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# The White Plains Examiner

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October 25 - October 31, 2022

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 584

## \$6.25M Secured for Infrastructure Improvements in Greenburgh

By Rick Pezzullo

The Town of Greenburgh is slated to be the recipient of more than \$6 million of road improvements over the next few years.

Last week, U.S. Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY) and New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins stood at the entrance of the Metropolis Country Club on Dobbs Ferry Rd. to announce funding that has been secured to create a sidewalk on the road behind them, along with improvements along nearby Hartsdale Ave.

"This is without question the most significant pedestrian safety initiative that I have ever been involved with," longtime Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner said of the sidewalk project on Dobbs Ferry Rd., a heavily trafficked state roadway with approximately 10,000 daily vehicle trips. "Thousands of students, commuters, senior citizens, and people without cars will take advantage of this amazing safety improvement. Lives will be saved because of Congressman Jones' and Majority Leader

Stewart-Cousins' effective efforts."

The funding includes \$1 million in federal aid for community projects, \$250,000 in matching funds from the Town of Greenburgh, as well as a \$5 million TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant from the state.

"This project represents so much more than a simple infrastructure update," Jones said. "It represents a crucial investment in the health and safety of this community. The residents of this neighborhood who rely on walking or public transit to commute to work, school, and even the grocery store, have been forced to make a dangerous trek on the shoulder of a heavily trafficked road, just to complete the most basic tasks of living."

"Congressman Jones really came through in securing this grant to help the town build a new sidewalk on Dobbs Ferry Road," said Stewart-Cousins. "I also applaud Supervisor Feiner and the Town of Greenburgh for prioritizing its pedestrian infrastructure

*continued on page 2*



PHOTO CREDIT RICK PEZZULLO

State Sen. Shelley Mayer, front left, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and other city officials and veterans break ground on a new Veterans Memorial Garden behind City Hall. The garden is expected to be completed sometime next year.

## Ghoulish Fun in White Plains



The walking dead took over the streets of downtown White Plains Saturday at the Sixth Annual Zombie Walk, which was sponsored by the White Plains BID and the Galleria Mall.

## White Plains Holds Groundbreaking for New Vets Memorial Garden

By Martin Wilbur

A new Veterans Memorial Garden will be created at White Plains City Hall next year to honor those who have served and defended the country through the generations.

Mayor Tom Roach, state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) along with veterans and other officials held a ceremonial groundbreaking last week at a publicly

accessible area of greenspace behind City Hall. The garden will augment the longstanding memorial plaques displayed in the rotunda of the municipal building.

Roach said the city wanted to have a more visible space to honor local veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"This is intended to be something that will be a tranquil place where people can

*continued on page 2*



State Sen. Shelley Mayer, front left, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and other city officials and veterans break ground on a new Veterans Memorial Garden behind City Hall. The garden is expected to be completed sometime next year.

# BJ's Wholesale Club to Open Newest Location in Greenburgh Friday

BJ's Wholesale Club will be opening its newest club in Greenburgh on Friday, October 28, at 399 Tarrytown Road. The retailer will now have a total of 232 total U.S. clubs.

"Our team can't wait to open our doors on Friday and welcome both new and existing members into our brand-new club," said Jorge Cedeno, Club Manager of the Greenburgh BJ's Wholesale Club. "We are thrilled to be a part of BJ's continued expansion in the state of New York and be able to bring the value and convenience, that our members know and love, to the community here in Greenburgh."

BJ's helps members save time and money by offering incredible savings and unbeatable value on everything they need in a one-stop shop, including a vast selection of fresh foods, produce, a full-service deli, household essentials, pet supplies and much more. The club will also delight shoppers with the treasure-hunt experience that BJ's members know and love with an assortment of seasonal items, home décor, fashion for the family, toys, hot tech, a selection of local items, and much more.

Plus, BJ's members can choose from a variety of convenient shopping options including shopping in-club, online at BJs.com, through the BJ's mobile app, curbside pickup as well as in-club pickup. Members can even choose same-day delivery, getting their groceries delivered right to their door in as little as two hours.

Right now, BJ's is offering a limited time founding members offer for local shoppers interested in joining the club now through Thursday, October 27. Shoppers can sign up for a 1-year BJ's Inner Circle Membership for just \$25\* or a 1-year BJ's Perks Rewards Membership for just \$65\*. BJ's Perks Rewards members earn 2% cash back on most BJ's purchases\*\*.

Local shoppers interested in learning more about BJ's Wholesale Club and signing up for a membership can visit BJs.com/Greenburgh or sign up in person at the membership center located at 379 Tarrytown Rd.

BJ's Charitable Foundation is proud to support the local community through its Feeding Communities program. The program is a food rescue partnership where the company donates unsold perishable food to Feeding America member food banks in its footprint,

helping to get wholesome food onto the plates of families. In Greenburgh, BJ's food bank partner is Feeding Westchester.

"Feeding Westchester's mission is to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger, made possible through our partnerships with organizations, like BJ's Wholesale Club," said Karen C. Erren, Feeding Westchester President & CEO. "We are thrilled to receive support from BJ's and thankful for its contributions. We can't wait for the new club to open in Greenburgh and welcome BJ's to the community!"

To date, BJ's has donated more than 125 million pounds of food including meat, produce, dairy, and bakery items to Feeding America member food banks across their footprint.

BJ's members can always expect:

- Unbeatable savings: Members can save up to 25% off grocery store prices every day on everything they need for weekly shopping.
- Risk-free: Shoppers can try BJ's risk-free with the company's 100% money-back guaranteed membership.
- Save even more: BJ's is the only warehouse club that accepts manufacturers' coupons. Plus, members can stack savings using BJ's coupons on top of the manufacturer's coupons.
- Choose the way you shop: Members can shop online at BJs.com or through the BJ's mobile app and choose free curbside pickup, in-club pickup, same-day delivery\*\*\* or ship-to-home.
- ExpressPay: Members have access to ExpressPay through the BJ's mobile app, a service that allows members to scan products as they shop and skip the checkout line for extra convenience.

All BJ's memberships are subject to BJ's current membership terms, ask in-club or go to BJs.com/terms.

*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.*

## \$6.25M Secured for Infrastructure Improvements in Greenburgh

*continued from page 1*

over the last several years. This is creating another level of safety for the whole community."

Also on hand for the announcement was State Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Greenburgh), who noted an additional \$500,000 had been given to Greenburgh in

the past for Hartsdale Ave. projects.

"Little by little we're putting cement in the ground," Abinanti said.

Feiner estimated it would take two to three years to complete the road improvements.

"There are a lot of pedestrian initiatives," he said. "There are a lot of great things happening."

## White Plains Holds Groundbreaking for New Vets Memorial Garden

*continued from page 1*

sit and relax and think about what veterans have done to make the country what it is," Roach explained. "Everything that we enjoy every day is a result of them willing to put their lives on the line."

The space will feature plaques to identify each branch of the military, plantings and benches for the public to sit for quiet contemplation.

It will also be the new location for the deck gun from the USS Maine that had been donated to the city by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1915. The deck gun has been displayed at Battle Hill for many years, but officials want to better protect it from vandals, Roach said.

State funding of \$62,000 was secured by Mayer for the project. The senator said she was thrilled to be able to provide the resources for the garden, and perhaps there will be a greater appreciation from the public, including students, regarding the sacrifices made by veterans.

"I'm glad that we're going to have an outdoor space, a space that young people, particularly, as well as our vets can come and acknowledge this moment and this sacrifice and be reminded this is real," Mayer said. "This is not made up in a history book. This is real people who gave so much."

Most of the work will be done after the winter and completed sometime next year.



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# Symposium Centers on How Westchester Can Encourage Affordable Housing

By Martin Wilbur

A history of housing discrimination, zoning restrictions and today's prohibitive cost of construction have combined to create a residential supply shortage, particularly in Westchester but also in areas throughout the nation as well.

The nonprofit Westchester Residential Opportunities, which advocates for equal, affordable and accessible housing, held an affordable housing symposium in White Plains on Oct. 13 addressing the issues that have made providing adequate housing stock for all income levels a daunting challenge, particularly in the county and the region.

A 2019 housing needs assessment concluded that Westchester needs about 11,000 additional units of affordable housing to meet demand.

Keynote speaker Bryan Greene, vice president of public advocacy for the National Association of Realtors, said enforcement of the 1968 Fair Housing Act has been weak, which followed decades of exclusionary zoning, meant to segregate. The vestiges of those practices continue to impact the current housing supply, he said.

"You have to take proactive steps to address the legacy of housing discrimination in this country, and that piece has not been adequately enforced and it actually hasn't been followed through at the state and local level," Greene said.

Greene was joined by panelists Nadya Salcedo, director of the Fair and Equitable



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer addresses the panelists and audience members at an Oct. 13 affordable housing symposium in White Plains sponsored by Westchester Residential Opportunities.

Housing Office of the New York State Homes & Community Renewal; Blanca Lopez, Westchester's deputy commission of planning; and Tim Foley CEO of The Building & Realty Institute.

Greene said a major obstacle to adequate housing has been that planning for most communities in the United States has been geared toward the single-family home. One of the earliest proponents behind that strategy was the first full-time city planner in the United States, Harland Bartholomew, who filled that role first in Newark, N.J. in 1914 and then for decades in St. Louis, Greene said.

To make a meaningful dent in the housing affordability crisis, communities are going to have to find ways to create more density, Greene warned. He predicted that will be the growing tension in the United States in the 21st century.

"In many of our communities, land is an issue because of single-family zoning, and so now, you're seeing in many places where this has been religion for a hundred years, they are talking about up-zoning, they're talking about ways to remove restrictions on single-family zoning," Greene said.

Redlining, which depressed the value of homes in predominantly minority neighborhoods and, therefore, has provided less generational wealth when selling property and the growing emphasis on higher education among people of color to be qualified for better paying jobs but is leaving them with crushing student debt are other factors.

Foley said while today's planners and those appointed to land use boards in municipalities aren't practicing the discrimination of generations ago, the zoning codes haven't changed to address today's challenges.

"The system was designed to achieve a certain level of unaffordability within what I would call exclusionary single-family homes," Foley said. "That system still works today. It may no longer be the intent of the people perpetuating them – indeed I hope it's not – but that doesn't mean it's not still working the way it was designed."

There are steps that the public and state and local governments can take to create more housing, he said. Getting more creative with funding opportunities for developers to build affordable housing but currently can't make a profit doing so. Also, making the review process more efficient in municipalities and a larger role for the state to play are also needed.

For example, Maine now allows up to two residences on one lot while Massachusetts recently approved a measure for transit-oriented development near transportation hubs, Foley said.

Salcedo said making access to credit more equitable is another measure that can help with fair housing. Renters with more modest incomes are often looked upon as poor risks as well as those who have been in the criminal justice system, she said.

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, who welcomed the audience and the panelists at the start of the symposium, said more communities need a greater commitment to affordable housing. White Plains requires 12 percent of units to be affordable for new construction under the county's income guidelines. If developers don't want to build the requisite percentage of affordable units, they can contribute to a fund that will be used by the city to offset the costs for other projects with affordable housing.

"If you're not going to build it, shouldn't you have to contribute to a fund that would allow those who wish to build it to have it without using some of their money," Roach said.

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# Neighbors Link Event Addresses Unaccompanied Minors Coming to U.S.

