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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Yonkers Man Sentenced to 20 Years for White Plains Murder

By Rick Pezzullo

A Yonkers man will spend the next 20 years behind bars for the murder of a White Plains man last year.

Marcus Chambers, 31, received a 20-year prison sentence last week in federal court in White Plains by U.S. District Judge Nelson Roman.

On March 18, 2011, Chambers arranged by phone to meet Jonathan Johnson, 21, to purchase marijuana. Chambers and Darnell Kidd met with Johnson and attempted to rob him.

During the robbery, Johnson was shot and killed, according to Damian Williams, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Chambers pled guilty on Dec. 21, 2021 to the murder. Proceedings against Kidd are

still pending.

In addition to the prison term, Roman also sentenced Chambers to three years of supervised release.

Williams praised the investigative work of the White Plains Police Department and the FBI Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force, which comprises agents and task force officers from the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Probation Office, New York State Police, New York City Police Department, Mount Vernon Police Department, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Town of Ramapo Police Department, Yonkers Police Department, Greenburgh Police Department, Peekskill Police Department, Westchester County Police Department, and Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

White Plains Council Approves Labor Contract with Union Workers

By Rick Pezzullo

The White Plains Common Council last week ratified the settlement of negotiations that extends the collective bargaining agreement with city union workers through June 2024.

The previous agreement between the city and the Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000, AFSCME and AFL-CIO for the City of White Plains Unit (CSEA) covered the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

Under the extended pact, employees will receive a salary increase of 2.25% for each step in 2021, 2.5% for each step in 2022 and 3% for each step in 2023.

In addition, the dental contribution for

each employee will increase by \$40 over the length of the contract.

Meanwhile, at its Oct. 3 meeting, the Council also authorized an agreement between the city and the Galleria Mall for the Department of Public Safety to continue using space in the mall as an impound lot.

The city has been using the former Sears auto service space at 100 Main St., across from the Public Safety headquarters and the City Courthouse, for the last year to store impounded vehicles, including vehicles seized as evidence, along with Public Safety's large emergency vehicles, trailers, barricades and equipment.

The city will pay an annual fee of \$45,000 to utilize the space.

Legislators Pass Resolution Supporting Environmental Bond Act

By Rick Pezzullo

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously voted last week to pass a resolution supporting the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022.

The proposition, which will be on the Nov. 8 election ballot, seeks to invest \$4.2 billion in state-issued bonds to improve current infrastructure to better prepare the state from natural disasters caused by climate change.

"We have crumbling water infrastructure. We desperately need this bond," said Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D), chair of the Committee on Public Works & Transportation, who represents most of the rivertowns. "We need it to protect our people from the effects of climate change. We need it to promote environmental justice in many of our communities which lack some of the resources they need to make sure that their

water issues are properly taken care of."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D), Chair of the Committee on Health, who represents White Plains and Greenburgh, added, "Everyone should know that Westchester County is one of the counties in New York with the most disadvantaged environmental communities, second to only New York City [counties]. Environmental justice and addressing climate change is also a health concern."

If approved, the funds, designated by Governor Kathy Hochul in April 2022, will be divided into four main categories: \$1.5 billion for climate change mitigation, \$1.1 billion for restoration and flood risk reduction, \$650 million for open space land conservation and recreation, and water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure. There is an additional stipulation directing 35% of the total funding to be used to rehabilitate disadvantaged communities.

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Celebrating Hispanic Heritage



Administrators, faculty, staff, and students at Woodlands Middle School in the Greenburgh School District recently celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the culture and history of Hispanic countries through song, dance, food, poetry, art and dress.



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Stepinac High School Establishes New Business Academic Department

Stepinac High School has announced the creation of a new Business Academic Department to administer the operations of the school's increasingly popular innovative business curriculum offerings. It started two years ago when Stepinac launched the innovative The Joyce and Frank Colangelo Entrepreneurship Program, a three-year business-focused minor concentration.

Shortly after the program's introduction, numerous students chose to pursue the elective, "confirming there was keen demand by students to develop career-ready skills to help them be more competitive in their post-secondary pursuits," said Frank Portanova (Class of '93), Vice Principal of Academics and Curriculum.

The program's appeal is the wide range of real-world learning experiences offered over the course of three years. Students are required to satisfy the requirements of three major components. The first consists of four specialized courses (business leadership course, taken sophomore year); entrepreneurship course, junior year); marketing and business law courses, senior year).

The second component is the Alumni Mentorship Program. It matches Stepinac's accomplished alumni mentors who are successful business owners and professionals with the students' career interests. The alumni mentors provide students with guidance and personal insight in the preparation of a business plan including setting business goals, developing an executive summary, creating pricing and marketing strategies and 10-year growth plans.

And now Stepinac is preparing to introduce the third component in the spring, the Senior Internship Program, when student interns will complete a final project as well as 60 hours of internship. The internship opportunities will be overseen by supervisors from local businesses, some owned by alumni.

As has been the case with alumni mentorship, the matching of interns with supervisors will require ongoing administration, an activity that is expected to increase each new academic year as new students enroll.

Another reason why the Business Academic Department was created is the continued expansion of new business curriculum offerings that currently include marketing, business



law, finance, sports management, accounting, statistics and instruction on the Bloomberg Terminals in the new Finance Center, leading to Bloomberg certification.

In the new academic year, business management and blockchain technology courses will be added to the curriculum. "We are gearing up with a talented faculty to help assure these new initiatives will empower our students with the skills they will need to succeed in the business world."

The faculty of the new department includes Chairperson Rackeal Bellamy and instructors Angela Donahoe and Joseph McDermott.

As the current co-chair of the Finance Honors Academy, Bellamy spearheaded several initiatives to strengthen the academic effectiveness of the academy including incorporating the tools of the Bloomberg Terminals into the teaching of the finance and accounting courses. Bellamy is also an entrepreneur as owner of two enterprises: RH Proven Accounting Solutions, a practice she's grown to over 300 clients nationally since 2012 and AcceptBeautyForAshes on Etsy, an e-commerce business.

Bellamy, who earned a Master's of Science from Lehman College, is the founder of a startup non-profit, Proving P.R.O.O.F, which provides free economic literacy courses in communities where budget constraints prevent the support for financial literacy programs.

Donahoe brings to the Stepinac faculty extensive experience in teaching college-level classes including International Baccalaureate programs in business and management, marketing, entrepreneurship, and accounting. She earned her Master's of Science in Education degree from Pace University and is a member of the Business Teachers Association of New York State.

McDermott joined the Stepinac faculty a year ago and has taught business leadership, entrepreneurship and AP statistics. He attended Durham University in England where he earned a Master's in Business Management. Previously, he worked as a trading operations analyst.

This is a press release provided by the organization. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.

Legislators Pass Resolution Supporting Environmental Bond Act

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The bill has been endorsed by many nonpartisan organizations, including the New York League of Conservation Voters and Sustainable Westchester.

"New York voters can make history this election by voting yes on the Environmental Bond Act, and now is the time for municipal governments and organizations to stand and be counted," said New York League of Conservation Voters President Julie Tighe.

"This critical referendum provides an opportunity for New York State to protect clean drinking water, modernize infrastructure, and improve quality of life," said Sustainable Westchester Executive Director Nina Orville. "It will help communities throughout Westchester to upgrade water and sewer systems to keep drinking water and our local waterways clean while creating thousands of good local jobs."

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Million Air Claims Victory in Latest Airport Litigation Against County

By Martin Wilbur

A fixed-base operator at Westchester County Airport that is suing the county for breach of contract has claimed it has won the latest round in a legal battle playing out in federal court.

Last week, the U.S. District Court in White Plains granted Million Air's

motion in an amended complaint that it sufficiently alleged a breach of contract, thereby denying the county a chance to have the new claim dismissed.

Million Air sued Westchester County for \$30 million in June 2021, alleging that the county withheld consent from the operator to build a new hangar at the airport. It is seeking damages and the ability to build a

new hangar.

"I am pleased by this week's district court ruling, which is a significant victory in Million Air's pursuit of its claim that the county wrongfully withheld consent to the new hangar," Million Air's lead counsel Russell Yankwitt said in a statement last Friday afternoon. "We are optimistic about the advancement of this case and what this decision means for the lawsuit moving forward."

Million Air obtained a 30-year lease in 2016 under former county executive Rob Astorino, which included the renovation of existing facilities. The following year, the fixed-base operator informed Astorino that it needed to replace the antiquated hangar.

When the administration of County Executive George Latimer came in at the start of 2018, it took a harder line on airport operations, at least in part a result of extensive complaints from the public about noise from residents in communities surrounding the airport. Some of those residents have reported that the noise from air traffic has exploded in the past five or six years with much of the airport traffic coming from private and corporate aviation.

Last Tuesday, the court granted Million Air's motion because it was "not convinced that the County's stated reasons for withholding approval are reasonable as a matter of law." Therefore, the company will have the opportunity to conduct discovery.

The court also concluded that a motion to dismiss Million Air's claim "would be

frivolous" and almost certainly denied.

Million Air representatives have argued that allowing the new hangar would be beneficial because there would be a reduction in airplane noise. There would be far fewer private aircraft landing and departing because it could store more aircraft at the airport. Currently, many planes have to be stored off-site, which requires an empty aircraft fly in to pick up passengers.

"Our intention for Million Air White Plains is to provide the community with solutions to its long-term goals – less airplane noise by decreasing repositioning flights by more than 1,000 flights per year, more high-paying jobs and work for our local unions and suppliers," Roger Woolsey, CEO of Million Air, said in a statement. "It is deeply saddening that this lawsuit had to be part of a move toward these goals for the community."

Million Air also argues that the reduction in "ferry flights" would benefit the environment.

The court previously dismissed Million Air's breach of contract claim under the lease agreement. It had allowed Million Air's claim relating to the county's reversal of its position on the installation of a stormwater protection system to move forward.

In an unrelated circumstance, the county last month completed public a series of public forums stretching back to last spring as it looks to update its Master Plan for the airport.

Party On

This young partygoer was all smiles at the Oct. 2 Pleasantville Block Party, where residents and visitors enjoyed food, music and activities at the free event along Washington and Wheeler avenues. The celebration, originally scheduled for Oct. 1, had to be postponed for a day because of the threat of inclement weather. The festivities were planned by the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce.



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Films on Purpose to Screen Ron Howard's 'We Feed People' Oct. 20

Films on Purpose will co-host a screening of Ron Howard's "We Feed People" with Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church. A reception on the porch of the Marmaduke House will precede the screening at 6 p.m. and there will be a panel of speakers after the film.

"We Feed People" spotlights renowned chef José Andrés and his

nonprofit World Central Kitchen's mission to feed people affected by natural disasters around the world. It's an uplifting film that takes a keen look at how leadership and hard work can help so many.

The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry offers two weekly food distributions helping about 400 households with food insecurity.

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Digital Divide Reveals Tech Disparities Along Racial Lines in Westchester

By Abby Luby

Low-income communities in Westchester, particularly people of color, are disproportionately harmed by having far less broadband access, a newly-published survey revealed.

The Westchester Children's Association (WCA) partnered with Pace University to produce the "Digital Access Survey: Perceptions of Parents in K-12 Schools in Westchester County, New York." The results were released at an Oct. 4 news conference hosted by Pace University in Pleasantville.

The survey was conducted both online and in person, tapping into community partners such as libraries, youth bureaus, family medical centers, and other organizations.

The survey asked how many students and families had access to electronic devices and internet options, possessed digital literacy, engaged in digital communication, and had experiences with remote learning. Using a wide variety of demographics, there were 511 responses from Westchester parents and guardians. Nearly three-quarters of respondents – 73 percent – completed the survey in English and 27 percent in Spanish.

The survey identifies a need for digital literacy training for families and students with English as a second language.

Glaring disparities in digital access surfaced during the pandemic when students needed online access for remote learning.

"Today we have lessons learned from the pandemic," WCA Executive Director Allison Lake said as she addressed elected officials,



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Westchester Children's Association Executive Director Allison Lake addressed local politicians, students and representatives from various organizations in the county at an Oct. 4 news conference at Pace University in Pleasantville that addressed the digital divide.

students, and organizational directors filling the multipurpose room at the Kessel Student Center.

"The genie is not going back in the bottle, and there is work we have to do to include digital equity access and inclusion for all Westchester residents," Lake added.

Raphael Ceara said he never owned or knew how to operate a computer until he took a class at the STEM Alliance, a Larchmont nonprofit organization that teaches STEM subjects and basic computer and technology skills.

"I learned simple things like getting e-mail and how to attach documents," Ceara said. "I am very appreciative of the class."

The WCA/Pace survey, authored by Sydney Moraitis, a graduate student working on her master's in public administration, and Dr. Gina Scutelnicu-Todoran, a Pace associate professor, revealed that 31 percent of the respondents believed technology made their child's learning more difficult and 27 percent experienced stress due to technology at least once a week.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest data, almost 25,000 households in Westchester County have no internet service, and nearly 14 percent of people making \$75,000 or less do not have an internet subscription. The WCA/Pace survey found that 54 percent of

participants spent between \$50 and \$99.99 per month on internet access.

"We know there are almost 90,000 low-income people here in Westchester County, and of those that completed the survey, only 1 percent knew about government-funded affordability programs for digital access," Lake said. "We know that there is federal and state funding coming down the pike, and we want to position Westchester to be ready to take advantage of the new funding and the supports that are there."

Lake said the newly-formed Digital Inclusion Coalition, which consists of the WCA, Pace, the STEM Alliance, and the Westchester Library Association, will be asking county officials to provide \$125,000 in the 2023 Westchester County budget to establish a leadership position at the county level for digital equity, inclusion, and access.

"That person would support the coalition that has already been started and help plan a county-wide digital equity summit to have more people at the table," she said.

