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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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White Plains Man Recovers from Stroke to Earn PhD

By Bailey Hosfelt

Just after White Plains resident Lenny Breindel turned 30 in the fall of 2016, he started to get debilitating headaches like he'd never experienced before. They started off mild, but as the days progressed, they got increasingly worse.

"By four in the afternoon, I was in bed asleep," Breindel recalled. "I couldn't take the pain anymore."

At the time, Breindel was in the second year of a biochemistry and molecular biology PhD program at the University at Albany. In early October, Breindel went to take a qualifying exam, with a headache that had persisted for a week.

After the exam, he met a friend who was in town visiting. Turning his head to greet the friend, Breindel's neck cracked and he got really dizzy.

"At first I thought it was nothing, but it persisted for about half an hour, and that's when we called the ambulance," Breindel

said.

Taken to the local hospital in Albany, Breindel got an MRI, and the doctors discovered he had suffered from an ischemic stroke. Because he hadn't lost any mobility, cognitive function or the ability to speak, Breindel was discharged a few days later and brought back to Westchester where his NewYork-Presbyterian-based doctors were.

Home on a Tuesday evening, Breindel woke up Wednesday morning to everything spinning and his legs not functioning.

Rushed to Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, Breindel was transferred to the ICU at New York-Presbyterian in New York City. While in the ICU, he had a second episode and lost the ability to speak or use the right side of his body.

Breindel stayed in the ICU for a month before going to Burke Rehabilitation Hospital to work to regain his motor function, including the fine motor skills he would need to complete tasks while working in a lab setting such as uncapping test tubes

with one hand and holding a pipette in the other.

Dr. Joshua Willey, an attending neurologist on the stroke service at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, worked closely with Breindel both in the hospital and after he was released from Burke.

"Lenny took it on as a full-time job trying to recover from the stroke so that he could get his life back and finish up his degree," Dr. Willey said. "We have some people who become despondent about their recovery, which then makes things worse for them."

"Lenny had a very positive attitude and was enthusiastic about doing the rehabilitation he needed to do," Dr. Willey added. "As a physician, it made my job so much easier working with him."

Because Breindel had dedicated so much of his life to getting into his PhD program, being able to complete it was a huge motivating factor for his recovery.

"I knew that I wouldn't be able to live with

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Lenny Breindel

Marching for Memorial Day



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Veterans organizations, school groups, local leaders and others took part in White Plains' annual Memorial Day Parade Monday on Main St. and Broadway.

White Plains Teachers, Administrators Awarded Tenure

By Bailey Hosfelt

Many dedicated teachers and administrators in the White Plains City School District (WPCSD) were awarded tenure at the May 23 Special Board of Education Meeting.

"In White Plains, we have an extraordinarily rigorous process to ensure the faculty members and the administrators who are in line and about to receive tenure are absolutely the highest quality teachers or administrators," WPCSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ricca said. "The vetting process is extensive, and I'd like to thank you all for sticking it out and putting all your effort into your profession."

Ricca commended the teachers and administrators who have shined throughout their time with the district, particularly throughout the pandemic, which resulted in some of the most challenging times educators have experienced.

While other employees could pack up their laptops and office equipment at the start of lockdown and work from their dining room table with relative ease, Ricca stressed that teachers didn't have a playbook.

"How do you interact with six-year-olds virtually? How do you engage teenagers virtually? How do you ensure that your children have books and food and clothes? How do you make sure that first responders have childcare?" Ricca said. "All these things these folks had to figure out, and you did it."

"For those of you who were just getting into education at the time that the pandemic broke, you probably had some of the best trial by fire — or trial by pathogen — that you could ask for," Ricca added.

Ricca highlighted that while district parents and family members of teachers and administrators being honored at the meeting work in different professions from doctors and lawyers to engineers and astronauts, they all share a commonality.

"Every one of us needed excellent teachers to do what we do [today]," Ricca said. Whether you're teaching colors or teaching calculus, every single interaction with a child from the time that they're three to the time that they're 18 is all in preparation for whatever they aspire to be."

"That's why I think education is the best, most rewarding profession because every single day you get to help other people," Ricca added. "It's a beautiful profession, and you should feel extraordinarily proud to be part of it."

White Plains Teachers Association President Kara McCormick-Lyons congratulated all individuals receiving tenure for their incredible accomplishments, especially working throughout the pandemic.

"Your journey has been insane. It's been huge, so take this moment to soak it all in and think about what you have accomplished over this time," McCormick-Lyons said.

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White Plains Common Council Supports New City Budget

By Bailey Hosfelt

White Plains Common Council members unanimously voted in support of the proposed budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year at the special meeting/work session on May 23.

The \$210.3 million budget, which carries a 1.86 percent tax increase, has no cuts to city programs or services. The budget also marks the 11th fiscal year White Plains has developed an annual budget in accordance with the state’s tax levy cap.

Since 1988, the city has maintained an Aa1 credit rating.

“In the three years I’ve been on the Council, I’ve supported our proposed budget, and this year is no exception,” Councilwoman Jennifer Puja said.

While bordering municipalities are strapped due to unforeseen circumstances, especially in light of COVID, Puja said White Plains is in a strong financial position.

“We’re extremely fortunate to maintain a high level of services that our residents have come to appreciate and love about our city,” Puja said. “With the [high] price of gas, groceries and everyday items, I’m pleased we’re staying within our tax cap and families are not hit with another tremendous burden.”

She added that she’s glad to see the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Youth Bureau be able to continue and expand

their programming.

“These opportunities for families, seniors and youth truly set our city apart,” Puja said. “We’ll continue to position our city in a way that’s financially stable and that is meeting the needs of and the quality of life that the residents in White Plains deserve.”

White Plains is set to receive \$5.5 million in New York State Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding in the 2022-23 proposed budget, the same amount the city has received over the past decade.

“Since 2008, the amount of aid we receive has been dismal,” Puja said. “With any increase, we would be able to bounce back even better post-COVID. I’ll remain committed to lobbying our state officials to push for additional funding for state aid for our city.”

Councilwoman Nadine Hunt-Robinson said that the city’s balanced, prudent budget that is in accordance with the state’s tax cap has helped keep White Plains residents in their homes.

“While I was pleased to read the statement of our stable economy and healthy, wealthy residents, we recognize that there are still residents struggling with the issue of affordable housing,” Hunt-Robinson said.

Hunt-Robinson vowed to continue lobbying for more of an active commitment from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to address the nation’s housing crisis, as well as White

Plains’ affordable housing needs. She also noted the importance of continuing to focus on the high volume of calls the Department of Public Safety’s mental health crisis unit receives and continuing to prioritize de-escalation and just policing.

“That unit has to continue to improve and be more robust because I think the numbers of calls will only continue to increase,” Hunt-Robinson said. “Overall, I’m proud of this budget.”

Councilman Richard Payne commended the Budget Management Committee, as well as Finance Commissioner Sergio Sensi and Budget Director James Arnett for their hard work on the budget.

In the proposed budget, there are dollars earmarked for six new positions: three police officers, two firefighters and a code enforcement officer in the Department of Public Works.

Payne noted he was pleased that the Department of Public Safety is adding to its numbers.

“That’s commendable to the Commissioner and the Budget Director, who, along with the other commissioners in each department submitted budgets that fit the city’s needs,” Payne said. “They do a tremendous job each year, and I want to thank them.”

Council President Justin Brasch commended the fiscally responsible budget and the Aa1 credit rating, which enables the

city to borrow money at an extremely low rate.

“We’re heading into a new era, making sure that our city is friendly for business so we can keep moving forward, funding the things that we need to do,” Brasch said. “Like everybody here, I’m proud to support this budget and proud of the work the city is doing.”

Councilwoman Victoria Presser highlighted that of the three city budgets she has been a part of, the first was in the early weeks of the pandemic lockdown, and the second was just as a glimmer of light was breaking through the darkness.

“Now this year, we gingerly step out of our shelters, hoping that another storm does not chase us back in,” Presser said. “Throughout these past three years, I have been greatly impressed by the dedication and diligence of the staff and administrators who have kept our city government moving forward under very difficult circumstances.”

“I wholeheartedly support this budget, and I’m pleased to vote in favor,” Presser added.

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach thanked his fellow Common Council members, Sensi, Arnett and all of the city’s employees for their hard work and dedication.

“It’s one of the reasons that we do have a strong city fiscally,” Roach said. “I’m very pleased to support this budget, and I look forward to great times ahead for our city.”

White Plains Man Recovers from Stroke to Earn PhD

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myself if I had to stop doing something so close to the final act,” Breindel said.

While it was initially suggested that Breindel take a year off from his PhD program, he pushed himself to get back even sooner.

“I knew if I was going to recover to the extent that I have, I needed to get back to doing PhD-level stuff and stretch my brain,” Breindel said.

In February of 2017, he returned to his program. At first, Breindel was concerned that we wouldn’t be able to do the same caliber of work as before his stroke.

“The first time I sat down for an exam after the stroke, I was nervous I wasn’t going to pass,” Breindel said. “But when I found out I passed, that was a major boost in confidence.”

Breindel started getting his academic papers published, completed his dissertation and, in 2020, he passed his doctoral defense. Today, Breindel works as a Senior Biochemist at Siemens Healthineers in Tarrytown.

“I got lucky that I wasn’t set back by the

stroke when I thought I was going to be,” Breindel said.

Because individuals who have suffered one stroke are at a higher risk of having a second one compared to the general population, Dr. Willey said it is crucial to take precautions.

Now, Breindel takes five pills a day, most of which are preventative to minimize the likelihood of a second stroke. He also has to be cautious about fast movements around his neck.

While he was worried he wouldn’t be able to play golf, one of his favorite hobbies, Breindel was cleared to play after three years of recovery — as long as he takes fluid swings as opposed to jerking, fast rotations.

“That was big deal for me because golf is one of the things that I enjoy away from science,” Breindel said.

With May being Stroke Awareness Month, Dr. Willey underscored the importance of taking preventative measures to decrease the likelihood of suffering from a stroke.

“The American Heart Association has the ‘Simple 7,’ which includes seven ideal things that can prevent you from having a stroke,”

Dr. Willey said.

Among the seven preventative steps are managing blood pressure, controlling cholesterol, reducing blood sugar, getting regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight and not smoking. Going to the hospital with symptoms that you may suspect are connected to a stroke is also critical.

“One of the tragedies related to stroke is that far too many patients come in way too late to the hospital to implement the treatment,” Dr. Willey said. “If somebody can come to the hospital — especially within three hours of symptoms — there is both medication and potentially a surgical procedure that we can do to reduce the impact the stroke is causing.”

Dr. Willey underscored that people should remember the acronym B.E.F.A.S.T:

Balance: Watch for a sudden loss of balance

Eyes: Check for vision loss

Face: Look for an uneven, or dropping face

Arm: Check if one arm is weak

Speech: Listen for slurred, garbled or

unintelligible speech

Terrible Headache and Time: Call 9-1-1 right away

“The faster you give treatment, and the earlier people come to the hospital, the much higher likelihood they are to have a better outcome after a stroke,” Dr. Willey said.

Having had a stroke and recovered, Breindel highlighted the importance for people to listen to their bodies, especially if they feel like they are experiencing symptoms they’ve never felt before.

“I got lucky that I didn’t really lose any of my cognitive abilities. I was still able to pursue my career in the PhD, and the physical limitations that I had, I was able to regain so that I could still perform the functions in the lab,” Breindel said.

Despite recovering, Breindel still has some difficulties with his balance, which makes going down stairs difficult.

“I got there early, but if listened a little better, I probably wouldn’t have suffered some of the events that I did,” Breindel said.

