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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 556

Mignone Makes History as First Female WP DPW Commissioner

By Bailey Hosfelt

Stefania Mignone was sworn in as the new Commissioner of the White Plains Department of Public Works (DPW) during the Common Council meeting on April 4.

Previously the Deputy Commissioner, Mignone has been with the DPW for 16 years — first coming in as Engineer I before being promoted to Engineer II. Succeeding Commissioner Rick Hope, Mignone will become the first woman to hold the post.

“Thank you, Commissioner Rick Hope for making me your deputy seven years ago, believing in me, teaching me and getting me to the point where I am able to do this job,” Mignone said.

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach commended Hope for doing an outstanding job ensuring the DPW has a strong corps of people who can do the job as he moves on.

“Stefania is a great example of that,” Roach said.

In her years with the DPW, Mignone has gained experience working with and overseeing all of the department’s subdivisions ranging from highways and sanitation to garage and shop.

Roach commended Mignone’s work to get the DPW app out, which allows White Plains residents to view their garbage and recycling schedules as well as schedule a pickup time for oversized items like a couch or mattress.

Additionally, Mignone played a large part

in the White Plains Public Library plaza repairs, which were completed in 2019.

Previously a barren concrete scape, Roach said Mignone came up with the plan to bring greenery to the plaza to both attract natural pollinators and prevent excess water from getting into the parking garage below.

“Her concept was that not only would we reduce the water that flows in [the garage] because this will absorb it and channel it into the drains like it’s supposed to but also that we would make it more beautiful and usable by our residents,” Roach said, noting how innovative Mignone has been in her work thus far.

“She has an open mind, wants to work

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Stefania Mignone

Female County Legislators Honored



The Westchester County Board of Legislators commemorated Women’s History Month by honoring all of the women who have served the board since it first convened in 1970, in a live-streamed video presentation and ceremony. Currently, two women serve in the top leadership positions for the first time in the board’s history -- Catherine Borgia as Chair and Nancy Barr as Vice Chair. (L to R Bottom row – Leg. Terry Clements, Hon. Ruth Walter, Hon. Alfreda A. Williams, Hon. Kitley Covill, Hon. Pearl C. Quarles, Chair Catherine Borgia, Vice Chair Nancy E. Barr; Top row – Leg. MaryJane Shimsky, Leg. Erika Pierce, Leg. Catherine F. Parker, Leg. Jewel Williams Johnson, Min. Leader Margaret Cunzio attended remotely)

White Plains BOE Unanimously Adopts Proposed School Budget

By Bailey Hosfelt

White Plains City School District (WPCSD) Board of Education members unanimously adopted the proposed budget for the 2022 to 2023 school year, which has a zero percent tax increase, at the meeting on April 4.

District voters will vote to approve the proposed \$244.8 million budget on May 17.

“Not only does the budget continue to achieve all of our goals and objectives via the long-range plan but it also brings with it some really exciting changes and amazing opportunities for our students,” Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca said. “And it does it with zero tax increase.”

With \$14.1 million in Foundation Aid coming into the district through the New York State Education Department between now and 2024, Ricca reiterated that the WPCSD will be fully funded by the 2023 to 24 academic year.

“That was something we have been talking about for years,” Ricca said.

With fully funded Foundation Aid, Ricca said the district is able to take some of the

burden off of taxpayers.

“We’re doing that with this year’s budget, so hopefully you find that exciting and can support that [on Election Day],” Ricca said.

Additional items on the ballot will be ventilation, filtration and air conditioning updates district-wide and renovations and improvements associated with phase one of the district’s capital plan — which is of zero cost to the taxpayer and tax neutral, respectively.

“By utilizing debt that’s coming off from previous bonds, we’re able to fund these projects without increasing the tax burden,” Ricca said.

While the upgrades district-wide will be implemented in a phased approach, Ricca said all changes will further cement the district’s schools as high-quality places for students to learn.

“When you’re thinking about sustainability, bringing novel, 21st-century classroom learning spaces to our kids and taking care of the upgrades and inner-workings of our facilities, all of those things are being attended to,” Ricca said. “And again, it’s tax

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Public Hearing Set for May 2 on White Plains 2022-23 Budget

By Bailey Hosfelt

A public hearing is set for May 2 to discuss the White Plains 2022 to 2023 budget.

The City of White Plains submitted a proposed \$210.3 million budget to the Common Council early last week ahead of its regularly slated meeting on April 4.

Mayor Tom Roach briefly previewed the proposed budget during the meeting, which includes a property tax increase of 1.86 percent. This will mark the 11th fiscal year White Plains developed an annual budget in accordance with the state's tax levy cap.

Roach anticipates the property tax increase will impact owners of a medium-assessed home \$58 annually, or \$4.83 cents per month.

While White Plains' two previous budgets were greatly impacted by revenue losses resulting from the pandemic, the proposed budget summary notes that the 2022 to 2023 budget for the city's general fund benefits from many of these revenues

increasing to near pre-pandemic levels.

Offsetting these increases though are the loss of federal relief dollars from the American Rescue Act of 2021, gasoline and energy price increases and other inflation-related pressures on expenditures.

"The budget provides for reasonable and realistic revenue and expenditure estimates and a real property tax rate necessary to achieve a balanced budget," the summary reads.

"As you know during COVID, we did not step back," Roach said. "We hired more police and firefighters and are planning on doing more now, maintaining the services and quality of life people in our city have come to appreciate."

Roach said the Common Council is beginning the budget process now, and there will be presentations from commissioners and budget directors in the near future.

"We will work our way through it, and then we will vote," Roach said. "I just wanted to give people an idea of where we're starting."

Citizens Advisory Committee Recognized



White Plains Mayor Tom Roach presented members of the White Plains Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee with a proclamation declaring April 11 to April 15 as National Community Development Week.

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Mignone Makes History as First Female WP DPW Commissioner

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with everyone and is very collegial," Roach added. "She does [everything] with a spirit of positivity and dedication that is a model for all."

Councilmembers Richard Payne, Victoria Presser and Justin Brasch each congratulated Mignone on her new position.

"We're very proud of you," Brasch said. "You're the first woman ever in that role, so it's really a tremendous step in the right

direction for our city, for the work that you've done and for the department you'll be leading."

Mignone thanked the entire DPW department for their support, some of whom attended her swearing-in.

"It's all of us together, and you guys really make it easy to want to keep doing stuff for the city," Mignone said. "I'm very excited for this new chapter, and I'm not going to let you down."

White Plains BOE Unanimously Adopts Proposed School Budget

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neutral."

"That is extraordinary, and I hope it pleases you well," he added.

Also on the ballot will be the establishment of another capital reserve, which is of no cost to the taxpayer.

"What it does is allows the Board of Education to make needed capital changes in our district and throughout our facilities without having to bond," Ricca said. "So again, it's another tool in the toolbox to keep us in a place where we're not looking to potentially raise the levy."

"We've utilized [a capital reserve] over the last several years, and it's worked out well," Ricca explained.

Ricca underscored that many facilities in the WPCSD stand out from other districts due to the community's continued investment in them.

"These are the people's buildings, the children's buildings, and they need to and

have stood the test of time," Ricca said. "We're going to continue to do that."

While Ricca said he cannot tell district taxpayers whether to vote in support of the budget, he highlighted the extraordinary nature of the 2022 to 2023 school budget package, which will support the community's wide-ranging needs without an increased cost.

"The most important thing you can do is make sure you and everybody who you know comes out Tuesday, May 17th from 12 to 9 p.m. and participates in the election," Ricca said.

District voters will also elect two new members to serve a three-year term on the Board of Education, beginning July 1.

Residents interested in running for a seat must collect 100 signatures from qualified school district voters. Petitions must be filed by 5 p.m. on April 27 in the district clerk's office.



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Greeley Lax Coach Fired as Team, Boosters Rally in Support

By Martin Wilbur

Members of the Horace Greeley High School boys' varsity lacrosse team vigorously defended their coach during last week's Chappaqua Board of Education meeting moments before he was removed from his post by the board.

Coach Brian Zusi was officially relieved of his duties on Apr. 6 without an explanation from district officials.

The resolution that appeared on the board's agenda to end Zusi's coaching tenure for the school's lacrosse team encouraged a majority of the squad to attend the meeting and a couple of his players to speak during

the public comments in hopes of convincing officials to change their minds.

Senior defenseman Vincent Santelia said that having Zusi removed as coach mid-season was "beyond unfair."

"Our coach is a role model for each and every one of us," Santelia said. "I've been with him for four years. He's an excellent person and he emphasizes character and he really does make us better men, and it's heartbreaking to have him taken away from us when I believe he's been here for five years."

Rich Brail, the father of a Greeley lacrosse player who was speaking on behalf of the Greeley Lacrosse Association, the team's parent booster organization, questioned why the move was being done so hastily and in the middle of the season.

He said the public and the community members associated with the team should be provided with some explanation for the sudden decision and suggested that due process may have been skirted.

"We ask that you not act on this resolution tonight and do further fact-finding and get additional input from the players most importantly, but anyone else who may have been an observer at any of these games or other activities," Brail said.

After the vote, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman did not provide any details citing it as a personnel issue.

"Personnel matters need to remain private," Ackerman said.

Examiner Sports covered Zusi's final



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Horace Greeley High School lacrosse coach Brian Zusi, pictured with some of his players during a game earlier this season, was terminated by the Chappaqua Board of Education last week. No reason was given for his firing.

game on Apr. 2 at Putnam Valley, which was attended by Ackerman, a somewhat unusual move for a district superintendent to attend a mid-season lacrosse road game. Examiner sports staff noted that it was a chippy contest that also included accusations of anti-Semitic comments being thrown around, which was later deemed to be unfounded after an investigation by both schools.

Greeley goalie Toby Moskow said at last week's meeting that he and his teammates were disappointed that Zusi was being let go and how many team members improved personally under his stewardship.

"Coach Zusi always emphasizes how the small details matter and I completely agree with him," Moskow said. "He's taught us many life lessons."



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County Advisory Board Recommends Exploring Pocantico Land Purchase

By Martin Wilbur

A resolution recommending Westchester County consider buying a 36.8-acre parcel in an environmentally sensitive area of Mount Pleasant was unanimously approved by a county advisory board last month creating a possibility that the land could be preserved from development.

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board passed the resolution on Mar. 17 for county officials to explore the potential acquisition of 715 Sleepy Hollow Rd. The property is on the shoreline of the 27-acre Pocantico Lake, a freshwater body.

Nearby Pocantico Lake residents have been urging the county to get involved since last summer, shortly after ZappiCo Real Estate Development of Hawthorne submitted a plan for a 31-lot cluster subdivision at the site.

During the scoping session held by the Mount Pleasant Planning Board last October, residents and environmental advocates stressed how the possibility of massive deforestation, potential runoff into the lake, which flows into the Hudson River, noise and traffic would spoil one of the county's most scenic locations.

It is next to about 164 acres that Westchester obtained in 1992, which is called Pocantico Lake Park. Most of that acreage is in Mount Pleasant and some in the Village of Briarcliff Manor.

"I agree that if it's possible I think any property that we can acquire due to the fact, especially that it's right next to a park that we already own, I certainly think it has merit," county Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said at the Mar. 17 Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board meeting.

The town Planning Board, which had made a positive declaration under the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process that there would be the potential for significant environmental impact, closed the scoping session nearly six months ago. Typically, it takes close to a year before the applicant returns with the responses to the public's comments and questions.

County Executive George Latimer said last week his office will have a conversation with the Board of Legislators to explore the possibility of an acquisition of the land. However, he cautioned that there are a series of variables outside of the county's control that could determine whether a sale is

feasible.

Whether or not the developer is open to selling and for what price are the two most obvious questions, he said.

"Certainly, people that live in the area would like to see the whole parcel obtained or attached to parkland," Latimer said. "Whether there's a willing seller to do that or whether the price is right, whether we can justify whatever the price is, all that would be determined. But we'd certainly be willing to dialogue, which is the logical first step."

The possibility of the partial preservation of the 36 acres has also been raised recently.

On Apr. 2 during a forum with residents at Town Hall, Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said he spoke with ZappiCo Real Estate founder and CEO Jim Zappi, who was willing to donate a portion of the land that is closest to the lake to preserve as open space.

Last week, Fulgenzi said he's optimistic that Zappi will be amenable to preserving some portion of the land while moving forward with review of the project. At the Apr. 2 forum it was thought that it could be a donation of at least half of the acreage, but that has not been determined, he said.



A photo taken last summer of the Pocantico Lake shoreline where a 31-lot cluster subdivision would be built.

"I had made the request a while back to them, and I thought it would be a good idea if they had reached out to Westchester Land Trust to see if they could work that out to preserve that land for the future," Fulgenzi said. "They are not against it and now more recently we had said that it looks like it's going in that direction."