By Martin Wilbur

Drugs, ruthless gangs, the threat of death and unrelenting poverty in Central and South America have been among the chief reasons why another record number of migrants reached the United States during the past year.

Records were also anticipated to be broken for the number of unaccompanied minors, with at least 160,000 were expected. They travel in groups often riding the tops of freight trains through Mexico in a desperate attempt to reunite with parents or other relatives who had previously migrated to set down roots and make some money, said Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Sonia Nazario.

Whether it's corrupt or incompetent officials in those countries, the gangs have often become the de facto government, Nazario said.

"The government doesn't exist in many of those neighborhoods," she said. "It's the gang and they force you at nine or 10 years old to work for the gangs, or if you're a girl, to be the gang leader's girlfriend."

Nazario was the featured speaker last Wednesday at the Neighbors Link-sponsored program "Seeking Safety: Unaccompanied Minors and U.S. Immigration Policy" at the Sleepy Hollow Hotel and Conference Center in Tarrytown.

Nazario won the Pulitzer for her multipart series that appeared in The Los Angeles Times following Enrique, a Honduran teenager who was left by his mother at five years old to be raised by his maternal grandmother while she worked in North Carolina. After 11 years, he traveled from his native land to see his



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Sonia Nazario, right, talks about unaccompanied minors and U.S. immigration policy with Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Bracco, left, and immigration attorney Elizabeth Mastropolo. They were at an event held by Neighbors Link last Wednesday in Tarrytown.

mom. The series was the basis for her book, "Enrique's Journey," originally published in 2006.

"At 11 and 12 (years old) on Christmas Day, he told me, he stood at the door of his grandma's wood shack and we would put his hands together in prayers and ask God...bring her back to me," said Nazario, who traveled with groups of migrants on the tops of trains for two three-month stints.

Over the decades there have been hundreds of thousands of youngsters like Enrique, she said. But it's been since 2014 when the floodgates of unaccompanied minors opened. Previously, 6,000 to 8,000 were the norm in a typical year, Nazario said.

"It's because of the violence in Central America, in Mexico," Nazario said. "The majority now are coming not from Mexico, Central America in the last two or three years, it's been Venezuela, Africa, Guatemala, Ecuador. So there's been a shift from single Mexican men historically to families and children from Central America."

And it's also been the result of the absence of an effective U.S. policy. The country spends about \$23 billion annually on border patrol but can't stem the tide of migrants.

Nazario said the U.S. should try to address the crisis at the border with several steps. First, examine what is pushing people out of their native countries. The U.S. should be

a leader in reducing violence, weeding out corruption and strengthening the government institutions. About 96 percent of homicides in those countries go unsolved.

Second, while working on the long process of making positive changes in South and Central America, the U.S. must show compassion to children and let them in and change the laws so they are entitled to representation at Immigration Court. Nazario said she has seen children as young as seven years old by themselves in court.

"If a child knocks on our door and arrives at a country like ours, I believe we should always open that door, especially children from our neighbors," Nazario said. "Countries like the U.S. have not had a small role in fueling much of this mayhem."

Finally, having more organizations around the country that are like the Mount Kisco-based Neighbors Link, which provides English classes, work opportunities and other services to help integrate the new arrivals into the country.

Elizabeth Mastropolo, one of six attorneys who work for the Neighbors Link Community Law Practice, said whatever harrowing journeys migrants have to get to the United States, is worth the risk.

"These families are coming here because they fear death and torture in their home countries," Mastropolo said. "The opportunity as a parent to have their children someplace safe, that's all they want. They want their children to be safe and if that means being separated from them, if you can get them to a safe place, then that's what they have to do."

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# County: Million Air Has Little Reason to Claim Victory in Airport Case

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County has refuted claims of legal victories by a fixed-base operator at the county airport in its continued civil suit where it has hoped to build another hangar to house aircraft.

County Attorney John Nonna said the private aviation firm Million Air had most of its original lawsuit tossed by a federal district judge earlier this year after it alleged breach of contract on the county's part in the June 2021 filing.

The company has sought to build a 78,000-square-foot hangar and believed that it had an agreement under the

administration of former county executive Rob Astorino to erect the facility, Nonna said.

However, U.S. District Court Judge Vincent Briccetti dismissed the breach of contract portion of the litigation in March, and reiterated earlier this month that modifications and improvements as outlined in the lease agreement should not be interpreted to include the construction of new hangars.

"The court said, no, they didn't have a right under their contract to do that," Nonna said.

Five days after the Mar. 11 court ruling that dismissed breach of contract against

the county, Million Air submitted a formal request to the county to build the hangar. On Apr. 22 it was denied, spurring Million Air to claim that the county had been "unreasonable," paving the way for the fixed-based operator to file an amended claim.

Nonna said the only part of Million Air's original suit that remains intact is the dispute over whether it needs to complete a stormwater plan for the existing 50,000-square-foot hangar.

"When George Latimer came into office and I got involved in this issue, we told them you have to have a stormwater plan, you've got to do it and you've got to do it for the 50,000-square-foot hangar. It's a requirement," he said. "We're not going to talk about the 78,000-square-foot hangar because you don't have a right to do that (now)."

Since the dispute regarding the larger hangar was dismissed by the judge in March, Million Air will be unable to claim

damages anywhere close to the \$30 million it sought, Nonna added.

Twice this month, Million Air's legal team has exulted at decisions made by Briccetti. First, on Oct. 4, the judge denied the county's request to have the amended claim dismissed.

"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," the plaintiff's lead attorney Russell Yankwitt said following that ruling.

Ten days later, after the court denied a request by the county to separate consideration of the stormwater plan issue from the amended complaint, Million Air also issued another statement claiming victory.

But Nonna said the separation is largely an inconsequential development.

The court has granted both parties a Jan. 17, 2023, deadline to complete discovery related to the amended complaint.

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# Maloney Tells Supporters Congressional Re-election Bid is Close Race

By Martin Wilbur

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-Cold Spring) acknowledged on Sunday that his congressional seat against Assemblyman Mike Lawler is hanging in the balance as the campaign enters its final two weeks.

The five-term legislator, speaking at a campaign rally in Garrison that focused on environmental initiatives and reproductive freedoms, said despite picking up most of the northern half of Westchester in the new 17th Congressional District, many of his new would-be constituents might assume that Westchester's lopsided Democratic registration advantage will ensure they continue to be represented by a Democrat and might not be as motivated to vote.

Much of the territory in the new 17th District in Westchester had been represented by Nita Lowey for more than 30 years and Rep. Mondaire Jones for the past two years.

"This election is close," Maloney said. "In this new district, Putnam County is in, and White Plains is out, and for those of you who live in this part of the world, you understand what a competitive race is, but a lot of folks in this new district aren't. They're used to having an easy time in November. So we are working really hard to get everybody out and focused on this. One of you can make the difference between 50 and 50.1 (percent of the vote)."

Furthermore, Maloney said that another \$4 million was recently dumped into the race to help finance Lawler's campaign by the "big, dark MAGA money guys." That is the second large infusion of cash to help his opponent.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney spoke to supporters at a rally Sunday afternoon in Garrison where he agreed that he's in a close battle for re-election in his race with Republican Mike Lawler.

Earlier in the campaign, \$3 million was infused into the Lawler camp, he said.

Maloney sounded the alarm of what America could look like if the Republicans win the House and Senate and in two years follow that up by recapturing the presidency. He warned that there could be legislation for a national abortion ban and the dismantling of hard-fought liberties that have been achieved, including for the LGBTQ community.

"I do think in the last two weeks before a national election, we should be crystal clear in the dramatic differences between the vision for America that we have, where we all fit and we all count and families like mine will be able to stay together and have our rights, where women will make difficult decisions for

themselves with their families, their doctors, not a bunch of politicians," Maloney said.

In his own appearances, like most Republicans in the current election cycle, Lawler has hammered Maloney on inflation and the rising crime rate in areas of the country. In his latest campaign video released on Monday afternoon, the challenger said that the Democrats, including Maloney, have made inflation far worse for Americans through failed policy decisions such as limiting natural gas and closing down nuclear power plants.

"The people who are in control of Congress, like my opponent Sean Maloney, did this to us," Lawler said. "They never met an energy source they didn't like and now we're paying for it. Election Day is on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The

only way to fix this mess is to vote the very people who created it out of office."

Maloney supporters at the rally said the nation is once again faced with another crucial election. Garrison resident Dana Bourland said unless there are officials who take environmental issues seriously, future generations in peril.

"What is at stake is the future of our community, and ultimately, the future of our planet," Bourland said. "We must vote, we must hold those we elect accountable and we must encourage everyone around us to do the same."

The first of nine days of early voting begins this Saturday, Oct. 29 and extends through Sunday, Nov. 6.

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# Columns

## The Good Zombie: A Halloween Treat

Despite the fact that I eat human brains, I emit zero carbon. Think about that.

I've actually tried going vegan, unlike the vast majority of other zombies, who denigrate anyone who goes off humans as a soy boy.

Unfortunately, I have found that eating arugula and Belgian endive is bad for my digestion. It's embarrassing when you just can't prevent yourself from passing gas as you're standing in a crowded subway car or contemplating Hopper's "Second Story Sunlight" at the Whitney.

(I must confess that I spend a lot of time with paintings of humans due to my various hungers, but I look at this habit as an acceptable moral substitute for actual slaughter.)

Also, I don't know how this is possible, but the greens threw off the efficacy of my thyroid medication, so I was taking a terrible risk every time I ordered a spinach salad.

That forced me to go back to eating brains, even though I actually didn't want to.

I feel rather guilty every time I have to make a deep dive into the medulla oblongata. Munching on the cerebral cortex, which I sauté with hoisin sauce, is especially painful for me, psychologically speaking.

My therapist has recommended various exercises to try to get over this, like partaking in mindfulness meditation, doing restorative yoga, keeping a journal, regularly posting my thoughts on Medium and reminding myself every morning that I have intrinsic worth.

Watching Oprah helped a lot too, but then she stopped doing the program on broadcast and now I have to buy an Apple TV subscription to get her new show.

I'm not like all those other zombies who have purchased every cable package known to man. A conscience-stricken zombie has to draw the line somewhere, even if he's constantly vilified for it on Twitter, Reddit and Facebook.

I try to wear their condemnation as a badge of honor, but sometimes I falter in my steadfastness to resist the madness of the crowd.

I have actually been sued by other zombies for violating zombie laws like walking without dragging my feet. I'm sorry. This is really bad for your posture,



By Michael Gold

and you will pay in your zombie old age with a bad back.

Despite the obvious status advantages, a zombie should never wear lifts in his shoes. Again, good posture should be your highest priority, to keep your back as healthy as possible, for as long as possible.

Also, it should not be a crime to try to groom yourself, to look as good as possible for the ladies.

But I won't exfoliate, because

you never know if a little piece of your face is going to fall off if you try it. Also, you have to be careful where you splash on the eau de parfum. It has essential oils, which helps preserve the plasticity of your cheeks, but never put it on your throat, or you might erode cartilage.

Dry scalp shampoo is the life saver for my hair. Never use anti-frizz or thickening agents, trust me on this.

Foot deodorant is also absolutely

necessary. You know how far a zombie can walk in a day? One must always be considerate of others' delicate olfactory systems.

A travel bag is a must for every zombie, to carry snacks if nothing else. You never know when you'll need to munch on a stick of dried finger jerky. The un-dead have infinite streets to roam, which burns uncountable calories.

