Republicans Bernard, Diana Win Seats in Yorktown

By Rick Pazzullo

Republicans Greg Bernard and Tom Diana soundly defeated Democrats Rosanne Brackett and Bob Giordano in a special election last week to fill two empty seats on the Yorktown Town Board.

The convincing wins shift the balance of power on the board back to the Republicans, although Diana, an elected official for the first time, insisted he wasn’t going to be a rubber stamp for Supervisor Michael Grace.

“We have to start making things bipartisan so we can continue to move Yorktown forward,” he said. “We can’t have the stumbling blocks that we had in the past. I don’t believe in that. I come here with a clean slate.”

Diana, a retired police officer who lost to Councilwoman Susan Siegel last November in a special election and to Highway Superintendent Dave Paganeli in 2013, proved the old adage that the third time is a charm as he defeated Yorktown Small Business Association founder Giordano for the right to serve the last nine months of former Councilman Nick Bianco’s unexpired term.

Running with Republican and Conservative backing, Diana received 2,054 votes (55%) to 1,650 (45%) for Giordano, who ran on the Democratic and Independence lines.

“A lot of hard work paid off,” Diana said.

continued on page 2
Republicans Bernard, Diana Win Seats in Yorktown

continued from page 1

said. “I think people know me at this juncture. We campaigned the right way, we ran a very clean campaign and I think people respect that.”

Giordano, who ran unsuccessfully for supervisor 12 years ago, said supporters of Diana and Bernard did a better job motivating voters to go out to the polls.

“They got their base out,” said Giordano, who noted the Republicans also received the backing of the New York State Republican Committee, which sent out three mailings to voters. “It was a short campaign. We did a great job.”

In the race to fill the final two years and nine months of former Councilman and current State Senator Terrence Murphy’s unexpired term, Bernard, a former councilman, comfortably bested Brackett, who was running for elected office for the first time. Bernard received 2,204 votes (60%) to 1,491 (40%) for Brackett.

Bernard, who served two terms on the board from 1994 to 2001, chalked up his impressive victory to his experience in town government, which includes a stint on the planning board.

“I did speak out about my experience, 25 years in town government,” he said. “We worked hard. We didn’t distort any issues. The letters at the end (of the campaign printed in a rival publication)—none of it was a lie.”

He also maintained the late campaign mailings from the state Republican Committee, which he noted got involved in the race because of Murphy, had some influence in the race.

“Terrence had made no secret that he was supporting us and he got us some support from the state,” Bernard said. “Did it make a difference? Yes. Reaching your audience is important.”

Brackett, a former manager with Verizon and mother of two young children, said her first experience running for office was an eye opener.

“I learned a lot, some good things and some really bad things,” Brackett remarked to disappointed supporters at Thyme restaurant. “I want to thank everyone here for taking a chance on me.”

Siegel and Councilman Vishnu Patel, who are now outnumbered 3-2 on the board, urged Democratic leaders to look optimistically to November, when three board seats, including the supervisor, will be up for grabs.

Democratic Committee Vice Chairman Lisa Mackay said the committee has less than nine months to try to loosen the Republican stranglehold.

“We worked hard. It was an amazing effort,” she said. “We ran a great social media campaign. They ran a good smear campaign. The inaccuracies, the half-truths—it was very frustrating.”

A message left for Grace seeking his reaction to the election was not returned.

Bernard said his first priority would be getting the board to function again.

“It’s the most comprehensive pulmonary rehabilitation program in the region. When on-site sessions end, a customized maintenance program is essential and will help you continue exercising at home or at a gym. NWH offers patients the option to continue using the exercise facility at the Ambulatory Care Center at Chappaqua Crossing where they received their pulmonary rehabilitation.

Q: What is pulmonary rehabilitation, and who benefits from it?
A: This program of specialized exercise and patient education helps improve activity endurance, while lessening a person’s sensation of shortness of breath. The goal is to improve a person’s quality of life and ability to function independently.

Pulmonary rehab benefits those with COPD, smoking-related lung disease, asthma, and other lung disorders that progressively limit breathing, as well as people recovering from an acute exacerbation of COPD, those who are pre- or post-lung transplant, and lung cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Even for those with very impaired lung function, this personalized rehab can improve breathing and quality of life.

