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The Trust Project

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 560

## Support Voiced for 2022-23 White Plains' Proposed Budget

By Bailey Hosfelt

Representatives from the League of Women Voters of White Plains and the city's Budget and Management Advisory Committee voiced their support of the 2022-23 proposed budget during public comment at the Common Council on May 2.

Clifford Blau read a statement that represented the position of the League of Women Voters of White Plains, which commended the Budget Office and Budget Director James Arnett for preparing a clear, informative and thorough budget document.

Blau congratulated the city for its skillful handling of financial difficulties throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While

the pandemic caused a significant decrease in revenue, Blau highlighted that the city was able to avoid cuts to essential services and actually increased its unrestricted fund balance without extraordinary tax and fee increases.

"The proposed city budget raises taxes less than allowed by the tax cap and well below the rate of inflation," Blau said. "Furthermore, the budget does not use debt to fund operating expenses and plans for necessary maintenance and replacement of capital assets."

Blau noted that the city continues to look for new sources of revenue from outside the city, including grants and leasing opportunities for solar energy systems.

"In summary, the League applauds the city for continuing to budget prudently and maintain tight controls on spending," Blau said.

Michael Stanton, a member of the Budget and Management Advisory Committee (which includes Councilman John Martin and Council President Justin Brasch), said after reviewing the proposed budget, the Committee found the city's fiscal outlook to be clearer and more positive than in any year since 2019.

"Credit for that successful outcome in a challenging time is to both the city's historically responsible budgeting practices, which allowed [the city] to build up a significant fund balance to offset the sharp

decline in revenue at the beginning of the COVID lockdown period in 2020, as well as the substantial federal aid provided first through the CARES Act and then through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)," Stanton said, highlighting that ARPA funding, in particular, was crucial for the city's short-term fiscal health and maintenance of essential services.

In White Plains, Stanton said the city is focused on how to resume normal operations, including what he said was the most heartening component of the proposed budget: increased spending on summer camps and other parks and recreation activities.

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## Bowling Fundraiser Back for Big Brothers, Big Sisters



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County, Inc. invites the community to its annual fundraiser, Bowl for Kids' Sake, on Tuesday, June 7 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Bowlero Lanes in White Plains. "We haven't been able to hit the lanes with this fun event since 2019 due to COVID, but we're thrilled to bring it back in 2022," said Valerie Brown, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County, Inc. "It's a great way for our community to support us and learn more about the life-changing mentoring work we do, while rolling strikes and competing for prizes." The last Bowl for Kids' Sake in 2019 saw a turnout of 175 people and raised \$35k. This year Big Brothers Big Sisters is raising the bar with a goal of \$40k. Participants can sign up individually or create a team of four to six people. Teams are asked to raise at least \$500, or \$100 per person. The winners of the 2019 event were Big Alex and Little Carlos. To register for the event as an individual, team, or corporate sponsor, or to simply donate, visit: <https://bit.ly/bowlforkids2022>.

## Brady, Norris Running Unopposed for White Plains School Board

By Bailey Hosfelt

Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris, whose White Plains Board of Education (BOE) terms both expire in June, are running unopposed for two seats in the upcoming school district election on May 17.

Norris, who is the current board Vice President, and Brady have each served since 2007.

Brady said the students, families, faculty, staff, administrators and fellow board

members inspired her to run for re-election.

The work that the board does on behalf of students and the school district is ongoing, vital and affects positive change," Brady said. "I consider my service on the School Board to be the most significant work that I do, and I believe that my participation on the board has made a tangible and positive difference — both to the board and our school district — and that it will continue to do so."

In her 15 years on the board, Brady has

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Sheryl Brady



Charlie Norris

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# WP Gym Hosts Workout Fundraiser to Support Teen with Cancer

By Bailey Hosfelt

A local gym in White Plains came together to raise funds for a 15-year-old recently diagnosed with leukemia.

On Saturday, May 7, Westchester Fit hosted a workout fundraiser to raise funds for Caleb Visingardi's treatment.

Visingardi, who was diagnosed with acute

lymphoblastic leukemia in mid-March, will be in treatment for the next two-and-a-half to three years.

Although the family has already surpassed their initial \$10,000 fundraising goal on GoFundMe, more financial support is needed for Visingardi's long treatment regimen.

Rebekah Visingardi, Caleb's sister, is a member of Westchester Fit. Upon

hearing Caleb's story, the gym and fitness community decided to step in to help support the Visingardi family.

Chris Guerrero, founder of Westchester Fit, said the gym has a long tradition of philanthropic work, including participating in an annual breast cancer fundraiser called 'Barbells 4 Boobs' and an annual fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

"We do something called Weekly Bright Spots, and during one of the staff meetings, one of the staff members brought up that Rebekah's brother got diagnosed with leukemia," Guerrero said. "I said to the team, 'Why don't we do a workout fundraiser to get our community to donate, bring some attention and support her [family] during a very difficult time.'"

## WPHS Sports Hall Nomination Deadline May 23

The deadline to submit the nomination of candidates for the 2022 White Plains High School Athletics Hall of Fame induction event has been finalized as Monday, May 23. Anyone who has previously been nominated but not inducted does not have to be resubmitted. Those candidates automatically will be reconsidered.

To access the criteria for eligibility and a nomination form, please go online to the high school website: [www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/16127](http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/16127). Nominations may be submitted either via regular mail sent to the WPHS Athletic Office, 550 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605, or via e-mail to Chuck Stogel ([chstogel@aol.com](mailto:chstogel@aol.com)).

The seventh WPHS Athletics Hall of

Fame induction event is scheduled for Monday evening, November 14, at White Plains High School. Video recordings from all six of the previous induction ceremonies are available for viewing online. To access, please go to: [www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/600](http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/600).

Here is a year-by-year list of the first six classes of inductees:

2015 --- Nicole Boykin, Frank Briante, Mal Graham, Larry James, Harry Jefferson, Grover "Deacon" Jones, Dean Loucks, Glenn Loucks, Anthony "Champ" Marano, Craig Masback, Art Monk, Dick Nolan, Dr. Jason Parker, Jay Saldi, Len Watters.

2016 --- Tom DePaso, Manson Donaghey, Alan Egler, Whitney Ford, Otis Hill, Aaron Hopkins, Charlie Jenkins, Ed Kehe, Oscar

Moore, Frank Navarro, George Rooks Sr., Don Salls, Art Schult, Carl "Rusty" Waite, Bruce Weinstein, Brant Wintersteen, Sal Yvars, 1966 880 and Mile Relay Teams. White Plains High School Athletics Hall of Fame (Care of White Plains Athletics) 550 North Street White Plains, NY 10605 914-422-2237 Web site: <http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org> "125 Years of Athletic Tradition" (1897-98 to 2021-22) Executive Committee Officers President Chuck Stogel Vice President John Donahoe Secretary Nick Panaro Treasurer Sue Adams Paul Alley Don Gano Patty Gilmartin George Perry Fred Singleton Dan Woodard Emerly A. Martinez - Principal Matt Cameron - Athletic Director

2017 --- Frank Becerra Sr., Kristin

Donahoe Becerra, Sam Bowers, Bill Cain, Michelle Donnelly, Ricky Edwards, Dick Gardella, Jim Gray, Bob Horton, Dave Jackson, Jermaine Johnson, Frank Lyman, Lou Mark, John Messemer.

2018 --- Kim Adams, Sue O'Gorman Adams, Dominick "Monk" DePalo, Bill Drummond, J. Brian Hansbury, Greg Herzog, Mark Johnson, Sean Kilpatrick, Tony Mazzioti, Dennis Morgan, George "Duffie" Rooks, Chuck Young, Jermaine Young.

2019 --- Arnold Clinton, Tom Donahoe, Liz Flooks, Mark Martino, Joe Materile, Nick Panaro, George Perry, Dan Woodard.

2020 --- No event.

2021 --- Michael Belmont, Jim DePalo, Dr. Lynne Kahn, James Lombardi, Robert Malson, Spencer Mayfield, Joe McAvoy.

## Support Voiced for 2022-23 White Plains' Proposed Budget

*continued from page 1*

Stanton said the proposed city budget's revenue forecasts represent the administration's best effort to balance historical collection trends and future risks.

While parking and sales tax revenues have shown a solid recovery, particularly since the start of the current fiscal year last July, Stanton underscored that they remain at risk for future volatility due to the pandemic's long-term impact on commuting patterns.

"It is appropriate that this budget is not relying on any additional growth in those revenue sources beyond the existing forecasts for this current fiscal year," Stanton said, emphasizing that the Common Council

should continue to closely monitor actual revenue collections so the city can respond expeditiously to any unanticipated shortfalls.

As the administration works on the city's comprehensive plan update, Stanton said, the committee recommends that the Common Council analyzes and monitors the revenue implications of that work.

"Decisions about the types of development and related land use issues can have a significant impact on the city's sales tax and commercial property tax revenue streams, which have historically provided significant benefits to the city budget that allow White Plains to maintain residential tax rates well below those of most neighboring

communities — which are already subject to uncertainty due to changes in technology, office occupancy and consumer habits," Stanton added.

Martin said that he and fellow Common Council members received the interim financial report for the first nine months of the current fiscal year, and the outlook is strong

"Last year, at the nine-month mark, there was a net increase in fund balance of \$12.2 million. This year, it's already \$30 million," Martin said, highlighting that virtually every category of general revenues is up including sales tax, parking and license permits and fees while expenditures are only up 3.1

percent over the same period.

"As has been demonstrated during the difficult budget years in 2020 and 2021, we do have some control over our expenditures, but [we have] absolutely less control over several components of our revenue streams," Martin said. "I have been pleased to see our revenue sources increase at better than budgeted in some categories, and I believe that our conservative approach in this budget is the absolute right way to go."

The budget must be adopted by charter by the Common Council by or before May 30, as the city's new fiscal year will begin on July 1.

## Brady, Norris Running Unopposed for White Plains School Board

*continued from page 1*

served on all subcommittees including Policy, Curriculum, Special Education, Finance and Human Resources. Additionally, she has been a liaison to the PTA Council and the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association.

Brady is also an active member of district direction-setting committees such as the Equity Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Master Planning Committee and Reopening Committee, among others.

Formerly, she was an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department at Purchase College, and currently, Brady is Director of Client Services at School Choice International.

"All these experiences, networking and learning opportunities have built my knowledge base and allow me to contribute to informed and deep decision-making with my fellow board members to ultimately better support our students, staff and schools," Brady said.

If re-elected, Brady looks forward to expanding and deepening the district's

work on social-emotional learning and equity, as well as focusing on curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students and guiding the district's master plan and capital project initiatives.

Brady said her dedication, integrity, objectivity and track record of delivering for the district should encourage voters to re-elect her to the board.

"I analyze issues from multiple perspectives, ask hard questions, take a reasoned and analytical approach and am able to express a divergent view within a context of collaboration and teamwork," Brady said. "The White Plains City School District and all it encompasses have been and continue to be my passion, and my presence on the Board has positively impacted our students, as well as the school and wider White Plains community."

For Norris, who penned a Medium post on what inspired him to run again, passion for the work and a desire to continue diversity, equity and social-emotional initiatives in the district guided his decision.

"When I first ran for the board all those

years ago, I wanted everyone to feel comfortable at our table, and that's been an evolving philosophy," Norris said. "The overarching theme [that inspired me to run] is one of equity."

Norris has been a member of the Annual Budget Committee, the district's Strategic Planning Core Team and was PTA president at White Plains High School. A resident of White Plains since 1987, Norris' two children graduated from White Plains High School.

Currently, he serves on the board's Human Resources and Special Education Committees. He also represents the board on the PTA Council and the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association. Norris practices law in White Plains.

"When I assessed whether the passion was still there, the answer came back in two seconds," Norris said.

Norris cited removing barriers to honors and Advanced Placement courses, adopting AVID programming and ensuring all students can access free school bus transportation as recent steps the district has taken to provide

a more equitable learning environment.