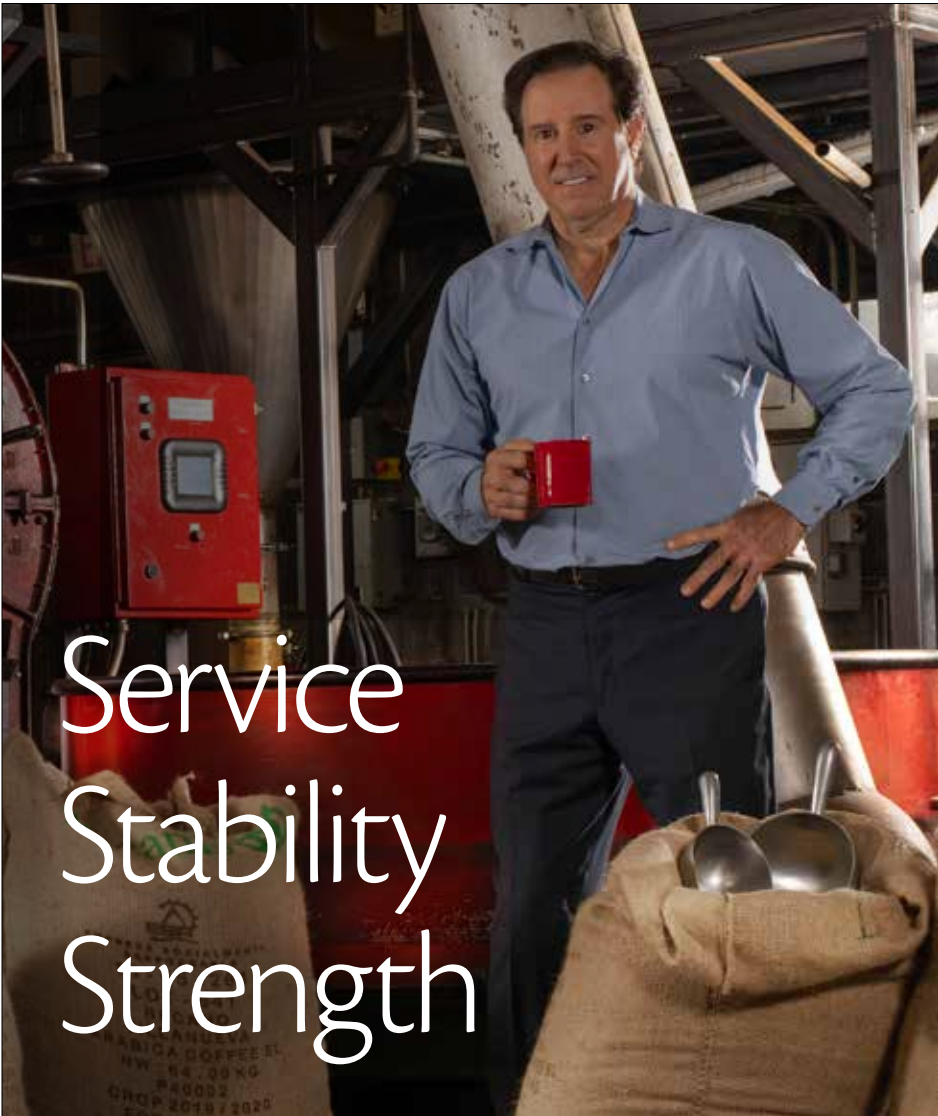
An e-mail sent last week to ZappiCo's consulting vice president, Brandon Zappi, was not returned. The company's voicemail system was not accepting messages.

Whether a partial preservation would satisfy most of the neighbors is unknown. Several residents

reached last week said they were not fully aware of the possibilities and declined comment.

However, County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant), whose district includes the property, said she's hopeful that a compromise can be reached. She said she was pleasantly surprised to learn from Fulgenzi that the developer was willing to consider donating the land he wouldn't use.

"I have communicated that information to the commissioner of planning, to the commissioner of parks, to the county executive's office, so they are now aware of that," Cunzio said.



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Residents Charge That Rumble Strips Are Worsening Their Quality of Life

By Martin Wilbur

Residents of a New Castle street are appealing to the town that the introduction of a rumble strip late last year along the double yellow line has made their lives unbearable.

Several Croton Lake Road residents said after placing the device on the road in the vicinity of Lois Place that is designed to keep people in their lane, motorists ride over them so frequently that they experience constant noise which is ruining their quality of life.

One of the residents, Mary Nicolich, said the noise is so loud it is "untenable" even with windows closed for most of the winter. She said speed is the main culprit and drivers don't seem to care if they veer a little bit to the left and go over a piece of the rumble strip on a stretch of road where there is a curve.

"I know the strips are supposed to slow people down, but this, to me, is noise pollution and you know what, let's look at human nature," Nicolich said. "Human nature doesn't change, let's face it, and I'm not being a cynic, but there have been

people driving this road for years and years and years and still speed up."

The most difficult time is in the morning from about 7 to 8:30 a.m. when area residents are leaving to go to work and the noise is constant, said another Croton Lake Road resident, Joe Buetti. Plus, the street is not just used by local residents but by other motorists who use it as a shortcut.

"A lot of people, it's like they take the back road to avoid going through the town or getting into town from where we are," Buetti said. "When they go over it, it wakes you up."

Nicolich added that it's also a problem at all hours. She recently had her son and daughter-in-law stay overnight and the room they were in faced Croton Lake Road and they were awakened repeatedly.

New Castle Police Chief James Carroll said the stretch of road has captured the town's attention for nearly 15 years. In 2008, one of the long-term recommendations of a traffic study was to put in rumble strips because of the number of complaints and accidents that have been recorded in that location, he said.

There have been eight accidents recorded in that location in recent years, which is frequently enough for safety measures to have been considered, Carroll explained. Most of the accidents have occurred in bad weather.

"It means that you're in the middle of the road, and you can find the road in inclement weather," Carroll said of the

purpose of the rumble strips. "That's the reason for the installation."

Since the strips were put down by the town's Department of Public Works on Dec. 20 for about 150 feet in each direction, there was one accident in January, which was caused by slippery pavement in bad weather, Carroll said.

The chief said he has received five letters from neighborhood residents – three against the rumble strips and two supporting the move.

Longtime resident Anthony Giardina said initially he thought the strips would be a good idea, but given how much his neighbors have complained he's wondering their effectiveness. Although not as impacted by the noise because he's further down the street, Giardina said that when residents' windows are open regularly in warmer weather, their problems will increase.

"My poor neighbors who live down the street from me, it goes right in front of their house," Giardina said. "They've been complaining that the rumble strip is so loud, when the cars hit it, it wakes them up at night and it disturbs their tranquility."

Carroll said the town has been monitoring the impact and is likely to reassess the rumble strips shortly.

"The town is trying to do everything it can to look at that intersection," Carroll said. "In fact, the Engineering Department is in the process of doing another engineering study there to see if anything has changed."

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Cortlandt Planners Issue Negative Declaration for Hudson Wellness

By Rick Pezzullo

A proposed luxury drug and alcohol rehabilitation specialty hospital in Cortlandt that has been closely watched by residents and officials in New Castle and Ossining cleared a major hurdle last week.

The Cortlandt Planning Board voted 6-1 on Apr. 5 to issue a negative declaration under the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), stating the project should not have significant adverse environmental impacts. The decision allows Hudson Wellness Center to avoid preparing a lengthy and costly Environmental Impact Statement and gives the go-ahead for the applicant to move on to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The ZBA must grant a variance since the town code requires hospitals in residential zones to be on state roads, and Quaker Ridge Road is not. Without the variance, the controversial project would not be able to move forward.

A special permit is also required to build a specialty hospital in a two-acre residential zone.

Robert Davis, the attorney for Hudson Wellness Center, told planners before the vote occurred last week that his client had demonstrated a negative declaration was warranted.

"We believe we're entitled to a negative declaration," Davis said. "We believe a negative declaration is more than amply supported by the record."

None of the six Planning Board members that agreed with Davis offered any remarks to accompany their votes. George Kimmerling cast the lone dissenting vote. The resolution contained 34 conditions.

If the ZBA issues a variance, the Planning Board will get another chance to evaluate the project during site plan review.

Hudson Wellness Center is looking to utilize the former Hudson Institute site on Quaker Ridge Road that encompasses 20 acres in Cortlandt and 28 acres in New Castle.

First presenting the project to Cortlandt officials in 2015, the backers of the project have spent nearly \$3 million to buy three parcels of land, paid attorneys and consultants hundreds of thousands of dollars, carried property taxes costing nearly \$400,000 (although sometimes paying late) and renovated the existing buildings on the site to the tune of \$1.5 million.

However, several residents have raised eyebrows about the criminal background of one of the stated principals of the project and inconsistencies in some of the documents filed by the operators. Residents have also questioned why the applicant hasn't reached out yet to the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), which would license and regulate the facility.

The number of patients that would be served by the facility has been reduced in its first year of operation to 49, and 58 thereafter. When plans were first unveiled,

92 beds were sought.

The property is near Teatown, a 1,000-acre nonprofit nature preserve and environmental education center with 15 miles of hiking trails and a two-acre island refuge.

Hudson Wellness has caught the attention of officials and residents in Ossining and New Castle. New Castle officials are concerned about increased water and sewer use in

the area, and Glendale Road being used by vehicles traveling to the site. There has also been talk of asking for a conservation easement for the acreage on the New Castle portion of the property.

"We're opposed to this application for very sound and practical reasons," David Valdez of the Millwood-West End Advisory Board said at a past public hearing.

Look at Them Now

Twins Kelsey and Kylie Wohlgemuth will serve as grand marshals for the Ronald McDonald House's Footsteps for Families Walk Over the Hudson on Sunday, May 15. Anyone may create a team to walk over the historic Walkway from the Poughkeepsie side to Orange County, the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge, to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley in Valhalla. The now healthy three-year-old Wohlgemuth sisters were born prematurely at 28 weeks and spent 72 days at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. For more information, visit www.rmh-ghv.org.



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Please refer to your Town of Yorktown Trash Collection Schedule for the list of streets included in these sections.

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Guest Column

The Beauty of Unity and How the Story of Passover Remains Relevant

By Rabbi Yehuda Heber

Friday evening, Apr. 15, is the start of the Jewish holiday of Passover. The holiday spans eight days, ending Saturday evening, Apr. 23.

Some of the Passover observances include not eating leavened bread, and having a Seder (Passover meal) complete with matzah, bitter herbs and four cups of wine on the first two nights of the holiday (Friday and Saturday evenings).

Historically, Passover commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery to King Pharaoh in ancient Egypt. The 10 plagues that the Egyptians were smitten with, and the splitting of the Red Sea, are the more well-known parts of the Exodus story.

At the Seder, liturgy is recited from a book called the Haggadah. The Haggadah contains details of the history, as well as hymns and prayers. One well-known

hymn, entitled “Dayenu,” lists all of the miracles that God performed for the Israelites as they left Egypt.

After each of the 15 stanzas of this hymn, the refrain repeats itself: “Dayenu – it would have sufficed us.” For example, the first stanza states: “If He had brought us out of Egypt, and had not carried out judgments against the Egyptians – dayenu, it would have sufficed us!”

One of the stanzas says: “If He had brought us to Mount Sinai, but not given us the Torah (the five Books of Moses) – dayenu!”

This begs the question: What would have been the purpose of the Israelites being brought to Mount Sinai if they weren’t going to be given the Torah (which occurred at Mount Sinai). What would they have accomplished, just standing there around a mountain in the desert?

Biblical commentaries teach us that at the time that the Israelites were standing

around the mountain of Sinai, prepared to receive the Torah, an incredible feeling of unity spread among the nation. They were one people who were enslaved together, freed together and now stood united to accept the precepts of the Torah as their lifestyle. Their unified cause made them look beyond any differences that existed between them as individuals and focus on their solidarity as a nation.

Dayenu tells us that if all that was accomplished at Mount Sinai was a nation united, dayenu, it would have sufficed. Unity is, in and of itself, an incredible occurrence. When we put our differences aside for the greater good and for the values of kindness and justice that we all share, it is indeed a great accomplishment.

In these times of uncertainty in so many areas of life, be it economics, politics, world peace or other matters, we need to make the effort to look past our differences and be there for each other. There is much that

unites us. Even if we can’t find solutions to all the dilemmas we face, if we can join together in our support and acceptance of each other – dayenu – it will suffice!

For more details about Passover, visit www.ChabadYorktown.com. You will find much information regarding the historical background of the holiday, how to Passover and many delicious Passover recipes. You will also find thought-provoking articles on the present-day applications of the ancient story.

To join a community Seder, purchase hand-baked Shmura Matzah, sell your chametz or to receive a free holiday guide, visit the above website, call 914-962-1111 or e-mail Rabbi@ChabadYorktown.com.

Wishing you and yours a very happy and kosher Passover!