Q: What happens before, during and after pulmonary rehabilitation?
A: You are first evaluated for your degree of respiratory disability prior to rehab. This data leads to a personalized exercise plan that typically involves the treadmill or bike. At Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH), the eight-to-12-week multi-faceted program includes an exercise component, education about your illness, and psychosocial and nutritional support.

Peekskill Mayor Establishes Fund for Fire Victims

continued from page 1

intentioned but misplaced response,” Catalina said. “The most direct way to help these families will be through financial contributions.”

Catalina has assigned his daughter, Andrea N. Catalina, also a lawyer, to oversee the funds. Checks for the families should be made payable to: Andrea N. Catalina, Esq., Fire Relief Fund and mailed to 1013 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 or dropped off at that address or at City Hall in the Mayor’s Office.

For further information, contact Mayor Catalina at (914) 760-1570.

“It won’t be held for any length of time. It will be dispersed quickly,” he said.

Ramon Fernandez, a city taxi driver who offered his services to the families free of charge during Monday night’s Common Council meeting, said it was uplifting to see the support shown to the families in need.

“I feel very proud for the great community that we have here,” he said. “You feel in your heart when you have kids of your own. They are really needing everything right now.”

Ask the Doctor

Harlan R. Weinberg, MD
Director, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program
Northern Westchester Hospital
www.nwhrehab.org/pulmonaryrehab

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Pulmonary Rehabilitation at NWH provides state-of-the-art exercise support, educational and nutritional counseling, and flexible scheduling, visit www.nwhrehab.org/pulmonaryrehab.
Peekskill Joins Critics of Feds for Approving Pipeline Expansion

By Rick Pezzullo

City of Peekskill officials have joined in the lambasting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for giving a thumbs-up to the expansion of the controversial Algonquin Pipeline expansion project.

During last week’s Common Council meeting, Mayor Frank Catalina said the council and “our entire city are outraged” at the approval, especially since many issues, such as safety, liability insurance, pollution, damages during the construction and the proximity to the Entergy Nuclear Power Plants in Buchanan, have not been adequately addressed by Spectra Energy Corporation.

“The speed in which this project has been pushed through with little or no debate and the utter failure to address any of the concerns raised by the City of Peekskill during the presentation here, as well as those raised by other municipalities and the Westchester County Board of Legislators, is, quite frankly, shocking,” Catalina remarked.

“Our federally elected officials have signed off on a legislative process where unelected appointed officials in Washington have the power to sign off on these dangerous and possibly life threatening projects instead of the officials we, the people, elect from our districts and who know our districts,” Catalina added. “It is outrageous when these giant power companies can get these projects approved with little or no position being taken by our elected officials.”

Two weeks ago, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi said she was “angry” that FERC ignored virtually all of the concerns raised by municipal officials and citizen opponents and gave Spectra the green light to move forward only six weeks after the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was submitted.

“It seems like it was a done deal before we even (spoke out) with our concerns and issues,” Puglisi remarked. “It’s extremely frustrating and very disappointing. We don’t feel our questions have been answered. We don’t feel we were listened to. For FERC to make this decision prematurely is not fair to all parties involved.”

Spectra Energy’s project would run from Stony Point, under the Hudson River, through Peekskill, Cortlandt, portions of Yorktown and into Southeast, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The proposal would remove an existing 26-inch gas pipeline and replace it with a 42-inch one. The gas pressure would also increase by 25%.

Opponents of the pipeline presented FERC with a petition containing more than 26,000 signatures at a public hearing last year in Cortlandt. Many raised concerns about the pipeline, which has been located in the area for more than 50 years without incident, sitting 1,500 feet away from the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan.

In the 66-page decision it released last Tuesday, FERC appeared satisfied with the measures Spectra proposed for the pipeline near Indian Point in its FEIS, stating, “The NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) concluded that a breach and explosion of the proposed 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline would not adversely impact the safe operation of the Indian Point facility.”

Catalina said he would discuss with the city’s corporation counsel what, if any, options the city had in appealing FERC’s ruling since the federal government has authority over municipalities.

“We now have the added responsibility to prepare for any contingency, at great expense to our overtaxed citizens, without any assistance from the state or federal government or even the private gas company that stands to make billions in profits at great risk to the rest of us,” Catalina said.

Cortlandt Establishes Pothole E-Mail Hotline

The harsh winter has taken a toll on local roadways and Cortlandt officials are seeking assistance from residents to identify potholes throughout the town.