Finally, I refuse to watch "The Walking Dead," any of its multitudinous spin-offs and all zombie movies. It's pure, unbounded vanity that exceeds the outer limits of good taste to want to see yourself constantly on screen. Where does it all end? With "The Real Zombie Housewives of Podunk-Ville?"

I don't need an award or any formal recognition whatsoever for my positions, but I haven't had a hug in years.

*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**

## Demonization of New Castle Democratic Committee is Deplorable

By Andrew Dorfman

One might've hoped that, with a controversial measure like the Form Based Code no longer on the ballot, the lack of civility which characterized last year's New Castle election would be behind us, and fellow neighbors willing to take on the thankless job of serving the community would be considered on their merits, instead of smeared via any means necessary.

Regrettably, there is a small group within our community that has come to value winning over honor and civility, so even unimpeachable candidates are reflexively subjected to ugly innuendo and public shaming. This is unfortunate for any prospective public servant willing to put themselves out there, but even more damaging in its chilling effect on the willingness of other neighbors to run for office in the future.

Such is the case with Holly McCall, the Democratic candidate for Town Board, a mother of two who has been previously elected as vice president of the Chappaqua Board of Education, co-chair of the Community Advisory Committee on Anti-Racism and Social Justice, producer and organizer of 2022's New Castle Community Day and currently president of the Rotary Club of Chappaqua.

She also co-founded and was the former executive director of Up2Us, a nationwide

organization which engages and empowers new generations of leaders in colleges and universities across the country. Her stated goals include green initiatives, expansion of infrastructure and investment in recreational facilities.

In short, not a controversial candidate. To many of those who support her opponent, the most nefarious item on her resumé is that, like almost half of the voters last year (about 300 less than those that voted otherwise), she eventually came out in favor of the Form Based Code, once it was restricted to only six blocks in need of repair on North Greeley Avenue. Unfortunately for them, this is very weak tea, especially given the fact that the proposal has been dead and buried for almost a year now.

So, in order to impugn McCall, this group has resorted to guilt by association. They've attacked her, not for anything she's said, but for what they consider the most inflammatory thing said by anyone who's had the temerity to support her. Most gallingly, as part of these proxy attacks, they've resuscitated a strategy that was used in their successful campaign last year: the demonization of the New Castle Democratic Committee (NCDC), which has endorsed McCall.

Of course, they don't want to be perceived as attacking the party itself in such a Democratic stronghold, so they exclusively use NCDC, and try to sell the

lie that it's established dogma that the local Democratic committee is an extremist group that is either clueless or deliberately destructive.

This characterization is repeated almost daily on posts in community Facebook groups and peddled when cornering voters on their way to the weekly farmers market. It's essential that this strategy be called out, because, if there's one thing we've learned in the age of Trump, it's that one of the surest paths to changing hearts and minds is repetition by the loudest voices, regardless of the veracity of their message.

I'm not on the local Democratic committee, but I know quite a few who are; they're committed and passionate neighbors – dozens of them – who've lived here an average of 23 years each. Some are new to the committee and others have served for many years.

With absolutely no personal reward, they do much of the thankless organizing work for those of us who oppose the party of Trump, January 6 and QAnon. They're mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers of kids who've grown up in our community, and they work tirelessly, not only to support local town candidates, but national campaigns, as well as county and state Democrats like Chris Burdick, George Latimer and Pete Harchkham, all of whom are always vocal with their gratitude. Their endorsements are almost unfailingly

in line with those of these elected officials, and that of county and state Democratic committees.

For decades, amongst those without an "R" after their name on the voter rolls, these neighbors were universally appreciated here in town, but more recently, as more right-leaning candidates and their most vocal supporters discovered that they couldn't win the endorsement of the local Democratic committee, they've recalibrated their message to turn our neighbors into bogeymen. It's deplorable, and writ large, this strategy is incalculably destructive to anyone who supports the only major party in this country that still believes in elections, climate change women's rights and small "d" democracy.

I have confidence that we'll survive no matter who is elected in a local Town Board election for the next three years. However, if we, on the local level, allow our races to become so vicious in the quest for victory that we normalize the demonization of our neighbors, I'm much less certain of our future.

I believe the goal is to vote your heart and honor your core principles. I'm a Democrat, and I'm particularly enthusiastic about everyone listed on Row A, so for me, this is an easy choice.

*Andrew Dorfman is a Chappaqua resident.*

**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

# Letters to the Editor

## What Our Children Need Most From Us is Action on Climate Change

Those of us who are caretakers invest so much of ourselves into our children. We dedicate our time, talent and treasure to provide healthcare, clothing, nutritious food, education, dance lessons, sports equipment and all of the other manifestations of our love and care. Time and attention are the greatest of these gifts since what children need more than anything else is to feel seen, heard and loved.

Given all of this, how are we ignoring the most essential thing that we aren't

providing for our children – a stable, healthy environment in which to spend their precious time on this, their only home, planet Earth? Our children are suffering, and will continue to suffer the consequences of climate change on many fronts (<https://www.climatepsychology.us>).

These fronts include economic insecurity and physical threats, but they also include an unseen psychological toll. There is a mental health crisis heavily impacting our children. They are suffering

on a continuum from PTSD to increased levels of anxiety and depression. PTSD is impacting children who are repeatedly exposed to life-threatening natural disasters while others are suffering due to their understanding of the inevitable threat to their future well-being. These impacts are magnified by a loss of trust in the adults that could be acting to mitigate climate change, but time and again choose short-term gratification over long-term solutions.

When you vote in November, take into

account our collective responsibility to steward the Earth for our children and safeguard their hope for the future. Vote for candidates that will act decisively on the issue of climate change, and vote "Yes" on the Environmental Bond Act.

Time is running out to raise ourselves in the eyes of our children. Be the caretakers they need to protect them from this greatest of all threats to their well-being.

**Janine Melillo  
Peekskill**

## Harckham Has Delivered for Putnam County During the Past Four Years

In these times of flux, eastern Putnam County residents have benefited over the past four years by having state Sen. Peter Harckham as our representative in Albany.

Sen. Harckham has put his experience to work to help our residents by bringing state financial benefits to our schools, government projects and non-governmental organizations. Among them are upgraded highway equipment that help with infrastructure improvements, funds to purchase additional police equipment and vehicles and grants to help with upgrading our security.

In addition, Sen. Harckham has made

advances in our mental health system by creating a Council of Equity within the state's Office of Addiction Services to ensure all residents receive proper treatment for substance use disorder.

Sen. Harckham has not only listened to the needs of his constituents but has delivered solutions for those needs.

Please join me in voting for Sen. Harckham, so that Putnam County can have the benefit of effective representation in the state Senate.

**Lillian Jones  
Mahopac**

## I'm in Gina's Arena, Along With the Other GOP Candidates This Year

With Election Day and early voting fast approaching, it's time to take inventory of where things stand in New York State overall and in our community in particular. And the bottom line is this: things have never been worse.

Our unelected governor and her band of followers have done far more harm than good. They have raised taxes, held us hostage during COVID, introduced dangerous indoctrination to our schools and consistently voted for bail reform that favors career criminals over law abiding citizens.

Gina Arena is running for state Senate because she wants to bring jobs and

economic growth to the Hudson Valley, improve local schools, and make our streets and communities safer for everyone.

Don't be ashamed of being a patriotic New Yorker! Stand up for your family, friends and neighbors and vote to bring needed change to Albany. Join me in voting for Gina Arena, Stacy Halper, Mike Lawler, Joe Pinion and Lee Zeldin. The stakes have never been higher and the future of our state is in your hands.

**Barbara Halecki  
Cortlandt Manor**

## Maloney is the Candidate to Protect Reproductive Freedom in Washington

There is one pro-choice candidate running in the 17th Congressional District, and that's Sean Patrick Maloney.

Congressman Maloney has voted to pass legislation that protects the right to choose including the Women's Health Protection Act (which he co-sponsored), and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act. He has been endorsed by Choice Matters, Planned Parenthood and 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the largest healthcare union in the nation.

Consistent with his opinion piece published on Oct. 6 in LoHud, he continues to raise his voice and take action in support of reproductive freedom, and in opposition to those who are trying to take it away.

His opponent has voted against bills that would protect the right to choose and continues to be misinformed when it comes to the laws governing abortion and the standard of abortion care in this country. Instead of taking responsibility and educating himself, he has remained ignorant, offering the same inaccurate and untruthful rhetoric embraced by anti-choice extremists and imposing his own archaic criteria.

We can either maintain bodily autonomy or relinquish it. I'm voting for Sean Patrick Maloney.

**Elise-Ann Konstantin  
Cortlandt**

## Abortion Debate is the Only Issue Democrats Have in This Election

Abortion is the only Democratic attack tool against the Republican candidates in New York and New Jersey as cost of living (food and goods and services) soar out of control. Crime is rampant as criminals are caught and released, thousands of illegal immigrants storm across our Southern borders daily, some even reaching New York City, all the result of President Biden and the Democrats in Congress out-of-control

spending and failure to enforce current laws.

How is it that an unborn bald eagle while in the egg has more protection, with greater fines and jail time imposed if harmed, than an unborn human?

**E. Patrick Mosman  
Pleasantville**

## Mayes' Lifelong Commitment to Cortlandt Gives Him Leg Up for Town Board

Robert Mayes has been working as a town councilman since the beginning of this year. His experience as a school board member and as a lifelong resident of the Town of Cortlandt has helped him to quickly adapt to his new role as councilman. I know from experience that being a lifelong resident gives you a perspective that others may not have because you've watched the community evolve over the years. You see first-hand the changes that are happening as new residents move into

the town or village and are able to ensure the town is still meeting the needs of our community as it changes.

Robert has listened thoughtfully to many comments and suggestions, before forming an opinion and has been a real asset to the town. I hope you will come out and support my friend and colleague Robert Mayes for Town Board.

**Debbie Carter  
Cortlandt**

## Support of Families, Law Enforcement Makes Slater Best Suited for Assembly

As I have watched this year's election season unfold, I have kept a close eye out for a candidate who I believe will advocate for our children and my fellow parents.

Having met and spoken to Matt Slater on several occasions I believe he will be a terrific voice for our families as our assemblyman for the 94th District. Matt is a parent himself of two young kids. He recognizes the importance of a strong public school system and the inherent right we as parents have in the development of our children.

He is also the only candidate being supported by law enforcement groups both

locally and across the state. This means when it comes to the public safety of our children and families, Matt Slater is the preferred candidate by our courageous men and women who protect us every single day.

With Election Day quickly approaching, I know I will be voting for Matt Slater for the 94th Assembly District because he cares about our families, will protect our kids and has law enforcement's back.

**Abby O'Brien  
Putnam Valley**

**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

# NY Blood Center Announces Fifth Blood Emergency in 2022

The New York Blood Center (NYBC) announced a blood emergency last week, the second in the last 75 days and the fifth of 2022.

A blood emergency occurs when there is a significant gap between the amount of blood donations and need from local hospitals. The region's blood supply is once again at one to three days.

Despite new and innovative strategies to encourage the scheduling of more community blood drives, the gap between what hospitals and patients need and the available blood supply continues to grow. About 62 percent of the general public is able to donate and only about 4 percent of that population do, a national crisis that must change for the future health of all New Yorkers and this country.

This isn't a local problem as blood centers across the United States have been struggling over the last two-and-a-half years.

