Realtor Accuses Councilwoman of Political ‘Stakeout’

By Rick Pezzullo

A prominent realtor and public relations specialist is calling on Yorktown Councilwoman Susan Siegel to resign after she asked the town’s building inspector to visit his Hickory Street home to see if he was obeying the conditions of a special use permit to operate a business issued about four decades ago.

Bill Primavera, who pens The Home Guru column in Examiner Media publications, maintained Siegel violated his Fourth Amendment rights and said he plans to take legal action, possibly using the services of William Grace, brother of Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace, who is considering if it is appropriate for him to take the case.

He also filed a complaint with Yorktown Police, who interviewed Siegel last week.

“It’s outrageous! To think that my wife as a baby in her mother’s arms would manage to flee both the Nazis, then the Communists, from her native Lithuania only to face the prospect of having her privacy invaded in her own home right here in Yorktown Heights with bed checks in the middle of the night at the order of a public official!” Primavera fumed. “As the Supervisor said, she might as well send people in with brown shirts! It’s revolting! Such an abuse of power just because of a political vendetta cannot stand.”

In the fall, Bill Primavera (third from left), and Primavera Public Relations, Inc., was honored by Westchester for helping stimulate the economy by doubling the size of its staff.

Somers Supervisor Reports PepsiCo is Leaving Town in 2016

By Rick Pezzullo

PepsiCo will be relocating its approximately 900 employees from its bottling headquarters in the Town of Somers by the first quarter of 2016, according to Supervisor Rick Morrissey.

In a Facebook post over the weekend, Morrissey said the town had been notified Friday that PepsiCo was planning to abandon the facility it has occupied for about the last 25 years and consolidate operations in White Plains and Purchase.

“PepsiCo’s decision to move is a loss for Somers, but we are looking forward to new tenants at this beautiful facility,” Morrissey stated. “We had no control over this process. I have talked with the county’s office of economic development, and we are committed to working with the landlord to find a new tenant.”

PepsiCo currently leases the property at 1 Pepsi Way in Somers. The company has 300,000 employees globally, 2,000 of which work in Purchase.

“Obviously the town has relied on PepsiCo for tax revenue. However, Somers is in great financial shape, and with smart planning over the last decade, the town is poised to continue its strong tax base—PepsiCo or not,” Morrissey stated. “I am committed to maintaining our financial well-being.”

PepsiCo representatives could not be reached for comment.

Somers Supervisor
Rick Morrissey
According to copies of emails Primavera obtained, Siegel contacted Building Inspector John Winter on February 5 at 6:18 p.m. asking, “Is this going to be an issue of checking where he sleeps at night?”

Winter responded to Siegel at 8:35 p.m. by stating, “That’s a place I don’t want to be. I will ask him but I won’t do stakeouts on people. He could live in both places. This could be messy.”

Primavera alleged a car pulled into his driveway one evening while he was working on his consulting business in a back office and a woman, who resembled Siegel, peered in his bedroom window and then turned around in her car and left the premises. Siegel said she did drive by Primavera’s residence one night after a meeting out of curiosity but never drove on his property, exited her car or looked in any windows.

Siegely explained she decided to contact Winter after several residents contacted her raising questions about activities at Primavera’s home since he reported in the media that he and his wife had recently moved to Trump Residences in Shrub Oak.

“The issue is if Bill is living there does he have a proper permit for what he’s doing?” Siegel said. “I’m not questioning how is the house being used and is it in compliance with the Zoning Code. All I did was ask the building inspector to check it out.”

Primavera, who noted he does not do any real estate business out of his home, said the Hickory Street home is his primary residence and the Shrub Oak home is his wife’s primary residence.

“Primavera, who noted he does not do any real estate business out of his home, said the Hickory Street home is his primary residence and the Shrub Oak home is his wife’s primary residence. “She’s trying to shut me down. For a smart woman this was a very stupid thing,” Primavera said of Siegel. “What was her motivation here? This is not a family home. It’s a business property. No family is going to buy this.”

Last year, Primavera asked the Town Board to rezone his property to transitional zoning so he can convert it into the “Grace Building on the east side of town.” His request was denied.

“As soon as we have honest people without political vendettas on the board I will reapply for a zoning change,” Primavera said.

Siegely said it was clear Primavera’s motivation was to get Republicans Tom Diana and Greg Bernard elected to the board next month in a special election.

“Honestly this is really sad. Just because the man wants someone on the board who will vote for his transitional zoning,” Siegel said. “Let him follow the procedures that everyone else has to follow. That’s all I’m asking.”

Supervisor Grace, who ripped Siegel about the emails during a work session last week, said Friday Siegel’s actions were “outrageous.”

“I find its way out of line and over the top,” Grace remarked. “The Fourth Amendment protects us from unreasonable searches and seizures. The least she can do is apologize.”
Shopping Center Plan in Cortlandt Continues to Draw Criticism

By Janine Bowen

Plans for the Cortlandt Crossing shopping center continued to draw mixed reactions last week at a second public hearing regarding the project.

The biggest concern voiced by those whose homes neighbor the proposed construction site, across from the Cortlandt Town Center, is the fact that the retail space would infringe on residential land. Acadia Realty, who also owns the 850,000-square-foot Town Center, is currently proposing 170,000 square feet of retail space on 17 acres of a 36-acre property on Route 6. Currently a mixed zone, Acadia is asking the Town Board to rezone a seven-acre section of the land from residential to commercial to accommodate the project.

Resident John DeBenedictis of Westminster Drive noted that Acadia could build a 90,000-square-foot shopping center under the current zoning and thought it was unfair that Acadia might be granted a zoning change when he was repeatedly denied one that would allow him to build a jet engine shop on his residential property. He argued that property values are going to be affected by the proposed shopping center as residents won’t want to walk outside and see a parking lot in their backyard.

“We cannot even think of living here anymore if our home will be adjacent to stores and parking lots. We will also be forced to move; we don’t want to do that but we will have no choice. The scenario we are being faced with is not where we imagined ourselves,” said Esposito.

Esposito criticized Acadia for buying the property when they knew it would not meet their needs until a zoning change was approved and stated that Acadia was being unfair to the current business owners who reside on the property, who will all lose their jobs.

David Wahl of Conklin Avenue, however, stated that the small business owners are not victims and have always known that something bigger would push them out at some point.

“They’ve known for years that they’re on borrowed time,” he said. “They’re aware this is not forever, nor should it be.”

Conklin, who was the only person to speak in favor of the project at last Tuesday’s public hearing, stated that many residents want to see an increase in infrastructure that will enhance and benefit the town.

Following comments, the Town Board closed the public hearing, although residents will have an opportunity to submit written comments into the record for an additional 30 days. In the coming months, there will be additional public hearings before the town’s Planning Board but David Steinmetz, an attorney representing Acadia, stated that they are eager to take resident comments and begin the process of creating a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). According to Town Attorney Thomas Wood, the FEIS would not be voted on by the Town Board until late this year or early next year.
Reports of Yorktown Smart Growth’s Demise Greatly Exaggerated

By Rick Pezzullo

Despite recent reports to the contrary, Yorktown Smart Growth, a group of citizens committed to ensuring the town’s long-term prosperity by balancing development with preservation of the town’s unique character, is alive and well.