A focus on social-emotional learning and the health and well-being of the whole student is something he wants to focus on in the future.

The pandemic exposed particular socioeconomic inequities, Norris said, and if re-elected to the board, he'd like to ensure all students' and their families' needs are met, ranging from food access, healthcare and internet connectivity.

"It all comes down to something incredibly simple: How can we do a better job of unlocking the potential of every kid? How do we be intentional about meeting the needs of kids so they can thrive?" Norris said. "That keeps me really enthusiastic because I want to be part of that solution."

Voting for the two BOE seats, as well as the proposed 2022-23 school budget, will take place on May 17 from 12 to 9 p.m. at polling places throughout the city.

More information about the upcoming election can be found at <https://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/29>.





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# Mt. Kisco Eminent Domain Hearing Adjourned Until Next Week

By Martin Wilbur

There will be at least one more public hearing session held by the Mount Kisco Village Board on whether to move pursue eminent domain proceedings for a 25-acre parcel.

Village trustees decided to extend the hearing regarding 180 S. Bedford Rd. last Monday to the Village Board's May 16 meeting to give the public more time to absorb what turned into a nearly five-hour

forum on Apr. 30 at the library. That session began as the continuation of the eminent domain hearing followed by a question-and-answer session from residents regarding the relocation of a Homeland Towers' cell tower to an area of Leonard Park.

The board is weighing whether replacement of parkland at South Bedford Road would be the right choice if it went ahead and alienated between 4,000 and 5,000 square feet of Leonard Park to site the tower. A 12-foot-wide road of at least

500 feet long would also need to be created to get vehicles up to the cell tower.

Another possibility is village-owned land off Mountain Avenue.

Board members were in agreement that the public should have another two weeks to get up to speed on all the issues surrounding the eminent domain procedure and the decision the board faces. Deputy Mayor Lisa Abzun said the village provided a timeline and a Frequently Asked Questions page at the Apr. 30 forum and

it was likely some residents were still educating themselves on the issue.

"I don't think there's been enough time for the public to get ahold of these things and digest them," Abzun said.

Trustee Anne Bianchi said she favored leaving the hearing open for one more session to provide the public with another opportunity to make their arguments.

Another board member, Trustee Karen Schleimer said she also wanted to keep the hearing open but was concerned that if it was closed this month, the board would have to adopt findings in the middle of the summer. Village Attorney Whitney Singleton said the board has 90 days to make findings from the closure of the hearings but it would not preclude it from doing it sooner than that.

At the marathon Apr. 30 forum, Mayor Gina Picinich said the fair market value for the 25 acres is between \$2 million and \$3.6 million, significantly more than the \$1.5 million the land last sold for about nine years ago. It also is more than the \$1.3 million that is currently in the village's open space fund.

Some proponents of moving ahead with eminent domain have said there is likely grant money available to bridge the gap as well money that could potentially be raised from donations.

If the cell tower is moved to Leonard Park, it is currently sited near the sixth and seventh baskets of the disc golf course.

## Yorktown Schools Propose Adding Resource Officer for Elementary Students

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Central School District is proposing to add a school resource officer who will alternate among the district's three elementary schools.

If voters approve the district's proposed budget on May 17, the new school resource officer is expected to arrive in September and will become the eighth school resource officer in Yorktown's two school districts.

"We believe it is the most of any town," said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater. "We recognize that the SRO program that Chief (Robert) Noble and the Yorktown Police Department have developed is incredibly high-standard, high-quality and really is a

model for municipalities and communities across the state."

The police officer will be a full-time school resource officer at Crompond Elementary School and will be a member of the Brookside and Mohansic schools' building emergency response teams. The district's middle and high schools each have a school resource officer.

"Students learn best when they feel safe," Noble said. "Our school resource officers are specially trained professionals who play an important role in the schools, where they reassure, counsel and sometimes mentor students. They continue to build positive relationships with students, parents and staff."

Slater also announced last week that the town and the school district are working on an agreement to lease the Downing Park commuter parking lot to the district so that high school students can park there in a more supervised manner.

For years, the lot has been informally used as an overflow parking area for students who drive to the high school. The new agreement would allow the district to institute rules of conduct, permits and staff oversight. There may also be a new prohibition on left turns out of the lot.

"Turning left on Route 202 out of that lot can be pretty dangerous, especially for young and inexperienced drivers," Slater said.

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# Westchester Ready to Begin Public Engagement on Airport Master Plan

By Martin Wilbur

County officials will resume a series of public engagement forums later this month that is intended to supplement the Westchester County Airport Master Plan, more than two years after the process was halted due to the pandemic.

On May 24, the county will host the first of three programs that will invite members of the public to speak on a variety of airport-related issues at Pace University Law School in White Plains, said County Executive George Latimer. There will also be sessions on June 2 at Manhattanville College in Purchase and on June 9 at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. Additional dates will be scheduled later on for the northern half of the county.

The airport has been the source of much discussion over the past five or six years, first with the attempts by former county executive Rob Astorino to explore privatization of the facility, followed by noise complaints by residents in communities such as Purchase and Chappaqua that are in aircrafts' flight paths.

In a briefing last week to announce the upcoming public meetings on the airport's future, Latimer said the county recognizes that the airport is one of the features that makes

Westchester attractive to businesses and residents but officials do not want "a LaGuardia North."

"(It) is a balancing act between a facility that serves a couple of different purposes, but at the same time is restricted enough so that it does not prove to be excessively impactful for those residents who live around it under the flight path," Latimer said.

Among the issues in the technical analysis that are expected to be addressed during the public engagement sessions and in the supplement to the airport's Master Plan, which was last updated in 1989, are the runway system, the taxi system (which is the road system leading to and from the runways), the physical condition of airport property and environmental issues such as runoff and noise, he said.

It will also examine the private aviation companies, including the fixed-based operators. Many of those private companies have advocated for being able to store more aircraft at the airport, arguing that the number of flights from private aviation would be reduced because the carriers wouldn't have to take off again to park their planes at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey or another site.

"All of these things that I just mentioned are elements that have



An aerial view of Runway 16/34 at Westchester County Airport. County officials are prepared to begin public forums on updating the county airport Master Plan starting later this month, including reviewing the airport's runways.

to go into a Master Plan and have to be analyzed and broken down into a professional assessment of where we are and where do we intend to go," Latimer said.

The county had announced in early 2020 that it would begin public engagement sessions but those forums were quickly derailed by the pandemic.

Joan McDonald, Westchester's director of operations, said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires public input as part of an airport's Master Plan process, but said the county will exceed the

level of participation required by the federal government because it is serious about receiving feedback from all constituencies, including the business community, residents and the operators.

"We are going to get the public input to get a sense of what the public in Westchester County wants this airport to be, what they would like to see going forward," McDonald said.

Last week, Latimer reviewed the history of the site, which was first used during World War II for civil defense purposes.

After the war, the decision was

made to turn it into a public access airport, although initially there were few commercial flights. But as the post-war exodus to the suburbs increased, the county government eventually decided to modernize the facility and make it into a transportation hub. That helped attract worldwide corporations such as IBM, Pepsico and General Foods to Westchester, Latimer said.

The county does not plan to increase from four gates or exceed the current limit of 240 passengers per half-hour, he said.

"We are going to do a professional Master Plan that will hold up to the scrutiny of the FAA, potentially to the scrutiny of a lawsuit if any aggrieved party believes somehow we have inappropriately structured this Master Plan," Latimer said. "We have to be able to explain in business terms as well as in community terms what it is that we see this airport (to) be."

Westchester County Airport has more than 1,400 full-time employees and is credited with driving about \$735 million in economic activity, according to the county.

The May 24 public session at Pace Law School, located at 78 N. Broadway in White Plains, and each of the first three sessions will begin at 6 p.m.

## Amazing is running a marathon 3 months after shattering your shoulder.

Dan Levinsohn dreamed of running the NYC Marathon. While training, he was hit by a car, breaking his shoulder in three places. Dan met with Dr. William Levine and his orthopedic team at NewYork-Presbyterian, who operated on his shoulder and designed a physical therapy plan to get him to the marathon. Just months after it seemed impossible, Dan crossed the finish line.

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# Board of Legislators Propose Bill to Protect Women's Health Clinics

By Martin Wilbur

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is proposing a new law that aims to protect reproductive healthcare facilities and their patients from threats and interference by protestors looking to deny services to women.

The Reproductive Healthcare Facilities Access Act would strengthen what is currently on the books by prohibiting threats and harassment of patients and providers by potentially making it a crime to prevent someone access to a facility or to interfere with those providing services.

Under the current draft of the bill, aggrieved parties would also be able to initiate a civil action against those who violate the law. The county could also bring a civil lawsuit.

Board Chair Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining), who has worked to get a form of the bill passed for the 11 years she has served as county legislator, said Monday that the recent draft decision leaked from the U.S. Supreme Court that would jeopardize Roe v. Wade as well as increasingly menacing actions taken by abortion opponents against clinics has highlighted how critical the measure would be.

"This is a bill that is not about reproductive healthcare, really, it's about respect, it's about the opportunity for women to have autonomy and control over their own choices without being bullied

or harassed or being treated in anyway as being unable to make their own decisions," Borgia said.

Last November, a group of anti-abortion protestors gained access to All Women's Medical in White Plains to confront patients who were receiving care. In March, three men who were involved in the incident were found guilty of criminal trespassing. They are scheduled to be sentenced next month.

A co-sponsor of the bill is County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Dobbs Ferry) who has also worked to have similar legislation passed before. She said in 2012, the board approved a bill that resembled the current proposal but it was vetoed by former county executive Rob Astorino. At the time, the Democrats did not have a supermajority on the board.

"Allowing behavior like the clinic invasion at All Women's Health threatens more than the right to abortion and other reproductive health services," Shimsky said. "It also threatens the public safety and the concept of ordered liberty with which no society can function."

A critical element to the law, is not to make it so punitive that legitimate protesting under the First Amendment is curtailed, she said. That is one of the key points that will be reviewed in committee.

Catherine Lederer-Pleskett, president of the White Plains-based Choice Matters, said anti-abortion activists have become so emboldened recently, especially in other



Westchester County Board of Legislators Chair Catherine Borgia announced Monday that legislation to ensure women have access to health clinics regardless of why they are receiving services is being introduced at the county level.

areas of the country, that many people do not understand the full scope of the threats that have been made.

She said many women come to the clinics for care and procedures that are not

abortions, but the extremists' goal is to shut down facilities.

"What this bill does, which is exceptional, is it addresses the kind of violence that is happening today," Lederer-Pleskett said. "It used to be external. It used to be bombing the outside of your building. Now they're coming in. They're coming in and invading the space of patients who came in a private moment to have healthcare."

Under the current draft of the law, a violator, if found guilty, could receive a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or up to six months in jail for the first offense. For a second and each subsequent conviction, the penalty could reach up to \$5,000 and/or up to one year in jail.

Vincent Russell, president of Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, said security is so important to the organization that it has invested \$2 million at its health center in White Plains to move the front patient entrance to the back of the building to shield patients from the protestors who stand on the street.

"And in light of the news last week and the efforts across the county to restrict or abolish abortion access, I would like to say thank you for taking this step and this measure, and it is quite uplifting to have a supportive legislature doing this for us at this time," Russell said.

The bill will head to the Legislation and Health committees for further review.

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# Women's Rights Rally in Peekskill Mirrors National Protests

By Abby Luby

More than 100 demonstrators gathered in Peekskill late last Wednesday afternoon to protest the draft decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that would strike down the landmark Roe v. Wade case that legalized abortion nearly a half-century ago.

The draft decision was leaked to POLITICO on Monday and has galvanized protests nationwide.