Prior to the pandemic, there was always a surplus of blood in the U.S., so if one region of the country was short, nonprofit blood centers could help one another. There is no surplus in the U.S. anymore. NYBC hasn't had the ideal blood supply of five to seven days in more than 30 months. Blood emergencies in the last decade typically happened twice a year, around July 4 and the December holidays.

"It isn't that folks are not donating blood – our data shows that there is only a small group of loyal blood donors who are representing the entire community and shouldering the burden for all," said Andrea Cefarelli, senior vice president of New York Blood Center. "We need everyone, from Gen Z to Gen X, to step up. Donating blood is a meaningful volunteer opportunity. We encourage people to bring their families, friends and partners to make it even more fun and impactful."

Youth and first-time donors are critically needed. In 2019, high school and college blood donors accounted for 25 percent or 50,000 annual blood donations. Blood centers have in recent years been working to rebuild blood drives with young donors at local high schools and colleges, but that only about half of those events are being hosted as compared to 2019.

Even if you cannot donate, you can help blood centers by spreading the word about the critical national shortage and need for local blood donors; tell your friends, post about it on social media or bring in a first-time blood donor on your next visit.

NYBC hosts blood drives every day in addition to their 19 area donor centers in order to reach donors and meet the needs of local hospitals.

Extra precautions are being taken to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19. As always, people are not eligible to donate if they're experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms. Additional information

on donor eligibility and COVID-19 precautions is available at <https://www.nybc.org/donate-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation-copy/>

To make an appointment at a blood drive near you, donors can call 1-800-933-2566 or visit [donate.nybc.org](https://www.nybc.org).

Can't donate blood? You can still support NYBC's mission by texting NYBC to 20222 to give \$25.

*This is a press release provided by the New York Blood Center. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.*

## Walk This Way

Mount Kisco resident James Silverman and his son Jaden joined more than 280 participants and 48 teams last Sunday at the Walk to End Alzheimer's: Putnam County, an annual fundraising event held at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park on Gypsy Trail Road in Kent. This year's theme: "Alzheimer's isn't stopping; neither are we." The fundraising goal was set at \$115,000. As of Sunday, \$88,000 had been raised with more donations still arriving. For more information, visit [www.alz.org](https://www.alz.org)



## THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

**There's No "I" in Team.** It's the time of the year when you can watch, or play, team sports such as baseball, football, soccer, basketball, hockey, volleyball and numerous others. So, just like the word "team," none of the quiz words this week contain the letter "I." Should you find yourself struggling with the quiz, perhaps a little teamwork will help.

1. **nethermost** (adj.)

A) irritating                      B) lowest in position                      C) other worldly
2. **fabulation** (n.)

A) a fabrication                      B) an estimate                      C) off-the-cuff remark
3. **truncate** (v.)

A) to shorten the extent of                      B) roll along                      C) strengthen
4. **snuggery** (n.)

A) a restful nap                      B) a social slight                      C) a small room
5. **tutinary** (adj.)

A) relating to a tutor                      B) relating to protection                      C) relating to a ruler
6. **eventuate** (v.)

A) to draw forth                      B) judge the value of                      C) occur as a result
7. **onus** (n.)

A) an artistic work                      B) a burden                      C) uniformity
8. **palmary** (adj.)

A) amicable                      B) soothing                      C) preeminent

- ANSWERS:
1. B. Lowest in position
2. A. The act of inventing relating false or fantastic
3. A. To shorten the duration or extent of
4. C. A small secluded room; cubby; cubbyhole
5. B. Serving as a protector, guardian, or patron;
6. C. To occur as a result; happen as a final result;
7. B. A difficult or disagreeable responsibility or
8. C. Worthy of the palm; preeminent; superior

## PEEKSKILL DEMOCRATS

The Peekskill Democratic City Committee is interviewing candidates interested in running for Mayor or Common Council, on the Democratic line for the General Election to be held in November 2023. Interested parties must be registered to vote in the City of Peekskill and be a resident of the City of Peekskill for a minimum of 3 years. You may submit your resume and letter of interest to the Nominating Committee at: [Peekskillcandidates@gmail.com](mailto:Peekskillcandidates@gmail.com) no later than 11/18/2022. Please make sure to include your contact information. Thank you!

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# Obituaries

## Anthony Diaz

Anthony "Tony" J. Diaz, beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, died Oct. 13 at the New York State Veterans Home at Montrose. He was 75.

He was born to Alice Griffin and Emmanuel Diaz on June 28, 1947, in Peekskill. He graduated from Peekskill High School and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. After serving, Tony became a dedicated registered nurse. He was very passionate about his work at the VA Hospital in Montrose for several decades. He received many professional accolades and retired with distinction.

Tony's proudest moments were as a father and grandfather. He was an exceptional father to his son, Jawara, and daughter India. He married his love, Angela Jennings (India's mother), and they remained a family even after divorce. He endlessly bragged about India's children, Carter and Briella, and Jawara's children, Jordan, Tyler, Jayda, Lily, Kensley, Jaliya and Brooklyn.

An avid New York sports fan, he loved his Knicks, Giants and Yankees. He made it a tradition to attend at least one Yankee game a season with his daughter, a tradition he maintained even while battling his illness. He was an avid listener of jazz music, attending jazz festivals and concerts often. He also spent his free time fishing, tending to his family or enjoying his favorite spot – the Peekskill Riverfront.

Tony maintained his cool demeanor



Anthony Diaz

and wits even through his illness. He was the man everyone knew and everyone considered his friend. He had a strong rapport with everyone from the nursing staff, security and kitchen staff that cared for him. Each shared a funny story and warm memory of him and everyone agreed that he was a fighter.

Tony is survived by his daughter, India Diaz (Christopher Battle); friend Angela Jennings; brother Ricardo Diaz; sister Regina Eversley-Crane; his grandchildren; several cousins; and nieces and nephews. Tony was preceded in death by his son, Jawara, his parents and sister and brother-in-law Margaret and Danny.

## Raymond Broderick

Raymond "Ray" J. Broderick passed away peacefully on Oct. 19 in Narragansett, R.I. He was 92.

Born in Yonkers, Ray was a son of the late Matthew and Catherine (Cunningham) Broderick.

Ray's personal, family, military, community and professional life is a legacy of faithful service and sacrifice. A 1947 graduate and football standout at White Plains High School, Ray would move on to Niagara University where he excelled in band, swim club, the rifle team, and most impressively, ROTC, where he was an Army ROTC regimental cadet colonel, commanding the regiment at all formations with great skill and patience. This training would serve him well in the U.S. Army, where he served for three-and-a-half years.

Called to active duty in 1953 and commissioned as a second lieutenant, Ray completed Basic Officer Infantry Course, Airborne Jumpmasters School and Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga. He completed 37 parachute jumps during his time in active service. Ray was honorably discharged from the Army in 1963 with the rank of captain.

Ray's leadership skills, honed throughout his military career, transferred well to the workforce and were invaluable to the companies he worked for: United Parcel Service, Ross Laboratory, Brownie Press and as a manufacturer representative for various companies where he would eventually retire as a trusted and well-respected partner. Ray's service to others in his military and civilian careers not only manifested in the office and the battlefields, he was also a good and faithful servant in many philanthropic and religious organizations.

Ray would serve his community as a 70-year volunteer member of the Hartsdale Fire Department; a Boy Scout troop committee member; a member of the Archbishop Stepinac High School Father's Club; a president of the University Club of White Plains; a eucharistic minister and usher at Saint Bernard's Roman Catholic Parish; and a volunteer at the White Plains Open Arms Food Pantry.

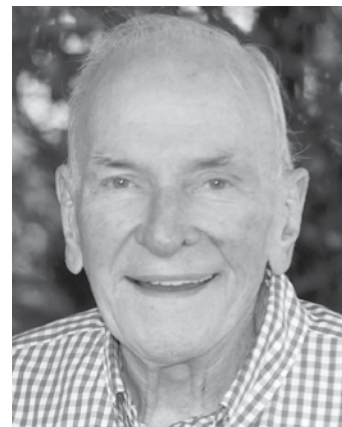
Of all his civic accomplishments, however,

Ray was most proud of the impact of the Donald R. Broderick Scholarship, established after his son's death, providing financial support to students in need. The scholarship currently supports nine students, and since its inception in 1986, has 24 graduates.

Also, Ray supported the charitable work conducted by the Salvation Army. As a teenager, Ray had a great appreciation for its work, especially its focus on how much good it does for so many needy and traumatized people around the world. Ray's work with the Salvation Army did not go unnoticed. He served as vice chair of the advisory board to the White Plains Corps of the Salvation Army and was presented with the Salvation Army Community Service Award in 2017.

Of course, these great accolades and

accomplishments paled in comparison to his true love: his family. Ray was the devoted husband of Frances M. (Choquette) Broderick (whom he met on a blind date) for 63 years. Ray was also the loving father of Edward T. Broderick (Sheila) and Russell W. Broderick (Lisa); and the blessed grandfather of Edward "Ted" T. Broderick Jr., Hannah F. Broderick (Max Gerard), Christopher "Chip" W. Broderick, Quinlan "Quinn" X. Broderick, Marin E. Broderick and Tessa



Raymond Broderick

K. Broderick. Ray is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Donald R. Broderick, and brothers Robert Broderick and Richard Broderick.

A visitation was held from on Oct. 23 in the Fagan-Quinn Funeral Home in North Kingstown, R.I. Relatives and friends were invited to a Mass of Christian Burial that was celebrated on Oct. 24 in St. Veronica Chapel in Narragansett, R.I. Military funeral honors were rendered at the conclusion of the Mass. His burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Donald R. Broderick Memorial Scholarship Fund at Manhattan College, where he was very involved, at 4513 Manhattan College Parkway, Riverdale, N.Y. 10471 and online at Manhattan College Planned Giving at <https://manhattan.giftplans.org/broderick>.

Kindly visit [www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com](http://www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com) for more information and online condolences.

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# Putnam Nonprofit Organization to Hold Inaugural Fundraiser Nov. 5

By Martin Wilbur

A nonprofit organization in Putnam County that provides services to the developmentally and intellectually disabled will be holding its first-ever celebration a week from Saturday that will have a dual purpose.

The Hudson Valley Division of the United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State will hold its inaugural Fall Formal & Silent Auction that will serve as part social event for staff and the more than 100 clients and also a fundraiser to help pay for additional recreation programs.

The event will be on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m. at the Patterson Recreation Center

located at 65 Front St. There will be a buffet dinner, a DJ, dancing and a silent auction, said Penny Pagliaro, executive director of the Hudson Valley Division of the organization, which has its office in Brewster and provides services in Putnam and Dutchess counties.

"This is a great event for the people we support. They will be there," Pagliaro said. "We'll be doing a red carpet. The community has been very generous. Some of the local restaurants are donating (food), and what we're hoping to do is raise money for more recreational programs and things for the people we support, since they're able to be there, (and) have more future events."

Pagliaro said the organization operates eight group homes in the two counties as well as day programs for its clients. The overwhelming source of funding for United Cerebral Palsy Associations is Medicaid so sometimes funding for extras can be difficult to come by, she said.

Established in 1946, today the United Cerebral Palsy Associations just doesn't serve those with cerebral palsy, Pagliaro said. The individuals have a wide range of abilities and needs, from higher functioning individuals to those who use a wheelchair or are non-verbal.

Regardless of why each person may need services from the organization, the goal is to give the residents and day program participants a fulfilling routine, said administrative assistant Jennifer Efferen.