Attending the news conference were county legislators MaryJane Shimsky (D-Dobbs Ferry) and Colin Smith (D-Peekskill) and staff members representing County Legislator Chris Johnson (D-Yonkers) and Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford).

"This is one of the most critical things we are doing right now," Shimsky said. "It's very hard to look for a job or do a job without access to the internet or to see how well your children are doing at school without the internet. Increasingly the digital divide is what defines the rich from the poor."

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CAREERS Client Honored By Westchester County for Longevity

Cindi Palermo, a longtime client of CAREERS Support Solutions, received the Longevity Award to mark Westchester County's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

CAREERS is a nonprofit organization that helps people with disabilities find, and keep, jobs they can succeed in. Thanks to CAREERS unique program of skills training and on-the-job support, Palermo has been successfully employed at Target in White Plains for the past 19 years.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer congratulated Palermo and the other award winners, which included the Afya Foundation and other companies that employ people with disabilities.

Tina Cornish-Lauria, executive director of CAREERS, said that "these awards are a great way to showcase our hardworking clients and recognize employers who hire individuals with disabilities. The NDEAM Awards Ceremony is a meaningful way to honor people who bring their best to work every day. We are so proud of Cindi and our other clients who are a shining example of what people with disabilities can accomplish."

"Cindi was recognized for her outstanding work ethic and job performance, especially during the pandemic. She took on new tasks with an outstanding positive attitude," said Jennifer Retacco, CAREERS' Valhalla program and transition coordinator. "We are also grateful to employers like Target who

value a diverse workforce that includes people with disabilities."

Also honored were six other CAREERS clients: Craig McGuinn, a stock associate at CVS; Mariah Scarnatti, a stock associate at Marshalls; Robin Holloway, a deli worker at ShopRite; Scott Meyerson, a stock associate at ShopRite; Scott Treco, a custodian at Stop & Shop, and Stephen Barker, a produce clerk at ShopRite.

Local businesses honored included those that hire CAREERS clients: CVS in Scarsdale, Marshalls in Mohegan Lake, ShopRite in Bedford Hills and Thornwood, Stop & Shop in New Rochelle and Target in White Plains.

CAREERS Support Solutions provides support services to hundreds of individuals annually throughout Westchester, Putnam and lower Dutchess counties. CAREERS' mission is to empower people with disabilities by teaching workforce readiness skills and providing job placement, on-the-job training and ongoing support to assure long-term success at no cost to the individual or employer.

For more information, visit www.careersupportsolutions.org.

This is a press release provided by CAREERS Support Solutions. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.



Cindi Palermo was honored last week by Westchester County for having been successfully employed by Target in White Plains for 19 years.

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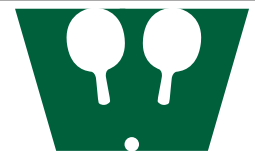
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Three Local Libraries Combine to Receive Over \$300G for Upgrades

Three public libraries in northern Westchester and Putnam County received more than \$300,000 combined in state money to help offset the cost of various construction projects.

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel, Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose and John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak were the recipients of the funding. The money is derived from \$34 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the state's Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget.

"Residents of all ages depend on our public libraries for books, entertainment, information, research materials, a number of different services – and a sense of community," said state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro). "More than ever, we need to ensure that our libraries are equipped with state-of-the-art resources and technology, as well as updated infrastructure. Our continuing investments in these three libraries will provide incalculable benefits to the communities they serve."

Roof rehabilitation and upgrading will be taking place at the Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. The ceiling and structural damage due to leaks will be addressed as well, and the library's sign will be replaced. State aid for these repairs and upgrades is

\$215,852.

The Hendrick Hudson Library is using its \$38,425 of state aid to upgrade the building's 25-year-old boiler to be more energy efficient.

Meanwhile, the John C. Hart Library is receiving \$60,821 to upgrade broadband infrastructure and expand Wi-Fi in its entire building. Also, the electronics in the elevator will be improved to ensure ADA compliance in the future.

Harckham noted that many public libraries statewide are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading. A recent survey showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$1.5 billion. More than half of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old.

Furthermore, many of New York's local public libraries are unable to accommodate users with disabilities, lack energy efficiencies and cannot provide internet, computer access and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring.

Many library buildings also do not have sufficient space to house expanding collections and are unable to address the need for adequate spaces for research, studying or community gatherings.

Galef to Host Virtual Town Hall on Energy Grid Transition, Heat Pumps

This Wednesday, Oct. 12, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) will host New York's Energy Grid Transition & Heat Pumps 101 on Zoom from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting will cover the future of New York's energy grid and heat pump basics.

Kevin Lanahan, vice president of government communications with New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) will discuss its role planning the power grid of the future and New York's energy needs. He will share how NYISO's work will enable the uptake of more heat pumps.

Lauren Brois, of Sustainable Westchester, and Joe Montuori, of Sustainable Putnam, will detail heat pump technology and the process of switching to one for your home and business heating and cooling needs.

Local heat pump installation experts will also be on the panel to describe what to expect during the installation process.

"My office receives many inquiries regarding our state's energy needs as

we aim to reduce carbon emissions and electrify the grid," Galef said. "I look forward to hosting this event to address some of those questions, as well as those about heat pumps."

"Heat pump technology is not new but is increasingly discussed as a method to heat and cool our homes that does not require the use of fossil fuels. Many of my constituents are interested in this alternative and this virtual Town Hall will be a great opportunity for all of us to learn more."

Residents of the 95th Assembly District, as well as anyone who has an interest in the topic, can register for the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/bt39mnb9>.

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the meeting.

Interested participants can also call +1 646-931-3860 and input the meeting ID 899 2803 3675 to access the meeting. Those who call in will be able to ask questions over the phone.


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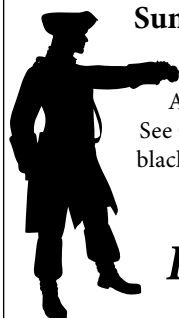
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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Oct. 2: Officers responded at 7:31 p.m. to a parking lot on North Bedford Road on reports of a fight involving a large group of youths. The youths were dispersed and removed from the property. One teenage girl who had become emotionally distraught was taken to Northern Westchester Hospital as a precaution.

Oct. 3: The manager of a North Bedford Road property turned over a mountain bike that was left on the premises about a week ago. Since no one had returned to claim it, the manager turned the bike over to officers at the Green Street precinct at 1:51 p.m.

Oct. 3: Officers responded to Burger King on North Bedford Road at 2:41 a.m. because of an activated burglar alarm. It was determined that a delivery person had set the alarm off in error.

Oct. 5: Officers responded to Target on North Bedford Road at 2:29 p.m. on a report that two men had stolen more than \$2,000 in merchandise. The theft occurred the previous day and was found during a review of security video. The matter was turned over to detectives for investigation.

Oct. 7: Report of disorderly patron who was refusing to leave a South Moger Avenue business at 12:59 p.m. The man was gone upon an officer's arrival.

Oct. 7: Officers responded at 3:05 p.m. to Main Street and Gregory Avenue on a report of a collision between a bicycle and

a pickup truck. It was determined that the bicycle struck the pickup truck, but no one was injured.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Oct. 1: A caller requested EMS to a residence in Half Moon Bay at 4:14 p.m. for a 79-year-old man who was bleeding from his legs. Patrols and Croton EMS responded. After being evaluated, the patient was transported to Phelps Hospital by Croton EMS.

Oct. 2: A patrol officer observed a suspicious vehicle parked on Benedict Boulevard at 1:23 a.m. Patrol attempted to stop the vehicle but the operator fled at a high rate of speed. An investigation is ongoing.

Oct. 3: A 77-year-old man requested EMS at 8:59 a.m. because he was having a seizure. Patrols and Croton EMS responded. After being evaluated, the patient was transported to Phelps Hospital by Croton EMS.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 30: A complainant arrived at headquarters at 6:14 p.m. to report a grand larceny on North Broadway. The woman stated that she believes her wallet and cell phone were stolen by an employee at the location on Sept. 24.

Sept. 30: A Washington Avenue

resident reported at 7:43 p.m. that her vehicle, which was parked, was struck by another car which has since left the scene. The responding officer gathered information; a report will follow.

Oct. 1: Report of a grand larceny at 12:02 p.m. A complainant arrived at headquarters to report that a check that he had placed in his mailbox at his Banksville Road home was intercepted, altered and cashed for an amount he did not authorize by a person whom he did not give permission to cash the check.

Oct. 3: A caller reported at 2:04 p.m. observing a motor vehicle accident in which a parked car was hit and the operator of the striking vehicle attempted to leave the accident scene. The responding officer spoke with the operator of the vehicle that attempted to leave. A report will follow. Information was left on the other vehicle, which was unoccupied.

Oct. 3: A 40-year-old man sustained injuries from a bicycle fall on Bedford Banksville Road at 3:04 p.m. The responding officer reported that the injured party was transported to Stamford Medical Center by Greenwich EMS. The officer secured the bicycle for safekeeping.

Oct. 3: An employee at the Armonk Tennis Club on Bedford Road reported at 9:14 p.m. that a vehicle was broken into while on the property. The employee also reported the rear driver-side window was shattered. The responding officer reported that an owner's and witness depositions were secured; a report will follow.

Oct. 3: A Banksville Road resident reported at 9:29 p.m. that for the second time in a week someone came by her front porch and stole her bird feeder. The caller stated she heard a noise and observed a vehicle driving by her driveway. The complainant stated she then noticed her bird feeder was missing again. The responding officer subsequently reported that it appears the bird feeder was taken by a bear.

Pleasantville Police Department

Oct. 3: Three juveniles were arrested on charges related to a burglary at Raw Cloud House smoke shop on Marble Avenue that

was reported at 3:39 a.m. Three males, two of them wearing masks, were reported to have fled on foot in an unknown direction. Mount Pleasant police sent additional units. At 3:53 a.m., Mount Pleasant police were notified that three males just returned to the Pleasantville Cottage School campus. The suspects were transported to police headquarters. Items stolen were \$150 worth of miscellaneous smoke items, an iPhone estimated at \$700 in value, a \$75 hookah and \$9,000 in cash. A glass door was damaged.

Oct. 4: A caller reported at 1:57 a.m. that two males attempted to steal her car. The complainant stated that when they ran off in an eastbound direction, her vehicle rolled and hit another vehicle. Her wallet is also missing. One of the males was described at 5-foot-10 and wearing a black hoodie and black and white plaid shirt.

Oct. 4: Report of a disturbance involving three subjects on Washington Avenue in front of Chase Bank at 12:03 p.m. The responding officer reported that the situation had been corrected.

Oct. 4: A complainant from Pleasantville Middle School reported a previous larceny of a \$425 check and \$175 in cash at 3:06 p.m.

White Plains Police Department

Oct. 3: Luis Ferrero was charged at 7:05 a.m. with attempted robbery at 3 Kensico Ave.

Oct. 4: Miguel Martinez was charged with third-degree assault at 9:40 p.m. at 4 Minerva Place.

Yorktown Police Department

Oct. 5: A 56-year-old Peekskill man was charged at 11:38 a.m. with petty larceny after leaving Macy's at the Jefferson Valley Mall without paying for merchandise valued at \$134.

Oct. 5: At 9:40 p.m., a 56-year-old Yorktown woman was charged with driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor, following an accident on Hanover Street.

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Carmel Rotary to Hold Winter Coat Drive Through October

Helping those who don't have winter coats will be the goal of the Carmel Rotary Club throughout the month of October during its coat drive.

Carmel Rotary Vice President Stefanie Hubert organized the event knowing that she had a houseful of winter coats not getting any use.

"With three boys, I have jackets and coats in various different sizes all in great condition, so I was happy to hear my Rotary Club would be collecting gently used or new coats,"

Hubert said.

The drive will continue until Oct. 31, with three different locations equipped with a drop box. The locations are Putnam National Bank, 42 Gleneida Ave., Carmel; Putnam National Bank, Lake Carmel branch, 497 Route 52, Carmel; and Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County, 1 Geneva Rd., Brewster.

For more information, call Stefanie Hubert at 845-278-6738 ext. 223 or e-mail sh379@cornell.edu.

Delgado Visits Elected Officials in Village of Mount Kisco

Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado visited the Village of Mount Kisco Oct. 3 to meet local and state representatives to discuss recent improvement projects, ongoing challenges and plans for further enhancements in the community.

Delgado met with state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) and village officials downtown and at Village Hall. They were joined by Gov. Kathy Hochul's Lower Hudson Valley Regional Representative Brandon Lloyd and staff members and walked around downtown, stopping to visit the owners of a newly-opened local business.

"Sen. Harckham and Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich gave me an informative tour of downtown Mount Kisco to visit local businesses and view their downtown revitalization efforts at work," Delgado said. "They were able to fill me in on some

infrastructure needs and projects that are in the works to continue to build on the great accomplishments they've already achieved."

The lawmakers stopped on South Moger Avenue at Lorena's Juice & Snack Bar, which opened three months ago, and spoke with husband-and-wife owners Jefferson Curipoma and Lorena Zuaso.

"Taking time to discuss the opportunities and successes in our community demonstrates their commitment to understand and work with local municipalities and strengthens our partnership for the benefit of all," Picinich said. "Mount Kisco appreciates their continued advocacy and support on our behalf."

In the past few years Harckham has helped Mount Kisco secure a series of state grants to assist in its improvement efforts. Most notable is funding for recreation

facilities and playground equipment, an ADA compliant elevator in Village Hall and hospital renovations.

"I look forward to working together

with officials here to strengthen the local economy, foster community engagement and keep building the momentum here," Harckham said.



Reason to Celebrate

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mount Kisco Elementary School recently held its first-ever Hispanic Heritage Walkathon. The event sought to celebrate Hispanic heritage while raising funds for beautification and enrichment events. Students raised more than \$5,000.