White Plains Teachers, Administrators Awarded Tenure

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Teachers awarded tenure were:

- Kerry Salvatierra (Church Street, Reading)
- Mariela Ugarte Ramirez (Church Street, Elementary Education)
- Laura Flore Gomez (George Washington, Psychology)
- Stephanie Tock (George Washington, Special Education)
- Stefanie Ladden (Mamaroneck Avenue, Speech)
- Monica Arismendez (Post Road, Elementary Education)

- Rachel Burstein (Post Road, Music, effective 11/21/22)
- Erin DiMartino (Post Road, Elementary Education)
- Gayane Hamparsoumian (Post Road, Elementary Education)
- Claudia O’Riley (Post Road, Elementary Education)
- Lauren Wendorf (Post Road, Elementary Education)
- Nicole Sciortino (Ridgeway, Elementary Education)
- Kristie Trageser (Ridgeway, Special Education)

- Gina Cardillo (Middle School Highlands, Special Education, effective 11/19/22)
- Paul Harrison (Middle School Highlands, Mathematics)
- Alyssa Phelan (Middle School Highlands, Special Education)
- Lisa Sohr (Middle School Highlands, Mathematics)
- Zachary Trynkely (Middle School Highlands, Science)
- Amy Estersohn (High School, English)
- Emily Falber (High School, Guidance)
- Brittany Feeney (High School, Special

- Education)
- Sarah Jabbour (High School, English)
- Ashley LeBlanc (High School, LOTE, effective 11/16/22)
- Llesh Miraj (High School, Mathematics)
- Marcos Monteagudo (High School, Guidance)
- Melissa Mullin (High School, Art)
- Omar Sharif (High School, Science)
- Sarah Tom (High School, Special Education)
- Caridad Guerrero (Rochambeau, Mathematics)
- Jennifer Pyne (Districtwide, Music)



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14 Hands Cabernet.....	\$9.97
Dr Loosen Riesling.....	\$9.97
Diehl Muller-Thurgau Troken 1L....	\$11.97
Matua Sauvignon Blanc.....	\$12.97
North Fork Chardonnay 1L.....	\$12.97
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Mt. Kisco Methodist Congregation Remembers Victims of School Massacre

By Martin Wilbur

Another weekend and more vigils and prayer gatherings took place around the area.

With millions of people across the region and the nation still in disbelief at the latest mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, the United Methodist Church in Mount Kisco was one of the congregations that gathered Sunday evening on its lawn to mourn last Tuesday's loss of 19 elementary school children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School.

Lay leadership and members of the United Methodist congregation partnered with four other churches in and around Mount Kisco to bring people together when so many need the support of community.

"We felt it was such a senseless murder, it was senseless especially the more you listen to the reports about it, there was so many things that could have been done that weren't done, and unfortunately, because of that we have to be faced with this," said United Methodist Church parishioner Marianne Baldwin, who helped organize the candlelight vigil with lay leader Bobbie McCann.

"It was very important to the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

A single-stem rose is placed by the light and name card of one of the 21 victims of the May 24 school shooting in Texas. The United Methodist Church in Mount Kisco mourned the victims of the mass shooting in a Uvalde, Texas elementary school that killed 19 children and two teachers last week.

congregation to do this," Baldwin added.

The half-hour program featured prayer, remarks from participating clergy and the reading of the names of the victims, which was followed by the tolling of the church bell 21 times.

McCann said that last week the church received small solar lights that the congregation arranged in the shape of a heart in the middle of its lawn on East Main Street. Each light is accompanied by a tag

with the name of one of the slain students or teachers, and as their name was read, a single-stem rose was placed next to the light.

Pastor Elaine Pope-Joffrion said words couldn't adequately describe the grief that so many feel about the needless loss of so many young children.

"Let us pray for a broken world who seems to not want to cooperate and the commandments that our Lord and savior has asked us to obey, and that is to love one



Parishioners and community members attended a candlelight vigil Sunday evening outside the United Methodist Church in Mount Kisco.

another as I have loved you," Pope-Joffrion said.

Parishioner Don McCann, who offered several brief opening remarks, said it was important to remember the lives lost even if they were far away.

"There is nothing we can say that will fill the sudden hole that was torn in the hearts of those who lost loved ones this past Tuesday, but we have gathered together this evening on the lawn of this church to memorialize those 19 children and two heroic teachers who were taken from their loved ones so suddenly," McCann said.

Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich, who attended the vigil, said it is hard to believe that with so many mass shootings over the past decade there hasn't been any will on the part of the nation to address the simultaneous issues of easy access to guns and mental health.

"So what's happened since then?" Picinich asked. "We've taught children to hide, we put up bulletproof glass in our schools, but it didn't fix anything, it didn't change anything, it didn't stop anything."

The 19 child victims of the May 24 school shooting are Makenna Lee Elrod, 10; Layla Salazar, 11; Maranda Mathis, 11; Nevaeh Bravo, 10; Jose Manuel Flores Jr., 10; Xavier Lopez, 10; Tess Marie Mata, 10; Rojelio Torres, 10; Eliahna "Ellie Amyah Garcia, 9; Eliahna A. Torres, 10; Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez, 10; Jackie Cazares, 9; Uziyah Garcia; Jayce Carmelo Luevanos, 10; Maite Yuleanna Rodriguez, 10; Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10; Amerie Jo Garza, 10; Alexandria "Lexi" Aniyah Rubio, 10; and Alithia Ramirez, 10.

The two teachers who were killed were Iram Garcia, 48, and Eva Mireles, 44.



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Noise, Economic Viability Key Concerns at First Airport Meeting

By Martin Wilbur

Speakers at the first forum to discuss the future of Westchester County Airport last week were split between residents urging for environmental and noise safeguards and aviation and business interests highlighting the facility's vital economic importance.

The May 24 hearing at Pace University School of Law in White Plains featured 27 speakers over about 90 minutes who provided testimony that will help county officials shape the airport's first updated Master Plan since 1989. Another two forums will be held the next two Thursday evenings, June 2 and June 9, while a virtual session and additional in-person meetings will be scheduled elsewhere in the county later this summer or early fall.

Many of the skeptical residents who spoke pointed out that aircraft noise has increased in recent years, likely from the proliferation in flights by fixed-base operators, and the need for greater protections for the Rye Lake and Kensico reservoirs, which are in close proximity to the airport.

Mount Pleasant resident Bob Levy, who said his quality of life has been degraded from the excessive noise, contended that the fixed-base operators frequently violated the voluntary midnight curfew and provide few if any of the economic benefits to residents and local communities.

"Quite frankly, the charter companies



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Westchester County officials listened to more than two dozen speakers last week at the first session of its airport Master Plan meetings that are expected to result in the first updated plan for the facility in more than 30 years.

don't care, and unless we can do something and put it in the Master Plan, they're not going to care," Levy said. "They are bad actors."

Anne Gold, executive director of the Purchase Environmental Protection Association, said environmental impacts such as water quality, noise and air pollution must be addressed.

"Given the goals of the Master Plan

is to maintain a high level of safety and environmentally responsible service over the next decade of so, the vision should outline several steps to prevent negative impacts for the future," Gold said.

Aviation representatives called on county officials to keep the facility competitive compared to other regional airports if it is to properly serve the local residential and business communities. Eric Faulkner,

vice president and general manager of Ross Aviation, said airports in the tristate area such as Farmingdale Airport on Long Island have opened as much as 200,000 square feet of new hangar space in the past few years while Westchester has had just 52,000 square feet of new space in the past 20 years.

As a result, private carriers must come in from elsewhere to pick up passengers creating a greater disturbance than if they could be housed at the airport, he said.

"This is because it not only significantly limits the number of aircrafts at Westchester, but it increases the number of flights into and out of the airport each day," Faulkner said.

White Plains resident and public relations company owner Stacy Cohen said the county must do what it can to keep the airport viable. In recent years, Cohen's company, Co-Communications, has had increasing reach outside of the area, which has necessitated her and her employees to travel more.

"As a member of the business community, I strongly believe that the airport is such a vital component to business in Westchester and it's truly an important economic driver," she said.

Representatives of several Westchester hotels also testified that guests have increasingly depended on the airport to visit and do business in the county.

The county's consultant, Merchant

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Fund Balance, Assessables Help Mt. Pleasant Upgrade to Triple A Rating

By Martin Wilbur

For the first time in more than a decade the Town of Mount Pleasant has recently been upgraded to a Triple A bond rating by Moody's Investors Services.

which could save the municipality hundreds of thousands of dollars in future borrowing.

On May 12, town officials received word that the municipality received the highest rating, Aaa with a stable outlook, up from the Aa1 designation that was assigned nearly four years ago with no outlook assigned.

"Fiscal 2022 is trending positively

in all major funds," Moody's wrote in its message to the town. "While some departmental income revenues continue to trail historical norms, sales taxes through the first quarter have been very strong. While inflation may temper sales tax revenues over the next year, management's conservatism is likely to offset any pull back."

Helping the town achieve the coveted rating is a robust fund balance of \$19.9 million at the close of 2021, according to Moody's report. The town's tax base of \$10.8 billion is also healthy and that is

expected to grow as new commercial and residential projects are built.

Comptroller Brian Kenneally said the major advantage for the town having a Aaa bond rating is the money it could save on future borrowing. On a \$20 million bond, for example, if the town were to receive even a .25 percent reduction in interest rates, that could come to as much as \$50,000 a year, he said.

"It's all about saving money on interest because we are borrowing hundreds of millions of dollars on bonds," Kenneally said.

In addition to the attentiveness of Kenneally and the Town Board, Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said Mount Pleasant has been served well by department leaders.

"The department heads have been pretty responsive watching," Fulgenzi said. "Everyone wants more money, everyone wants to make more money, and we have over the years, slowly been trying to bring our employees to a different level."

Since the aftermath of the Great Recession, Mount Pleasant has been at an Aa 1 or and Aa2.

Noise, Economic Viability Key Concerns at First Airport Meeting

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Aviation, stated that the airport generates about \$735 million in economic activity annually, employs close to 1,500 people and serves as many as one million passengers a year.

County Executive George Latimer said the Master Plan update will not expand the airport's 700-acre footprint nor increase the 240-passenger limit for the main terminal.

But some residents, uneasy about the changes in private flights and noise over the past five or six years, appealed to county officials to do more to clamp down where possible. Longtime Chappaqua resident Richard Stern said while having company over in his backyard recently

there were 11 flights that roared over his house in one hour.

At an event in downtown Chappaqua last year, speakers were interrupted by seven consecutive planes that flew overhead minutes apart, Stern said.

Another resident, Jason Van Anden, said he understands the need for a viable airport but the county must address the noise issue.

"I'm all for modernization as well and it's not like we don't take the occasional flight out of Westchester Airport, but I have to say that the increase and the noise is nuts," he said.

John Wellington, chairman of the Westchester Aviation Association, said that changes in weather patterns and other

factors have caused more flights to hook to the south and use a different approach on landings in recent years. However, the airport is doing its best to limit disturbance and protect the environment.

"The airport is doing everything it can to be a good neighbor and people should make sure they understand that," Wellington said.

This Thursday's meeting will be at Manhattanville College, located at 2900 Purchase Ave. in Purchase. The June 9 meeting is at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. Both meetings are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

For more information on the Master Plan effort, visit www.HPNMasterPlan.com.

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Mobile Crisis Response Teams Up and Running in Westchester

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester officially kicked off its seven Mobile Crisis Response Teams last week, an initiative that will see mental health professionals on call to assist local police departments or respond to certain crises in lieu of officers.

The teams, which are co-located with local police departments, will provide 24-hour mobile behavioral health crisis support when responding to emergencies that may involve mental health issues. Host communities include Greenburgh, Mount Kisco, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, Port Chester and Yonkers, and each will also serve neighboring communities so that every municipality in Westchester will be covered by the service.

There will be an agency that helps manage the behavioral or mental health-type calls at each host site. For example, the Mental Health Association of Westchester will be the managing agency in Mount Kisco, Family Services of Westchester will manage in Ossining and Westchester Jewish Community Services will be on hand in Peekskill.

County Executive George Latimer said the program was a key recommendation from the Police Reform Task Force that provided a series of several dozen recommendations to improve county police services. It was also a key request among some of the county's local police forces when communities undertook their police reform efforts.

"It is a coordinated regional approach in dealing with these incidents where mental illness may be at the cutting edge of what is otherwise a police response and to see how we can integrate a mental health professional response alongside of the police response to get the best possible result and the least amount of tragedy that occurs," Latimer said.

The announcement that the seven teams are on call was made last Thursday at Port Chester Village Hall. Michael Orth, commissioner of the county's Department of Community Mental Health, called it a "momentous occasion" for Westchester to be able to improve responses when a call involving a behavioral or mental health situation may be involved.

Orth said that 911 dispatchers will be trained to assess risk level and determine



Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced last week that Mobile Crisis Response Teams are now operating throughout the county to help deal with calls involving people suffering from mental health issues.

whether a particular call may require a mental health professional who would accompany police on a call or go instead of officers. That will bring the most appropriate response depending on the circumstances, he said.

Already, an estimated 80 to 90 calls referred to the crisis hotline at St. Vincent's Hospital have been redirected.

"This will help make our community safer for our first responders, our residents and individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis by providing the most appropriate response to keep them safe and hopefully to save lives in Westchester County," said Orth.

Over the years incidents have occurred across the nation, including in Westchester, where if a similar service was available a tragedy could have been avoided. Terrance Raynor, deputy commissioner of the county's Department of Public Safety, said now when a mental health-related response is warranted, an expert can arrive at the scene and look to de-escalate the situation.

"The Mobile Crisis Response Teams will ensure the safest possible outcome at the most highly-charged incidents," Raynor said.