A pothole e-mail hotline (potholes@townofcortlandt.com) has been set up for the town’s Department of Environmental Services/Highway Division for residents to report problem potholes for crews to repair.

“It’s been a very difficult winter season with 25 major snow and ice storms in 2015, which has resulted in many potholes throughout the town,” said Supervisor Linda Puglisi. “I have directed our crews and authorized overtime for them to be out on Saturdays for the next couple of weeks to fill in these potholes.”
Residents Express Opposition to Pipeline

Spectra Energy Corporation held an informational open house about its gas pipeline expansion project last week at the VFW in Yorktown and were greeted by some peaceful demonstrators who held a brief “die-in” and clearly made their feelings about the plan known.

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Verizon Wireless Water Tower Plan Opposed in Somers

By Neal Rentz

Even before a formal application had not been submitted, the Somers Town Board unanimously expressed its opposition for a plan by Verizon Wireless to place cell telephone towers on a municipally owned water tower.

Verizon recently informed the town about its plan to place cell towers on the Ross Drive tank, which is owned by the town.

At the March 12 town board meeting, a group of residents asked the board to reject the plan and the board subsequently did so via a roll call vote.

Ross Drive resident Jennifer Klee and others told the board they had a number of concerns about the plan including potential health risks, especially for children, such as possible cancer causing emissions from cell towers. Klee gave several articles about the downsides of cell towers to the town board.

Other concerns given by the residents included a fear that cell towers in the residential neighborhood would reduce property values. The town board heeded the residents’ comments.

Councilman Thomas Garrity Jr. said because the cell towers were planned for a town-owned facility, the board would be within its legal authority to reject the plan. The board voted unanimously to the resolution from Supervisor Rick Morrissey to turn down the request from Verizon, even though the company had not formally presented it in a written form to the town board.

Somers’ Future Being Addressed in Comprehensive Plan Update

By Neal Rentz

A consultant hired by the Town of Somers to help update the town’s Comprehensive Plan for the first time since 1994 provided an update to the public last week.

Consultant Frank Fish said he and Town Planner Syrette Dym are working to update the document. The main purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is for “guiding the future of Somers,” Fish said. They are using much of the information compiled by the former Master Plan Committee, which volunteered their efforts from 2003 to 2008.

Fish said the town board was planning to hold a second public discussion on the Comprehensive Plan in May. “The future land use map is a key” to what will be discussed in May, he said.

Fish said the town board’s goal was to have a complete draft by June. After reviewing it over the summer, the town board would hold hearings on the document starting in the fall. Supervisor Rick Morrissey said the town board could approve the revised document by the end of the year.

Fish said he and Dym are currently seeking to write a 14 chapter document. The chapters currently include introduction and vision, goals and objectives, population, land use and zoning, residential development, commercial development, transportation, environment and sustainability, open space and recreation, historic/cultural resources and community character, public facilities and services, future land use plan, and implementation.

There have been a number of changes in Somers since 1994, including new and proposed developments for the Baldwin Place/Route 6 corridor; the providing of affordable housing in mixed use developments; shifts in the regional office market; changes to the town’s tax district; and other land use and zoning issues.

There is concern by some that the town may not be addressing its needs, including such issues as housing, economic development, infrastructure, and the environment.

Councilman Richard Clinchy said he agreed that the town should be careful where it creates new infrastructure.

Resident Mike Hurson said he did not want overdevelopment in town in the future. Hurson said if the town sought to construct additional sewer systems to replace seeps of current properties that could encourage more development.

Councilman Richard Clinchy said he agreed that the town should be careful where it creates new infrastructure.

For many years, I have written as “The Home Guru” for this paper and online and, in interviewing experts on the real estate market and home improvement, I’ve learned a lot about my chosen field.

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Obituaries

Michael Rieger

Michael Henry Rieger, a resident of Mohagan Lake, died peacefully on March 11, in Harpersfield, NY. He was 58.

Born on August 26, 1956 in Tarrytown, to the late William H. and Gloria Metz Rieger, Mr. Rieger was a self-employed landscaper in Westchester and Putnam counties.

He loved the great outdoors, whether he was hiking in the mountains, or following abandoned railroad lines while searching for remnants of their existence. His real passion was riding his motorcycles. He also lovingly restored antique motorcycles and autos. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army in Germany during 1979-1980.

Of Ossining, died on March 10, in Willow Road, PA. He was 84.