Rabbi Yehuda Heber is the rabbi at Chabad of Yorktown, Cortlandt and Somers.

Correction

In last week’s sports section, a Horace Greeley High School lacrosse player was misidentified in a caption. The player’s correct name is Jameson Blakeslee.

The correct spelling of Briarcliff High School baseball player Jayden Amador was misspelled in last week’s issue.

The Examiner regrets the errors.

Letters to the Editor

Hochul Must Focus Attention on Roads, Not a Football Stadium

In an Apr. 9 article in The New York Times, Gov. Hochul talks about “hitting the road” to celebrate her many achievements for New York State. If she does, I hope she doesn’t “hit the road” on Route 128 from Armonk to Mount Kisco or Route 22 to White Plains or any of the embarrassing, awful, potholed, broken roads in our highly taxed part of the state.

Instead, she’ll probably go to Buffalo,

where she’s planning to spend millions of our tax money on a football stadium instead of our roads. Unless she gets “real” and starts focusing on urgent needs, like fixing our crumbling state roads rather than football stadiums, she will not get many votes from our area.

Sandy Adelman
Armonk

Calendar Submissions

We’re happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words “Calendar Submission” in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Abby Luby at aluby@theexaminernews.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING, BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION, MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, OF THE TOWNS OF MOUNT PLEASANT AND NORTH CASTLE, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Budget Hearing in lieu of an annual meeting of Mount Pleasant Central School District, of the Towns of Mount Pleasant and North Castle, State of New York, will be held on May 10, 2022, at 7:30 PM, of said day, in the Westlake High School Library, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York. This is in accordance with Chapter 853 of the Laws of 1983.

The purpose of said meeting will be:

- a. To receive from the Board of Education of the District a detailed statement in writing of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year for school purposes, exclusive of public monies, specifying the several purposes and the amount of each as provided by Section 1716 of the Education Law;
- b. Transact such other business as may lawfully come before such meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER given that the Budget Vote and School Board Election will be held on May 17, 2022, between 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM, of said day in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, for the purpose of voting upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for the 2022 - 2023 school year for school purposes and for the election of two members of the Board of Education for terms expiring June 30, 2025.

Petitions nominating candidates for the Board of Education must state the name and address of the candidate being nominated, have the signature and address of each person signing the petition, and must be filed with the Clerk of the District at her office, in the District Office, 825 Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, no later than Monday, April 18, 2022. The petition must contain at least 25 signatures of qualified voters.

The Board of Education, having provided for personal registration of voters, and having designated qualified voters to constitute a Board of Registration for this District, such Board of Registration will meet to prepare the register of voters for said Meeting and Election between the hours of 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM, Wednesday, May 11, 2022 in Westlake High School, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, and any persons shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register, provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration, he/she is known or proven to the satisfaction of such Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at the school meeting or election for which such register is prepared, and further provided that any resident of the School District who is registered to vote in general elections is qualified to vote at said meeting without having his/her name placed upon the School District register of voters provided he/she voted at a general election at least once within the last four calendar years. Further, provided that any person who has previously registered to vote in any annual district meeting or election or special district meeting or election and who has voted at an annual district meeting or election or special district meeting or election held during the past four years (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018) shall not be required to re-register.

The Board of Education has also provided for registration of qualified voters at the District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on any regular school day through May 12, 2022. The Board of Registration will also meet during the foregoing election in the Gymnasium of the Westlake High School, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, on May 17, 2022, for the purpose of preparing the register for elections held subsequent to such election.

The register prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District at the Office of the Clerk of the District, District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, at the polling place on election day, as well as between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on each of the five (5) days prior to the election excluding Sunday, May 15, 2022, except that on Saturday, May 14, 2022, it will only be available for inspection between the hours of 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the Office of the District Clerk, located in the District Office of the Mount Pleasant CSD, 825 Westlake Drive, Thornwood, NY 10594. An application for an absentee ballot must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days before the Annual Election. An application for an absentee ballot on the form prescribed by Section 2018-a of the Education Law must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the Annual Election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the Annual Budget Vote/Election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter or his/her designated agent. Upon receiving a timely application for a mailed absentee ballot, the District Clerk will mail the ballot to the address designated on the application by no later than six (6) days before the Annual Election.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the Clerk between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, except Saturday and Sunday.

Military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as a qualified voter of the school district. Military voters who are qualified voters of the school district may submit an application for a military ballot. Military voters may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application or ballot. Military voter registration forms and military ballot application forms must be received in the office of the District Clerk of the school district no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2022. No military ballot will be canvassed unless it is (1) received in the office of the District Clerk before the close of the polls on election day and showing a cancellation mark of the United States postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or showing a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States government; or (2) received by the office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 p.m. on election day and signed and dated by the military voter and one witness thereto, with a date which is associated to be not later than the day before the election.

A copy of the detailed statement in writing of the amount of the money which will be required for the school year 2022 - 2023 for school purposes, specifying the several purposes and the amount of each, as provided by Section 1716 of the Education Law, may be obtained by any resident in the District between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on each day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the annual budget vote and school election as well as on the day of the vote at the office of the following:

District Office	Westlake High School	Westlake Middle School	Columbus Elementary School	Hawthorne Elementary School
Westlake Drive	Westlake Drive	Westlake Drive	580 Columbus Avenue	Memorial Drive
Thornwood, New York 10594	Thornwood, New York 10594	Thornwood, New York 10594	Thornwood, New York 10594	Hawthorne, New York 10532

A Real Property Tax Exemption Report prepared in accordance with Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law will be annexed to any tentative/preliminary budget as well as the final adopted budget of which it will form a part; and shall be posted on District bulletin board(s) maintained for public notices, as well as on the District's website.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOWNS OF MOUNT PLEASANT AND NORTH CASTLE
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK
DISTRICT CLERK

AVISO LEGAL

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PRESUPUESTAL, VOTACIÓN SOBRE EL PRESUPUESTO Y ELECCIÓN DEL CONSEJO ESCOLAR, DISTRITO ESCOLAR CENTRAL DE MOUNT PLEASANT, DE LOS POBLADOS DE MOUNT PLEASANT Y NORTH CASTLE, CONDADO DE WESTCHESTER, NUEVA YORK.

POR ESTE MEDIO SE DA AVISO DE QUE se celebrará una audiencia presupuestal en lugar de una reunión anual del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant, de los poblados de Mount Pleasant y North Castle, estado de Nueva York, el 10 de mayo de 2022, a las 7:30 p.m. de dicho día, en la biblioteca de la Escuela Preparatoria Westlake, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York. Esto se lleva a cabo de acuerdo con el Capítulo 853 de las Leyes de 1983.

El propósito de dicha reunión será:

- a. Recibir del Consejo de Educación del Distrito un presupuesto detallado, por escrito, de la cantidad de dinero que se necesitará para propósitos escolares el próximo año, excluyendo los fondos públicos, y expresando los diversos propósitos y el importe de cada uno de acuerdo con la sección 1716 de la Ley de Educación;
- b. Tramitar otros asuntos que puedan presentarse legalmente en dicha reunión.

ADEMÁS SE DA AVISO de que la votación sobre el presupuesto y la elección del Consejo Escolar se llevarán a cabo el 17 de mayo de 2022, entre las 7:00 a.m. y las 9:00 p.m. de dicho día, en el gimnasio de la Escuela Preparatoria Westlake, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, con el fin de votar sobre la asignación de los fondos necesarios para cubrir los gastos estimados para fines escolares en el año escolar 2022 - 2023 y para la elección de dos miembros del Consejo de Educación a períodos que expiran el 30 de junio de 2025.

Las peticiones para nominar a candidatos al Consejo de Educación deben establecer el nombre y la dirección del candidato nominado, tener la firma y la dirección de cada persona que firme la petición, y deben presentarse a la secretaria del Distrito en su oficina, en la Oficina del Distrito, 825 Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 5:00 p.m., a más tardar el lunes 18 de abril de 2022. La petición debe contener por lo menos 25 firmas de votantes calificados.

El Consejo de Educación, habiendo tomado medidas para el registro personal de votantes y habiendo designado a votante calificados para integrar un Consejo de Registro de este Distrito, dicho Consejo de Registro se reunirá para preparar el registro de votantes para dicha reunión y elección entre las 5:00 p.m. y las 9:00 p.m. del miércoles 11 de mayo de 2022, en la Escuela Preparatoria Westlake, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, y toda persona tendrá derecho a que se incluya su nombre en dicho registro, asumiendo que en dicha reunión del Consejo de Registro se reconozca o se demuestre a satisfacción de dicho Consejo de Registro que tenía en ese momento, o adquiriría posteriormente, el derecho a votar en la reunión escolar o la elección para la que se preparó dicho registro, y considerando además que todos los residentes del Distrito Escolar que estén registrados para votar en las elecciones generales son elegibles para votar en dicha reunión sin necesidad de que se incluya su nombre en el registro de votantes del Distrito Escolar, asumiendo que hayan votado al menos una vez en las elecciones generales en los últimos cuatro años calendario. Además, si una persona se ha registrado previamente para votar en cualquier reunión o elección anual del distrito o en una reunión o elección especial del distrito y ha votado en una reunión o elección anual del distrito o en una reunión o elección especial del distrito en los últimos cuatro años (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018), esa persona no necesita volver a registrarse. El Consejo de Educación también ha tomado medidas para el registro de votantes calificados en la Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 3:00 p.m. de cualquier día regular de clases hasta el 12 de mayo de 2022. El Consejo de Registro también se reunirá durante la elección en curso en el gimnasio de la Escuela Preparatoria Westlake, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, el 17 de mayo de 2022, con el fin de preparar el registro para las elecciones a celebrarse posteriormente a dicha elección.

El registro preparado en los términos de la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación se entregará en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, y estará disponible para que lo inspeccione cualquier votante calificado del Distrito en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, en el centro de votación el día de la elección, así como entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 4:00 p.m. de cada uno de los cinco (5) días previos a la elección, excluyendo el domingo 15 de mayo de 2022, excepto que el sábado 14 de mayo de 2022 solamente estará disponible para inspección entre las 8:30 a.m. y las 10:30 a.m.

ADEMÁS, TOME EN CUENTA que las solicitudes de papeletas para voto en ausencia pueden presentarse en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, situada en la Oficina del Distrito del DEC de Mount Pleasant, 825 Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, 10594. Las solicitudes de papeletas para voto en ausencia deben recibirse en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito no más de treinta (30) días antes de la elección anual. Las solicitudes de papeletas para voto en ausencia en el formulario ordenado por la Sección 2018-a de la Ley de Educación deben recibirse en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito por lo menos siete (7) días antes de la elección anual si la papeleta debe enviarse por correo al votante, o a más tardar el día antes de la votación del presupuesto anual y elección, si la papeleta se entregará personalmente al votante o su representante designado. Tras recibir de manera oportuna una solicitud de enviar por correo una papeleta para voto en ausencia, la secretaria del Distrito enviará la papeleta por correo a la dirección señalada en la solicitud, a más tardar seis (6) días antes de la elección anual.

Habrá disponible una lista de todas las personas a las que se enviaron papeletas para voto en ausencia en la oficina de la secretaria, de 9:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m., excepto los sábados y domingos.

Los votantes militares que no estén registrados actualmente pueden solicitar su registro como votantes calificados del distrito escolar. Los votantes militares que sean votantes calificados del distrito escolar pueden presentar una solicitud de papeleta militar. Los votantes militares pueden indicar la preferencia de recibir un registro de votante militar, una solicitud de papeleta militar o una papeleta militar por correo, fax o correo electrónico en su solicitud de registro, solicitud de papeleta o papeleta. Los formularios de registro de votantes militares y formularios de solicitud de papeletas militares deben recibirse en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito del distrito escolar a más tardar a las 5:00 p. m. del 21 de abril de 2022. No podrá tomarse en cuenta una papeleta militar que no sea (1) recibida en la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito antes del cierre de los centros de votación el día de la elección y con un matasellos del servicio postal de Estados Unidos o del servicio postal de un país extranjero, o con un acuse de recibo fechado de otra agencia del gobierno de Estados Unidos; o (2) recibida por la oficina de la secretaria del Distrito a más tardar a las 5:00 p. m. del día de la elección y firmada y fechada por el votante militar y un testigo del hecho, con una fecha que se determine que no es posterior al día antes de la elección.