Final Screening Under the Stars Set for October 21 in Croton

Westchester County Parks and Share Creative will wrap up the White Plains Hospital Screenings Under the Stars by getting into the Halloween spirit with the animated sequel, The Addams Family 2 (2021-PG), on Friday, Oct. 21, at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson.

Gates open at 5 p.m. and the movie begins at sundown. Event is rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. Moviegoers should bring blankets, folding chairs and a picnic. Refreshments will be available for sale. The movie may be canceled due to inclement weather conditions.

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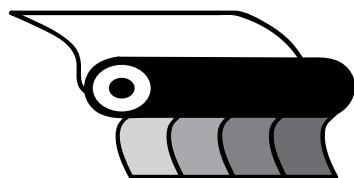
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Letters to the Editor

Democrats on the Correct Side of the Issues in Upcoming Election Cycle

I am writing to request a thoughtful pause before voting – to consider that unlike a normal mid-term election, this November your vote is incredibly important.

It is a year where the differences between the parties and their clearly stated positions on legislative issues will have serious long- and short-term impact

on you and your family’s health, safety and well-being, your economic viability, personal privacy and access to affordable and non-censured education.

If you support clean air and water initiatives, intelligent planning to offset environmental catastrophes and protection for your children and grandchildren, now and in the years ahead, please review

which party and candidates have, in fact, taken point on these issues.

Beyond local concerns, consider the very real threat of the American First isolationist foreign policy of one party that would leave us with few allies in an increasingly challenging and threatening world. And by contrast, note which party has spoken out in its determination to protect the rule of law, the right for all citizens to vote and, most importantly, the preservation of democracy.

There will, of course, be bumps in the road now and ahead, and serious challenges to any party trying to steer a course without fault and missteps in fulfilling its agenda. But this year, the differences between the parties go far beyond what used to be largely a debate over such key issues as big government versus small, military spending versus entitlements and trickle down versus tax reform.

Autocracy is much less complicated than the workings of democracy and seemingly more efficient in the short run, but if you are seriously concerned with freedom of thought and action and inclusion of all our citizens in the democratic process, I implore you to review the voting and legislative records of candidates such as Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney running for the 17th Congressional District, Sen. Peter Harckham for state Senate in the 40th Senate District, Dana Levenberg for the 95th Assembly District seat and Brian Fasset for the Peekskill Common Council. Vote True Blue for ’22!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jay Forbes
Peekskill

Arena is Needed in State Senate to Improve Public Safety in New York

Like many, I worry about public safety in our state. I’ve been watching, with trepidation, the results of the decisions by many district attorneys to release people arrested for violent acts without bail. Putting victims above criminals is simply unacceptable. Allowing those arrested for violent crime to go free without bail is unconscionable.

To restore public safety in our state, we must elect Gina Arena for state Senate. We need better legislators who will protect all of us, which is why I am supporting Gina Arena.

Gina has lived in our community her whole life and raised her children here. She sees the dangers of New York City crime spreading to our towns and villages. Repeat criminals are getting to walk free, going back out on the streets to cause more havoc. Throughout her campaign, I have seen Gina be outspoken against bail reform and Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who refuses to enforce the law.

If you want to restore public safety and basic common sense, then you want to vote for Gina Arena for state Senate.

John FitzGerald
Amawalk

Voting for State’s Environmental Bond is Worth the Effort and Investment

Besides voting for governor and federal and state representatives, this year’s ballot contains an issue on the reverse side that can help us to turn to clean energy. A bipartisan vote of the New York State legislature has given us the opportunity to vote for funds to support solar energy and electric vehicles, including helping school districts like ours to fund electric school buses. There are also measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and to conserve open space and outdoor

recreation.

In addition to adding to our quality of life, these measures can reduce our cost of energy. This is an opportunity for us to decide what our future will look like. To vote for the environmental bond, flip the ballot to the opposite side. It is worth the effort.

Paul Moskowitz
Yorktown

Constituents, State Benefit Having Harckham in Legislature

I’m very proud to be represented by state Sen. Pete Harckham in District 40, and we need to make sure he is elected to another term in office in November.

Sen. Harckham has guts and integrity and he never stops working for his constituents. As someone whose family has been impacted by addiction, I’m especially impressed by his dedication to raising awareness of these issues. In his role as chair of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, he has introduced over 40 bills dealing with substance abuse disorder and addressing the continuing overdose crisis.

Pete is one of our most prolific members of the state Senate, and had 16 of his bills passed into law in the last year alone. This included passage of the Reproductive

Health Act, ensuring that women in New York can make their own reproductive health choices, as well as passage of some of the toughest laws in the country to protect our drinking water sources and require zero-emissions vehicles by 2035.

Pete is the finest kind of politician. He is a humanitarian who understands that solid public service and the implementation of beneficial law ensures that our day-to-day lives and our future will be better. I’m constantly impressed by the accessibility and responsiveness of Sen. Harckham and his staff, and I look forward to having him serve my district for another two years.

Justin White
Mount Kisco

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Column

Press Freedom and Repression: Local Station Manager Has Seen Both

Shane McGaffey has seen two sides of press freedom – the wide-open system in America and the curtain of repression and intimidation of media outlets in Russia.

The station manager of Pleasantville Community Television (PCTV) and a former president of the Pleasantville Board of Education lived in Russia for five years, from 1995 to 2000, when he was a student at the All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography.

"You want the press to have as much freedom as possible," McGaffey explained. "You want as much sunshine as possible. The public has a right to know. You always have to engage everybody, that's what the press is for. We've forgotten how special they are, our freedoms."

One of the reasons McGaffey does what he does is the freedom of the press PCTV helps provide locally.

"The key is that anyone in the community can come in and do a show and talk about any topic, as long as they don't break FCC rules," he explained. "It's not being filtered. It's freedom of speech in its purest form because people can not only hear it, but they can also see it. It's not being interpreted."

In contrast, when McGaffey lived in Russia, he witnessed firsthand the openness the country enjoyed when Boris Yeltsin was president, which was then slowly suffocated when Vladimir Putin came to power in 2000.



By Michael Gold

"One by one, private TV channels were closed," he said. "TV was censored. Newspapers were censored. I couldn't believe it. We thought Russia was slowly going to become Western. It was shocking to see the regression. It reminded you of how fragile some of our freedoms really are."

Curiously, Russian radio was one of the few places left "where you could get what was really going on," McGaffey said.

But, eventually, radio too, as well as the internet, eventually came under state control.

Russians who defy the state's propaganda, by contradicting the government's monolithic messages, "are risking life and limb," McGaffey pointed out. "People on the other side of the world are willing to die for speaking out."

At least 34 reporters have been killed in Russia since 2000, according to PolitiFact, a fact-checking website. PolitiFact used data from the Committee to Protect Journalists, based in New York, and the Glasnost Defense Foundation, based in Moscow, which record violations of press rights.

"Of the 34 killings in Russia, many of the suspected perpetrators are military officials, government officials or political groups," PolitiFact states on its website. "The vast majority of cases remain unsolved."

Additionally, 14 journalists are currently in

Russian prisons, according to Reporters Without Borders.

McGaffey saw up close how the restrictions on the Russians affected their outlook, their art and the national mood.

"American films have happy endings, usually," he said. "People in America believe success is possible. Russian films have unhappy endings, most of the time. The culture and the people don't succeed because they don't believe they can."

McGaffey described that short era of press freedom in Russia as "that little blip. That time and place doesn't exist anymore."

Thomas Jefferson, our third president, wrote, "...and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them...Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press..."

"You want the press to have as much freedom as possible," McGaffey said. "You need that counterbalance (to the government). The erosion of press freedom is a very dangerous thing."

He has also seen how the open American system provides enormous benefits to consumers.



Shane McGaffey

"In Russia, you couldn't buy what you wanted to buy," McGaffey said. "You have to ask for an item that's behind the counter. They may or may not have it."

McGaffey told a story about his former wife, who is from Russia, going into a store in America for the first time in 2000.

"She saw 200 brands of toothpaste and she had to walk out (of the store). She was overwhelmed with the choices."

PCTV's mission in "serving the community is an important thing. Pleasantville has always been my home base," he pointed out. "I moved here in 1978."

McGaffey, who recently made a documentary called "Flagged," with Andrea Garbarini, a Pleasantville resident and film director (whose firefighter husband was killed on 9/11), about the currently polarized political environment in the country, is looking to start some new shows. The station currently broadcasts programming on politics, real estate and gardening. In the past, PCTV had shows on sports and music, too.

"We may do a possible science show for grades 1-6," he said. "The cool part of my job is that I get a different college course every day."

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has had articles published in the New York Daily News, the Albany Times Union, The Virginian-Pilot, The Palm Beach Post, other newspapers and The Hardy Society Journal, a British literary journal.

On the Street

Letters to the Editor

Putnam County Lacks the Professionalism Maureen Fleming Would Bring

The Putnam County Legislature desperately needs the knowledge and skills Maureen Fleming can bring to the management of Putnam County. Fleming is running for District 5, which spans voting districts in Kent and Carmel.

During her eight years as Kent supervisor, Fleming achieved wide-ranging improvements with no tax increases through her sound fiscal capabilities. In contrast, most of the current legislators spend lavishly on higher salaries for themselves and top county executives as well as keeping the funding of facilities such as the Putnam County Golf Course and Tilly Foster Farm secret from the public.

As town supervisor, Fleming opened the door to local citizens. Meetings were televised and locals were welcome to speak on both agenda items and any subject that concerned them. Putnam County Legislative meetings are only shared through audio recordings that are often inaudible and Putnam's citizens are frequently prevented from speaking.

Fleming will also bring a professionalism to the legislature that is often sorely lacking. As an experienced lawyer, she will bring clarity and knowledge to legal procedures. And she will make professional demeanor

and respectful behavior a norm, in contrast to the current rudeness to citizens, elected officials and county employees that has become too common.

Currently, there is only one Democrat on the Putnam County Legislature, Nancy Montgomery. The Republicans have made it nearly impossible for her to represent her constituents by withholding information and refusing to second any items for discussion that she proposes. A second Democrat on the Legislature will lead to a more open and balanced county government.

Most importantly, Fleming views herself as a servant of the people, in contrast to Republicans on the legislature who too often act in their own or their party's interests.

I urge all those who seek a better managed, more fiscally responsible and more transparent Putnam County government to vote for Maureen Fleming for Putnam County Legislature in District 5 on or before Nov. 8.

**Marsha Waldman
Mahopac**

Odell Deserves All in Putnam to Thank Her for Exemplary Service

Many of us think about making a community a better place, but it's the rare person who comes up with a plan, puts in the hard work, motivates those around her and actually builds an organization that improves the life of a community and its residents.

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell is that rare person. She has worked hard to make life better for our children, our town and our county for nearly 30 years.

Now that she is wrapping up her public service as county executive at the end of this year, it is time for Carmel to say thank you.

In 1995, MaryEllen Odell had not yet entered politics, but she saw that children in town needed more opportunity. So, she stepped up and co-founded the Carmel Sports Association. Its mission was to develop programs that "teach sports fundamentals, good sportsmanship, self-confidence, self-discipline, competitiveness, and teamwork in a positive and safe environment."

Anyone who attended Carmel High School's homecoming games and celebrations saw that mission accomplished.

At every home football game, the Rams run onto the field waving American flags. We have MaryEllen to thank for that. She has arranged for the team to use the flags, which are displayed in salute to veterans along the shore of Lake Gleneida from Memorial Day

to Veterans Day each year. Waving those flags not only builds school spirit and excitement for the game, it teaches our students respect for country and for the veterans and active service members who sacrifice to keep the U.S. safe.

Last spring, when the Rams won the state football championship, MaryEllen was their biggest cheerleader. But she wasn't only celebrating the Rams, she was cheering for the small town and the small county that was able to produce a team that could win against bigger and better-funded school rivals. She helped organize a parade through the hamlet of Carmel, the county seat, that brought the whole community out to share in the victory.

In the five years she served on the Putnam County Legislature and the 11 years she served as county executive, MaryEllen always made sure to share the victories and give credit to the county employees, her administrative team and the many residents who volunteer to make Putnam County great.

Now it's time for us to cheer for MaryEllen, a proud Carmel High School graduate who worked hard to make our community stronger for generations to come.

Debra Heitman-Cayea
Longtime Carmel School Community
Volunteer, Kent

Column

Domestic Violence: You Don't Have to Be Tortured Anymore

In 1987, October was designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The goal was to draw attention to this growing problem where a reported 10 million cases – that's one person every 20 seconds – has been the victim of abuse by their partner or spouse.

In an effort to further visualize this important message, advocates and survivors of domestic violence wear a purple ribbon because the color symbolizes pain, suffering, peace, courage, survival, honor and the never-ending dedication to ending these horrible crimes. Yes, domestic violence is a crime in the United States.

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was designed to better equip the authorities with how to respond to these matters when one side is inflicting harm on another. Although the system is not perfect (some say broken), and many cases are still slipping through the cracks, Washington is working to improve its handling of domestic violence.

In March, President Biden signed into law the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022. Say what you want about President Biden, but the commander-in-chief does have a track record of working with members of Congress from both parties to pass legislation to renew and strengthen VAWA three times: in 2000, 2005 and 2013.

What's interesting, here we are moving toward the end of 2022 and the perception when it comes to domestic violence is that it still only happens in low-income households because an abuser would never be a well-

educated, high-level executive. That rationale couldn't be further from the truth.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 23.2 percent of women and 13.9 percent of men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Domestic violence is not only physical; it also includes mental, emotional, verbal, religious, sexual, stalking and financial abuse.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services published its 2020 breakdown of domestic violence cases across the Empire State. In Westchester County, 37 different precincts reported 1,724 domestic violence incidents involving weapons, sexual offenses, physical assault and violations of protection orders. And this number represents only the reported cases. Victims are often too scared to call the police on their abusers for fear of retaliation. So again, if you think it can't happen where you live or to a parent in your carpool, it most certainly can.