The group that was formed three years ago to raise issues and concerns surrounding the proposed Costco Wholesale Club project on Route 202 took its website down a few weeks ago to revamp it, a move that led to speculation that it had folded.

“A lot of inaccurate stuff has been spread,” said Yorktown Smart Growth President Jonathan Nettelfield, a 25-year town resident. “We were never dead. We are so avidly apolitical.”

Smart Growth Secretary Olivia Bell Buehl explained as a registered 501C organization Smart Growth is prohibited from endorsing political candidates.

Yorktown Students for Good Government will be hosting a debate between the four candidates vying for the two open seats on the Yorktown Town Board in an upcoming special election.

The debate will be held on Monday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fourth Unitarian Society, at 1698 Strawberry Road, in Mohegan Lake. A panel of students and local journalists will ask the candidates questions and audience members will also have an opportunity to pose questions.

The special election in Yorktown will take place on Tuesday, March 10. In one race, Democrat Bob Giordano and Republican Tom Diana will be squaring off for the right to serve the last nine months of former Councilman Nick Bianco’s unexpired term. In the other contest, Democrat Rosanne Brackett and Republican Greg Bernard will be competing to serve the remaining three years and nine months of former Councilman Terrence Murphy’s unexpired term.

Debate for Yorktown Special Election Set for Feb 23

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The Connecticut Westchester Hudson Valley Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has announced their candidates as part of the 2015 Man & Woman of the Year campaign. Rabbi Hirshel Jaffe of Peekskill was recently named their Honorary Alumnus Man of the Year candidate.

Hirshel Jaffe, a four-time cancer survivor who has been called “a living hero”, has led a life of courage and compassion. Competing in the New York Marathon earned him the nickname: “The Running Rabbi.”

In 1980, Rabbi Jaffe visited our 52 Americans held hostage in Iran to offer them comfort and hope. Upon his return he delivered letters to their families and loved ones. When the hostages were liberated he was invited by President Ronald Reagan to greet them at the White House.

In 1998, at the invitation of President Bill Clinton, the Rabbi spoke to a gathering of world and religious leaders at the Presidential Prayer Breakfast and delivered a message about bridging the gulf that divides us.


The Rabbi received the ”Presidential Award of Courage” in a White House Rose Garden ceremony and was awarded an honorary doctorate from his seminary for his work in “comforting the sick and his noble influence upon all people.”

Hirshel has twice been saved with a drug funded by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and he is inspired to give back by raising funds and awareness through the Man & Woman of the Year campaign.

The Rabbi is now running a race to find blood cancer cures so that others can win their fight for life. Engraved on his ID bracelet are the fighting words: NEVER GIVE UP!

The Rabbi often invokes the words, “If you save one life, you save a whole world.”

To learn more about Rabbi Hirshel Jaffe and his campaign “Team Never Give Up”, or to make a donation, please visit: www.TheRunningRabbi.org
LEF to Honor Two at Annual Casino Night, Dinner Dance

The Lakeland Education Foundation (LEF) will honor two distinguished members of the Lakeland Central School District community at its annual Casino Night, Silent Auction, and Dinner Dance to be held at the Villa Barone in Mahopac on Saturday, March 7.

This year’s honorees include two of the LEF’s biggest supporters: Denise Kness and Dr. Karen Gagliardi. Mrs. Kness is the former president of the LEF and current Lakeland Board of Education trustee. Dr. Gagliardi is the principal of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

“With the Lakeland Education Foundation and my fellow honoree, Dr. Karen Gagliardi, we find that education really is the foundation of everything,” said Kness. “I am humbled to be honored by the Lakeland Education Foundation and truly honored to be sharing this spotlight with Dr. Karen Gagliardi. The work of the Foundation and all its members for the past 21 years is a service that is so needed and very much appreciated. Working with the Lakeland Education Foundation is one of my proudest accomplishments,” said Kness.

“The Lakeland Education Foundation has been working hard for the past 21 years to enhance the educational experience for all Lakeland students,” said Dr. Gagliardi. “It is truly an honor to be named as one of the LEF honorees for the 2014-2015 school year,” said Dr. Gagliardi. “The LEF grants have enabled students and staff to benefit from creative projects in the arts, worthwhile endeavors in science and expanded learning experiences beyond the classroom walls. There is nothing more rewarding than observing students explore and learn through these grants. After all, for me, as an educator, it’s all about the kids,” she added.

The Foundation’s goal is to better the amount ($40,000) that was raised last year at this, the LEF’s largest fundraising event. Major sponsors this year include Entergy; Shaw, Perelson, May, Lambert, LLP; Yorktown Funeral Home; O’Connor Davies; Peachwave Yogurt-Mohegan Lake; and Camp Nabby. The LEF has also joined forces with several community partners: the Alliance for Safe Kids; the Mohegan Lake Fire Department; the Town of Yorktown; and the Yorktown Police Department.

The Lakeland Education Foundation seeks to provide opportunities for the students and staff of Lakeland to expand learning opportunities, to maximize the potential of each student, and to augment the fine work that is already underway in the Lakeland Schools.

“Since its inception, the Lakeland Education Foundation has been working hard for the past 21 years to enhance the educational experience for all Lakeland students,” said Kness.

The money raised at the evening’s activity will be used to help fund the Foundation’s grant program. Created in 1994, the Foundation has now awarded more than $550,000 in grants to help enhance the educational experience of students in the district.

For more information or to sign up to attend the event, go to LEF@Lakeland-Schools.org

Follow us on twitter

LEF to Honor Two at Annual Casino Night, Dinner Dance
Obituaries

Lawrence Alfano

Lawrence Alfano, a resident of Somers, died on February 10. He was born in the Bronx, to Luigi and Nancy Alfano. He received his BA and MA from Western CT State University. Mr. Alfano was a Business Manager for Westchester County for over 35 years. He volunteered preparing taxes for seniors, and was a Scout Master in Yorktown Heights. He was a licensed Ham Radio operator and loved to paint.

He is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 53 years, Joan Alfano, his loving children, Michael (Eileen) and Diane Nolan and his precious granddaughter, Amy and her father, Kevin Nolan. He is the brother of Carmela Burriesci and Angela Alfano and the late Louis Alfano, Jr. and Ralph “Sonny” Alfano.

Vivienne Rauschkolb

Vivienne Rauschkolb of Newburgh, formerly of Ossining, died on February 13. She was 79.

She was born July 23, 1935 in Ossining to Frederick and Gladys Crisfield. She worked at Bethel Home in Ossining for many years. She volunteered preparing taxes for seniors, and was a Scout Master in Yorktown Heights. He was a licensed Ham Radio operator and loved to paint.