Cualquier residente del Distrito puede recibir una copia del presupuesto detallado por escrito con la cantidad de dinero que se requerirá para el año escolar 2022 - 2023 para propósitos escolares, especificando los diversos propósitos y la cantidad de dinero para cada uno, según lo establecido en la Sección 1716 de la Ley de Educación, entre las 8:00 a.m. y las 3:00 p.m., todo los días excepto sábados, domingos y días feriados, durante los catorce (14) días inmediatamente anteriores a la votación del presupuesto anual y la elección escolar, así como el día de la votación en la siguiente oficina:

Oficina del Distrito	Escuela Preparatoria Westlake	Escuela Secundaria Westlake	Escuela Primaria Columbus	Escuela Primaria Hawthorne
Westlake Drive	Westlake Drive	Westlake Drive	580 Columbus Avenue	Memorial Drive
Thornwood, Nueva York 10594	Thornwood, Nueva York 10594	Thornwood, Nueva York 10594	Thornwood, Nueva York 10594	Hawthorne, Nueva York 10532

Se anexará un informe de exenciones de impuestos a bienes raíces, preparado de acuerdo con la sección 495 de la Ley de Impuestos a Bienes Raíces, a cualquier presupuesto tentativo o preliminar, así como al presupuesto definitivo adoptado del que formará parte; y se publicará en el tablero de mensajes que mantiene el Distrito para avisos públicos, así como en el sitio de internet del Distrito.

POR ORDEN DEL CONSEJO DE EDUCACIÓN
DISTRITO ESCOLAR CENTRAL DE MOUNT PLEASANT
POBLADOS DE MOUNT PLEASANT Y NORTH CASTLE
CONDADO DE WESTCHESTER, NUEVA YORK
SECRETARIA DEL DISTRITO

Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Students Impress at School STEAM Fair

By Martin Wilbur

Throughout winter and spring, it's common to find thousands of students throughout the region working on science and technology projects at fairs and competitions.

One school that might not be top of mind when it comes to seeing high-quality projects is the Linden Hill School, part of the Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Union Free School District.

Last Friday, the school held its annual STEAM fair for students in grades 8-12, who displayed an array of impressive projects tackling a wide assortment of topics.

"There's a lot of misconceptions with special ed but these kids are top-notch and they really prove it. Some kids do go on to regional competitions," said science teacher Dr. Maksim Vasilevsky, who helps organize the fair.

Ninth-grader Misael Santiago focused his project on marine biology. There is an entire world in the oceans well below the surface of the water that few people get to see or learn about, he said. One of his favorites are the giant squids that can grow to more than 30 feet long and can weigh over 1,000 pounds.

"They're always so fascinating to me," Santiago said. "I love one creature in particular, which is the giant octopus because they're usually very alienated and isolated. So I chose them because they always stood out to me."

Another student, Nick Buckeridge, also in ninth grade, focused on how the NOZzER watch operates. He said a person wears it like a conventional wristwatch, but if you should start to doze off it jolts your hands to



Nick Buckeridge researched the NOZzER Watch for his project at the Hawthorne Cedar Knolls STEAM Fair last Friday. People wear the watch on their wrists to prevent themselves from falling asleep.

wake you up. It's best used to prevent drowsy drivers from falling asleep behind the wheel, which could injure or kill themselves, their passengers and other motorists.

"It can save lives and like it stops getting people into any type of bad things," he said. "It's not just driving but people have tests to do in school, whether it's their Regents or any type of tests, they can have this and have it on them while they're doing their work."

Linden Hill Principal Robert Worden said he's consistently impressed with the projects that the students can create. Worden acknowledged that his worst subject growing up was science.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Misael Santiago with his marine biology project that explored deep sea creatures, one of dozens of projects at last week's Hawthorne Cedar Knolls STEAM Fair.

The students come from districts throughout New York City and the lower Hudson Valley, sometimes traveling up to two hours to reach the school. But many arrive prepared to learn.

"They come from varying backgrounds," Worden said. "A lot of them, not all of them, haven't had a strong parental support system growing up. I admire them. I've been here now 13 years and I admire them and their ability to just get up in the morning."

For district superintendent Ray Raefski, a lifelong area resident and Pleasantville High School graduate, the STEAM fair is one of the highlights of the year.

"When I walk in here, I feel like it can be any high school in New York State, that our kids rise to the occasion and do a great job," Raefski said. "So I'm just inspired by the projects, what they put into them and how they're able to stand here and tell us what they did."

Vasilevsky said there are students who use the STEAM Fair and the year-long planning that goes into completing their projects as a springboard to finding careers in a science, technology, engineering or math-related field.

"A lot of these kids go on to college for engineering and technology," Vasilevsky said. "We had a couple of kids last year who went on to a veterinary program to become technicians. It all depends what they want to be."



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P'ville Village Trustee Opens New Law Office to Assist Immigrants

By Abby Luby

A large, jubilant contingent turned out to celebrate the grand opening of attorney W. Paul Alvarez's new law office last Friday afternoon in Pleasantville.

The sun came out to the relief of about 60 people who attended the chilly ceremonial ribbon cutting and to honor Alvarez and his family who stood in front of his new office on Manville Road.

"It's a blessing to be here," Alvarez said after cutting the large green ribbon. "So many people had a part in helping me."

Alvarez, a member of the Pleasantville Village Board, recounted his long journey from Ecuador, how his family began the long process to immigrate to the United States and how he arrived here as an eight-year-old in 1989.

"I'm dedicating this event to my parents and to all parents who sacrifice everything to give their kids the best chance to be succeed," he said.

By his side were his parents, Maritza and Guillermo Alvarez, his sister, Michelle, wife Katie and his two children, Brendan, 5, and Madison, 3. Alvarez's parents arrived in Pleasantville and started a successful cleaning service,

which continues to operate.

"My parents pushed me," Alvarez told the group. "I was okay to take over my father's business but my father wasn't. I guess he won."

"This is a big day for us," said Katie Alvarez, who grew up in White Plains and met Paul in college. "He's helped so many families get asylum and green cards. I couldn't be more proud of him."

In deference to the many Latinos at the ceremony, Alvarez gave his remarks in English and Spanish. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer and Westchester County Legislator Margaret Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant), who presented Alvarez with a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Legislators. Also on hand was Shari Ascher, Westchester County's director of policy and programs for small business and chambers of commerce, who gave Alvarez a proclamation from County Executive George Latimer recognizing him as "an outstanding attorney, leader and citizen worthy of the highest praise."

Alvarez has long counseled immigrants who have sought



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Pleasantville village Trustee W. Paul Alvarez and his wife, Katie, cut the ribbon in front of his new law office at last Friday's celebration on Manville Road in Pleasantville. Alvarez is an immigration attorney helping families navigate the legal process involving asylum requests, visas and naturalization applications.

asylum and helped to obtain visas and naturalization applications, among other legal steps, required by immigrants.

"This is my dream come true," said Alvarez's father, Guillermo. "Thank God I can see that he has his own firm. Paul was illegal when he came to this country and he knows what that's like. I pushed him when he was in college and

pushed him to finish law school so he didn't have to work with me. And by the way, the 'W' in his name stands for Washington."

Alvarez worked at his parents' cleaning service as manager and bookkeeper after he graduated SUNY Oneonta where he was a political science and Spanish major. He worked as a paralegal for local immigration attorney

Julie Mullaney and attended Pace Law School where as a student he worked for the school's Criminal Justice Clinic and the Pace Immigration Justice Clinic.

Praising Alvarez was Pace law professor Vanessa Merton who said she admired him for his professionalism, compassion and leadership.

Alvarez's uncle, George Yanez, remembered his nephew teaching him English as an elementary school student.

"I was an immigrant trying to get citizenship and he helped me, he helped so many people," Yanez said.

Among the friends and relatives at the ribbon cutting last week was Alvarez's friend Carlos Vallejo and his cousin Bryan Vallejo.

"I'm proud of him and his hard work. It's very inspiring," Bryan Vallejo said.

Scherer added his appreciation for the entire family.

"It was a really lucky day for this community when the Alvarez family found their way to Pleasantville, New York," Scherer said. "And every single year they have been here, everyone knows if you want something done right and intelligently, get an Alvarez on the job."



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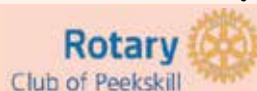
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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Apr. 5: Report of a larceny at TJ Maxx on East Main Street at 4:15 p.m. A store employee reported that a man asked to be shown some jewelry, snatched five bracelets from the display case and ran from the store. The vehicle that the man fled in was subsequently identified by Real Time Crime Center detectives. The information about the vehicle and its registered owner was turned over to a detective at the Green Street precinct. The investigation is continuing.

Apr. 5: Officers responded at 9:02 a.m. to a Lexington Avenue business on a report of a theft of company property. A supervisor reported that \$4,000 worth of tools and equipment were missing from a company truck last used by an employee who was subsequently terminated. The matter is being handled by detectives for additional investigation.

Apr. 7: A resident reported at 8:37 p.m. that he had been defrauded out of \$4,100 while attempting to obtain tech support for computer problems he was having. The man called a number he found on the internet in the belief that it was Microsoft tech support. The person who took the call told the victim to go and purchase Macy's gift cards and then text photos of the front and back of the cards. Once he did so, he was cut off and could not reach anyone at the number again. Detectives are investigating the matter and remind the public that a request for payment in gift

cards is a common indicator of a scam.

Apr. 8: Officers responded to multiple false alarms. There were activated alarms at a South Moger Avenue business at 5:44 a.m. and an East Main Street business at 6:13 a.m. Both premises were found to be secure. At 8:04 a.m., officers responded to an activated burglar alarm at the Mount Kisco Public Library. The alarm had been accidentally triggered by an employee arriving for work.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Mar. 30: A Harrison Street caller reported at 7:06 p.m. that her neighbor keeps banging on the ceiling and the noise is scaring her child. Patrols responded and mediated the situation.

Apr. 2: A caller reported at 8:42 a.m. that his car hit a goose on southbound Route 9A. An investigation revealed the driver's vehicle registration was suspended for an insurance lapse and the vehicle was impounded. The driver, a 26-year-old Peekskill man, was arrested for having a suspended registration and released on his own recognizance.

Apr. 4: A caller requested police assistance with two students fighting on a school bus at 3:36 p.m. Patrols responded and reported the fight had stopped prior to their arrival. Both juveniles were transported to police headquarters. The parents were notified of the incident and were each told to come pick up their child.

New Castle Police Department

Apr. 4: At 3:25 p.m., Millwood Market reported that a black jeep, with unknown registration, struck and damaged a metal pillar in front of a gas pump. The jeep left the scene without reporting it. Police are reviewing the surveillance footage in hopes of identifying the vehicle and driver.

Apr. 4: Officers responded to the multiuse court behind Town Hall at 4:20 p.m. on a report of two subjects having a verbal dispute. Police spoke with a youth involved who was irate because he left his bicycle in a parking spot and a motorist accidentally scratched it. Officers mediated the dispute and the youth's parent

was contacted.

Apr. 5: A caller reported looking through their surveillance camera system from the previous night and noticed that at 4:45 a.m. an unknown vehicle with a flashlight drove around Circle Drive. Officers reviewed the video, which showed an unknown sedan slowly driving around the cul-de-sac, shining a flashlight onto surrounding homes and neighboring wooded areas, possibly looking for something. The driver never exited the vehicle and no other suspicious incidents were reported. Police are conducting extra checks of the surrounding area during the overnight hours.

North Castle Police Department

Apr. 1: A vehicle operator was arrested on North Broadway at 6:06 p.m. for having a suspended registration following a traffic stop. The vehicle was impounded and towed to Armonk Garage.

Apr. 4: A party arrived at headquarters at 1:26 p.m. reporting that she believes money was taken from her purse while shopping on Maple Avenue. The party would like to make this report a matter of record.

Pleasantville Police Department

Apr. 7: The light to cross the street at Bedford Road and Broadway was not functioning at 8:58 a.m. The state Department of Transportation was notified.

Apr. 9: A vehicle was impounded at 4:57 a.m. because it was parked illegally on Memorial Plaza before the farmers market.

Putnam County Sheriff's Department

Mar. 29: A 26-year-old Putnam Valley man was arrested and charged with DWI at about 1:45 a.m. and issued numerous traffic infractions. A deputy traveling eastbound on Fair Street in Carmel observed an approaching vehicle with high-beam headlights. The deputy stopped the vehicle on Route 301 near Gypsy Trail Road. The vehicle's driver displayed several signs of intoxication and failed a sobriety test.

Mar. 30: Deputies responded to several homes in the Lake Peekskill area to take reports of thefts from parked vehicles.

An investigation revealed that cash and valuables had been stolen from numerous parked vehicles on Lake Drive, Williams Street and Argyle Street. The vehicles had been left unlocked. The Sheriff's Department reminds local residents to secure personal property and keep car doors locked whenever possible.

Mar. 31: A 41-year-old North Carolina man was arrested at about 1:15 a.m. for felony DWI, aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and numerous traffic infractions. A deputy observed a sedan with expired North Carolina plates traveling east on Fairfield Drive in Patterson. The deputy stopped the vehicle on Lake Shore Drive and observed open beer bottles. The driver displayed several signs of intoxication and failed a sobriety test. The charge was elevated to a felony due to a DWI conviction within the last 10 years. The defendant was processed at the Putnam County Correctional Facility before being arraigned in Patterson Justice Court. He was released on his own recognizance.

