Special Permit Denied for Sober Home in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

A special permit for a controversial facility for recovering alcohol and substance abuse addicts in a residential home on Underhill Avenue was rejected by the Yorktown Town Board last week in a closely watched vote when Councilman Vishnu Patel gave it a thumbs-down after being pressured to make a decision by Supervisor Michael Grace.

However, it appears Compass Westchester attorney Albert Capellini said “it was a stunner” when Patel voted against a motion made by Grace to grant the special permit, which would have placed restrictions on the operation of the sober living residence.

“No one anticipated he would vote no without a reason. It came out of left-field, and I think unfortunately,” Capellini remarked. “It certainly doesn’t give the Town Board and that councilman a record to stand on in terms of this case. I thought the decision with the Town Board should have been simple because most of it was made by the Zoning Board.”

In July, the Yorktown Zoning Board of Appeals supported a written opinion by Building Inspector John Winter that the proposed facility fell under the definition of a “convalescent home.”

The majority of the ZBA denied an appeal from neighbors Linda Gironda and Al French that the sober home did not fit the criteria of either a convalescent home or a nursing home, which are treated the same in the town’s Zoning Code and, therefore, it should not be allowed to be considered for a special permit. That decision is being appealed in state court.

Last week, Patel initially said he was not prepared to vote on a resolution for the sober home since changes were made and he was not given sufficient time to review it. Patel refused to budge on his stance despite being berated by Grace.

“You don’t want to make a decision. That’s what you don’t want to do,” Grace

continued on page 18

HV Hospital Seeks Rezoning to Construct New Building

By Rick Pezzullo

Hudson Valley Hospital Center is seeking a rezoning change from the Town of Cortlandt to construct a new three-story building for primarily physician offices.

In a letter to Supervisor Linda Puglisi last month, George Cronk, project manager for The Chazen Companies, which is overseeing the development, stated the 36,000-square-foot structure is needed to accommodate additional services available to patients as part of Hudson Valley Hospitals affiliation with New York Presbyterian Hospital.

“HVHC has a great track record of working with the Town of Cortlandt and this project will be no exception,” Cronk stated.

The building will be on the parcel commonly referred to as the Citron site, as well as a portion of the main campus. A portion of the top level is slated to include retail space for medical goods, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The town’s Zoning Code requires approximately 140 parking spaces but 175 spaces are being proposed.

The majority of Hudson Valley Hospital is located within an R-20 zone. Most of the project site is currently zoned Commercial Community (CC), which limits a building to 12,000 square feet and restricts a single use to no more than 4,000 square feet. Hospital officials are looking to rezone the project site to R-20.

“HVHC has invested millions of dollars into the campus allowing it to continue providing the highest level of care and services to the region,” Cronk stated. “HVHC has transformed the 1960s hospital campus into a destination that competes with facilities typically found in much larger communities.”

continued on page 13
Algonquin Pipeline Expansion Proposal Debated in Putnam

By Neal Rentz

Several Putnam and northern Westchester residents took part in a spirited nearly two-hour public hearing on the proposed Algonquin pipeline expansion proposal that was conducted by the state Department of Environmental last week.

Several dozen residents who both supported and opposed the project came to the Henry H. Wells Middle School in Brewster on January 21.

Spectra Energy Partners wants to remove an existing 26-inch gas pipeline and replace it with a 42-inch line. The pipeline would run from Stony Point under the Hudson River to the Town of Southeast.

The project would provide additional natural gas to such utilities as Con Edison and NYSEG.

Two new compressor units would be installed at Algonquin’s Stony Point Compressor Station in Rockland County and one new compressor unit would be installed at Algonquin’s Southeast Compressor Station in Putnam County. Modifications proposed to Algonquin’s existing Stony Point, Peekskill and Cortlandt Meter and Regulating stations include new piping, heaters and regulators and the installation of piping, valves, and internal inspection.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will have the final say in granting a certificate to Spectra to go forward with the project. If all proper approvals are granted, Spectra would begin clearing the necessary land in the late winter or early spring of 2016 and anticipate work to be completed and the pipe to be in service by November 2016.

The DEC is also required to provide permits for the project.

Most of the speakers opposed the project, primarily expressing concerns about potential negative environmental and health impacts of the project. Those who supported the project said it would create several union jobs.

Suzannah Gildeden, co-founder of Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion, said the pipeline had already had negative impacts on her health. During a recent blowdown on January 14 she was incapacitated, including difficulty breathing, for nine hours. Blowdown is the relieving or venting of pressure on a pipeline system.

Peekskill resident Nancy Vann read a statement from Councilman Darren Rigger, pointed to the 2011Community-Based Environmental Justice Inventory For The City of Peekskill, prepared by environmental organizations, that said the city already had a variety of facilities that pose air pollution and other environmental hazards to the community. The pipeline project’s call for modifications sought at the Peekskill station would make the situation worse, Rigger wrote in his statement.

During a previous hearing that was conducted in Peekskill, Spectra Energy’s representatives were bombarded with questions and critical comments during a two-hour presentation at City Hall about the controversial project that would only run 2/10ths of a mile through Peekskill but would lie approximately 1,500 feet from the protective fence that surrounds the Indian Point nuclear power plants in nearby Buchanan.

Several members of local unions spoke strongly in favor of the project, saying it would generate several jobs and the construction process would be safe. Maryann McGuire said, “We are trained. We know what we are doing.”

Another supporter of the proposals from Spectra Energy, Vincent Albanese, said the project was safe and would create needed union employment.

Ask the Doctor

Navid Mootabar, MD
Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar

Q: What causes cervical cancer?
A: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes about 90 percent of all cases. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that is so common, most people will have it at some point in their lives. Certain strains of HPV can cause changes on a woman’s cervix that may result in cervical cancer. Additional risk factors include smoking, extended use of birth control, and having many sexual partners.

Q: What are the symptoms of cervical cancer?
A: It’s important to realize that in most cases, there are no symptoms. Uncommon symptoms include unexplained vaginal bleeding, bleeding after intercourse and abnormal vaginal discharge. Given that the HPV strains that can lead to cervical cancer are themselves asymptomatic, it becomes clear why you must be regularly screened for cervical cancer.

Q: How often should I have a Pap smear?
A: New guidelines recommend women have a Pap smear and HPV test every three years starting at age 21 until age 65, provided you have no risk factors or abnormal Pap smears. This regimen makes it extremely likely the disease will be caught while it is in the highly curable pre-cancerous stage. Some women require more frequent screenings.

Did You Know?

Cervical cancer is usually highly curable… when caught early through regular screening.

Visit www.nwroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar to learn more about Dr. Mootabar and his work at Northern Westchester Hospital.
BIG GAME SPECIALS!
Score a Savings Touchdown at Beverage World!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>htable</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budweiser</td>
<td>$21.99</td>
<td>36 Pk Cans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelob</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td>20 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beck's</td>
<td>$11.99</td>
<td>12 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Light Platinum</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
<td>12 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Light</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
<td>12 PK Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stella Artois</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td>12 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Rock</td>
<td>$7.99</td>
<td>12 PK Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coors Light</td>
<td>$21.99</td>
<td>36 Pk Cans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
<td>12 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Brown Ale</td>
<td>$13.99</td>
<td>12 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heineken Light</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
<td>12 Pk Bottles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices Good Through 2/1/15 • Prices Before Tax & Deposit

1719 Main Street, Route 6 • Peekskill • 914-737-8375
(3/4 mile West of Beach Shopping Center)
By Rick Pezzullo

The Democratic majority of the Peekskill Common Council violated the state Open Meetings Law by directing the city's corporation counsel to disclose a proposed resolution concerning the employment of City Manager Anthony Ruggiero to Ruggiero before the council took action on it in November.

Acting on an inquiry from Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina, Camille S. Job-in-Davis, assistant director of the state's Committee on Open Government, stated on December 23 in a correspondence to Catalina that "a series of conversations held by telephone and resulting in 'action taken' are contrary to the provision of the Open Meetings Law."

In November, a resolution appointing Ruggiero as acting city manager that Catalina maintained had been agreed upon by the entire council in closed door discussions failed when the four Democrats abstained, thus keeping Ruggiero in the $163,000 annual job he has held since July 2013.

However, Catalina and his GOP colleagues Joe Torres and Vincent Vesce insist a written opinion from the city's corporation counsel stating the Common Council violated the City Charter and New York Statutory and Common Law when they hired Ruggiero to a five-year contract leaves the office technically vacant.

Catalina stated Friday the opinion of the Committee on Open Government affirmed his belief that Common Council members Drew Claxton, Vivian McKenzie, Darren Rigger and Kathy Talbot "clearly" violated the law when they tipped off Ruggiero.

"As Mayor of this city and the Presiding Officer of the Common Council, I am cautioning members of this body to be mindful of all state and local laws, rules and ordinances regarding their professional conduct and to refrain from such conduct in the future," Catalina remarked.

Rigger, who emailed the corporation counsel on November 2 on behalf of his fellow Democrats, did not directly address the ruling of the committee when asked about his reaction Monday.