"Our goal, as always is for every encounter to end safely without incident and to get an individual in crisis the help

they need," he added.

Commissioner Leonard Townes of the county Department of Social Services said this is the type of service that has been needed for a long time, and police, with the support of a mental health agency behind them, "should be able to do great things in Westchester County."

Latimer said he's hopeful that the work the county has put in over the past two years will make this a valuable service and save lives. The key question was always how can the county deal with a problem

constructively, he said.

"What we're talking about today is a response two years in the making and it takes that long to put something together that has rooting in reality," Latimer said, "not just a press conference and you say something."

The Greenburgh Police Department host site will cover White Plains; the Mount Kisco site will also take in New Castle, North Castle, Somers and the state police; the Ossining Police Department site will cover Mount Pleasant, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow and Briarcliff Manor; and the Peekskill location will include Buchanan, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson and Yorktown.

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

May 27: Officers responded to Carpenter Avenue at 2:14 a.m. to assist a woman who had fallen and was unable to get back up. Westchester EMS also responded and evaluated the woman, who declined additional medical attention.

May 28: Officers arrested a 19-year-old woman after they responded to a report of a domestic dispute on Carpenter Avenue at 2:45 p.m. The woman's mother reported that her daughter struck her while they argued and they were in the presence of a

child. The woman was booked on charges of third-degree assault and endangering the welfare of a child, both misdemeanors. She was released pending a future appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

May 28: A car owner reported at 2:50 p.m. that his car was damaged by a hit-and-run driver while it was parked at a business on East Main Street.

May 28: A landlord reported at 6:19 p.m. that he has received threats from a former tenant. The matter was turned over to detectives for investigation.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

May 21: A Melrose Avenue resident walked into police headquarters at 3:31 p.m. to report a past theft. The resident stated that a new Sonos amplifier valued at about \$749 was taken from out front of his home. The theft took place about a month ago after being delivered from Amazon.

May 22: A caller on South Riverside Avenue stated at 6:54 p.m. that there is a person panhandling. Patrol was dispatched and reported that the woman who was panhandling was advised and complied with the officer's request to leave the location.

North Castle Police Department

May 20: The head of grounds at the Byram Hills School District reported at 10:38 a.m. that it appears that a car drove over the grass on the baseball field at Wampus Elementary School on Wampus Avenue and caused damage to the surface. The responding officer reported that information was gathered.

May 21: A complainant reported at 8:31 a.m. that one of her neighbors on Wampus Avenue is using lawn equipment before 9 a.m., which is in violation of the town ordinance. The responding officer

reported advising the lawn maintenance employees to cease their work until 9 a.m.

May 21: A Nichols Road resident reported a 9:11 a.m. that her vehicle was rummaged through overnight and several items were stolen. The responding officer secured a deposition; a report will follow.

May 22: A party reported to headquarters at 12:04 p.m. stating that he found a Citibank debit card inside the Armonk Citibank branch. The desk officer made contact with the owner of the card. The owner responded to headquarters to retrieve the card.

May 22: Report of a large turtle in the middle of Round Hill Road at 7:49 p.m. The responding officer reported that the turtle has been moved off of the roadway.

May 23: A North Broadway resident reported at 4:50 p.m. that he had his catalytic converter taken from his vehicle while parked.

May 24: A Byram Lake Road resident called at 7:15 a.m. to report a bear sighting was captured on her home's exterior camera at about 10 p.m. the previous night. The caller reported that the bear knocked over the recycling container at the end of the driveway. The resident was advised to contact police if she sees the animal again and to take anything indoors that may attract a bear.

Obituaries

Nancy Chiappinelli

Nancy G. Chiappinelli, 94, died peacefully at home on May 24 surrounded by family.

Nancy was born in 1927 to the late John C. Sutherland and Ruby Campbell Sutherland and raised in Pleasantville. She also lived in Mount Kisco and Armonk, and she resided in Fredericksburg, Va. for the past 22 years.

Nancy was an avid sports enthusiast, particularly with swimming, basketball, life-guarding and golf. She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, and then married her husband, Elia, devoting herself to him and to raising a family. She was a sweet and loving wife and mother and a truly wonderful human being. She loved a good joke and a well-timed curse word. She will be dearly missed by the many who both loved her and were fortunate enough to be loved by her.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Elia A. Chiappinelli. Survivors include her sons, Dana Chiappinelli (Jeannette) of Glenwood Springs, Colo. and Don Chiappinelli (Byron) of Fredericksburg, Va.; her daughter, Nancy Munoz, (Gary) of Sebastian, Fla.; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Nancy was an early champion and advocate for family planning and reproductive rights and freedoms, and she spent many years volunteering for Planned Parenthood in New York.

For those wishing to express condolences, it is Nancy's wish that in lieu of flowers memorial donations be made to Planned Parenthood <https://www.plannedparenthood.org> or to Empowerhouse <https://www.empowerhouseva.org>.

Marion DeWaters

Marion Lane DeWaters of Valhalla passed away peacefully at home with family by her side on Apr. 27 at the age of 74.

She was born in Mount Kisco on Sept. 5, 1947, to Hazel McBride and Albert Lane of Thornwood. Professionally, Marion broke down barriers for women in the aviation insurance and reinsurance industries, rising to the rank of vice president at IAGM Corp. Personally, Marion lived life on her terms, having a blast and always bringing friends together along the way.

She is survived by her son, Jeffrey, and his wife, Maryam; grandson Julian Clarke; her sisters, Cathy Scuito of Danbury, Conn. and Jeanne Thompson of Hopewell Junction, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews.

Marion was predeceased by her husband, Clarke DeWaters, sister Judy Pellegrini and her parents.

Services will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville at noon on Saturday, June 11.

Touch-A-Truck for Heroes This Weekend in Patterson

Honor your hero by sponsoring a flag for them through this weekend at the Touch-A-Truck for Heroes

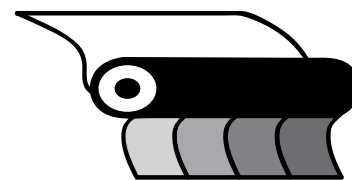
Sponsored flags will fly on the Patterson Firehouse on Route 311 or the grounds of the Patterson Library. Each flag will fly with a keepsake medallion bearing the hero's name. Flags are \$50 each and the funds will go to support the Rotary's "Do Good in the World"

efforts. Flags can be ordered at the Patterson Library.

Touch-A-Truck for Heroes will take place at the Patterson Library this Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be family fun, including music, food, games and a petting zoo.

For more information, visit www.pattersonrotary.org.

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\$1 million in restorations: The historic Underhill House will be carefully restored to its original 19th century elegance, preserving an important piece of Yorktown's past for future generations.

Public access, parklike setting: The public will be welcome to stroll the walking trails around the pond, providing a park at no cost to taxpayers.

Major funding to address long-term traffic issues: Underhill Farm will spend \$150,000 to address any vehicular additions from its community. What's more, Underhill Farm will donate an additional \$450,000 toward design and construction improvements at the intersection of Underhill Avenue and Route 118, which is the location of long-term traffic congestion during peak travel times.

Finally, a new senior center for Yorktown: Underhill Farm will include an access road to the Beaveridge Senior Apartments and 30 needed parking spaces for a long-awaited senior center. Without this new parking area, the senior center will not be built. With the approval of Underhill Farm, the new Yorktown senior center will finally become a reality!

What your neighbors are saying

“Developer Paul F. Guilaro 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*

“A senior center has long been a dream for Yorktown. Our new senior center, to be built at Beaveridge Apartments, cannot move forward without the approval of the neighboring Underhill Farm project.” - *Tony and Jennie Menton Grasso*



Get the facts!
Visit UnderhillFarmsYorktown.com.

Chappaqua Church to Hold 85th Annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday

By Martin Wilbur

One of the many highly anticipated events that fell by the wayside the past two years is one of the longest-running festivals in Westchester County.

This Saturday, the Strawberry Festival at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in downtown Chappaqua makes a comeback and will be held for the first time since 2019.

Most of what has made the festival a fixture on the calendar for 85 years will be returning – the live music, a children's petting zoo, puzzles and bouncy castles, various vendors, hot dogs and hamburgers, a bake sale, the strawberry café where smoothies and strawberry lemonade are sold, and, of course, the incomparable strawberry shortcake with ice cream and whipped cream.

"It's a big event for us," said John Priscantelli, a member of the church's vestry who hasn't missed a festival when it's been held since he joined the congregation in 1998. "It's a fundraiser (for the church) but at the same time we consider it outreach to the community, so it's really our opportunity, too. Of course, we struggle financially. Of course, it's going to help us but it's our chance to see people from the community come out."

And the community has come out in droves in years past, especially when the weather cooperates.

In addition to the usual attractions, this year there will be an appearance by



There are many highlights of the Strawberry Festival at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Chappaqua, but the strawberry shortcake may be the most popular item. This Saturday the church will be holding the festival for the 85th year.

watercolor artist and Westchester resident Susan Lanzano, Priscantelli said. Plus, Chappaqua children's authors Mara and Matt Van Fleet are scheduled to attend and read from their most recent book.

While the festival is a church fundraiser, a portion of the proceeds is usually donated to charity, Priscantelli said. About 15 or 20 years ago, that could mean upwards of \$25,000 or \$30,000, he said. Prior fundraising efforts

have gone toward Midnight Run in New York City, the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and Hope's Door, among other organizations.

This year the church will be donating 10 percent of net proceeds to help Ukraine, he said.

With dwindling church attendance in recent years, St. Mary's is a little pressed financially, although Priscantelli said the church applied for and received money from the federal Paycheck Protection Program that helped it navigate through the teeth of the pandemic.

The only thing that might be missing from this year's festival is few kids' activities, he said. Plus, there won't be a raffle this year because they don't have the manpower to run it.

"We probably had a lot more kids' games in the past because we had a lot more parishioners, but as you know religion these days is not on the top of everybody's list," Priscantelli said.

The Strawberry Festival is held on the grounds of The Church of St. Mary the Virgin located at 191 S. Greeley Ave. in Chappaqua. It will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be operating rain or shine, although the long-range forecast for this Saturday was highly encouraging. There is no admission to the grounds but food and most activities have a cost.

"It's really a fun day for us as much hard work as it is," Priscantelli said. "I don't think I've missed one in over 20 years."

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P'ville Rotary's Popular Hudson Valley Fermented Returns in Person

By Martin Wilbur

For those who have loved attending the Pleasantville Rotary's Hudson Valley Fermented to sample delicious food and great wines, spirits and ciders, there's great news. One of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the club is back, and in person, this Saturday afternoon from 12 to 3 p.m. at Pace University's Pleasantville campus with no shortage of mouthwatering food and refreshing beverages that promises to make the event as special as ever.

For the first time since 2019, the Pleasantville Rotary will be offering Hudson Valley Fermented as an in-person event, although attendance will be capped at 250, said Henry Leyva, the club's current president. (The 2020 renewal, scheduled right at the time of the March 2020 COVID-19 shutdown, was canceled and last year organizers went ahead with a virtual event, which was encouraging but without the selection and social interaction.)

"One of the things that we did was decide to do it as a smaller event," Leyva explained about this year. "So we decided from the beginning to limit it to 250 guests. There are some limitations from Pace in terms of capacity at the Kessel Center, so we thought that's not a bad idea, we'll just have fewer people and try to spread things out."

Initially, the Rotary marketed Fermented as a VIP event, a sort of smaller but exclusive three-hour window for people to try their favorite foods and experiment with beverages for \$100. But as sales slowed, Leyva said the Rotary offered general admission tickets for

\$60. General admission tickets will admit patrons from 1 to 3 p.m. and those ticketholders will not receive the event t-shirt.

For this year, Hudson Valley Fermented will be at Gottesman Hall, rather than the Kessel Student Center. With this arrangement, patrons can choose to head outside, particularly if the weather is good, Leyva said. All of the vendors will be inside, and the guests can mill about and spread out in comfort.

"We're going to keep those doors open the whole time and we're going to encourage our guests to go out and enjoy the café area," Leyva said. "We're going to have our band, The Station Agents, playing outside, and it'll be an indoor-outdoor event that I think will let folks feel more comfortable and make it a safer event, quite honestly."

What will be the same as past years are the outstanding food and beverage choices. Previously, Hudson Valley Fermented was only for New York State-based breweries, distilleries and cideries, but for this year it has been expanded to include close to 20 different wines from France, Spain, Italy as well as the West Coast of the United States, Leyva said.

Add about five or six distilleries and a couple of cideries and there will be no shortage of great selections to try.

However, the 10 food establishments are all local, the majority of which are located in Pleasantville such as Dolphin South, Chatterbox, Second Mouse Cheese Shop, Tesoro D'Italia and Old Village Craft Pizza & Beer.