"We're just trying to give these individuals the best possible life that they can achieve," Efferen said.

Along with raising awareness about the organization and perhaps attracting other donations, the late afternoon and early evening event next week will serve as a fun night out for those who attend. The clients will be dressed in formal wear and be featured as they walk the red carpet.

"This is another reason why we're doing this event, kind of get them out into the community, let them have a good time, party it up," Efferen said.

Pagliaro said she is hopeful that the Hudson Valley Division will make the



Laura Herdman, seated, a staff member with the Hudson Valley Division of the United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, with Jessica Bouton. The organization will be holding a dinner-dance fundraiser on Nov. 5.

## Lincoln Depot Museum to Host Special Tribute to Veterans Nov. 5

The Lincoln Depot Museum is holding a special tribute to the nation's veterans on Saturday, Nov. 5.

The event will be held from 12 to 4 p.m. and will feature the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson "Dotted Half Notes" choir to sing patriotic songs at 1 p.m.; a panel of veterans with representatives of the Vietnam, Cold

and Iraq Wars at 2 p.m.; and Alyssa Martin, as Dawn O'Day, recreates a World War II Command Performance radio broadcast.

The event is \$10 per person, with free admission for veterans, museum members and children under 12.

The Lincoln Depot Museum is located at 10 S. Water St. in Peekskill.

evening an annual event.

Reservations for the Fall Formal & Silent Auction are \$50 per person. The public can sign up by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/5x7bp6bh>

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By: News 12 Staff Jul 21, 2022, 10:11am Updated on: Sep 20, 2022

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# Police Blotter

## County Police/Mount Kisco

**Oct. 19:** A Park Drive resident reported at 10:39 a.m. that the catalytic converter on her car had been removed overnight. Patrol officers were unable to locate any security camera video that captured the incident. The case was turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

**Oct. 19:** Officers responded to a parking lot on South Bedford Road at 3:57 p.m. after a man called to say he had been in an argument with his daughter and was concerned for her mental health. Westchester EMS also responded and transported the girl to Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Oct. 21:** Officers responded at 3:18 a.m. on a report that people were gathered at the cemetery on Lexington Avenue. No one was found on the cemetery property.

**Oct. 21:** A Carpenter Avenue resident reported at 8:44 a.m. that her car had been damaged sometime overnight by a hit-and-run driver. A report was taken.

## Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

**Oct. 13:** A caller stated that there was a dark-colored vehicle with some type of emergency lights attempting to pull him over on Croton Point Avenue at 5:58 a.m. The caller further stated that the vehicle

had cut him off and the occupant was approaching his vehicle. The individual was heard screaming at the caller. Patrol was dispatched and reported that it was a road rage incident and no emergency lights were used. The incident was resolved by patrol.

**Oct. 13:** Patrol responded to Maple Street for an attempted theft of a catalytic converter at 2:10 p.m.

**Oct. 17:** A caller stated at 7:25 p.m. that a male showed up at her residence on Whelan Avenue with a food delivery, even though she did not order anything. The caller stated that she asked the individual what restaurant he was from and he did not give her a straight answer. The caller reported that after a brief conversation, the male left in a dark-colored Jeep Wrangler. She described the male as white and in his 40s, with brown hair and blue eyes.

## New Castle Police Department

**Oct. 12:** At 7 a.m., officers arrested a Mount Kisco man for driving while intoxicated. The man was found in the parking lot of Robert E. Bell Middle School asleep and in the driver's seat, with the vehicle running and in gear.

**Oct. 16:** Officers responded to Gedney Park on a reported dispute between a youth baseball coach and the umpire. Officers separated both parties and investigated the

incident; no charges were filed.

**Oct. 19:** A Campfire Road resident reported that several tools and lawn equipment were stolen from a garage and trailer. Detectives are investigating.

**Oct. 19:** Police responded to a reported fire in an apartment on King Street. An officer entered the apartment and extinguished the fire caused by a pan left on the stove. The Chappaqua Fire Department responded and ventilated the scene.

## North Castle Police Department

**Oct. 14:** Reports at 1:25 a.m. of traffic signals on Route 22 that do not have power to power outage in the area. Con Edison is on the scene attempting to restore power. Generators were deployed to both locations and removed after power was restored.

**Oct. 14:** A caller reported at 4 p.m. that a large boulder has rolled into the roadway on High Street. The responding officer confirmed the condition. Three cones were placed around the boulder. The North Castle Highway Department was notified.

**Oct. 17:** A caller reported observing a bear in his parent's backyard next to the bird feeder at their Bedford Road house at 3:32 a.m. He stated that after loud noises the bear ran into the woods. The caller was advised of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) warnings regarding

bird feeders at this time of year and was provided with the DEC website for more information.

**Oct. 18:** A caller reported at 9:48 a.m. that his daughter's vehicle was parked in the driveway of his East Middle Patent Road residence last night and it appeared as though someone had rummaged through the vehicle. The caller stated that nothing was taken from the vehicle and he did not have any video surveillance of the incident. He reported that he was no longer at the residence at this time and only wished to make the incident a matter of record. The information was forwarded to patrol units.

## White Plains Police Department

**Oct. 20:** Jesus Mora-Vasquez, 22, was arrested at 4 p.m. and charged with menacing and having three outstanding warrants for criminal mischief.

## Yorktown Police Department

**Oct. 12:** A 49-year-old Mohegan Lake man was charged at 10:05 a.m. with second-degree criminal contempt, a Class A misdemeanor, for violating an order of protection by sending a text message to a protected party.

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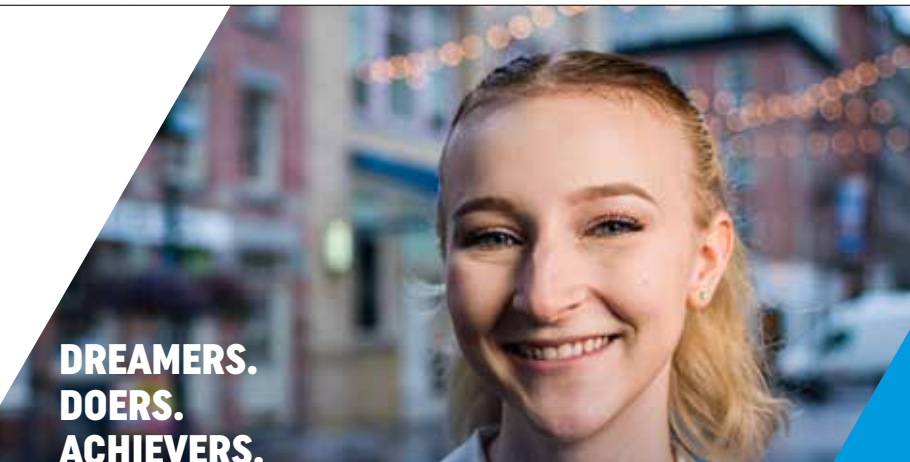
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# Youth Theater Takes Anti-Bullying Show on the Road

*It's Cool to Be a Nerd, Just Own it*

By Adam Stone

Eric Webb loved comic books as a kid growing up outside of Albany in the 1980s and '90s.

But he worried about the social implications of embracing the interest.

Webb's young self faced a decision: Proudly be himself or hide?

He chose to keep the passion a secret.

"I ended up giving up that big part of my life for a long time for the sake of being 'cool,' or at least not just being a total nerd," the 41-year-old Webb recalled.

The New York City-based writer now wants his audience to choose a different path.

Westchester's nonprofit Random Farms Kids' Theater is on an anti-bullying tour, as the group performs "#justbeyou," a show Webb co-wrote with writing partner Stephanie Bianchi, who also wrote the music and lyrics.

Aimed at fourth- to sixth-graders, student actors are performing the show at four area schools.

They already staged "#justbeyou" earlier this month at Eagle Hill School in Greenwich and at Anne Hutchinson School

in Eastchester. This week, they visit Hillside Elementary School in Hastings-on-Hudson on Wednesday, and next week take the tour to Armonk, performing at Wampus Elementary School on Nov. 3.

In fact, you might just recognize the description of the show's main character. Jordan is a member of the "Comic Crew," and resides at the bottom of the social ladder. But a new app takes his middle school by storm, and Jordan seizes the opportunity to gain status. When a popular girl makes an enticing offer, Jordan confronts a moral dilemma – friendship or popularity?

"In terms of how we approached it, we wanted to tackle some of the universal themes of bullying, self-esteem, identity and acceptance but also ground it in a very modern context that engages some of the new pressures kids face these days like cyberbullying," Webb said. "We wanted our main character to be approachable, but flawed. They are not just a victim in this story, rather they are forced to spend time on both sides of the bullying spectrum."

One of the most unsettling issues with cyberbullying is how parents are often unaware their children are enduring the taunts. Just one in 10 children will alert a parent or trusted adult about the abuse, according to statistics published by New York State on cyberbullying.



Random Farms Kids' Theater continues its tour at area schools of the show "#justbeyou," which addresses bullying among youngsters.

A show by children and for children about bullying helps initiate open conversation.

As for Webb, who is also the communications manager for Random

Farms, he said writing the show offered an opportunity to "breathe a bit of life back into that younger me through Jordan."


Kids and adults alike need a reminder that it's "cool to like or be whatever you want," Webb observed.

Those are lessons Webb can teach at home to his five-and-a-half-year-old son. In fact, it's safe to say his wife, Julie Schwartz Webb, trumpets the same message. She's the director of the show and also works at Random Farms. Their child loves the show and is "constantly making us play the demos at the dinner table," he said.

"Being your unique self is the ultimate in coolness," Webb also remarked. "Growing up I was definitely not part of the 'cool' crowd and endured my fair share of being picked on, especially in elementary and middle school. I've grown comfortable with the fact that I'll likely never be cool, but I am now fiercely protective of my own band of misfits, largely because I, and others like me, who lived through that never want anyone to have to endure that kind of pain and humiliation ever again – and it all starts with what we teach the next generation and the examples we provide with our own lives."

To learn more about Random Farms, visit [www.RandomFarmsNY.org](http://www.RandomFarmsNY.org).

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The NYS Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is a dedicated advocacy program available to anyone residing in a nursing home or other long term care facility. It advocates for residents to address their quality-of-life and quality-of-care issues, along with their rights.

Locally, the Tri-County LTC Ombudsman Program serves Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties, and is sponsored by the Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC). If you or a loved one are in need of an advocate in long term care, please call (914) 500-3406.

Now, more than ever, we need dedicated volunteers to advocate for nursing home and other long term care residents. Please consider volunteering in your area and advocate for these vulnerable residents. As a volunteer certified Ombudsman, you can help ensure that the voices of long term care residents do not go unheard.

To learn more about making a difference as a volunteer with the Ombudsman Program, please visit: <https://nursinghome411.org/ltcop/volunteer/>

## WCC Partners With Peekskill, Ossining to Expedite Application Process

Westchester Community College (WCC) announced last week new college admissions programs with the Peekskill City School District and the Ossining Union Free School District.

Similar to the recent partnership with Port Chester Schools, seniors at these schools may bypass the traditional application process for automatic admission to WCC. With student and parent consent, the high schools in these districts transmit personal and academic information through secure electronic transfer to WCC, which automatically admits eligible students who are completing high school diploma requirements.

The new approach streamlines college entry by eliminating two critical barriers: the college application and the application fee.