"This is politics as usual and I am not going to take the mayor's bait and get into a fight over this," he said. "People don't want us to fight. They want us to get along and do our jobs. The city is better served when we are focused on some of the big issues we face in our efforts to move the city forward."

According to the Charter, a city manager is required to have at least three years’ experience as a city manager and reside in the city. Ruggiero lives in Fishkill and never served before as a city manager. Ruggiero worked for the city in planning for 13 years before being named city manager in June 2013 after he left six months earlier to become Putnam County's commissioner of planning.

---

**Salon V** would like to welcome
3 very beautiful ladies to our team!
Cheryl, Lisa, and Deanna of Mahopac.
Call or email us to schedule your next appointment
914-528-8800
Email: salonvhair1859@gmail.com

1859 E. Main St.
Mohegan Lake
(914) 528-8800

---

**Valentine’s Day is Feb 14th**

Come in and make your sweetie a piece by Feb 7th to have for heart day!

15% OFF Valentine’s Day pottery

Westchester Putnam Pottery
54 Miller Rd • Mahopac NY 10541 • 845 628-2127
www.westchesterputnampottery.com

---

**Former NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn (center) discussed “Dealing with the Triple Standard Being a Woman and Gay in Politics” January 17 during a Democratic gathering in Peekskill. Posing with Quinn were (L-R:) Former Mayor Mary Foster, Current Deputy Mayor Drew Claxton, Councilman Darren Rigger, Councilwoman Kathy Talbot and former Councilwoman Marybeth McGowan.**
Area State Legislators React to Assembly Silver Indictment

By David Propper and Martin Wilbur

Last Wednesday, New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was on stage and earning praise from Gov. Andrew Cuomo during the unveiling of Cuomo’s 2015 Opportunity Agenda.

The following day, Silver was handcuffed and in the custody of federal authorities, arrested amid corruption charges just as the Assembly’s legislative session and budget negotiations were set to get underway.

Silver, a Manhattan Democrat, was accused of receiving more than $4 million in kickbacks in exchange for using his political power to influence real estate developers to use his law firm, part of a five-count indictment.

The longtime lawmaker and political power player was released on $200,000 bail, surrounded by throngs of reporters as he left the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan following his arraignment.

Reaction to Silver's travails from some of his party brethren who have chafed at Silver’s two-decade rule in the Assembly, imme-

Abinanti said.

Meanwhile, Katz argued that any Assembly member who isn’t calling for Silver to step aside should be ashamed of themselves. Katz wants to see Silver out as soon as possible and believes he won’t go out without “kicking and screaming.”

"This is a man whose sole desire is to go down in history as the longest standing Assembly leader," Katz said. "It doesn’t matter what the atmosphere, the poisonous, toxic, corrupt atmosphere that he has engendered, he has encouraged.”

Pat Casey contributed to this article.
State Police
January 18 - Richard Panio, 63, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, after being stopped by police on Route 9 for traveling at a high rate of speed and crossing over hazard markings. He is due in Cortlandt Town Court on January 30.

January 22 - State Police and the State Liquor Authority conducted an underage drinking enforcement operation in eastern and central Putnam County. Twenty-two stores were checked by utilizing a 19-year-old volunteer to purchase beer under the observation of plainclothes investigators supported by uniformed troopers. 17 store clerks refused to complete the sale. Five clerks sold beer to the volunteer and were charged with misdemeanors of unlawfully dealing with a child in the first degree and prohibited sale of alcohol. In addition, their employees face possible civil penalties imposed by the Liquor Authority.

January 25 - Alphonso Gourdine, 40, of Peekskill, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated, a felony, after being pulled over for failing to maintain a lane of travel. Gourdine was charged with felony DWI when it was discovered he had been convicted of DWI in October 2008. A blood alcohol breath sample yielded his alcohol content was more than two times the legal limit. He is due in Cortlandt Town Court on February 6.

Yorktown Police
January 18 - 3:34 a.m. – Police were dispatched to investigate a domestic incident. Following an investigation it is alleged that James Marks, 30, of Mohegran Lake, threw a drinking glass towards a victim, striking her in the arm with the glass and causing bruising and swelling to her wrist and a cut to her lip. He was located at the Cortlandt Town Center and charged with assault in the third degree.

January 22 - 5:50 p.m. – Police Officer Ryan Noone observed a vehicle with an alleged obstructed view of its windshield. The vehicle was stopped on Barger Street and an investigation revealed Brian Barry, 19, of Yorktown, was in possession of 23 grams of marijuana and a switchblade knife. He was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and unlawful possession of marijuana. He is due in Yorktown Town Court on February 26.

5:57 p.m. – Police responded to Winslow Drive on a report of a landlord-tenant dispute involving menacing with a knife. Investigation at the scene revealed Ira Saunders, 72, of Yorktown, allegedly brandished a pocket knife during a dispute putting the landlord in fear for her safety. The knife was recovered and Saunders was charged with menacing in the second degree. He is due in Yorktown Town Court on February 26.

Ice Skating Open House with Free Classes at Hickory Hill

Hickory Hill Figure Skating Club, based at the Harvey School’s Evarts Rink in Katonah, is having a free open house skating session on Sunday, February 1 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. during its regular Sunday ice dance session. Bring your skates (sorry no rentals) to experience the benefits and fun of ice skating. Three half-hour classes will be offered: a children’s class on basic skating skills; an adult class to improve basic skating skills; and a class for former ice hockey players who may be interested in coming back to skating. The other half-hour will be for free skating.

The classes will be taught by coaches with international competition experience. The class for former ice hockey players will be taught by Denis Petukhov, U.S. Olympic ice dance competitor with partner and wife, Melissa Gregory.

The Harvey School Evarts Rink is located at 240 Jay Street in Katonah. For further information, contact Hickory Hill FSC at maryhhfsc@gmail.com.
Obituaries

Lee Gibbs

Lee Gibbs, a longtime Peekskill resident, died on January 17. She was 94. She was the daughter of the late Samuel and Mollie Ephraim. She married George W. Gibbs in 1942 and they resided in Peekskill for nearly 57 years. She graduated from James Madison High School in Brooklyn before the family moved to Peekskill in 1938. As the bookkeeper for Gibbs Men’s Clothing Store, she worked alongside her beloved late husband George and brother-in-law, the late Edward M. Gibbs. During this time, she was active in the Peekskill community serving as a First Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood President and a long-time member and officer of Hadassah. She helped establish and served as the first President of the Friends of the Field Library and was an active volunteer on special projects. After retiring to Florida, she resided in Coconut Creek where she served on the Board of Congregation Beth Shalom and also enjoyed traveling with friends. In 2007, she moved back to the New York area and continued her leadership and volunteer activities. At the time of her death, she was a resident of the Country House in Yorktown Heights.

She is survived by her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Jack Levitz of Cortlandt; grandson Mitchell Levitz of Cortlandt and granddaughter Stephanie and her husband Rabbi David Englander of Boca Raton, FL; and her great grandchildren Yaffa, Zev and Ayal Englander, and Aderet Fishbane and her father Professor Eitan Fishbane of Teaneck, NJ. She was predeceased by her husband George W. Gibbs (1999), daughter Marjorie Gibbs (1967) and granddaughter Leah Levitz (2007). She is also survived by her sister-in-law Frances S. Gibbs and three nephews.

Louis F. Roussel

Louis F. Roussel, a resident of Cortlandt, died on January 19, after a four-year brave struggle following a lung transplant. He was 76. He was the beloved husband of 47 years to Carolann Burke Roussel. He was born in the Bronx, on June 11, 1938 to Louis Roussel and Martha Fahy Roussel. He stayed true to his roots as an avid Yankee fan.

He served as an officer for the New York Police Department from 1968 to 1989.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law: Megan and Matt Yox, grandchildren: Owen, Maeve and Finnian Yox, his brother and sister-in-law: Robert and Bernadette Roussel, and his sister: Margaret Roussel. He was predeceased by two brothers: Thomas and John Roussel. He is also survived by his newest family member, Maria, who helped him through his illness with love, as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family. Papa Lou was a loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to all who knew him.

Fernando de Brito Fornelos

Fernando de Brito Fornelos, a longtime resident of Ossining, died on January 16. He was 67. He was born in Giela, Portugal on January 27, 1947 to Antonio and Rosa (de Brito) Fornelos. Mr. Fornelos moved to Ossining from Portugal on November 2, 1980. He was a member of St. Ann’s Church and also a member of the Ossining Portuguese Club. He was retired Laborer/Carpenter with local 60 in Hawthorne.

He is survived by his wife Sara; three children Henry (Dirce), Maria Edite (Tony) Pereira, Carla (Franco) Giambona; his siblings Maria Isabel Martins, Maria Gloria Fornelos, Maria de Brito Pereira, Jose de Brito Fornelos and Laurinda Goncalves; and six grandchildren Antonio Jr. and Evelyn Pereira, Brian and Patrick Fornelos, Massimo and Sofia Giambona.

Bruce L. La Rose

Bruce L. La Rose, a longtime resident of Ossining, died on January 18. He was 72. He was born on March 27, 1942 to the late Leo and Lucy (Heredeen) La Rose. Professor La Rose earned his degree from Holy Cross College and Clark University. He served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S. San Pablo in the Vietnam Era. He was a Professor of Geography and Economics at Rockland Community College until his retirement. He enjoyed travelling, bass fishing and golf.