Perhaps best of all, the money raised will be donated toward various charities

and organizations. In 2019, Hudson Valley Fermented raised about \$45,000, according to its website.

This year's three primary beneficiaries will be the Pleasantville Fund for Learning, Break the Hold, which addresses mental illness, and Team Fox for Parkinson's Research. Smaller amounts will be donated to a variety of charities

"We continue our fundraising so we can continue to help causes like that, and since its inception, Hudson Valley Fermented has been

the biggest fundraiser for our club every year, so we're really focused on a successful event to be able to fund all these different endeavors both local and international," Leyva said.

If tickets are bought online through Friday, patrons will continue to pay the \$60 general admission price or the \$100 VIP ticket. For day-of-event purchases, including online, tickets will increase to \$70 and \$115, respectively.

For tickets and more information, visit www.hvfermented.com.



All About the Bees

Westchester Land Trust recently hosted a Pollinator Pop-Up at Mount Kisco Elementary School. Students learned all about bees and pollination through hands-on learning and were particularly interested in how pollination affects the school's beloved garden.

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Letters to the Editor

Ossining Residents Should Review Their 2022 Tentative Assessments

In 2016, the Town of Ossining underwent an important and much-needed reassessment project. All properties were assessed at 100 percent of full market value.

It is the goal of the town to maintain its original investment in the 2016 project by continuing to maintain accurate property assessments at 100 percent of full market value. Accurate property assessments ensure property owners are apportioned their fair share of the property tax levy.

As planned, the town just completed its annual assessment process for the 2022 assessment roll. Changes in assessments reflect market value shifts and/or physical changes due to a change in property

inventory data. Property owners are asked to focus on their 2022 assessed value to determine whether this value reflects what is believed to be the current full market value of the property as of the applicable July 1, 2021, valuation date. We encourage you to visit the assessor’s page on our website to view property information, the neighborhood map and an interactive sales map display.

All property owners will be receiving in the mail New York State Official Change of Assessment Notice(s) for their property(ies). A change in your property’s assessment does not necessarily indicate that your taxes will change. Your tax liability will be affected by several

factors, including changes to school, county and municipal budgets; changes to assessments of other properties; changes to exemptions applicable to your property and other properties; and apportionment of school and county taxes among multiple municipal segments.

In fact, on average, most properties in the Town of Ossining saw an 11 percent increase in assessed value. If the increase in your assessed value is at or around 11 percent, the proportion of your tax burden will likely not change significantly, nor will your annual tax bill.

However, if you disagree with your full market value estimate, you are entitled to challenge your assessment through the

Board of Assessment Review from June 1-21. Grievance applications (Form RP-524) are available on our website at www.TownofOssining.com or by calling our office.

Our office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or you can e-mail your grievance form and supporting documentation to Grievance@TownofOssining.com.

Contact us directly at 914-762-8274 if you require more information regarding your 2022 tentative assessment.

Fernando Gonzalez
Town of Ossining Assessor

Gun Restrictions to Protect Schools, General Public Are Desperately Needed

“Can we all get along?”
Rodney King uttered those words in 1992 after being brutally beaten in California. I am still waiting for an answer.

Our judicial system is so broken that it is going to be very hard to address the violent shootings by the 18-year-old man in Uvalde, Texas. He shot and killed 19 elementary school students and two teachers with an AR-15 assault semi-automatic rifle. And he shot them randomly – some in their faces, according to the doctor who took care of the victims as they arrived at his hospital. Parents identified them with their DNA to be sure of their identity.

Those innocent children will never know what it is to grow to adulthood. After Sandy Hook, we thought it would never happen again, but then came Parkland. There were other shootings as well, so many that I have lost count. Don’t we value our children enough to protect them against having to worry about the safety of going to school each day, a place that we used to be able to

count on as being safe? Are people going to shy away from teaching because they regard it as a hazardous job? Are guns more valuable to some than children’s lives? Any attempt to rein in the gun violence only seems to produce more gun owners.

I fully respect the right of people to own a weapon for hunting or target practice. I grew up on a farm in Alabama. My father taught his sons how to shoot rifles at an early age so they could complement our diet with meat. But that was the only reason for using a firearm.

People who argue that the Second Amendment gives them the right to bear arms, forgetting that militia is part of that written amendment. We don’t have legal militias who need a weapon in their home to respond to a call to arms anymore. What we need are laws that require safety restrictions on how to use them. Is that asking too much?

Phyllis Hoenig
Mahopac

In Support of New Castle’s Proposed Housing Law

New Castle is now contemplating a proposed local law which would expand opportunities for housing in our community.

I concur with the judgment of our community’s Planning Board, which has concluded that: “The local law would expand opportunities for the development of additional dwelling units in the [Chappaqua and Millwood] hamlets, particularly along King Street where the topography lends itself to walkout, lower level apartments.”

In general, a community’s land use policy must be grounded in its Comprehensive Plan. Through the expected outcomes noted by our Planning Board, this new law would

substantially advance the following goals of our Comprehensive Plan.

First, it would address Goal #3, which reads: “Facilitate a range of housing types...”

Second, it would address Goal #4, which reads: “...all new housing units should be consistent with the character, aesthetic and scale of the neighborhood in which they will be located.”

Scott Le Vine
Chappaqua
Member of the American Institute of
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Calendar Submissions

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Guest Column

Who Are the Men Behind the Guns That Result in All These Deaths?

The AR-15 military assault rifle, which shredded the bodies of 19 elementary school children and two adults on May 24, is enormously profitable.

Not only is the AR-15 far more expensive than a handgun, but the owner of an AR-15 can trick out his weapon with endless amounts of accessories, such as \$700 for something called an upper receiver, which houses the firing mechanism. You can buy grips, optics and sights, too.

I found this out when I searched the internet and came upon an article in Fortune magazine from 2018.

The media often present the gun lobby as an amorphous mass, with no faces, no people behind the guns. There are many people behind these guns. They're just hidden from the public, because who wants to be publicly identified with these machines of death?

The top 10 manufacturers of AR-15 rifles are provided by Gun News Daily, which offers information on how to buy a high-quality gun, are: Sturm Ruger, American Tactical Imports, Bravo Company, Wilson Combat, Daniel Defense, LaRue, Rock River Arms, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson and Springfield Armory.

Sturm Ruger's headquarters is in Southport, Conn., in beautiful Fairfield County. Its CEO is Christopher Killoy. For 2021 the company enjoyed net sales of \$730 million, compared to \$568 million in 2020, a



By Michael Gold

28 percent increase. Killoy's net worth is estimated to be about \$11 million. He owns about \$2 million in Sturm Ruger stock.

Killoy stated in a company press release that, "2021 was a year of great accomplishments and financial results."

Sig Sauer is based in New Hampshire. The motto on its website boasts, "Never Settle." The president and CEO of the company is Ron Cohen. He was arrested in Germany in 2018 for alleged involvement in a concealed

export scheme to send 38,000 pistols to Colombia, according to the New Hampshire Business Review. It is illegal in Germany to ship guns to an active conflict zone.

Cohen admitted he was involved in the delivery and convicted. Cohen was given an 18-month suspended sentence and fined \$675,000. The company's German division had to pay \$12 million in fines. I learned about the case from New Hampshire Public Radio's website.

Springfield Armory is based in Massachusetts. Its co-founder and CEO is Dennis Reese, who recently won a Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award for excellence and enduring innovation in the shooting sports industry. The Golden Bullseye awards seem to be a type of Academy Award for the gun business.

Smith & Wesson is also located in Springfield but is moving some operations to Tennessee. Its CEO is Mark Smith. Smith

& Wesson's fiscal year sales doubled in 2021 from 2020. Smith's stock in the company is worth about \$2 million.

Daniel Defense, the maker of the gun the Texas shooter used, states on its website that its corporate values are: "Freedom. Passion. Precision." Its founder, sole owner and CEO is Marty Daniel.

The AR-15 can be sold legally because it makes these people tremendous amounts of money. Therefore, senators and U.S. Representatives who rake in millions in campaign donations from the gun companies may never pass a law restricting the use of these weapons.

The gun company owners obviously don't want anyone to be killed from the use of their products, but it happens every day, as we know all too well. One can only conclude that if people have been killed with AR-15s at elementary schools, high schools, colleges, stores, concerts and other places, this is okay with the men who run these companies. I wonder, do the assault rifle manufacturer CEOs think these deaths are just a small price for doing business?

How would they feel about assault weapons if it was their little children, their wives or themselves looking down the barrel of a shooter with an AR-15?

A bullet from an AR-15 can turn bone into dust. It can explode the artery leading to your heart. It can turn your organs into jello. The bullets will come at you in quick bursts, as fast as a kid punching the buttons on a video game.

I was an elementary school teacher in New York City for many years. In our classrooms, we practiced how to avoid getting shot. The principal would announce a shelter drill on the public address system. The teachers locked the doors to our classrooms and directed the kids to huddle in the back of the classroom, behind a corner that hid us from the window in the door, so any potential shooter would not see anyone in the class. An administrator walked around to make sure they couldn't see any one of us in class, not even a little leg, hand, arm or foot.

You have to wonder if this really would work in an active shooter situation. If school is in session, will a gunman walking around the building looking for people to kill really think nobody was in the classroom at that moment?

I have a child attending a school in this area, as thousands of other residents do. Since politicians won't protect our children, is the answer to make our schools into armed fortresses? Should we place two security guards in the front and back of the building armed with AR-15 rifles? Do we need to pass a school security tax in the state to pay for them?

The CEOs of the gun companies would be delighted to supply us with the weapons.

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

On the Street

Letters to the Editor

As Usual, Democrats Wrongly Blame Baby Formula Shortage on GOP

This is in response to Nicholas Kuvach's letter to the editor in last week's edition ("Republicans' Baby Formula Vote Shows Party Cares Only About Power"). As is the norm with the Democrats, they never miss a chance to blame a crisis they created on someone, anyone else.

The Abbott plant was closed months ago and the FDA admitted this week that it dragged its feet in addressing a problem they knew was coming. But, of course, that's the fault of the Republicans. Then the Democrats want to scramble and try to cover up their poor decisions with – wait for it – throwing money at it. That's their answer to everything.

But wait! There's plenty of formula at the border for the children of the illegal immigrants. Why not? The Democrats cherish their children much more than they do the children of U.S. citizens and immigrants who are here legally.

Most House Republicans did oppose a bill that passed in the House on May 18 that would give \$28 million to the FDA to address the shortage because it did not address how the money would be used to fix the problem, according to Politico. It would "strengthen and increase the number of FDA inspection staff" as well as "provide resources for personnel

working on formula issues."

The Republicans voted in favor of a separate bill that would make it easier for those in the federal food assistance program to access baby formula. A group of Republicans recently introduced the Babies Need More Formula Now Act, which seeks to reduce the restrictions on the importing of baby formula from other countries.

Biden couldn't have a victory in any court of reasonable opinion. He is the worst leader – wait, I take back that word leader, as it is giving him too much credit. He is the worst example of what the Democrats had to offer.

As for the sanctity of life, Democrats are perfectly fine aborting babies up to and including live-birth abortions fully supported by the supposedly devout Catholics Pelosi and Biden. What a bunch of hypocritical human beings.

As for the Republicans only wanting power: Really? The Democrats are the most power-hungry, ruthless people on Earth. If it doesn't benefit them personally, they want no part of it. I can't wait for the mid-terms.

**Ray Rau
Brewster**

Levenberg's Environmental Record Makes Her Clear Choice in Primary

As an activist, my number one issue is environmental justice. That's why in the upcoming Assembly race, I am supporting the candidate with the strongest track record of action on this issue – Dana Levenberg.

Under Dana's leadership, Ossining has been recognized as a Clean Energy Community and made significant progress toward earning Climate Smart Communities certification. A comprehensive listing of all of the actions that have been undertaken to merit this recognition would be too long to print in a single letter.

Among the highlights: Ossining was one of the first communities to become part of Sustainable Westchester's 100 percent Green Community Choice Aggregation program, lowering electricity costs for Ossining residents and increasing demand for renewables. It passed solar legislation and took action leading to the siting of the largest solar canopy in Westchester County.

Ossining has also adopted the New York Stretch code, introduced electric vehicles to the town fleet, added EV charging

stations to parks, reduced waste with food scrap recycling, passed legislation protecting pollinators and so much more.

Ossining was able to make these strides because Dana is highly engaged with her community on this issue and collaborates with her Town Board colleagues and community partners, such as to consistently pass and implement new laws and initiatives.

To make progress on our climate goals, we need productive legislators who take this issue seriously. In this primary field, Dana has the strongest record of actually passing legislation and implementing initiatives related to sustainability, by far.