He is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 53 years, Joan Alfano, his loving children, Michael (Eileen) and Diane Nolan and his precious granddaughter, Amy and her father, Kevin Nolan. He is the brother of Carmela Burriesci and Angela Alfano and the late Louis Alfano, Jr. and Ralph “Sonny” Alfano.

Renee Macri

Renee Macri, a resident of Somers, died on February 11, at Westchester Medical Center of Valhalla after a long battle with Crohn’s Disease. She was 48.

Ms. Macri was born on July 13, 1966 in Port Chester, to Rocco and Barbara Vertullo Macri. She was educated in Rye Brook at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.

Ms. Macri lived in Somers for the past two years. Before that she lived in Pelham Manor, NY from 1998 to 2012 and in Port Chester, from 1966 to 1998.

Ms. Macri will be remembered for her baby blue eyes, infectious smile, unconditional love and most of all her tremendous strength and will to live.

She is survived by her parents (Rocco and Barbara Macri) of Barnegat, NJ, her brother (Rocco), sister-in-law (Lina), niece (Laura-Renee) and nephew (Rocco Angelo) of Rye, NY and her beloved aunts, uncles and cousins.

John Bosco

John I. Bosco, a resident of Somers, a local attorney, active member of the Knights of Columbus and very active parishioner of St. Joseph’s Church in Somers, died on February 8. He was 81.

Mr. Bosco worked as an Attorney in New Rochelle, before retiring in 1994. He was a member of the American Bar Association of New York. Mr. Bosco was born in 1933, in the Bronx, to John and Louise Bosco. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Fordham University and a Legum Baccalaureus (L.L.B.)from Fordham Law School. Mr. Bosco served in the Army from 1954-1956, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. He was in the 867th Anti-Aircraft Battalion and was the Defense Counsel for the 68th Group Regiment in Korea. In 1955, he married Rosemary Greco at St. Helena’s Church in the Bronx. Locally, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a parish council member and he taught Real Estate Law at Iona College. Mr. Bosco will be remembered for his love for his wife and family and his strong faith.

He is survived by his wife Rosemary V. Bosco, his children, Christina (Joseph) Cervone, John (Eileen Maloney) Bosco, Vincent Bosco, Deborah Lividini, and Victoria (John) Betzig; along with his grandchildren, Jennifer Shaw, Christy Cervone, Lisa Bosco, Jacqueline Lividini, John Bosco, Anthony Lividini, Jocie Lividini, Rosemary Betzig, Tovi Betzig and his great-grandchildren, Jack and Ch
Letters

Yorktown Must Fix the Bagel Hole

To the Editor,

Yorktown Supervisor Grace shamefully attacked Councilwoman Siegel after she proposed changes to the zoning code at last night’s work session. Supervisor Grace spoke as a demagogue when he belittled Councilwoman Siegel for her draft revisions to the definition of “family,” “Convalescent Home” and a new special permit section for “Community Residential Facility.” Councilwoman Siegel kept her campaign promise to make much needed substantive changes to the zoning code to clear up ambiguous terms such as the outdated “Convalescent Home.” Her 5 page draft of proposals was mocked and ridiculed by Supervisor Grace as totally unnecessary and an intrusion into residential zoning. Meanwhile, Councilwoman Siegel backed up her proposals with court tested case law using (in part) a new definition for “family” from the City of Poughkeepsie.

Councilwoman Siegel also crafted a new draft proposal (special use permit) called “Community Residential Facility.” This permit would be for any “informal, unlicensed congregate living for seniors, SLRs and other possible living arrangements for four or more unrelated adults.” Special use permit applicants such as Compass Westchester would in the future apply under the new rules of this permit, instead of using the outdated and confusing “Convalescent Home” term. She went on to provide multiple pages of standards and conditions applicable to the new special use permit. But Supervisor Grace, grandstanding to the audience, dismissed this proposal and said he “doesn’t want to even consider any changes.” He said, “Councilwoman Siegel should wait until after the March 10th elections to see if the new board will consider her ideas.”

Supervisor Grace likes others to think he is an expert regarding land use issues (but he’s often wrong). He pontificates on the land use subject by using overly broad and sweeping generalized examples. One such incident happened during a discussion as to why the inexperience of the owners of Compass Westchester should not be considered. At the October 7th Public Hearing he said (as quoted in the Yorktown News): “I have never, nor should any board ever in any town anywhere, decide that they’re going to approve or deny an application for a land use based upon what they perceive is the administrative experience of someone that’s going to run the piece of property.” “Grace said, if you open up a bagel shop and I say, you don’t know the first thing about bagels, so you’re denied (the special permit).” “I can’t do it.”

Supervisor Grace - your bagel example has a huge hole in it! Bagel shops are regulated and supervised by New York State and the Westchester County Department of Health. Not so for unlicensed, un supervised Compass Westchester!

Even our own Zoning Board members said the Town Code, “Convalescent/Nursing Home” language was ambiguous and needed fixing. They went so far as to say without changes there could be either a “licensed convalescent home” or an “unlicensed convalescent home”. The overwhelming majority of town residents want new standards in our town code to regulate unlicensed care facilities. Councilwoman Siegel’s proposals should be considered. Our neighborhoods and this town deserve at least as much protection as a bagel shop!

Unfortunately, it’s clear from the supervisor’s statements last night, he hopes to get some “yes men” elected and continue to take Yorktown down the path of “Pottersville”.

AL FRENCH
BEVERLY KOBICK

Some Reasons Why Yorktown Special Election is Critical

To the Editor:

March 10th is a critical election. I know, you just voted a mere 4 months ago. And now people are asking you to do it again. I am one of those people asking you to vote.

I am asking you to vote because I firmly believe that the people of Yorktown are interested in their community. They want to stay informed and time permitting, get involved. I see it every day with parents volunteering their free time to their children’s school, giving to families in need, even when they don’t personally know them, and offering advice and a shoulder to lean on when they need it. The people of Yorktown are good, caring and generous.

Unfortunately when these same people try to get involved with their government on a local level, they become frustrated, because Yorktown has become an entity inaccessible to everyday people. If you are not a lawyer or a member of the “old boys network” you will not be treated with respect. If you oppose the general direction of this “network” you stand a chance of being ridiculed publicly. Most people give up and go back to their everyday life where they are appreciated. I don’t blame them. But we are the majority here, and if we choose to make a difference, we can.

As a Yorktown resident, some issues that concern us all are:

- Hearing that you should vote for someone in particular because he will ensure a third consecutive tax cut. Take a look at your tax bill. I did, and I realized that my ‘Town Taxes went up from 2013 to 2014, not down.

- Attempting to allow a gas pipeline company to use 15 acres of our parkland as a construction yard for 3-5 years, without a public hearing.

- Attempting to force a special use permit through for a Sober Home when town codes obviously needed to be addressed first.