He is survived by his three daughters Nicole Sanchez, Danielle Elliott and Cosette La Rose; and five grandchildren Gabrielle, Christian, Jack, Alex and Mary-Kate. He was predeceased by his wife in 2008, Mary-Jeanne La Rose.
**Guest Commentary**

**A Wake-Up Call from the Innocence of a Child**

By Maureen McPartlan

We hardly ever question what we’re told by the so-called “experts,” but try explaining any expert’s advice to a bright child and argue the expert’s position. Then just listen to how the child will zero in on the truth of the matter.

While driving my kids to swimming lessons one day long ago, we passed protesters wearing STOP ABORTION NOW signs.

“What’s a-bor-ti-on?” asked my seven-year-old son.

“Abortion?” I hesitated. “It’s an operation to end pregnancy.”

“How does pregnancy happen?”

“That you’ll learn when you are ready to get married. Now, back to your question. Sometimes a woman gets pregnant and she doesn’t want to have a baby…”

“Why wouldn’t a Mommy want to have her baby?”

“Well, sometimes a baby interferes with her career or maybe she’s too poor to support a baby, so she decides to abort it.”

“Does the baby die in abortion?”

“Well, some people say it’s not really a baby and others say that because men don’t get pregnant a woman shouldn’t have to either.”

“Why would a woman want to be like a man? Did you know what pregnancy meant?”

“Yes, I knew and I was extremely happy. Others are not so happy.”

“So they’d rather kill their baby!” he said shocked. “That makes no sense.”

“What do the daddies think about the mommies doing this?” asked my daughter.

“The daddy has no say because the baby is inside the mommy. The laws were made to protect a woman’s right to decide what she wants to do with her body.”

“The laws don’t protect the baby’s body?” asked the eldest.

“No.”

“That’s just nuts—nobody’d be here if we weren’t allowed to grow.”

“Look, a lot of girls get pregnant because they forget to use birth control— that prevents pregnancy— or they’re not married and they think having a baby would ruin their lives.”

“What do the doctors say about this?”

“Nothing. It’s legal. They just do the procedure.”

“But they know they are not removing a disease. How do they get the baby out?”

“The doctor cuts up the baby and vacuums out the remains.”

“Mom, you think this should be legal?”

“I think people should be able to decide.”

“Mom, killing your own baby is a bad decision. They’ll suffer from that forever. If you aborted us, wouldn’t you wonder every day what we’d have been like?”

“Yes.”

“That’s real suffering. It’s really cruel to tell a girl that killing her baby will make her life better. Grown ups voted for this?”

“No. The law was imposed on us by the Supreme Court in 1973.”

“How many babies have died?”

“50 million,” I said, as the tears rolled down my cheeks.

“Mommy, why are you crying?” asked my daughter.

“Because now I can see.” I told them, as I looked at the three people I remember conceiving.

Maureen McPartlan is a resident of Yorktown

**Letters**

**Giordano Would Be a Strong Leader on Yorktown Town Board**

To the Editor:

Our Town Board needs hard-working, experienced members to serve all of Yorktown. But serving with a “Boys’ Club” mentality or having a close-minded, self-serving agenda will simply not be tolerated. Inclusivity, transparency, and a community-service record must characterize our next Councilman.

Bob Giordano has personally consulted with me on community service events and with shared business advice. I have had the opportunity to get to know his sincere interest and concern about our needs. He has the right values, work ethic, and experience to serve as Town Councilman for Yorktown. He has evolved as an authentic leader in Yorktown. With his long-standing participation in Yorktown as a community advocate, years of active participation in Yorktown politics, an extensive small business owner, and, most recently, through his development of the Yorktown Small Business Association, Bob knows the history of this town, the various business & political perspectives, and he knows how to listen to the needs of the average homeowner and business person, and keep our needs first and foremost on his mind.

Yorktown now needs a strong leader, one who speaks his mind, and represents us, the average Yorktown hard-working family, on the Town Board. Bob Giordano is this leader; our next Town Councilman.

Sincerely,

DR. FERDINAND “FENN” ESSES
Yorktown Heights

**Setting the Record Straight with Business Article**

To the Editor:

The Yorktown Chamber of Commerce was disappointed with the piece written in your Business of the Week Section dated January 13-January 19. The business owner, Jimena Coello, JMCO Events quoted “she is very active with the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce.” Yet, she is not a member, and has never attended one of our networking meetings.

The business owner also quoted that last fall she volunteered for the street fair. “I pretty much helped set up the event.” The Yorktown Festival & Street Fair is a huge undertaking, with months of planning by many committed Chamber members donating their time and talents, to produce this wonderful community event. Events To Remember has been hired for the past six years to assist the Chamber with organizing and managing this event, and they are a great asset to the Chamber. Per Chereese Jervis-Hill, the President of Events To Remember, the event coordinator for this event “this business owner volunteered for 1.5 hours assisting the vendors with finding their locations and helping them unload their boxes, the same volunteer assignments that the wonderful teens from Yorktown & Lakeland High School students provide; to say that this person pretty much set up the event is an enormous stretch of the truth.”

We felt that we needed to address this article, as we do not want our Chamber Members and Community misinformed.

Sincerely,

NANCY STINGONE
Director of Operations
Analyzing the Super Bowl from a Culinary Perspective

Super Bowl Sunday brings together friends and family to indulge in the biggest junk food day of the year. Once a year we indulge guilt-free in those waist-widening, artery-clogging foods we try to fastidiously avoid all year. And what better way to wash down those calories and fat than with your favorite beverage.

But what to consume on this traditional National Junk Food Day?

According to the National Restaurant Association, 48 million Americans will order takeout food. What will we be eating? 69 percent will be noshing on salsa, chips and dips and 63 percent will be inhaling chicken wings. In fact, according to the National Chicken Council, 1.25 billion chicken wings will be devoured. They calculate that is enough to put 572 wings on every seat in all 32 NFL stadiums.

A few statistics as a reference point for the game:

Off the field: The average price of a ticket to the game is expected to reach a record high - over $3,000. The average viewer will be spending an average of $78 on food, beverages and team merchandise. That adds up to a whopping $14.3 billion. A 30-second commercial costs a record $4.5 million.

With these factoids as a base, here's my premise for this week's column: a Super Bowl Challenge for the best food, wine and beer produced in the two rival football regions.

FOOD: Each region has its iconic foods. Which is superior?

From the culinary heights of haunt cuisine in the downtown area to the ultimate Italian comfort food in the North End, Boston diners have numerous fine choices. Iconic dishes like New England clam chowder and Boston baked beans are steeped in the colonial underpinnings of the city and region. And don't forget the fresh cannoli at Mike's Pastry.

But don't count out Seattle. Its proximity to Northwest waters makes it famous for fresh seafood sold at Pike's Place Fish Market. A sample dish that showcases Seattle's culinary diversity is cedar-planked salmon with wild huckleberry demi-glace, caramelized Walla Walla sweet onions and Washington apple pie.

If this category determined the Super Bowl winner, New England would win hands down.

WINE: Washington State is one of the premier producers of fine Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux blends. There are over 700 wineries, a number of which are a short distance from Seattle. Quilceda Creek, Andrew Will and Chateau Ste. Michelle consistently produce quality wines year after year.

Although Massachusetts' Westport River produces a worthy sparkling wine and Rhode Island's Sakonnet Vineyards offers Cock of the Walk Red, they can't compete with the terroir of Washington State.

Seattle dominates New England in this category.

BEER: Craft beers are growing in popularity, a testament to the new generation of talented brew masters. Both teams' quarterbacks are stars in the 2014/2015 season, Russell Wilson having recently come into his own prominence and Tom Brady continuing to exert his inimitable perseverance and talent on the playing field. So too the beers of each region. Each city overflow with craft breweries – over 150 each, several with national reputations.

For Seattle, look for those available in our area: Pyramid, Red Hook and Elysian. Of course, Boston has its Samuel Adams. This is the most difficult category, but I have to give the nod to Sam Adams for its consistent performance, its skill at offering a wide range of choices and the beautiful women it seems to attract – just like the Pats' Brady.

Which team will claim bragging rights for the next year? Which region will claim culinary dominance? Whatever your plans are for the Big Day, relax with your favorite junk food, your beverage of choice and enjoy the game.

---

The 2015 New Yorker’s Guide To Estate Planning & Elder Law

Do you have questions about your current Estate Plan?
Do you need to review or update your current documents?

Changes in the economy and in the law have made preparing for the financial road ahead difficult to navigate. It is important to stay informed about legal strategies designed to protect your assets.

Protection from Nursing Home Costs
• How to survive the harsh New Medicaid rules.
• Protect your assets from Medicaid by using trusts.
• How and when to gift your assets to your children.

Protection from Legal Fees and Expenses
• Avoid the expense of probate proceedings.
• Avoid guardianship proceedings if disabled.
• Protect inheritances from children’s divorces and creditors.

Protection from Taxes
• Defeat income taxes on your IRAs.
• Reduce or eliminate your estate taxes.

