a bullet near his brain. After the two officers were struck, a third officer fired at McNeil, hitting him twice.

Dress said the shooting has been particularly hard on the police community because the officers were responding to a type of call that is made on a routine basis.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

A police caravan, which included members from about 50 departments throughout the Hudson Valley, leaves the Westchester Police Academy on Sunday on its way to the 32nd Precinct in Harlem.

"They were there doing their jobs, they were there to render some aid to the people who called for their help and unfortunately they weren't given the opportunity, the perpetrator opened the door and fired and the officers, they really didn't have much time to react," he said. "That's very tragic and the fact that some of the officers from that command in New York City actually had to carry the officers to the hospital, which was at the end of the block, (it's) very emotional, very tragic."

Westchester County police spokesman Kieran O'Leary said the slain officer's age – Rivera was 22 years old – and the fact that last week was especially brutal for police officers in the city and around the nation has likely heightened the outpouring of support this time. Last week four NYPD

officers were shot.

In most previous instances when an officer has been hit, the county police and representatives from several Westchester departments and the lower Hudson Valley would make the trip, O'Leary said.

"I think the uptick in violence against police officers is a factor for everybody to come together and stand united, and I think the young age of the officer, who was 22 years old, at the start of his career, and I think that really just hit everybody, too," he said. "This is like a life and a career that's not going to happen because of the violence that happened to him and I think that really resonated with everybody also."

Also participating in the caravan were departments from Rockland, Dutchess and Orange counties and Stamford, Conn.



Community Trip to Germany & Poland June 18-29, 2022

Join *Steve Goldberg*, Co-Director of Education, and *Gerrit Book*, professional tour guide, formerly of the Goethe Institut, on the **first** HHREC Community Trip to visit Holocaust museums and sites in **Berlin, Warsaw, and Krakow.**

- Learn about the history of the Jewish community in Germany and Poland.
- Trace the origins of the Holocaust
- Explore Monuments and Memorials.

For more information, contact Steve Goldberg at sgoldberg@hhrecny.org or call (914) 696-0738.



C.O.D. OIL
HEATING OIL ON DEMAND

CALL US TODAY AND SAVE!
914.737.7769

AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

*The Consumer's Choice
for Discount Heating Oil!*

**SAVE WITH OUR
LOW C.O.D.
PRICES!**

- No Contracts or Commitments
- Oil Burner Service/Tune-ups
- Quality Heating Oil
- Senior Citizen & Volume Discounts
- Expert Burner Service
- A/C Tune-ups
- Price Matching (Restrictions apply)

Order online at: www.codoil.com

**VALENTINE'S
DAY SALE
GOING ON NOW!**

Thornwood Jewelers
A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

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



COVID Cases Plummeting But Westchester Sees Fatalities Rise

By Martin Wilbur

The worst of this winter's COVID-19 surge appears to be over as cases locally and statewide continue to plunge but an increase in deaths from the Omicron variant continue to hit the area.

During the past week the percentage of positive tests returned dipped below 10 percent across New York State, while Westchester County has recorded a single-digit positivity rate for five consecutive days through the weekend. On Sunday, Westchester had an 8.3 rate of infection from 5,205 tests. It actually was slightly higher than Friday and Saturday, which saw readings of 7.9 and 7.5 percent, respectively.

The statewide number closely mirrored Westchester's, with an 8.5 percent rate on Sunday, up slightly from 7.8 percent on Saturday under 10 percent since last Wednesday. Cases per 100,000 residents are declining in each one of the state's 10 regions, said Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"Our hard work to bring down the numbers during the winter surge is paying off, but we are not through this yet," Hochul said. "Let's keep using the tools – the vaccine, booster and masks – that will help slow the spread of this virus, protect our families and keep our schools and businesses open."

Westchester saw its active caseload on



Westchester County Executive George Latimer reported that active COVID-19 cases in the county have declined by nearly two-thirds in less than two weeks, but fatalities from the virus have soared over the past two months.

Sunday plummet to 13,309, a little more than one-third of the peak of the Omicron-induced surge that reached 36,345 10 days

earlier.

County Executive George Latimer said given the pattern of the variant abroad as well as the timing of the surge from last winter, which peaked about two weeks after New Year's and the end of the holiday season, it's an encouraging sign.

"We're hopeful that what we've seen overseas will also be fully manifest here, which would be a significant drop in the number of hospitalizations, not only as we get further away from the holidays, but as we get a little closer to spring and the better weather," said Latimer, who acknowledged that it's nearly two months until the start of spring.

The improving numbers have not resulted in a deceleration of fatalities, which health officials often repeat is a lagging indicator. Through Saturday, Westchester has seen 160 people die from COVID-19 in January alone, up from seven for the entire month of November and 60 for the full month of December, Latimer said.

Although new daily infections have fallen by nearly two-thirds in Putnam since that county topped out at 1,584 infections on Jan. 3, the positivity rate on Sunday was at 13.9 percent. On Friday and Saturday, Putnam saw rates of 9.7 and 8.3 percent,



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

respectively, the only two days this month below 10 percent.

COVID-19-related hospitalizations have been as well, but will take some more time before

those numbers have a comparable rate of reduction to cases. Through Saturday, Westchester had 486 hospitalizations; at the peak of this season's surge less than two weeks before that, there were 627 patients hospitalized from the from the virus, Latimer said.

Hospitalizations statewide stood at 9,798 over the weekend, down slightly under 3,000 since the peak earlier this month, according to the state's tracker on matters related to COVID-19.

Latimer said Monday that testing and vaccinations by appointment at the County Center in White Plains will continue at least through the end of February. Appointments for boosters can be made for Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and some Saturdays by visiting health.westchestergov.com.

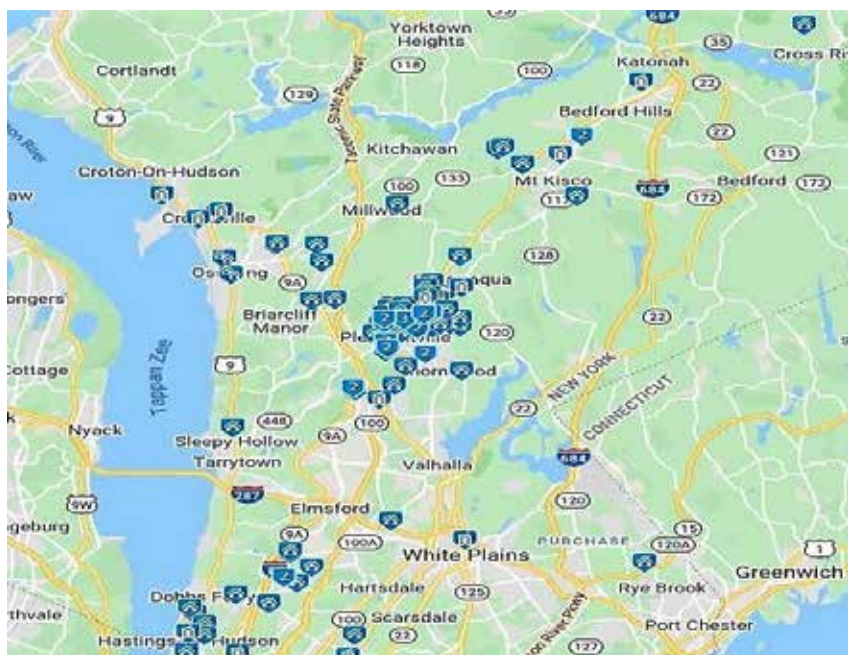
Testing is available Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the end of next month.

To make an appointment for a test, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3kz9nfw9>.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Serving All Of Westchester County...Here Are Some Of Loretta's 2021 Sales!

Let my experience and proven record of success work hard for you to put you on the map!



116 Edgemont Road, Scarsdale
6 Beds, 3.1 Baths,
3450 SF, 0.37 Acres



60 Wood Avenue, Ardsley
4 Beds, 2 Baths,
1986 SF, 0.31 Acres



140 Orchard Ridge Road,
Chappaqua, 3 Beds, 2.1 Baths,
2206 SF, 0.29 Acres



438 Pythian Avenue,
Hawthorne. 2 Beds, 1 Bath,
863 SF, 0.23 Acres



112 Nottingham Road, 1F
Bedford Hills, Condo
6 Beds, 3.1 Bths, 3450 SF



20 N Broadway, White Plains
Co-op, 1 Bed, 1 Bath,
600 SF



240 Garth Road, #4H2
Scarsdale, Co-op, 2 Beds,
2 Baths, 1145 SF



108 Foxwood Circle, Mt. Kisco
Rented Condo: 1 Bed, 1 Bath,
775 SF



Loretta Chiavetta

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Cell: 914-434-1864

E-Mail: Loretta.Chiavetta@cbmoves.com

Web: cbmoves.com/Loretta.Chiavetta



1 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville



I welcome the opportunity to assist you with the purchase or sale of your home in 2022. Together we can map out a plan for all your real estate needs! Call for a complimentary Market Analysis.