He was born March 31, 1922 in Ossining. He was predeceased by his wife Stella (nee Wrublicski) whom he married on October 26, 1967, his sister Greta Crookston and brother Harvey Krameisen. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia Bryant, his sisters-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

Harold Krameisen

Harold Krameisen, a resident of Peekskill, died March 8 at the VA Home at Montrose in Montrose. He was 92.

He was born in Ossining on June 22, 1930 and was the son of the late Dominic and Jennie (Fasciani) Sylvestri. He owned Moe’s Corner Stationery Store in Peekskill for 30 years. He was a member of the American Legion and was a volunteer firefighter. He is survived by many nieces and nephews.

George Sylvestri

George D. Sylvestri, a former resident of Ossining, died on March 10, in Willow Park, PA. He was 84.

George was born in Ossining on June 22, 1930 and was the son of the late Donald and Jennie (Fasciani) Sylvestri. He was a graduate of Ossining High School class of 1948. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and a retired engineer with Harley Davidson in York, PA. He is survived by his wife Dolores (Skratt); his sons George and Paul; and six grandchildren.

Ronald Lyons

Ronald Luke Lyons, husband, father, popop, friend, coach, mentor and extraordinaire, died March 12.

He was born in Ossining, to Mary and Luke Lyons. He graduated from Croton Harmon H.S where he was an outstanding athlete, lettering in three sports and becoming a Confed winner, as well as an All County athlete. His record of four touchdowns in one game resulted in having his jersey #33 retired at Croton Harmon H.S.

Mr. Lyons graduated from Denver University. After graduating, he attended O.C.S. Academy at Quantico. He was proud to be a Marine. He went on to get his Master’s degree at Hunter College and his administrative degree from N.Y.U. He started his teaching and coaching career at John Jay H.S. in Katonah NY. His interaction with all students was exceptional. The late Marty Todd, put Ron at the helm of head coach for football and baseball there. His football and baseball records were above reproach. He was awarded Coach of the Year and was also inducted into the Westchester County Hall of Fame, as well as John Jay’s Hall of Fame. Ron loved all sports and followed all athletes on whatever teams they were on. He was especially touched by former students who sought his advice on and off the field. He mentored many and had deep respect and admiration for all of them.

When his grandchildren became involved in sports, he attended every cross country, field hockey, lacrosse, baseball, football, cheerleading and ta kwen do event for them. He even sat through the dance recitals of his granddaughters.

His faith sustained him in every aspect of his life. He was honest and sincere, generous, helpful, fair and always available to listen. He is survived by his devoted wife Joan (Sarcone) and their children, Dawn and Kenny Munoz, Ronnie and Sue Lyons, Karen and Michael Deutsch, and Alessandra and Rick Maxwell. His grandchildren Trevor, Kelsey, Molly, Luke III, Kate, Rachael, Bailey, Jordan, Royce, Joli, and Hattie Ava. Ron loved his grandchildren with a passion. He is also survived by his sister Joan Palmer, and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his beloved dog Webby.

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Editorial

Feds Premature Approval of Pipeline Expansion Smells Fishy

No one can blame local elected officials and residents for being up in arms over the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) recent rubberstamping of a controversial expansion of the Algonquin Pipeline Transmission line throughout the region.

While it’s not surprising that FERC gave Spectra Energy Corporation its blessing for the multi-billion dollar project, what is startling, and downright dumbfounding, is how it virtually ignored the multitude of legitimate concerns and fears that were presented at public hearings and in correspondences.

As angry Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi bluntly remarked, “It seems like it was a done deal” before anyone had the opportunity to speak out.

How can anyone conclude anything else that the fix was in since Spectra only submitted a voluminous Final Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion six weeks before FERC made its irresponsible decision public? There’s no way FERC could give Spectra’s answers to the litany of questions posed throughout the process the attention they needed in such a short time, and it appears FERC simply glossed over them.

In its 66-page decision, FERC literally finds no fault with any of Spectra’s plans, and bases its findings on answers provided by Spectra. So apparently the federal government has absolutely no problem with anything being proposed. Something smells fishy.