Choose your Estate Plan professionals carefully.

Mike Martin, Esq. of Martin Law, P.C.
914-752-5521

The 2015 New Yorker’s Guide To Estate Planning & Elder Law

Do you have questions about your current Estate Plan?
Do you need to review or update your current documents?

Changes in the economy and in the law have made preparing for the financial road ahead difficult to navigate. It is important to stay informed about legal strategies designed to protect your assets.

Protection from Nursing Home Costs
• How to survive the harsh New Medicaid rules.
• Protect your assets from Medicaid by using trusts.
• How and when to gift your assets to your children.

Protection from Legal Fees and Expenses
• Avoid the expense of probate proceedings.
• Avoid guardianship proceedings if disabled.
• Protect inheritances from children’s divorces and creditors.

Protection from Taxes
• Defeat income taxes on your IRAs.
• Reduce or eliminate your estate taxes.

Choose your Estate Plan professionals carefully.

Mike Martin, Esq. of Martin Law, P.C.
914-752-5521

---

ECONOMY
Fuel Oil Propane
STRETCH YOUR DOLLAR
Same Day Deliveries
One stop shopping
914 739-5590 • 845 222-3384

Downsizing?
Thinking about downsizing???
Let’s talk!!
You suggest the time and place, we’ll bring the coffee and a professional home stager.

Staging & Coffee
Schedule your free event now before the Spring rush - available to groups of 4 or more -
Tel: 914.762.1020 ext. 223
Email: vicki.jimpsonfludd@randrealty.com

---

FREE OPEN HOUSE
Skating Session
Sunday February 1st, 10:30-11:30 am
Harvey School’s Evarts Rink, Katonah
Choice of:
• Children’s skills class
• Adults skills class
• Hockey player’s skating skills class taught by US Olympian Denis Poturak with program he has used with Russian NHL
...Plus free skating. (Bring your skates).

Experience the fitness benefits & fun of ice skating!
Contact: maryhhfsc@gmail.com

---

By Nick Antonaccio

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

---
Upper Crust Pizza & Wings
Cortlandt

By Neal Rentz
Montrose resident Chris Weisman knows his dough.

Last week he explained the origins of the term “upper crust.”

“Back in the days, when you had guests over for dinner you would serve your workers the burnt part of the bread. You’d serve the family the middle part and you’d serve your guests the upper crust,” Weisman said.

Weisman has been serving his customers the upper crust for about three months at his new business, Upper Crust Pizza & Pasta in Cortlandt in the Toddsville Shopping Center on Route 202. “We serve our guests the upper crust, the best. No one gets the burnt ones,” he quipped.

“We’re known for our Sicilian. We double ferment it. It’s twice baked. It gives that real nice fluffy crust and that nice crunch on the bottom which is very difficult to find,” Weisman said.

Another specialty pizza served at Upper Crust, which is Weisman’s personal favorite, is the margherita, featuring fresh tomatoes, basil, mozzarella and extra virgin olive oil on a very thin crust.

Another specialty pie features pulled pork and bacon, and Weisman also occasionally serves a Chicago-style deep dish pie.

Wings are an important item on the menu of the new eatery. “Wings are a growing trend,” Weisman said. “We do about 20 different flavors.” Patrons can get their wings roasted, twice baked or fried, he noted. “It’s a great finger food,” he said. “It’s like pizza; you can do anything to them.”

Weisman explained why he chose to open his restaurant in the location of a former pizzeria. “I’ve lived in the community for about 10 years. I’m very active in the Cortlandt American Little League,” Weisman said. “So I know a lot of the people around here and I just thought this was a great community to put a good, upscale pizzeria.”

“We want everyone around here to feel that this is their pizzeria,” Weisman said. “I want people to know that I really put 110 percent of everything I have into this place.”

Weisman said he likes to give back to the community by such means as donating pizzas to Walter Panas High School. For about two years, ending in 2013, he prepared the pizzas for the school’s cafeteria.

Upper Crust is not “your run of the mill pizzeria,” Weisman said. “We like to have little different things on the menu like a calamari salad, which is something you don’t find in all pizzerias.”

Weisman said he prides himself on the quality of ingredients he includes in his dishes. He makes fresh mozzarella cheese and purchases a “five-star rated” mozzarella from a company in Wisconsin and tomato sauce from California.

To try to stand out from other local pizza eateries, “We just try to use the freshest and wholesome ingredients,” Weisman said, adding he buys items from the Hunts Point Market in New York City three times a week.

The restaurant business has been a lifelong passion for Weisman, who has worked in the industry for about 20 years. “It’s something that, believe it or not, just gets under your skin and you can’t get rid of it,” he said. “It’s a passion. I’m like a pizza nerd. I love to learn. I’m still young, 38 years old. I still love to learn everything about pizza.”

Upper Crust Pizza & Wings is located at 2141 Crompond Rd. in Cortlandt Manor. For more information, call 914-788-1801.

RF Joyce, CPA
Certified Public Accountant
Financial Planner
Personal Taxes • Business Taxes
Estates • Trusts • Bookkeeping
Serving Individuals & Businesses

914-960-9285
robert.joyce@rfjoycecpa.com
1911 Commerce Street • Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER
SAT FEB 14  |  SUN FEB 15  |  MON FEB 16
SHOWTIMES: 10 AM, 2 PM & 6 PM  |  EACH DAY |

Royal Hanneford CIRCUS
With the 40th Anniversary Spectacular
YOUR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT TRADITION!

All Seats Reserved
Premium Seats $32.00
Regular Reserved Seats $25.00

Call for Ticket Information Westchester County Center Central Avenue at the Hutchinson River Parkway Purchase at Box Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Sat 10am-1pm (914) 965-4050
CASH/CREDIT

SEEM THIS YEAR’S SHOW AT LAST YEAR’S PRICES

TRADITIONAL PRIVATE SCHOOL
AGES 18 MOS - KINDERGARTEN
INCLUSION CLASSROOM AVAILABLE
SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAM OFFERED
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS LOCATION

bright beginnings
pre-school learning center
Qualified staff committed to excellence - Teaching with a vision
High professional standards - Montessori Educational Approach
Academic hands on curriculum in classroom environments conducive to learning
Music - Movement - Foreign Language Introduction - Large gym
Centrally located to explore and utilize our community
Full or half days/Extended Hrs 7 am - 6 pm and Summer Program
2 - 5 Days available - Ongoing Enrollment - Call for a tour!

Lic by OCFS – Reg by NYS Dept of Edu
WWW.BRIGHTBEGINPRESCHOOL.COM  914 962-2929
Local Lawmakers Give Cuomo’s Proposals a Tepid Response

By Martin Wilbur
Area state legislators gave Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s State of the State address last week mixed reviews, generally lauding him for proposals to encourage business growth but leveling strong criticism against his education policy.

Cuomo, who delivered a nearly hour-and-a-half address in Albany last Wednesday afternoon where he also unveiled a proposed $150 billion 2015-16 budget, laid out an ambitious agenda which includes substantial money for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed $1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers’ unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is “accelerating down the wrong road on education.” There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which re-allocated a portion of education funds for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, will significantly raise the minimum wage.
Special Permit Denied for Sober Home in Yorktown

continued from page 1

asserted. “This thing was circulating for a week. At this point I’m just flabbergasted. You’re a brilliant scientist. You split atoms. Take your time and read five pages. What you’re doing is completely unfair.”

Patel shot back, saying, “Nobody is a king. Everyone is a servant of the people here. This is not courtroom drama. I will do what my heart tells me to do.”

Councilwoman Susan Siegel said it was clear when Compass Westchester first surfaced in November 2013 the town should have created standards in the Zoning Code for approving special permits for convalescent homes, something she has asked Town Attorney Jeannette Koster to review.

However, faced with the current zoning regulations, and having all her concerns addressed, Siegel explained she was voting for the special permit because it was better to have the facility operate with conditions.

“Under our current, outdated Zoning Code, if the Town Board denies the special permit, Compass Westchester can open up tomorrow as a family in a single-czlication permit, Compass Westchester can operate regulations, and having all her concerns addressed, Siegel explained she was voting for the special permit because it was better to have the facility operate with conditions.

“Under our current, outdated Zoning Code, if the Town Board denies the special permit, Compass Westchester can open up tomorrow as a family in a single-family residence without a special permit, the permit is only good for three years and subject to renewal. The family use is unlimited in time,” Siegel said.

“And after weighing all the Compass Westchester facts and the law, I did not think the town had a defensible case if it denies Compass Westchester a permit. And if we’re going to have a Sober Living Residence, I’d rather have one with conditions, than without any,” she added.

“The town cannot outright prohibit sober living homes; all we can do is regulate them and that’s something we have to do, and soon, before a new Sober Living Residence wants to open, either by special permit or as a family.”

The 8,470-square-foot home with four bedrooms and seven bathrooms was occupied for many years by Kip and Julie Testwuide. It was once used in the past as a boarding school for 23 children.