Mobile COVID Testing Site Opens in Yorktown

In response to long lines for testing at local pharmacies and urgent care centers, a mobile testing site opened last week at Yorktown's Granite Knolls Park.

Yorktown officials responded to the surging demand for COVID-19 tests by partnering with Ridgewood Labs to offer drive-thru services in the park's parking lot. The site, located at 2975 Stony St. in Yorktown.

It is Ridgewood Lab's fourth site established in the tristate area.

"This pandemic has required local government to innovate and build new partnerships in order to provide critical services to its residents," said Supervisor

Matt Slater. "We encourage those in need, both in Yorktown and our neighboring communities, to take advantage of this free service."

The drive-thru testing is being offered Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I'm glad that we can help our residents get the tests they need," Councilman Tom Diana said.

Appointments and masks are required for the tests. The public can sign up for the tests by visiting <https://testny.online/reg.aspx>.

"We have been working on establishing this program for nearly two months and I am glad it has finally come to fruition," said

Councilman Sergio Esposito. "This will help our community take another step closer to normalcy."

The testing is expected to continue in the park until March.

"Just as we offered our community center for vaccinations, we are offering a public park for mobile testing to help our community stay safe," Councilman Ed Lachterman said.

Yorktown Town Board members outside the new mobile testing site at Granite Knolls Park last week.



TOWN OF YORKTOWN PHOTO

Winter Blood Drive Set for Monday in P'ville

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a negative impact on blood donations as traditionally major sponsors of blood drives such as schools and businesses opt to hold off on hosting the drives. The cold weather and seasonal colds and flu are also preventing people from donating.

In response, the Emanuel Lutheran Church in Pleasantville is sponsoring a community blood drive this Monday, Jan. 31 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the church on 197 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. Both whole blood and red cell units will be collected from qualifying candidates. Although this drive makes it convenient for Pleasantville residents to participate,

blood donors from all towns are welcome to come to lend their help.

All persons donating during the month of January will be entered into a sweepstakes to win a Mirror Home Gym.

Donors will be required to wear a mask. To allow for sufficient social distancing, appointments are preferred and strongly encouraged, although walk-ins will be accepted if and when distancing requirements can be followed.

For questions regarding eligibility, including questions regarding travel, medications and last donation, call 800-688-0900. To make an appointment, call 800-933-2566 or visit www.NYBloodCenter.org/donate-blood.

NWPC PHARMACY

WALK-INS

(no appointment necessary)

Pfizer, J&J and Moderna

Covid-19 vaccines,
BOOSTER & flu shots

Covid -19 home test kits,
KN95 and KN94 masks available

Thanks for your Patronage

Send Electronic RX to ↓

NORTHERN WESTCHESTER RX CENTER

19 E. Main Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

(914) 666-4467

NWPCpharmacy.com

We Deliver
Se Habla Espanol



Please scan QR code
and leave us a review



Gyro



Lemon Potatoes



Chicken Souvlaki



PAPPOUS

GREEK KITCHEN

Casual Greek Eatery

CATER YOUR NEXT EVENT-GREEK STYLE

Call us to guide you to the
perfect order for any size gathering!

Don't forget to order our wildly popular
Cabana Sangria in Red or White



As usual, curbside pick-up is always available.

914-455-2111



Follow us on Instagram
PAPPOUS_GREEK_KITCHEN

www.PappousGreekKitchen.com
1983 Commerce St., Yorktown Heights

Cortlandt Adds New Community Resource Officer From County

By Rick Pezzullo

Police services in the Town of Cortlandt were enhanced last week with the addition of a new uniformed law enforcement officer from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety who will serve as a community resource officer (CRO).

The new position, which will cost Cortlandt \$252,000 this year, is an outgrowth of the state mandated police reform process that municipalities participated in last year.

“We are excited to offer this new coverage to our community with our ongoing partnership with Westchester County Department of Public Safety,” said Cortlandt Supervisor Dr. Richard Becker. “I would like to thank County Executive George Latimer for working with our community in making this partnership a success and one that continues to grow.”

“The work to be done by a CRO will enhance the safety and security of the people of Cortlandt and will also build trust and a stronger relationship between the police and the people they serve in the town,” Latimer added.

Since Cortlandt eliminated its own police department as a cost-cutting move in 1999, the town has contracted with Westchester to fill that void, along with getting coverage from the state police. The state police operate out of barracks in the Crugers section of Cortlandt and pay the

town \$100,000 annually for the use of its headquarters on Route 9A.

The CRO is expected to work closely with the Cortlandt Town Board, business community and neighborhood organizations to identify and address issues requiring police intervention.

CRO training includes instruction in a wide range of topics such as crisis intervention, de-escalation, implicit bias, procedural justice, crime prevention, mental health issues and domestic violence.

“The addition of a CRO will enable our department to engage more fully with residents, business and community leaders, youth groups, clergy and others to hear their concerns and build a strong partnership in addressing those issues,” said Westchester Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Gleason.

Police Officer Deopaul Mahadeo, who currently serves as a patrol officer in Cortlandt, has been selected as the CRO. Mahadeo is a United States Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He started his law enforcement career with the White Plains Police Department where he served for five years before transferring to the Westchester County police.

“This officer already has an extensive knowledge of the Cortlandt community that he can build upon in his work as the CRO,” Gleason said.

The CRO will also work on collaborative

initiatives with the Westchester County Police officers who currently serve as School Resource Officers in the Hendrick Hudson and Lakeland school districts.

The Village of Mount Kisco, which also disbanded its local police department in 2015 and receives police services from the county, has also been exploring the possibility of adding a community resource officer.

Fun Time



Kindergartners participate in Mount Kisco Elementary School’s gymnastics unit in physical education. The activities encourage a growth mindset in students as they cycle through stations designed to develop their gymnastics skills by practicing strength, balance, agility, coordination and flexibility – all while having fun. Physical education teachers look for progress, not perfection.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



Nationally-recognized expertise. Local address.

Premier medical experts close to home. Including top doctors from Columbia and award-winning Magnet® nurses. Offering you advanced medical technology and treatments. Affiliated with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, ranked #1 in New York. Care that is nothing short of amazing, here in Westchester.

Learn more at nyp.org/hudsonvalley

 **NewYork-Presbyterian**
Hudson Valley Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital as ranked by U.S News & World Report 2021-2022.

Letters to the Editor

Those Suffering From Alzheimer's Must Have Access to New Medication

Say it ain't so Joe.

I am beyond disappointed in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) decision to cover the recently approved Alzheimer's drug Aduhelm only for people in clinical trials. During President Biden's acceptance speech, he encouraged us all to look ahead to an America that cures diseases like Alzheimer's.

This outrageously expensive drug, at a cost of \$28,200 per month, has the potential to offer hope to the families of the more than five million Americans living with Alzheimer's. But with its current price tag only a select few will be able to have access. As someone who lost my mother to early-onset Alzheimer's disease I know what a devastating impact it can have on

a family's emotional, mental, physical and financial stability.

The drugs currently available are decades old and have shown minimal benefit. Aduhelm is the first drug to gain FDA approval in a long time and Americans living with Alzheimer's are entitled to therapies, just as people with conditions like cancer, heart disease and HIV/AIDS. Treating people living with Alzheimer's differently than those with other diseases

is discrimination and simply unacceptable.

For the 16 million Americans providing 18.6 billion hours of unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, I call on the CMS to change this decision and ensure equitable access for all who could benefit from FDA-approved treatments.

**Nancy Keane
Ossining**

Greater Transparency is Required From Putnam County Government

Whether we stand on the left or the right politically, we can agree that we want to know that our government is fiscally responsible and gets good value for the hard-earned dollars that we pay in taxes. However, our Putnam County government has demonstrated fiscal irresponsibility. They recently voted themselves raises while increasing our county income taxes and at the same time cutting mobile medical services and not adequately funding our health department.

As voters and taxpayers, we should demand full transparency from our elected leaders. The practice of going into closed executive sessions must end and the proposed county budget should be available for all to see and comment on at least a month before it is voted on.

**Steven Altarescu
Putnam Valley**

Living Peacefully Starts at Home and Includes All Species

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. referred to renowned spiritual leader and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh as "an apostle of peace and nonviolence" in a letter nominating his respected colleague for the Nobel Peace Prize.