- Refusing to address the inconsistencies of Courtesy of the Floor while removing the second Courtesy of the Floor from Town Hall meetings. This strips our residents of their right to speak to comments made during the meeting and prevents those who work late, from speaking at all.

These issues and many more are what made me start paying attention. I literally woke up one day, and decided that I needed to go to a Town Hall meeting to see what was going on with this “parkland issue.” I knew nothing about it prior to that day. What I saw and heard was appalling. I liken my situation to that of the movie ‘The Matrix.’ That was the day I took the “red pill” and I’ve been seeing how far down this rabbit hole goes every day.

I know why people don’t get involved, because for many years, I admit, that I didn’t. I was too busy commuting, working, taking care of my children and my home. Doing my daily chores and tasks. I literally just didn’t have time to take on one more thing. I see it differently now. Now I know I have to get involved. I hope that you can take a step forward, really think about the candidates and then make your voice heard by voting on March 10th.

ROSANNE BRACKETT
(Letter writer is a candidate for Yorktown Town Board)
Letters

Government Gone Wrong in Yorktown

To the Editor:
When our country was formed, the Founding Fathers had a vision of a gov-
ernment held in check to prevent abuse of power the colonists were subject to by the
Crown. The pillars of our government are the limits imposed on governmental
creation into our lives, deemed a viola-
tion of our natural, God given rights.
To define these rights, the Constitution was drawn and ratified in 1788. James
Madison recommended amendments to further protect the rights of citizens and
in 1791 the Bill of Rights was ratified. In my opinion, the most important of
these rights is the 4th Amendment and its protection of unwarranted search and
seizure; banning unwarranted invasion of our privacy without probable cause.
The tactics used by the Crown to abuse political enemies.
Sorry for the history lesson, but after sit-
ting through the Town Board's Feb. 9 work
session, I believe it's history forgotten. The Constitution applies to ALL governing
bodies including OUR town board.
I'm appalled that in Yorktown the rights secured by our Constitution have little
meaning. First up is the conduct
of Councilwoman Siegel who it was re-
vealed requested the building inspector
to check where one of Yorktown's busi-
ness owners "sleeps at night." The target
of Councilwoman Siegel's ire operates a
business under a special use permit
which requires owner occupancy of the
residence. It seems someone whispered
in Siegel's ear that this business owner
also owns a second residence. So Siegel
wanted the building inspector to do a
bed check remarking that she drives by
the business owner's house to see if his
lights are on. The request to have the
building inspector do a bed check is out-
rageous, abusive and the very thing for
which countless men and woman have
given their lives to protect against – over-
reaching government intrusion.
The problem with Siegel's intrusiveness
is it's sufficient if that person "occupies" the
office, the law does not require he sleep in
it. Siegel's request for the bed check wasn't
prompted by any complaint. Council-
woman Siegel's activities seem nothing
more than a McCarthyesque witch-hunt
against a perceived political enemy and a
4th Amendment violation. Siegel's mis-
guided notions of permissible govern-
mental conduct also explains the basis for
the law she proposed to amend the town
code's definition of family, which would
require hypercritical intrusions upon the
relationship of any group of people seek-
ing to live in common. The law would have
provided that a group of people living as a
family must rebut a legal presumption they
aren't a family by putting to public scrutiny
the details of their relationship. The flawed
law's real intent was to further regulate and
restrict sober living homes and prevent
their existence under the logical umbrella
of convalescence homes; another constitu-
tional violation of singling out a group of
persons for different treatment under the
color of law.
Second to the plate is Councilman
Patel. The Constitution secures every
citizen's right to due process of law and
safeguards them from arbitrary denial of
"Life, Liberty or Property." Three meet-
ings ago, Mr. Patel voted not to approve
the Sober Living House. Last meeting,
Supervisor Grace explained the state law
would view the vote of 2 to 1 as a "Non
Action" as it didn't represent a majority
vote of the five member board and asked
Mr. Patel if he would reconsider a vote or
at least speak and let the petitioners know
why he was denying them so they could
see if the problem could be rectified. Mr.
Patel refused to speak. At tonight's meet-
ing Supervisor Grace brought forth a res-
olution to deny the Sober Living House.
After a vote of no from Mr. Patel and the
efforts of Ms. Siegel when she took off-
office to deny the petition, you would have
thought they would have been fighting
over the seconding of the motion. In-
stead they refused to speak and the mo-
tion died. I find it distasteful that our of-
icials could act in such an egregious way.
Whether you're in favor of or against the
opening of a Sober Living House, the
property owners deserve an answer.
This makes the upcoming special elec-
tion that much more important. We need
to avoid people with personal agendas.
Our town needs business leadership that
understand the duties of the job. Tom
Diana is a retired police officer and busi-
ness owner. Greg Bernard served on the
planning board and Town Board along
with over 30 years experience in con-
struction management. These are the
-types of voices we need.

Sincerely,
ED LACHTERMAN

Bernard and Diana Will Move Yorktown Forward

To the Editor:
On March 10th there is a very important
special election that will dictate the future
of our town. This election may very well
effect the future direction of our town.
We need experienced leaders who understand the func-
tion of local government and who respect
the heritage of our wonderful town. I can
think of no one better than Greg Bernard
and Tom Diana to fill these important
posts. Both Greg and Tom have lived here
for over 25 years. In fact, the Diana's have
been here for over four generations.
I trust Greg and Tom and truly believe
they are the team to move our town for-
ward in a positive direction. They are
committed to growing our commercial
tax base which will alleviate the burden
on homeowners. Greg and Tom will
support our local law enforcement's ef-
forts to keeping drugs off our streets and
protect our kids. And they have already
signed a term limits pledge proving their
desire to make government more trans-
parent and responsible to the people.
On March 10th the choice is clear: Greg Bernard and Tom Diana!
Sincerely,
JENNA LENNOX

HV Gateway Chamber Tourism &
Visitors Kiosk Open 7 Days a Week

The Hudson Valley Gateway Cham-
ber of Commerce Visitor and Tour-
ist Information Kiosk, located at 1
South Division Street in Peekskill, is
now open seven days a week (Monday
through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4
p.m.)
"Our new electronic access system
will allow visitors and tourists access
to information on places to dine and
shop, things to do, special events and
attractions," said Executive Director
Deb Milone. "The opening of the kiosk
expands the chamber's hours of opera-
tion and enhances our ability to pro-
mote our community and all it has to
offer." The chamber's kiosk is filled with
information about restaurants, businesses
and upcoming events. In addition, print-
ed tourist and information guides, as
well as local newspapers are available, all
free of charge.
"By being located in the center of
downtown, the chamber is often the
first place people turn to for informa-
tion and assistance," Milone said. "As
foot traffic continues to increase in the
spring, it is important that we fulfill our
role as the place to go to find informa-
tion."

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
914-864-0878
Comprehensive Plan Update Moving Forward in Somers

By Neal Rentz

For the first time in over two decades an update of the Town of Somers Comprehensive Plan is moving toward completion.