“The idea that home would remain a single-family residence was hopeful thinking. There’s all sorts of things this property could have been turned into. You’re talking about up to 14 people in a community of 38,000 residents,” Grace Patel said. “These people that will live there are committed to sobriety. It’s an admirable and courageous thing they’ll do. I think this is something that will be an asset to the community. I am convinced that someday we will look back at this and embrace Compass Westchester and its residents.”

On Wednesday, Patel explained his decision not to support the special permit centered on zoning and he questioned why Compass Westchester was applying for the permit if it claims it can open up as a family.

“What do you need our blessing if you could use it before?” Patel said. “If it’s not defined, let’s define it. If it’s done right, nobody will complain. I will not discriminate against anyone any time because I have been discriminated against in my life. Eyes provide sight, the heart provides insight.”

Meanwhile, Koster contended “a strong legal argument can be made that it was no action” when the board vote was 2-1.

“This is a very unusual situation. At the moment I think of it as in limbo,” she said.

Siegel said in the official minutes of Tuesday’s meeting it states a motion on the resolution made by Grace failed. “I can’t see how it’s no action,” she commented.

Capellini said Compass Westchester was weighing its options, including opening the sober home as a family and filing an Article 78 proceeding against the town.
**Yorktown Heights** $969,000
Fabulous Custom Built Contemporary Colonial on 16 Acres in southern Yorktown! Gorgeous 5357 SF residence.
JoAnn Coogan
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-572-0177

**Yorktown Heights** $745,000
Stone Ridge - Custom 5BR/3.5BA residence. Elegant design. Abundant quality amenities. Lovely .5 acre property.
Maureen Connolly
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-419-6251

**Yorktown Heights** $665,000
Distinctive Chelsea home designed by John Cunnane. 4 BR/ 4 BA masterfully finished. Beautifully appointed.
Barbara Bodnar
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-649-2018

**Cortlandt Manor** $560,000
Desirable Glassbury Court condo. Quality upgrades & amenities abound. 2 BR/2.5 BA Kent model. Energy Star home.
Catherine Duff Poritzky
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-960-5577

**Yorktown Heights** $499,900
Impressive bi-level home completely updated with taste & style. Gorgeous EIK. Fabulous M Bth. Landscaped .46 A
Catherine Duff Poritzky
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-960-5577

**Shrub Oak** $365,000
Lovely 3 BR/3 FB home on .45 A prop. Move in condition. Possible M/D. HW floors, Crown molding. Outstanding Value!
Maureen Connolly
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-588-5781

**Yorktown Heights** $745,000
Inviting Front Porch Colonial in wonderful neighborhood. 4BR/3BA. Lovely big yard. Spacious home. Close to all.
Patricia ‘Patty’ Canniff
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-907-5916

**Yorktown Heights** $448,000
HUGE raised ranch is sought after southern Yorktown. 4BR/3BA. Lovingly maintained by original owners. EZ comm
Andrea ‘Andi’ DePalma
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-588-0177

**Mohegan Lake** $485,000
Inviting Front Porch Colonial in wonderful neighborhood. 4BR/3BA. Lovely big yard. Spacious home. Close to all.
Patricia ‘Patty’ Canniff
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-907-5916

**Yorktown Heights** $448,000
Inviting Front Porch Colonial in wonderful neighborhood. 4BR/3BA. Lovely big yard. Spacious home. Close to all.
Patricia ‘Patty’ Canniff
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-907-5916

**Yorktown Heights** $350,000
Patricia ‘Patty’ Canniff
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-907-5916

**Peekskill** $206,900
Nicely maintained 3 BR Colonial on level prop. Freshly painted. Large back yard. Very Convenient location.
Francis ‘Frank’ Cassidy
Real Estate Salesperson
Cell: 914-643-1166

**Mahopac** $459,000
Breathtaking views of Lake Mahopac. Totally remodeled 3BR/3FB home w/ many upgrades. Lake rights.
Maria Tomaselli
Real Estate Salesperson
Cell: 914-319-2962

**Mohegan Lake** $389,900
Patricia ‘Patty’ Canniff
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
Cell: 914-907-5916

**Yorktown Heights** $215,000
Maria Tomaselli
Real Estate Salesperson
Cell: 914-319-2962

**Peekskill** $206,900
Nicely maintained 3 BR Colonial on level prop. Freshly painted. Large back yard. Very Convenient location.
BIG GAME SUNDAY
February 1

BIG GAME SPECIALS*

★★★ 5 YARD ★★★
- 2 Foot Italian Combo
- 12 Wings
$28.95

★★★ 10 YARD ★★★
- 2 Foot Italian Combo
- 12 Wings
- 1 Large Cheese Pie
- 2 Liter Soda
$42.95

★★★ 15 YARD ★★★
- 24 Wings
- 2 Large Cheese Pies
- 2 Foot Hot or Cold Wedge
$67.95

★★★ 50 YARD ★★★
- 36 Wings
- 1/2 Tray Sausage & Peppers
- 1/2 Tray Penne Vodka
- 2 Foot Italian or American Wedge
$94.95

★★★ TOUCHDOWN ★★★
- 1/2 Tray of Wings
- 1/2 Tray Sausage & Peppers
- 1/2 Tray Garlic Knots
- 1/2 Tray Penne Vodka
- 2 Large Cheese Pies
- 2 Foot Italian or American Wedge
$189

*TGood only on Big Game Sunday February 1

TWO BROTHERS TRATTORIA
PIZZA & PASTA
2146 Albany Post Road
Montrose, NY 10548
914-736-2633 • Fax: 914-737-2941

Calabria
PIZZA & PASTA
3681 Old Yorktown Rd (Rt 132) • Shrub Oak
914-556-6410 • 914-556-6411 • Fax: 914-556-6412
Hrs: Tues- Sat. 11am- 9:30pm  • Sun. 12-9:30pm •Monday Closed

INSTANT TENNIS!
Learn to play in only 2 HOURS
You and up to three of your friends can learn to play tennis in just 2 hours for only $49 per person

Australian Gold
Sole’ Tan
1761 Front Street • Yorktown Heights
914-243-4537

A Super Weekend, A Big Game & A Great Deal!
Buy 1, Get 1 50% Off!
Buy any UV or Mystic Tanning Package
Get the 2nd for 1/2 OFF!
With coupon, cannot be combined w/any other offer. Expires 2/28/15

INSTANT TENNIS!
Learn to play in only 2 HOURS

Only $49
(Min. 3 People)
Tom and Bobbi Eikhoff and former Chamber Exec Director Bill Powers congratulate Virginia Anzovino, the Chamber’s first female director.

Cole’s Market, founded around 1900, was one of family businesses honored. The Bertoline family was toasted for its businesses, including D. Bertoline & Sons, below.

Al Collins, 99, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chamber Exec Director Deb Milone and Field Library Director Laura Wolven. The Weeks family was honored for 119 years in business, at left.

2015 Board of Directors surround Exec Director Deb Milone at 100th anniversary gala. Peter and Kelly McKinley and former Board Chairman Jack Levitz, all members of the Chamber’s History Committee, at left.
In my many years as both a homeowner and homestyles journalist, I have observed that home repair and improvement projects tend to fall into three categories: the ones you need to do, the ones you want to do and the ones you do solely to increase the value of your home.

The urgent projects you find in the first category, such as leaky pipes, cold furnaces or an invasion of termites, are the ones most likely to grab the dollars in the average homeowner’s repair budget. Postponing these repairs can not only make a home uncomfortable, but can also lead to a small problem getting worse and costing even more to repair.

Projects meant to boost a home’s value take on their own urgency when we first begin to anticipate moving. The scruffy front door that we learned to ignore or the outdated bathroom vanity suddenly stands out as a liability that could make our home harder to sell. We consult lists of which projects will give us the most bang for our buck, spruce up what we can, and when it’s all done we may sit back and think, “Gee, it wouldn’t be so bad to stay here now.”

The home improvements that are left “for later” are the ones that have no particular urgency or potential return on investment but would please us personally. Now that I am finally ensconced in my new residence I can enjoy a few projects for pleasure, with the first major one being the installation of custom shelving.

The past few years have certainly been a whirlwind of projects, repairs and contractors for me and Mrs. Home Guru, and it got me wondering what other homeowners were working on, and how much of it was a result of urgent need and how much was for personal expression.

To satisfy my curiosity, I first turned to Angie’s List, the well-known website where paid subscribers rate local businesses. On their home page (once you have subscribed) they list the top 20 most popular services under “Home, Yard, Auto, Pets & More.”

As might be expected, urgent situations made up nearly half of the list, with plumbing, heating and air conditioning and roofing comprising the top three.

Other practical and sensible services that were most needed included carpet cleaning, pest control, large appliance repair, house cleaning and general handyman services. The services on the list I could imagine being either for fun or for increasing value included interior and exterior painting, landscaping and general and kitchen remodeling. I was amused to see “moving” at the bottom of the list, as though the beleaguered homeowner has finally said, “Enough!”

HomeAdvisor.com offers a similar service as Angie’s List and their site gave me a little more data to explore. Their top projects are listed in order of popularity within each category, but I was most interested in their extensive list of most popular projects by city. At the risk of reading too much into things, but also acknowledging that The Home Guru can be allowed a few flights of fancy, I decided to compare New York with Tampa and Minneapolis.