Yorktown Police Department

Apr. 1: A 17-year-old Mohegan Lake boy was charged at 6 p.m. with juvenile delinquency in connection with a Mar. 26 incident on Cranberry Lane near Blackberry Woods Park. A group of youths were harassing two younger youths playing in a wooded area of the park and shooting Orbeez soft gel balls at them. An investigation revealed that the teen who was charged shot one victim with soft gel balls, yelled and threw rocks at both youths and caused damage to a bicycle helmet.

Apr. 3: Lazaro Granda-Harris, 20, of Peekskill, was charged with DWI at 5:57 p.m. after being pulled over on Route 202 for having excessively tinted windows and an inadequate exhaust.

Apr. 4: Christopher Perez, 37, of Mohegan Lake, was charged at 11:10 a.m. with criminal mischief and falsely reporting an incident following an accident on Strawberry Road. Perez reported to police that he was followed home and his vehicle was stolen from his residence. He also said he was robbed of property and shot at twice. An investigation determined Perez allegedly crashed his vehicle and caused damage to a rock wall.

Apr. 5: Jan Kluk, 67, of Yorktown, was charged with attempted assault and criminal possession of a weapon at 2:44 p.m. following the report of an assault in progress on Crompond Road. An investigation revealed Kluk attempted to cause physical injury by hitting the victim in the shoulder with a wooden bat.

White Plains Police Department

Apr. 5: Eleazar Amaya was arrested for third-degree burglary for an incident at 2 Van Wart Ave.

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

Obituary

William Dowling

William Joseph Dowling Jr., 87, passed away peacefully after complications from surgery and COVID-19 on Apr. 5.

Bill was a lifelong Westchester resident who spent the last 60 years living and working as a criminal defense attorney in New York City and Westchester County from his office in Bronxville. Bill was a proud alumnus of Fordham University Law School. He was a voracious reader and prolific historian. Anyone who knew Bill will attest to his enthusiastic love of the arts. Bill was a devout traditionalist Roman Catholic. Through his deep and abiding faith in God, he found tremendous love, friendship, support and community in his church family.

Bill was predeceased by his parents, Anna Rose Pappalardi Dowling and William Joseph Dowling. He is survived by his beloved children, Anna Elisabeth Dowling and William Joseph Dowling, III; his grandson, Brendan Dowling; and adoring cousins whom he loved as siblings.

Requiem Mass was held at St. John Paul II Maronite Catholic Church at Immaculate Conception in Sleepy Hollow on Apr. 8. Interment followed at Holy Mount Cemetery in Eastchester.

Flowers may be sent to Dwyer & Michael's Funeral Home in Tarrytown. Notes of sympathy and remembrance may be sent to Anna Elisabeth Dowling, 4115 Davis Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007. Masses for the repose of his soul will be greatly appreciated.

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Fun Easter Basket Alternatives to Candy

Looking to fill your child's Easter basket with something a bit different this year? Unlike candy, these fun and engaging gift ideas will last well beyond the holiday.

Expand the library. Grow your child's library with books that expand their horizons. For example, "100 Words About Places I Go" is an interactive learning book featuring words in English and Spanish. Ten touch-sensitive locations on each page teach about words, colors and counting in the context of 12 unique places, like the beach, the farm, the amusement park and more.

Another title to consider is the "100 Animals Book," which introduces children to animals from the desert, savanna, rainforest and more through illustrations, photographs and fun facts that promote early science awareness.

Finally, the "Learning Friends 100 Words Book" introduces little learners to words about food, nature,



opposites and more.

Make crafting happen. Kids' crafting kits can boost creativity and spur your child's artistic side. There are many options that are perfect for celebrating the spring season, from gardening kits to bird feeder

painting kits to terrariums.

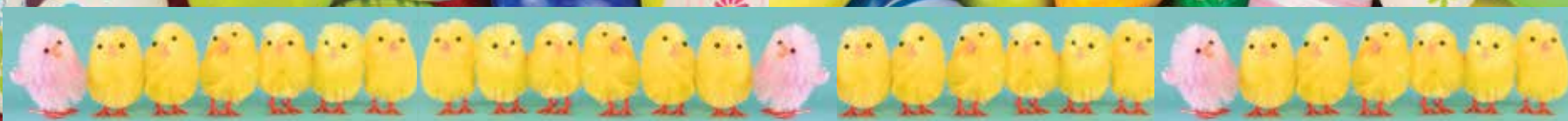
Create Learning Fun. With no web connection, downloads or account setup required, children can get right to the fun with LeapLand Adventures, a unique plug-and-play TV video game adventure for

early learners from LeapFrog. With 15 re-playable levels introducing curriculum-based content and important foundational skills, preschoolers will enjoy going on a quest across LeapLand to learn about letters, numbers, shapes and colors.

"Adopt" an Animal. You can introduce children to an important cause in a way they can understand through a symbolic adoption from the World Wildlife Fund. Adoption kits, which support efforts to protect animals in the wild, come with a plush toy, a photograph, an adoption certificate and a species card containing fascinating facts about the animal and its habitat.

This year, think beyond the typical Easter basket selections and opt for memorable gifts that enrich the mind and connect kids to the world around them.

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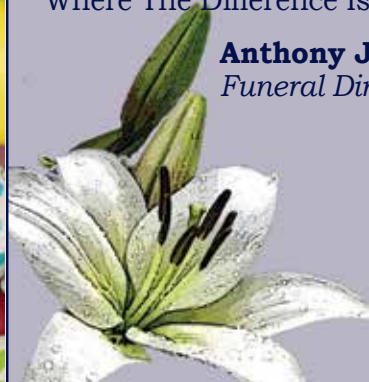
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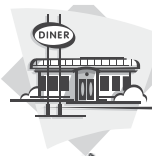


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New Community Provides Luxury Senior Living Close to Family

By Martin Wilbur

There has been much concern that Westchester County and neighboring counties have a dearth of independent living options for empty nesters and retirees.

The shortage forces many older people to relocate to other areas of the country, far from friends and family if they want to downsize and leave worries of high taxes and ongoing house maintenance behind.

Representatives of Waterstone of Westchester, a 132-apartment luxury apartment complex in White Plains, are hoping to make a dent in that local senior living desert. The luxury 62-and-up community opened just over a month ago on Bloomingdale Road, within walking distance or a short drive of shopping and restaurants.

But Waterstone's major attraction is the array of amenities and activities for its residents in a setting that is more like an upscale hotel resort than simply a residence for seniors. There's a fitness center and indoor pool, a salon, the chance to make an appointment with a masseuse, a bar in the lobby, a small movie theater with plush chairs showing two films a day and an art studio and game room. Reservations can be made at no additional cost for a chauffeur if traveling within a 12-mile radius.

"I have to tell you, they haven't left anything out," said Waterstone of Westchester Executive Director Lauren Freifeld. "I think they've considered where we are and everything is here, and it makes whatever your interests are, there's something



for you."

Residents can choose from a one-bedroom apartment, one bedroom with a den or a two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit, Freifeld said. There are also two penthouse apartments featuring two bedrooms, two-and-half-bathrooms and a den.

Rents start at \$8,700 a month for one-bedroom units, \$9,300 for the one-bedroom with a den and \$10,500 for the two-bedroom, two-bath apartments.

Particularly impressive is the dining room, that Freifeld described as "truly a restaurant." Residents can choose to come down at the time that's best for them rather than being dictated to when meals are served.

Every resident is welcome to the daily continental breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. and there is also one full meal a day. You can receive a full breakfast at anytime during the dining room hours, which is until about 7 p.m. On a recent weekday, the choice for dinner included pan-seared striped bass, beef



One of the units at the new luxury senior living community Waterstone of Westchester in White Plains. Left: Waterstone of Westchester is near shopping and restaurants.

stew and lobster linguini, among other food selections. It sets Waterstone apart from other age-restricted communities, Freifeld said.

"This is not an old-age home," she said. "This is different and I think the company wanted to get that experience out there. This is something I would want to live in. I would want to visit my parents here. We hear that a lot from the families."

Most of the first group of residents who have moved in are in their 70s, although there is one 99-year-old man, Freifeld said. Waterstone has received commitments for 30 percent of the units as staff is scheduling tours for families on a regular basis.

The apartments are equipped with designer kitchens and new appliances; a washer and dryer; walk-in closets; walk-in showers in the bathrooms; and weekly housekeeping services, Freifeld said. There's even an emergency generator in case a major

storm hits. The only utility that isn't included is WiFi.

Although it's independent living, Waterstone has an on-site partnership with Visiting Nurse Service of Westchester for those who need a modicum of assistance with medication management or showering, for example, Freifeld said.

The White Plains location is the fifth Waterstone in the United States. There are three locations in Massachusetts and another in Stamford, Conn., said Joanna Cormac Burt, COO of EPOCH Senior Living, an assisted living group which has partnered with Waterstone. If a resident needs greater services in the future, they can transfer to one of the assisted living facilities.

"Opening a building in the middle of a pandemic has been very challenging, but at the end of the day, we made it to the finish line and we have a great product here," Burt said.

Residents can come and go at their leisure and there is a parking structure with electric car chargers.

Freifeld said the pandemic has highlighted loneliness and isolation, which won't happen at Waterstone. Residents also don't have to negotiate steps.

"A lot of people wait until something happens," Freifeld said. "Don't wait for that crisis because if you move in, hopefully that crisis can be avoided because you're engaged, you're active. When people aren't active is when things happen."

For more information, call 914-821-6369 or visit www.waterstoneofwestchester.com.



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Encountering and Dealing With Seller's Remorse

Today, we in the real estate business hear a lot about buyer's remorse, which means either that a buyer regrets a housing purchase after the fact or walks away from a deal before it is consummated.

But what about the condition known as seller's remorse?

One might think that sellers would be glad to move on to the next chapter in their lives when they are ready, and if they are hesitant in any way when a buyer comes along, maybe they are just not ready.

Readers of this column would know that my wife and I had lived in an historic home for many years, but a half-dozen years ago, we decided it was time to move on to a home that required less maintenance. We found a perfect young couple to assume its stewardship.

But as I was checking the house for the final walk-through, I realized I was feeling those pangs of separation as I walked from room to room, recalling memories of events that have taken place within those walls. At one point, in a small room once used for our young baby, it was almost too much. I suddenly recognized that I was experiencing a certain sense of sadness. Oh my, I thought, is this the feeling of seller's remorse?

I had observed the phenomenon just once when making an offer to a seller on behalf of a client. At the height of the "bubble" market in the early 2000s, I had found a perfect buyer who offered full price for a home, but the



By Bill Primavera

seller dragged his feet in accepting the offer until, finally, his agent told me that he was just unable to deal with selling at that time and was withdrawing the listing.

Actually, in such a case, the listing agent could have demanded her full fee since she had brought a buyer to the table who was ready, willing and able to purchase at asking price.

A while back I read something about seller's remorse online, but when I looked it up to refresh my memory, I could no longer find it posted. As luck would have it, however, I found a folder with a printout of the reasons.

The article attributed the main cause of seller's remorse to homeowners just not being motivated enough to sell in the first place because they don't have a good enough reason to do it.

It was suggested on that website that a prospective seller check with the list of reasons most homeowners sell to see if the motivation is really there. Here they are:

1. The home is too small for a growing family.
2. To upgrade, based on the premise that people long for a bigger, more expensive and grander home.
3. To fix a mistake in having bought the wrong kind of house in the first place.
4. Job transfer.
5. Personal relationships, divorce, new affair, etc.



6. Neighborhood changes.
7. Empty nest.
8. To see family more often.
9. See family less often.
10. Retirement.
11. Health problems.
12. Deferred maintenance. Some homeowners prefer to buy a new home rather than fix what needs to be fixed.
13. Home improvement perfection. A segment of the population loves to fix up a home, and once it's perfect, they grow restless and want to start the process all over again.
14. Some people can't stand sitting on equity without having all that money in their pockets.
15. Lifestyle change. Some mature Americans want to cash in and buy a co-op or condo with less maintenance and then travel or

find some worthwhile work.

As for my wife and me, our former home simply became too big for us as empty nesters and we were ready to move on to maintenance-free condo living.

But after all this time, I still clearly recall that feeling of sadness I experienced in walking through the house that last time. It was probably a normal reaction to having sweet memories of our long-term living experience in a special place and we are more than ready for a new chapter in our lives.

It all worked out as it was supposed to.

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

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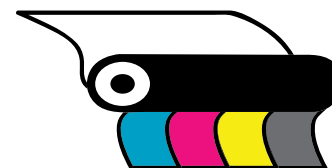
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Fox-Alter Tapped to Become East Ramapo Monitor

By Martin Wilbur

State Education Commissioner Betty Rosa announced last Tuesday that former Pleasantville superintendent of schools Mary Fox-Alter was appointed as the state's academic monitor for the troubled East Ramapo Central School District.