While every bruise, scar or wound may not be visible, the pain the abuser is inflicting on their victim is excruciating and can have permanent damage if the victim doesn't take action to break free from the abuser's wrath. Take it from one who was there and spent 18 months trying to get a Temporary Order of Protection (TOP). You also have a legal right to ask for one if you are worried and filled with terror that your life is in danger.

Start by gathering evidence. You need actual proof that violence is happening to you because if you don't, it is your word against the other

side. First, I started a journal. I documented everything that was happening. You don't have to write an encyclopedia but rather a timeline of events as they occur.

Two, I saved police reports if the cops responded to an incident.

Three, I did not delete my abuser's e-mails, texts and voicemails because those would confirm my entries were authentic and truthful.

Four, I downloaded a recording app on my smartphone. I would press the red record button when my abuser was mistreating me and threatening my life by saying (and I quote), "I will have you shot dead, put in a grave and you better watch your back."

I also suggest not being obvious you are recording your abuser because that can escalate the already high-stress situation. I kept my phone, which was small enough to fit in the back pocket of my jeans, so it wasn't noticeable. Since New York is considered a one-party consent state, if you know you are taping what is transpiring between you and your abuser, the other side does not need to know you are doing this, hence why I kept my iPhone out of plain sight.

Once you have what you need to make your case, you want to go to Family Court and present it to a judge. There are three Family Court locations in Westchester County: White Plains, New Rochelle and Yonkers. Many



By Ilyssa Panitz

victims often go in without an attorney. However, if you can afford a lawyer, you should consult with them beforehand or have them accompany you. If you don't have enough money to retain an attorney, there are organizations in Westchester that can provide you with free legal advice and guide you.

No one has the right to hurt you. The number one goal, especially if you are a parent with young children, is to

protect yourself and your kids, get to a safe place and stand up to your abuser by voicing, "Enough is enough!"

After years of being tortured, lied to, followed and taught to believe I was worthless and stupid, I decided to take action by breaking free from my abuser. I have never looked back.

Ilyssa Panitz has covered the topic of divorce extensively across multiple platforms for CNN, MSNBC, 1010 WINS radio and Star and Closer magazines. Committed to helping others navigate this major life transition, she writes a daily column on divorce for Authority Magazine on Medium. She also serves as the content and editorial producer for The National Association of Divorce Professionals and was the former co-host of "All Things Divorce" on Clubhouse. She also hosts a national radio show called "The Divorce Hour with Ilyssa Panitz" that airs every Saturday and Sunday on CRN Digital Talk Radio and on Spotify, Google Podcasts, iTunes and Alexa.

Letters to the Editor

Democrats Have Failed to Take State's Crime Wave Seriously

What will it take for Gov. Hochul and the Democrats in Albany to finally acknowledge that cashless bail is threatening the safety of every citizen and visitor of New York State? Not only is it threatening our safety, but in doing so, it is stifling all hope for a prosperous rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have seen and read of horrible episodes all across New York City where career

criminals are allowed back on the streets, and only hours later, victimize more people – even killing them.

But it is not just in New York City. We are seeing terrible crime and violence pour into the suburbs. In the past two weeks we have seen a senseless murder of a father visiting his child at Marist College. We have seen a crazed gunman open fire at a pizzeria in

Fishkill. We have seen a high-speed car chase, originating from another crime in Manhattan, speed through Yorktown and end in Putnam Valley thanks to good police work. We have seen the Albany County District Attorney, a Democrat, lambast Gov. Hochul and Albany lawmakers for their utter failure to correct the disastrous cashless bail policies. We now have former governor David Paterson saying he has never felt so unsafe in New York City.

Now, this past weekend, we had a shooting outside of the home of Lee Zeldin, candidate

for New York governor. How many terrible terrifying examples and calls for change do we need before our so-called leaders act?

Clearly the Democrats in charge would rather choose to save their political backsides than protect all of us. It is time we throw the bums out. I urge you to vote for the Republican ticket: Lee Zeldin, Mike Lawler, Gina Arena and Matt Slater.

Frank Garcia
Yorktown

We'll All Be Better Off if New York's Environmental Bond is Approved

When you go to the polls to vote this fall, please remember to turn your ballot over and vote YES for Proposition 1, the \$4.2 billion New York Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act.

Proceeds from this bond issue will offer every community in New York State the opportunity to:

- Mitigate climate change through the purchase of electric school buses, creation of green buildings and addressing air and water pollution, especially in disadvantaged communities, etc.
- Reduce flooding risks through property buyouts, shoreline protection, waterfront revitalization, etc.
- Provide open space and land conservation through land acquisition, farmland protection, expansion of fish hatcheries, etc.

- Improve water quality through municipal water infrastructure improvements, upgrading storm water systems, etc.

Fully 35 to 40 percent of the funds will be devoted to the disadvantaged communities that have borne the brunt of air and water pollution in the past, and the projects financed by the bonds are projected to create more than 84,000 good paying green jobs. And the financing of the bonds will result in no noticeable increase in your state taxes.

It's a win-win-win for everyone in New York.

So flip your ballot and vote YES for Proposition 1. We'll all be better off for that.

Joel E. Gingold
Croton-on-Hudson

Harckham's Passion for Helping Constituents Sets Him Apart

I am a longtime homeowner in Kent. I was excited to learn that state Sen. Pete Harckham's district now includes my neighborhood and that I have the opportunity to vote to re-elect him in 2022.

Sen. Harckham is a hardworking legislator who stands up for what he believes in and delivers results that help people of all political affiliations. He champions clean water in a part of the nation that supplies clean water to millions. He advocates for his working-class constituents on the job and in their personal lives. Pete fearlessly supports reproductive health and common-sense gun safety; he understands the serious need for action in Albany in light of the aberrant recent decisions

by the United States Supreme Court.

Pete Harckham is driven by his passion to help others and his sense of fairness for all. He thinks ahead to what his district will need in the future while tending to present demands. His life has been one of genuine devotion to public service for the common good. He listens to his constituents' needs, states his intentions clearly and then works ferociously hard to accomplish the passage of legislation advancing the public good.

I urge you to vote to re-elect Sen. Pete Harckham.

Fritz Beshar
Kent

Congressman Speaks on the Upheaval of Personal and National Trauma

By Martin Wilbur

Within a week, Rep. Jamie Raskin experienced two traumatic and completely unrelated events that would have been unthinkable days before they occurred.

On Dec. 31, 2020, Raskin's son, Tommy, a second-year Harvard Law School student, died by suicide after having battled depression. The young man wasn't just a brilliant student but a prolific writer, slam poet and jazz and blues pianist who often displayed a sharp sense of humor.

Six days later, with Raskin back in the halls of Congress to complete the perfunctory task alongside other lawmakers to confirm the 2020 Presidential electoral vote count, a mob of insurrectionists took over the Capitol trying to stop the peaceful transition of power.

For someone who fellow Rep. Abigail Spanberger once called the funniest man in Congress, the life-changing events made Raskin, a Maryland Democrat, a more serious person.

"I think trauma is like a thief that steals everything from you that is most precious and the most beloved that makes life meaningful, and just when it's the end of everything, trauma also



Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland), author of "Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy," following his talk at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center on Sunday morning. He is pictured with Joan Kuhn, center, program director at the Chappaqua Public Library, which scheduled the event.

connects you to other people and binds you in a much deeper way to other people's humanity than you could ever imagine," said Raskin, who spent more than 25 years as a constitutional law professor at

American University Washington College of Law before his election.

In the above comment, Raskin was talking about losing his only son (he and his wife have two daughters), but in some ways he also could have been speaking of the state of the country.

The third-term congressman was at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center on Sunday morning talking about his new book, "Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy." Raskin discussed his son, his friendship with Rep. Liz Cheney since shortly after they were elected despite being at opposite ends of the political spectrum and the overlapping life-changing events that occurred in such a short period of time.

Raskin was interviewed in front of crowd of close to a few hundred, including President Bill Clinton and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, by John Diaconis, president of the Friends of Miller House/Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains.

He recalled the early afternoon of Jan. 6, when members of Congress could hear the swarm of people from outside barreling into the Capitol and reaching the House of Representatives' chamber.

Some of the insurrectionists were carrying the Confederate battle flag.

"I said, 'Liz, it looks like we're under new management here,' and she just shook her head and said, 'What have they done? What have they done?'" Raskin remembered.

It was Cheney and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries who insisted that the House return to work that night to complete the Electoral College confirmation process. He said he drew on her strength.

"When it was suggested to me to become the vice chair of the (January 6) committee, I said we need a Republican," Raskin said. "We need Liz Cheney. I felt very strongly about that and I still do, and I'm proud I made that decision."

Raskin urged how crucial it is to put country and the constitution over political and personal interests "because the country is far bigger than any one of us. It's far bigger than the best person in the country."

For those who are in despair, he reminded how we could use inspiration from the people of Ukraine, who are fighting not only for their country and their freedom but for their lives in a far more dangerous situation.

"I hope everyone in this room

will go out and fight every day with everything you've got for our democracy and for our freedom and for the truth," Raskin said.

He said a change in the United States' discourse will have to come from the center left and the center right, not party ideologues.

"They've come together to defend democracy and fascism and that's the importance of people like Liz Cheney and Sen. Mitt Romney, who are going to stand up for the constitutional structure," Raskin said.

Raskin interspersed his comments with quotes from Thomas Paine – he had named his son after the influential activist and political writer – who helped inspire a generation to fight the British to gain independence.

In the less than two years since his son's death, Raskin has tried not to wallow in grief, as understandable as that is, but to continue to believe in the future.

"I've come to believe that I honor Tommy best by trying to remember his hope and his optimism and his belief that things could improve for humanity and America and not be obsessed with the final days and what depression did to him," Raskin said.



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Column

Replying to The Examiner Mailbag

They say (and don't ask who they are, because I'll give you a long-winded answer) it's important for publishers to engage readers in conversation.

I was thinking on this topic Saturday afternoon, when picking my older daughter up from her local part-time job.

Infected with the same restless-when-not-active disease most of us suffer from these digital days, I took the few minutes before she emerged in the parking lot to Google from my iPhone some version of "What the heck should I write about today?"

The internet machine delivered an immediate answer: reply to letters to the editor.

So, without further ado, I'll get at it, replying to a sampling of published letters from last week. (And yes, I know, they're letters to the editor, not letters to the publisher. Sue me, Martin).

"No matter what side of the fence you usually vote, the treatment we all



By Adam Stone

got during the pandemic with extended mandates, lockdowns and a lowering of our standard of life, we all have been thinking that this wasn't what we wanted," wrote Kimberly Morella of Lewisboro, in the opening of a letter where she explains her support of Gina Arena for New York State Senate.

While I'm not going to comment here on that particular race, Kimberly's observations bring a topic to mind.

I sometimes wrestle with whether we should publish letters to the editor where residents express their preferences for a particular candidate during campaign season.

Does sharing letters like these advance the civic conversation, giving our audience a useful public forum to debate the races? Or does it just become a vehicle for free campaign advertising and empty rhetoric letter-writing campaigns?

I lean toward it being a net positive.

Kimberly's submission is a good example of how these types of letters can help initiate a productive political conversation. (What do you think?)

In fact, another one of our other letter writers from last week, Pete Friedrich of Mount Kisco, critiqued Arena on the issue of congestion pricing. He favors Sen. Peter Harkham in the contest.

OK, I've convinced myself. Curated samples of political letters stay!

Speaking of initiating conversation, I love it when a letter sparks a reply message from a fellow reader. (As long as it doesn't get out of hand).

"A recent letter to the editor about climate caught my attention ("Mother Nature Controls Climate Change, Not Humans," September 27-October 3) and I'd like to offer some information that might be helpful," James Connelly of Pleasantville began in his letter.

Connelly went on to suggest some light fare: "The Fourth National Climate Assessment," a 1,500-page, two-part

breezy beach read.

Kidding aside, I did poke around to find the report. And while I can't say I've read it, I did read up a bit about it.

One aspect I found interesting was the timing of the congressionally-mandated assessment: it was unveiled in multiple parts, in 2017 and 2018, during Donald Trump's presidency.

It might be my own ignorance on the issue, and perhaps the report is common knowledge – or was at the time – but I for one wasn't aware of the Trump era climate assessment.

While researchers acknowledging human activity as the fundamental cause of warming shouldn't be a revelation, it struck me

as noteworthy given the politics of the issue.

Anyway, we all have our reading assignment for the week. At least the CliffsNotes version. Thank you, James.

Publisher Adam Stone founded Examiner Media in 2007.

Stone's Throw

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Ukrainian Boy Recognized for Entries at Mount Kisco Photo Exhibit

By Martin Wilbur

Nine-year-old David Gelfand may have been forced to leave his homeland with his parents and sister in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine last winter. But the disruption of life for his family didn't stop him from appreciating the beauty of the surroundings and people around him.

Two of his photos were of the Branch Brook behind Village Hall with color superimposed over it and another of his sister that could have been mistaken for a picture taken more than century ago.

Gelfand's father Rudolf said he remembers that his son's first toy was a phone with a camera and he's been catching images ever since.

"He said every picture should be different from what it looked like in reality, in real life," Rudolf Gelfand said.