"This collaboration with Ossining and Peekskill is an expansion of a program that revolutionizes the college application process for high school students in our county," said WCC President Dr. Belinda S. Miles. "It is important to remove barriers that might otherwise impede students from reaching their full potential, for their sakes as well as for our region's growth and vitality. A SUNY Westchester education is a gateway to high-wage, high-demand jobs and high-quality academic pathways."

"The Ossining School District has a long-standing partnership with Westchester Community College," Ossining Superintendent of Schools Dr. Raymond Sanchez. "This new initiative is a prime example of how we have come together to find ways to remove barriers and provide high-impact programming for students. I am confident that this partnership will help students achieve their dream of college."

"We are very excited to expand our partnership opportunities with Westchester Community College," said Peekskill Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Mauricio. "Peekskill High School currently offers several dual enrollment classes with WCC, as well as a Culinary and Hospitality program. We also have a convenient WCC extension site located in our downtown area, a mile from our high school. By removing the barriers involved with the college application process, we are able to provide an accessible resource for our scholars to further their post-secondary goals. For those who chose this pathway, WCC is a great, affordable option."

Over the past three years, nearly 150 high school seniors from Ossining and Peekskill choose to attend WCC each year, making this

a high-impact program for both districts.

Seniors who opt in to sharing information with WCC will skip the admissions application process and receive an application fee waiver. The innovative program reduces anxiety around college admissions by transitioning students directly into the college's Viking VIP program, which provides priority appointments with academic and financial aid counselors, preferred access to new student orientation

services and an exclusive invitation to WCC Commitment Day.

Students from Ossining and Peekskill will have the option to attend classes that fit their schedules at the main campus in Valhalla or at WCC extension centers located in those towns.

Qualified seniors from these high schools are offered automatic general admission to WCC. Students seeking entry into special programs such as nursing or veterinary

technology must still meet corresponding program admission requirements.

For more information, contact the SUNY Westchester Community College Admissions Office at 914-606-6735 or at [Admissions@sunywcc.edu](mailto:Admissions@sunywcc.edu).

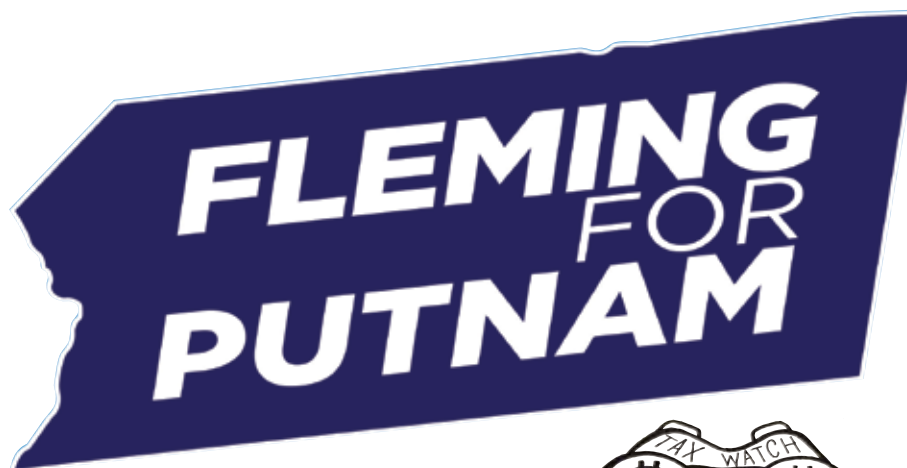
*This is a press release provided by Westchester Community College. It has been lightly edited and is being published by Examiner Media as a public service.*

**From 2018 through 2022, the Putnam County Legislature raised our taxes by 12.69%. During that time, according to Putnam County Budget Reports, the County banked over \$55,000,000.00 of our money. The justification for raising taxes was that they were staying under the tax cap.**

**As Kent Town Supervisor, I submitted eight budgets with 0% Town tax increases! 0% was my self-imposed tax cap! I cut the fat out of the budget without cutting services. In fact, we improved infrastructure, equipment, programs, accessibility to government and instituted a yearly Winter Festival, Backyard Olympics and Kent Community Weekend.**



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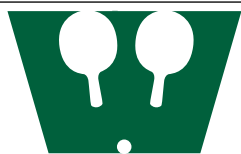


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# Time to Make Treasure for the Garden: Compost

When it's that time of year where tree leaves are turning red, brown and gold and falling to the ground, I never think of the onerous task that property owners face in raking them up, but rather the joy of turning them into rich compost for the garden.

How many chores in life offer such rich double-duty rewards as tidying up and enrichment at the same time? Composting would certainly top the list.

In almost 50 years of gardening, I never once bought fertilizer, but rather made my own through composting. Its many benefits make lengthy leaf cleanup well worth the effort.

For creating more plant nutrients, along with pest and disease control, composting is the way to go. Here are two ways to compost leaves.

To compost dry leaves in a bin or pile, first shred the leaves with a mower, which helps to break them down, and catch them in the mower bag. Then, pile the shredded leaves in a compost bin, or simply a pile in the corner of the yard. Top the leaves with a nitrogen-rich material, such as grass clippings or food waste.

Build the pile up until it's three feet tall and wide, alternating between leaves and the nitrogen products. A good rule of thumb is to use four parts of leaves per one part of nitrogen materials.

Turn the compost with a pitchfork once a



By Bill Primavera

month, until the compost process stops because of the dropping temperatures.

When turning the compost, if it smells rotten or looks soggy, dry it out by adding additional ingredients such as more leaves or sawdust.

Continue turning and moisture-monitoring the compost until it's ready. Finished compost is dark in color, dry and crumbly in texture, and smells earthy (I really love that smell, odd as it may seem). If you continually turn the pile, you can have compost as soon as a couple of months, but depending on conditions, it may take as much as a year, in which case patience is

required.

Another way to compost leaves is a quicker process. Turn the pile every week or two rather than monthly, keeping its contents moist by watering, but not too much. A pile too dry or too damp will take more time.

Knowing what NOT to compost is as important as knowing which materials are right to use. Do not compost meat, bones or fish scraps (they will attract pests) unless you are using a composter designed specifically for this purpose. Avoid composting perennial weeds or diseased plants, since you might spread weed seeds or diseases when spreading your compost. And don't include pet manure in compost that will be used on food crops.

Also, banana peels, peach peels and orange



rinds may contain pesticide residue and should be kept out of the compost. Black walnut leaves also should not be composted. Some people add sawdust to the compost, but it should be mixed or scattered thinly to avoid clumping.

An important step is to cover the compost bin or pile with plastic to help retain moisture.

There is also a non-turn alternative to composting. The secret to aerating without turning is to thoroughly mix in enough coarse material, such as straw, when building the pile. The compost will develop as fast as if it were turned regularly, and studies show that the nitrogen level may be even higher than with turned compost.

With no-turn composting, add new materials to the top of the pile and harvest fresh compost from the bottom of the bin. This method qualifies for my lazy gardener category. After all, if it's possible to enjoy the pleasures of gardening and composting in a way that requires less physical strain on the back and knees, why not?

Bill Primavera is a residential and commercial realtor associated with William Raveis Realty, as well as a publicist and journalist writing regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to buy or sell a home, he can be e-mailed at [williamjprimavera@gmail.com](mailto:williamjprimavera@gmail.com) or called directly at 914-522-2076.

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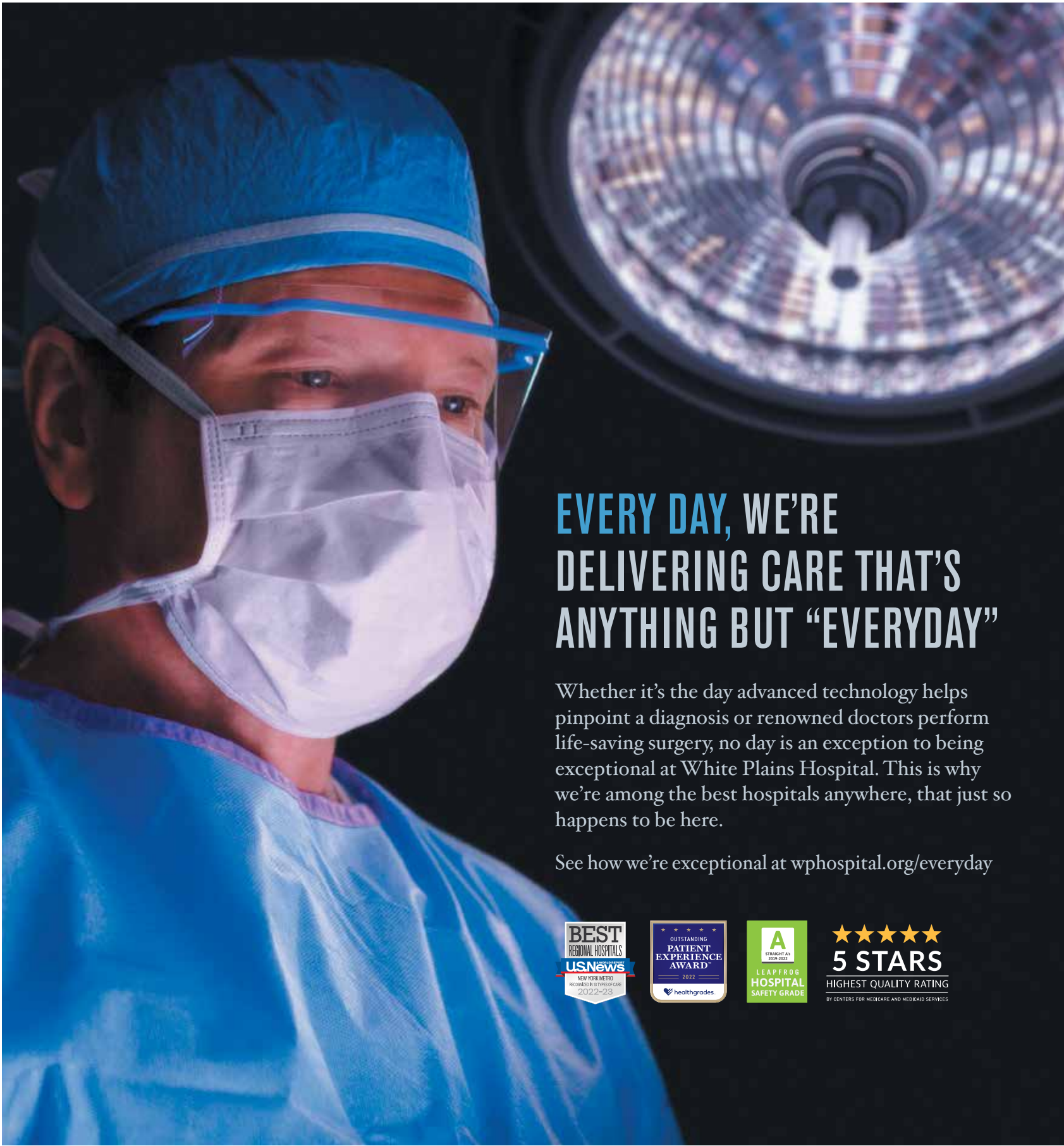
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# Grace Gifford Plunkett: Wed and Widowed in Less Than a Day

Today we turn our sights on Grace Gifford Plunkett, who, while less prominent than those on our list thus far, can definitely lay claim to the title of saddest tale of all in the saddest of Irish times – the execution of the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Grace was the youngest in a solidly middle-class family of 12 children, with a Catholic father, Frederick Gifford, and a Protestant mother, Isabella Burton Gifford. It was an unusual match for the times. Grace and her sisters were baptized as Protestants; their brothers as Catholics.