Fox-Alter, who will serve with Bruce Singer, the state's fiscal monitor for the Rockland County district since March 2020, began her new role on Apr. 7. She replaces the previous academic monitor, Denise Lowe, who resigned from the post last month after serving for the last two years.

"Ms. Fox-Alter is a proven and effective district leader with a unique ability to support students, teachers, families, and school board members alike," Rosa said in a statement. "Her blend of experience in public and private schools coupled with her strong commitment to student success and the community make her an exceptional choice for the East Ramapo Central School District."

The East Ramapo state monitors oversee district finances and operations and help to ensure that students have equitable access to high-quality instruction, programs and services.

Reached last Tuesday, Fox-Alter said her role is to provide oversight for the district's voluminous long-term academic plan. She will be attending board meetings and interacting with staff in hopes of helping the district to achieve its goals.

"It's very detailed, there's a lot of information in it and my job is to review it and to constantly help them through the process," said Fox-Alter, who was contacted by the commissioner to fill the vacancy.

Her appointment is for one year.

The state legislature created the monitor positions for East Ramapo in 2016 after repeated allegations that the Board of Education was inadequately funding the district.

Fox-Alter retired from Pleasantville at the end of 2021 after 31 years in the district, the last 12 of which were as superintendent. She started her career as a social studies and computer science teacher in Catholic schools for the first nine years of her career.

Since retiring from Pleasantville, Fox-Alter has also been teaching a course for a Manhattanville College doctorate program.

"Mary Fox-Alter will bring a depth of knowledge, skill and understanding to the state monitor position, which is thoughtfully designed to help all

children in East Ramapo," said Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young Jr. "Ms. Fox-Alter's ability to forge meaningful, collaborative relationships with school board leadership while maintaining a productive relationship with the community will allow her to quickly become a valuable asset to the students and families of the East Ramapo community."

East Ramapo is one of four school districts in the state that requires a monitor, along with the Hempstead, Rochester and Wyandanch school districts. East Ramapo is the only one of the districts to have two monitors, both of which are considered state employees

for their length of service, according to the state Education Department website.

Fox-Alter said that she was happy to answer the call from the education commissioner.

"I was honored to think that the body of work that I've done for advocacy on the state and local level and the positions I held in the professional organizations caught the attention," she said.

Mary Fox-Alter, who retired in December after serving as the Pleasantville School District's superintendent, was appointed as one of two monitors for the East Ramapo School District.



EARTH DAY EVENTS

APRIL 2022:

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Throughout the month of April, the Town of Cortlandt Green Team is encouraging residents to participate in a community clean-up. All you have to do is gather friends and family and sign up! We'll provide the gloves and bags

APRIL 22, 2022 (FRIDAY):

MOBILE SHREDDER

Help to recycle paper and reduce identity theft
Town of Cortlandt Town Hall Parking Lot
1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor
10:00am-1:00pm

APRIL 23, 2022 (SATURDAY)

EARTH DAY HIKE

Discover the Beauty in Cortlandt and learn about the nature and history of Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson. Registration: Please email to rsvp@townofcortlandt.com or call (914) 734-1002 to reserve your spot! Hike begins at 10AM.

EARTH DAY ARTWORK SUBMISSIONS

What does Earth Day mean to you Cortlandt? This year, the Town's Green Team is asking residents of all ages to send us a work of art related to the Earth Day theme for a chance to be featured on our social media platforms! It can be a drawing, painting or photo. The submission deadline is on Wednesday, April 20th. Please email Supervisor@townofcortlandt.com.



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Jehovah's Witnesses Have Much to Celebrate Entering Holiday Weekend

By Martin Wilbur

The upcoming weekend is one of the biggest of the year for practicing Christians, who will celebrate Good Friday and Easter, and Jews who will come together on Friday for the first night of Passover.

The same is true for Jehovah's Witnesses, a millenarian restorationist Christian denomination. On Friday, they will commemorate the death of Jesus Christ.

For the first time in three years, the critical day on the calendar will be in person, at Kingdom Halls around the world welcoming back millions of worshippers for in-person observance. Jehovah's Witnesses began encouraging congregations around the world to return to in-person worship on Apr. 1.

Robert Hendriks, the U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses based in Warwick, Orange County, said the decision to return to live meetings was made as a larger percentage of people are vaccinated and people increasingly are more knowledgeable how to navigate COVID-19.

Like most other religious organizations, the pandemic has forced its practitioners to adapt to virtual worship but also how

to spread the word without going door to door.

In March 2020, Jehovah's Witnesses suspended its public ministry in the United States. Instead, letters were written, phone calls were made and virtual meetings were held twice a week.

For arguably the most public religious organization in the world, or the one that relies most on in-person interaction, Jehovah's Witnesses reinvented itself.

"There has been a number of lessons. One is spirituality is not about a building and it's not about in-person meetings and it's not even about in-person ministry," Hendriks said. "As much as we love those things and as much as it enhances our worship, we have prevailed despite that."

"I think we have found a way to be resilient and as a result of that resiliency, we have found a way to wrap our arms around more people, different ones, people who we may not have been able to reach before, (and) people who may have been in the dark," Hendriks added.

The twice-weekly virtual meetings drew an average attendance of 1.5 million people in the United States across the roughly 13,000 congregations in the United States, even though

there are only about 1.3 million people in America who identify as Jehovah's Witnesses.

Although this month marked the return of in-person meetings, there is still the live-stream option for those not ready to crowd into a Kingdom Hall, Hendriks said.

Last summer, before the Omicron variant took hold late in the year, Jehovah's Witnesses experimented with holding live meetings at about 10 congregations in Puerto Rico and four or five more in Connecticut, when at the time infection rates were low and vaccination rates were high in those locations. It was sort of a dry run for what some would call hybrid meetings.

"The beauty of this is if you're not comfortable in coming back to a meeting, whether you live in Scarsdale or in South Africa, if you're not comfortable you can stay home and still have the beautiful experience over Zoom that we've had for two years," Hendriks said.

Hendriks dispelled a widely held but inaccurate belief that Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in vaccines. Similar to people in every faith, there are those who have chosen not to vaccinate themselves but that is a personal decision, not a religious



Whether in person or via Zoom, Jehovah's Witnesses are looking forward to this weekend's holiday. Two weeks ago, the decision to encourage return to in-person worship was made.

mandate.

In fact, in many areas the rates of vaccination among Jehovah's Witnesses are higher than the general population, Hendriks said. The teachings are to love life and your neighbor, and by believing in medical treatments, including vaccines, Jehovah's Witnesses are able to demonstrate that, he said.

"We love the medical profession, we believe in science and we believe in the science of the vaccine," Hendriks said. "We're appreciative of the medical community. We try to make that clear all the way through."

Currently, the Jehovah's Witnesses haven't scheduled resumption of the door-to-door ministry, but when it's the appropriate time to do so that decision will be made, Hendriks said.

Meanwhile, they're looking forward to the big holiday weekend, and for many congregants, it will be their first time worshipping in person in more than two years.

"We know resuming in-person meetings will bring us even closer together. We're anxious to see one another again," he said.

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Seven Heron Sunday, or Egrets, I've Had a Few

This article previously appeared on the birdmanwalking.com blog.

By Brian Kluepfel

A gray aspect to a dreary October Sunday that feels more like winter than fall: a drizzling rain, a biting western wind moves sodden clouds and even puffs of fog. You don't want to get up at 6 a.m., or even 7, yet we do.

Trudge down to the Ossining Metro-North station and hop on the 8:35 northbound, through Croton-on-Hudson, Manitou, Peekskill and other sites of Washington Irving's or Thomas Cole's pen and paintbrush imaginations. Plastic bags keep us warm as we doze; there's little time or interest in sightseeing on the "to" leg of the journey.

Yellow school buses at the Beacon station ferry us over to St. Patrick's parochial school, where we spend another uncertain hour wandering beneath crosses and basketball banners, wondering about how much to drink (hydrate, in runner-speak) or eat, and when to venture out in the rain. It's a lot of thinking for a five-mile race.

We finally go out and pound down the main street of Newburgh, a crazy patchwork quilt of colors, ages and shapes zooming past early church-goers and earlier vagrants. Turning left past some picture-book homes flanking the water, we take to the bridge and test our flimsy running shoes on the iron grated pedestrian walkway, a feat of human engineering decades old. It's humid, it's windy and it's high; my vertigo allows me to look down into the choppy waters just three times, each glance moving me closer to the cars, not the edge.

Arriving in Beacon less than 44 minutes after I began, I point to a fellow runner: look, there's a great blue heron on the water. We were so worried about running, we paid him no mind. My friend nods in thoughtful agreement.

Minutes later I'm greeted by my lovely running companion Paula, and then my good friend Kevin, and together we admire this beautiful slate grey bird – four feet tall, six-foot wingspan, outstanding black plumes sticking out its head – as it nabs a fish and struggles with it in its beak until flying to the nearby sandy shore. We surmise that here the fish has less chance of escape, and the lingering



and then another. I keep pointing them out to Paula, who hardly believes me. They're gone by the time she looks, with the train's speed. Yet they are there.

Then, nearing Croton, a stop from home, I look away and Paula points excitedly: two magnificent bald eagles are flapping across the inlet between Croton Point and the "mainland." The immense wingspan means they could be no other bird. My novice birder girlfriend has shown me something I'd have missed altogether.

There it is: Sunday afternoon birding from the west window of Metro-North. Many reminders of a common, yet spectacular bird, our stately great blue heron, and then a star appearance by the national symbol, just hanging out, but likely in search of a snack, too.

The people around us, sheltered in their earbud wonderment, probably never saw a thing.

Brian Kluepfel writes travel guides for Lonely Planet and is a member of the Saw Mill River Audubon (SMRA). He encourages anyone to get involved with SMRA virtually or in person or through events such as expert Allan Wells' long-legged wading birds of Southern New York via Zoom on May 25.

gulls less chance of taking it away.

A brief conversation about how this sort of birding moment takes me out of the humdrum ensues. We then lunch. Kevin kindly delivers us to the 2:04 headed back home, where we grab a window seat amongst a cattle car of Gotham-bound passengers who've waited out the morning weather and are ready to celebrate big-city pre-Halloween.

I look eagerly into the river, flush with the excitement of the race (I beat my hoped-for time), the wonderful, hot food and stellar companionship. Between Beacon and Cold Spring, the next stop, I count four more great blue herons, all, I surmise, drawn to fishing by the turbulent water of today. Four in one quick take.

Then, further along the river, I see one,

For The Birds

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Galef: Postpone Evaluation Components Amid Teacher Shortage

In January, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that with a large number of teachers retiring in the next few years, 180,000 new teachers are needed over the next decade.

It is now essential to retain as many of talented teachers as possible. With students across the state taking standardized tests, 25 members of the Assembly called for the teacher evaluation and retention components of the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) to be postponed in a letter to Hochul and state Education Commissioner Betty Rosa on Monday.

The letter cited conversations in which educators consistently highlight the APPR as a cause for low teacher retention and recruitment.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) said that with the COVID-19 pandemic, educators are struggling, leading to exhaustion, early retirements and teacher shortages. Similarly, students have faced disruption to their social, emotional and academic lives. Galef pointed to the stability of permanent teachers and small class sizes as paramount to student success.

Galef said this year she would prefer to see an assessment of to what extent, if any, the APPR has contributed to the ongoing shortages. Additionally, if it is found that the APPR has contributed to the shortage, the letter asks that the state Education Department evaluate potential changes.

Normally the APPR identifies where teachers could improve, using a variety of metrics including standardized state tests.

However, both teachers and students have borne an extraordinary burden throughout the pandemic and evaluating them now might not provide accurate results.

“We must do everything in our power to support our students as they overcome the challenges to their education brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Galef said. “That includes examining the current teacher shortage to see if it was caused by performance reviews that many teachers deem as inadequate assessments of their success in the classroom. In these unprecedented times, student test scores only capture one element of a teacher’s ability to support their students’ learning.”

Assemblyman John T. McDonald III (D-Cohoes) said educators have stepped up to support students and communities during the past two years and they deserve this temporary suspension of the evaluation.

By postponing the Annual Professional Performance Review this spring, we can allow educators to focus all of their energy on reaching our students,” McDonald said. “I believe a review of the APPR is necessary as we continue to navigate the challenges associated with the state’s current teacher shortage.”

“To fulfill the promises we make to the children of this state to provide them with a sound education, it’s critical we have enough teachers to give them the attentive instruction they deserve,” said Assemblyman Chris Tague (R-Schoharie). “Teachers and students alike have been through the unthinkable



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef called on the state education commissioner to suspend the APPR review for this year.

during these last few years. If anything, we should be providing on-ramps, not obstacles, for those seeking to teach our students. Given the volume of feedback we’ve received from educators and advocates regarding the state’s Annual Professional Performance Review and its effects on teacher retention, we should take a step back and look at whether or not the process is truly benefitting our students.”