Several local and regional organizations were represented at the protest including the Westchester Working Families Party, Hudson Valley Demands New York Health, Progressive Women of NY, WESPAC, Yorktown Indivisible and CD17 Indivisible. They gathered outside the Peekskill City Court and marched five blocks to U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer's local office on Park Street.

"I'm afraid of not being able to make my own decisions about my body and I'm willing to fight for women to be empowered," said Jadeen Mercado, 22, of Yorktown.

Peekskill resident Michelle Keller, a Peekskill Democratic district leader, said striking down Roe v. Wade would not just be about the loss of women's reproductive rights but infringe on healthcare and family planning.

"My daughter and generations to come will be impacted by overturning Roe," Keller said. "We can't expect them to have less healthcare. If we fought to get here, we're not going to stop now."



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

More than 100 demonstrators marched from Peekskill City Court on Wednesday at a protest for women's reproductive rights. A draft decision to overturn Roe v. Wade by the U.S. Supreme Court was leaked last Monday, which has sparked similar protests across the country.

Keller stood next to Yorktown resident Kent Patterson, who held a sign saying "Thou Shalt Not Mess With Women's Rights." Patterson said abortion must remain legal.

"Taking away this right is very wrong," he said.

The draft decision, written by Justice Samuel Alito, revealed a 5-4 vote in favor of overturning Roe v. Wade. Legal scholars have cautioned that draft opinions are subject to change and have in fact been changed in the past.

The Supreme Court's hearing of the case stems from a 2018 suit in Mississippi where the Jackson Women's Health Organization sued the state's Department

of Health to prevent enforcement of a law that prohibits nearly all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

On Wednesday, standing with the crowd in downtown Peekskill was Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg, a Democratic candidate for the 95th Assembly District seat. Levenberg said she was impressed with the turnout.

"New York State has had the right idea on abortion and a woman's right to choose," Levenberg said. "But this is also a cry for the Democrats on a national level to step up and address these issues in the mid-term elections."

Gray clouds parted and the sun started to shine as the crowd walked up Main Street chanting "Tell me what democracy looks like, this is what democracy looks like."

Former Peekskill councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo, who is also running for the same Assembly seat, spoke to the crowd in front of Schumer's office.

"I am saddened and shocked that this is happening," she said of the draft opinion. "We have to stop the Supreme Court from disempowering women. We are out here fighting for our lives."

Jeff Mikkelsen spoke on behalf of the New York Health Campaign, which supports safe, legal and free abortions on demand. With about a month remaining in the Assembly's and state Senate's 2022 session, Mikkelsen urged protestors to demand that their state representatives vote for the New York Health Act, which

provides universal health coverage for every New Yorker, including reproductive care.

Yorktown Indivisible member Katie Schmidt Feder said she was angry at those working to take away the right to legal abortions, a right that has been long fought for.

"If women were forced to have children they couldn't afford, the GOP has never supported subsidies to help those women or children," Feder said. "These rights cannot be taken away."

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Sia Tofano, Community Center Director

Phone: 914-422-1424 • Fax: 914-422-1250

E-mail: [atofano@whiteplainsny.gov](mailto:atofano@whiteplainsny.gov)

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# Obituaries

## Elizabeth LaManna

Elizabeth "Betty" LaManna, 86, of Pleasantville passed away on May 4.

Betty was born Aug. 5, 1935, in White Plains to Frank Gagliardi and Rose Catanzaro. She graduated from White Plains High School. After graduation, she worked for Robison Oil Company in an administrative role. She went on to work as a manager and bookkeeper for her family's business for many years.

Betty married Carmine on March 4, 1962. They wed in White Plains and were married for 58 years.

She was known for her sense of humor. She spent many years gardening, reading books, doing crossword puzzles and spending time with all her grandchildren, who she loved more than anything. She spent every Saturday shopping and out to lunch with her children and grandchildren. This was her greatest joy.

Betty is predeceased by her loving husband, Carmine, and her brother, Frank Gagliardi.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Maria Aloia, and her husband, George, of Pleasantville and son Carmine LaManna and his wife, Kathy, of Thornwood; her grandchildren, Kristen Aloia Gonzalez and her husband, Gabriel, Michelle Aloia Salgado and her husband, Steven, Elizabeth Aloia, Jaclyn Aloia, Steven LaManna, Kyle LaManna and Jason LaManna; her sister, Theresa Harbort; her sister-in-law, wife of



Elizabeth LaManna

Frank, Erminia Gagliardi; and many nieces and nephews. Her grandchildren adored her and affectionately called her Mema. Betty is loved dearly and will be sorely missed.

Visitation for family and friends was at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on May 9. A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for Tuesday, May 10 at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville. She will be laid to rest at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne immediately following Mass.

## Kenneth Parise

Kenneth James Parise passed away on May 2 while surrounded by his loving family. He was 79 years old.

Except for his military service abroad, Ken lived his entire life in Westchester County. He was born and raised in Pleasantville, where he lived until he married his wife, Maureen. Together they moved to Millwood in 1983.

The second youngest of four brothers, Ken graduated from Pleasantville High School in 1962. Immediately following high school, Ken joined the United States Air Force. He did his basic training in Texas and served in both Japan and Germany.

Ken then worked at IBM for more than 25 years, where he was known by some as "Mr. F & F," for furniture and fixtures. After leaving his role at IBM as a facilities manager, Ken worked at Home Depot for 13 years until he retired in 2010.

Ken is the proud father of Kenneth Michael Parise and Julie Marie Millet. He faithfully

cheered for the Yankees and Giants his entire life, and later adopted the Providence College Friars as his college basketball team when his daughter attended school there. In his retirement, Ken enjoyed weekly lunch dates with his son and a scotch on the rocks every now and then, too.

Two of his proudest moments happened in 2019. First, in September, when his daughter married her husband, Joseph Paul Millet, and then in December when Ken and Maureen purchased their dream vacation home in Bethany Beach, Del.

Ken is survived by his wife, Maureen; son Kenny; daughter Julie; son-in-law Joseph; and many nieces and nephews, cousins, second cousins and friends who he considered family.

Visitation was on May 5 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 6 at Holy Innocents Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the Lustgarten Foundation in support of pancreatic cancer research.

## Florence Brown

Florence Mary Harrison Brown, 103, of Southbury, Conn. died in her home on Mar. 31.

Wife of the late Gordon Ray Brown, she was a resident of Southbury for 30 years and Pleasantville for 32 years.

Florence was born in Detroit on Jan. 13, 1919, to Celia May and William Wesley Harrison and spent most of her youth in Indianapolis where she attended Shortridge High School. Graduating in 1941 from Ohio Wesleyan University with a bachelor's in speech, she was recommended by the dean to join the Navy's first class of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) in 1942. She served in the New York City port director's office decoding messages to and from ships and ports in Europe and South America. She was a lieutenant when she was discharged from the Navy.

Returning to civilian life, she met the love of her life, Gordon Brown, with whom she had

two sons and a loving marriage of 56 years. Florence worked for the Pleasantville Board of Education and volunteered for numerous organizations, including the Red Cross, American Field Services, PEO and the PTA. Lifelong Methodists, Florence and Gordon were active in congregations from New York City to Honolulu to Woodbury, Conn. Wherever Florence went, she filled the world with love and laughter.

Florence is survived by her two sons, William Brown (Gail Suderman) of Kamuela, Hawaii and Leigh Brown (Nadine Genet) of Ridgewood, N.J.; five granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life was held on May 7 at the Woodbury United Methodist Church in Woodbury, Conn.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Woodbury United Methodist Church or your favorite animal sanctuary would be perfect.

To leave an online condolence, visit [www.munsonloveterefuneralhome.com](http://www.munsonloveterefuneralhome.com).

## Frieda White

It's with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Frieda Louise White of Valhalla on May 1.

Born Sept. 10, 1937, she was the daughter of the late Franz and Frieda (Mueller) Temme. Frieda graduated from White Plains High School in 1955.

In November 1960, Frieda married Roland White, whom she met while working at IBEW Local 501 in White Plains. Together, they raised two children and lived their love story for 61 years.

Frieda enjoyed needlework, puzzles and watched movies of a wide variety from classic Disney to crime dramas. But above all, she enjoyed all of these activities in the presence of those she loved most. Many afternoons were spent snuggled on the couch watching Disney musicals and "I Love Lucy" reruns with her granddaughters when their homework was done (mostly). Frieda also had a sweet tooth and could always be counted on to bring

everyone's favorite treat for any holiday or special occasion.

In their retirement, Frieda and Roland enjoyed traveling with friends and family, cruising to Alaska and Bermuda and vacationing in the Bahamas and Las Vegas, but she especially enjoyed the annual beach vacations with the whole family.

Frieda is survived by her husband, Roland; her two children, Cheryl Mattiace (Chris) of Leland, N.C. and Steven White (Melinda) of Armonk; and her two granddaughters, Christina White of New York City and Alyssa Carthy (Terence) of Armonk.

The family received friends on May 4 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 5 at Holy Innocents R.C. Church in Pleasantville.

To express your condolences online or for further information, visit <https://www.beecherflooksfh.com>.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org).

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

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CONDADO DE WESTCHESTER, NUEVA YORK  
SECRETARIA DEL DISTRITO



# Obituary

## Charles Matteo

Dr. Charles Carmen Matteo, 79, died on Wednesday afternoon May 4 at his home in Pleasantville just 12 days before his 80th birthday.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dr. Martha R. Matteo; brother Anthony T. Matteo and his wife, Judith Matteo, of Northfield, Mass.; two sons, Evan and his wife, Rachel Matteo-Boehm, and daughter Isabel and Benjamin and his partner Dr. Yael Shrager, all living in San Francisco. He is also survived by his uncle Salvatore Stramondo, 94, and his cousins, nephews and niece with their respective families.

Chuck, as he was known to most, was born in Lawrence, Mass. to Louis Matteo and Rose Stramondo. He grew up in a close-knit Italian-American family as the oldest member of his generation. In 1959, he graduated as the salutatorian of Central Catholic High School of Lawrence, Mass.

In 1963, he received his undergraduate degree from Boston College where he studied physics and Russian on a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship and played trumpet in the marching band. After college, he joined the New England Enzyme Center at Tufts University School of Medicine, where he became the assistant director of day operations and the go-to technical leader and where he met his future bride. In 1975, Chuck earned his doctorate in

biochemical engineering from MIT.

Chuck had an impactful professional career in biochemistry, microbiology and food production technology. He held leadership positions in corporate research at Union Carbide, engineering research at General Foods and served as a consultant to production and operations functions. He developed methods for computer-aided automated quality control.

Chuck did not seek the spotlight but was always keenly studying and contributing to his surroundings. Photography was a lifelong passion, where he combined his technical skills and compassion for others, whether close relatives or acquaintances. His photographs showcase his mastery of natural light and soft shadow and capture the true essence of his subjects: at ease, yet deeply connected to the person behind the camera.

In retirement, Chuck dedicated his full energies to the Pleasantville community and the advancement of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education curriculum. He was a member of the launch committee for the Jacob Burns Film Center, which opened in 2001. He and his wife, Martha, served on the Pleasantville Schools 2026: Strategic Plan committee, helping formulate the long-term vision for the school district and the actionable steps to execute it.

In 2015, Chuck and Martha co-founded the nonprofit Pleasantville Friends of



Dr. Charles Matteo, with his wife, Martha, holding a trophy from the Science Olympiad.

mentor to Pleasantville Middle School students. These teams regularly placed at the regional and New York State level competitions, but more importantly, there are college students today who are science and engineering majors because of Dr. Matteo's influence.

To his family, Chuck will always be remembered for his love, warmth and smile that lights a room, the twinkle in his eye and witty humor. He moved heaven and earth for family and friends. He was a curious and fearless problem-solver who relished a technical challenge or an interesting new idea, and puzzling through these findings with his sons.