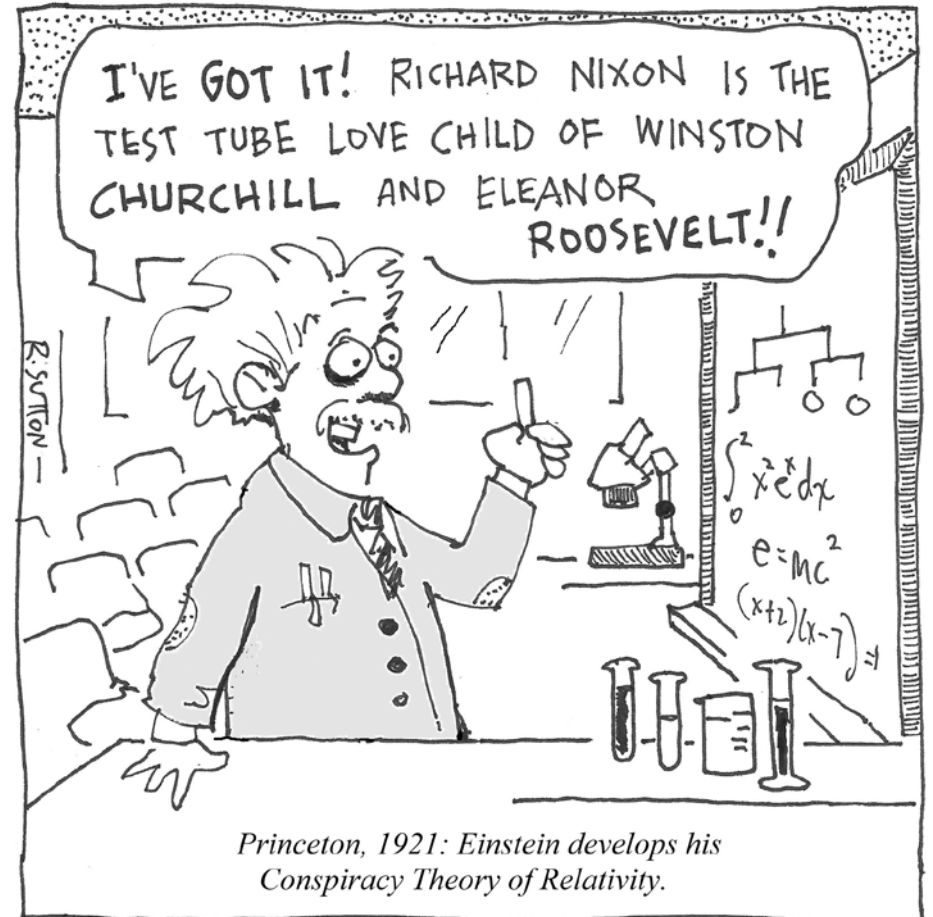
Thây, as his Buddhist followers called him (Vietnamese for "teacher"), had certainly earned such high praise. Often compared to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Nhat Hanh devoted his life to helping humanity learn to coexist peacefully with one another and with the other sentient beings with whom we share the planet.

He knew that we could never achieve nonviolence without rejecting the

subjugation and abuse of other species – and that a peaceful world begins on our plates. As he put it, "I am determined not to kill, not to let others kill and not to support any act of killing in the world."

Nhat Hanh allowed PETA to use those words in a beautiful ad encouraging everyone who prays for peace on Earth to start in their own homes and to choose compassion three times a day. As we mourn the loss of Nhat Hanh, there is no better way to honor his legacy.

**Michelle Kretzer
The PETA Foundation
Norfolk, Va.**



To advertise in The Examiner, call 914-864-0878 or e-mail advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The PUTNAM
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

THE
Examiner
NEWS
www.theexaminernews.com

Examiner+
www.examiner-plus.com

Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

Peter Stone
C.F.O.
pstone@theexaminernews.com

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

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

Print Team:

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

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs
Sports Editor
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardi
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
Real estate columnist

Morris Gut
Food Writer

David Devine
Distribution

Gus Amador
Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt
Reporter
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA



Letters Policy

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

Five-Story Apartment Building Explored for Somers Commons

By Rick Pezzullo

The owner of the Somers Commons shopping center in Baldwin Place is looking to revitalize the longtime retail-only property by bringing in multifamily housing.

Willing Biddle, president and COO of Urstadt Biddle Properties, presented the Somers Planning Board on Jan. 12 with plans to build a five-story, 160-unit apartment building in a 30,000-square-foot space being vacated by Home Goods in early March. Somers Commons is located on Route 6.

Home Goods is relocating about seven miles away to the Cortlandt Town Center on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake to occupy space near Home Depot. The space it is moving into was most recently a Bed Bath & Beyond.

Having reached out to about 100 retailers across the country without success for a possible replacement for Home Goods, Biddle explained that his company, which also owns the Town Centre at Somers and the Heritage 202 Center, both on Route 100 in Somers, was hoping to capitalize on a popular trend in the industry.

“There have been a lot of challenges in the retail world. It’s more and more difficult to find big-box retailers to come into a shopping center,” Biddle said. “We’re looking at potentially a white elephant and we’re scared of that and what it could do to the rest of the center. We’re concerned this store will go dark and we won’t be able to find a replacement for it.”

Plans call for the demolition of the Home



The Home Goods site at Somers Commons where 160 apartments have been proposed by a developer.

Goods building and the construction of a complex with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom rental apartments. There would be 72 one- and two-bedroom units each and 16 with three bedrooms. Of those units, 24 would be set aside for affordable housing.

The existing Goodwill, Cold Stone Creamery and Penny Lane stores near Home Goods are scheduled to remain. There are currently four other vacancies in the shopping center.

Anup Misra, a consultant for Urstadt Biddle Properties, said the new apartment building, which would include 5,000 square feet of amenities, would help attract baby boomers and millennials to Somers.

“There’s a gap that needs to be filled,” Misra said. “We’re aiming for this to be a top-class development. I think this would be a great thing for the town and a great thing for the shopping center. This is a transition happening all over Westchester. This change is creeping up north.”

Dave Smith, Somers’ consultant planner, agreed mixing housing with retail was “consistent with what is going on in Westchester County.”

“There’s certainly a need for housing in Westchester County of all types,” Smith said. “A lot of synergy can be created with this type of concept.”

However, several Planning Board

members strongly balked at the building being five stories, which would require a zoning change from the Town Board. Planning Board member David McNamara said it would be “precedent-setting.”

“While it’s good for you, it’s not necessarily good for us,” board member Nancy Gerbino asserted. “This is a major, major change to our zoning. We are bucolic and how we keep that is by not having five-story buildings.”

“A five-story structure is quite bold for northern Westchester. I understand the concept, but I believe it belongs down county,” added board member Chris Zaberto. “This is a massive project. I don’t see how a five-story complex with 320 parking spaces is a good fit for Somers. I don’t see public opinion in your favor either.”

Planning Board Chairman John Currie said he would be “very comfortable” if the building was three stories, commenting, “I’m not in favor of a five-story building anywhere in this town. I would hate to see even one change the character of the town.”

Biddle, who mentioned his company has been a fixture in Somers since 1993 and paid about \$1.14 million in property taxes in 2021, said the easy solution would be to do nothing, but he expressed hope town officials would work with him to craft a mutually acceptable project.

“We want the community to thrive and we’re here to stay,” he said. “What’s good for Somers, is good for us. We need zoning flexibility to help ourselves. We’re not going to build something that’s not going to work.”

Genesis Jewelers

Yorktown

The Origin of Fine Jewelry

Andréa Candela

www.genesisjewelers.com

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 6

914-245-3899

32 Triangle Center, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Trying to help a loved one in a nursing home qualify for Medicaid coverage?

We're here to help.

We'll make sure the funds you need to protect your final wishes are secured in a Medicaid-compliant plan.

- No Income Requirements
- Customizable Plans
- Protected From Inflation

BallardDurand.com

CALL TODAY TO LEARN MORE:
(914) 949-0566

BALLARD-DURAND
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

2 Maple Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601
72 East Main Street, Elmsford NY 10523

Taghkanic Chorale Welcomes New Singers for Spring Season

Rehearsals for the Taghkanic Chorale's spring concert have begun and new singers are invited to join.

The concert program, "Across the Vast Eternal Sky," features the ethereal music of Ola Gjeilo ("Sunrise Mass") and Enrique Granados ("Song of the Stars"), coupled with Leonard Bernstein's powerful "Chichester Psalms" and selections from his "West Side Story" – all music designed to inspire and uplift.

Performances will be held on May 14 and 15 at Holy Name of Mary Church in Croton-on-Hudson.

Now in its 55th season, the Taghkanic Chorale offers music lovers in northern Westchester and surrounding communities the opportunity to sing and hear the greatest choral music of all eras from the Renaissance to contemporary composers.

Throughout the pandemic the chorale has persevered with virtual concerts and Zoom rehearsals, always aligned with New York State and CDC guidelines.

"Last September we began

rehearsing in person again, with masks. And our December concert in Croton was our first live performance for an audience in two years," said Deb May, the chorale's president.

That concert celebrated the music of Bach and Vivaldi, supported by five accomplished soloists and a 20-piece Baroque orchestra.