We all know what needs to happen; Dana has the determination and talent to get it done. Her career trajectory and accomplishments show that she has the skills to get things done. That's why she has earned my support.

**Ingrid Wittmann
Peekskill**

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES 2022



Most communities across Westchester and Putnam counties returned to their traditional Memorial Day programs last weekend as there was a full schedule of ceremonies and parades to help commemorate those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Many residents enthusiastically joined the gatherings after all communities abandoned their programs in 2020 while some returned last year. For many, the return was a welcome sight to honor those who gave all over the generations.



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 6-10p Rides & Food (main field)
 7-10p Norm & Bob Band (live music - stage)

FRIDAY JUNE 3
 6-10p Rides & Food (main field)
 6-8p Dan & John's Horses (baseball diamond)
 6:30p & 8:30p Pig Races (racetrack)
 7-10p School of Rock (live music - stage)

SATURDAY JUNE 4
 10-6p Crafts in the Park (Wampus Brook Park)
 11a Opening Day Ceremony (gazebo)
 11a WRAACA Car Show (main field)
 12-10p Rides & Food (main field) **50/50 raffle**
 12:30-2:30p Banjo Rascals (roaming in WBP)
 1p, 2p, 4p, 6p & 8p Pig Races (racetrack)
 2:30-3:30p Group Therapy (live music - gazebo)
 5-10p DJ Robert Diz DiFiori (stage)
 5p 50/50 Raffle Drawing (Lions Den)

SUNDAY JUNE 5
 12-5p Rides & Food (main field) **50/50 raffle**
 12-5p Crafts in the Park (Wampus Brook Park)
 12:30-2:30p Banjo Rascals (roaming in WBP)
 12:30-2:30p 4H Dog Show (gazebo)
 1p, 2p & 4p Pig Races (racetrack)
 2:30-3:30p BHHS Jazz Band (live music - gazebo)
 5p 50/50 raffle drawing (Lions Den)

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50/50 RAFFLE

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Brick by Brick: Building a Patio From Scratch

Of all my home do-it-yourself projects, the most satisfying was the creation of a large brick patio at the rear of an 18th century home my wife and I purchased in Yorktown in the early 1970s.

There was never any doubt in my mind as to the material I would use: brick. My love for the look and feel of an outside brick surface under my feet no doubt was born during my college years when I attended the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., where all walkways were paved in the material.

As a more practical matter, I felt that building a patio brick by brick was a project I could manage without the use of special equipment or tools.

For those of us who live in regions that see temperatures below freezing during the winter, a brick patio laid on sand can be an excellent choice for an outdoor living space. The small gaps between the bricks and the grains of sand swept between them after being laid allow for slight movement when any moisture in the ground expands or contracts with the change in temperature, unlike a more rigid surface that may crack. In addition, bricks give a warm, natural texture to traditional country landscapes, which was the look we wanted to achieve.

In my earlier home-owning days, I found the laying of bricks and stones therapeutic, and in the years to come I would create many

steps and walkways wherever I could.

The first step was to cut away the old lawn and dig a level space into the ground, deep enough to hit the more clay-like layer. The step I didn't take, but perhaps should have, was to rent a compactor to make this base truly level. Indeed, my patio would always have a mild undulation to it because of skipping this step, but to my eyes this was part of its hand-hewn charm.

Next came my deliveries of gravel (most of which went toward covering the driveway), sand and the bricks, all of which went into separate mounds behind our garage. I used my big red wheelbarrow to make hundreds of trips between the garage and the patio site, first laying down gravel and then sand. At this point I leveled and tamped down the surface carefully. Had plastic edging been available to me back then, I would certainly have installed it in a well-camouflaged fashion, but I settled instead for using slate and wood beams to support the brick pattern.

When the bricks were finally ready to be laid in, I opted for a standard running bond pattern where the edges of two bricks meet under the center of the brick above them. Had I wished, I could have opted for many other varieties of patterns instead, such as herringbone, basketweave or radial designs. But with no tools for cutting, I felt this was



my best choice.

With a little ingenuity, a homeowner could even incorporate different sizes or colors of bricks to create a unique design. As for me, the contrast between the red of the brick and the gray of the slate was intriguing enough, so I chose a simpler pattern to complement those colors. At the end I swept the fine layer of sand in between the bricks, and I was done, although today I would have finished by using a rented compactor a second time.

For the most part, the patio was perfect. The only flaw in the design is that the patio was on the north side of the house, so we always had to shovel snow away cleanly from one end to the other as the sun would not melt it for us.

It took a summer's worth of work for me to build up each layer of the patio, but the end result was worth it. We had many years

of outdoor dining and relaxing on that patio under the shade of a great, large maple tree, and when that maple eventually succumbed to disease and had to be cut down, the patio still looked well-designed and welcome-worthy under the direct light of the sun – requiring a big umbrella for outside dining.

As a sidebar, did you know that our region – specifically Haverstraw – was once known as the brick capital of the world? It achieved that status because of the large clay deposits on the banks of the Hudson River in that area.

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



By Bill Primavera



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05/20	LORDS OF 52ND STREET: Legends of the Billy Joel Band
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Yoga Festival to Bring Wellness to Westchester on June 18

By Nora Lowe

On June 18, John Jay Homestead in Katonah will be transformed into a “yoga village” thanks to the efforts of a team bringing Westchester’s first yoga and wellness festival to life.

The Radiance Yoga and Wellness Festival is the brainchild of Michelle Prosper, founder of Ora Studios in Mount Kisco who has 15 years of yoga instructor experience.

Now Prosper is using her extensive expertise to make yoga and wellness more accessible to Westchester residents.

“Not everyone can get out of town for three days,” said Prosper, acknowledging that yoga retreats tend to be expensive and can be difficult for parents to leave their children.

That was her motivation behind creating a day-long local event.

The festival will grant access to an array of programming, including classes (e.g., Pilates, sound healing and tai chi), lectures, workshops, body painting, shopping and food from vendors such as Ladle of Love. Big brand name Athleta is sponsoring the event.

Additional sponsors such as O2 Living Sanctuary and Bulletproof are offering free festival favors. There will be a photo/selfie station, mindful craft activities and a meditation tent as well.

There are 12 instructors and presenters and about 15 to 20 vendors who will be on hand.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to WMN Unite, an organization that



Michelle Prosper devised the idea for a yoga and wellness festival at John Jay Homestead.

financially assists women participating in opportunities related to education, health, wellness and sustainability.

Jodi Robin, the festival’s marketing and communications director and eight-year student of Prosper’s, calls the event “an opportunity to get outside, to be healthy and to learn new things,” while praising the breadth and depth of the offerings.

Festival organizers emphasize that the event is designed to cater to a range of experiences and comfort levels.

Robin said whether you’re new to yoga, getting back into it after being away, super fit or looking for something slow, there will

be something suitable for everyone at the festival. The target audience for each class is noted on the itinerary, and there will be assistants available to help novices.

Prosper’s “small but mighty” organizing team of eight prides themselves on “creating an atmosphere where people can come as they are.” They are hoping the day is a chance for the community to heal after the pandemic.

“No matter what you’ve been through, cause we’ve all had so much coming at us, this is a chance to just...receive the joy, the abundance, the release,” she said.

There will also be the chance to support

local artisans and teachers like Jen Pignone, owner of O2 Living Sanctuary in Cross River. She completed her yoga instructor training with Prosper and is teaching at the festival and sponsoring it through O2.

“Our community needs an event centered around...connection, mindfulness and health, especially coming out of some rough couple of years,” Pignone said.

Lauren Porat, the owner of YogaSpark, who is also teaching at the festival, also observed the toll the pandemic took on the yoga industry.

“I can’t tell you how many people just stopped practicing because it wasn’t the same online,” she said.

Porat is looking forward to the festival because “for most people, it (yoga) is best done in community and in-person.”

It’s apt that this celebration of yoga, a practice with roots thousands of years old, will be taking place at John Jay Homestead, a historic landmark.

“The past always sets the stage for us to evolve into what’s here for us in the present,” said Prosper. “The practice of yoga...encourages people to come and be present. And when you’re present...you’re releasing attachment to the past...what bogs you down. You’re releasing worry of what you have to do next, what’s coming up, and you’re simply just there.”

Tickets to the festival cost \$180. The grounds open at 9:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 10 a.m. John Jay Homestead is located at 400 Jay St. (Route 22) in Katonah.

To buy tickets or for more information, visit <https://radianceyogafestival.com>.

Visiting Nurse Services to Celebrate 120 Years of Service at Gala

Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester will be celebrating 120 years of service at their 2022 Spring Benefit Gala this Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Westchester Country Club in Rye.

“We are excited to be celebrating 120 years at our 2022 Spring Benefit Gala,” said Timothy P. Leddy, president and CEO of Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester. “This milestone anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate our agency’s impact on the health and well-being of individuals and families for the past 120 years and would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. We look forward to toasting the past and celebrating the future as we continue to make a difference in the communities we serve through our wide range of programs and services.”

This year’s gala will recognize Burke Rehabilitation; Taiwo Griffith, director, Community Care Navigation; Daniel Lansen, president, Anatomy IT; Fred Siegel, president of Caring24 Health Technologies Inc., Founder Contact Health; Dawn French, senior vice president marketing and community outreach, White Plains Hospital; and Sister Mary Anne Powers, Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province.

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, which will be recognized, is one of the nation’s

premiere leaders in rehabilitation medicine. For over 100 years, Burke has provided high-quality, innovative and compassionate care to patients at its 150-bed adult acute rehabilitation hospital in White Plains.

It offers both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation care for a full range of neurological, musculoskeletal, cardiac and pulmonary conditions resulting from illness, injury or surgery. This also includes rehabilitation for patients recovering from a stroke, spinal cord injury, brain injury, amputation, complicated fracture, cardiac and pulmonary disease, and neurological diseases and disorders.

Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester is the largest and only independent nonprofit, Medicare-certified home healthcare agency in Westchester that also serves the Bronx, Dutchess, Putnam and Rockland counties. It promotes and supports the health and sustains the independence of residents in the communities they serve through the delivery of home healthcare and related community health services by VNS Westchester, VNSW at Home, and VNSW at CCN, their Community Care Navigation agency.

For more information about Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester and the services that they provide, call 914-682-1480 or visit www.vns.org.

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Business First

Business Council of Westchester President and CEO Dr. Marsha Gordon discusses the post-pandemic vibrancy and resilience of the county's business community



By Abby Luby

You are reading this week's print excerpt of an article from our Examiner+ newsmagazine-style email newsletter. To read the entire article and others like it, subscribe at www.examiner-plus.com to receive all of our bonus content.

Dr. Marsha Gordon has been the President/CEO of the Business Council of Westchester for over two decades and was recently named the third most powerful person in Westchester County by City and StateNY Magazine. Gordon is known largely for her continued success in shaping and growing the country's diverse business landscape. She has been integral in strengthening the local infrastructure

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and promoting innumerable workforce training projects. Gordon serves on multiple boards, including the Business Council of New York State and the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Investment Board and she was former president/CEO of MetroPool, a not-for-profit organization that promotes alternative transportation options.

Needless to say, Gordon is a powerhouse in the business world and always on the go, but she made time to talk to us about her vision for Westchester County and the Hudson Valley region as well as sharing bits of her personal life.

Examiner+: Where did you grow up and what about your youth and young adulthood best describes who you are?

Marsha Gordon: I grew up in Flatbush, Brooklyn, and then we moved to Rockaway by the beach which is why I've always had a love for the ocean and the beach. I come from a working-class family and had a good mother and father — in fact my dad is 95 and still living. I got my BA from Brooklyn College and when I was in my early 20s I married a man who worked for IBM in the Hudson Valley. At that time, if you didn't work for IBM there



DR. MARSHA GORDON (FACEBOOK/BUSINESS COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER)

were very few jobs, and like every young woman, I had a degree in education, even though I never wanted to be a teacher. I decided to get an MBA degree at Marist College and I took one course at a time. When I got my degree I still didn't quite know what I wanted to do and wound up working in a small non-profit cultural arts organization.

E+: How did you go from working for a non-profit arts organization to heading up one of Westchester's most influential business organizations?

Gordon: At some point, I decided to switch to the private sector and I

organized the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce. As membership director, we were able to attract the Hudson Valley Renegades to the area. I had gotten divorced and by the time my daughter was grown, I remarried. I was actually getting bored and wanted to be closer to New York City, so I enrolled at Pace University to get a doctorate in Business Administration, which I did again, taking one course at a time. I found myself working for MetroPool Transportation in Stamford, Connecticut. Then this job for the Westchester Business Council opened. It was my dream job and I was invited to apply. What I didn't know when I applied was the organization only had 300 members and was about to go ...