He had passion for life and the long list of people that he cared deeply for. He loved cooking, whether pancakes for his granddaughter on Sunday morning, a holiday feast for the extended family or his favorite pies and summer fruit tarts. He loved building things, often with his father's carpentry tools. Chuck loved gardening, art, folk dancing, jigsaw puzzles, and, above all, his wife and lifetime partner, Martha.

A remembrance ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 14 at the Beecher Flooks Funeral Home at 418 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville from 4 to 8 p.m. The family will also receive guests on Sunday, May 15.

In lieu of sending flowers, donations may be made to the Pleasantville Friends of Stem at [www.pfstem.org](http://www.pfstem.org) in memory of Charles C. Matteo.

STEM organization along with Dr. Usha Sankar and other community members. This nonprofit has served as the umbrella for the school district's nascent Science Olympiad program, which the group started in 2012. Chuck and Martha worked as a close and complementary team dedicated to all things Olympiad. Until his passing, Chuck acted as Olympiad coach and

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

**May 3:** At 8:06 a.m., officers responded to Radio Circle on a request from New York State Police to locate an 18-year-old man who attends school there. The youth was transported to state police barracks in Cortlandt and turned over to troopers investigating an allegation that the teen violated a court-issued order of protection.

**May 3:** Officers responded at 6:27 p.m. to a room at the Holiday Inn to assist Westchester County Child Protective Services with the removal of a child. The infant's mother was provided with a copy of a Temporary Order of Removal and given notice to appear in Westchester County Family Court.

**May 3:** Officers responded to Spring Street at 9:38 p.m. to assist a man who was having chest pains. The Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps also responded and transported the man to the hospital.

**May 5:** A caller requested at 7:10 a.m. that officers conduct a welfare check on a relative who had taken a taxi to Northern Westchester Hospital and could not be reached on her cell phone. Officers determined that the woman had arrived at the hospital complaining of pain but left on her own before receiving medical care.

**May 6:** At 2:48 a.m., an officer on patrol observed a man inside a Lexington Avenue business that is usually closed at that hour. It was determined that the man was an employee of the business.

**May 6:** Patrol officers responded at 11:55 a.m. to a medical office on South Bedford Road on a report of a suspicious package that arrived in the mail containing white powder. The Hazardous Devices Unit was requested to respond and its members determined that the white power was not a hazardous substance. The matter was turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

North Castle Police Department

**Apr. 29:** A caller reported at 2:48 p.m. that while driving home from the Westchester Mall a female in a BMW appeared to be following her and at one point was honking at her and making gestures. The caller stated she was close to town and was going to respond to the police department. The desk officer stayed on the phone with the caller who stated the BMW followed her until she reached headquarters. An officer responded to the front of the building and spoke to the complainant. The BMW did not follow the caller into the parking lot. Information was gathered.

**Apr. 30:** A caller reported at 9:37 p.m. that race cars were going up and down his street leaving "burn outs." The responding officer reported several fresh tire marks, but upon canvassing the area the responsible vehicles had left.

**May 2:** A complainant reported at headquarters at 1:50 p.m. that she received checks from someone who was impersonating a company willing to provide

monetary assistance for her music. She was notified by the bank that the checks she received were fraudulent and that she now owed \$3,500.

**May 3:** At 4:02 p.m., a report of \$540 in fake currency had been passed through the CVS on Main Street yesterday. The responding officers gathered evidence.

**May 4:** Report of an attempted burglary by a Fawn Lane resident at 3:31 p.m. A male attempted to pry open the front door about 1 p.m. The unknown male party was unable to make entry and fled in an unknown direction. Officers responded and reported depositions and photos were secured. An officer will canvass in an attempt to get further video surveillance footage.

Pleasantville Police Department

**May 2:** A 24-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested on Meadow Lane at 2:30 a.m. after another party was assaulted. The suspect was arraigned.

**May 3:** An arrest was made at 5:42 p.m. on Brentwood Drive after an Order of Protection was ignored, causing a disturbance. Further information was withheld.

**May 4:** Multiple calls were received at 3:26 p.m. regarding a truck striking overhead phone and cable wires on Manville Road causing a hazardous condition. Verizon

was contacted and wires were later cleared from the road.

State Police/Cortlandt

**Apr. 18:** State police in Cortlandt are investigating a larceny of more than \$3,900 worth of over-the-counter medications from the ACME Supermarket on East Main Street in Mohegan Lake. The suspects also attempted to steal medication from the ACME in Yorktown but were interrupted before fleeing in a red or maroon four-door sedan.


Yorktown Police Department

**Apr. 27:** A 17-year-old male was charged at 2:52 p.m. with stealing a cell phone from a parked vehicle at Turkey Mountain Park on Apr. 11 and possessing 22 Vyvanse pills.

**Apr. 27:** Juan Quiroz, 18, of Yonkers, was charged at 3:55 p.m. with stealing used cooking oil from 1859 E. Main St. and being in possession of burglar tools.

**Apr. 29:** Sidney Russ, 50, of Yorktown, was charged with aggravated harassment at 2:07 p.m. for allegedly threatening to kill someone.

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



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**THERE'S A WORD FOR IT**

**A vocabulary-building quiz    By Edward Goralski**

**Three's Company.** May is the only month of the year that contains only three letters. To welcome the month of May the quiz words this week come from the vocabulary.com feature, "Essential Three-Letter Words." The feature, and this quiz, invite you to "dip into this vat of verbal gems of every hue and turn your woe into awe."

1. lax (adj.)	A) lacking in rigor	B) lacking in expertise	C) lacking restraint
2. hub (n.)	A) a meeting	B) an uproar	C) center of activity
3. yaw (v.)	A) to open wide	B) swerve off course	C) tell a tale
4. ilk (n.)	A) a foolish action	B) a type of thing	C) a simple life
5. apt (adj.)	A) presumptive	B) lacking wings	C) suitable
6. rue (v.)	A) to feel remorse for	B) flip through	C) emphasize
7. ken (n.)	A) a familiar area	B) a perceptible amount	C) comprehension
8. vim (n.)	A) vitality	B) justification	C) a sudden idea

**ANSWERS:**

1. A. Lacking in rigor or strictness; slack; negligent  
2. C. A center of activity or interest or commerce or transportation; a focal point around which events revolve  
3. B. To swerve off course momentarily; especially to move from side to side  
4. B. A type of people or things; type; genre  
5. C. Being of striking appropriateness and pertinence; suitable; apropos; appropriate  
6. A. To feel remorse for; fell sorry for; to be contrite about  
7. C. One's range of knowledge; understanding; comprehension  
8. A. A healthy capacity for vigorous activity; energy; vitality





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Letters to the Editor

Support for Incumbents, Budget is Needed in Yorktown School District

As most people know, our school board elections are very contentious this year in both Lakeland and Yorktown. Since I live in the Yorktown Central School District, I will address the situation here.

I think that we can all agree that public schools play a critical role in our community by building well-educated citizens. For many of us, strong schools are the main reason we chose this town. It's more important than ever that each one of us must seriously consider supporting both the school budget and the incumbents running for re-election. Please vote on Tuesday, May 17 at French Hill School.

The incumbents, Reshmi Bose, Cheryl Reynolds and Lisa Rolle, have a track record that is clear and publicly

available. They have helped guide our district through tumultuous times with competence, a strong financial footing and a focus on students.

I wasn't able to find much information on challengers Michael Capalbo, Richard Giannasca and Frank Panebianco, but what I did find was quite disturbing. In 2021, a hate-filled four-minute video that was made by two women (one being a district parent), made the rounds on social media. It was a vicious and racist attack on a beloved neighbor, a well-respected guidance counselor at Yorktown High School.

Hundreds of people in our community came out to the next Board of Education meeting to express our support for our

schools and against blatant racism and hate. However, Mr. Giannasca was one of the very few speakers that evening to speak out against diversity, equity and inclusion programs. You might be interested to know that the parent who made that video has endorsed the challengers, including Mr. Giannasca, in the school board race and is also urging residents to vote no on the budget.

Voting against a school budget has far-ranging negative consequences. Yorktown has provided lots of information on this year's budget. Please take the time to read it.

Turnout for school board trustee and budget elections is traditionally low. It is essential that this year be different. We

have seen multiple public instances of racism in our town and the surrounding area in the last couple of years alone. It is critical that we do not allow forces of division and hate to hold positions of power over one of our most important public institutions – our children's schools.

People of conscience from across the political spectrum have come out to oppose hate in our community. Now is the time to make your voice heard with your vote.

Please join me in supporting the incumbents and voting yes on the school budget.

Judyth Stavans  
Yorktown

Ascanio, Edwards, Monsanto, Perozo Clearly Best for Lakeland Board of Ed

On Tuesday May 17, voters will choose who will fill four out of the nine seats on the Lakeland Board of Education, making this year's election a crucial junction in the future of our district.

Collectively, we have more than two decades of experience as Lakeland trustees, and accordingly, understand that these seats must be filled by individuals who are committed to moving the district forward through transparent governance, prudent fiscal management and the fostering of a diverse and welcoming educational environment for all of Lakeland's students and families.

This is why we are strongly endorsing Joe Ascanio, Paul Edwards, Chuck Monsanto and Laura Perozo.

Ascanio is a longtime resident and Lakeland dad, whose commitment to the district has been evident in his consistent presence at Board of Education meetings over the past year. Anyone who hears him speak immediately understands that he has an intelligent, compassionate and nuanced

view of the issues facing our community. As a technology executive and community volunteer, he has ample skill and experience in solving problems and building consensus.

Edwards' commitment to our youth is readily apparent from his work with children, both professionally and through his volunteer work. His expertise on antibullying programs will aid him well as he develops policies to promote inclusivity in our schools, and he is one of only a few candidates in a crowded field who is a Cortlandt resident and parent of Walter Panas High School students. We're impressed by Paul's transparency and open-mindedness, and we know that we'll never have to guess where he stands on important issues.

Monsanto not only fights for the next generation; he fights with them. Chuck's selfless act of re-enlisting in the military after over a decade of civilian life exemplifies his bravery and willingness to serve our country. As a combat veteran, Chuck understands that both action and inaction have consequences, and that leaders are responsible for both.

We believe this experience, along with his collegiality and pragmatism, will serve him well when faced with tough or controversial policy decisions as a board member.

Perozo has a decades-long career as a finance leader, specializing in the nonprofit sector, and her financial background will prove invaluable in the oversight of a district with a proposed \$175 million budget. She is a strong supporter of hands-on learning and innovative education. Her advocacy and volunteer work for women and girls are especially inspiring, and we are excited about the new ideas that she will bring to Lakeland.

Joe, Paul, Chuck and Laura have proven to us that they have the tenacity and courage to take on the responsibility of leading Lakeland forward. When they are elected, we are confident they will be transparent in their actions. We are confident that Lakeland's educators, administrators and support staff will be afforded the resources and professional discretion necessary to educate the whole child. And we are confident that they will create districtwide policy that ensures that no

child ever feels ostracized or unwelcome in our school hallways.

On May 17, we will go to Van Cortlandtville Elementary School to cast our votes for Joe Ascanio, Paul Edwards, Chuck Monsanto and Laura Perozo. Please join us.

Robert Mayes, Lakeland Board of Education, 2018-22  
Karen Pressman, Lakeland Board of Education, 2015-21  
Glen Malia, Lakeland Board of Education, 2005-19

Correction

In last week's article about the opening of new space at Blythedale Children's Hospital, it was incorrectly reported that the addition of a new administrative suite and eight new beds have yet to be completed as part of the hospital's long-range facilities plan. Those additions have already been made. The Examiner regrets the error.