Rehearsals for the upcoming spring season are every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., initially held via Zoom. Plans are to return to in-person rehearsals with a live streaming option for remote participation on Feb. 8.

The Chorale welcomes singers of all ages, vocal ranges and skill levels. No audition is required. Prospective singers are encouraged to drop in on a Tuesday rehearsal, with no obligation to join.

For more information on the Taghkanic Chorale, Maestro Jason Tramm, Zoom log-in, rehearsal specifics and a video link to the December concert, visit www.taghkanicchorale.org.



The Taghkanic Chorale is holding rehearsals for prospective members to join the group for its 55th season and its scheduled spring concert program on May 14 and 15.

As a reader of our newspaper journalism you'll also enjoy our Examiner+ magazine journalism. Our digital newsmagazine, Examiner+, delivers in-depth news and local lifestyle coverage straight to your inbox Monday through Saturday. Visit www.examiner-plus.com to join our community of members.

"The World's Top **ABBA** tribute act"
- London Times

the FABBA Show

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 | 8PM | ALL AGES

PARAMOUNT THEATER
1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Repair Work
Gift Wrapping

Our 53rd Year

We Buy Gold,
Silver & Platinum

All you need is love... **Always Unique** ...But some jewelry couldn't hurt!

Mt. Kisco's Oldest Jewelry Store
Limited Unlimited

8A South Moger Avenue, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 • (914) 241-2232
Open Tuesday through Saturday 10AM- 5:30 PM

Try **MUSIC LESSONS**
in 2022!

PRIVATE LESSONS
In Person or Remote Ages 5 - Adult
Guitar, Piano, Drum, Bass, Vocal
Strings, Brass/Winds

FOUR 30min LESSONS for \$185!

RoseHill Music Academy
Columbus Ave, Thornwood 747-2585 www.rosehillmusic.net

Arc Stages Upcoming Production to Challenge Audience on Truth, Faith

By Martin Wilbur

From the time that Adam Cohen first saw the Michael John LaChiusa musical "See What I Wanna See" after its 2005 debut, the music and the story has never left him.

Cohen, the artistic director at Pleasantville's Arc Stages, now has the chance, starting on Feb. 4, to provide local theater-goers with the same impact he felt about 16 years ago when the next presentation of his theater company's professional wing opens for a three-weekend, seven-performance engagement.

The challenging two-act musical, which involves a murder in New York's Central Park in 1951 for the first act, and about 50 years later, a priest losing his faith in the second act, will make audiences sit up and take notice, asking themselves to define truth, a timely topic in 2022.

"There are facts that are facts. Truth is a much deeper thing, and I think every story has many sides and truth does, to some degree, as well," Cohen explained. "You have to listen to everyone and at least give everyone that kind of respect and dignity, and I feel like we don't do that as a society anymore. I'm not just pointing out the left-right thing going on (in politics). It's



PETER SCHERER PHOTO

A scene during a recent rehearsal of "See What I Wanna See" at Arc Stages in Pleasantville featuring actors Allie Seibold, center, with Cooper Grodin and Trevor Martin. The show will open next Friday, Feb. 4 for the first of seven performances.

deeper than that, although it's part of it."

The show, directed by Ann-Ngaire Martin, is buoyed by LaChiusa's composition. As preparations continue for next week's opening, Cohen and Martin said the five-member cast has been beautifully executing the musical's intricacies during rehearsals. The cast will be accompanied by a five-piece band under the musical direction of Marcus Baker.

"I don't see how you can walk out of this show and not be –

several things – a little disturbed, a little hopeful," Martin said. "It's not a feel-good, you-don't-have-to-do-anything-as-an-audience-member (production). It sort of washes over you, and it did with me when I first read it, and I had not even seen it."

The cast is comprised of all New York City-based professional actors – Becca Ayers, Joe Chisholm, Cooper Grodin, Trevor Martin and Allie Seibold. Each plays multiple characters over the course of the two acts.

Chisholm said LaChiusa's

music is gorgeous but incredibly complicated; however, the show also provides the audience and cast with a subject matter that is rich and relevant although written in a different time.

"I highlighted this before we started, is how pertinent to right now it is because the past two years our society has gone through this intense grieving process and a crisis of faith kind of naturally, and it's amazing that (LaChiusa) wrote this for a very different event," Chisholm said. "But it still speaks, and I think it speaks to a lot of this kind of existential question we all accept, alone in our apartments the last two years."

Cast member Trevor Martin said he knew little of the show before auditioning and didn't realize how effective the music and the storyline are.

"It's very operatic, honestly," he said. "It feels very much like a small chamber opera and we're all singing our own parts. There's not an ensemble, so you just have to hold onto your part and don't let go."

Adding to the challenges of a complex production has been the observance of COVID-19 protocols through rehearsals and

in the upcoming performances. Cohen said most of the rehearsing has been with the actors in masks. They are tested multiple times a week and must be vaccinated.

There is also blue tape toward the front of the stage so the actors, who will be unmasked during the performances, will be a safe distance from the audience in the roughly 100-seat theater.

"They're so grateful to be working," Martin, the show's director, said. "It's not an easy time for actors right now – or producers. The industry's shows are closing down; people aren't even starting up their season."

Audience members must show proof of vaccination or receipt of a booster shot within the past six months to gain admittance and must wear a mask.

Performances of "See What I Wanna See" will be at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19. There is one matinee on Sunday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$38 for adults, \$30 for students and \$28 for seniors.

For tickets and more information, call 914-747-6206 or visit www.arcstages.org. Arc Stages is located at 147 Wheeler Ave. in Pleasantville.

It's A New Year & A New Season

HAS YOUR VEHICLE BEEN "WINTERIZED"?

- ✓ CHANGE OIL & TRANSMISSION FLUIDS
- ✓ SNOW TIRES & NEW WIPER BLADES
- ✓ ANTIFREEZE & WINTER-GRADE WIPER FLUID

Call TODAY and Schedule a Full Winter Service Appointment

845.878.3456



Keeping YOU Safe & On the Road!

2597 Rt. 22 Patterson

PattersonAutoBody.com

Obituaries

Ernest Pacchiana

Ernest Leonard Pacchiana passed away peacefully at his home on Jan. 18 in Stormville, N.Y. with all the love of his family.

Ernie, as he was known to friends and family, was born in Mount Vernon in 1937 to parents Anselmo and Marie Pacchiana.

He attended Iona Prep School, where his football exploits helped the team win the first ever NYSCHSAA championship. From there, he attended Union College (NY) earning his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Ernie joined the U.S. Army and served diligently during the Cold War as an engineer. After the army, Ernie went to work in the family construction business, Thalle Construction, and managed many municipal and university projects until he embarked on his own real estate and residential development career as a certified professional engineer.

A longtime Little League and CYO basketball coach and organizer, Ernie also created the Pony League middle distance baseball for his youngest son and friends when he saw a need for kids who still wanted to play baseball after Little League. He introduced paddle tennis to northern Westchester and the Briarcliff courts are dedicated in his honor. He founded the Briarcliff Rotary Club chapter with other local businessmen, again creating something new when he saw the need.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife, Nannette Stone, his five children, Dean, Adam, Jennifer, Jean Marie and Joseph,



Ernest Pacchiana

whom he loved slightly more than his dogs (too numerous to name), and also his longtime first wife and devoted mother of his children, Kathryn Adams.

There is no immediate plan for a funeral service due to changing pandemic conditions, but a celebration-of-life gathering is planned for Father's Day weekend. You may contact any family member for details.

If you would like to donate in Ernie's name, please consider the Briarcliff Rotary Club or Westchester SPCA.

Kenneth Oliveri

Kenneth R. Oliveri died on Sept. 7, 2021, at the age of 76 at Northern Westchester Hospital.

He leaves behind his wife of 43 years, Sheila, who was the love of his life; his two daughters, Mandy and Tara; and a very large extended family – all of whom he loved unconditionally and spoke with each day.

Ken was raised in Staten Island, lived in St. Petersburg, Fla. and moved to Westchester, where he resided at Bedford Plaza for the past 30 years. He held roles at Caldor, WARC and for the Village of Mount Kisco as a parking enforcement officer.

His most joyous role was coaching the Mount Kisco Maroons junior league football team for nearly 20 years, where he was given the nickname Cupcake by his young teammates for being such a softie. Ken was kind, encouraging and instilled teamwork and self-discipline in all of those he coached, but above all he cared. In his two decades as a coach, he mentored and positively influenced the lives of more than 700 kids. He developed their self-confidence. He encouraged them. He showed them they could be better than they ever thought they could be. He taught them to believe in themselves both on and off the field.

No matter where Ken went in Mount Kisco – the gas station, the grocery store, the car wash – he always bumped



Kenneth Oliveri

into current and former players and/or their parents, who thanked him for his mentorship. Ken never met a stranger. He brought joy to a lot of people's lives.