The construction alone that’s involved in replacing an existing 26-inch gas pipeline with a 42-inch pipe and increasing the gas pressure by 25% would seem to raise some eyebrows, one would think, but not according to FERC. This is a project that is slated to run from Stony Point, under the Hudson River, through Peekskill, Cortlandt, portions of Yorktown and into Southeast, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Then there’s the issue with the pipeline running near the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan, which also doesn’t seem to faze federal officials. Then again, with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission always standing by everything Entergy does with the power plants, and likely ready any time to grant the 30-year permit extension to run the plants, that should not shock anyone.

What’s particularly frustrating to area officials is the time, effort and money that has been dedicated to this issue, and for what? Equally disappointing is the ineffectiveness of Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D/ Westchester, Rockland) and U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D/NY), who are masters of the sound bites on many issues but let down their constituents in this case.

Since the federal government superseded municipalities, there may be little recourse for local officials, but that isn’t stopping some residents, who made their displeasure known to Spectra representatives in Yorktown last week with a die-in and opposing signs.

Fighting City Hall is never easy, and taking on the federal government is an even taller task, especially when no one is listening and only going through the motions. FERC should be ashamed of itself.
Police Blotter

State Police

March 5 - Troopers from the Wappinger barracks arrested Kent Wolfson, 33, of Yorktown, for grand larceny third degree and falsifying business records first degree, both felonies. The arrest stemmed from a complaint received by the New York State Department of Labor Special Investigation Division which claimed Wolfson unlawfully collected over $11,500 worth of unemployment insurance benefits between October 2012 and May 2013. False business records were allegedly generated by Wolfson when he certified weekly that he was totally unemployed when, in fact, he was gainfully employed. He was arraigned in Town of Wappinger Court.

March 6 - David Sutton, 23, of Cortlandt, was charged with theft of services following a complaint received from a New York City cab driver. The livery operator stated he provided Sutton a ride from John F. Kennedy International Airport to a Cortlandt address. Sutton avoided paying cab fare by exiting the cab, informing the driver that he was going to get payment but failed to return. He is due in Cortlandt Town Court March 20.

Michael Cunningham, 25, of Peekskill, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, aggravated unlicensed operation and unlawful possession of marijuana following a traffic stop in Dutchess County for failing to use a directional signal. As the vehicle came to a stop, Cunningham and the passenger of the 2003 BMW exited the car and fled on foot. Following a brief pursuit Cunningham was taken into custody and an investigation revealed he was in possession of cocaine and marijuana. The passenger was located on the banks of the Wappinger Creek by a police K9 but was not charged.

Darren Walker, 32, of Ossining, was charged with driving while intoxicated following a personal injury auto accident on the Sprain Brook Parkway. An investigation revealed Walker's vehicle struck the rear of another vehicle and fled the scene of the crash. A Good Samaritan followed Walker and alerted troopers. Occupants of the vehicle struck by Walker were transported to Westchester Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. He is due in Mount Pleasant Court March 19.

March 7 - Kenneth Miller, 27, of Peekskill, was charged with criminal contempt and criminal obstruction of breathing following a March 6 report of a physical domestic incident at a Cortlandt residence. An investigation revealed Miller choked a victim following a verbal dispute and violated an active court order of protection. He was arraigned in Town of Cortlandt Court and remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of $10,000 cash bail.

March 8 - Christian Eynon, Sr., 40, of Yorktown, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminally using drug paraphernalia and criminal possession of a weapon after troopers conducted a welfare check of an individual sleeping in a vehicle at the Shell gas station on Route 202. Eynon was found to be in possession of cocaine and a black jack weapon. He was arraigned in Cortlandt Town Court.

March 9 - Michael Savino, 30, of Putnam Valley, was charged with driving while intoxicated after troopers conducted a welfare check on a vehicle stopped in the right lane of the Sprain Brook Parkway.

Yorktown Police

March 7 - 11:30 p.m. – Edgar Lavado, 23, of Peekskill, was charged with driving while intoxicated after troopers conducted a suspended driver's license after being stopped for speeding on Route 202. He posted $250 bail and is due in Yorktown Town Court April 7.

March 8 - 5:29 a.m. – Henry Novillo, 36, of Mount Kisco, was charged with driving while intoxicated following a car accident on Pinesbridge Road. Upon arrival a police officer found a vehicle had gone off the roadway and struck a snow embankment. A chemical test determined Novillo was driving under the influence. He posted $100 bail and is due in Yorktown Town Court April 9.