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Publisher  
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski  
Associate Publisher  
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

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

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

Print Team:

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

Rick Pezzullo  
Editor  
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher  
Sports Editor  
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs  
Sports Editor  
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren  
Designer

Paul Cardi  
Senior Account Executive  
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum  
Senior Account Executive  
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi  
Senior Account Executive  
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio  
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Digital Team:

Robert Schork  
Digital Editorial Director  
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt  
Reporter  
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana  
Webmaster  
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

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# Column

## We've Gained Entry into The Trust Project: Here's the What, How and Why

One bleary-eyed night in the bleary-eyed year that was 2020, I was poking around Facebook trying to determine how to get our Examiner Media business page verified. One link led to another until, somehow, my journey through a late-night rabbit hole landed me on the homepage of something called The Trust Project.

In my Trust Project deep dive I learned the organization was an international consortium of news organizations trying to build standards of transparency to enhance credibility with readers.

We live in an age of profound media distrust and deep confusion over what websites can and can't be trusted online. Many well-intentioned people are unknowingly awash in a sea of misinformation, thinking they're bathed in reality. If there was an organization combatting the problem on a global scale, I was eager to join and play our tiny role.

I saw some of the most respected names in our industry listed as members of The Trust Project. News outlets like The Economist, The Washington Post and the Toronto Star, among hundreds of other serious names.

Let's face it, Examiner Media is super skimpy potatoes in comparison, and I sometimes even wonder if calling ourselves by our company name conveys a sense we're



By Adam Stone

larger than our size. Basically, for those that don't know, we're a small band of local community journalists trying to survive the week and publish the weekly miracle.

It's easy to feel a sense of imposter syndrome when printing Rotary pancake breakfast photos (as much as we genuinely love Rotary breakfasts) while at the same time preaching high-minded ideals. There are tons of sober

stories we'd love to cover every week that we don't have the bandwidth to cover (or to cover as thoroughly as we'd like), given our limited resources. But I shook away those doubts and sought entry.

The Trust Project is led by a brilliant, incisive, thoughtful woman named Sally Lehrman. An award-winning journalist, Lehrman founded the project in 2014 to, as the organization's website puts it, "strengthen public confidence in the news through accountability and transparency."

Many months after submitting an application to The Trust Project and following a vigorous vetting process, we were accepted into the training program. But right out the gate, Sally politely but clearly explained how we'd have to clear a tall series of hurdles across a long track before possibly gaining entry.

"As part of membership, you will be required to make various disclosures that make up our Trust Indicators, including making corrections, identifying sponsored and other paid content, and providing clear details about your ownership and/or funding sources," she wrote in an e-mail more than a year ago, last March. "In particular, we will ask you to clearly label opinions (and) explain in your Best Practices policies why you allow reporters to write opinions."

Starting today, after six months of formal compliance training, we're Trust Project official, along with a handful of other news organizations in our cohort.

We're incredibly excited that Examiner Media and one of our cohort colleagues are the first two news organizations to earn Trust Project compliance for our newsletters too, not just our websites. So, in addition to having The Trust Project logo seal of approval on The Examiner News local news website, you'll also see the project insignia emblazoned inside our Examiner+ newsmagazine-style newsletter.

But what is The Trust Project, more specifically? Essentially, Trust Project-sanctioned news organizations embrace eight fundamental principles, trademarked the "Trust Indicators."

The Indicators help people know who and what is behind a given news story through disclosures on news sites about:

- Best Practices (Standards and Policies)

- Journalist Expertise
- Type of Work Labels
- References Behind Claims
- Methods of Reporting
- Local Expertise and Sourcing
- Diverse Voices and Perspectives
- Actionable Feedback (Public Engagement)

But even though we've now finally gained entry into The Trust Project, the real work begins today – by maintaining our commitment daily to the ideals espoused by Lehrman. It's especially gratifying to enter The Trust Project just a week after winning six honors for our local journalism at the New York Press Association's statewide Better Newspaper Contest.

Check out our new and improved Trust Project-endorsed local news website at [www.theexaminernews.com](http://www.theexaminernews.com) and support our mission by subscribing to our newsletter at [www.examiner-plus.com](http://www.examiner-plus.com). After all, one of the eight Trust Project Indicators, Actionable Feedback, is about forging two-way communication between news organizations and their audiences. With that in mind, please be in touch with your input. E-mail me at [astone@theexaminernews.com](mailto:astone@theexaminernews.com) and let's connect.

Our entire team is eager to earn your trust.

*Adam Stone is the publisher of Examiner Media.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Criticisms of Underhill Farm Project, Developer is Off Base

It's always easy to find people opposed to change. They'll throw everything at the wall and see what sticks. This irresponsible behavior is without regard for people that have built solid reputations and track records.

In the case of Unicorn Contracting

Corp., and their plans for Underhill Farm in Yorktown, a few outspoken residents, opposed to any change, have made false and misleading claims about a company that has earned our trust. We know Unicorn. In addition to successful projects throughout the region, they added the CareMount

buildings on Hill Boulevard and Kear Street to our community.

Underhill Farm offers much-needed and positive change for Yorktown. This includes senior-friendly housing, 118 units, part of a total of 148 townhouses, condominiums and apartments. Additionally, Unicorn will dedicate 30 new parking spaces for our new senior center, which cannot be built without the approval of Underhill Farm. The project

also has new plans to address longtime traffic issues at Underhill Avenue and Route 118.

It's time to drown out the negative and misleading noise and pay attention to people that we have already come to respect. Let's keep our ears open as Underhill Farm progresses with its process in Yorktown.

**Brian Wolfson**  
Yorktown

### Goldman-Klein's Well-Suited for Bedford Board of Education

As a resident of Bedford Village, I am writing this letter to offer my full support of Dr. Gilian Goldman-Klein for the Bedford Central School District Board of Education.

As a parent of children in Fox Lane Middle School and Fox Lane High School, I have seen firsthand the complicated and challenging issues our Board of Education and school professionals must navigate. This position requires an intelligent, collaborative and values-driven person to be successful. Gilian has all these attributes and is the most qualified candidate for the job. In both her personal and professional life, she has a long track record of always championing what is best for all children.

As a professional in education, and more specifically, a child and adolescent psychologist, she has the training and skill sets to employ data analysis to help make decisions, evaluate outcomes, assess needs and plan new interventions. While working as a school psychologist in Westchester County, she consistently collaborates with

parents, teachers and administrators to help children reach their full potential. Her combination of intelligent data-driven decisions with an approachable and compassionate style makes her extremely effective in implementing change and building consensus.

Gilian has a vision to help all students thrive by improving Bedford's ability to provide effective math and literacy programs, an environment of safety and inclusion and a whole child approach. Emotional development is just as important as academic success and she understands that an atmosphere of support and caring is the foundation that all children need to learn and grow.

She is the obvious choice, and I hope you will join me in voting for Dr. Gilian Goldman-Klein for the Bedford Board of Education on May 17.

**Dr. Ari Kellner**  
Bedford Village

### Underhill Farm Proposal Would Benefit Yorktown in Many Ways

Unicorn Contracting Corp., the owners of the former Soundview Preparatory site, seem very committed to doing the right things for the property, and our community.

One key part is their level of investment. The historic Underhill House is in disrepair, and is a treasure for Yorktown worth saving. Paul Guillaro, president of Unicorn, has pledged \$1 million to preserve and restore this landmark. Once completed, the company will also invest \$250,000 annually to maintain the house and grounds, at no cost to taxpayers.

The Guillaro family will also spend \$850,000 to restore Yorktown's ice pond and make it a park for public use, once again at no cost to the taxpayers.

There are many other investments committed as well, including nearly \$500,000 in traffic improvements that will vastly

address existing traffic issues at Underhill Avenue and Route 118.

Additionally, Unicorn will invest hundreds of thousands of dollars for a new parking lot essential for the new senior center, plus a road for better emergency access for Beaveridge Apartments. But for this parking lot, the senior center will not be built. These are just a few examples of new monies to improve our town.

Guillaro has already completed many projects throughout the region, and two in Yorktown, including the CareMount medical building. He is someone we can trust, and who is ready to invest more in Yorktown. Let's get behind the plans for Underhill Farm.

**Andy Walsh**  
Yorktown, 60-year resident



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# Home Interior Can Be Enhanced Through Creative Lighting

When I was in college, I appeared in a play called "The Madwoman of Chailot" by Jean Giraudoux with the actress Linda Lavin who would later go on to achieve fame as "Alice" on television.

The most stunning thing about that production, as I recall, was the amazing effects achieved by its lighting director, on staff in the theater department, who was an incredible talent.

I remember that when the curtain rose for the second act of the play, the stage was completely dark and slowly a small pin spotlight illuminated only the face of the madwoman in the center of the stage. Just that lighting effect alone brought applause from the audience.

Every scene of the play was an arresting study in shadow and light where brightness drew the viewer's attention, where it needed to be, while other areas of the stage receded. I was mesmerized as I observed how light created movement and mood by playing off stationary surfaces.

Many years later I was reminded of my interest in stage lighting when the director of Yorktown Stage in Yorktown Heights shared with me his feeling that a production really doesn't come to life until the lighting director does his job with a show, going so far to say that seeing a set dramatically lit for the first time has brought him to tears.

His comment convinced me that someday



By Bill Primavera

I should have a home where its lighting would be as dramatic as a stage set, and that would require a custom designed lighting system. But having always lived in antique homes, my lighting was primarily from traditional lamps.

When I moved to a new condo, however, my dream for dramatic lighting presented itself. I arranged with management to have electrical contractors work with me to install a system to light my great room, which I had designed basically as an art gallery for my collection of oil paintings of portraits and landscapes. The lighting system

I planned was to highlight the paintings on three walls: portraits on the living room side, pastorals on the dining room side and a large abstract on the third wall in between.

At first, I was planning to hire a lighting designer, but I was lucky to find an electrician with sensitivity to my ideas and needs, and working in tandem with an electric supply company, we all worked wonders together.

There were many technical challenges to overcome working on the fifth-floor condo with 10-foot-high ceilings, installing high hats in a soffit with insulation material. The casing for the high-hat units I originally wanted turned out to be too large to be accommodated in the soffit.

I had the good fortune to be assigned a



job manager who was as much an artist as he was an electrician. He guided me every step of the way in terms of which product to use. We sourced a small LED light whose imprint on the ceiling is only two inches square – as well as the appropriate spacing and angles of light to employ. He cut such clean holes that nary a speck of spackle was needed for patching the plasterboard.

Now completed, the overhead pin spots illuminate my great room/gallery in a warm and inviting way. Rather than being surrounded by flat walls with two-dimensional shapes on them, the lighted paintings create great depth and richness to our space. While we have other traditional lighting sources in the room, it really requires no light other than that resting on the faces of the portraits and on the landscapes of the pastorals. The effect takes us to other acquaintances and distant places beyond the space we occupy. It's transporting.

As a footnote: Whenever I think of

creative lighting, I think of my "Aunt Pearl," an older friend of my wife and me who used to visit our antiques shop that we owned in Brooklyn Heights. Aunt Pearl had spent her youth in an old Victorian home, which she described as dark and dreary.

To compensate, when she married, she set up her own home with as much bright light as she could muster. Her apartment when we knew her was ablaze with bright lights from many sources, practically to the point where visitors might have wanted to shield their eyes. We were amused when she described a next-door neighbor's apartment as a dark cave with everyone gathered at night around one naked light bulb.

I am also amused to remember that as a major project for a college art class, I created a photographic study of the "plasticity of light," demonstrating how different lighting sources could create different effects. I solicited the help of a friend who was a photographer and, as a model, I employed the generous support of my girlfriend at the time. She was quite liberal and agreed to appear with only a sheer scarf protecting her modesty. It earned the only A-plus I received in college.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest-running public relations agency in Westchester. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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# Chappaqua Singer to Perform Benefit Concert to Help At-Risk Students

By Martin Wilbur

Frank Shiner didn't hesitate to help his former priest at Saint John and Saint Mary in Chappaqua after he learned he had started a school in Newburgh for disadvantaged children.

The singer and actor who had put his music career on hold while he and his wife raised their family, had returned to performing after he fulfilled his wife's request to sing at an open mic night.