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) said the state must focus its energy on supporting and celebrating teachers.

“COVID added a new variable to the challenge of teacher retention, but the problem is not new,” Paulin said. “A temporary reprieve and examination of APPR are concrete steps we can take to both help teachers and shift the focus to their well-being and continued success.”

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Take Care. April is National Car Care Month supported by the Car Care Council. According to the council, “it is time to get your car ready” for spring and summer driving. It is also a good time to get your vocabulary ready. So, the quiz this month is composed of words that contain “car” in them.

1. **carping** (adj.)

A) grasping

B) fault-finding

C) cartoonish

2. **carom** (v.)

A) to take part in

B) bring off

C) collide and rebound

3. **scarp** (n.)

A) a notched end

B) a steep slope

C) a cloth covering

4. **precarious** (adj.)

A) unstable

B) expressing a wish

C) highly cherished

5. **vicarious** (adj.)

A) spiteful

B) secondhand

C) fulfilled

6. **formicary** (n.)

A) an anthill

B) a detailed plan

C) a storehouse

7. **carrefour** (n.)

A) a noisy party

B) a small room

C) crossroads

8. **cark** (v.)

A) to worry

B) seal tight

C) be still

ANSWERS:

1. Naggingly critical or complaining; fault-finding

2. To collide and rebound; glance

3. A steep slope, especially one formed by erosion or falling; escarpment

4. Dangerously lacking in security or stability; unstable; dubious

5. Experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person; secondhand; indirect

6. A nest of ants; an anthill

7. Crossroads; a public square, plaza, or marketplace where roads converge

8. To burden or be burdened with trouble; worry

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Back in the Game

High school sports in Westchester are slowly rebounding from their long COVID timeout

By James Schapiro

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Gigi Kemp remembers the day that everything went wrong.

It was Sunday, April 18th, 2021, and Kemp, the varsity volleyball coach at Yorktown High School, was out on a walk with her sister-in-law. The day was actually going really well: her team had just been awarded the #1 seed heading into sectional playoffs. They'd lost only one match on the season, to John Jay High School, and the day before, they'd avenged the loss, beating John Jay in four sets to finish off a 14-1 season.

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The Yorktown team had been working toward these playoffs for two years. They had ten seniors, but the year before, they hadn't had any. So the team had looked almost the same for two years. After losing in the section semifinal the year before to Hendrick Hudson, then seeing their season pushed back from fall to spring due to COVID, the team was finally ready to make a run deep into the playoffs as the #1 seed.

Then Kemp got a text from one of her players. The player had tested positive for COVID. Per protocols, that meant that the team would immediately enter quarantine. Their season was over.

"Oh," Kemp remembers thinking. "I've got a mess here."

She called her athletic director Rob Barrett to confirm what she already knew: the team was done for the year. Then she brought the players together on Zoom. Barrett was there too. It wasn't news that Kemp wanted to deliver, but she knew the players had to find out one way or another.

"Immediately, I saw blank faces, I saw ceilings," she says. "They all started crying, so they hid their faces on the zoom call. I felt like I was holding it all together myself, but there was just so much emotion that you just end up joining in. You have no choice."

The story of Yorktown Volleyball's sudden shutdown is a stark illustration of



COVID's impact on high school sports, but it's only one of many. After nearly two years, high school athletics are returning to something resembling normalcy, but for a long time, they weren't. Fans are coming back to the stands; masks are off outdoors; one positive case doesn't automatically shut down an entire team if the positive player successfully isolates without the rest of the team getting sick. But two years of sports under COVID have impacted players and teams in ways that many are anxious to leave behind.

When COVID first took hold in March 2020, of course, high school sports shut down. They returned in the fall of 2020, but not quite fully. Players were masked, which for indoor

sports quickly became a major difficulty. Spectators were limited; often, parents came to games, but teams sometimes arranged for parents to give their tickets to students so that they could put together cheering sections. Some parents, fortunately, could watch games via Local Live, the event streaming service that some area schools have recently introduced, but of course, it wasn't the same.

The 2020/21 schedule was also modified: half of the fall seasons moved back to Spring. Schools played "Fall 1" starting in September, then played the Winter season from November to February. "Fall 2," the fall sports pushed back from the original fall season, ran in March and April. Spring season went from late April to the beginning of June.

"I would much rather have the three seasons and be able to



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Six Places to Enjoy Craft Beer in Westchester County

As spring comes to full bloom and the sun-drenched days of summer lure us outside to play, cap an outdoor adventure with a local craft beer in Westchester County.

Here are six places to sample one of Westchester's small-batch, craft beverage-makers after exploring some of the county's 24,000 acres of parkland.

River Outpost Brewing Company, Peekskill. Nothing goes together better than a craft beer and a hike. Thankfully, River Outpost Brewing Company is a one-stop shop. Westchester newest craft beer brewery at Charles Point serves beer lovers a wide range of brews proudly made on site.

Before a cold pint (or more), adventurers can hike up and down the Hudson River trails including Blue Mountain Reservation Loop (eight-minute drive from River Outpost), Arden Point (four-mile system of easy trails) and Anthony's Nose (two-mile in-and-out moderately difficult trail).

For more, visit <https://riveroutpostbrewing.com>.

To do: Listen to local bands every weekend starting at 9 p.m.

Captain Lawrence Brewing, Elmsford and Mount Kisco. Celebrating 16 years this May, Captain Lawrence Brewing is a Westchester institution with



two locations in Elmsford and Mount Kisco. The largest craft brewery in Hudson Valley boasts a 25,000-square-foot brewery facility, a 2,500-square-foot beer hall and a 6,000-square-foot outdoor beer garden where beer lovers can sip on the new "Mood Series" IPAs and barrel-aged sour ales, just to name a couple.

And to top it all off, Captain Lawrence Brewing's Elmsford location is the last stop on Gotham Bike Tours' Hudson Valley Craft Brewery Bike Tour. Guests will also enjoy knowing that Captain Lawrence has won numerous awards including 10 Great American Beer Festival medals.

For more information, visit <https://www.captainlawrencebrewing.com>.

To do: Make a reservation for the popular Beer Hall and Beer Garden before you head out.

Broken Bow Brewery, Tuckahoe. Everything about Broken Bow Brewery makes it a must-see stop. It's a majority women-owned, first-of-its-kind brewery in the Village of Tuckahoe with award-winning craft brews.

This family-owned and operated microbrewery is known for its Broken Routines Mosaic and Amarillo IPA alongside a wide variety of award-winning Belgians, Porters and Barrel-Aged Lagers created to inspire the next generation of craft beer lovers.

For more information, visit <https://www.brokenbowbrewery.com>.

To do: Bring the kids for a free

slushie every Tuesday from 3 to 9 p.m.

Wolf & Warrior Brewing Co., White Plains. Inspired by the community-centered appeal that breweries in Zimbabwe offer, Wolf & Warrior was started in 2019 by homebrew novice Mike Chiltern after studying abroad.

Wolf & Warrior got its namesake from Mike's sons, Vuk and Branko, translated from Serbian meaning "wolf" and "warrior." If the newly-enhanced food menu featuring brisket blend burgers and IPA infused Buffalo sauce wings wasn't enough, the story and true community of this White Plains staple makes it a must-see stop for the perfect beer. It also won Best of Westchester 2020 by Westchester Magazine for new craft brewery.

For more information, visit <https://www.wolfandwarrior.com>.

To do: Get ready for bingo night every Wednesday starting at 7 p.m.

Sing Sing Kill Brewery, Ossining. Since opening in 2018, Sing Sing Kill Brewery (SSKB) has been serving Westchester County's craft beer enthusiasts with a sustainable twist. The award-winning SSKB built sustainable practices into every aspect of the business – from locally sourced ingredients and a zero-waste policy, to using 100 percent renewable New

York energy and water conservation practices throughout their facility.

And to top it all off: SSKB is a staple in the community, supporting the Ossining LGBTQ Alliance, African dance classes, Ossining MATTERS and UNIDOS, a Hispanic Heritage Month fundraiser.

For more information, visit <https://www.singsingkillbrewery.com>.

To do: Make it a point to check out the annual Pride beer this summer.

Soul Brewing Company, Pleasantville.

Opening right at the start of the pandemic in 2020, Soul Brewing Company came out of the gate swinging and was awarded Best of Westchester 2021 by Westchester Magazine.

Soul Brewing Company's European-influenced origins takes root in its community-focused brewery and taproom where visitors can come relax with friends while enjoying small-batch artisanal ales and lagers. Soul Brewing Company is a New York State Brewers Association member and hosts musical talent every week.

For more information, visit <https://soulbrewingco.com>.

To do: Tap along to the Saturday Night Music series every weekend beginning at 8 p.m.

This list was put together by Westchester County Tourism & Film.

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'Mothball Fleet' on Hudson Topic of Historical Society Program on Saturday

The purpose and fate of the fabled "Mothball Fleet" anchored in the Hudson River near Peekskill for 25 years will be presented in a program this Saturday, Apr. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Little Red Schoolhouse, located at 297 Locust Ave. in Cortlandt Manor.

Sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, the event is free to the public. With an abundance of caution, masks are encouraged to be used and seating capacity is limited.

Author and historian Anthony Musso will explain why this massive fleet of decommissioned U.S. Navy ships from World War II was moored in the Hudson River across from Peekskill at Jones Point from 1946 to 1971.

Using vintage pictures and based on research he gathered for his new book – "Mothball Fleet on the Hudson: The Post-World War II National Defense Reserve" – Musso will tell the story of this fleet which many local people called "the ghost ships." His book will be available for sale and signing after his talk.

"During World War II the U.S. Department of the Navy had a fleet of 7,000 ships," Musso noted. "At the end of the war, the Navy was left with the dilemma of what to do with this

vast fleet. So, in 1946 the National Naval Defense Reserve Fleet was established and eight sites around the nation were selected to store the ships, maintain them and keep them ready for action in case of a national emergency. One of those eight locations ended up in the Hudson at Jones Point."

A longtime Lagrangeville resident, Musso has achieved a widely-accomplished body of work during his 40-year career as a writer, editor, newspaper columnist, public speaker and author of a variety of historical books and newspaper articles on Hudson Valley happenings. He is the author of three volumes of his acclaimed book, "Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley," of which he presented talks to the historical society in recent years.

The Little Red Schoolhouse is located at the north end of Locust Avenue next to Historic Old Saint Peter's Church and Cemetery on the hill just south of Oregon Road in Cortlandt. Off-street parking is available atop the schoolhouse driveway or below in the cemetery parking area.

For more information, call 914-736-7868 or visit www.vancort.net.

Soft-Shell Crab Season Has Arrived: Here's Where You Can Enjoy Them

The season for fresh soft-shell crab runs from spring through September and there are legions who crave this delicacy simply sautéed or deep fried with some lemon and butter. There's nothing like a crispy soft-shell crab sandwich with the proper condiments. I'm a big fan.

They first appear from Florida and the Gulf Coast at area markets followed by the popular bounty from the Chesapeake. As the season wears on more venues will be serving them. Here's where to find them locally.

Dive Oyster House. In the coming weeks, owner Kenny Neziraj will offer soft-shell crab as a daily specialty. A tray of pristine oysters is a good way to start your meal. Open seven days for lunch and dinner along with Sunday brunch. Happy hours. Dive Oyster House is located at 1201 Pleasantville Rd., Briarcliff Manor. Info: 914-236-3911 or visit www.diveoysterhouse.com.

La Piccola Casa. Chef and owner Walter Ricci, who cooks across from blossoming Harbor Island Park, personally shops the Hunts Point Fish Market during the wee hours of the morning. He was clued about the arrival of soft shells from one of his valued seafood purveyors. He does a flavorful job with them. La Piccola Casa is located at 410 W. Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck. Info: 914-777-5766.

A Seafood Market Grill. This place opened a year ago, a new spot for fresh seafood and soft shells in season. Owners Yuliia and Pablo Aquile also offer prepared foods and outdoor seating. A Seafood Market Grill is located at 49 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. Info: 914-495-3261 or visit their Facebook page.

KEE Oyster House. Owner Ekren and Elvi offer a daily raw bar. The blackboard lists the daily catch and will soon include soft-shell crab. And they are pristine. KEE



By Morris Gut

Oyster House is located at 128 E. Post Rd., White Plains. Info: 914-437-8535 or visit www.keeoysterhouse.com.

La Mer Seafood. This market has been serving the area for 30 years. A sign on the window says soft-shell crabs have arrived. La Mer Seafood is located at 407 Main St., Armonk. Info: 914-273-1766 or visit www.lamerseafood.net.