March 10 - 5:30 p.m. – Nicholas DiMargo, 25, of Yorktown, was charged with stealing an iPad from a female victim following a domestic incident complaint at the Triangle Shopping Center. He was released on $500 cash bail and is due in Yorktown Town Court March 24.

6:20 p.m. – Anna Pettersen, 36, of Poughquag, NY, was charged with criminal possession of a forged instrument. On September 26, 2014, an officer was sent to Ceola Manor in Jefferson Valley on a report of fraud. An investigation revealed Pettersen, a former employee, provided an allegedly forged document to her employer with alleged forged signatures and a raised seal alleged to be from a judicial district court on September 17. She was arrested at Yorktown Justice Court where she was appearing on an unrelated matter. She was arraigned by Justice Sal Lagonia and ordered to be held in Westchester County Jail without bail.

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LIU Hudson supports successful workforce entry and advancement through, for example: Chamber of Commerce Scholarships for MBA students (members of the Mahopac/Carmel Chamber of Commerce or the chambers of Orange County, New Rochelle, Yonkers, and Mahwah, NJ); through grants for students in the MPA, MBA, or Mental Health Counseling program who are employed by a not-for-profit organization in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Fairfield, Bronx, Bergen or Orange counties; and grants for students pursuing the MS. Ed. in Teaching.

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Contact LIU Hudson in Westchester: 914-831-2700 or westchester@liu.edu or LIU Hudson in Rockland: 845-450-5414 or rockland@liu.edu.

Learn more at liu.edu/hudson

A Competition Carting employee is loaded into an ambulance after injuring his left shoulder Monday at about 10:15 a.m. when a dumpster behind the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center nearly fell on him as it was being lifted into a garbage truck. Tyrrell Carver avoided serious injury when a fence blocked the dumpster from landing on him.
Open Door Provides Services for Students at Ossining High

By Rick Pezzullo

Students or faculty not feeling well at Ossining High School don’t have to worry about getting an appointment to see a doctor. Medical care is available right in their hallway.

Since early January, Open Door Family Medical Center has been running a school-based health center in the school at no cost to students.

“It’s going great. We’re really excited to have it,” said Principal Joshua Mandel. “I see nothing but positives. To me, there’s no downside to it. So far so good. The feedback we have gotten is fantastic.”

The concept of having Open Door located on school grounds was mentioned in a long range plan a few years ago. A committee of students and teachers was formed and the Board of Education approved it. Once space opened up as part of renovations at the school, Open Door set up shop in the former office of the school nurse.

The school nurse can now refer students to Open Door, which has a nurse practitioner and a medical assistant on site Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. equipped to diagnose and treat illnesses. In the past, sick students would have to be sent home to a guardian to seek care elsewhere.

Of the 1,400 students enrolled at Ossining High, 149 have already enrolled with the necessary paperwork to be able to be seen at Open Door.

“We need a little time to get up to full speed,” Mandel said. “To me I’ve always felt word of mouth is how we will get more people. We’ll see a huge spike in the fall. I think we’ll just get more and more.”

Open Door has a proven record of success operating such a program having been in Port Chester High School since 2005. Open Door President and CEO Lindsay Farrell said having a health center in a school setting improves school attendance and promotes a culture of wellness.

“We’re fulfilling our mission which is being highly accessible,” Farrell said. “It’s a great model. It’s good for everyone.”

Open Door Family Nurse Practitioner Sophia Worth said the center has been busy performing physicals for athletes in spring sports.

“It makes it so much easier for us to get the physicals done,” Mandel said. “Health teachers are talking about it and how it fits into the community. It just enriches what we are providing our students.”

Open Door Provides Services for Students at Ossining High

Ossining High
Principal
Joshua Mandel,
Open Door
Family Nurse
Practitioner
Sophia Worth
and Open Door
President and
CEO Lindsay
Farrell in school-
based health
center.

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Mohansic Grill and Lounge

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The Village of Ossining is seeking a qualified developer to collaborate with the village in the renovation and re-use of a National Register-listed historic building located at the intersection of Main Street and Route 9. A request for proposals has been issued for the village-owned property at 200 Main Street, architecturally significant as one of the best-preserved examples of Beaux Arts architecture in Westchester County.

Located in Ossining’s Downtown Historic District, 200 Main Street sits on a parcel totaling approximately 6,100 square feet and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building, which has two stories and a basement, was constructed in 1908 in the Beaux-Arts style to serve as the headquarters of the Ossining Bank for Savings. It functioned in that capacity until the bank’s closure in 1983. In 2003, 200 Main Street was donated to the Village of Ossining. The structure is currently vacant and is approximately 5,200 square feet, excluding the basement.