Shiner's been using his talents by visiting the San Miguel Academy, a co-ed educational services program for underprivileged and at-risk students that Fr. Mark Connell started 12 years ago to assist them in their music program.

This weekend Shiner takes it a step further when he holds a benefit concert for the school.

"My heart has been captured by the San Miguel Academy," Shiner said. "I mean, Father Mark, I knew him when he was at Saint John and Saint Mary. He was always this dynamic figure. I can barely walk into (San Miguel Academy) without coming to tears because I just call it a miracle in our own backyard."

This Saturday evening, Shiner, who years ago was scheduled to debut on Broadway before the production he was part of was abruptly canceled, will be performing in his backyard. He will headline a program called *Swingin' Into Spring*, a big-band concert that will see him backed by 22 musicians from Orchestra 914 (formerly the Chappaqua Orchestra) at the Chappaqua Performing Arts



Frank Shiner is underwriting a Big Band concert this Saturday night to benefit San Miguel Academy, a Newburgh school for disadvantaged, at-risk students

Center.

There will be 18 choral students from San Miguel who will join Shiner on stage for part of the evening. He also has a couple of surprises in store for the audience.

Perhaps best, aside from an evening of great music, is that all proceeds from the ticket sales at the 425-seat venue will be donated to the school.

"I went to Father Mark and told him, 'I believe in your program, I want to underwrite a show, all expenses paid,'" Shiner said. "You

guys set up a ticket link, we don't touch that money. It goes straight to you."

Once Shiner had a young family to raise, he needed a more reliable source of income than what show business could provide. He worked in healthcare payment sales before starting his own company, Rectangle Health. Not long ago he sold the company enabling to return to his first love – singing and performing.

Shiner has since launched Frank Shiner Music, part of Bakerson Records, which is covering the concert's expenses. Shiner has

also been performing at Manhattan venues such as the Sheen Center for Thought and Culture, The Iridium, The Cutting Room and Feinstein's 54 Below.

Before the pandemic he collaborated with fellow Chappaqua resident Vanessa Williams on a concert at ChappPac.

Although blues and soul is Shiner's wheelhouse, he's ready for a night of Big Band.

"I think people are going to be on their feet dancing because we have some rhythm in the show," he said. "My personal love is blues and soul, but I love this music, too. I bring my own thing to it, obviously."

Shortly after the announcement of the concert, about 230 tickets were sold. He added an option for people to sponsor tickets to enable friends and family of the students who will be in the show to come and not have to pay the \$50 or \$75 ticket price. Three busloads of audience members are expected to make the trip from Newburgh.

"We already have 110 sponsored seats," Shiner said. "People from all over, family members, friends, people that have seen shows before from out of state that can't be there or they're going to be at a graduation or something."

The concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tickets are still available by visiting [www.frankshiner.com](http://www.frankshiner.com), which will bring the visitor to a link to buy tickets or sponsored seats.

The Chappaqua Performing Arts Center is located on the grounds of Chappaqua Crossing at 480 Bedford Rd.

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# New Castle Unveils Signs in Parks Raising Food Allergy Awareness

By Martin Wilbur

For those people who suffer from food allergies, they must stay constantly vigilant to not only avoid certain foods but even coming close to others.

For children, that can be especially difficult, since they are often in sizeable groups with their peers at school, on a school bus or on the playground.

The Town of New Castle is recognizing Food Allergy Awareness Week by having unveiled one of 10 signs last Tuesday at its parks and playgrounds to remind the public that they can take two simple but crucial steps to ensure the safety of everyone who visits.

"Do you know 1 in 13 children has a food allergy?" read the sign that was uncovered at the interactive playground behind Town Hall. "You can keep our children safer with these simple steps:

1. Eat in picnic areas
2. Clean your hands with a water based wipe after eating"

For eighth-grader Jared Saiontz, who has suffered from multiple food allergies all his life, he was pleased his hometown installed the cautionary reminders for children and parents that members of the community do have potentially problematic or even lethal food allergies.

"It makes me feel happy because they can't always feel safe and they don't have to worry when they go to the playgrounds," Saiontz said of youngsters like himself with severe allergies. "(Now) they can just have fun with their friends."

He has advocated for local food pantries to be sensitive to those with food allergies as well as having supported a law that now allows school bus drivers in the state to administer epinephrine, which was passed by the legislature in 2017. On Monday, Saiontz was in Albany to receive a proclamation from Assemblyman Chris Burdick honoring him and others who advocate on behalf of those with food allergies.

Supervisor Lisa Katz and several other officials and community members gathered around the sign at the playground before last week's Town Board work session. Helping to keep residents safe is also making sure to address a potential problem that could



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The Town of New Castle commemorated Food Allergy Awareness Week, unveiling one of 10 signs in its parks and playgrounds reminding the public how they can protect those with food allergies. Pictured, from left, are Councilwoman Victoria Tipp, Chappaqua resident Stacey Saiontz, her son, Jared, Supervisor Lisa Katz and parent Heather Brown.

be life-threatening, brought on by children innocently play at a park without washing their hands after eating.

"This is something that's very important, especially on playgrounds when you don't know if a child just ate peanuts, for instance, and hasn't washed (their) hands or is eating it on a swing and then another child who does have an issue is coming and can really have a significant issue," Katz said.

About 90 percent of all food allergies are caused by nine foods, according to foodallergy.org, a site that helps those with food allergies to lead safe lives. Those foods are milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soy and sesame.

About 32 million Americans suffer from food allergies, including roughly six million children, the website stated.

Saiontz's mother, Stacey, said that her son's friends have been very cooperative in making sure not to eat around Jared and to wash their hands or use wipes when they're around him.

She said that the signs are important because unless you or someone you know have food allergies it could be the furthest thing from your mind when coming to a playground.

"This make it even easier because sometimes there are people who you don't know," Stacey Saiontz said. "People don't want to hurt anyone else."



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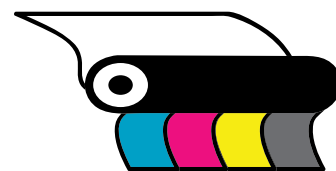
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# Caramoor: Performing in the Key of Musical Diversity

By Abby Luby

The 2022 summer season at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts will excite those seeking a wide range of musical styles, performed on a variety of stages in and around the center's verdant setting.

The season runs from June 18 to August 7 and, as always, has something for everyone. This year includes a new layer of contemporary, groundbreaking music along with the traditional musical fare of chamber, symphonic, operatic, jazz and Americana.

The overarching theme, according to Edward J. Lewis III, Caramoor's president and CEO, is how music and the arts transform lives and can bring people together. "This summer is one of the most dynamic in our history," Lewis said. "Our incredible lineup of artists and repertoire includes voices from an array of backgrounds, eras and lived experiences. The programs reflect a broad diversity of audiences from our stages."

To that end, many works that will be heard are by rarely-known composers. On July 10, excerpts of the concert theater work "The Chevalier," about Joseph Bologne, a general of 18th century Europe's first Black regiment, will be performed by award-winning violinist Brendon Elliott and the Harlem Chamber Players.

Bologne, who supposedly chummed with Mozart and Marie Antoinette, staunchly supported slavery's abolishment. There will be a pre-concert talk with writer and director Bill Barclay.

Women composers have largely been

ignored over the centuries even as they have become a strong and visible force. On July 14, music by three contemporary women composers will be performed by the Grammy-nominated ensemble Imani Winds playing original works by Valerie Coleman, Nathalie Joachim and Reena Esmail in a program entitled "A Woman's Perspective." There will be a post-concert discussion with vocalist, performance artist, writer and composer Helga Davis, host of "Helga: The Armory Conversations" on WNYC. Davis will host multiple post-concert talks throughout the season.

Popular headliners include the incomparable cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his collaborators The Knights on June 18 for Opening Night, pianist Inon Barnatan on June 26 and Grammy Award-winning musician Rhiannon Giddens' The Silkroad Ensemble performing four new commissions on July 16. Other celebrated performers scheduled to appear are the Kronos Quartet on July 8, soprano Dawn Upshaw and the Brentano String Quartet on July 15 and pianist Marc-Andre Hamelin and the Orchestra of St. Luke's on Aug. 7.

Caramoor's Sound Art Exhibition includes "Sonic Innovations," heard throughout the grounds featuring six works. Two pieces are "Timbre" and "Frequency," created by Mendi and Keith Obadike and inspired by African-American writers Toni Morrison and Ralph Ellison. Artists will be on hand for the free guided tours of the Sonic Innovations.

Free events include a pre-season Soundscapes on June 5 with percussive



GABE PALACIO PHOTO

The Sunken Garden at Caramoor highlights musicians performing as part of the season's Soundscape programs.

dancing duo Caleb Teicher and Nic Gareiss; beatboxer, vocal percussionist and breath artist Dominic "Shodekeh" Talifero and Dorit Chrysler playing the theremin, a favored instrument of Lucie Rosen who, with her husband Walter, built their house and grounds in 1928, which today is Caramoor.

Also free is Juneteenth on June 19 celebrating African American freedom. Presented in collaboration with the Town of Bedford, the performance will feature internationally recognized recording artist, vocal coach and songwriter Jeremiah Abiah. Family activities are scheduled to commemorate the emancipation to honor

families and their heritage and resilience.

Another free event is the world premiere of Michael Gordon's new large-scale, site-specific work, "Field of Vision" on July 24 in the Sunken Garden and surrounding field.

The Music & Meditation in the Garden on three Saturday mornings (July 9, 16 and Aug. 6) in the Sunken Garden is a guided meditation and performance with a cellist, flutist and guitar-cello duo. It is free for children.

Caramoor's annual Jazz Festival returns on July 30 featuring composer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Camille Thurman with the Darrell Green Quartet.

The all-day American Roots Music Festival on June 25 highlights Americana, blues, folk and bluegrass with headliner singer-songwriter Molly Tuttle with her band Golden Highway.

The grounds are open for picnicking, walking and enjoying sound art two hours before concerts Wednesdays through Sundays from June 5 to Aug. 20. For children 18 and under, most Caramoor concert tickets are half price and some of the string quartet performances and concerts on the lawn are free for children. Tickets for Garden Listening are \$20, but are free for members and children under 18 years old.

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts is located at 149 Girdle Ridge Rd. in Katonah. For more information, including a full schedule of performers and tickets, visit [www.caramoor.org](http://www.caramoor.org) or e-mail [boxoffice@caramoor.org](mailto:boxoffice@caramoor.org).



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# High School Friends Make Bagels a Way of Life

By Abby Luby

When Dennis Antonucci and his good friend Phil Visconti were 23, they decided to buy JV Hot Bagels on Lee Boulevard in Jefferson Valley. Both had worked there while attending Lakeland High School. They learned the nuts and bolts of the business and how to make it a success.

Six years later, in 1998, when JV Hot Bagels was for sale, the two buddies borrowed almost \$400,000 to buy it, determined to keep the popular store a success.

"I can't believe we went into so much debt and we were so young," Antonucci said. "But it worked out."

Just a few months ago, Antonucci and Visconti purchased another bagel shop, this one at the Towne Centre at Somers in Baldwin Place.

"We're still working out all the kinks," Antonucci said. "We want to make sure everything is placed to make it easier for the customer."

Over the past 25 years, Antonucci and Visconti have been adding to their food establishment portfolio. In 2004 they purchased an empty storefront in a strip mall in Shrub Oak and, riding on the success of their shop in Jefferson Valley, named the new store JV Hot Bagels. Eight years later, two

people who worked for them bought it and have owned it since.

Around 2010, Antonucci built and ran a deli-supermarket in Carmel, which he sold about a year ago.

Today they own JV Hot Bagels in Jefferson Valley and the just-purchased store in Baldwin Place in February.

"We've always been at the right place at the right time," Antonucci said about buying and selling their shops. "People from Mahopac and Somers were used to buying their bagels from our shop in Jefferson Valley. We're hearing enthusiastically 'thank yous' for being so much closer. Our mornings are packed."