Gelfand was one of the photographers recognized by the Village of Mount Kisco last Thursday during its opening reception and awards presentation of the Mount Kisco Photo Exhibition. The fifth annual contest and exhibit,



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

David Gelfand, right, pictured with a friend, after he received his certificate of recognition in the Young Photographer category at the fifth annual Mount Kisco Photo Exhibition.

organized by the municipality's Conservation Advisory Council, Historical Society, Arts Council and the Tree Preservation Board, encourages anyone from the public to submit pictures each year of the nature, culture and people of Mount Kisco.

This year, organizers included an Experimental photo category

to provide a slightly new twist.

Gelfand's family stayed for a little more than six months at his aunt's house in Chappaqua. His aunt, Jane Gelfand, said about two weeks ago David's parents found jobs in Toronto so they have relocated there.

However, David had been so excited that he was one of the photographers being honored, his parents decided to make the 10-hour drive from Toronto so he could be recognized at the reception along with the other winners, said Shonan Noronha, one of the volunteer organizers.

Another youthful winner was village resident Adam Reig, a senior at Fox Lane High School. He had entered photos for the past three years, but one this year caught the judge's attention. It was an image of a single rowboat in the middle of Byram Lake taken high above the water's surface with a drone, appearing tiny in comparison with nothing else in the water.

"I've always really liked nature," Reig said. "I take a lot of photos of nature, (but) I wouldn't really call it nature photography. I really like trying to take pictures of things you really wouldn't notice or see."



Adam Reig's photo of a single rowboat taken by a drone high above Byram Lake.

This year about 50 different photographers submitted more than 200 photos to the village for contest and exhibit, said John Rhodes, chair of the Conservation Advisory Council. More than 70 were selected to be placed on the walls of the community room gallery space at the library for the month of October, he said.

All of the submitted photos can be seen on the Photography Exhibition page on the Village of Mount Kisco website at https://www.mountkisco.ny.gov/news_detail_T6_R572.php

Mayor Gina Picinich thanked everyone who participated,

wondering how there would be dozens of photos that were different than anything that had been submitted in previous years.

"I think how could anyone find something different that has not already been photographed, and I walked around the room and I am so impressed," Picinich said. "Folks have captured so much of what is reflective of our community that I have never seen before because their views through their eyes is what's brought to life."

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Chappaqua Children's Book Festival in Full Swing This Saturday

By Martin Wilbur

For children who love to read and the parents who hope to find a way to attract their kids to pick up a book, one of the most popular events to encourage that activity returns in full force.

This Saturday is the ninth Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, and for the first time in three years there will be a full roster of authors and plenty of activities and food to choose from. The 2020 festival had to be canceled because of COVID-19 while last year's event was about half the size.

"The authors are our friends now and I really, really look forward to seeing them," said festival Executive Director Dawn Greenberg. "To me, it's all about the kids and seeing how excited the kids that are coming in really makes me happy."

For the second year, the festival will be held in the parking lot at the Chappaqua Metro-North station, allowing for more space for visitors, the authors and the food trucks. Before the pandemic it was held on the other side of South Greeley Avenue on the grounds of Robert E. Bell Middle School.

Greenberg said the move to the train station allows for a more centralized festival, which last year added to the excitement and energy.

This year, the festival will be returning with its large tent that will contain the nearly 160 children's book authors who will be on hand this weekend. Plus, the police department and the town now prefer it on its property, which should prevent much of the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Close to 160 authors are expected to return to the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival this Saturday at the Chappaqua Metro-North station.

pedestrian traffic from having to cross South Greeley, Greenberg said.

While the festival's priority is making sure the kids have a great time, it's also about the authors. There are the well-known favorites that are returning such as "Pinkalicious" author Victoria Kann. But there are more than 30 new authors this year.

Among those is Dylan Dreyer, the NBC television meteorologist who has written the book "Misty the Cloud: Friends Through

Rain or Shine."

The festival will also be welcoming Lisa Fipps, who wrote the highly-acclaimed "Starfish," and Emily Isler, author of "Aftermath," both of which attracted lots of buzz among young readers. There are a number of authors coming from around the United States for the event, possibly fueled by moves to ban books in certain locations, Greenberg said.

The only drawback is that the festival is

unable to accommodate all of the authors who want to be part of the event but can't be accommodated. Next year, Greenberg expects to be flooded with applications for the 10th anniversary festival.

She also tries to attract authors who offer a diverse array of books for different age groups.

"I'm thrilled at the level of people that we draw, and we continue to have a waiting list of about 60 authors," Greenberg said. "It's a good problem."

Of course, what would a children's book festival be without other activities as well. This year, there will be seven authors participating in Storytime, where the writers read selections from their work. That will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There will be crafts, illustration demonstrations, eight food trucks on hand and the Bubble Bus.

Greenberg also encourages visitors who come this Saturday to walk through downtown, which gives the Town of New Castle a chance to showcase the hamlet.

"The good part of the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival was to draw attention to our town," she said.

There is plenty of parking at the train station on a Saturday. For those who can get to a Harlem line stop on Metro-North, the train brings people right to the site.

The festival is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 16.

For more information about the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, including a complete list of authors, visit www.ccbfestival.org.

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The Sopranos' Pastore Returns to His Musical Roots at Lucy's

By Martin Wilbur

Mention the name Vinny Pastore in a word association game and an entire generation is likely to respond "Big Pussy" from "The Sopranos."

But far fewer may know that years before his role on the hit HBO mob drama, Pastore was a singer and a rock 'n' roll club owner in New Rochelle.

This Thursday evening, Pastore will return with his band Gangster Squad at The Garage at Lucy's in Pleasantville for an evening of rock 'n' roll. Joining Pastore will be Eddie Denise (bass), who played with Dion, Al Orlo (guitar), Kevin Tooley (drums) and their musical director Frank Pisani.

"I have a good time," said Pastore, 76, who was born in the Bronx and currently lives in City Island but grew up in New Rochelle. "I have good guys that come up and sing with me, like Eddie Denise. I like the standards, but they put people to sleep, so, you know, we pep it up."

Don't expect Pastore to be breaking out any Sinatra or Tony Bennett numbers Thursday night at Lucy's with Gangster Squad. Patrons will hear the Stones, Van Morrison and many other rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues selections from the '60s and '70s.

It was on the streets where Pastore learned how to sing as a kid.

"I've always enjoyed music, my whole life, the music more than the acting," Pastore said. "The music came before



Vinny Pastore of "The Sopranos" will be singing with his band Gangster Squad this Thursday at The Garage at Lucy's in Pleasantville.

the acting. The music came on the street corner doing a cappella."

It wasn't until later, sometime after being discharged from the Navy, that he took acting classes paid for by the G.I. Bill. In the years after the classes, he performed in community theater around the metropolitan area.

He had various small movie roles, mostly portraying gangster types, including bit parts initially in films such as "Carlito's Way" and "Goodfellas." A larger role came in the 1995 movie "The Jerky Boys: The Movie." A few years later he was cast in

"The Sopranos."

Pastore made it to Broadway for the first of his two roles there in 2007 in the musical "Chicago" as Amos Hart, followed about seven years later as Nick Valenti in "Bullets Over Broadway."

Even as he slowly earned more acting credits over the years, Pastore never let go of the music bug. He had opened his club called the Crazy Horse in New Rochelle around 1980. Pastore operated it for about six years before he was bought out when he started taking acting more seriously. But he's remained in contact with many

of the musicians who played at the Crazy Horse, including the members of his band.

It's been more than 15 years since Pastore's stint on "The Sopranos," but he doesn't mind if most people in the general public remember him only as Salvatore "Big Pussy" Bonpensiero. It's opened up plenty of other opportunities for him, including his Broadway roles. In addition to writing plays, Pastore also teaches acting with Maureen Van Zandt, the wife of Sopranos buddy and E Street Band member Steven Van Zandt.

He's been able to carve out a fun and fulfilling life with gumption and being unafraid to take a chance.

"I tell this to my actors, you have to have these visions, you can't say you're not going to do it, I'm not going to be able to do it," Pastore explained. "You can do it. You just have to go out and do it. You can't give up and we've lasted with all these obstacles."

He's looking forward to returning to Lucy's later this week, a place he has grown to love because it has many of the same vibes as his old club.

"I have a good time up there, and I'm really glad I'm going back," Pastore said.

Tickets to see The Gangster Squad this Thursday from 8 to 11 p.m. at The Garage at Lucy's is \$20, plus a fee, on Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/5eauabuv>

The Garage at Lucy's is located at 446 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.



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The Front Door, Front and Center

As a realtor, I have occasionally been asked what I consider the most important aspects of showing a home for sale at its best. Number one on my list is always the first thing one encounters when visiting a home, with the possible exception of curb appeal, and that is the front door.

Basically, my reasoning has been that the front door can be the key to a home's personality, either reflecting the condition of the space within or contradicting it. A beautiful, sturdy door with quality hardware greets the visitor with a confident hello; a weathered door, perhaps out of alignment, with old or poorly functioning hardware, conveys something quite different, something unappealing.

I suspect that some homeowners are just not as aware of a front door becoming compromised because many people drive into their attached garage and walk directly into the mud room or kitchen. However, visitors normally come to the front door.

While the functional purposes of a front door are to withstand the elements, help energy efficiency and provide protection for the home, visitors view it as an aesthetic statement, even a psychological one. If the door is attractive and in good shape, that perception extends to the entire house.

Look at your front door and determine whether it needs a simple sprucing up



By Bill Primavera

or a total replacement. Some door problems can be repaired and others cannot. If the door is improperly hung, has trouble closing or latching, is only slightly warped or is just sticking, these problems are worth fixing. But if it has rot or is outrageously outdated in style, consider options for replacement.

Whether you use a contractor or a handyman for door replacement, you'll get different opinions about which kind of new door to choose. Some would suggest that the top-quality material is still considered to be wood. Steel or aluminum may be recommended as the most

sturdy and secure, but according to most remodeling contractors, the best choice today is the new and high-quality fiberglass door. The insulation quality of the latter is better than that of a wooden door, and it will not warp or crack.

The feature I like best about a quality fiberglass door is that the manufacturers have managed to develop an incredibly realistic grain that matches real wood. Also, there is a virtually unlimited number of door styles and beveled glass options available. Fiberglass can be stained or painted, and fancy hardware can be applied to them, just as you would a wood door.

That brings us to the subject of the door hardware which, in aesthetic terms, can make a door "pop," but if it's worn, that pop



can be a dull thud. The polished look is one factor, but a lock and handle's functionality are the primary things to consider.

Locksets fall into two different categories, mortise or cylindrical. While I don't fully understand the mechanical workings of these two types of locks, my trusted locksmith tells me that mortise locksets, which are installed into a rectangular dugout in the door, offer the ultimate in security,

design and ruggedness.

Highly polished solid brass knobs, backplates and thumb latches are desirable but – fair warning – they can be quite expensive.

When it comes to selecting a color for the front door, it is a situation of relating to, or contrasting with, one of the other tones found in the house or the surrounding landscape. But there is one cardinal rule: a front door should never be stark white. The theory here is that the door should relate to the landscape in some way and pure white is rarely found in nature.

For those of you with a bent toward feng shui, you know that the front door is the main source of a house's energy. But practically and simply put for both curb appeal and resale value, spruce up the front door, and in a sense, you have a new home.

As a footnote, I once wrote an article based on a feng shui point of view advising that the very best color to paint a front door to energize a house is red and even recommended a personal preference for red: Benjamin Moore Burgundy.

After that article appeared, so many friends told me they had taken that step. It seems to me that I do see many more red doors lately. Or is that just my imagination?

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call him directly at 914-522-2076.

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Revised Rock Opera Returns to Local Stage With Eyes Toward Broadway

By Martin Wilbur

When "Choices: A Rock Opera" debuted at Armonk's Whippoorwill Hall early last April, its writer and director John Krupa could not have been more pleased with the initial reaction.

It played to three oversold performances before enthusiastic audiences over a single weekend, much to the delight of most of those who experienced the show.

But Krupa, along with the theater professionals he has surrounded himself with, have ambitions of bringing the show to Broadway and they knew revisions needed to be made.

Six months later Krupa and the cast and crew are set to bring a reworked version of "Choices" back to the stage, this time at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center on Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12.

"It's still the same story, it's still the same plot, it's still the same characters," Krupa said in a recent telephone conversation. "We didn't change anything there. It will still be the same cast. What we did was add more to the storyline."

It is Krupa's semiautobiographical story, which he completed writing during the pandemic, about the life

of a 1980s rock band lead singer who must make professional and personal decisions knowing that there are no do-overs.

Krupa said his team formed focus groups based on the shows in his home community of Armonk, ranging from casual theatergoers to a mix of theater professionals, to learn how to improve the show.

"We sat down with everyone and said what are we lacking, what do we need?" he said. "And the number one thing that came up was more depth, you need to have more depth."

He wrote about six additional songs and supplemented the storyline because some focus group participants said it wasn't clear to them the choices that the character is confronted with.

Another change has been adding the actor, dancer and choreographer Holly Block to the team, who has added a heavy dose of dancing to the production.

"She has put the story, the entire story, to motion so there's movement everywhere, and motion creates a lot of the energy," Krupa said. "I'm really excited about what she's brought."

The cast is led by Broadway veteran MiG Ayesa, which was a coup for the production team and gave the show instant credibility.

Krupa said earlier this year that Ayesa was impressed with the script and the storyline. The only change to the cast is a handful of professional dancers to pull off the enhanced choreography, he said.

Current plans call for the show to be workshopped again following next month's performances with additional improvements incorporated into the production. Additional performances will likely be scheduled for somewhere in Westchester next year, Krupa said.

After that, if all goes well, they will take it on the road followed by a Broadway opening sometime after that. By then, Krupa will have handed off "Choices" to the Broadway team.

"Right now, we have producers and we're bringing in a new director as well," he said.

For the upcoming shows, Krupa also wanted to keep it local to give Westchester residents the chance to see "Choices" as it is being prepared for the big time.