Judging by the list, New York comes across as a city of serious builders. Two of the three top projects as of this writing involved architects/engineers and concrete, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reminding me of the city’s well-known canyons of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, remin...


Maintaining Independence As You Downsize Seminar postponed until Feb 21 due to inclement weather

Join Elder Law Attorney Neil Reig Esq., Real Estate Agent Vicki Jimpson-Fludd of Better Homes and Gardens - Rand Realty, and Community Outreach Director Douglas Thomas from Atria Senior Living for an informative discussion.

Topics include:
1) making a financial and legal plan
2) preparing your house for sale
3) senior housing options.

Refreshments and door prizes will be available.

New date, time and place
Date: Saturday – February 21, 2015
Time: 1:00 to 2:30
Place: Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, 3635 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt, NY. 10567

Please register for this program via email: vicki.jimpsonfludd@randrealty.com

For more information about this program, please contact Vicki Jimpson-Fludd at (tel) 914 762-1020 ext 223 or (email) vicki.jimpsonfludd@randrealty.com.

A happier, healthier you.

We know that sometimes it takes more than just hard work and determination to become a happier, healthier you. That's why we offer a weight loss surgery program specifically designed to help, with the latest surgical techniques, nutritional counseling and support programs.

Ready to take the next step? Please join us for a no-commitment seminar moderated by Dr. Thomas Cerabona, Dr. Ashutosh Kaul and Dr. Anthony Maffei, general surgeons from Surgical Intensivists, P.C. and members of the PHC medical staff. Simply call (845) 230-4797 to reserve your spot today or to learn more, visit health-quest.org/WeightLossSurgery.

Putnam Hospital Center seminars
January 29th and February 26th at 4:30 PM

Vassar Brothers Medical Center seminars
January 15th and February 12th at 5:00 PM

Putnam Hospital Center

Write to us:

HV Hospital seeks rezoning to construct new building

continued from page 1

Meanwhile, the hospital’s Ashikari Breast Center has recently received a three-year full accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, a program administered by the American College of Surgeons.

“It takes a certain level of physician and administrative leadership to achieve this national benchmark,” said Dr. Pond Kellemen of the Ashikari Breast Center who led the accreditation efforts. “Given the ground-breaking reputation of the Ashikari Breast Center and the multi-disciplinary team of physicians, nursing staff and support services offered at the Cheryl R. Lindenbaum Cancer Center, this accreditation was a natural conclusion.”

“This NAPBC accreditation speaks volumes about the quality of cancer services we offer,” said Hudson Valley Hospital Center President John Federspiel. “When we opened the Cheryl R. Lindenbaum Cancer Center three years ago, we envisioned a place where patients could get quality care and support services in one location, close to home. We have achieved this and so much more.”

Putnam Hospital Center

BARIATRIC SURGERY SUPPORT GROUPS

Northern Dutchess Hospital January 6th and February 3rd at 7:00 PM — (845) 871-3600

Putnam Hospital Center January 29th and February 26th at 6:00 PM — (845) 230-4797

Vassar Brothers Medical Center January 21st and February 18th at 6:00 PM — (845) 454-8500 Ext. 73026
Crossword

ACROSS
1 Trash
4 It was a mega Chinese IPO in 2014
11 Westchester time
12 Canons, e.g.
13 Savings alternative
14 Views
15 A body of troops or Putnam golf club
17 Cruel Roman emperor
18 Alternative maker
19 Youth group (abbr)
22 Bumper sticker word
24 Boat covers, for short
26 Completed

DOWN
1 Lowered oneself
2 Dayan, for one
3 Had the top role (in)
4 Berry in some energy boosters
5 Cowboy’s catcher
6 Gravity
7 “It’s ____ real!”
8 Rainbow shape
9 Be up
10 One with a burden
16 Bird of Arabian legend
19 Quartz and mica
20 Sipple
21 Driveway type
23 Greek letters
25 Hole maker
28 Enraged
30 Take note of
31 Three-toed bird
32 Rotter
33 Clamor
34 Medieval ___

BONUS Savings Account:
Great Rate and a Bonus on Each 1-Year Anniversary!

BONUS Savings Account
0.75% APY*
PLUS
BONUS**
0.25%

$25,000 minimum to earn stated rate
On each 1-year anniversary of account opening

Cathy Corbi
Vice President, Branch Manager
1753 East Main Street, Mohegan Lake
914-743-5002
Visit us today!

*For the Apple Bank BONUS Savings account, interest earned on daily balances of $2,500 or more at these tiers: 0.75% - 2.500-$2,499; 1.00% - 2,500-$50,000. APY is Annual Percentage Yield. APYs effective as of January 1, 2015. APYs may be changed at any time at the Bank’s discretion. There is a minimum of $2,500 required to open the Apple Bank BONUS Savings account. $2,500 minimum daily balance is required to avoid $10 monthly maintenance fee. Fees may reduce earnings. Funds used to open this account cannot be from an existing Apple Bank account. Maximum deposit amount is $1,000,000 per household. **Special bonus feature: A 2.50% simple interest rate bonus will be paid on each anniversary date of account opening on the lowest balance for that year (anniversary date to anniversary date). No bonus is paid if the account balance is less than $2,500 on the anniversary date. Additional deposits during a given anniversary period do not affect the bonus interest payment. Deposits made to the account on any anniversary date will be used to calculate the lowest account balance for the next anniversary period. The bonus interest is calculated on the lowest balance on deposit from one anniversary date to the next anniversary date. Simple interest rate bonus is subject to change at any time after first anniversary date of account opening. Hypothetical example of how bonus works: Assume an account is opened on January 12, 2015 for $50,000. A $50,000 withdrawal is made on July 12, 2015. No other withdrawals are made prior to the January 12, 2016 anniversary date. The low balance is now $40,000, so $100 in bonus interest will be paid on January 12, 2016.

Apple Bank
Established 1863 - Member FDIC
www.applebank.com
The great thing about PCTV is that everyone can have a voice. From elected officials and business leaders to students and neighbors. We all have stories to tell. We all have opinions to share. To lift each other up and bring our community closer together. Why not join the discussion? To find out how to give the public access to your voice, walk to 2 Jackson Street, or go to pctv76.org/contact.

It’s all about you.
**Happenings**

**Keep in Mind**

**Somers Library Closings:** Thanks to a very generous donation from the Palumbo Family, funding from the Friends of the Somers Library, and funding from the Somers Library Foundation, the Somers Library plans to renovate its circulation and reference desks to better serve the community and to update its interior. Due to this major construction, the library will be closed the following dates: Friday Jan. 30, Saturday Jan. 31 (NOTE: The Practice ACT test will take place in the Program Room), Sunday Feb. 1, and Monday Feb. 2 (914-960-4997, Tinted Drawing Workshop will take place in the Program Room). Overdue fines will be waived during this period. If there are construction delays due to inclement weather, the schedule may change. Please check the library Website and phone messages for current up-to-date information. Thank you for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience.

Info: 914-232-5717 or somerslibrary.org.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**

**Farmers' Market:** The Putnam Valley Grange Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Mill Street and Peeksill Hollow Road (Adams Corners).

**Checkmate:** A chess program is held every Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Somers Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. It is held in the second floor conference room. Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 336.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**

**Fitness Program** The POUND/TM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. The program is being offered on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at (914) 960-4997.

**Torah Studies Course:** Chabad of Yorktown is conducting season two (12 classes) of the Torah Studies course, that is running through March 25. Our lessons probe the depth of contemporary Torah thought. Classes are being conducted on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Community Nursery School, 247 Veterans Rd. (across the street from the running track and next door to the VFW).

Fee for the full season is $36 and includes the textbook. Each class is independent.

For more information or to register visit www.ChabadYorktown.com/TorahStudies, call 914-962-6600, or e-mail info@ChabadYorktown.com.

**Knitting Circle:** Support Connection announces the free program “Marge’s Knitting Circle” will be offered on Wednesdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25 and Apr. 22 from 6:30-8 p.m. at its office in Yorktown, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100. It is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Bingo Wednesdays:** Come to First Hebrew for $2.00 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of $1.00 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew’s website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peeksill. Info: 914-739-0500 of www.firsthebrew.org.

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

**IBM Retirees Club:** The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will hold its January meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak. The scheduled speaker is Jim Loehle, vice president of Gary Goldberg Financial Services. Refreshments will be served and sign-in will be held at 1 p.m. New members are welcome. Info: 914-528-5916.

**Library Drive:** The non-profit Friends of the Somers Library is holding a membership drive. With your help, we hope to continue to provide programs and services that encourage involvement in the Somers Library by children, teens, and adults. Membership forms can be picked up at the Somers Library or you can send your check to - Friends of the Somers Library, PO Box 443, Somers, NY 10589. Please include your name, address and e-mail address, which will assure timely notice of events. The Friends are a fully tax deductible 501(c)3 organization. Annual dues are only $20 ($50 Patron, $100 Sponsor) and $501(c3) organization. Annual dues are only $20 ($50 Patron, $100 Sponsor) and, of course, a donation in any amount is gratefully accepted and appreciated. If you have a matching program at work, please remember us. Visit us at www.somerslibrary.org/somers/friends.asp

**Local Color:** Local Color: A Field Gallery Retrospective, featuring works by 15 artists, is on display at the Hart Library with a new exhibit, “Bluebird,” and material from his long career. No registration is needed and the doors open at 1:45 pm. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

**Saturday, Jan. 31**

**ACT Practice Exam:** A free ACT practice exam will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Somers Library. You will know what to expect on test day and get a complete analysis of your results within a few weeks of this exam. Each practice test is four hours long. Please bring pencils, a calculator and water/snack. Space is limited. Sign up by calling 914-232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org.