“200 Main Street is the gateway to our downtown. The business or organization that breathes life into the historic Ossining Bank for Savings will be a powerful element in our vision for growing our vibrant local economy,” said Village of Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity. “We on the Village Board are very excited about the potential for redeveloping this property. It is a key element in our vision for growing our vibrant local economy.”

The village seeks to partner with a developer that has a good track record, sound financial backing, and commitment to implementing creative, quality development in a timely manner. The village is willing to consider a private venture or a public/private partnership to provide a dynamic use for residents and visitors alike. The complete RFP for the property is available online at www.villagefossining.org/economic-development. Responses are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015.

Nestled along the Hudson River, Ossining is a culturally diverse and affordable place to live, rich in both history and natural beauty. Approximately 25,600 people reside in the three and one half square miles of this historic Village, with an additional 15,000 in the immediate suburbs. Ossining boasts extensive shopping, dining, recreational programs, educational enrichment opportunities, and excellent municipal services.

In 2012, the Village of Ossining set forth economic development strategic objectives that laid a strong foundation for economic development growth in the village. The strategic objectives include increasing the buying power in and around our downtown area through approval of new market rate residential units, improved and enhanced pedestrian and traffic circulation, and finally increased beautification efforts of our downtown area to promote the Village of Ossining as welcoming community.

“The village has invested time and capital in the redevelopment of Downtown Ossining,” said Ingrid Richards, manager of downtown and economic development. “Over the past few years there has been what some would call an economic boom in the Village of Ossining. This boom will no doubt lead to a successful venture at the 200 Main Building.”

The Village of Ossining is particularly attractive for young professionals and empty nesters looking for a combination of affordable living, waterfront views, and convenience with easy access to mass transit and New York City a mere 45 minutes away. Families can establish roots with an award-winning school system, close proximity to a variety of employment opportunities, and reasonable property taxes.

“Ossining is arguably the highest return on investment in Westchester for business owners and residents alike,” said Richards. “We are focused on equitable community development and strive to create a sustainable foundation for retail business and a local marketplace.”

For more information or to schedule a walk through of the 200 Main Street property, contact Ingrid Richards, manager of downtown and economic development, at irichards@villagefossining.org or 914-941-3554.
Le Fontane Ristorante
Somers

By Neal Rentz

Somers residents Antonio and Alfredo Abbate were already fixtures in the local restaurant scene when they opened Le Fontane Ristorante in Somers in 1991.

The siblings had already owned The Blue Dolphin in Katonah. “We were busy and one day this (building) was vacant and we took over,” Antonio Abbate recalled last week.

The 100-seat restaurant specializes in serving seafood, as well as fresh vegetables, which are purchased daily, Abbate said. Many of the fish offerings, including sole, are cooked with their bones. Swordfish is offered in the summer.

While Abbate said seafood is featured in many of the restaurant’s signature dishes, another popular item is the 100 percent grass fed Angus steak. Le Fontane also offers such dishes as pasta, rabbit and veal.

Patrons can also choose from daily specials. “All the specials are based on the season,” Abbate said. Le Fontane stresses the purchase of local foods. “To be fresh you’ve got to be local,” he remarked.

The co-owners strive do something different every day, Abbate said. “Every day we start with some new idea,” he said.

The brothers are also part of the group that owns the Bacio Trattoria in Cross River.

Le Fontane Ristorante is located at 137 Somers Town Road, at the corner of Routes 100 and 139 in Somers. The restaurant is open daily except Mondays. For more information call 914-232-9619, visit http://lefontane.net or send an e-mail

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Chef Kalandranis to Open Two Mediterranean Restaurants in County

By Jerry Eimbinder

Westchester County will soon have two new restaurants serving Mediterranean-inspired food. An early April 2015 “soft” opening is expected for “273 Kitchen” (30 seats) in Harrison and a June 2015 opening is projected for “251 Lex” (100 seats) in Mount Kisco.

The same four-person, executive team currently operating “8 North Broadway” in Nyack will launch the two new eateries — comprising this group are Chef/Owner Constantine Kalandranis, Executive Chef Hichem Habbas, General Manager/Sommelier Richard Mitchell, and Co-General Manager Louis Cea.