At its February 5 meeting, the town board was receptive to a timeline proposed by a consultant it hired to update the document, which has not been brought up to date since 1994.

The board set up a committee in 2003 that worked on revisions, but an update was not approved.

Frank Fish, president of BFJ Planning and a consultant working on the document for the town, said his company worked with the town to update its plan in 1988.

Fish said he did not want the revised plan to be too lengthy. He suggested that it be limited to "100 or so pages." He said the former Comprehensive Plan committee did much work and he would incorporate it as part of his report to the town board.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey agreed with Fish. "We want to make it user friendly," Morrissey said. Frank Fish, a consultant employed by the Town of Somers to help revise its Comprehensive Plan, addressed the town board on Feb. 5.

Somers Town Board Set to Accept Somers Crossing DEIS

By Neal Rentz

The Somers Town Board appears likely to accept as complete the draft environmental impact statement for the Somers Crossing development proposal when it meets this week.

Boniello Land & Trust is proposing that the project would include a Multi-family Residence Downtown Hamlet for one home per acre. The developer is asking the town board to create a Multi-family Residence Downtown Hamlet for the project, which would need Planning Board approval.

Richard O’Rourke, an attorney representing the developer, told the town board last week he and his client have been working with the town’s consultants and he believed the board should accept the DEIS as complete.

"We think we’re there," he said. "It’s been about two years since we’ve submitted the application.”

Joseph Barbagallo, a project engineer who is vice president of Woodard & Curran and is employed by the town as a consultant on the project, told the town board he had no major issues with the completeness of the DEIS and he would work with representatives of the developer to address any outstanding issues with document before last week’s town board meeting.

Councilman Richard Clinchy said the most controversial aspects of the proposed development would be traffic and its potential impacts on the environment.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said the town board would vote to declare the DEIS as complete and schedule a public hearing on the document for March 5.

Take your first swing of the season here.

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New for 2015, membership now includes:
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• Two-hour block of Members Only play every weekend*
• No cart fee
• No initiation fee

*If slots are not reserved within a week, we reserve the right to open them up to the public.
By David Propper

Walk into Ristorante Spadafora on any given evening, and it’s easy to feel like family.

Inside the Mahopac restaurant, an intimate space owned by Antonino Cannavo, a family atmosphere awaits for hungry customers ready for appetizing Italian and Sicilian food and a welcoming smile from a friendly staff that money can’t buy. On a strikingly chilly evening, warm soup is offered to one customer looking to warm his bones and the conversation that follows with Cannavo makes the night even more enjoyable.

“What the community has done for me so far, I’m glad I did come back,” Cannavo said. “I’m enjoying this quite a bit. That was one of the reasons I wanted to come back, the ability to speak to people. We talk a lot about food. For me, that’s what makes it fun.”

“My guests come in, they feel that and enjoy that,” Cannavo added. “I just ask that they come back once again. I don’t have to do the invite, they know the invitation is always open.”

After being away from the day-to-day pleasure of running a restaurant, Cannavo, who had previously been in real estate and construction management, bought the former Ariano’s Trattoria almost three months ago and renamed it Ristorante Spadafora. Hailing from Yonkers, Cannavo has been a familiar face to the patrons of the establishment, and has kept employees from the previous owner who already knew community members to cement the welcoming atmosphere.

When he bought the place, Cannavo opted to keep the “original kitchen,” meaning “not the stoves, but the individuals behind it.” The restaurant has a head cook and headwaiter the community knows, which has helped in the transition.

Cannavo has also kept the menu the same, cooking much of the food with a wood fire oven. He said it was a “no-brainer” to hold onto old recipes so customers expect the same high quality of food instantly. Going forward, he hopes to add and alter the menu to include more of the foods he considers his specialties.

One special dish he wants to add is spiedini, which for a real Sicilian, Cannavo said, it a veal cutlet breaded lightly with the addition of parmesan cheese, salt, and pepper and cooked in a wood oven. The type of oven and simple ingredients brings out the most flavors. Cannavo, who has no formal training but became a spectacular cook from his strong Italian and Sicilian upbringing, something all the training in the world can’t replicate.

“I would consider that my major recipe that I’m going to present to the community,” he said. “I’ve already had people say they can’t wait to find out what I have on my specials on Friday and Saturday.”

This isn’t the first restaurant Cannavo has owned and like past establishments, Cannavo prides Ristorante Spadafora on being a “quaint” restaurant. According to him, smaller is actually better.

The main dining area holds roughly 30 people, which is actually double the size of any of Cannavo’s past businesses. An outdoor patio when the weather warms up will also seat more customers.

“They enjoy the feel of the dining room, the wood oven,” he said. “It gives you an aroma that reminds everyone of home.”

Ristorante Spadafora is located on 18 Clark Place in Mahopac and its phone number is 845-621-0137.
Police Blotter

February 7

Michael Stavila, 24, of Putnam Valley, was charged with menacing in the second degree following the report of a verbal dispute. Stavila is due in Putnam Valley Town Court on February 24.

February 10 – 10:35 p.m. – Troopers from the Cortlandt barracks responded to the area of Lexington Avenue and Route 6 for a hit-and-run accident involving a pedestrian. Police interviewed the victim, Alex Hoy, 26, of Yorktown, who was receiving medical attention from the Mohegan Lake Rescue Squad. Hoy stated he was walking northbound on Lexington Avenue when a vehicle traveling southbound struck him and fled the scene. Hoy was unable to obtain a vehicle description. The vehicle sustained a broken windshield, passenger side view mirror and fender before it continued south on Lexington. Hoy was transported to Westchester Medical Center for non-life threatening injuries. Police are still searching for the suspect vehicle.

February 9 – 7:36 p.m. – Police received a report of an erratic operator on Route 6. Police located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Investigation revealed the driver, Dagmara Gajewska-Kurowska, 37, of Putnam Valley, was allegedly driving while intoxicated. She was transported to police headquarters for processing and was additionally charged with aggravated DWI with a blood alcohol content over .16. She is due in Yorktown Town Court on March 10.

Paint the Mall Red at Jefferson Valley Mall

In support of American Heart Month, Jefferson Valley Mall will host the Paint the Mall Red health and wellness event on Saturday, February 28, from 12 to 3 p.m. in Center Court.

Sponsored by David Lerner Associates, in association with American Heart Association, the program will focus on positive health, wellness and fun. Throughout the day, demonstrations will be presented by local fitness studios, gyms and holistic centers; guests can enjoy the sounds of a live acoustic performance by John Longhitano and DJ entertainment; and guests can take in a health and wellness fashion show with exclusive looks provided by Macy’s. In addition, the program will include health seminars, screenings and much more!

“We’re thrilled to host the Paint the Mall Red health and wellness program at Jefferson Valley Mall,” said Alexa O’Rourke, director of marketing and business development for Jefferson Valley Mall. “The event creates both a fun atmosphere as well as provides a wealth of valuable health-related information and demonstrations, which is especially meaningful during American Heart Month.”