Riverview. Jim Ely and company have kept this picturesque spot bustling for 20 years. They will offer soft-shell crab in a variety of styles. Riverview is located at 45 Fair St., Cold Spring. Info: 845-265-4778 or visit www.riverviewdining.com.

Fin & Brew. On the banks of the Hudson River at Charles Point and part of the Factoria complex, Fin & Brew serves a fine soft-shell crab sandwich with a River Outpost Brew from La Factoria. Fin & Brew is located at 5 John Walsh Blvd., Peekskill. Info: 914-788-4555 or visit www.finandbrew.com.

X20 Xaviars on the Hudson. Chef Peter X. Kelly prepares an outstanding soft-shell crab every year. Enjoy them along with expansive views of the Hudson River. X20 Xaviars on the Hudson is located at 71 Water Grant St., Yonkers. Info: 914-965-1111 or visit www.xaviars.com.

The 808 Bistro. Chef Salvatore Cucullo Jr. will be serving soft shells with creamy polenta and tomatoes stuffed with cheese and spinach on the side. Sounds yummy! Also get them at Cucullo's other place, El Barrio. The 808 Bistro is located at 808 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale. Info: 914-722-0808 or visit www.the808bistro.com.

Saltaire Oyster Bar and Kitchen. Happy hours have returned to the handsome barroom. Soft shells will be available. Saitaire Oyster Bar and Kitchen is located at 55 Abendroth Ave., Port Chester. Info: 914-939-2425 or visit www.saltairoysterbar.com.

Bistro 146. This American-themed fish and seafood bistro offers sustainable fare. Soft-shell crab will be included this spring and summer. Bistro 146 is located at 146 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Info: 914-495-3992 or visit www.bistro146pleasantville.com.

Outdoor Farmers Markets

White Plains Farmers Market. A welcome sign of the new season, the popular White Plains Farmers Market will be in full swing on Wednesdays starting Apr. 20. It will be held on Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Nov. 23. Info: Visit www.whiteplainsfarmersmarket.com.

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The spring through fall market reopened on Apr. 2 and will continue to operate at the Metro-North parking lot on Memorial Plaza on Saturdays through Nov. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For convenient places to park and additional information, visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.



A tray of soft-shell crabs at La Mer Seafood in Armonk.



Now that it's spring, there are plenty of outdoor farmers markets that have opened or will soon return with plenty of fresh produce and other goods.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Returns on May 7 and continues until November. Located at the Chappaqua train station on Allen Place in Chappaqua on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Mount Kisco Farmers Market. Returns on May 15 and will continue every Sunday through October from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the South Moger Avenue parking lot near the Metro-North station. Info: Visit <https://mkfarmersmarket.com>.

Cold Spring Farmers Market. This popular market operates at the historic Boscobel Estate Museum, located at 1601 Route 9D in Garrison every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit www.csfarmmarket.org.

Farmers Market at John Jay Homestead. Starting May 7 and continuing every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October. First pick for members. John Jay Homestead is located at 400 Jay St. (Route 22) in Katonah. Info: Visit <http://johnjayhomestead.org/events/farm-market/>

Ossining Farmers Market. Down to Earth Markets' year-round Ossining market operates at the corner of Main and Spring streets on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit www.downtoearthmarkets.com.

Peekskill Farmers Market. The 2022 season will kick off on June 4 and continue every Saturday through Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Bank Street. Rain or shine. Info: Visit <https://discoverpeekskill.com>.

Hudson Valley Farmers Market. This year-round market operates every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located at 15 Mount Ebo Rd. South in Brewster. Info: Visit www.hudsonvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

Irvington Farmers Market. Operates on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Street School parking lot, located at 110 Main St. in Irvington. Info: Visit www.theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org.

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



The soft-shell crabs are ready to go at A Seafood Market Grill in Pleasantville.

Putnam Chorale to Sing Favorite Opera Choruses on April 24

The Putnam Chorale, the area's premier community chorus, will be performing a beautiful and compelling selection of favorite opera choruses, on Sunday, Apr. 24 at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Brewster.

Under the direction of composer and conductor Dr. Douglas Anderson, the Putnam Chorale has entertained and educated Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and western Connecticut audiences since 1984.

The program will feature 30 singers performing opera choruses by renowned composers such as Puccini, Verdi, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Borodin and Gilbert and Sullivan. Some of the pieces will be familiar to the audience, while others have not been performed locally. Particularly noteworthy is that all of the selections will be sung in the original languages: German,



Putnam Chorale Music Director Dr. Doug Anderson conducts the Putnam Chorale. The esteemed chorus will be performing in Brewster on Apr. 24.

Italian, Russian, Ukrainian, Japanese and English.

Putnam Chorale audiences have delighted in hearing the stirring and beautiful high quality choral and orchestral music,

which is always accompanied by Anderson's fascinating academic commentary. Previous concerts have included a wide spectrum of choral works, such as Handel's Complete Oratorio, Brahms and

Mozart Requiems, the genre-based Vienna Connection and French Connection and the contemporary Casey at the Bat by Schuman.

Most recently, the chorale

performed the complete Messiah by Handel and a diverse selection of period favorites in the America Through Song program. Audience commentary following previous concerts have included statements such as "We are fortunate to have a choir of combined voices perform a concert of such high quality in Brewster" and "Fantastic, what a pleasure to see this group mature over the past decade."

Auditions are not required for experienced singers to join this exciting chorus. The programs often include a professional orchestra and soloists as appropriate for the music being sung.

Tickets for the Apr. 24 concert are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/5406234 or at the door. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students.

Harckham Bills to Bolster Health Benefits for Volunteer Firefighters

The state Senate unanimously passed two bills introduced by Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) that will help expand health benefits for volunteer firefighters.

The legislation, when approved by the Assembly and enacted by the governor, will make permanent the longstanding law covering disability determinations for volunteer firefighters due to disease or malfunction of the heart or coronary arteries in one bill (S.2972), and certain lung disabilities in the other bill (S.2973).

"Volunteer firefighters statewide often incur major diseases and ailments in the course of protecting our residents and businesses, so we must reciprocate and safeguard the health of these brave first responders whenever possible," Harckham said. "These bills eliminate sunset clauses for heart and lung care while also streamlining access to these much-deserved health benefits."

In 1977, the state legislature found that volunteer firefighters too often suffered injury or death resulting from heart attacks suffered in the line of duty. The legislature also found that claims of injuries from heart attacks were subjected often to lengthy delays.

As a result, state lawmakers established specific procedures to expedite the handling of such claims, but called on the law to be renewed every two years. Harckham's first bill makes permanent the provisions relating to disability due to heart disease, which expired in June 2020.

More than 40 years later, it is time to make this section of law permanent, Harckham said.

"Our volunteer firefighters provide an invaluable service to New York State and our individual communities," the legislation stated. "Accordingly, it simply makes sense to prevent unnecessary worry on the part of volunteer firefighters and their families as to whether or not they will receive their benefits."

Harckham's bill regarding firefighters with



State Sen. Peter Harckham

lung maladies will amend a 2006 law similarly to the heart bill.

In the line of duty, firefighters are exposed to gases, toxins and other substances that have damaging short- and long-term effects on the respiratory system. Firefighters experience risks for lung disease at significantly higher rates compared to the average adult population because of contact with numerous harmful chemicals from combustions.

Harckham's bill eliminates a sunset clause and makes permanent a trusted and successful safety net for all volunteer firefighters

"We are grateful for Sen. Harckham's leadership in getting this important legislation passed in the Senate," said John Farrell, president of Firefighters Association of the State of New York. "Cardiac events remain the number one killer of firefighters annually across the country and lung issues are also a challenge many firefighters face. Making these vital benefits permanent is very important to the over 80,000 volunteer firefighters in New York State."

Chappaqua Among Local Fire Depts. Part of RecruitNY Weekend

Volunteer fire departments across New York State are struggling with decreased membership and increased call volume.

Like most volunteer fire departments, the Chappaqua Fire Department needs to bolster its ranks so it can continue to provide the optimum level of protection for its residents.

As part of RecruitNY Weekend, the Chappaqua Fire Department will open its doors on Sunday, Apr. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The department is located at 491 King St. in Chappaqua.

They will be joining volunteer fire departments across New York to raise public awareness regarding the need for volunteers and to highlight the rewards of being a member of a volunteer fire department.

Throughout the day, the department will conduct tours of the station and apparatus, allow visitors to try on gear, demonstrate firefighting activities, provide information and address questions on becoming a member.

"We welcome the community to join us during RecruitNY Weekend," said Chappaqua Fire Chief Russell Maitland. "This is an excellent opportunity for people to meet their local volunteer firefighters and learn a bit more about the fire service. We

are always looking for new members and it is our hope that after meeting us more people will be interested in becoming a part of our family."

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) is committed to assisting New York's 1,700-plus volunteer departments connect with their communities and have sufficient members to protect them properly.

Established in 2011, RecruitNY is an undertaking of FASNY. It is made possible by the continuing support and generosity of Lincoln Financial Group (LFG). In 2012, LFG announced the introduction of a new National LOSAP HEROPLUSM Program. A first of its kind, Length of Service Award Program, which was designed for individual Fire and Emergency Services departments to help recruit, retain and reward dedicated volunteers with a program that will help boost their retirement readiness.

"The everyday heroes of every community – this is for them," said Bruce Linger of LFG. "Thank you for all you do!"

For more information, visit www.chappaquafd.org, e-mail membership@chappaquafd.org, or call via the non-emergency phone number at 914-238-0819.

Generational Distinctions Are Changing the Way We Relate to Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

As we evolve as social beings, we've come to expect (demand?) our information in real time, instantaneously available on our hand-held devices. We can reach out to the vast internet for whatever inspires us at the moment or we can join networks, websites and social media services that notify us when our real-time information becomes stale.

This new world order seems commonplace in 2022, and has permeated many areas of our personal wants and needs.

Don't have time to check the daily newspaper each morning? Not content to find out what's going on in the world once every 24 hours? Numerous news services, blogs, newsletters will beep, ping and ring you within minutes of breaking news.

Many industries have jumped on the bandwagon of real-time communications. Some do it well, with dedicated staffs and significant investments in hardware, software and cloud technology. Others are content to hang on to older means of communications, either by choice or financial necessity.

The wine industry is at a crossroads. Many wine companies have embraced technology, from modern-day apps to Quick Response (QR) marketing codes on the back labels of wine bottles. Others continue centuries-old practices that have served them well, including

wine bottle label data.

Consumers are likewise at a crossroads in their wine appreciation – in this instance, their expectations of wine label data.

Simply observe the lifestyle changes:

--Millennials have been weaned on the instant gratification of the internet, digital smartphones and the abundance of electronic device applications that proliferate today.

--As Generation Z consumers come of drinking age, their go-to resources are currently dominated by Snapchat, 15-second TikTok videos and other popular instant gratification apps.

--Older generations are still transitioning from a 20th century mindset of intuitive thinking and information-processing skills.

We're at the confluence of these generational differences, which I expect will soon meld (or simply fade away as baby boomers transition to the ultimate, heavenly cloud). Much of the marketing communication in the wine industry hasn't changed in decades – especially wine labels.

In several columns, I've reported on the confusion presented by wine labels across the wine-producing world. Here is this week's wine label topic: "Estate Bottled."



The image many of us have of this phrase as we sip a glass of wine is a small winery with rows of manicured vines. This imagined winery is dominated by a red-barn, guarded by a frolicking dog and ebullient owner. Every step in making wine takes place on winery property.

In many instances, the truth is very different from this idyllic image. Of the top 30 wine brands in the United States, not one of them grows, produces and bottles all of its own wines.

The business model for wineries broadly breaks down into four categories:

1. Those that grow, process, age and bottle their own grapes.
2. Those that purchase grapes from third parties, but continue the production process in-house.
3. Those that purchase grapes, outsource processing the grapes, but store, blend and bottle on their own.
4. Those I dub virtual wineries, in which the owners outsource every aspect of producing their wine.

*You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine*

In the United States, the phrase on a wine label that connotes a vertically integrated winery is "Estate Bottled." Other terms, such as "Produced and Bottled by," "Cellared and Bottled by" and "Bottled by" identify other categories noted above.

In France, vertically integrated wineries generally bear the terms "Mis en Bouteille au Domaine" or "Mis en Bouteille au Château."

On Italian labels, look for "Azienda Vinicola" or "Imbottigliato all'origine," although other terms (Podere, Tenuta, Fattoria), or the lack of any term, do not necessarily connote a lesser meaning.

In the (near?) future, the typical wine label may fall victim to digital technology. QR codes may eliminate the need for any label terms. A quick scan and a provocative design or illustration on your digital device may be all that is needed to appeal to the 21st century sensibility of instant bursts of information. It doesn't sound very gratifying.

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

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05/07	STUNT DOGS
05/07	NICK DI PAOLO
05/13	ORLEANS - Still the One, Dance with Me, and more!
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