"In the end, we decided on Chappaqua Performing Arts Center because it's a beautiful new theater, it's the size we were looking for, which is double the size of Whippoorwill Hall," Krupa said of the roughly 425-seat venue on the campus of Chappaqua Crossing. "We



Cast members of "Choices: A Rock Opera," which will be performed in Chappaqua on Nov. 11 and 12. Armonk's John Krupa wrote and currently directs the show.

love the people over there, they welcomed us with open arms and we're very excited, very excited to still be in front of our home crowd, our friends and family."

Showtime for "Choice: A

Rock Opera" will be 8 p.m. both evenings. Tickets are \$42.50 each and can be bought by visiting www.chappaquapac.org or at www.choicesarockopera.com.



Responding to Repetition... Again and Again

Presented by Rebekah Wilson, MSW, a Dementia Care Specialist, Trainer, and the Owner of Aging Care Coach, LLC. She has 14 years of experience in elder care services, including Hospice, Home Health Care, Assisted Living, and Care Management. In these arenas, she has focused her expertise on teaching, community outreach, marketing, and developing innovative strategies for providing comfort care for seniors and their caregivers.



In this session, Rebekah will discuss reasons behind some of the common symptoms exhibited in dementia, with an emphasis on repetitive questions and statements. Participants

will identify how they and other caregivers traditionally respond in these scenarios. Alternative approach strategies will be explored and participants will practice new ways to respond when repetition occurs.

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Documentary on Seniors' Social Isolation Debuts in Putnam This Month

Putnam County residents have an opportunity to watch a public viewing of a unique documentary on Friday, Oct. 21.

The one-hour film "All the Lonely People" presents stories of resilience in the face of loneliness. It chronicles a handful of individuals who overcame crippling social isolation over the past two years.

The free event starts at 1 p.m. in the auditorium at the Bureau of Emergency Services, located at 110 Old Route 6 in Carmel, and will be followed by a live panel of the film's producers and local experts, and an audience discussion. The documentary is presented by Putnam County's Office for Senior Resources, in cooperation with the county Department of Health and Putnam's Bureau of Emergency Services.

It is part of a statewide tour organized by the New York State Office for the Aging, the Association on Aging in New York and local senior services agencies.

"We have known for some time the negative effect loneliness can have on an individual's health and well-being," said Michael Cunningham, the director of the Office for Senior Resources in Putnam County. "These last few years

have been challenging times for all residents, and I have seen it especially impact our seniors. We are hoping this film can bring a broader focus to the issue and point two new opportunities and solutions for building resilience. Audience participation in the panel discussion can bring new insights on the effects of isolation and I invite everyone who can to make time to attend and participate."

Even before the pandemic, Dr. Vivek Murthy, the 19th and now the 21st U.S. Surgeon General, called social isolation a "global pandemic." The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine has called its damage equal to high blood pressure, smoking or obesity and the AARP Public Policy Institute estimates social isolation drives \$6.7 billion in additional Medicare spending per year.

Some populations, including older adults, are more likely to experience loneliness and social isolation. But they are not alone; other groups are also vulnerable, including immigrants, LGBTQ populations, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, low-income and other underserved groups.

"Loneliness and social isolation clearly impact mental health. They present ethical challenges as well," said

Sara Servadio, deputy commissioner of mental health and social services in Putnam County. "We are seeing an increase in the incidence of mental health challenges as well as widespread difficulties accessing care as a result of the pandemic. We must focus all our energies on improving well-being and reducing the stigma that presents added challenges to seeking care that go beyond the availability of services."

In addition to putting a human face on this hidden epidemic of social isolation and chronic loneliness, the filmmakers also interviewed "loneliness experts," including Julianne Holt-Lunstad, professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, and geriatrician Dr. Carla Perissinotto, social isolation and loneliness researcher.

After seeing the film over a year ago, Greg Olsen, director of the state Office of the Aging, immediately saw its connection with the work of his organization.

"I also saw this as a tool to raise awareness," Olsen said, "including a broader community reach, as isolation impacts people of all ages. The film examines an issue that profoundly affects older adults, but it also features people from all walks of life and age

groups, showing the many ways that we are all touched by social isolation."

The state Office of the Aging has spearheaded efforts to bring this film and these important messages to multiple counties around the state throughout October and November. The tour includes 20 locations from St. Lawrence County near Canada to Long Island. Carmel and Poughkeepsie are the two sites in the mid-Hudson Valley.

"All the Lonely People" is from The Clowder Group, the social enterprise that created the critically acclaimed film Gen Silent. Joseph Applebaum, co-founder and producer of The Clowder Group, describes his group as having given hundreds of communities, governments and professional organizations around the world the immersive experience that sparks change. Their events – films followed by discussions – have resulted in national policy change, community awareness and organizational growth.

To register for the free event, visit <https://AllTheLonelyPeoplePutnam.eventbrite.com>.

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Constance Markiewicz: Countess With a Gun in Hand

This week, our Woman of Ireland focus is on Countess Constance Gore-Booth Markiewicz, who played a major role as a rebel commander and combatant in Ireland's ultimate struggle for freedom.

Wife of a Polish nobleman, she bore her title proudly, but never let her status interfere with her passion for Ireland's freedom. She wore many hats, few typical of a woman of her time or social status.

Born in England in 1868, she was a member of the upper crust of the Anglo-Irish aristocracy. Her father, Sir Henry Gore-Booth, a distinguished Arctic explorer, was also the proprietor of a 39-square-mile estate, Lissadell House, in County Sligo. Unlike many of his fellow landlords, Henry had a conscience and a heart. During the Second Famine of 1879-80, which many feared would be a repeat of the disastrous famine of the 1840s, he fed his tenants from his own funds, rather than watch them suffer. Constance would never forget the example her father set of responsibility for the downtrodden.

A childhood friend of the Irish poet William Butler Yeats, Constance initially embarked on a career as an artist. She gained prominence as a landscape painter.

The first political cause she embraced



By Brian McGowan

was woman's suffrage, then a major struggle in Great Britain. In 1905, married and the mother of a four-year-old, she co-founded the United Arts Club. This group brought together the intelligentsia of Ireland, along with many who would play major roles in the coming politics of revolution. It would not be long before Constance joined the Sinn Féin party, and found herself deeply

involved in the fight for Irish liberty.

In 1911 she was jailed by the British for giving an incendiary speech to 30,000 protesters objecting to the planned visit of King George V (the current British monarch's great-grandfather) to Ireland. Her experience in jail hardened her attitude, and she soon joined the Irish Citizen Army, a military organization founded by the socialist agitator and future martyr James Connolly.

When the Easter Rising erupted in 1916, she commanded a rebel band in a pitched battle with the British in St. Stephen's Green, finally withdrawing in the face of withering British machine-gun fire.

Markiewicz and her soldiers continued to resist for six days and were among the last rebel units to surrender. Jailed and

condemned to death, her sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Her response to the British authorities? "I do wish your lot had the decency to shoot me."

Released in the 1917 general amnesty, Constance quickly became an outspoken critic of conscription, a policy the British had begun to use in order to fill the trenches of the western front during World War I. Markiewicz quickly found herself jailed again. During her incarceration, she and 72 other Sinn Féin members were elected to the British Parliament. None of them would ever sit in London. They met instead in Dublin, where they formed the first Dáil Éireann, the parliament of the Irish Republic, engulfed in a bitter war with the British Empire.

This Anglo-Irish War ended three years later with the much-disputed 1921 Treaty. This agreement partitioned Ireland into the 26-county Irish Free State and the six-county political entity of Northern

Ireland. Markiewicz opposed the Treaty and partition. She worked tirelessly with Irish Republican Army (IRA) forces during the



Constance Markiewicz (1868-1927)

ensuing Irish Civil War, where "Free Staters" and IRA supporters killed more of each other than the British ever had.

That war ended in 1927, if it can be said to have ever truly ended. Markiewicz died an untimely death on July 27 of that year, due to complications from appendicitis, at that time a surgery of major risk. She was only 59. Thousands of Dubliners lined the city streets to pay their respects at her funeral procession. Republican leader Eamon DeValera

gave the oration as she was laid to rest in Glasnevin Cemetery.

She is recognized today as a major force in the establishment of the Republic of Ireland and a tireless champion of women's rights.

Longtime 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. 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.

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Is the Meaning of Life to Be a Rolling Stone?

"I sent a letter to paradise...it was returned address unknown"
—Richard Cirulli

The question in the headline is one we have often pondered throughout life, especially when making major life decisions or in the midst of navigating life's gauntlet of adversity. Oftentimes, it leaves us to feel like handicapped mortals, believing that life can be cruel, unfair, unforgiving and absurd.

I must confess I approached this subject with some trepidation, since writers on this subject are either fit for the crazed or comics. I pray I will be judged as the latter.

For the sake of existential banter, I believe it's better to not ask the question what is the meaning of life? Rather, it should be what does life mean to me?

Hopefully, our answers are not a cookie-cutter answer taken from the batch of the herd. What life means to us should be an honest dialogue within us that defines who we truly are and what we expect and contribute to our life in hope of securing

our happiness and essence on our terms; by approaching our life philosophy from a very personal perspective; and to escape the nauseating habit of how some philosophers are more adept at analyzing questions rather than answering them. With this said, we can sidestep the philosophers to position ourselves to better answer the question what does life mean to me?

We may need to juxtapose what life means to me with the 3,000-year-old proverb, "A rolling stone gathers no moss." Existentialists can deal with proverbs, just not cliches. We all know there are many tools available to us to help us tinker with our being – philosophy, meditation, therapy, religion and mysticism, to name some.

Existentially Speaking

And they all come a la carte. The proverb a rolling stone gathers no moss can be interpreted in contrasting ways. For instance, do we want to tumble throughout life without direction to just follow the herd? Have you found your meaning of life by being subservient to the herd that just carries us through life in its wake.

We know of people who delegate their personhood to the herd to think for them just for the sake of validation. We often live life as that of a parrot just mimicking the words of others, knowing they will always be in agreement with the herd, in fear of thinking for themselves and engaging in growth dialogues. Or viewing the moss of life can be something to be feared and avoided, like truth itself.

Or should we make the attempt to substitute idle gossip for investing this time into improving our own lot? The wise know better; speaking ill of others raises the flag to your own insecurities and resultant anger.

I would be crazed if I were to believe we can solve the question of the meaning of life in just one column. At best it reminds us life is a compilation of events and micro-moments whose meaning evolves over time. That should bring understanding, growth



By Richard Cirulli

and direction to our lives. Well, maybe we can view human life as a phenomenon, which can be the bearer of a coherent meaning as opposed to reducing it to cliches such as life is a gas, bitch, a cabaret, a vale of tears or a bed of roses, hardly enough to build a case. We should try to avoid judging our life as valuable or valueless. Life should not be viewed as a zero-

sum game.

I do hope this work will assist you in some small way in your quest for peace and essence in life. But let's not take ourselves too seriously. It does get in the way of finding our essence.

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

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

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Fall Raptor Rapture: Watching Hawks By the Hundreds, or Thousands

By Brian Kluepfel

The Hudson Valley is full of surprises. One that isn't obvious to the casual viewer is the migration of thousands of raptors over the great river each autumn.

Taking advantage of thermals and convenient geography, a cornucopia of birds of prey, including broad-winged hawks, ospreys, red-shouldered hawks, black vultures and turkey vultures all pass over Nyack on their way to wintering grounds.

This spectacle is best viewed from Hook Mountain, a convenient hike up from Rockland Lake Golf Course through lovely oak, maple and beech hardwoods flaming with fall colors. You may see hawks zip by at eye level as you're staring down the funnel of the Tappan Zee. (Even if no birds appear, the view from up there is a treat.)

You may see kettles of raptors high above, almost invisible to the naked eye, but more obvious to the trained eye of Drew Panko and Trudy Battaly, who've maintained this perfect perch for more than 50 years. With spotting scopes, binoculars and other aids, these expert spotters can tell the initiates – folks like me – exactly what they're seeing.

For example, I can tell you that when I first scaled the mountain on Sept. 17,



2015, we saw 44 sharp-shinned hawks and seven broad-wings. Had we gone just the day before, we'd have seen 1,399 broad-wings! The number of migratory raptors is simply incredible and goes unnoticed by many Hudson Valley residents. Who knew this great migration took place right in front, or just above, our eyes?

You simply never know what you might see up on Hook. Last year accounted for a record number of golden eagles, turkey vultures and Cooper's hawks. The year before, 2020, was a big year for American kestrels. In addition to raptors, you'll see other migrating avians like goldfinches, warblers and the incessant winter preparations of jays, cardinals and the like.

Those with good camaras are in a good spot to get awesome shots of photogenic

falcons and preening peregrines.

Saw Mill River Audubon is sponsoring a trip to Hook Mountain this Sunday, Oct. 16. You can sign up on at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org or feel free to go any other day through November to talk to hawk spotters and enjoy the breathtaking views of the Hudson below and New York City afar.

If you're available weekdays, and not raptured-out (or perhaps still enraptured), Saw Mill River Audubon will also be going to another hawking hotspot, Fire Island, on Thursday, Oct. 20. Meet up at 8:45 a.m. in Parking Lot 5 of Robert Moses State Park, which has a nice viewing platform.

Some basic information on the mysteries and wonder of raptor migration can be found at <https://hawkwatch.org/learn/factsheets/item/813-raptor-migration>.

Last weekend was a notable annual birding day, World Migratory Bird Day. There are actually two of these days – the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October.