As part of the festivities, guests will receive a complimentary caricature, sample and taste healthy food options and indulge in discounts and in-store offers provided by participating retailers. In addition, the first 200 attendees who register for the event will receive an exclusive swag bag.

Paint the Mall Red is free and open to the public. For event information visit www.facebook.com/jeffersonvalley.

About Jefferson Valley Mall

An expansive retail destination for fashion, discovery and community, Jefferson Valley Mall is located on Route 6, 1/4 mile east of the Taconic State Parkway in Yorktown Heights, NY and is owned and managed by WP GLIMCHER. For more information, call the mall management office at (914) 245-4688 or visit www.jeffersonvalleymall.com for the latest mall events and retailer updates. Jefferson Valley Mall is on Facebook – check out www.facebook.com/JeffersonValley. Follow the mall on Twitter: @JeffersonValley.
Camps, Kids and Fun

Summer Camps for Kids of All Ages in County Parks

Whether your youngster is a nature enthusiast, a budding musician or a sports hound, Westchester County Park’s popular summer camps offer something for kids of all ages and interests.

Online registration is now available at parks.westchestergov.com/activities/childrens-camps

SPORTS

The Perfect Pitch and Swing Baseball Camp provides children ages 8 to 12 with training that uses unique and innovative methods, combining traditional baseball skills with disciplines from other sports at V.E. Macy Park in Ardsley. Daily schedule runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes drills, hitting, throwing/ pitching and fielding instruction and games. Camp runs in five, one-week sessions beginning June 29. Fee is $200 per week before May 29, $275 afterward. For information, call (914) 231-4673 for brochure and application.

Boys and girls in grades 3 to 9 can hit the boards at the air-conditioned...continued on page 19
By Robert Pilchik, MD, FACC

Heart disease is the number one killer of Americans, according to the American Heart Association. It takes more lives than all cancers combined. For African-Americans, the disease is particularly deadly: Before the age of 50, African-American’s rate of heart failure is 20 times higher than Caucasians, according to research published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Despite the grim nature of these statistics, there is hope. Many of the major risks for African-Americans are modifiable with lifestyle changes and, when warranted, drug treatment.

African-Americans tend to have higher blood pressure on average than other populations; they are also more likely to have dangerous cholesterol levels, suffer from chronic kidney disease, and struggle with weight issues. One well-established cause of high blood pressure is sodium—salt—in the diet, and research suggests that African-Americans may carry a gene that makes them more salt sensitive. By choosing low-sodium foods and eating more fruits and vegetables, blood pressure can be lowered. Regular exercise—even daily walks—can also reduce blood pressure. If a patient’s blood pressure doesn’t respond to lifestyle changes or is already dangerously high, it can be controlled with safe and proven medications.

African-Americans also tend to have lower levels of the ‘good’ HDL cholesterol. Again, a healthy diet with lots of produce and lean protein such as poultry along with regular exercise can have a significant impact in improving cholesterol numbers. What’s more, statin drugs are very effective in lowering ‘bad’ LDL cholesterol.

Weight, another risk factor for stroke and heart disease, can also be managed with lifestyle changes. Just losing five to 10 percent of your bodyweight can significantly reduce heart risk. Shedding pounds can also lower the risk of diabetes, which also increases the likelihood of suffering a stroke or heart attack. Diabetes is another chronic disease that is higher in African-Americans: Their risk is about double that of non-Hispanic whites.

Visit your physician to learn more about your risk for heart disease and stroke. Understand your factors and put a plan in place to address them. Northern Westchester Hospital offers programs on a variety of chronic diseases as well as free nicotine cessation programs (smoking can dramatically raise your risk of heart problems and stroke) that can be incorporated into your personal healthcare plan. Give yourself the gift of health this year – even a few simple improvements will make a big difference to your wellbeing.

Stop heart disease before it’s started. Visit www.mylifecheck.org and get an assessment of your heart health. To learn about cardiac rehabilitation services offered at Northern Westchester Hospital, visit www.nwhrehab.org. Register to attend a FREE smoking cessation clinic at NWH, call 914-666-1868.

Robert Pilchik, MD, FACC is Chief of Cardiology of Northern Westchester Hospital. He is known for his compassion and for helping patients understand their cardiac health. In addition to clinical cardiology, Dr. Pilchik performs diagnostic cardiac catheterizations; cardioversions; transthoracic, transesophageal and stress echocardiograms; transvenous pacemakers; cardiac CTA/calcium scoring; and nuclear stress testing. Dr. Pilchik is a member of Westchester Health with offices in Mt. Kisco, Yorktown Heights and Valhalla.
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nyp.org/hudsonvalley
The Restaurant Examiner

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Begins on March 9: 107 Westchester and 10 Putnam Restaurants to Participate

By Jerry Eimbinder

Spring Hudson Valley Restaurant Week begins its tenth year on Monday, March 9 and the two-week program runs through March 22. [A November “second season” version of this event debuted in 2012 and will take place this year from November 9 to 22.]

Lunches and dinners cost diners exactly the same as they did in 2013 and 2014 — $29.95 per person for a three-course dinner and $20.95 per guest for a three-course lunch. Beverages from coffee to cocktails, tax and gratuity are additional. Some restaurants provide selections at higher prices but are required to also offer non-supplemented-cost choices on the menu.

Two hundred and five restaurants are participating in the March, 2015 program — up from 168 two years ago. One hundred and seven of the eateries are located in Westchester County, 10 in Putnam County, and the remainder are from five other New York State counties (Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Columbia) and Connecticut. Hudson Valley Restaurant Week had 70 restaurants participating when it launched in 2006.

The restaurants enrolled in the program can be viewed at the Hudson Valley Restaurant Week website: www.hudsonvalleyrestaurantweek.com.

The program is conducted by The Valley Table, a food and culinary magazine headquartered in Newburgh, NY.
Itching for My First ‘Project’ in Years, and Opting for Quick and Easy

When I was younger and forced by the lack of money to be a do-it-yourselfer around the house and in the garden, I dreamed of the day when I could employ others to do all that sweaty labor to maintain and upgrade everything that needed to be done.

That day came a long time ago, and I considered myself lucky that I had more time available to pursue other dreams.

But just last weekend, surprisingly, I found myself with a free Saturday for the first time in several years where I was caught up on all my assignments and just itching for something to do around the house. More than just itching. Starving.

As it happens, my wife and I were in the process of furnishing a new room that was able to make use of a small Shaker-like pine night table that was stored in our attic years ago and forgotten, but it seemed to fit our need perfectly. The only problem was that its surface was badly worn and needed to be refinished.

It had been more than 30 years since I had refinished furniture. In those days, I was a purist, insisting on the method of refinishing known as French Polish, where the old surface would be stripped paint remover. After being sanded, the surface grain would be “filled” and sanded again with fine sandpaper to make it perfectly smooth. Then it would be coated with several coats of shellac or varnish that required a long time to dry, again being sanded with fine sandpaper between each coat to remove imperfections and to create a better bond for the next coat.