In lieu of a traditional service, celebrate Ken by calling your family and friends regularly and being kind to one other; that is what he would have wanted. Ken's life will be celebrated at a later date, which will be announced. We hope you will be able to attend.

Joseph Genovese

Joseph Michael Genovese, a 57-year Pleasantville resident, passed away on Jan. 18. He was 89.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Diana; his daughter, Donna Genovese, and her husband, David Ganis; son John Genovese and his partner Mark Bomser; and granddaughters Diana and Danielle Ganis.

Joe Genovese graduated from New York University and then served in the

Army Adjutant General's Corps during the Korean War. He was a credit analyst for Dunn & Bradstreet for 20 years and subsequently owned and operated several businesses, including Manor Wines & Spirits in Briarcliff Manor. Joe Genovese was active in the Mount Pleasant Italian American Association, the Pleasantville Fire Department Band, the Pleasantville Dad's Club and the American Legion.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Innocents R.C. Church in Pleasantville on Jan. 21.

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

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

Personally Owned and Supervised By

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

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

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

www.beecherflooksfh.com

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



Locally Owned & Operated
Serving all Faiths



Hawthorne Funeral Home

**21 West Stevens Ave.
Hawthorne, NY 10532**

Ernest J. Carpentieri ~ Douglas A. Daniels

**Tel: 914-769-4404
Fax: 914-769-5306**

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

New Model for Big Brothers Big Sisters, But Goal Remains the Same

By Martin Wilbur

On Jan. 1, there was a major change to the well-known youth mentoring organization Big Brothers Big Sisters but the outfit's mission hasn't changed at all.

For the first time in 65 years, the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters became an independent, nonprofit organization at the start of the month after being sponsored by Family Services of Westchester (FSW) since its formation.

Now formally called Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County, Inc., it will continue to help boys and girls from single-parent or single-caregiver homes throughout Westchester and Putnam between the ages of seven and 17 who lack a positive male or female role model in their lives.

"It's been in the works for a long time and we're actually really excited about it because where we had a lot of guidance before, (but) we were a board within a board," said Valerie Brown, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County, which recently moved its offices to Port Chester.

The transition, which took the local chapter about eight to 10 months to complete, was strongly encouraged by the national



Office staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester, including Valerie Brown, pictured third from right, the organization's executive director. Earlier this month the transition from being under the umbrella of Family Services of Westchester to become an independent non-profit was completed.

organization's CEO for each one of the roughly 240 chapters across the United States in order to help forge its own identity, Brown said.

Only about 20 chapters throughout the country remain under the umbrella of a sponsorship organization, a model that worked well a generation or more ago, but with the evolution of online searches and social media and the need for unique branding, became increasingly outdated.

Brown foresees two significant advantages that allows Big Brothers Big Sisters to get its name and mission out to the public, hopefully attracting more volunteers.

Applying for grant money will also hopefully be more effective.

"One is that we'll be able to recruit big brothers and big sisters easier because we will be more visible as a standalone, and the other is we won't have the foundation competition within FSW," Brown said.

Despite striking out on its own, the relationship between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County and FSW, a social services agency, remains strong, Brown maintained. Both organizations will continue to refer families to one another, she said.

The need for Big Brothers Big

Sisters to find a sufficient supply of mentors is crucial to fulfilling its goal.

"Our children are in need of positive role models in their lives," Brown said. "Most are from single-caregiver families, whether they be from foster homes or homes where there is a biological parent, or homes where they're being raised by a grandparent or (another) relative. So they need someone just for them and they also need someone to expand their horizons from their community."

Adult volunteers, referred to by the organization as Bigs, are asked to spend four to six hours a month over two visits for no- or low-cost outings. That could be a trip to a playground or park on a nice day, going to a pizzeria, a museum, or a ball game, introducing them to things in life that most people take for granted, Brown said.

Like in almost every other walk of life, the pandemic has brought its share of challenges. Many of the in-person mentoring had been curtailed. However, there have been virtual meetings where the youngster and mentor "visit." For example, the San Diego Zoo had a virtual tour developed during the pandemic.

Boys, in particular, are perhaps more in need of positive role

models, according to Brown. Most of the children come from homes where a woman is the head of the household, and there is an overwhelming number of women who want to be volunteers but there are far fewer calls to mentor girls.

"Most of our children are male and they're being raised in single-caregiver, female-led households and so they need guys and it's very difficult to find male volunteers," Brown said. "We spend a lot of time on that."

There are currently about 140 one-to-one mentorship connections, with a waiting list of about 60 boys. Many of the volunteers are empty-nesters.

Westchester-based organizations and corporations have also been recommending volunteers to the Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Despite the hurdles, Brown said the organization is doing fine.

"Bigs' that we have say, 'Oh my gosh, I get so much more out of this than the kid does' and they're referring us to other people," she said.

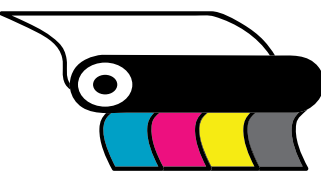
For more information about Big Brothers Big Sister of Westchester, Inc. or to inquire about volunteering or making donations, call 914-937-3779 or visit www.bigs-westchester.org.



bright beginnings
pre-school learning center

**ACCEPTING
ENROLLMENT
SUMMER PROGRAM 2022**

Ages 18 months to 5 years old
Schedules: (9:00 - 12:00); (9:00 - 2:00 pre-school only); (9:00 - 4:00)
Before and after care available, please inquire
2 to 5 Days Offered • 4 Weeks Minimum
 Montessori educational approach
 Music Appreciation • Movement • Science/Nature • Creative Art • Water Play
 Centrally located in Yorktown Heights to explore our natural resources
 Keeping in mind the safety and well-being of our children
 Licensed by Office of Children and Family Services • Call for a Tour!
WWW.BRIGHTBEGINPRESCHOOL.COM (914) 962-2929



Trumbull
PRINTING

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

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



Fuel Oil • HVAC • Service • Propane • Diesel

We Make Warm and Now "Cool" Friends Too!
www.SclafaniEnergy.com • 1 (845) 628-1330

Don't Get Caught In the Cold!

 **Call now for Low Heating Oil Prices**

Heating & Cooling System Tune-up, & Installation

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

Serving Northern Westchester, Southern Dutchess & Putnam Counties!



**Full Service, 24 HR
Emergency
Heating Assistance!
Installs, repairs
and upgrades!**

**Over 30 years, licensed,
insured and bonded!**

**We are #1 because our
customers come first!**

Senior Discounts!

Obituaries

James Gerth

James Raymond Gerth of Shenorock passed away on Jan. 18. He was 66.

Born on Feb. 6, 1955, in White Plains to the late William and Joan Byrne Gerth, he was raised in West Harrison and attended Archbishop Stepinac High School, graduating in 1973, and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Summa Cum Laude, from Adelphi University in 1977.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Karen Sorensen Gerth; son Michael James Gerth; sister Janet Prince (husband Rick) of Nashville, Tenn.; and brothers Robert Gerth (wife Janet) of Amelia Island, Fla. and William Gerth (wife Judy) of Trumbull, Conn.

A lifelong Westchester resident, James spent his life as a true renaissance man, excelling in the performing arts, communication skills coaching, structural design and construction.

To his many friends and fans, he was a brilliant actor and performer first.

His acting career highlights included the Broadway musical, "My Favorite Year" at Lincoln Center (understudy to Tim Curry as Alan Swann), the international tour of "My Fair Lady" (understudy to Noel Harrison as Professor Higgins) and starring as Don Quixote in a U.S. and Canadian tour of "Man of La Mancha." He also starred in two Off-Broadway musicals, "On the Air" and "Madison Avenue." His title roles in regional and stock theaters included "Man of La Mancha," "The King and I," "The Music Man," "Pal Joey," "Scapino," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "The Wizard of Oz." Jim also toured his one-man show "Mark Twain" throughout the tristate area for many years.

Off stage, Jim was in high demand as both a technical director, stage and facility manager, master carpenter and shop supervisor. Among the many places his talents were on display: Westchester Broadway Theatre, Eclipse Theatre Company, Yorktown Stage, Taconic Opera, Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, Rise of the Jack O'Lanterns, Brown Paper

Bag Video Productions and G&G Scenic. He also played a part in the founding of several regional theaters, including the Mahopac Farm Playhouse and Yorktown Stage.

In later years, Jim went on to a career as a communications coach in a global capacity for CommCore Strategy, where, as a senior communications consultant, he traveled the world to moderate medical advisory boards and deliver communications training and messaging to physicians and executives in a wide range of industries.

Most recently, the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown brought Jim in to consult on needed work around the facility and found himself as the new caretaker to help oversee renovations and maintain this historic church.