I try not to get caught up in the zealously of Hallmark Holidays or Audubon-designated "big days," because for me they are all big days. Every day that I wake up, in fact, is a big day. That

being said, I did make an effort to tour my complex and Mariandale Retreat Center on Saturday and came up with a list including pine warblers, palm warblers, eastern phoebes, northern cardinals, blue jays, immature bald eagles, ospreys, American crows as well as mourning doves, tufted titmice, and house sparrows nibbling on breadcrumbs on our porch. And I added in some double-crested cormorants spotted on river rocks from Metro-North later in the day.

Now is the time to bask in the waning daylight of autumn, sweep out the chimney for the coming winter and prep your birdfeeders for those feathered friends who choose not to migrate. Remember that you can get a variety of bird seed to cater to every avian need from Saw Mill River Audubon, and your purchase helps support its programs and maintain its various wildlife sanctuaries throughout Westchester.

Every day is a good birding day. Get out there!

Brian Kluepfel is a correspondent for the Lonely Planet travel series and contributes to BirdWatching Magazine, which will feature his article on Newfoundland in November. He lives and birds in Ossining.

For The Birds

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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Autumn Gold. Autumn has arrived and soon green leaves will turn red, orange and gold. To celebrate this season of change, all the words in the quiz contain the letters "au" for autumn. Au also just happens to be the chemical symbol for gold. Perhaps your vocabulary will strike gold with some of the quiz words this week.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. saunter (v.) | A) to stroll | B) be rude | C) delight in |
| 2. audacity (n.) | A) a methodical examination | B) enforced economy | C) fearless daring |
| 3. gauche (adj.) | A) thin and angular | B) lacking grace | C) brilliant in color |
| 4. haunt (v.) | A) to move along | B) drift away | C) visit often |
| 5. laureate (adj.) | A) worthy of distinction | B) somewhat late | C) law-abiding |
| 6. augur (v.) | A) to add grandeur | B) foretell | C) call into question |
| 7. haughty (adj.) | A) showing arrogance | B) unmistakable | C) high-class |
| 8. aubade (n.) | A) one who listens | B) a song evoking daybreak | C) a parting glance |

- ANSWERS:**
1. To walk at a leisurely pace; stroll
 2. Fearless daring; boldness; courage
 3. Lacking grace or social polish; awkward or tactless
 4. To visit often; frequent; also to appear in the form of a ghost
 5. Worthy of the greatest honor or distinction
 6. To predict, especially from signs or omens; foretell
 7. Having or showing arrogance
 8. A song or instrumental composition concerning, accompanying, or evoking daybreak



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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
CHAPPAQUA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT,
IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York, adopted on October 3, 2022, a Special District Meeting of the qualified voters of said School District will be held on:

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 9:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) at the Gymnasium of the Horace Greeley High School, Chappaqua, New York for the purpose of voting upon the following Bond Propositions:

BOND PROPOSITION #1

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to District school buildings and/or sites (the "Project") substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C. (the "Plan"), available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk, including (as and where necessary): roof replacements and/or reconstruction; improvements to the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical, fire safety, lighting, and communications systems; bridge replacement; and site and athletic improvements including the construction of bathrooms, a storage building, playground resurfacing and a modified baseball field and paving improvements; all of the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$33,985,000; provided that the costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Plan may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District;
- (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and
- (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

BOND PROPOSITION #2

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct a single point of entry at Horace Greeley High School (the "Project") substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C. (the "Plan"), available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk, including (as and where necessary): including a new entrance and connector to gymnasium, and reconfiguration of main office; the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$11,340,000; provided that the costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Plan may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District;
- (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and
- (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

Such Bond Propositions shall appear on the ballot used for voting at said Special District Meeting in substantially the following condensed forms:

BOND PROPOSITION #1

YES NO

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to District school buildings and/or sites, substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C., and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$33,985,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$33,985,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

BOND PROPOSITION #2

YES NO

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Board of Education of the Chappaqua Central School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct a single point of entry at Horace Greeley High School, substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of KG+D, Architects, P.C., and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs, costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof and interest during construction, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$11,340,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$11,340,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

The voting will be conducted by ballot as provided in the Education Law and the polls will remain open from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 9:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters then present to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that registration of voters is required pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law. If a voter has registered to vote with the School District and has voted at an annual or special school district meeting within the last four calendar years, (after January 1, 2018) s/he is eligible to vote at this Special District Meeting. If a voter is currently registered to vote with the Westchester County Board of Elections, s/he is also eligible to vote in this Special District Meeting. All other persons who wish to vote must register. Registration may be done on any business day at the office of the District Clerk, during business hours, at the Education Center at 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, New York, up to November 23, 2022. Any person possessing all of the following qualifications may register to vote:

1. Is a citizen of the United States; and
2. Is eighteen years of age or older; and
3. Has resided in the School District for a period of thirty days immediately preceding the day of the Special District Meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared, including the names of military voters who submitted valid military registrations, shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:30 o'clock A.M. and 4:00 o'clock P.M., (Prevailing Time), beginning November 23, 2022, except legal holidays, Sunday and on Saturday, November 26, 2022 by appointment only. Said register will be open for inspection at the polling place on the date of the election and vote.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, applications for absentee ballots for said Special District Meeting may be obtained at the Office of the School District Clerk. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no more than thirty (30) days and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the Special District Meeting, if the ballot will be picked up personally at the District Clerk's Office by the voter or the voter's designated agent set forth in the application. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 o'clock P.M., (Prevailing Time), on November 29, 2022.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued and a list of all military voters to whom military ballots shall have been issued, will be available for inspection from qualified voters of the District in the said office of the District Clerk during regular office hours, 8:30 o'clock A.M. to 4:30 o'clock P.M., (Prevailing Time), until the day of the Special District Meeting. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Military Voters who are not currently registered to vote may request an application to register as a qualified voter of the District and Military Voters who are registered to vote may request an application for a military ballot by contacting the District Clerk at 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514, Telephone (914) 238-7200, Ext. 1002 or email: lielsner@chappaquaschools.org, for the Special District Meeting on November 29, 2022. The Military Voter may indicate their preference for receiving the registration application and/or application for military ballot by mail, facsimile or email. The application to register and the application for military ballot must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. (Prevailing Time) on November 3, 2022. Military ballots will be mailed or otherwise distributed no later than 25 days before the election. Military ballots must be returned by mail or in person and received by the District Clerk by 5:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) on November 29, 2022.

Only qualified voters who are duly registered will be permitted to vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dated: October 3, 2022
LIISA ELSNER
DISTRICT CLERK

(a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), está autorizada por la presente a construir mejoras y modificaciones en los edificios y/o sitios escolares del Distrito, sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, PC, y gastarlo, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales y el financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$33,985,000; (b) que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto total que no exceda los \$33,985,000 para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y recaudará en cuotas en los años y en los montos que determine dicha Junta de Educación; y (c) que en previsión de dicho impuesto, por la presente se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por un monto de capital que no exceda los \$33,985,000 y por la presente se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos a medida que venzan y sean pagaderos.

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 2

SÍNO

SE RESUELVE:

(a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), está autorizada por la presente a construir un único punto de entrada en la escuela secundaria Horace Greeley, sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, P.C., y gastar para ello, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales y el financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$11,340,000 .para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y recaudará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que determine dicha Junta de Educación; y (c) que en previsión de dicho impuesto, por la presente se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por un monto de capital que no exceda los \$11,340,000 y por la presente se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos a medida que vencen y son pagaderos.

La votación se llevará a cabo mediante boletas según lo dispuesto en la Ley de Educación y los centros de votación permanecerán abiertos de 7:00 A.M. a 9:00 P.M. (hora vigente) y más tiempo según sea necesario para permitir que los votantes presentes emitan sus votos.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que se requiere el registro de votantes de conformidad con la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación. Si los votantes han sido registrados previamente en el distrito escolar para votar y han votado en una reunión anual o especial de Distrito escolar dentro de los últimos cuatro años, ellos reúnen los requisitos para votar. Si un(a) votante está actualmente registrado(a) para votar con la Junta Electoral del Condado de Westchester, también es elegible para votar en esta Reunión Especial del Distrito. Todas las personas que deseen votar deberán registrarse. La inscripción se puede realizar cualquier día hábil en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito, durante el horario laboral, en el Centro de Educación en 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, Nueva York, hasta el 23 de noviembre de 2022. Cualquier persona que posea todas las siguientes cualificaciones puede registrarse para votar:

- 1. Es ciudadano(a) de los Estados Unidos
- 2. Tiene dieciocho (18) años o más; y
- 3. Ha residido en el distrito escolar por un período de treinta (30) días inmediatamente anteriores al día de la votación;

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que el registro de votantes así preparado, incluidos los nombres de los votantes militares que presentaron registros militares válidos, se archivará en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito y estará abierto para su inspección por parte de cualquier votante calificado del Distrito entre el horario de 8:30 A. M. y 4:00 P.M., (hora vigente), a partir del 23 de noviembre de 2022, excepto feriados legales, domingos y el sábado 26 de noviembre de 2022 solo con cita previa. Dicho registro estará abierto para inspección en el lugar de votación en la fecha de la elección y votación.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que las solicitudes de boletas de voto en ausencia pueden obtenerse en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito Escolar. La solicitud completa debe ser recibida por la secretaria del Distrito no más de treinta (30) días y al menos siete (7) días antes de la elección si la boleta se enviará por correo a los votantes o el día anterior a la Reunión Especial del Distrito, si la boleta será recogida personalmente en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito por los votantes o los agentes designados por los votantes en la solicitud. Las boletas de voto en ausencia deben ser recibidas por la secretaria del Distrito no más tarde de las 5:00 P.M., hora vigente, el 29 de noviembre de 2022.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que una lista de todas las personas a las que se les habrán emitido boletas de voto en ausencia y una lista de todos los votantes militares a quienes se les habrán emitido boletas militares estará disponible para inspección de los votantes calificados del Distrito en dicha oficina de la secretaria del Distrito durante el horario regular de oficina, de 8:30 A.M. a 4:30 P.M., (hora vigente), hasta el día de la Reunión Especial del Distrito. Todos los votantes calificados pueden presentar una impugnación por escrito acerca de la cualificación de uno de los votantes cuyo nombre aparezca en dicha lista, exponiendo los motivos para la impugnación.

ADEMÁS SE NOTIFICA, que los votantes militares que actualmente no están registrados para votar pueden solicitar registrarse como votantes calificados del Distrito y los votantes militares que están registrados para votar pueden obtener una solicitud de una boleta militar, poniéndose en contacto con la Secretaria del Distrito en 66 Roaring Brook Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514, teléfono (914) 238-7200, Ext. 1002 o correo electrónico: lielsner@chappaqua-schools.org, para la Reunión Especial del Distrito el 29 de noviembre de 2022. Los votantes militares pueden indicar su preferencia de recibir la solicitud de registro y/o boleta por correo, fax o correo electrónico. La solicitud completa para registrarse y/o la solicitud para una boleta militar debe ser recibida por la secretaria del Distrito no más tarde de las 5:00 P.M. (hora vigente) el 3 de noviembre de 2022. Las boletas de voto militar se enviarán por correo o se distribuirán a más tardar 25 días antes de la elección. Las boletas de voto militar deben ser devueltas por correo o en persona y deben ser recibidas por la secretaria del Distrito no más tarde de las 5:00 P.M. (hora vigente) el 29 de noviembre de 2022.

Sólo los votantes calificados que están registrados para votar podrán votar.

POR ORDEN DE LA JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN

Fechada: 3 de octubre de 2022
LIISA ELSNER
SECRETARIA DEL DISTRITO

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continued on page 32



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News From the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department

By John R. Thys

After a two-year hiatus, news of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department will once again be reported to The Examiner.

First, an update on 2022. It has been a fairly busy year (so far) for the department. With about 270 alarms year to date, there have been two structure fires in our district, one on Broadway on Apr. 5 and another on Sunnyside Avenue on May 28.

There was one mutual aid to Sleepy Hollow for a structure fire on Mar. 28. There were two calls for brush fires during this very dry summer. One involved the department to stand by in Millwood's firehouse as a mutual aid response while they battled a brushfire in their district and another minor fire in Graham Hills Park where members trekked about a half-mile into the park with water extinguishers, water packs and woodland firefighting tools to extinguish a small fire. The balance of the calls has been automatic alarms, gas leaks, auto accidents and an ice rescue.

The department held its annual parade on June 3, marched in the Memorial Day Parade, held its annual inspection, participated in Pleasantville Day and Pleasantville High School Upstanders Day and held several fire safety sessions for children in the village.

Previously, we have profiled a member of the department to recognize his or her contribution to the community and also to demonstrate that the volunteers of the Pleasantville Fire Department are pretty much the same as the residents of the village, except from time to time they ride the big red trucks to come to the aid of their neighbors.

This month, we have decided to recognize a father-and-son team, both of whom have made immeasurable contributions to the department and to the village. Manny Colmenares and his son, Matthew, are both valuable long-term contributors to the department.

Manny, an IT professional by trade, joined the department in 2004 and has served as captain of the Pioneer Engine Company and department chief. He led the Junior Corps, and because of his leadership we now have several well-trained young firefighters in our ranks. He continues to serve, now as a commissioner and as the president of the Pioneer Engine Company.

In addition, Manny is a member of the

Westchester County Tech Rescue Team. This group is called upon to perform rescues such as trench rescue, height rescue involving rappelling and other specialized tasks.

Given Manny's accomplishments, it is not surprising that his son would also become a contributing member of the department in short order. Matthew, now in college, joined the department at 16, served as captain of the Junior Corps and became a full interior firefighter when he reached 18.

Since then, he has been a leader on the fire ground, assumed training duties and even volunteers in the fire department near his college when he is away from Pleasantville. Matthew has emerged as both an integral

member and a leader in the department.

In early January, Manny and Matthew teamed up with Ryan Onuma for an ice rescue on Opperman's Pond of a dog named Riley.