After three coats, I would finish the surface with two layers of Butcher’s Wax, buffed to perfection. The process took forever to accomplish because of the drying time between each coat and also before it could be taken to the next. Shellac can take up to 36 hours to dry and, if you do the math, a project like varnish and shellac. It requires less coatings, time and effort. Oil-based polyurethane typically dries in 24 hours, while water-based takes six or less. I’ll take the water-based, thank you.

This time around, devoid of any materials needed, I marched myself down to Home Depot and bought my small arsenal of products for an afternoon’s pleasurable pursuit: a pint of paint remover; a half-pint of Minwax Wood Finish (in Colonial Maple); a half-pint of water-based, fast-drying polyurethane; two 3M Sandblaster sandpaper blocks, one medium grade and one fine; and a cheap two-inch brush to apply the stripper and a good one-and-a-half-inch brush to apply the polyurethane. In one small bag I was a weekend project warrior.

At home, I spread an old sheet on the floor, and with my cheap brush covered the table top, legs and drawer front with the stripper, let it do its thing for 15 minutes, then wiped it off with old rags. After sanding first with the medium grade Sandblaster, then the smooth, I stained the wood with Minwax and let it dry for an hour. Then I simply applied the polyurethane and, after less than four hours, I found it was completely dry. With the fine Sandblaster, I rubbed down the imperfections, which did a pretty good job on all the flat surfaces. For the turns on the legs, I used fine steel wool.

The end product looked so good that I thought I could be ready for the finishing wax coat, but I realized that I had forgotten to buy Butcher’s Wax. However, my favorite secret weapon around the house for repairing scratches also provides a wonderful final refinishing coat. That is Kiwi Shoe Polish. I lathered on brown wax in two coats, and the results were deep and luxurious.

Now I have a very sweet, shiny end table with an all but impervious surface. But more than that, I’ve enjoyed an almost Zen-like, lazy afternoon exercise that scratched a long-held itch to do a project around the house once again.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

The gleaming surface of The Home Guru’s nightstand, a satisfying quick and easy one-afternoon refinishing project that opted for a polyurethane finish rather than varnish or shellac because of its quicker drying time.

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The 87th Academy Awards show airs this Sunday. This is my 6th year of presenting the Best Picture nominees and creating hypothetical pairings of wine with the top contenders. I’ve distilled my list to five of the eight nominees.

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance): This dark comedy praises and mocks Hollywood and Broadway in one tightly knit, absorbing film, often flitting between reality and fantasy. Risking his life savings and his reputation, Riggan Thomson foregoes a movie comeback as the superhero Birdman, and instead decides to write, direct and star in a Broadway play. One of the actors denigrates Riggan’s motivation for staging the play: “Popularity is the slutty little cousin of prestige.”

Boyhood: In one of the most ambitious approaches to moviemaking ever, Writer/Director Richard Linklater follows the fictional life of a young boy from the age of five to eighteen - over 12 years of shooting. We watch the actors evolve physically and emotionally through the camera lens. Even though the storyline is fairly mundane, the movie is still able to tug at our heartstrings as cinema vérité.

California Cabernet Sauvignon, popular for many years, has been cast into a rather mundane role as a go-to wine by consumers. We’ve watched it grow up, with fond memories of its impact on our wine education. Yet today it is taken for granted for being pleasing, but not that exciting.

American Sniper: Chris Kyle became an American patriot in his thirties, deciding to serve his country and fight terrorism. He became the most lethal sniper in American military history, with 160 kills, while serving for the Navy SEALs. Kyle and many veterans suffer PTSD; this movie brilliantly brings the problem to the fore in all of its egregious manifestations.

Chris Kyle is the life sum of his experiences. Similarly, the legendary Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines from the Rhone Valley of France are the end-result of blending up to thirteen grape varieties in varying ratios into one wine. Each wine bears the same outward symbol to consumers, but harbors a unique expression of its history and influences inside the bottle.

The Imitation Game: Breaking the German Enigma machine during WWII is elusive. Alan Turing, an enigmatic 27-year-old Brit, heads up a team that takes on this daunting assignment. Alan is off-putting and a loner with OCD and speech issues. Not a winning combination. However, he perseveres and his team creates the first digital computer and breaks the Enigma code. Alan’s life after the war is pure hell, and ends in shame and degradation.

In interviewing candidates for his team, Alan comments: “Sometimes it’s the very people who no one imagines of who do the things no one can imagine.” So too with the Zinfandel grape. It has evolved from a puzzling grape of uncertain origin; the code to anything of who do the things no one imagines the very people who no one imagines.

So I reached for a glass of Alsatian Rieseling; simultaneously sweet and dry, acidic yet balanced, complex yet simple. This panoply of characteristics came together in an intricate framework of finesse. It helped me appreciate Wes Anderson’s creativity; I felt better.

Which movie will win the coveted Oscar? Sit back on Sunday night with your favorite wine in hand and enjoy the festivities.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine
Famed Civil War Historian to Speak at Peekskill Lincoln Society Banquet

Dr. James McPherson, Professor Emeritus of U.S. History at Princeton University – considered to be the “Dean of Civil War Historians” in the United States, will make a rare public appearance in Westchester County on March 7.

Dr. McPherson will be the featured speaker at the annual Presidential Banquet of The Lincoln Society, based in Peekskill. His presentation is entitled: “Why the Civil War Still Matters.” The event will be held at the Hollow Brook Golf Club in Cortlandt.

Dr. McPherson won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1989 for Battle Cry of Freedom and is a past president of The American Historical Association. "Prof. McPherson's appearance offers people a rare opportunity to hear and speak with the leading Civil War historian in the country," Lincoln Society President William Walsh observed. "As the author of the greatest single volume book on the Civil War and a strong proponent of preserving the battle fields from that conflict, Prof. McPherson is the best recognized name in the field today." Dr. McPherson’s appearance in Westchester County will launch his newest book, The War That Forged A Nation: Why the Civil War Still Matters. Along with the recognition from Battle Cry of Freedom, Dr. McPherson has previously won the GilderLehrman Lincoln Prize for Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief (2009) and For Cause and Comrades (1998).

For his outstanding scholarly achievements, Dr. McPherson has been selected by the Board of Directors of The Lincoln Society in Peekskill to be the 2015 recipient of its prestigious "Lincoln Legacy Award". The Lincoln Society will also honor Dr. James M. Johnson (Colonel, U.S. Army – Retired), Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, with its “Champion of History Award” at the annual dinner. Col. Johnson is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, later teaching at the Academy for 15 years, and currently serves as the Military Historian of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

Founded in 1903, The Lincoln Society in Peekskill is one of the oldest Lincoln groups in the United States. The Society commemorates President-elect Lincoln’s only stop in Westchester County on his journey to Washington in 1861. Peekskill residents founded the Society to “perpetuate the name, ideals, and memory of Abraham Lincoln and to foster patriotism.”