The brightly lit shop has a large seating area and offers homemade bagels with several spreads, assorted muffins and cookies from their bakery, fresh salads and sandwiches.

"The key to our success is making everything fresh right here," Antonucci explained. "The bagels are made from scratch as are our baked goods. If selling freshly-made food is what you do, you have to do it right."

The new JV Hot Bagels at the Towne Centre at Somers is open Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Dennis Antonucci at JV Hot Bagels at the Towne Center at Somers in Baldwin Place. Antonucci and his partner Phil Visconti, who have worked in and later owned bagel shops since the 1990s, purchased the business in February.

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- Communicates openly & honestly
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**JOE ASCANIO**

**Ballot position #8**

A 25-year Lakeland resident & tech executive with 2 children in our schools (LHS & LCBMS). Joe is deeply rooted in our public education system & a strong advocate for students & teachers.

**PAUL EDWARDS**

**Ballot position #2**

A 21-year Cortlandt Manor resident with 2 daughters currently at WPHS and a third now in college. Paul has decades of experience as director of UMAC's Youth Empowerment System.

**CHUCK MONSANTO**

**Ballot position #12**

A Yorktown resident with 2 children at BFES and a third living & working in Canada. Chuck served our country for 18 years in the Army National Guard & was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008.

**LAURA PEROZO**

**Ballot position #7**

A member of the Lakeland community since 2006, Laura has a daughter who graduated LHS and a son attending LCBMS. She has worked for over 22 years in finance & operations for nonprofits.

**VOTE**

**ASCANIO, EDWARDS, MONSANTO AND PEROZO FOR LAKELAND SCHOOL BOARD ON MAY 17**

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# Weeding a Garden for Mother – Mother Earth, That is

By Brian Kluepfel

Hallie Flanagan Wolfe lets me know this would be no walk in the park.

"You may be a writer, but today I'm gonna put you to work," she said.

And that she does. Along with a handful of other Mother's Day volunteers, we're weeding the native plant garden at Saw Mill River Audubon's Pruyn Sanctuary.

After a winter of neglect, it's hard to find the native plants and grasses under the weeds. It's also not always easy to identify them. However, following Wolfe's lead, we manage to have a decent-looking native garden after just one pass and a little more than one hour.

Most of the weeds have been piled up behind a massive pile of wood chips in what appears to be a dress rehearsal for a ceremonial burning of a witch, and I decide with my somewhat mixed Pagan belief system, coupled with a blistered thumb, that I'd best skedaddle. The Constant Gardener of Ossining, who's been designing local landscapes for decades, decides to let me off easy this time.

I found out many things today during my brief hour of manual labor. Wild

garlic is a weed; its pungent bulbs (cloves) are what allow it to perpetuate its stinky presence in a hurry.

Conversely, mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) is a sweet-smelling native that we chose to purposely plant in our native garden at Pruyn, but it's so aggressive that it's not favored by all gardeners. (I overheard one call it a "killer," but I can't recall who.)

On a more positive note, the mint can make a nice tea and attracts bees and butterflies.

What other natives did we undercover? Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), which is a grass also known as Blackhawks. This prairie grass turns a nice rusty red later in the year, and because of its seed shape is also known as Turkey Foot. Both orange and yellow coneflowers are under

this sod somewhere. They look a bit like sunflowers and attract butterflies and insects, which in turn attract birds. A native garden is really simply restoring something that once existed. It's that simple.

The subtle Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*), perhaps favoring



periwinkle or violet, attracts long-tongued insects like carpenter bees and hummingbird moths. It seems like every plant has a natural mix-and-match pollinator. There's even a False Aster (*Boltonia asteroides*) whose light, white finger-like petals and egg-yolk-yellow center are irresistible to the pollinator crowd.

Of course, I haven't even touched on the hummingbird garden which is next to the one we've started to clear today. I'll get some gloves and delve into that one next time. Yes, Constant Gardener, I promise I'm coming back.

Anyone is welcome to join us in our gardening activities, anytime, and learn about the great native choices that can make your landscapes more beautiful while attracting beautiful butterflies and birds. Just bring a sturdy pair of gloves

and a sun hat.

(Note: Thanks to PrairieNursery.com for its well-thought-out web page and descriptions of many of our native plants.)

Brian Kluepfel is a former Saw Mill River Audubon board member and an enthusiastic supporter of all their activities. He writes for Westchester Magazine and the Lonely Planet series of travel guides, as well as BirdWatching Magazine. He lives in Ossining and is starting a GoFundMe page for new gardening gloves.

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## **Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action Supreme Court Of The State Of New York County Of Westchester Action to Foreclose a Mortgage**

Index #: 61376/2020 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely In Its Capacity As Owner Trustee For Cascade Funding RM4 Acquisitions Grantor Trust Plaintiff, vs Herbert Gould As Heir To The Estate Of Kathleen Gould, Deirdhre Regina Kavanagh Gould As Heir To The Estate Of Kathleen Gould, Shivaun Rowana Kavanagh Gould As Heir To The Estate Of Kathleen Gould, Gawain Greyland Kavanagh Gould As Heir To The Estate Of Kathleen Gould, Morgaana Rhianna Gould As Heir To The Estate Of Kathleen Gould, Unknown Heirs Of Kathleen Gould If Living, And If He/She Be Dead, Any And All Persons Unknown To Plaintiff, Claiming, Or Who May Claim To Have An Interest In, Or General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In Wife, Widow, Husband, Widower, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assignees Of Such Deceased, Any And All Persons Deriving Interest In Or Lien Upon, Or Title To Said Real Property By, Through Or Under Them, Or Either Of Them, And Their Respective Wives, Widows, Husbands, Widowers, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assigns, All Of Whom And Whose Names, Except As Stated, Are Unknown To Plaintiff, People Of The State Of New York, Board Of Managers Of The Grande At Battleground Condominium Association And Fairways At Battleground, United States Of America Acting Through The IRS John Doe (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). Mortgaged Premises: 94 Greenridge Avenue White Plains, NY 10605 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Unknown Heirs of Kathleen Gould, Defendant In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Charles D. Wood of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Nineteenth day of April, 2022 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, dated December 17, 2007, executed by Kathleen Gould (who died on February 10, 2021, a resident of the county of Westchester, State of New York) to secure the sum of \$1,162,500.00. The Mortgage was recorded at Instrument Number 480580721 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk on March 6, 2008. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed November 13, 2018 and recorded on November 14, 2018, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 583183325. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed May 23, 2018 and recorded on December 3, 2018, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 583373079. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed September 22, 2020 and recorded on December 22, 2020, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 603573197; The property in question is described as follows: 94 Greenridge Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: April 25, 2022 Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy, LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 71885



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# Multiple Factors to Consider in the Aging of Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

In last week's column we explored the elements of winemaking that influence the perception and the reality of our interaction with wine. I described four "influencers" affecting a bottle of wine: grape varietal

and terroir, yeast, aging and the hand of the winemaker.

Three of these factors were presented and explained. The last, aging, was promised for this week's column.

Aging is one of the factors directly under the control of the winemaker. He or she has a particular preference for a style of wine and utilizes all available resources to achieve that unique style.

The first decision a winemaker makes is whether to age a wine at all. Aging provides time for a wine to continue its life passage from young and fresh; to middle age and complex; to older; and its final demise, losing its color and complexity.

How so? The components in grapes that influence a winemaker's decision to age include polyphenols, which reside in the skins and seeds of red grapes. A primary phenol in red grapes is tannin, which

influences the stability and structure – and astringency – of wine. Higher levels of tannins can provide longer age-ability for wines.

For certain wines, a winemaker may seek minimal aging. Certain grapes produce wines that are best enjoyed when young, soon after fermentation is completed. For many red wines, the high level of tannins affords a winemaker the opportunity to select various methods to influence the aroma and tannic profile of a wine.

Once the decision is made that sufficient tannins are present to warrant aging, the next decisions are the type of vessel and length of aging.

Over the centuries, the method and vessels for aging have evolved from clay containers (amphora) to wood barrels, stainless steel tanks and glass bottles. Today, aging takes place predominantly in wood barrels, simply because they offer a winemaker great latitude in the final aromas and complexity of a wine. It is the wine barrel aging that can add unique aromas to a wine's profile.

Of course, many winemakers choose not to influence their wines with wood barrel aging. In those instances, stainless steel containers are preferred for white or red wine – antiseptic, sterile and allowing the elemental essence to dominate.

Aging wine in wood barrels requires a



number of factors to be considered:

1. The tree. Oak is the dominant wood for aging; its tight grain and longevity prevent leakage and allow for use over multiple vintages. However, differing varieties of oak affect barreled wine in unique ways. French oak has its own tannins and adds structure to the wine. American oak imparts a natural essence of butterscotch and vanilla. Hungarian oak traditionally has lower tannins.

2. Toasting. Yes, the insides of new barrels are frequently "torched" to add a toasty aroma to a wine. Winemakers order their barrels with their preferred level of burning specified.

3. Length of time. The longer in barrel,

the more time for tannins to round out their astringency and power. The high-end Italian and French wines may age in barrel for four years or more.

4. Size. The surface area of the barrel has a distinct influence on its contents. Today's typical barrel is 59 gallons; larger barrels are still in use in certain countries, up to several hundred gallons in capacity. The surface area allows wines to breathe through the barrel pores; a larger surface area creates a more oak-neutral environment.

5. Cost. A new oak barrel averages \$1,200. A number of winemakers insist on a single use, after which it may be sold to a less particular winemaker. Barrels have been known to be re-used multiple times; each successive use creates a more neutral environment.

Grapes are a basic agricultural commodity, but the influences of man, interacting with nature, create a palette for an individualized and unique end-product. It is this diversity that benefits each of us as we consider the vast choices available to us.

*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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# Will the New Normal Make Us All Existentialists?

*"Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself"*

—Jean Paul Sartre

For us to better navigate our attempts to find meaning in our lives, we may want to consider our lives in perspective of time and space. This will help us to better cope with the "new normal" we have been experiencing since the outbreak of COVID-19.

With such uncertainty facing us, we are now looking in hindsight to those pre-COVID days with a sense of nostalgia as our halcyon days, days we may have taken for granted. We are now faced with times that consist of new COVID outbreaks, inflation, an increase in street crime, a war in the Ukraine and environmental disasters. The more we experience

our new normal the more we begin to think more existentially about how to live a more meaningful life.

The existential model is "man is condemned to be free," where freedom is not just independence in the sense of independence, but being able to decide who and what one should be.

One way to approach this is to avoid taking an egocentric and self-serving perspective on life. For instance, as we complain about our high gas prices – no doubt it has negative impacts on all of us, author included – we can place this in perspective of all the suffering being experienced by the Ukrainians at the hands of Russia.

In contrast, our lives are a bit idyllic, though we should not find consolation in others' suffering, the better-them-than-me mentality, as a means to find our essence. We are fortunate that we are not waking

up in the rubble of our homes and dodging missile attacks. It would be fair to state the Ukrainian people are not finding their essence in life and much meaningfulness.

Our new normal has placed our being on negative overload making it more difficult to find our essence and meaningfulness as we navigate the absurdity of life. We strive to navigate the new normal in our existential monologue with ourselves that dominates our thoughts – for better or worse.

It is fair to say we are living in challenging, and to a degree, disheartening times. This we can't control nor escape for the most part. But we can take a more existential view of life as a guide to try to find



By Richard Cirulli

some meaning to secure a form of essence. Certainly, we will never find it by lamenting and denials.

Life is a lottery that is drawn at our birth. With this said, we must learn to grow successfully within ourselves. We have little control over most events in our lives, though existentialism can assist us to better respond to life's adversity, as absurd as

it may appear to be at times.