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Byrne Recognizes Students at Assembly Art Show

Last Thursday, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) announced the top six best in show from this year's 94th Assembly District Art Competition at a reception hosted by the Putnam Arts Council at their Mahopac gallery.

The contest, first initiated by Byrne and the Putnam Arts Council last year, offers middle school students from throughout the Assembly district an opportunity to share their visual and artistic creativity by showcasing their artwork in a professional setting.

This year, the contestants submitted artwork inspired by the theme of nature. There were 18 students who submitted artwork from over four different school districts.

"It was wonderful to host this great event once again. The creativity presented by our young people is truly remarkable" said Byrne. "It's important to help our youth harness their creative skills and feature their work. I am grateful to all the students who participated this year, and for the efforts made by our various local school art departments who helped promote this event and get their students more involved. I would also like to give special thanks to the Putnam Arts Council for their continued partnership in this initiative. It was an absolute pleasure."

"We are happy to partner with Assemblyman Byrne and his office to give us the opportunity to recognize the



The six winning Assembly art show students. Pictured, left to right, are Mia Stever, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, Joyce Piccone (president and executive director, Putnam Arts Council), Lucia Scarangella, Lylah Kievet, Erik Sigurjonsson and Carlos Passi, executive committee member.

young emerging artists throughout the 94th Assembly District, and I hope to continue this wonderful tradition." Joyce Piccone, Executive Director and President of Putnam Arts Council.

Below is a list of the top six students recognized for their artwork:

First Place "Best In Show"

Samantha Sanchez Gil
7th Grade - Henry H. Wells Middle School
Brewster Central School District
For: acrylic and marker on canvas titled: Unexpected Nature
Second Place

Lucia Scarangella
8th Grade - Mahopac Middle School
Mahopac Central School District
A painting titled: Skeleton Spring
Third Place
Mia Stever
Henry Wells Middle School
Brewster Central School District
Acrylic and Sharpie titled: Stony Kill Falls
Honorable Mention
Lylah Kievet
7th Grade - George Fisher Middle School
Carmel Central School District
Untitled
Honorable Mention
Killian P. Crosby
7th Grade - George Fisher Middle School
Carmel Central School District
Mixed media piece titled: The Woodling
Honorable Mention
Erik Sigurjonsson
7th Grade - Mahopac Middle School/Falls Academy
Mahopac Central School District
Oil on canvas titled: Lakeside Nature
People interested in participating in a potential event for next year are encouraged to contact Byrne's district office at 845-278-2923 so he can provide the information during his transition from the office at the end of his final term.

Westchester Police Commissioner to Retire After 39 Years of Service

Commissioner-Sheriff Thomas A. Gleason of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety will retire this Friday, capping a 39-year career with the Westchester County police, it was announced last week.

Gleason, who has served as commissioner for nearly four years, was appointed commissioner-sheriff by County Executive George Latimer in August 2018.

The county executive thanked Gleason for his four decades of service to Westchester County and its residents.

"He has literally done every assignment in the department," Latimer said. "He has performed admirably in each of those positions and he has performed admirably as commissioner of the department since 2018. I want to thank Tom Gleason for a job well done, for a career well-served. We are very appreciative of his great service."

Gleason said it has been a privilege to lead the Westchester County police and he thanked Latimer for trusting him to oversee the department, which has 301 police officers, 79 civilian employees and a \$66 million annual budget. During his career, Gleason has served in every division and held every rank in the department: police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, inspector, chief inspector and commissioner-sheriff.

Gleason holds a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Fordham University. He also is a graduate of the FBI National Academy 200th Session in Quantico, Va.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this county," Gleason said. "I especially want to thank the county executive for having the faith and confidence to allow me to cap my law enforcement career by leading our department these past four years."

"I am so proud of the men and women of the county police and of the great work they do every day to keep the people of Westchester safe," he added. "Throughout the past few years with all the challenges we have faced, from the pandemic to the police reform process, they continued to demonstrate the commitment and professionalism that make them second to none."

Gleason began his law enforcement career when he joined the Department of Public Safety in January 1983. After graduating from the Westchester County Academy, he was assigned to the Patrol Division. He was appointed detective in 1987 and worked in the General Investigations and Welfare Fraud Units.

In 1989, he was promoted to sergeant and returned to the Uniform Patrol Division until 1990, when he was reassigned to the Detective Division and served as both executive officer and commanding officer of the Warrant-Fugitive Unit.

In 1993, he was reassigned to the Civil Division as the executive officer, and in 1994, he was promoted to lieutenant and remained in the Civil Division as commanding officer.

In 1997, Gleason returned to the Detective Division as commanding officer of the Narcotics Unit, during which time the unit affected one of the largest cocaine

and cash seizures in the history of the department (97 kilos of cocaine and over \$1.2 million in cash).

A year later, Gleason was assigned as commanding officer of the General Investigations Unit, and served in that capacity until 2003, when he was assigned as commanding officer of the Office of Professional Responsibility and Special Investigations.

He was promoted to captain and assigned as the commanding officer of the Investigative Services (Detective) Division in 2007.

In 2010, Gleason was assigned as the commanding officer of the Patrol Services Division, serving there for two years, when

he was promoted to inspector and assigned as the executive officer of field services, which oversees both the Patrol and Special Operations Divisions.

In 2014, he was assigned as commanding officer of the Support Services Division.

On Aug. 3, 2018, he was promoted to chief inspector and subsequently named Commissioner-Sheriff – the first department member in more than 25 years to hold the department's top post.

Westchester County Police Commissioner-Sheriff Thomas Gleason will retire on Friday. He rose through the ranks in his 39-year law enforcement career.



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Justin Veatch Fund to Award Six New Music Scholarships

The Justin Veatch Fund will award six new music scholarships to graduating high school seniors at Yorktown Town Hall on Thursday, June 16 at 6 p.m.

Ossining singer/songwriter K.J. Denhart will deliver the keynote. The program is open to the public.

The recipients, selected from a competitive field of applicants, are Tobias Dorfman of Winston Preparatory School; Trevor Griffiths of Yorktown High School; Eleanor Harrison of Carmel High School; Ray Mandel-Mueller of Somers High School; Jonah Raboy of Fox Lane High School; and Jane Sheehan of Putnam Valley High School.

Each year, The Justin Veatch Fund, a nonprofit organization, awards music scholarships to graduating high school students within a 30-mile radius of Yorktown to honor the legacy of Justin Veatch, a Yorktown High School senior who died from an accidental drug overdose in 2008. Justin was a talented musician and singer/songwriter.

"We are fortunate that the fund has been able to increase the amount of our awards by 20 percent this year to \$1,200 each," said Jeffrey Veatch, president of The Justin Veatch Fund. "We were profoundly saddened by the death of Anna Louise Giusti of Ardsley, Justin's grandmother, in 2021. Mrs. Giusti was a member of our board and included a sizeable donation to our scholarship fund in her will. The law offices of Joseph J. Tock of Mahopac and Steven and Laura Koller of Yorktown were both full sponsors of two of the awards this year."

"Year after year, it's inspiring to see such a talented pool of applicants whose musical range spans genres, instruments and philosophies," said Elena Veatch, another board member. "It's been fantastic to see the scholarship program expand over the past 13 years in my brother's memory."

The 2022 recipients



Tobias Dorfman

Tobias Dorfman, of Winston Preparatory School, plans to attend Berklee College of Music in the fall. Dorfman is a talented electric bassist whose skills transcend jazz, funk, rock, Latin and other genres. He has excelled in settings such as the esteemed Lagond Music School. One teacher wrote of Toby, "he has accomplished more in two-

and-a-half years than any student I've had the honor of working with."

In addition to writing original compositions, he performs in and manages a rock cover band, Puppets for Hire, that has performed throughout Westchester County.

Dorfman hopes to someday lead a touring funk and R&B band, serve as a musical director and bassist for tours and TV concert specials and act as a session bassist for a multitude of songwriters and bands.



Trevor Griffiths

Trevor Griffiths, graduating from Yorktown High School, plans to attend Ithaca College School of Music in the fall, majoring in music education. He's described by his band teacher as the most enthusiastic and dedicated student musician she has ever worked with who eats, sleeps and breathes music.

Griffiths is a gifted trumpet player who also is a vocalist and studies piano, guitar and drums. He credits his jazz studies for bringing him out of his comfort zone and to the next level in sight reading, complex rhythms and playing the high notes he never thought possible. During the COVID-19 lockdown, he used his time to advance his musical abilities and organize remote band concerts.



Eleanor Harrison

Eleanor Harrison, of Carmel High School, plans to attend the University of Rochester in the fall, where she will study biology, pre-vet medicine and music performance, with plans to audition for one of the Eastman School of Music's symphony orchestras.

The daughter of a piano teacher, Harrison started playing music at four years old, and in fourth grade chose the French horn as her instrument of choice. Eight years later, Eleanor has played French horn in several highly selective musical organizations, including the 2021 All-National Honor Ensembles Concert Band and the All-State Symphonic Band. She even earned a perfect score of 100 on her All-State NYSSMA audition.

One teacher wrote that Eleanor "has gone from having very solid technique to using that technical ability to learn some of the hardest horn concerti and chamber pieces ever written."



Ray Mandel-Mueller

Ray Mandel-Mueller plans to attend Brown University in the fall where he will continue as a percussionist, studying music and biochemistry. The soon-to-be Somers High School graduate and son of a world music percussionist, Mandel-Mueller grew up in a household filled with the sounds of West African drums, Australian didgeridoos and Native American flutes.

In addition to being a member of the Symphony Band, Jazz Band and Honors Chamber Choir at Somers, Mandel-Mueller channels a wide range of global rhythms and instruments in his original compositions; in his own words, paying tribute to "the vast variety of roles music plays in different cultures, one of which is to build community."

One teacher wrote that Mandel-Mueller is "the kind of student who inspires me to be a better teacher." He looks forward to continuing to forge cross-cultural connections as a professional musician and composer.



Jonah Raboy

Jonah Raboy, graduating from Fox Lane High School, plans to attend either the University of Vermont or Elon University in the fall, with a major in music technology and a minor in psychology. Raboy's main interest is percussion and drums but he has also been involved in music production.

One of his music teachers calls him "extremely talented, hard-working and open-minded about a variety of genres." One of his private instructors said Raboy's recent deep dive into jazz drumming has brought him on level with his most advanced students. He has also learned to compose using the advanced program Logic Pro X.

Raboy said he is eager to become more involved in composition and music production and dreams of producing music that will give people relief for their mental and emotional health.



Jane Sheehan

Jane Sheehan plans to attend either Boston Conservatory or Bard Conservatory in the fall after graduating from Putnam Valley High School. Sheehan plans on focusing on music studies specializing in vocal performance.

Her ultimate love is opera and she has been training with that goal in mind for the last two years, having studied voice at Manhattan School of Music and Interlochen Center for the Arts Summer Opera/Voice Program last year. She has made exceptional achievements in regional and state choral assessments.

One of her choral instructors said Sheehan has exceptional abilities both as a singer and an actor and has performed in all of the choral and theatrical events that have been produced recently at Putnam Valley High School. Sheehan said her dream is to perform on stages at different opera houses and festivals throughout the world.

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Sisters Return With Lemonade Stand to Fund Childhood Cancer Research

By Martin Wilbur

For anyone visiting the Chappaqua Farmers Market this Saturday, if you get thirsty, look for the Blum Sisters Lemonade Stand.

Not only is it likely that your thirst will be quenched but your donation for the serving of lemonade will be used to fund childhood cancer research.

For the ninth consecutive year, Jenna and Rebecca Blum, now 14 and 17 years old, respectively, will be at the market on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

They will be getting up early Saturday morning, perhaps before the sun rises, to make 10 gallons of freshly squeezed lemonade for their annual fundraising effort.

"It's very special to be able to be doing this for the majority of our lives, and it's just a really great cause and a really great thing to do," Jenna Blum said.

The sisters have teamed up to raise about \$18,600, always matching or eclipsing their goal of raising at least \$2,000 each time. That goal has already been exceeded for this year, she said.

As of midday last Friday, the sisters had raised \$2,279 from online donations – all without selling a single cup of lemonade

yet.

There will also be a guessing jar and they will have hand-made pillow cases to sell this year as well.

When Jenna and Rebecca started raising money for the charity, they had the help and encouragement of their mother and their Grandpa Neal, who they described as someone who was always positive and smiling.

Six years ago, their grandfather died of brain cancer, so the event in some ways is bittersweet. However, that also provides inspiration for them to continue working to raise money in hopes of helping children with cancer.

Rebecca Blum said their grandfather was the type of person who if life deals you lemons, then it was time to make lemonade.