Memorial gifts in Jim's name may be sent to the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Rd., Yorktown Heights, N.Y. 10598 in support of the food pantry that serves our local community in need.



James Gerth

Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Jan. 11: A resident reported losing her car key in the parking lot of the Van Wyck Shopping Center at 1:01 p.m. She stated that she left her car running while she went into a store. When she returned, her car wasn't running and there was no key inside the vehicle. Patrol assisted the caller in looking for the vehicle key with negative results. Patrol observed surveillance footage that showed a white male in his 40s, wearing a black jacket and blue jeans, open the driver-side door of the vehicle, remove the key from ignition, shut the door and walk away. The owner had the vehicle towed from the lot. At 6 p.m., the owner responded to headquarters with information on who may be involved in the incident. Patrol notified that individual and was able to retrieve the car key and return it to the owner.

Jan. 14: Croton-Harmon High School official called at 11:10 p.m. reporting that a student is on a school computer at home searching for ways to kill himself. Several attempts to contact the parents were negative. Copies of what the student was searching on the computer have been preserved. Croton patrol and EMS was dispatched to the residence. The student was voluntarily transported to Westchester Medical Center.

Mount Pleasant Police Department

Jan. 16: An officer on patrol noticed an illegally parked car with its trunk ajar on Salem Place at 12:57 p.m. The officer spotted an elderly man on the property of 3 Salem Place, which is a construction site, wandering the property. The man said he was walking the property to find two pieces

of wood for personal use. He was advised that taking any items from the property, even those designated as garbage, without the owner's permission could result in criminal charges. He left the site without incident.

Jan. 17: Report of a landlord-tenant dispute at a Stillman Lane residence at 10:58 p.m. Upon the officer's arrival, the tenant said his landlady had pushed him and grabbed his neck after going to the garage to retrieve a snow shovel. The tenant stated that he had video, which showed them visibly arguing, then she shoved him and put his hands around his neck. He had no apparent injuries. The tenant said he is constantly having issues with his landlady and is afraid of her. The landlady, who lived in the basement apartment, stated that her tenant is not supposed to enter the garage and that he has not paid rent for multiple months and is in the process of evicting him. Officers advised this is a civil matter and recommended to the tenant he should not enter the garage.

North Castle Police Department

Jan. 14: Multiple callers reported a tree down at 4:38 p.m. across Round Hill Road and see sparks from a transformer. The responding officer reported a large tree was down in the roadway just past 33 Round Hill Rd., which caused four utility poles to snap. The officer reported that all primary wires were down and suspended across the roadway. Con Edison and the Banksville and Armonk fire departments were notified. Round Hill Road was closed at Megan Lane and at Bedford Banksville Road. The road was reopened the next day at 8:19 p.m. Con Edison is returning on Jan. 16 to perform additional work.

Pleasantville Police Department

Jan. 22: Report of a diesel truck on Dennis Lane that is spewing smoke. It was determined the smoke was due to exhaust.

Putnam County Sheriff's Department

Jan. 10: Deputies responded to a hit-and-run property damage accident on Marvin Avenue in Brewster at about 8 p.m. The driver, a 30-year-old Brewster man, was located in a nearby driveway. Upon investigation, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication but refused to perform field sobriety tests. He was arrested and transported to headquarters for processing and provided a breath sample, which produced a result of 0.27 blood-alcohol content. Due to the high level of intoxication, he was transported by Mahopac EMS to Putnam Hospital Center. He was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated and several traffic infractions. He was released on an appearance ticket and is due in Village of Brewster Court for a future court date.

Jan. 15: A 31-year-old Yorktown man was arrested and charged with second-degree criminal contempt for being at the residence of his girlfriend's house in Patterson in violation of an order of protection at about 1 a.m. He was arraigned in Patterson Town Court where a subsequent order of protection was issued. The suspect was released and scheduled to appear for a future court date.

Jan 15: Report of a female under the influence of narcotics at a Patterson residence at 12:30 p.m. Upon arrival, deputies located a 26-year-old woman outside the residence in a parked vehicle

and determined that she was under the influence of some type of narcotic. The subject was found to be in possession of heroin and cocaine and was charged with two counts of seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. She was transported to Putnam Hospital Center for evaluation and was issued an appearance ticket for a future appearance in Patterson Court.

Yorktown Police Department

Jan. 15: Christian Arriaga, 41, of the Bronx, was charged at 4:59 a.m. with driving while intoxicated and aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle after police received a report of a vehicle parked in the middle of Mohansic Avenue. Upon arrival, police observed Arriaga asleep in the driver's seat with the engine running.

Jan. 15: Kristina Benevento, 41, of Yorktown, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated and other traffic infractions at 4:55 p.m. after her vehicle crashed off the roadway on Old Farm Lane. Following an investigation, it is alleged Benevento was operating a vehicle while using a cell phone and intoxicated.

Jan. 18: Michael Portella, 21, of Yorktown, was charged with criminal contempt, criminal tampering and resisting arrest at 3:09 a.m. following a report of a temporary order of protection violation on Glen Road in Mohegan Lake. An investigation revealed Portella allegedly tampered with a vehicle parked in the driveway. While being placed under arrest, he repeatedly pulled his hands down from officers in an attempt to prevent the arrest.

Editor's note: The policy of providing names for people who have been arrested varies between each department.

Storage: We Save More Stuff, But Where to Put It?

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

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

Granted, some homeowners achieve living on the light side where nothing is hidden and what you see is what you get. Or they've gotten religion just before the sale of a home. The homes on the market that show best are those where all the traditional storage spaces – the attic, basement, garage and large closets – are bare.

In my own home, a Trump Park condo, my storage room looks like a commercial storage facility, but not as neat. A few years ago, when my wife and I were preparing to sell our former large home, we hired a crew to clean out our basement, which had been packed with possessions from cement floor to beams overhead. There was clear evidence there of many different careers and lifetimes, including those of our parents, even our grandparents, along with tools and leftover materials from house renovation.

One helper took me aside and told me how dangerous it was to have saved enamel paint and paint thinner so close to the boiler. Fortunately, it was before I started writing



By Bill Primavera

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

Actually, my wife is the more practical one between us. When she took charge for having our garage cleaned out prior to our sale of our home and a helper asked her what should be saved, she replied simply, "Just keep the cars."

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

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

That was the first item I tucked away in a sturdy cardboard box that originally housed Florida oranges we would receive each Christmas from my Aunt Helen. Through the years, that box accommodated all my other official documents, from my birth certificate to a special blessing from the Pope (my wife

had connections) when my wife and I married. Since then, that one box has multiplied like loaves and fish.

By the time I was a teenager, I was saving books and records well before the time of downloading audio files, never thinning out the collection. By the time I married, I went on to photography as a hobby, saving photographs well before the days of digital images. I documented every move my family and I made, starting with our honeymoon, and still have boxes of every picture ever taken.

Then my wife and I started collecting things together and, by the time we got into the antiques business part-time, the floodgates opened. We never got to the point of hoarding, and our house was always tidy, but we never really organized our storage of the things we didn't have room to display.

Perhaps as homes get downsized, efficient storage will be more important. Today, there are many resources for creative solutions to tucking things away.

Retailers such as The Container Store are rich with the tools needed to store things properly. Home Depot boasts closet kits, as well as a full assortment of containers for the garage or outdoor shed. The ones I like best



feature clear plastic sides and bottoms where you can actually see what's stored in them. Who remembers what's contained in a big cardboard box stored from 30 years ago without opening it to remind yourself?

And for those who need industrial strength help with storage, there is always the great PODS concept. While the company will deliver a POD to a private home for "temporary" storage during house renovation or preparing for a move, I have

seen them stay on properties seemingly indefinitely. There may be some local ordinances discouraging that.

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

Bill Primavera 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 and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine American Craft

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

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

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.

Not your Average pet store

For all your pet needs
Aardvark Pet Supplies has moved!

1016 Broadway
Thornwood, NY 10549

(914) 747-4848
E-mail: aardvarkpet@verizon.net

EXPERT GUITAR REPAIR

- RESTRINGING
- SET UPS
- FRET LEVELING

PROMPT & CONVENIENT

Rosehill Music Center
Thornwood
747-2585
www.rosehillmusic.net

BUYING COMIC BOOK COLLECTIONS!

★ **Top Prices Paid!** ★

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

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

ROOFING WINDOWS SIDING DOORS

Now is the time to focus on the interior of your home - Call to schedule your free indoor PAINTING estimate!

MIRACLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NO \$ DOWN ON JOBS UNDER \$20,000

WC. Lic. #10415H99
P.C. Lic. #1817
YNK 307
H-12519-07-23-00
FINANCING OPTIONS FROM **GreenSky**

914★271★9119

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

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

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

WINDOWS LEADERS ROOFING SIDING

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

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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

ANTIQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

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

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

ATTORNEY

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. **518-274-0380**

AUTO DONATIONS

Drive Out Breast Cancer:
Donate a car today! The benefits

of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call **24/7: 855-905-4755**

BUYING/SELLING

Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay

more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com

EDUCATION/CAREER TRAINING

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get

the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

continued on page 18

WE SPECIALIZE IN STAINLESS STEEL LINING SYSTEMS
Always Affordable Chimney Inc.
Much more than sweeping chimneys!
— 24 Hour Emergency Service —

- Stainless Steel Chimney Relining/Caps
- Expert Masonry Repairs
- Level I, II and III Chimney Inspections
- Chimney Caps Supplied and Installed
- Violations Corrected

10% OFF ALL BRICK WORK ON CHIMNEY HOUSING
MENTION AD FOR DISCOUNT

BOILER FLUE CLEANING
Starting at \$99 for residential; call for commercial quotes

FIREPLACE CLEANING
Starting at \$299

855-244-6880 • 516-830-0166
www.alwaysaffordablechimney.com Fully Licensed & Insured

CANADIAN RIVER CRUISING VACATIONS

TRAVEL SAFELY IN CANADA
Small Ship Cruise Vacations

Experience the beauty and history of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers on a classic Canadian riverboat. Request our free travel brochure.

1-800-267-7868 www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com

253 Ontario St., Suite 200, Kingston, ON K7L2Z4 TICO #2168740



Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system, stores solar energy that can power your whole home during utility power outages and save you money on your electric bill.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*
| (888) 871-0194

\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!*

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
**Financing available through authorized Generac partners. Solar panels sold separately.

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me.

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

Life Alert® Batteries Never Need Charging.

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

NOTICE TO NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Homeowner Funding enables families to make necessary energy efficient home repairs who:

- ARE UNABLE TO PAY CASH FOR NECESSARY HOME REPAIRS.
- CANNOT AFFORD HIGH OR ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS.
- HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR FREE STATE OR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

REPAIRS INCLUDE:
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • DOORS & MORE...

up to \$25,000

NO Money Down / NO Equity Required

QUALIFY TODAY: (800) 736-9629
or visit **NYImprovementFund.com**

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING



Art Attack

A local COVID patient beats the odds, comes out of his coma, and suddenly becomes a prolific painter



By Sherrie
Dulworth

You are reading this week's excerpt of an article from our Examiner+ digital newsmagazine. To read the entire article and others like it, visit www.examiner-plus.com and join our community as a member.

In March 2020, Mr. Abraham (Abe) Miller, a Rockland County resident, was among the first COVID-19 patients admitted to Westchester Medical Center. For weeks, his condition was critical: He was on a ventilator, on ECMO (a type of lung bypass machine), and in a medically induced coma.

When he woke up, the 69-year-old entrepreneur, who had never studied art, announced that he wanted to become a painter. He has since painted more than 500 works of art and has written a book, "From COVID to Canvas," all of which can be seen on his website.

Last October, Mr. Miller donated

three pieces of his artwork to Westchester Medical Center in appreciation for their care. We spoke with Mr. Miller and Dr. Elliot (Avi) Levine, the physician who oversaw his ICU care.

Examiner+: What was your life like before you went into the hospital?

Mr. Abraham "Abe" Miller: I am a very, very active entrepreneur. Since I was 6 years old, I have been a wheeler-dealer. In my history, I opened retail stores many times, and then I went into the real estate business. I opened a silver store, selling precious silver pieces. I do many different things.

I am also a composer and have

written over 600 songs. I come from a musical family. I compose songs and sell CDs with my songs.

E+: Tell me about when you went to the hospital.

Miller: All day on Sunday, March 22, 2020, I didn't feel good. A friend of mine works for a private ambulance organization. He came to my home and checked my oxygen level. When he saw it was down to 75, he said, "You're going to the hospital this minute." I told him to take me to the nearest hospital, which is about 10 minutes from where I live, but he decided to go 45 minutes to Westchester Medical Center. And that was a God-sent miracle.

Examiner+ to Dr. Levine: Can you give me a snapshot of Mr. Miller's condition when he arrived at the hospital?

Dr. Levine: Mr. Miller came to us at Westchester Medical Center in the very first week when the COVID crisis started. He was the sickest of the sick. He was placed onto a breathing machine, a ventilator, within just a few minutes of being in the hospital.



WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER PHOTO

Abe Miller (right) unveils the painting that he created and donated to Westchester Medical Center at a ceremony in October 2021 with WMC Health Network President and CEO Michael D. Israel.

When COVID started, every ICU attending, myself and the rest of the whole cardiology division, were all pulled in to help take care of COVID patients. He happened to end up in the Cardiac ICU, so that's how I got involved in his care.

Within a few hours, we knew that Mr. Miller needed more support than could be offered

by just a breathing machine. We connected him to an ECMO ...

To read the rest of this article, and others like it, visit examiner-plus.com and click subscribe. We hope you've enjoyed this week's excerpt from Examiner+. We love honest feedback. Tell us what you think: examinerplus@theexaminernews.com

Light Pollution Does More Damage Than Just Interfering With Astronomers

We often talk about the skies the ancients saw and about how those skies inspired them. We still use many of their lessons, even though the skies just don't look how we imagine they did ages ago.

Toward the end of 2021, the city of Pittsburgh announced that it would soon take steps to reduce light pollution. Other American cities have done this before. For instance, Flagstaff, Ariz. first adopted laws addressing light pollution in 1958.

Like Flagstaff, most of these places are in the western part of our country. Pittsburgh, though, will become the first city in the denser, eastern

U.S. to take steps to reduce light pollution and encourage darker nights.

Light pollution is the wasteful use of artificial light, primarily at night, which then brightens skies. All the lights you see as you drive past or fly over a city is light going somewhere it's not useful. Many people see this as a joke, but it is a serious problem, far beyond the beauty of dark skies.

Along with interfering with astronomy, light pollution affects the well-being and life cycles of plants and animals. It causes illness, injury and trouble with animals' reproduction and migration.

It's bad for people, too. Studies link the

loss of dark skies to some types of cancers, particularly breast and prostate cancer. It contributes to stress, burn-out, loneliness and disconnection from other people.

More light doesn't equal more safety, either. Statistics suggest crime in over-lighted areas actually increases. This could be because they give free, steady, consistent light to criminals, no flashlight needed. The same is true for using bright lights to ward off raccoons and other wild animals.

Who of us in Westchester and Putnam hasn't been blinded by painfully bright streetlights

while driving?

Most important to some, light pollution wastes money. These lights don't run for free. This means we, nearby businesses and our local governments spend money

turning night into day just to light trash bins and empty parking lots.

According to a Sky & Telescope article from Oct. 21, 2021, Pittsburgh's ordinance requires these changes only in public places at first. Over the next 18 months, 35,000 old high-pressure sodium lights will be replaced with LED streetlights designed to encourage darker skies.

These new laws will also require Pittsburgh to replace thousands of new LED streetlights – the blindingly bright type we see popping up all over Westchester – with softer, warmer-colored lights that are easier on the eyes and healthier to live with.

No one is suggesting we live in darkness,



By Scott Levine

but we can all take part in changing and improving this. We can turn off unnecessary lights. We can redirect and shield our outdoor lighting so it goes only where it's needed and we can switch to warmer-colored bulbs. We can also join the International Dark-Sky Association (www.darksky.org).

But it shouldn't all be on us. If a dense city like Pittsburgh can make these changes, why not the municipalities in Westchester? I

call on our local governments to enact and enforce laws to protect dark skies. I hope you'll reach out to your local government and demand changes, too.

We need dark skies. They're part of who we are and they are where we're going. Let's do this together.

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.



New Moon
February 1



First Quarter
February 8



Full Moon
February 16



Last Quarter
February 23

The phases of the moon chart for February.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

012522

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

continued from page 16

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

HIGHEST PRICES PAID - Visit West- chester's Top Buyer

for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins & Currency, Watches, Jewelry. Licensed, Professional, No Appointment Necessary. Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am-6pm, Mt. Kisco Gold & Silver, 139E Main Street. 914-244-9500

HEALTH

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed!

1-855-579-8907

HELP WANTED

Counter help needed for busy bakery & cafe in Mahopac. 845 628 2233

PT Receptionist needed for hair salon in Katonah. 914 760 6520

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a

FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 888-871-0194

HOTEL CLEANING

NYC-Queens-LI-WP
T&L Cleaning is looking for housekeeping staff for various Hotels. Room attendants, laundry attendants, House-persons and Supervisors. Apply on-line at: tlcleaningservices.com/apply or call 1-800-610-4770.

LOST & FOUND

Found on the Putnam Rail Trail one gold earring of seemingly significant value...between milepost 50.2 & 50.4 text description to 845 803-2229 or email it to biltulipane@msn.com. very nice and unique.