Everyone is welcome to attend The Lincoln Society’s annual dinner on March 7 and tickets can be purchased on-line. Additional information on Dr. McPherson’s appearance in Westchester County and related events can be found on the website of The Lincoln Society in Peekskill: www.lincolnsociety.com.
Crossword

ACROSS
1 A playing card or new luxury housing in Yorktown
6 Absolutely hate
11 Backing for an exhibit
12 Boxing need
13 Enlightened
14 Black bird
15 Electronic machines
17 In ___ parts
19 UN workers’ assn.
20 ____vs. Wade
21 Type of tree
23 One of the Bobbsey Twins
24 Nurses’ org.
25 Sub
27 Your math teacher would dine at this Peekskill restaurant, ____ Street Grill
30 Mentally quick
31 Prepare to surf
35 European river
36 Put into effect, as a proposal
37 Violin maker, for short
38 Moorland in “Jane Eyre”

DOWN
1 Steeped beverage
2 Served like sushi
3 Cable channel
4 Unite
5 “The magic word”
6 Staring
7 Color of suede shoes of song
8 You need it for a website
9 Covering
10 Trust
16 Indian megalopolis
17 “After ___” Mariah Carey
18 Deeper in content
20 Echoing devices
22 Dough
26 Fuel cell component
28 Hipbone parts
29 Transmit
32 ____ long way
33 Fix upon
34 Highest

See solution on page 25
The Northern Westchester Examiner: Help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at nrentz@thenexaminernews.com.

 happenings

Wednesday, Feb. 18
Fitness Program: The FOUNDTM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, 914-960-4079.

Arts Council and at Dutchess Community College. For viewing times for the exhibition, which is being held in the program room, call 914-232-5717.

Friday, Feb. 20
Book Signing: “YIKES! & TYKES” authors Susan Berliner and Linda Griffin will be signing copies of their books from noon to 4 p.m. at Destination Bistro, 2013 Crompond Rd. in Yorktown Heights (next to Cablevision). Berliner is the author of four supernatural thrillers for adults and teens: “Corsonia,” “The Disappearance,” “Peachwood Lake,” and “DUST.” Griffin is the author of the award-winning children’s book,” “Adopting Ginger,” and the parenting book, “My Child Won’t Listen…”

Job Hunting Help: Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online applications, resume writing, e-mail accounts and more is held on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a computer class. Info: Cheryl at 941-2416 Est. 315.

Free Play Dates: A free play date program is being held every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rosenthal JCC Early Childhood Center at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The program is intended for children between the ages of 16 and 36 months and their parents or caregivers. Children can play, do art and socialize all under the direction of an experienced early childhood teacher. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Jennifer at 914-962-8430 or e-mail her at Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org.

Cancer Support Group: Support Connection provides a support group for women with recurrence of breast cancer, with advanced stage and/or metastasis on the third Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6042 or 800-532-4290. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org.

Jewish Center Services: During the winter months Sabbath services begin at 6:15 p.m. on Friday evenings and at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday mornings at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. On most Saturdays after services, Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited and welcome to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. To RSVP or to receive more information call 914-245-2524 or send an e-mail to wwwinfo@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Saturday, Feb. 21
Art For The Ears: The Putnam Arts Council’s Art for the Ears, featuring Great Blue, Dave Hull and Chicks Candy Store, will be held at 7 p.m. at 521 Kenincott Hill Rd., Mahopac. The suggested donation is $10. For reservations call 845-803-8622. Info: www.putnamarts councils.com.

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.

Ossining Farmers Market: Down to Earth Markets is holding the Ossining Winter Farmers Market at the Claremont Elementary School, on Van Cortland Avenue, off of N. Highland (Route 9). The market runs every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., though March. Visit DownetoEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining’s Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

Overeaters Anonymous–mous: 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 a.m. at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

Sunday, Feb. 22
Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. every Sunday at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is $15. Info: Elissha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to info@laughingheartsyoga.com.

Bingo: Bingo will be played tonight and on March 8 and 22 at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and play begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be $3,000 in prizes awarded during each Sunday session. Food will be available. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Monday, Feb. 23
Mental Munchkins: The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1’s. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or www.musicalmunchkins.com.

Free Jazz Sessions: Free Jazz Jam Sessions are being held every Monday at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohican Lake. Info: 914-455-4272.

Love: “Love,” an exhibit about varying aspects of love in the 20th and 21st Centuries in paint, installation, video, and sculpture is being held through Dec. 6 at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, 1701 Main St., Peekskill. Artists include Alzamora, Barney, Berce, Brenner, Brickley, Edmier, Feuerman, Guthel, Hacker, Indiana, LenDray, Majic, Mapplethorpe, Neshat, Newsom, Ottersen, Ozbolt, Preter, Ritterpusch, Ruckhaberle, Salder, Tomasula, and Wathen. Info: 914-788-0100 or www.hvcca.org. HVCCA is also on Facebook.

Tuesday, Feb. 24
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, which will be used for shipping notice of events. The Friends are a fully tax deductible 501(c)3 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

Helping Homeless Veterans: The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21 and My Brother Vinny need your help in assisting homeless veterans. Once a homeless veteran is approved by the government for apartment living, the veteran needs all the furnishings, linens, towels, cooking, eating utensils to set up his new apartment. One item that is desperately needed is window air conditioners. Anyone who wishes to donate an air conditioner, bed linens or towels may drop them off at St. Luke’s Church’s basement, Route 100, Somers NY. Hours of drop-off are Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please leave your name and address so we may thank you. Info: 914-277-4822.

Our prenatal yoga community offers nurturing open level yoga classes that are specially designed to cater to the emotional, anatomical, hormonal and muscular changes that occur during pregnancy.

Beginners Welcome!
Classes are held locally at Saw Mill Club (membership is NOT required). Child care is available.

For more information contact
Kathleen Goldring
kgoldring@sawmillclub.com
**ADPTION**
Warmhearted couple wishes to give unconditional love to an infant. Get to know us at RichardRenee@hotmail.com or 315-200-3559.


**UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?**
Caring licensed adoption agency provides financial and emotional support. Choose from loving pre-approved families. Call Joy toll free 1-866-922-3678 or confidential email: Adopt@ForeverFamilies-ThroughAdoption.org

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Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

**CAREER TRAINING**
WELDING CAREERS - Hands on training and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Make-A-Wish. We offer free training. Call AIM 855-325-0399

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**LEGAL NOTICE**
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS PROBATE & FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT WORCESTER PROBATE COURT 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO14D3296DR Sixto E. Ramon Vs. Lissette S. Torres Divorce Summons by Publication and Mailing To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Kyung Gun Bang, Esq. Tadmor & Tadmor LLP 340 Main Street Suite 610 Worcester, MA 01608 your answer, if any, on or before 03/17/2015. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Denise L. Meagher, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 30, 2014. Register of Probate

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