"He was always so proud of us and very supportive," she said. "So I know if he was still here he'd be feeling the same way."

"It's a really nice way for us to remember him in total," Jenna added.

For Rebecca, this year's lemonade stand will mark the end of an era of sorts. In a few weeks she graduates from Horace Greeley High School and will be heading to college next year.

Rebecca hopes that she can return home and continue raising money for a very important cause that she and her sister



Jenna and Rebecca Blum will be back at the Chappaqua Farmers Market with their lemonade stand this Saturday raising money for research to combat childhood cancer.

have been doing for most of their lives.

"I really hope that we will be able to have our stand each year when I'm home for summer break because it's been such a fulfilling experience," Rebecca said. "I want to keep continuing it."

For more information on the Blum Sisters Lemonade Stand or to make an online contribution, visit <https://www.alexlemonade.org/mypage/2837178>.



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Crossword

Across

1. Michigan city, with Grand

6. Alternatively, in ____ of

10. Heart link

11. Potential pass receivers

12. A place for kids to get a work-out for their numerical skills in Chappaqua

14. Actors in a film

15. Hebrew prophet

19. Catalina or Bali?

23. Honeydew, e.g.

24. Critic, at times

25. Window feature

26. Mahopac elder law firm, Sloan & ____

27. Sing the praises of

29. Gives a freshman introduction, say

35. Cultivator

36. Stuck, after "in", 2 words

37. C-worthy, 2 words

38. Leg of lamb

Down

1. Collision sound

2. Mauna ____

3. Type of studio

4. To the ____ degree

5. Wild dance

6. Marked down

7. Approve, in a way

8. School's URL ender

9. Mil. branch

13. "At last!"

15. First responding team, abbr.

16. Gift of flowers

17. Neighbor of Wis.

18. Makes happier

20. N.L. Central team, abbr.

21. Old time western actor, ____ Marvin

22. Wander

24. Sale-merchandise label, 2 words

26. Disneyland promise

28. Relating to aircraft

29. Expressions of surprise

30. Friend of Pooh

31. Yellowfin tuna

32. Fit (out)

33. 70s rock group, abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Answers on page 26

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continued on page 24



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Sally Rogers • Howie Bursen • Claudia Schmidt • Ustad Shafaat Khan
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Katonah Classic Stage Reunites Former Broadway Co-stars for Benefit Reading

Katonah Classic Stage, Westchester County's newest nonprofit professional theater company dedicated to classic dramas and comedies, will present a benefit reading of Lanford Wilson's, "Talley's Folly" at the Bedford Historical Hall on June 17.

The lead roles of Matt and Sally will be played by Bruce Sabath and Elizabeth Stanley, who co-starred in Sondheim's 2006 Tony-winning, Broadway revival of "Company." The reading will serve as a kickoff to KCS's Annual Online Auction Fundraiser during which supporters can bid on over 60 items donated by local businesses and artists.

Katonah Classic Stage has hosted a series of sold-out readings over the last several months, each boasting stellar Broadway talent, leaving audiences asking for more.

"We actually weren't planning to do another reading until the winter, but after "Dinner with Friends" in April, we received requests from several people asking for another one," said Executive Director Sharron Kearney said of presenting "Talley's Folly." So, we gave in to the demand, especially since it dovetails nicely with the auction."

Katonah Classic Stage is thrilled to have more Broadway veterans take the stage this time around. Sabath, a Katonah resident, has an impressive theater resume, recently taking the stage in Bedford Hills for his autobiographical, one-man show, "Searching for Tevye," which he also wrote.

Fresh off the run of a new play, "Sabina," at the Portland Stage in Maine, Sabath is heading straight into "Talley." "I'm so excited to be able to support my town's wonderful new theatre company," he said. "Katonah has a rich tradition of both creating and



Elizabeth Stanley and Bruce Sabath, actors with Broadway credits, will be part of a benefit reading of "Talley's Folly" at the Bedford Historical Hall on June 17.

supporting art, and Katonah Classic Stage is a perfect example. I'm equally excited to reunite with Elizabeth and share her incredible talent and this beautiful piece with my neighbors."

Stanley is a Broadway powerhouse, receiving nominations for both a Tony and Drama Desk award in 2020 for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical for Broadway's "Jagged Little Pill." She was also in the Broadway revival of "On the Town," "Million Dollar Quartet," "Cry-Baby," and the Tony Award-winning revival of "Company" with Sabath.

Artistic Director Trent Dawson is ecstatic that Stanley and Sabath have joined the cast.

"When we started KCS, we knew that we had to keep the level of talent extremely high in order to engage and retain audiences," Dawson said. "Elizabeth Stanley and Bruce Sabath have now raised that talent bar exponentially."

"Talley's Folly," a Pulitzer Prize winner, walks audiences through one evening in the courtship of two unlikely lovers; Sally, who hails from a conservative, small-town, wealthy family of bigoted Protestants, and Matt, a Jewish accountant 12 years her

senior. The story of how they become brave enough to reveal their most painful secrets touched audiences and critics, and the play's Broadway run was a great success.

Both "Talley" and the auction will serve to raise money for Katonah Classic Stage's main stage production of Noel Coward's "Private Lives" in October. For the auction, KCS has partnered with dozens of local businesses such as The Bedford Playhouse, School of Rock, Siegel Architects and more, as well as local artists including Richard Coico and Amy Drucker, who donated items for supporters to bid on. The proceeds of the auction will go directly toward "Private Lives."

As an added benefit, the "Talley" audience will get to see some of these auction items in person and place live bids. Doors open at 7 p.m., and audiences can expect to enjoy drinks and refreshments with an opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with the performers after the reading.

In addition to offering their first Shakespeare-focused workshop for high school and middle school students, Katonah Classic Stage has several events on the horizon including the 3rd Annual Film Festival, a Noel Coward-inspired Cabaret Concert, and "Private Lives," as well as more readings this coming winter. Staffing, casts and crews will draw from the exceptional talent found locally as well as New York City and the tristate area.

Bedford Historical Hall is located at 608 Old Post Rd. in Bedford. For more information and tickets, visit www.katonahclassicstage.com/talley

Consumer Alert: Home Improvement Contractor Season is Underway

Each year, the Westchester County Consumer Protection Department aggressively pursues violations of Westchester County law requiring home improvement contractors to be licensed to work in the county.

Now that it's springtime – a prime time for home repair work – it's important for consumers and contractors to understand and follow these laws.

"Operating without a home improvement license is a violation of law in Westchester County," said County Executive George Latimer. "If you're hiring a contractor to do home improvement work, be sure to ask to see the contractor's license."

A list of all licensed contractors and a list of "renegade renovators" (contractors that homeowners should avoid) can be found on the department's webpage consumer.westchestergov.com.

Also, residents should note that licensed home improvement contractors must display a green sticker on the rear bumper of their vehicles, which indicates the expiration date of the license.

"Consumers need to do their homework before hiring a home improvement contractor," said Consumer Protection Director Jim Maisano. "The first step is to review the list of licensed contractors, which can be found on our webpage. There are over 8,000 contractors licensed to do work

in Westchester."

Maisano added that whenever a consumer hires a contractor for home improvement work, there should be a written contract between the parties and a sample contract can be found on the department's webpage.

Consumers should know that the department is vigilant in following up on formal complaints and will take action against contractors who operate without a license and who violate the terms of their contracts.

Here are tips for consumers seeking home improvement contractors:

- Before hiring a contractor, review the department's webpage, which offers helpful advice to consumers about hiring a contractor to do work at your home including a pamphlet in PDF form with everything you need to know.
- Get written estimates and references from at least three contractors.
- Be sure that all work to be done is spelled out in a detailed, written contract including the estimated start and completion dates and the total price, including the costs of labor and materials and any schedule of payments.
- Be wary of unsolicited phone calls and door-to-door sales. Often these are initiated by contractors who are unlicensed and without established business locations. Plus, be wary of

any "special prices" that are too good to be true or any contractor who just "happens" to be in your neighborhood.

Additional information is available at www.consumer.westchestergov.com or by

contacting the Department of Consumer Protection at 914-995-2155 or ConPro@westchestergov.com for assistance.

Galef Announces 'Energy Savings' Virtual Town Hall

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) announced she will host a Virtual Town Hall meeting on the topic of energy savings on Thursday, June 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The meeting will cover renewable energy options, how to save money by transitioning to a more energy efficient lifestyle and incentives from the state for doing so.

Galef's Virtual Town Hall will feature the following four panelists:

- Scott Smith, clean heating and cooling program manager from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), will provide a brief overview of New York's path to carbon neutrality and discuss financial incentives for households who transition to

renewable options;

- Lauren Brois, EnergySmart Homes director, and Claire Kokoska, solar programs manager, both of Sustainable Westchester, will explain various renewable options;
- Joe Montuori, of Sustainable Putnam, will share tips for reducing home energy costs.

The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom, with the option to call in. Participants will be able to ask questions and join in on the discussion whether they log-in via the web or over the phone. Those interested in attending should look out for an e-mail from Galef leading up to the meeting with the attendance details or call the Assemblywoman's office at 914-941-1111 and those details will be provided.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Utilizing Graston Techniques to Help Treat Common Injuries

Soft tissue injuries include damage to the tendons, ligaments, muscles and the fascia. When an area becomes inflamed or irritated this can cause abnormal tissue textures.

Irritation and inflammation occur following an injury, trauma or repetitive motions on a single body part. Constant loading of a muscle can result in increased stress on the muscle tendon, leading to a great likelihood of tendinopathy. This is most common near the joints including shoulders, elbows, wrists, knees and heels.

Some common examples of tendinopathies that may benefit from Instrument-Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization (IASTM) include tennis and golfer's elbow, De Quervain's tenosynovitis, jumper's knee and Achilles tendinopathy.

Graston Technique is a form of IASTM, which is the use of instruments to allow for a more direct treatment of the soft tissues involved with movement. This is possible

because the instruments amplify abnormal tissue texture to assist the clinician's diagnostic skills.

Using this technique, the provider has an increased ability to identify a specific area and allow for more precision. This form of mobilization can also be beneficial for the patient, as they are able to feel the abnormal texture as well when the instrument glides over that tissue.

Healthy connective tissue consists of cells called fibroblasts, as well as a component referred to as the extracellular matrix (ECM). The ECM includes both collagen and elastin. Elastin helps to support tissue flexibility and mobility, while collagen is an important factor in supporting the tensile strength of the muscle tissue.

Throughout the body, collagen can be found laid out in different patterns depending on the structure. Structures like joint capsules, retinaculum and the IT band are strong in multiple directions. This means

the collagen needs to be laid down and in a random pattern to withstand the pull from all directions.

For tendons and ligaments, it is the opposite. The collagen is laid down in only one direction. This allows the tendons and ligaments to be strong in the one direction that they are being pulled.

Collagen is a type of structural protein that makes up the framework of the cells and tissues. It provides structural support and plays an important role in cellular processes including tissue repair, immune response and cellular communication. When there is trauma to an area, irregular layers of collagen occur. This creates crosslinks between normally occurring collagen and elastin fibers.

Graston Technique is helpful in treating tendinopathies by increasing



By Julia Yanarella

fibroblast activity. Fibroblasts stimulate the production of collagen. The intent is to create controlled microtrauma to reset the inflammatory cascade and stimulate growth.

When therapeutic exercise is done immediately following Graston Technique, the new tissue that is being produced is laid down in a healthier, more organized fashion.

The movement activates the alignment of the fibroblasts in the correct direction of stress that the exercises apply.

Julia Yanarella is a physical therapist assistant for ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic. She is Graston Technique Certified and works full time in the Armonk location. For more information about her article or about ProClinix call 914-202-0700 or e-mail jyanarella@proclinix.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Treasurer of the Village of Pleasantville has received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Tax payments can be made online via the Village

website www.pleasantville-ny.gov, sent via mail service or left in the drop box available at the entrance to the Village Police Department, Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue. Payments can also be dropped off in-person at Village Hall, 3rd Floor of 80 Wheeler Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm with the Tax Department at 914-769-1997. Taxes and other assessments, if any, become due and payable June 1, 2022, but may be paid in two installments without penalty. The first installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2022 to and including July 1, 2022. The second installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2022 to and including December 31, 2022. To all first installment

taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2022, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of July, and an additional one percent

(1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. To all second installment taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2022, five

percent (5%) will be added for the month of January, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. On or before February 1, 2022 a delinquent list will be published.

Noreen Regan
Village Treasurer
Dated: May 31, 2022

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Summer Officially Arrives: More Hot Weather Ahead

Preparations have been underway for months as the Putnam County Department of Health worked to ensure residents have resources to stay cool and enjoy both active and more sedentary activities safely.