**Lunch & Learn:** A Shabbat service/Lunch & Learn, a lively discussion of the weekly Torah portion led by Rabbi Fred Schwalb, will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. Info: 914-248-9352.

**Yoga Program:** Support Connection, which provides free programs and services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, announces a free program: “Yoga--A Path toward Wellness.” It is offered every Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Club Fit, 600 Bank Rd., Jefferson Valley. The program is open to women with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancer. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Coping Center:** Coping Center through Art, My Journey, featuring works by Corinne Lapin-Cohen, will be presented throughout today at the Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd. An artist reception is scheduled for today from 2 to 4 p.m. Info: copingcenterthroughart.com.

**Ossining Farmers Market:** Down to Earth Markets has announced the Ossining Winter Farmers Market will open in a new indoor home beginning today at Claremont Elementary School, on Van Cortlandt Avenue, off of N. Highland (Route 9). The market will run at Claremont every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through March. Visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining’s Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous—mous may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference room at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

**Sunday, Feb. 1**

**Sunday Concert:** The Sunday Concerts at Hart program “In Concert with C.B. Smith” will be held at 2 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 Main St., Shrub Oak. This Hudson Valley singer/songwriter returns to the Hart Library with a new crop of original Americana songs from his new release, “Bluebird,” and material from his long career. No registration is needed and the doors open at 1:45 pm. Info: yorktownlibrary.org or 914-245-5262 Ext. 227.

**Chaplains Memorial Ceremony:** A World War II Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. at the Yorktown American Legion Post #1009, 235 Veterans Rd. In February 1943, four Chaplains exhibited that night. We are honored again to have four prominent local clergy members joining us to commemorate this inspiring story of faith and bravery. Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am; Pastor Dan O’Brien of Calvary Bible Church; Rev. Gene Ott of United Methodist Church and Fr. Jeff Pomeisl of St. Patrick’s Church/
DONATE YOUR CAR
Wheels For Wishes benefiting MAKE-A-WISH® Hudson Valley

Call: (914) 468-4999

*Free Vehicle/Boat Pickup ANYWHERE
*We Accept All Vehicles Running or Not
*100% Tax Deductible

WheelsForWishes.org
Ossining’s Shadeen Samuels (L) and the No.1-ranked Class AA Ossining Pride wore down Lisana Burnett and the No.9 Class A Peekskill Red Devils last Wednesday when the visiting Pride worked an 84-48 League I-B victory and improved to 12-2 and remained undefeated in Section 1... see Girls’ Hoops Notebook
Playoff-Like Atmospheres at Mahopac, Somers Pay Dividends

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Last Friday was the kind of day local hoops aficionados dream about, hopping from gym to gym seeking thrill and what not. It started at Mahopac where the win-starved Indians were hell-bent on beating their arch rivals from Carmel, complete with the backdrop of racial strife hovering fresh in their minds yet again. Then, it was off to Somers for a vengeful matchup with bordering Yorktown, complete with ultra-maniacal fan bases, just like it was at Mahopac.

Last Friday was everything high school sports was meant to be, complete with riveting conclusions, playoff-like atmosphere and warnings from the P.A. announcers to exit stage left while the opposing fans exit stage right. It was the kind of stuff this scribe lives for, the kind of stuff that keeps the spirit of community alive and well.

Just six days prior, state-ranked (No.19) Somers (11-1) suffered its first loss of the season. The teams met again Friday night at Somers High School where @Tusker_Nation finally had the last laugh against @THE_CROP with the host Tuskers surviving a 53-48 come-from-behind victory over the Huskers (9-4).

Somers senior G Matt Maloney was no baloney, scoring a game-high 25 points while hitting 10 of 10 from the free throw stripe. Maloney scored 13 first-quarter points as the Tuskers built a cushy 29-19 halftime lead, which the Huskers would erase late in the fourth, courtesy of senior swingman Mason Dyslin.

Dyslin was spinning and winning in the lane, dropping a team-high 24 points, but the Huskers withered down the stretch after crawling back from behind by as many as 12 points.

“Turnovers to start the game and late in the fourth were our undoing,” Husker boss Kevin Downes said. “A lot of that credit goes to Somers, but part of that was our inexperience. We have won 11 games combined the last three years, so this is the first time any of our kids have really played in a game of this magnitude. I think it took us a while to settle in and play. Once we did, I thought we played well, especially defensively. It’s hard to beat a good team on the road when you get behind big so early. Hopefully, it’s a learning experience for us and this experience helps us down the road. I was not happy with our overall execution but proud of the effort and fight we showed.”

Downes admitted that the fans were treated to quite a show with Dyslin and Maloney trading hoops and draining big shots.

“I think Mason and Maloney each put on quite a show,” Downes said. “Mason has been playing at a high level all season. Maloney is a special player and a great kid. You have to love competing against guys like that. He was on fire in the first half. We made some defensive mistakes but he also made some great plays. Our kids held him to two second half field goals, which was great, but he made some clutch free throws down the stretch.”

The playoff-like atmosphere was evident as @Tusker_Nation and @THE_CROP exchanged lively digs back and forth with the Tusker fans base desperately seeking a boys’ win over Yorktown in any sport, the Huskers having defeated Somers in football and soccer last fall. Things amped up to a feverish pitch when Maloney was at the line in the waning seconds, but he hit nothing but the bottom of the net.

“The atmosphere was great,” Maloney said. “The free throws just became routine from all the repetition during the off-season. The game meant a lot to us and a lot to the whole town of Somers. There is always a little something extra there when it’s Somers vs. Yorktown. We had a terrible feeling after we lost to them the first time. That feeling stuck with us throughout the whole week. To be able to bounce back the way
Coaches vs. Cancer event that brought half the town out.

No. 4 PUTNAM VALLEY - Coach McDonnell’s Class B Tigers (8-5, 1-1) fell apart during a 26-9 Haldane run in the third quarter of their two-point loss to the Blue Devils, but the Tigers battled back valiantly to turn a 56-39 deficit into a thrilling finish they nearly pulled out with a 17-2 run. G Ryan Basso scored 15 points, part of a triple-double the senior recorded.

No. 5 CROTON - Coach Thom’s Class B Tigers (10-4, 5-1) have partnered with the Barry Fixler Foundation and Hope for the Warriors to host the first ever “Hoops for Heroes... Celebrating the Military”. The event will be held Friday, January 30, at Croton High, featuring varsity and junior varsity against Red Devils of Peekskill. Varsity tips off at 7pm. In Croton’s 52-51 wild win over Pleasantville, Tejay Searight (14 points, 3 3s), Owen Ackerman (11 points, 8 rebounds), Garrett Lynch (10 points, including the game winning layup, 5 rebounds, 2 blocks) and Chris McVeety (7 points, 7 rebounds) led the way.

No. 5A HEN HUD - We said that if Coach Hirsch’s Class A Sailors (10-2, 3-1) beat Lakeland last week, we would seriously consider them for a top 5 spot, and having done so rather handily (63-49), they have become impossible to ignore any longer. Jesse Breeding scorer a career-high 26 points against the Hornets and Carson “Gronk” Jacobs had 18 in a win over Beacon. Now that you’ve cracked the Top 5, don’t go burning me by losing to Panas this week.

HM BREWSTER - Coach Nelly’s Class A Bears (6-7, 2-4) put forth a sub-par effort in a 20-point drubbing at the hands of Yorktown, so we’re going to have to knock them down a peg and drop from Top 5.

HM LAKELAND - Coach Weltman’s Class A Hornet (6-6, 3-1) were on the brink of cracking the Top 5 until they were tossed around by Hen Hud. Seriously didn’t think that could happen with Lakeland’s athleticism, but they did bounce back nicely in a 66-59 win over Peekskill, which enabled the Hornets to sweep Peekskill for the first time in history behind a career-best 31-point effort from Mike Morelli.

HM CARMEL - Coach Venditto’s Class AA Rams (4-8, 2-3) let one get away from them when they squandered a first-quarter lead in the loss to Mahopac. Unforced errors and just plain sloppy play was their undoing, but that’s going to happen with youthful teams, which the Rams are.

HM PANAS - Coach Sully’s reigning Section 1 Class A champion Panthers (6-6, 3-1) are still in the hunt for the league title, but they’re going to need to need to take out Hen Hud this week if they are going to be legitimate challengers. Fattened up on Ossining and Beacon last week, but Sailors, Peekskill and Lakeland are up next. Brandon Collins had some game against Beacon, scoring 25 points, snagging eight boards and dishing four assists. Mike Evans had 19 points and eight rebounds against Ossining and frosh Brendan Hodge had his coming out party with nine points and five assists.