Born in 1888, she showed great promise as an artist. At 16, she attended the prestigious Dublin Metropolitan School of Art. Her skills were recognized by William Orpen, a prominent artist of the time, who considered her one of his most outstanding students.

Caricature became her specialty. In 1913, she met Joseph Plunkett, avowed nationalist and editor of *The Irish Review*. His close friend and fellow revolutionary, Thomas MacDonagh, was already married to Muriel Gifford, Grace's sister.

Gifford's and Plunkett's relationship soon blossomed. Engaged in 1915, Grace formally

converted to Catholicism, and they set the date for their wedding to Easter Sunday, Apr. 23, 1916. Events would prevent that union from happening as scheduled, as the Irish Republican Brotherhood, in which both Plunkett and MacDonagh were senior members, pushed forward with plans for an armed uprising against the British, scheduled for Easter Monday, Apr. 24, 1916.

The Rising failed, and the ringleaders, including Plunkett, were rapidly bundled up by the authorities, court-martialed and sentenced to death by firing squad. On the website "Kilmainham

Tales" ([www.kilmainhamtales.ie](http://www.kilmainhamtales.ie)), Joe Connell gives a wealth of information about what happened next.

It was May 3. MacDonagh, Grace's brother-in-law, had been executed earlier that day. Plunkett's sentence was scheduled to be carried out the next morning. Plunkett had somehow convinced the British authorities to grant him one favor, and had gotten word to Grace that he wished they could

be married that night, before he met his fate. She purchased a ring at a jeweler on

Dublin's Grafton Street, and made her way to Kilmainham.

Plunkett, in ill health from a neck operation shortly before the Rising, was brought into a room where Grace was waiting. Uncuffed for the few moments that the ceremony took, they were married shortly before midnight by Fr. Eugene McCarthy of St. James' Church. They had no opportunity for any intimacy, and were barely allowed to speak with one another before Grace was hurried off.

Early on the morning of May 4, she was allowed another visit with her husband.

"Ten minutes," said the guard, who never left. That was the last she saw of Plunkett. He was shot by a firing squad about seven that morning.

Following Plunkett's death, Grace threw herself into the rebel cause. She became active in the Sinn Féin (Ourselves Alone) party, advocated against the 1921 Treaty and found herself imprisoned at one point in Kilmainham by the Irish Free State during the Irish Civil War. The rest of her life was a struggle to survive on the meager earnings she made from her art. Lamentably, Plunkett's parents gave her no

support.

Her fortunes changed with the ascent



By Brian McGowan

of Eamonn DeValera to power in 1932, after which she received a pension that allowed her to survive. She died on Dec. 13, 1955, aged 67. She was buried with full military honors in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin. After Plunkett's death, she never married again.

I was in Galway City recently and heard the ballad "Grace" sung at a local seisiún. Written in 1985 by Frank and Seán O'Meara,

the song plaintively captures a poignant moment.

*"Oh Grace, just hold me in your arms and let this moment linger,*

*They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.*

*With all my love, I place this wedding ring upon your finger.*

*There won't be time to share our love, for we must say good-bye."*

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](mailto: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](http://Amazon.com).

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# Lunar Eclipses Are Certainly Spectacular. Just Look for Yourself

Earlier this year a famous astronomy communicator, who sometimes has a reputation for being a wet blanket, shook the conversation up by saying he felt lunar eclipses were “un-spectacular” and not something most people would notice.

While this doesn’t directly mean he’s suggesting people not look, it does seem like a strange thing for someone like him to say.

A lunar eclipse happens when the moon, always at its full phase, glides through Earth’s shadow and causes the moon to take on a reddish glow. They’re sort of the opposite of their cousin-in-shadows, the solar eclipse. In those, it’s us here on Earth who fall into the moon’s shadow.

It’s certainly hard to make a case they’re as amazing as total solar eclipses, but there is an undeniable, understated spectacle that comes from watching a lunar eclipse.

First, most of the time, we see the full moonrise just as normal. Then, partially through its trip across the sky, it gradually starts to dim. First, a slow, dusty darkening happens as the moon moves into the outer edges of Earth’s shadow, called the penumbra. As time goes on, that dimming becomes an ominous reddening, as the darker umbra falls across part or all of the moon’s face.



By Scott Levine

There’s always some unpredictability in what that umbral phase looks like. Since what we’re seeing on the moon in these moments is sunlight filtered through Earth’s atmosphere, disturbances in our atmosphere from wildfires, pollution or even unusually clean air have an effect, and there’s no reliable way to know what we’ll see until we see it.

Sometimes the red is thin like a sheer curtain between us and the

moon. Other times the color is enough to give it the “blood moon” nickname some people like to use. How much of the moon is covered by the shadow and where the moon is in the sky at the time of the eclipse affect things, too.

And there’s a bonus: Every lunar

eclipse connects us back to the ancients. We can all see Earth’s shadow is curved as it overtakes the moon. The ancient Greeks realized that if Earth were flat, sooner or later that curved edge would rotate away, and the shape of the shadow would change. That never happens, though. It’s curved throughout the eclipse, a sure sign that Earth is a sphere. If you have any friends who have started to believe Earth isn’t round, lunar eclipses help us there as well.

But don’t take my word for it. Early on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 8, we’ll be treated to a total lunar eclipse as the moon sets. Earth’s shadow starts to cover the moon in the dark part of the early morning hours. Totality begins at 5:15 a.m. By about 6:40, the moon sets in our area, effectively ending the eclipse for us.

Setting full moons are a real treat, eclipse or not. What could the moon setting while eclipsed look like? It’s not something I’ve ever seen, and I can’t wait

to get a look.

It’s hard for me to agree that watching this story unfold isn’t spectacular. I hope you’ll look up and decide for yourself. Clear skies!

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

## Clear Skies



The phases of the moon for November.

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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

**AVISO DE REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DEL DISTRITO  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR CENTRAL DE CHAPPAQUA  
EN EL CONDADO DE WESTCHESTER, NUEVA YORK**

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que, de conformidad con una resolución de la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el Condado de Westchester, Nueva York adoptada el 3 de octubre de 2022, se llevará a cabo una Reunión Especial del Distrito para los votantes cualificados de dicho Distrito Escolar el:

**martes, 29 de noviembre de 2022**

desde las 7:00 AM a las 9:00 PM (hora vigente) en el gimnasio de la Escuela Secundaria Horace Greeley, Chappaqua, Nueva York, con el propósito de votar sobre las siguientes Propuestas de Bonos:

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 1  
SE RESUELVE:

- (a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Chappaqua, en el condado de Westchester, Nueva York (el “Distrito”), por la presente está autorizada a construir mejoras y modificaciones en los edificios y/o sitios escolares del Distrito (el “Proyecto”) sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, PC (el “Plan”), disponible para inspección pública en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, que incluye (según y donde sea necesario): reemplazos de techo y /o reconstrucción; mejoras a los sistemas de calefacción, ventilación, aire acondicionado, electricidad, seguridad contra incendios, iluminación y comunicaciones; reemplazo de puente y mejoras deportivas y del sitio, incluida la construcción de baños, un edificio de almacenamiento, repavimentación del patio de recreo y un campo modificado de béisbol y mejoras de pavimentación; todo lo anterior para incluir el mobiliario original, el equipo, la maquinaria, el aparato y el sitio auxiliar o relacionado, la demolición y otros trabajos requeridos en relación con los mismos; y a gastar para ello, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales y para el financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$33,985,000; siempre que los costos de los componentes del Proyecto como se establece en el Plan puedan reasignarse entre dichos componentes si la Junta de Educación determina que dicha reasignación es en el mejor interés del Distrito;
- (b) que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto total que no exceda \$33,985,000 para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y cobrará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que serán determinadas por dicha Junta de Educación; y
- (c) que anticipándose a dicho impuesto, se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por el monto principal que no exceda los \$33,985,000 y se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos, a medida que los mismos vengzan y sean pagaderos.

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 2  
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 (el “Proyecto”) sustancialmente como está descrito en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de KG+D, Architects, PC (el “Plan”), disponible para inspección pública en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito, incluyendo (según y donde sea necesario): una nueva entrada y conexión con el gimnasio, y reconfiguración de la oficina principal; lo anterior para incluir el mobiliario original, el equipo, la maquinaria, el aparato y el sitio auxiliar o relacionado, la demolición y otros trabajos requeridos en relación con los mismos; y para gastar por ello, incluidos los costos preliminares, los costos incidentales a los mismos y al financiamiento de los mismos y los intereses durante la construcción, una cantidad que no exceda el costo total estimado de \$11,340,000; siempre que los costos de los componentes del Proyecto como se establece en el Plan puedan reasignarse entre dichos componentes si la Junta de Educación determina que dicha reasignación es en el mejor interés del Distrito;
- (b) Que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto total que no exceda \$11,340,000 para pagar dicho costo, dicho impuesto se impondrá y cobrará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que serán determinadas por dicha Junta de Educación; y
- (c) que anticipándose a dicho impuesto, se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por el monto principal que no exceda los \$11,340,000 y se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos, a medida que los mismos vengzan y sean pagaderos.

Dicha Propuesta de Bono aparecerá en las boletas utilizadas para votar en dicha Reunión Especial de Distrito en sustancialmente la siguiente forma condensada:

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 1  
SÍ NO

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 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 vengzan y sean pagaderos.

PROPUESTA DE BONO N° 2

SÍ

NO

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 archivarán 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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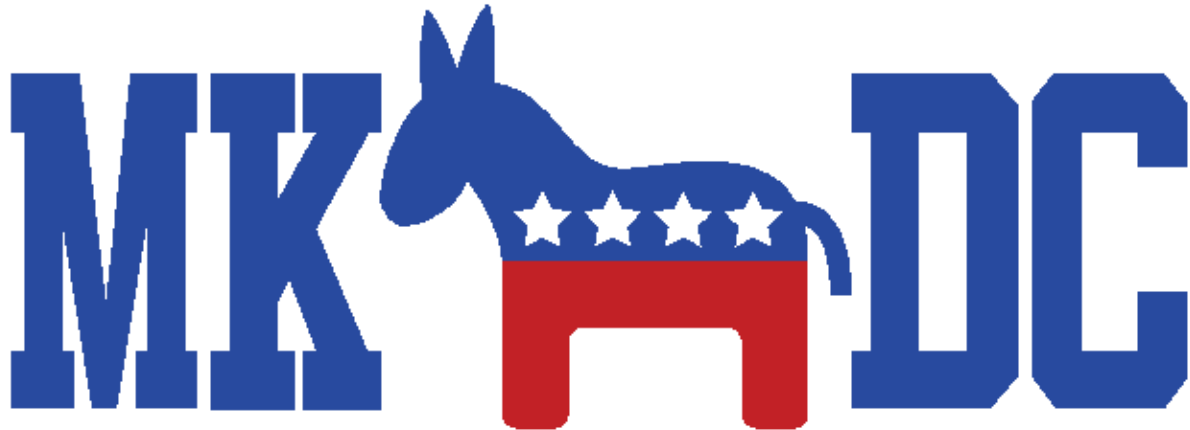
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# A Deep Dive Into California Wine Bottle Labels



By Nick Antonaccio

What is the first description you seek out on a wine label? Is it on the front label? The back?