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

*Dr. Richard Cirulli, is a published author, playwright and retired professor. His body of works can be viewed at [www.demitasseplayers.com](http://www.demitasseplayers.com). He looks forward to your comments and can be reached at [profcirulli@optonline.net](mailto:profcirulli@optonline.net).*

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## He's All Fun and Games

*In his 40+ year career as a lauded toy and game inventor, Robert Fuhrer of Chappaqua has brought to market more than 200 toys and games – from Crocodile Dentist to KenKen*



By Laura E. Kelly

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

*When I caught up with Robert Fuhrer on a Zoom call from his ocean-view condo on Singer Island in Florida, I learned about his decades-long toy-inventing collaboration with the Japanese, the advice he'd give folks who have cool new board game ideas, and what type of games go viral today. He also shared his take on how playing games can help bring our fractured world together.*

Visit [examiner-plus.com](http://examiner-plus.com) and join our digital newsmagazine community as a member to read the full version of this article and others like it! Examiner+ is delivering the smartest, most insightful news and lifestyle journalism in Westchester and the broader Hudson Valley so you can live your most intelligent local life.

**Examiner+:** So how does a person end up in the toy and games industry, maybe every kid's dream?

Robert Fuhrer: I've been involved in this industry my whole life. My dad was an executive at Matchbox and Topper Toys, and I'd often spend time with him coming up with ideas for new toys. My favorite toys back then always had to do with guns and spy gear. When I graduated from Syracuse University, I was hired as product manager on the Othello strategy-game brand. My brother, David, is also in the toy industry and has had exceptional success selling new ideas—so being raised with the essence of toys around us obviously left a mark.

**E+:** Are you a Westchester native?

Fuhrer: I was born in the Bronx in 1955 but I grew up in Ardsley. Once, in high school, our team had a baseball game at Horace Greeley High School, and we did a caravan to get up there on the Saw Mill. I was like, Where are we going?! It seemed so far away. And then we got up to Horace Greeley High School, and I wondered, Is this a college? I was blown away by that campus. Now my wife, Judy, and I have lived in Chappaqua for close to 30 years, raising two sons and a daughter who all



went to Greeley.

**E+:** When did you found your toy-and-game invention business, Nexttoy?

Fuhrer: 1981. 9/9/81. A square root day.

**E+:** I love that.

Fuhrer: Yeah, there's only one a decade. I'm a little superstitious about numbers. A lot of significant events in my life happen to have special numbers.

I was bar mitzvahed on 6/8/68. My birthday is on 7/11. We made sure to launch our website for the numbers puzzle KenKen on 3/14 — Pi Day, a big day for numbers. I think numbers tell you the truth.

**E+:** You've worked

closely with Japan and Asia on toy inventions, making the long treks east multiple times a year. How did that collaboration come about?

Fuhrer: When I was a young guy and just starting out in the business here in New York in the early 1980s, I met a Japanese executive from Asahi, a toy car company, who was interested in expanding their business into America. We had dinner together. He was a smart guy. He knew I was moldable and didn't have that much going on yet.

He told me, "I'm going to give you a chance. My company, a big corporation in Japan, is not going to understand me working with you. So this is between us. If something positive happens, I will find a way to reward you, but you're going ...

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



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05/14	Tom Petty Tribute - DAMN THE TORPEDOES
05/20	LORDS OF 52ND STREET: Legends of the Billy Joel Band
05/22	IRRADIANCE, ft. The Daisy Jopling Band
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# New Steakhouse is Worth a Trip to Pleasantville

Bustling Wheeler Avenue in Pleasantville now sports a new steakhouse.

Cliff Mascarenhas and partners have opened The Prime Stk-Out in the renovated space that previously operated at Bollywood Bistro. Mascarenhas also operates Baroso in Yorktown Heights. The chef is Michael Camerino who had worked the kitchen at Char Steakhouse in Mahopac, and the general manager is Elijah Acevedo.

The opening menu touts a raw bar, eclectic global specialties and classic cuts of steaks and chops with all the trimmings. Starters include a seafood tower for two or more; charred octopus; grilled Applewood smoked bacon with house glaze; a scampi-style shrimp boat; and meatballs, tomato sauce and fresh ricotta. Fresh salads include Caesar, wedge or prime with beets, walnuts, goat cheese, cranberries and white balsamic.

Main courses include short rib rigatoni; Chilean seabass; twin lobster tails; shrimp lemoncello; Chicken Scarpariello; and the Grilled Everything Tuna Steak. There is also the house burger available daily.

For all you carnivores, hearty cuts include the 48-ounce Porterhouse for two; the Berkshire pork chop; the 24-ounce Cowboy Ribeye; grilled lamb chops; and a 16-ounce New York strip steak. A la carte sauces available are au



By Morris Gut

poivre, bearnaise, hollandaise, blue cheese crust or prime crust, mushrooms, onions and blue cheese.

A la carte sides offered are creamed spinach, steak-cut fries, a fully loaded potato, sauteed broccoli, roasted mushrooms and asparagus.

There is a weekday Happy Hour served in the bar and lounge Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. featuring specially priced cocktails and snacks.

The Prime STK-OUT is located at 68 Wheeler Ave. in Pleasantville. Open seven days a week, from 3 to 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 12 to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 12 to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Info: 914-239-8807 or visit [www.theprimestkout.com](http://www.theprimestkout.com).

## LMNOP Bakery Coming to Katonah

Founder Anne Mayhew, a former costume designer, took her passion for baking sourdough bread for herself and her neighbors and steadily grew the LMNOP Bakery business. Most recently she has been baking out of Mast Market in Mount Kisco.

In coming weeks her first storefront bake shop will open in Katonah. A sign is posted on the storefront, and she is already accepting advance orders for her breads and specialty goods. Her offerings are posted each week on LMNOP's website. You can sign up in advance and even join her



The dining room at The Prime Stk-Out on Wheeler Avenue in Pleasantville. Owner Cliff Mascarenhas also operates Baroso in Yorktown Heights.

fundraising efforts.

LMNOP Bakery products can also be found at Bedford Gourmet and Rochambeau Farm in Bedford, Fable Farm to Table in Ossining, Plum Plums Cheese Shop in New Canaan, Conn. and Second Mouse Cheese in Pleasantville.

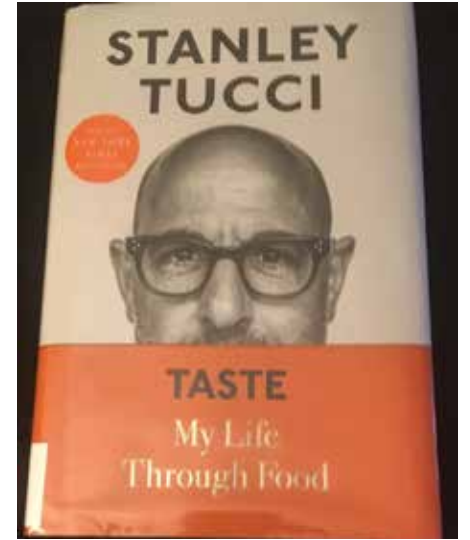
LMNOP Bakery will be located at 25 Katonah Ave. in Katonah. For information and orders, visit [www.lmnopbakery.com](http://www.lmnopbakery.com).

## 'Searching for Italy,' Season 2

Actor Stanley Tucci stars in an appetizing series on CNN entitled "Searching for Italy," a delicious culinary romp through the country. Beautifully filmed and depicted, Tucci visits various towns throughout the boot zeroing in on the incredible food scene in each region. The second season premiered on May 1.

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

Who can forget his classic culinary-themed



Actor, food aficionado and Westchester native Stanley Tucci's cookbooks and his show "Searching for Italy" on CNN are a must to take in for almost any lover of Italian cooking.

films "Big Night" and "Julie & Julia." He hosted a series called "Vine Talk" on PBS. His cookbooks are "The Tucci Table: Cooking with Family and Friends," which he co-authored with his wife, Felicity Blunt, "The Tucci Cookbook" and "Taste: My Life Through Food." My palate is longing for more.

"Searching for Italy" airs on Sundays at 9 p.m. Also check out [www.cnn.com/travel/article/stanley-tucci-searching-for-italy-restaurants/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/travel/article/stanley-tucci-searching-for-italy-restaurants/index.html).

*continued on next page*

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# Milone to Retire as President of Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber

By Rick Pezzullo

Deb Milone, the longtime president of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce (HVGCC), will be retiring at the end of July after serving 12 years in her post.

The announcement of Milone's departure was made last week in a joint release from her and the HVGCC Board of Directors.

"Deb has been a true force in the advancement of the HVGCC's mission," said Board Chair Marianne Oros. "It was under Deb's leadership that the chamber established the Hudson Valley Gateway Foundation, a 501(c)(3), which affords the ability to obtain grants to support workforce development, tourism and scholarships."

During Milone's tenure, HVGCC has nearly doubled its membership to more than 500. Two notable innovations under her watch were instituting monthly breakfast meetings with keynote speakers and overseeing the Expo at the Riverfront Green in Peekskill, which attracted more than 5,000 people each of the four years it was held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am proud of our collective accomplishments at the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce," Milone stated. "During my 12 years here, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the chamber, guided the business community through the worst economic and health crisis of our lifetime and were honored as the

Chamber of the Year by the Business Council of New York.

"I want to thank the Board of Directors – current and past – for their support, and most importantly, I want to express my deep appreciation to the membership for allowing me to be your chamber president. It has been my distinct honor to serve the Hudson Valley business community."

Milone has served in numerous community volunteer and formal capacities and has been recognized by local, county and state governments for her service to the chamber and the community, including the New York State Senate's "Women of Distinction" for the 40th Senate District in 2018 and NYS Power 100 for four consecutive years.



Deb Milone, who has led the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce for the past 12 years, will be retiring as president of the organization on July 31.

## New Steakhouse is Worth a Trip to Pleasantville

*continued from previous page*

### A Taste of Harrison

The Harrison Public Library will receive all the proceeds from the upcoming Taste of Harrison this Sunday, May 15. Dozens of local restaurants and shops will be offering samples and sips to savor including Trattoria Vivolo, The Greek-ish, Curry on Purdy, Dimitris Gyro Grill, Vesta, Quenas, Momiji, The Market at Gus's and World Wine Liquor. The event is sponsored in part by Avalon and DeCicco & Sons Market. A shuttle will take guests around town.

Tickets may be purchased at the library or by visiting [www.harrisonpl.org/taste-of-harrison](http://www.harrisonpl.org/taste-of-harrison).

### Cooking Classes Resume

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Westchester Italian Cultural Center in Tuckahoe is kicking off a new series of cooking classes in their in-house kitchen. Chef Carlo Pollicina, of long-running Sal & Dom's Pastry Shop in the Bronx, will demonstrate how to prepare classic anise biscotti. The class takes place on Monday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.

A mozzarella-making class and tasting will be hosted by AJ Cohen of AJ's Burgers in New Rochelle on Monday, June at 6:30 p.m. Wine and antipasti will also be served.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets and more information, call 914-771-8700 or visit [www.wiccny.org](http://www.wiccny.org).

Fried Chicken Derby Tradition

As a tradition, I brought home an iconic eight-piece bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken, extra crispy, as we watched this year's Run for the Roses last Saturday. I surrounded the chicken with some good baked beans and our home-made coleslaw. For dessert, I had the Winner's Circle Derby Pie, a chocolate walnut delicacy. Turned out better than the bets we made. Rich Strike won at 80-1. Can you imagine?

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

In 2021, she was named as one of 914 Inc magazine's "Women in Business."

Bill Powers, executive director of the Peekskill Business Improvement District, called Milone a "trailblazer."

"Deb Milone has been a dedicated partner, advocate, networker and trailblazer to the Peekskill Business Improvement District for the past 12 years," Powers said. "We thank Deb for her tireless efforts on behalf of the business community and wish her all the best in her retirement."

The Board of Directors is in the process of forming a search committee to find Milone's successor.

## Meeting of the Minds Dementia Conference

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