MISCELLANEOUS

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months

free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

TV INTERNET PHONE

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/22. 1-888-609-9405

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$69.99/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/ SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918



Give Something that Means Something®



DENTAL Insurance
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company
Call to get your **FREE** Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
Dental50Plus.com/nypress

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-0721

\$200 OFF the purchase of any stairlift

Regain Your Independence!

The ALBANY Lift Company
Stairlifts • Elevators • Wheelchair Lifts • Ramps
747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park NY 12065
(518) 393-2274 • (888) 558-LIFT
www.thealbanyliftcompany.com
Locally Owned & Operated
New and Reconditioned Lifts
• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks
★ Same Day Installation
Visit Our Display Center at 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon code **42513** and get
\$20 OFF any service you need!

Geeks on Site
Call Now for a **FREE** Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

One time use only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or offer. Coupon offer good until December 31, 2022. Valid for any new service except subscription fees. Must mention coupon at time of sale.

Upgrade Your Home with a
NEW METAL ROOF
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-492-6084

ERIE Metal Roofs
Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires March 31, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

GENERAC®

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-516-1160

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

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

When to Drink That Bottle and When (and How Long) to Hold it



By Nick Antonaccio

There are a number of issues to consider when purchasing and opening a bottle of wine.

Foremost is what wine to purchase that is drinkable within my timetable for consumption?

There are several decision points I consider. If I'm purchasing for an informal gathering of friends, I'll select wines that I know they will enjoy – young and full-bodied, which I refer to as quaffing wines.

For dinner parties, I tend to serve wines with a bit of age. They tend to be more complex, more balanced and more adaptable to various foods.

For these aged wines, I reach my next decision point. Do I purchase wines that winemakers have aged at the winery, saving me the time and effort to age the wines myself? Or do I descend to my wine cellar to select a wine I purchased several years or decades ago?

As I'm once again, very cautiously, beginning to share meals with extended family and friends during these tenuous COVID times, I've resumed my role as the go-to person for selecting the wine for meals.

Of course, there may be an ulterior motive for my friends and family: I have a wine cellar that is approaching the anniversary of its fourth decade.

If red wines are being served from my cellar, I will typically decant the bottles in a broad-bottomed decanter several hours before serving. This allows oxygen to penetrate the wine over a large surface area, accelerating the breathing of the wine and more quickly opening its bouquet and flavors.

When pressed for time, I may revert to a device I purchased that permits me to extract wine from a bottle one glass at a time, without uncorking it. The Coravin product siphons wine from a bottle without introducing oxygen into the now empty space in the bottle. This is ideal for my wife and I or a guest enjoying one of my decades-old wines without finishing the bottle contents.

But my wine cellar can also create its own dilemmas and disappointments. One such

situation occurred as I was retrieving one of my favorite 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons (an excellent vintage that warranted aging). Glancing down, I noticed several bottles in the far bottom corner of a shelf that I had overlooked for several years.

Pulling the four bottles, I realized they were a 1990 Chianti Classico Riserva from

a highly regarded producer (and one of the finest vintages of the last 30 years). I had set them aside in 1995 for future consumption. To my dismay, I realized these wines, with a shelf life of approximately 10 to 15 years, had likely approached the end of their drinkable life.

With great trepidation, I opened the first bottle, expecting the worst: a brownish color, devoid of any vibrancy, not remotely palatable.

I was correct.

Pouring this once-prized wine down the drain, I was now confronted with my next decision point. Send the remaining bottles to the same fate as the first or sample them? Annoyed at myself for allowing these wines to sit too long, I pulled the cork from the second and third bottles and immediately purged their contents.

As I opened the fourth bottle to meet a similar fate, I hesitated. Should I try one fond farewell sip of the wine I had looked forward to enjoying but missed the window of opportunity? Surely, one can never be unequivocally certain of a wine's life span, even after sampling it a few minutes earlier?



With the certainty of the outcome ingrained in my mind, I poured myself a few drops.

Surprise of surprises! Wonder of wonders! A refined, balanced wine that still embodied several of its original characteristics. Past its peak, yes, but nevertheless quite enjoyable, with persistent aromatic hints of black fruit and tobacco, traces of acidity and soft tannins.

And likely the last such bottle I will ever own.

Wines are living, breathing organisms. As with humans, some defy expectations as they age. Hope for the best, be prepared for the worst and savor the unexpected.

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**

Keep April 9 Open for the New York City Tartan Parade

Everyone knows the greatest parade in the world is New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade. While unfortunately a casualty of COVID-19 restrictions for the past two years, New York's annual homage to Ireland's patron saint, and that of the Archdiocese of New York as well, will step off in full form on Thursday, Mar. 17.

The two-year hiatus, however, had no effect on the parade's distinction of being the longest-running parade in the world. In both 2020 and 2021, a token force of dedicated marchers braved winter's weather in a gallant effort to keep up appearances and continue an annual New York City tradition that has been in place since before our country was born.

There is another parade held just a few weeks later that should bear equal attention, and that is the New York City Tartan Day Parade. Sanctioned by Congress in 1998, Tartan Day and Tartan Week are designed to honor all things Scottish in the U.S.

The contribution of Scottish-Americans to this country should never be minimized. Artist Alexander Calder, inventor Alexander Graham Bell, businessman and

later philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, actor Steve McQueen, explorer George Rogers Clark, naval hero John Paul Jones, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and President Ulysses Grant are just a few who have brought pride to the Saltire, Scotland's distinctive blue and white flag featuring the diagonal St. Andrew's Cross.



The Cross of St. Andrew

While the St. Patrick's Day Parade clearly has a predominantly Irish focus, and the Tartan Parade is steeped in Scottish culture, both traditions are firmly rooted in a common Celtic identity and reflect

the often-ignored but inarguable fact that whether one identifies as Irish or Scottish, the underlying character is the same. We're all Celts.

I have had the pleasure of marching in both parades – and I will not be goaded into saying which I prefer. But if you are looking for a more composed crowd of onlookers, a shorter parade route, warmer weather and far more bagpipe bands, don't miss the Tartan Parade, scheduled to stride up Sixth Avenue this year on Saturday, Apr. 9.

Inverness-born actress Karen Gillan is the Tartan Parade's grand marshal this

year, presiding over an event first held in 1999. It has had celebrities such as Sean Connery as grand marshal in 2002, the fourth year for the parade, and the first year my wife and I learned of the event. We have been fans ever since.

The Tartan Parade, which also fell victim to COVID-19 the past two years, has grown far beyond its initial scope. In its inaugural year, the parade comprised two pipe bands and a small but dedicated group of supporters, led by Grand Marshal Cliff Robertson. They marched from the British Consulate to the United Nations, a distance of several blocks.

How things have changed! In more recent years, more than 3,000 marchers have kept pace up Sixth Avenue to the swirl of countless pipe and drum bands, while tens of thousands of spectators have cheered them on.

Saint Patrick's, by comparison, has held sway in New York since 1762. While it certainly boasts more marchers (150,000) and spectators (2 million), it also has more than its fair share of the unruly. (No further comment necessary.) The grand marshal this year will be



By Brian McGowan

James T. Callahan.

But you can't just "join the crowd" and step up Fifth Avenue on your own. You must be part of one of the many "associated" agencies allowed a place that day in the line of march. The Tartan Parade offers admission to all. Advance registration can be easily accomplished at www.nyctartanweek.org, the parade's website.

Registration for the 2022 New York City Tartan Parade is now open. Groups and individuals are invited to march for free by visiting the website. That's right, it's all free. And in addition, there are a host of other Scottish cultural events throughout the city that week, which is officially dubbed "Tartan Week." For more details, visit the website.

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). He is the author of two books, "Thunder at Noon," about the battle of Waterloo, and "Love, Son John," about World War II. Both are available at Amazon.com.

Irish Eclectic

Examiner+

WESTCHESTER'S DIGITAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Celebrate 2022 with Something New

- **Take Examiner+ for a test drive today at NO CHARGE for a full month**
- **Full membership level access**
- **Premier local journalism delivered straight to your inbox**

**FREE
TRIAL!**
(30-days)



Forging community in Westchester with thoughtful local journalism – one deep dive at a time.

On Examiner+, Examiner Media's cutting-edge, subscription-based digital newsmagazine, we deliver high-quality news reporting, lifestyle coverage, and original commentary on topics relevant to our readers' lives in and around Westchester County.

The perfect complement to the hard-news reporting readers have come to know and trust from Examiner Media's four community newspapers, we go further, wider, and deeper on Examiner+. Become a paid subscriber today to support local journalism and gain full access to our well-curated content—published every week, Monday through Saturday.

Our digital editor speaks about Examiner+

"On Examiner+, we'll be going deeper, wider, and longer in our storytelling while employing quality color photography, infographics, and other multimedia elements," Digital Editorial Director Robert Schork explains.

www.Examiner-Plus.com/NewYear22