And which term have you trained yourself to seek out, the one that transmits data from your eye to your cerebrum as an

attractor or a detractor, to tempt you to proceed further in selecting the wine for purchase?

Conversely, which descriptor or term do you seek out last? The single fact that may not be of significant interest to your purchase decision – or your enjoyment of a particular wine?

This week I'm focusing on the latter category, and a term that, although required by law, is at times difficult to find on the front or back label.

Not that the terms in the first category – most influential – do not warrant a discussion of their own. Hardly so. Wine labels display many confusing terms we attempt to absorb and interpret. I am focusing on California wines in this column, but other states and countries have their own sets of regulations. For example:

1. Simply because a wine label states the grape varietal, if it does at all, is not a de

facto statement of fact. Cabernet Sauvignon on an American wine label may indicate that the contents are comprised solely of this varietal, or that, by law, it is simply the dominant grape in the wine bottle.

California wine regulations stipulate that any wine sold containing 75 percent or more of a single varietal may carry that grape name on its label, without disclosing the other grapes used to blend with it. That leaves a significant leeway to winemakers seeking to produce their own distinctive wines, while still appealing to a particular consumer sensibility. That Cabernet Sauvignon mentioned above may have one or more additional grapes added to the bottle.

A Napa Valley designation on the label indicates that a minimum of 85 percent of the grapes were grown in that broad geographic area. The remainder may have been sourced elsewhere.

"Red blend" sidesteps any question of regulatory compliance, as nondescript as it may be.

2. Vintage? There is a 5 to 15 percent leeway in blending different vintages into a wine, depending on where the grapes were sourced.

While the perceived definition of the above terms may be disconcerting to some, winemakers have been given regulatory leeway, ostensibly to produce the best wine for retail sales.

On to the term that many consumers seek

out last.

The one label fact I find typically receives the least attention, when compared to other label terms, is alcohol content.

While important, many consumers are not as concerned regarding the alcohol levels in wine as compared to hard spirits. My obligatory warning: All alcohol consumption is potentially dangerous and should be diligently monitored – on the label and in the glass.

Just as there are regulations governing the label statements for grape varietals, origins and vintage, so too are there for alcohol content. And just as there is leeway for other wine terms on a label, so too are there for alcohol content.

By California regulation, wines of 14 percent alcohol content by volume, or lower, are allowed a variance of 1.5 percent. Above 14 percent, a variation of 1 percent is permitted. That Cabernet Sauvignon referred to above may have a stated alcohol content of 13 percent, but an actual level of up to 14 percent. Likewise, a number of California Zinfandels with a stated alcohol content of 14.1 percent may be alcohol bombs of up to 15 percent.

When disclosing alcohol content, such a variation may be the borderline between sobriety and inebriation for some. The Alcohol Research Group in California found that two glasses of 15 percent wine have a



similar effect on the average person as three glasses of 12 percent wine.

Next week I'll report on the results of a study that analyzed the actual alcohol of over 100,000 wines compared to the stated level on the labels. Higher or lower than the stated level? And why? This study also addressed additional phenomena contributing to the stated alcohol content in a number of wines. Stay tuned.

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

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# Deep South to Pleasantville: An Activist's Journey

Imagine coming of age this way:

1. It's the civil rights era.
2. You're a white boy.
3. You live in the deep South.
4. Your family opposes segregation.
5. Black people are forcibly discouraged from voting as the community looks on.

That combination of factors contributed to producing the worldview and mission-oriented life of Pleasantville's Pete Russell, one of Westchester County's most tireless proponents of affordable housing.

His eventual life's work – his volunteer work at least – revolves around addressing the thorny issue of insufficient affordable housing in the area.

That lifetime of commitment is being celebrated on Tuesday, Oct. 25 by Habitat for Humanity's Westchester County and New York City chapter. It is honoring Pete and three other advocates at an event in Manhattan.

## Pride and Prejudice

I first met Pete nearly 20 years ago through my wife's parents, and he's always struck me as a man of quiet but deep integrity; equal parts humble and resolute.

But it wasn't until I had the chance to connect with him for this column that I learned the richer details of his journey. (Or until I learned he speaks Farsi, which I only heard from a third party!)

As the 80-year-old would tell you, demand for affordable housing cuts widely across racial lines. And people's views on the issue are often colored by related misconceptions.

But Pete's deep understanding of prejudice – in terms of how it manifests itself in both the North and the South – helps fuel his desire to achieve institutional progress.

"I think I have a pretty good grasp of how prejudice can get embedded in many dimensions of public life – education, health, employment and housing, North and South – and how it takes advocacy, good civic leadership, policy design and implementation to reverse the terrible costs of such discrimination and enduring inequality," said Pete, who has lived with wife Lynn in Pleasantville for more than 40 years.

When Pete was a boy, and the Freedom Rides came along, the Town of Liberty and nearby City of McComb in Pike County, Miss. "showed their colors." (He spent time growing up in Mississippi and Alabama.)

But amidst troubled times in the larger world, Pete was forging community in small yet meaningful ways.

"I had a newspaper route throughout the town, near the main store and school, and also in the relatively disadvantaged areas of Frogtown, Hollywood and the 'quarters,'" recalled Pete, who is now board president of Allied Community Enterprises (ACE), a local nonprofit dedicated to developing and advocating for innovative, affordable housing in Westchester. "I ended my route each day in the latter so I could play ball in the street near the Dew Drop Inn and the Razorblade."

Pete's personal exposure and connection to these issues didn't end there:

- When a bit older, he worked shoulder-

to-shoulder, performing manual labor with kids from diverse backgrounds.

- While in college, his much younger brother was one of just two white children in the grade who stayed put amidst desegregation.
- About 20 years ago, he witnessed his sister teaching severely disabled children, many of color, in a public school in Alabama where the facilities and support were "manifestly inadequate, in spite of her repeated entreaties for improvement."

## 'Dignified' Living

And while it was Pete's background that planted the seeds of advocacy, it was in adulthood when the advocacy's focus came into bloom.

In about 2000, a fellow parishioner at Pleasantville's St. John's Episcopal Church, Drew McFadden, encouraged the congregation to support A-HOME. The nonprofit is a provider of northern Westchester rental housing units for people with disabilities, seniors, single-parent families and low-income residents.

Pete ultimately joined, served on the board and eventually became president. (Along the way, he also enjoyed a successful career in the private sector as a senior vice president in international banking while raising children Michael, Cynthia and Peter with Lynn).

Once involved with A-HOME, Pete began to learn more about the broader issue of affordable housing, including the common misconceptions.

He outlined a laundry list for me of frequent misunderstandings. Among them is the fact that many often wrongly assume affordable housing is for people who don't earn their way.

These insights aren't abstractions for Pete. He's seen the reality – as well as the fruits of his labor – firsthand. Helping people

who are also eager to help themselves is a common theme.

He even developed a long friendship with Dr. (Doc) Marion Davis, a retired dentist, veteran, storyteller and musician who lived for many years in one of the A-HOME residences in Chappaqua. In fact, Pete and Lynn joined Davis last month for his 90th birthday.

"He spoke eloquently in verse about his experience in finding a dignified place to live after some hard times," Pete recounted.

## Atlanta to Iran

And while Westchester might be best known for its relative wealth, that reputation can obscure significant pockets of poverty and the struggles of families living paycheck to paycheck.

The county's Housing Needs Assessment, published in 2019, explains the importance of creating at least 11,000 new affordable units in Westchester.

Pete noted how the assessment "makes clear that the county and the individual municipalities have an acute need."



By Adam Stone

"Even made more so by pandemic dislocations of the last several years, to create new (affordable housing) across price ranges and distributed across the whole county," Pete elaborated. "The benefits of such actions will flow through reduced traffic congestion, improved environmental conditions and more diverse communities."

Even though Pete's activism around affordable housing began around 20 years ago, he's led a purpose-oriented life all along.

Along with Lynn, he was a history major at Emory University in Atlanta, graduating in 1965. The young married couple then joined the Peace Corps Volunteers in Iran, remaining until 1967, teaching English in the local high schools of a regional town along the coast of the Caspian Sea.

They coordinated and taught night classes for adults and organized and ran a summer camp for middle school children, with fellow teachers and high schoolers as counselors.

## Urban and Suburban

All of the lofty talk aside, Pete shines most in executing the nitty gritty.

His organization recently completed work on a small home in Mount Vernon. He said it's "sparkling," with new appliances and all the rest. It'll eventually be marketed across the region and perhaps generate up to about 100 applications. There are income requirements; your salary can't be too low or too high. Imagine a married couple with a household income of almost \$90,000 as an ideal fit.

The home at 25 Monroe St. had been abandoned but was purchased and fully renovated under Pete's leadership. The price tag will ultimately be in the \$190,000 range, while purchase and renovation expenses were about twice that.

Some bureaucratic considerations still need to be completed with other stakeholders like Mount Vernon city officials. But Pete said the ideal scenario would be an income-appropriate homebuyer acquiring the home (perhaps helped along in part by some cash grant support in the \$15,000 range for a down payment from another organization such as Westchester Residential Opportunities) and then have the new owner rent the second unit to a separate tenant.

The project began in 2019, got delayed by COVID, but is now about a month away from a marketing campaign, pending consultation with the city.

While it's important to build affordable housing in a more urban area like Mount Vernon, Pete stressed how it's also critical to develop units in suburban villages like his home community of Pleasantville. That can create more generational progress, with the children of new homeowners gaining access to higher-performing schools, among a host of other societal benefits, Pete noted.

"It needs to reach from end to end," he told me during a phone conversation last Wednesday.

## Strategic Toolbox

Working strategically when confronting



Pete Russell performing yard work at the construction site of the two-family affordable units in Mount Vernon he helped create.

resistant municipal boards is also an important tool – and he's dealt with plenty of resistant boards. He prefers reconciliation than confrontation, observed Joan Arnold, the executive director of ACE who had previously been executive director of A-HOME when Pete was president. She explained how he's willing to attend a meeting, listen to the opposition and at the end is willing to paint a house or cut a lawn.

Whatever is needed to advance the cause. Matt Dunbar, Habitat NYC and Westchester's chief strategy officer and executive vice president, stressed how Pete "understands the big picture and the necessity to attend to details."

"Affordable housing is like a big-picture puzzle, where there are missing pieces," Dunbar said. "Peter is intrigued by puzzles and determined to find those missing pieces to complete the puzzle."

Meanwhile, the affordable housing issue, much to Pete's delight, is a budget priority for Westchester. County Executive George Latimer just pledged in his proposed capital budget to increase the county's share toward affordable and workforce housing from the current year's \$50 million to \$90 million next year.

## 'Extra Mile'

Given his lifetime of good works, many people in and around Pleasantville and throughout the region know Pete as a man of true character. But when you have a family member who can illuminate your storytelling, why turn elsewhere?

My mother-in-law, Sharon Foley, is a veteran realtor in Pleasantville with ERA Real Estate. She knows the housing market well, including the challenge for people to afford Westchester. But, more to the point, Sharon knows Pete.

She and my father-in-law, Ken, met Lynn and Pete as fellow parishioners at St. John's in 1975, and the couples have enjoyed a close friendship ever since. Sharon has seen Pete deliver as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend.

"Pete has always gone that extra mile, be it for the church, the community, and certainly most notably, for affordable housing," Sharon told me in an e-mail.

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