HM MAHOPAC - Coach Harter’s Class AA Indians (5-8, 2-3) needed that win over Carmel in a big way and some of these juniors -- Christian Donahoe, Dan Foley and Aiden Hynes – are legit athletes who hate to lose, so I see them turning this thing around. This Hynes kid was verbaled to Yale for lax, so he’s as smart as he is good. Foley and Donahoe each dropped 15 on Carmel, giving the Mahopac Maniacs something to cheer for.

HM PEEKSKILL - Coach Turner’s Class A Red Devils (3-8, 2-4) saw CJ Redd scored a team-high 17 in the loss to Lakeland, but the league title is a pipe dream after being swept by Lakeland and falling to Ossining.
Ossining Bests Peekskill in Battle of State Powers

By Tony Pinciaro

Two-time reigning NYS Class AA champion Ossining extended its winning streak to nine consecutive games with victories over two-time defending Section 1 Class A champion Peekskill (84-48) and Walter Panas (93-27). The Pride are now 12-3 on the season.

During this nine-game winning streak, only Bishop Loughlin came close to the Pride, a 14-point loss. In eight of the nine wins Ossining has scored 80 and/or 90 or more points.

State-ranked No.1 Class AA Ossining’s 36-point victory came against a Peekskill team that was 11-1 entering the game. State-ranked No.9 Class A Peekskill was still within striking distance at 20-9 after the first quarter, before Ossining gained complete command of the game and a 45-18 lead at halftime.

“I think our size and depth got to them as the game went on,” Ossining coach Dan Ricci said.

With the snow last Monday, Ricci said his team was unable to get into the gym so he went to the film.

“We got together for film, which went great,” Ricci said. “Tuesday was more film and a great practice. The intensity was high and kids were ready.”

Ricci has noticed a refocused team during this winning streak.

“In the beginning of the year the sense of urgency was not there,” Ricci said. “I believe they were complacent because we won states last year. After the loss to Molloy, they started to work harder in practice and show that fire we needed to see.”

MAHOPAC Coach Chuck Scozzafava could not have asked for a more rewarding week from his team.

The Indians, now 9-4 this season, continued their difficult league schedule with a pair of convincing, double-digit wins – 78-51 over R.C. Ketcham and 50-38 over archrival Carmel. These two victories follow up a victory over John Jay-East Fishkill and a tough single-digit loss to Arlington.

Alayne Felix continued her scoring exploits, pouring in a game-high 26 points against Ketcham. Caroline Horan and Amanda Geyer chipped in with 18 and 17 points, respectively. The triumvirate of Felix, (14 points), Horan (12 points) and Geyer (10 points) led the Indians in scoring against Carmel.

“We had two good wins this week,” Scozzafava said. “We shot the ball well against RCK and played good team defense. Against Carmel, our defense did a good job of getting key stops late in the game.”

YORKTOWN posted a dominant win over BREWSTER, 53-31, raising its overall record to 7-4 and 2-2 in league play.

Yorktown coach Kevin Clark noted his girls were ready to play as evidence by the first quarter. The Cornhuskers held Carmel to one field goal and led, 19-2. Yorktown followed it with a strong second quarter and led 34-12 at halftime.

“We played excellent defense, rebounded the ball very well and did a terrific job executing on offense,” Clark said.

Kelly Donnellan led Yorktown with 21 points and Alyssa Francesca added 13.

Despite the loss, Brewster continues with its turnaround this season. The Bears are currently 9-5. Brewster opened its week with a 51-41 win over Somers, behind 14 points from Tara D’Ottavio.

Brewster had more wins in December than all last year – 5-13.

“Being 5-13 last year really motivated a lot of the girls,” Brewster coach Mike Castaldo said. “We came back stronger, faster, and developed a great team work ethic.”

Peekskill’s Lisana Burnett and Ossining’s Stefanie Svoboda get after 50-50 ball in Pride’s 84-48 win over Red Devils last Wednesday.

Brewster was buoyed by the return of D’Ottavio, a five-year varsity player and three-year captain, along with Emily Sanyshyn, a four-year varsity player. Castaldo also highlighted junior Frannie Merkel and sophomore Julia Borsari.

“Tara and Emily are two of the best practice players I’ve ever had,” Castaldo said. “Frannie is a force down low, is our best rebound and shot-blocker and Julia has improved tremendously in one season.”

Castaldo pointed out the quick start in December featured rallies to snatch victories from its opponents. He cited a one-point victory over John Jay-East Fishkill as setting the tone for his team.

“We won a lot of games in December by a few points, both coming back and losing the lead,” Castaldo said. “In the game on the road at John Jay-East Fishkill, we did not have our point guard, who is sick, and it was a tight game from the tap to the final buzzer.”

“We ended up winning by one against a tough, scrappy, smart team because we played team defense for four quarters and we were able to execute in the final two minutes when the game mattered most.”

Even though Brewster closed the month with two losses, the Bears bounced back to beat John Jay-Cross River.

“That win was very important,” Castaldo said. “They are a tough team and any road win in our league is huge. We really stepped up to the challenge.”
So the bigwigs who have been investigating the matter regarding a white Mahopac player’s alleged racial slur toward a black Carmel player on Jan. 7th turned out in force last Friday for the Indians’ 58-50 revenge win over the visiting Rams, complete with security units in place.

I kind of figured this incident and the subsequent “indefinite suspension” of the player would drag out past the rematch, having told the father of the alleged wrongdoer not to expect any kind of administrative decision until after the rivalry game was played last Friday, and while I was on the mark with that assessment, a decision did come down Monday.

The player accused of levying the slur was suspended by the Mahopac administration for the remainder of the school year; three weeks and five games after the alleged incident took place. According to the father of the suspended player, Mahopac school administrators have now linked the alleged racial slur with an elbowing incident that involved the same two players, which went uncalled in the game.

I can’t recall the last time a local high school player was suspended for the remainder of the school year for having moshed a dude with an elbow, but this jolt seems to have evoked racial tensions within a community that has already been widely brandedish by factions of Section 1 as racists for the incident last March between Mahopac and Mount Vernon (do I really need to rehash that again?).

Apparently, Mahopac administrators are caving in to the political pressures associated with the race card that’s been pulled because it’s almost unheard of to toss a kid for the remainder of the season, and then some, for elbowing an opponent. Unless the player is a repeat offender.

Having met both parties on a number of occasions and portions of their respective families time and again, I’d love nothing more than a two-hour sit down over some barbeque and a couple of IPAs with the dads, seeing how I’m pretty good at getting to the bottom of things (these “he said-he said” deals are my specialty). But since that won’t happen we’re left with a damming accusation and the suspension against a senior player who has told me he would take a polygraph to prove his innocence, and a player who has three more years left of his varsity career at Carmel (providing he doesn’t transfer out). Anyone close to the scene can connect the dots and infer who the players are, but I’ll play along and keep their names out of the piece to protect them from being “Googled” and put through the ringer.

I was courtside for the alleged incident, and, like other eyewitness reporters, coaches and officials I’ve spoken with, none of us heard or saw anything out the ordinary, aside from the elbow we’ve since been privy to. That’s not to say the utterance didn’t transpire, because, as in tune as I am with my surroundings, I could have missed it.

So, in essence, the Mahopac player is accused and suspended for the rest of the year, without any legitimate proof of an allegation that could end up costing him more than his senior season if future employers or colleges were to hold it against him.

“My kid is getting thrown under the bus,” the father of the player said. “We can’t separate the two (incidents; the alleged slur and the elbow), is what they told me. It’s total nonsense. They are hanging their hat on an elbow that was not flagrant, nor intentional, nor was any ejection given. It was a routine foul. And nobody has his back over a routine foul? They actually told him that they hope he uses this as a learning experience.”

It was a hard foul, let’s be clear about that. But in this great country in which we live, you are innocent until proven guilty; unless, of course, you are a student from Mahopac High School where the reactionary powers that be made a requisite decision that could affect the rest of a student’s life, much less his senior year.

But suspending the player for the rest of the season for throwing an elbow? Well, the punishment hardly fits the crime. I suspect the district will come under fire for its decision and the in-fighting will be something to behold, but then again it’s a hot-button topic that many in the community are afraid to touch.

If the Carmel and Mahopac school districts have concrete proof of a flagrant social foul and/or ethnic slur, put it out there and let us see it: In which case it needs to be strung up the flag pole and flown in the face of the offender. If not, put the kid back on the court and continue to study and scrutinize a festering pimple on the butt of not just this community, but an entirely defective planet that may never get a grip on racial strife.
No Baloney, Mr. Maloney!

Somers G Leads Tuskers Past Huskers

Somers G Matt Maloney goes up for two of his game-high 25 points in the Tuskers’ 53-48 win over visiting Yorktown last Friday night when @Tusker_Nation finally got the better of @THE_CROP. Maloney and Husker swingman Mason Dyslin (24 points) went shot for shot in an epic, playoff-like atmosphere where the Tuskers found vengeance after losing to the Huskers six days prior... see Boys’ Hoops Notebook

Ray Gallagher Photos