If the early season hot weather has been a warning, it is that there is more of the same ahead.

“Our lakes and their beaches are one of Putnam County’s treasures and keeping them clean and safe for summer recreation is a top priority,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

Nearly three dozen public beaches grace the county landscape and provide residents, adults and children alike, a chance to swim and cool off each summer.

“Implementing safety protocols helps prevent all sorts of problems,” explained Health Commissioner Michael J. Nesheiwat “Recreational water illnesses for example are diseases people contract from contaminated water in which they swim or play.”

Common symptoms include skin rashes, diarrhea, ear pain, cough, congestion and eye pain, Nesheiwat said.

“Contamination is possible in lakes, aquatic spray grounds, rivers and even oceans – not just pools and hot tubs,” he said.

Associate Public Health Sanitarians Marianne Burdick and Brian Stevens lead the health department’s efforts to protect residents’ health at multiple locations, whether they visit public beaches, pools or participate in day



Rescue tubes and other swimming safety checklist items are one of many inspected by the health department staff in a “pre-op” inspection. Cathy Chiudina, director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Southeast, accompanies Putnam County Department of Health inspector Vincent Perrin during his on-site visit before the opening of Southeast Beach on Tonetta Lake for Memorial Day weekend.

or overnight camps, where activities increase each summer.

Planning begins as early as February when the county’s more than two dozen camps begin drawing up their safety plans, which are due to the health department by Apr. 1. Each year lifeguard certification paperwork is reviewed, and permits are issued to the facilities. While all camps must submit full, comprehensive plans every five years, written plans are also due on all day and overnight excursions planned for their campers.

Trip leader experience, their familiarity with the destination site, as well as the standard counselor-to-camper ratio are among the factors

examined by health department staff to ensure campers are always in the best of hands, even off-site.

When it comes to on-site inspections, the health department is thorough, conducting inspections of summer facilities throughout the season on a regular basis. Onsite inspections of beaches and pools include a pre-operational inspection and two standard operational inspections. These inspections occur not only at the nearly three dozen beaches, but also at more than 40 public pools, both indoor and outdoor, a total of nearly 80 facilities each summer.

In addition to the three inspections performed by the health

department’s full-time public health sanitarians, water quality samples are collected frequently by additional seasonal environmental personnel.

Harmful blue-green algae blooms, sometimes called HABs, also tend to occur after rainy and hot weather.

“This is especially true in lakes with nutrient-rich water,” said Stevens, who supervises staff in the beach program. “We require that beaches close if blue-green algae blooms appear, which can happen suddenly. We work closely with the beach operators and conduct clearance sampling when the blue-green algae bloom is no longer visible.”

Results for these are generally returned within 36 hours, so that beaches can re-open promptly, he said.

Stevens also notes that it’s not just swimmers or waders who can be exposed to blue-green algae.

“Boating and fishing should be avoided in areas with blooms,” he pointed out. “In fact, all contact by people and animals should be avoided.”

Other safety concerns the health department checks up on include lifesaving equipment and depth markings at pools and beaches, and how well camps implement the “buddy check” system.

“We double check numerous details to ensure the safety of all ages,” Nesheiwat said.

For those who prefer a different, indoor approach to cooling off in summer months, the health department has been reaching out

to local community organizations to enlist support by offering their indoor spaces as a cooling center in times of more extreme heat.

“Not everyone wants to go to the beach, so we are happy to report that eight local libraries have stepped up to offer air-conditioned spaces when we issue a heat advisory,” Nesheiwat said.

He further explained the nature of an advisory, which is issued when high temperatures and humidity combine to make it feel like 95 to 99 degrees for two or more consecutive days, or 100 to 104 degrees for any length of time.

Calling the libraries ahead of time is necessary to check the open hours and ensure facility operation, especially during summer storms and power outages.

Call 845-279-6421 for the Brewster Library in the Village of Brewster; 845-265-3040 for the Butterfield Library; 845-424-3020 for the Desmond Fish Library in Garrison; 845-225-8585 for the Kent Library; 845-628-2009 for the Mahopac Library; 845-878-6121 for the Patterson Library; 845-528-3242 for the Putnam Valley Library; and 845-225-2439 for the Reed Memorial in Carmel.

Check the health department website for other facilities that may join the cooling center effort.

For more information, visit www.putnamcountyny.com or the county’s social media sites on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @ PutnamHealthNY.

Unique Ways to Celebrate the Summer Holidays

Summer holidays often revolve around being together, but whether your family and friends are near or far, there are plenty of fun and unique ways to celebrate these holidays in-person or virtually.

Here’s a little history on a few annual summer occasions, and ideas for amping up the festivities.

One possibility was to host a Memorial Day Celebration of Life. While Memorial Day weekend is often the unofficial start to summer filled with camping trips, beach parties and barbecues, it’s important to remember that we commemorate this day to honor the legacy of those who have served and lost their lives in the U.S. military.

You can embrace the bond with your family by having a traditional backyard party or picnic in remembrance of those close to you who have served. Honor them by serving their favorite foods, playing their favorite games or even writing your favorite memories down on a piece of paper and sharing them with the group.

Honor Juneteenth by Showing Your Appreciation for Black Culture. Juneteenth takes place on June 19 and commemorates the emancipation of thousands of slaves who were not aware of their freedom until that date in 1865.

On this date, Union General Gordon



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Granger landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free. And in 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday in the United States.

Many honor Juneteenth with educational and family gatherings, supporting Black-owned businesses and by visiting museums and exhibits dedicated to Black culture. You can also send a personalized message of love and inspiration. Who better to deliver your message than Grammy Award-winning artist Alicia Keys? Her completely customizable SmashUp video greeting is specifically designed to celebrate the Juneteenth holiday.

Create a Custom Dad-Approved Experience this Father’s Day. What better

way to show your appreciation for the father figure in your life than by creating a day all about him? Think about his favorite hobbies and design an itinerary sure to receive the dad seal of approval. Whether it’s a fishing trip, creating your own backyard mini golf course or going on a brewery tour in search of the best local IPA, it’s sure to be a Father’s Day he’ll remember.

If you can’t be with Dad, sending a personalized video or e-card is a great way to show you care. These greetings are made just for him, and you can even add a gift card to one of his favorite stores.

Get Crafty for Fourth of July. Fourth of July is the peak of summer and commemorates the Continental Congress formally accepting the Declaration of Independence of the United States in 1776. Often enjoyed with food, fireworks and parades, it’s a bash that’s anticipated all summer long.

Get into the patriotic mood by creating some original décor or USA-themed foods for your cookout or fireworks watch party. Try your hand at designing items like patriotic napkin rings, American flag-inspired desserts, painting outdoor items such as flowerpots red, white and blue, or even making your own sparklers and lanterns to hand out to guests when they arrive.

Then, after guests have settled into the

festivities, add an extra layer of fun by using filter-like Selfie SmashUps to turn yourself and guests into Uncle Sam.

Each summer holiday is an opportunity to bring people together to make new memories. By thinking outside the box, you can truly make a splash this summer.

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Crossword Answers

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There's More to Understanding Champagne Than You May Think



By Nick Antonaccio

More than any other secular symbol of celebration, sparkling wines are associated with feelings of joy, camaraderie and passion. They may also evoke memories of special moments in our lives.

Unfortunately, oftentimes these wines are also the least appreciated on their own merits. As we clink our glasses in toasts to each other and sip the contents of a bottle, how often do we focus on the attributes of the wine? For each memory associated with Champagne or sparkling wines, are we aware of the history behind the wines themselves? Champagne and sparkling wines have become the conduits for celebration, not the focus of celebration.

In reality, the production process and long history of French sparkling wines, which are the only sparklers that may be referred to as "Champagne," are more complex and have been more intertwined with history than any other wines, sparkling or still.

In this week's column I'll explore the military and business elements that have vaulted them to center stage.

1. The history of Champagne reads like



the history of French military wars. As early as the late 16th century, French royalty quaffed Champagne to celebrate coronations and military victories in the Champagne city of Reims. In the 18th

century, it became the symbol for military might.

In 1814, an enterprising Champagne house, Veuve Clicquot, defied Napoleon's wartime blockade of Russia by secretly shipping Champagne to the czar. Napoleon's troops were fighting disease

and hunger on the Russian front, while the czar was planning strategies with a glass of Champagne in hand.

During World War I, the Germans wreaked havoc and destruction on the Champagne region, driving residents to vast centuries-old natural caves where they subsisted for nearly four years, secretly preserving their precious liquid treasures.

During World War II, the Nazis

'more intertwined with history than any other wines, sparkling or still.'

commandeered many of the French Champagne estates. The courageous locals cunningly resisted, plying the Germans with just enough bubbly to avoid the potential maelstrom of destruction of World War I.

2. It is also in the French Champagne region where a unique social phenomenon occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries. While men dominated the rest of the international business world, the Champagne region was singularly notable for the influence and business acumen of a number of enterprising women.

Succeeding to leadership roles upon the deaths of their husbands, these women personally took over the reins of their namesake wineries, transforming themselves from stay-at-home moms to successful corporate entrepreneurs. Through their operational, technological, marketing and financial expertise, they catapulted the Champagne houses of Veuve Clicquot, Pommery, Laurent-Perrier and Bollinger into world prominence that continues to this day.

The most famous is the Veuve ("Widow") Clicquot. At 27, she inherited a struggling small winery from her husband. Through her singular effort to improve the quality

of her wines, she succeeded in building her winery's reputation, and sales, to worldwide acclaim.

Madame Louise Pommery boldly ventured outside the Franco-centric Champagne market and established her brand name in Great Britain, making her one of the wealthiest women in France.

Marie-Louise Lanson de Nonancourt, widowed during World War I, abruptly sold her share of the family winery and set out on her own to make her mark. She purchased a near bankrupt winery, Laurent-Perrier, and built it into a prestigious Champagne house – with three children in tow.

Madame Jacques Bollinger, widowed in the midst of World War II, doubled her namesake winery's production in spite of the wartime conditions she encountered. Asked as to when she drank Champagne, she famously replied, "I only drink champagne when I'm happy and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I am not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise, I never touch it – unless I'm thirsty."

A noble viewpoint.

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

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

Getting Ready to View the Summer Skies, a Real Treat for Stargazers

Here at the very end of May, the last full month of spring is behind us. The official start of summer is only about three weeks away.

Changes are happening in the night sky, too. As we move in our orbit around the sun, our nighttime side faces toward different stars in different corners of our galaxy. So, we associate many stars we see with the seasons when we see them.

Orion, the hunter, for instance, guides us through the cold end of the year. There's nothing inherently "wintery" or "summery" about the stars, though. After all, not everyone on Earth has the same seasons at the same time. So, those cold nights we spend with Orion are warm summer nights for our friends in Australia and Chile.

While we enjoy these closing days of spring, we can, as we so often do, turn to the moon for a little help. As it moves through our sky this month, it'll point us toward the stars of three seasons. These stars are in the sky whether the moon is there or not, but the moon is often a good guide.

First, let's look to the west on June 3 just after the sun sets. There

in the glowing dusk, we'll see the sublime sight of a thin crescent moon just above a relaxed arch of five stars. From north (toward the right) to south (toward the left), these are Capella, Menkalinan, Castor, Pollux and Procyon. The moon will appear closest to Pollux, the twins of Gemini. These are the last gasps of the eastern

Clear Skies

half of the Winter Hexagon, rolled over on its side and still with us.

Also, let's see if we can spot some shadowy Earthshine on the moon's darkened half. That's sunlight that bounced from Earth to the moon and back to our eyes. Look fast, though. They'll set by mid-evening. It's amazing to think that these wintertime stars are still with us after all this time, but don't worry. They'll

be back, high and proud in the east, once the leaves fall.

The moon is at first quarter on June 7, and we'll see it between the stars Regulus, more or less to its right, and Spica toward its left. High above, let's see if we can spot the very bright Arcturus. These stars start coming back to the night sky in early February, just when we need a little optimism. Together, they form the corners of the spring triangle and will be with us into September. Let's spend a minute sitting with Arcturus's red-orange glow and see why it's one of my favorite stars.

When we see the almost-full moon



By Scott Levine

on June 13, it will be between the stars of Scorpius, the scorpion, and Sagittarius, the archer-spelling test. The full moon's light will wash out all but the brightest stars, but we should be able to spot Antares, the red supergiant that marks the scorpion's heart.

These stars' time with us is short. They'll be gone by September, too.

One of the amazing things about watching the skies is seeing the gradual changes that add up night after night. I hope you'll watch this month. Clear skies!

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



First Quarter
June 7



Full Moon
June 14



Last Quarter
June 21



New Moon
June 29

The phases of the moon in June.



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