Manny was at the controls of the tower ladder while Matthew and Ryan were in the bucket to rescue Riley, who, as it turned out, was cold but escaped unscathed.

Both the department and the village are thankful that the Colmenares family moved to Pleasantville some 20 years ago.

The Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for new members. Should you be interested,

we'd love to talk to you. There are no commitments. The fire service is not for everyone; however, it has been a rewarding and meaningful experience for many.

Anyone interested in joining can stop by headquarters at 75 Washington Ave. almost any Monday night when there are drills, meetings and the department

maintain its equipment. Come on in or call 914-769-2336. (It will be a recording, but your call will be returned.) We always need a few good neighbors.

For more information, visit www.pleasantvillefiredept.com.

Volunteer's Corner

Putnam County Department of Health RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF DAY Fahnestock State Park, Canopus Beach Parking Lot 1498 Route 301, Kent, NY **Pre-Registration Required**

Putnam County Residents only

October 15, 2022

9am-12pm



What to Bring

- Photo Chemicals
- Non-latex driveway sealer
- Pool Chemicals
- Creosote
- Waste Fuels (Kerosene, Gasoline, oil mixtures, brake fluid, antifreeze, auto fluids)
- Flammable liquids (Lighter Fluids)
- Metal polish
- Drain/oven cleaners
- Rug/upholstery cleaners
- Wood Preservatives
- Turpentine
- Stains & Varnishes
- Paint Thinners & Strippers
- Wood Preservatives
- Mothballs
- Rodent poisons
- Flea powders & collars
- Bug spray
- Nail polish remover, hair dye & hair sprays
- Pesticides (Bactericides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Insecticides)
- Chemical Fertilizers
- Adhesives, Resins, Solvents
- Oil-based & Latex paints
- Mercury containing products
- Button cell batteries (from watches, hearing aids) non-rechargeable only
- Fluorescent light bulbs & tubes
- Hand sanitizer (methanol tainted)

PROTOCOL FOR THIS EVENT:

- **YOU MUST REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES.**
 - Place items in rearmost compartment of your vehicle.
 - Keep your windows rolled up 3/4 of way.
 - Have license or other proof of ID ready for proof of residency.
 - Workers will remove contents and will be in PPE.
 - Wait times vary from 10-30 minutes depending on volume of cars. Please plan accordingly. Come at your reserved appointment time.
- No Commercial Establishments.**

What NOT to Bring

- Electronics, Computers, VCR's (e-waste)
- Used motor oil
- Plastic bags
- Tires
- Unlabeled/unidentified containers
- Household batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V)
- Rechargeable batteries, sealed lead acid batteries
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks
- Ammunition, explosives, fireworks
- Asbestos products
- Construction debris
- Furniture, toys or clothing
- Smoke Detectors
- Medical waste, old medications
- **NO COMMERCIAL BUSINESS ITEMS**
- **ITEMS IN GARBAGE AND/OR LAWN BAGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

All waste is subject to inspection and will only be accepted in the County's discretion. Please be advised that if any not accepted items as specified above are brought and are determined to present a hazard to residents, workers or the environment, Putnam County reserves the right to take any necessary safety measures, the cost of which shall be the resident's responsibility.

Pre-Registration Required.

Please visit our website at:

www.putnamcountyny.com/health/recycling/#haz to schedule your appointment. Please bring your confirmation email with you to the event. For more information about waste disposal options, recycling and more, please call (845) 808-1390 ext. 43125 or visit our website above.

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The Three-Tier System of Wine Distribution Channels



By Nick Antonaccio

In your travels, either locally or further afield, have you walked into wine shops and noticed how many similar wine labels adorn shelves and displays? That's true, especially for wines produced in the United States.

How is it that the selections are so homogenous? Where is the retail diversity from the over 10,000 wineries currently operating across all 50 states? (You can indulge in a drilldown of production and consumption stats in a recent column.)

Retail shops are handcuffed in their choices of wines. Federal regulations have created a three-tier system of wine sales. Wineries must sell to distributors. Retail shops must purchase their wines from these distributors. Direct sales from wineries to retailers are prohibited.

Distributors are the fulcrum for sales of domestic wines. Large wineries, with plentiful product to sell into the retail markets, are the darlings of distributors, whose business models are built on scale. By definition, small wineries suffer the most.

For consumers, large-scale monolithic distributor channels deny a willing retail purchaser the opportunity to discover excellent wines that may not fit the large distributors' business model. It's economy

of scale at work in a free market.

Allow me to present a framework around this consumer dilemma. Here are facts I've gleaned from several wine industry reports, notably Wines & Vines magazine.

Over 84 percent of wine produced in the United States is centered in 2 percent of domestic wineries. A whopping 75 percent is produced by merely 10 wineries.

At the other end of the spectrum, three-quarters of wineries produce less than 5,000 cases annually.

The distribution channel of the three-tier system has experienced similar contraction. There are about 1,000 distributors serving wineries. Three of these companies control nearly 67 percent of all domestic wine sold in the United States.

This imbalance has been creeping into the marketplace through roll-ups and consolidations. Today's market channels are inverted from traditional demographic relationships. Twenty-five years ago, there were 3,000 distributors serving 1,800 domestic wineries. Today there are 67 percent fewer distributors serving a 556 percent increase in wineries.

So how is a small winery to survive, let alone flourish?

Many small wineries are owned by entrepreneurial, passionate winemakers. They are constantly seeking ways to (legally) contravene the existing system. Twenty-first century technology has given a number of them the necessary tools.

Here are business models progressive wineries have adopted:

1. Sell to brokers. These intermediaries have greater scale to influence distributors. This approach produces the lowest profit margin but greater capacity for higher sales volume.

2. Sell in their tasting rooms. This is more lucrative, as the winemaker sells wine directly to consumers at full retail price, producing the greatest margin.

Increased costs include the capital investment of building a tasting room and staffing it. The pandemic shut down these tasting rooms. Those that have recently reopened have raised their tasting fees to compensate for lost revenues and escalating post-pandemic costs.

3. Sell via the internet. This is the most lucrative: full retail price and the least incremental investment. Start-up wineries may resort to crowdfunding until they establish a solid customer base.

4. Sell via wine clubs. Another avenue to garner full retail pricing with an added benefit: a semi-captive, repeat customer base.

Selling directly to consumers is increasing in popularity among small wineries. To understand better the value of selling directly to consumers, it is necessary to understand the pricing structure of the

three-tier system.

Consider a bottle of wine on a retailer's shelf selling for \$15. A winery typically sells the wine to a distributor for \$6, assuming one is willing to purchase the wine. By culling a direct-to-consumer following, the winery eliminates the other two components of the three-tier system, deriving an additional profit of \$9, significantly greater than the profit generated in the traditional channels. Importantly, this may lead to price stabilization for consumers by eliminating the rising costs of the incremental travel, labor and overhead costs borne by distributors and retailers.

Just as technology has disrupted and transformed so many industries, so too for the wine industry. Unlike other industries, however, wine consumers may be the beneficiaries of these changes. The choices are yours.

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.

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Mansion on Broadway Offers a Finely Catered Event for All Occasions

It might be a wedding, birthday, anniversary or the need for a functional space for a business meeting. We're always on the lookout for venues to hold that special well-catered event.

With the holiday season not far away, here are a few suggestions on where to hold a special party in the region.

It is a 115-year-old historic building in the heart of Westchester County loaded with the charm of a bygone era. It has undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation and operated by a creative culinary team ready to make your special event most memorable.

Mansion on Broadway in White Plains rolls out the red carpet for unsurpassed catered events. When I pulled in recently, they were repaving the parking area.

Dynamic proprietor Michael Pasqualini has spent the past 10 years enhancing Mansion on Broadway.

"I wanted to bring out the beautiful traditional qualities of the setting," Pasqualini said. "My goal is to make the Mansion a destination for catered affairs of all types while keeping an eye on current culinary trends."

Mansion on Broadway offers 10,000 elegant but utilitarian square feet of meeting and special event space and state-of-the-art



By Morris Gut

audio-visual equipment. Careful renovation has restored the Mansion to its original glory. An interior facelift has enhanced the classic beauty right down to the mahogany ballroom with coffered ceilings and handsome furnishings ready to serve as the backdrop for your special occasion.

Whether you are planning a wedding, corporate meeting or any kind of celebration, Pasqualini invites you to a unique tour and tasting on the premises by advanced reservation.

He said event packages are designed for all types of gatherings and themes. Management is delighted to meet and customize a most memorable event. The Mansion can comfortably accommodate up to 240 guests.

Upon entering, there's an open floor space that allows for a floating cocktail reception through its four elegantly appointed rooms where guests can sip champagne while enjoying delectable and innovative hors d'oeuvres while surrounded by three fireplaces, traditional mirrors and restored hardwood floors with an area rug and chandeliers. There is a bar and lounge and the entire main floor is highlighted by a lovely staircase to the second floor.

Pasqualini began his career as the founder of The Sound Express, a prominent New



An appetizing cutting board at the Mansion on Broadway, a venue suitable for almost any catered affair.

York-based entertainment company. He exported his talents to Miami where he opened Onda Lounge, a South Beach hotspot that drew a celebrity crowd.

In 2008, he brought his expertise to Market Restaurant in Stamford, Conn. creating a nationally noted food and wine mecca. Pasqualini purchased Mansion on Broadway in 2011 and began a major enhancement of the premises.

Mansion on Broadway is located at 139 N. Broadway in White Plains, just south of I-287. The facility is available for catered events 365 days a year. Complete catering packages

and custom events for special occasions are available for up to 240 guests. There are top quality backup resources, from innovative kitchen and staff to creative photography and flowers. Ample parking. Tour and tasting requests by appointment. Info: 914-949-6900 or visit www.mansiononbroadway.com.

Michelin 2022 New York Ratings

It has become an annual rite of the culinary world. The prestigious Michelin Restaurant Guides have been publishing its ratings internationally, nationally, in New York City, and for the third year, the New York suburbs, including Westchester. As always with these

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Mansion on Broadway Offers a Finely Catered Event for All Occasions

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guides, there is controversy: Who made the list, who didn't and why? It is all kept so secretive.

The Bib Gourmand designations (typically more casual eateries of merit) and Stars (high-end restaurants) can be meaningful to a restaurant's bottom line. Here are the local spots that made the list for 2022. Based on my experience, each are deserving finalists. Bon appetit!

Dubrovnik, New Rochelle; Maria, New Rochelle; Macelleria Italian Steakhouse, Pelham; Tredici Social, Bronxville; Café Alaia, Scarsdale; Burrata, Eastchester; The Southern Table, Pleasantville; Badageoni Georgian Kitchen, Mount Kisco; Shiraz Kitchen & Wine Bar, Elmsford; RaaSa, Elmsford; Rafele, Rye; Boro6 Wine Bar, Hastings-on-Hudson; and The Cookery, Dobbs Ferry.

New additions this year are TVB by Pax Romana in White Plains, Chutney Masala in Irvington and La Casa in Bronxville.

By the way, the only Star recipient in Westchester was once again Blue Hill at Stone Barns.

You can access the full list, including nearby Bronx restaurants that made the cut, at <https://guide.michelin.com/en/us/new-york-state/restaurants>.

Second Colombian House Debuts

Partners Felipe, Danella and Wilson, founders of the original Colombian House in New Rochelle, have opened a second branch of this popular restaurant on Main Street in White Plains. It had been in the works at the



A couple of Stanley Tucci's cookbooks. The actor has another round of "Searching for Italy" episodes extolling the culinary choices of the different regions of Italy. The show airs Sundays on CNN at 9 p.m.

former Sofrito space for more than a year.

General Manager Daniel Romero said the sprawling, colorful multilevel restaurant serves an extensive Latin menu seven days a week. There is a long glitzy bar for networking. More on this coming soon.

Colombian House is located at 175 Main St. in White Plains. Info: 914-615-9945 or visit www.colombianhouse.com.

Stanley Tucci's 'Searching for Italy'

Here is another tasty recommendation: Actor Stanley Tucci has been starring in the appetizing series on CNN "Searching for Italy." It is a delicious romp through the scenic Italian culinary regions. Beautifully filmed and depicted, Tucci visits various cities and towns throughout the boot zeroing in on the incredible food scene in each area. New episodes are now airing on CNN on Sundays at 9 p.m.

The new shows take him through the



The 115-year-old Mansion on Broadway in White Plains is an exquisite location for any catered event in a setting that is full of the charm of a bygone era.

distinctive regions of Calabria, Sardinia, Puglia and Liguria.

Tucci, a Peekskill native, grew up in Katonah and attended John Jay High School and SUNY Purchase. He has long been a food and wine aficionado, having owned a restaurant called Finch Tavern in Croton Falls in 2007.

Who can forget his classic culinary-themed films "Big Night" and "Julie and Julia." He hosted a series called "Vine Talk" on PBS. His latest cookbooks are "The Tucci Table: Cooking with Family and Friends," which he co-authored with his wife Felicity Blunt; "The Tucci Cookbook"; and "Taste: My Life Through Food." My palate is longing for more. Check it out at www.cnn.com/travel/article/stanley-tucci-searching-for-italy-restaurants/index.html.

Red Horse Galloping Into White Plains

David Burke Hospitality Management, led by the celebrity chef, has taken over the

space that was previously occupied by BLT Steak in The Opus Westchester at Main and Court streets. Renovations are underway for Burke's new concept called Red Horse, described as an American steakhouse with Asian accents. He already operates one in Rumson, N.J.

The 200-seat Red Horse should open in early 2023. For a hint of what's to come, visit www.redhorsebydb.com.

Meanwhile, Morton's Steakhouse is still doing business nearby on Mamaroneck Avenue. We will see how this dynamic works out.

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

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