The menus at the three restaurants have some similarities but a number of differences as well.

At Harrison’s 273 Kitchen, almost the entire menu will be devoted to small plates with an emphasis at the raw bar on oysters. Wine and beer will be served but not other alcoholic beverages and the restaurant will have an open kitchen. “An open kitchen creates a sense of intimacy and play; it heightens the entire dining experience,” remarked Kalandranis.

At Mount Kisco’s 251 Lex, a more extensive menu than the one available at the 65-seat 8 North Broadway will be available. But like the Nyack restaurant, it will have a full-service bar. The restaurant has two floors with dining primarily on the second floor — a bar menu will be offered at the first-floor bar.

“The menu at 251 Lex will change only every couple of months or so, whereas the menu at 8 North Broadway changes daily,” noted Kalandranis.

251 Lex will introduce whole roasted-animal service for individual guests with the type of animal changing from day to day. At most restaurants where this type of service is provided, a group participation is usually required. The restaurant will also have outdoor seating, weather permitting, on the same patio where the spit roast will be cooked and carved.

Kalandranis said, “The animal could be lamb one day and pig or a whole side of beef the next. On a day when its lamb, we could serve lamb soup and seasonal dips as well as carved roast lamb with lemon and oil.”

The signature dish at the restaurants will be sizzling octopus, served seven days a week as either an appetizer or as an entree.

An a la carte Sunday brunch with a different menu each week is in effect at the Nyack location; all three restaurants will serve brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Live jazz is planned for the Mount Kisco location on Sundays beginning at 4:30 p.m. on a starting date to be announced.

Kalandranis explained why all three restaurants have their addresses in their names. “We want patrons to feel they are walking into the dining room of a friend’s home in their neighborhood — an unpretentious, comfortable place to enjoy great wine, fresh seafood and seasonal preparations,” said Kalandranis.

Before opening 8 North Broadway, Kalandranis cooked at two Manhattan restaurants owned by Michael Psilakis and he was the Executive Chef and a member of the opening team for “exo,” a Mediterranean restaurant in Whitestone, NY. Kalandranis, his wife Johna, and two-year-old daughter Isla live in Mount Kisco. An addition to the family is expected shortly.

Born and raised in Algeria, Habbas worked with Kalandranis at Athnos and exo before starting 8 North Broadway; Mitchell left the financial industry to become Assistant General Manager at The Stonebridge Restaurant and also was formerly at exo. Cea was born into an Italian family living in The Bronx and working in the restaurant business. His father and uncle started Faille’s Pine Tree Inn in the 1940s and he later was part of a second generation to helm the restaurant.

A sight-seeing attraction at 8 North Broadway is its unusual copper bar. On Tuesdays, selected wine by the bottle is offered at half-price and on Wednesdays, oysters cost $1 from 5 to 10 p.m.

251 Lex will move into the space formerly occupied in Mount Kisco by the Flying Pig on Lexington. 273 Kitchen will be located at 273 Halstead Avenue in Harrison, near the Metro-North train station. 8 North Broadway is located in a building more than 100 years old at 8 North Broadway in Nyack, 845-335-1200.
Peekskill Marks St. Patrick’s Day with Annual Parade

PHOTOS BY KRISTEN MARQUES

Former grand marshals Vincent Vesce, Rev. James Gardiner, Joselle Cunance and Dr. John McGurty Jr., Upper left.
A youngster gets a good view of festivities, upper right.
Troop 2268 Scouts march, middle left.
Grand Marshal Kathy McGurty, middle right.
Pipe Major Joe Brady and Fighting 69th Color Guard, lower left.
Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce was represented, lower right.
The Wines Consumed by Christians From Ancient to Modern Times

Last week, I attempted to follow the history and antecedent practices leading to today’s Christian celebration of the Eucharist, the celebration of Christ’s Last Supper. In this week’s column I address the two questions left unanswered: 1) What wine did Christ likely consume during his life on earth and 2) what type of wine do we consume at mass in the 21st century?

Christ’s wine? The four gospel writers don’t mention a specific varietal, or variety or producer. That is not unusual. In all likelihood, it was the house wine that was served in that upper dining room as Christ and his disciples reclined at table – Christ’s last supper. Fast forward to today’s restaurant dining experiences. Do you remember the wine served to you the last time you ordered “a carafe of the house red?” Wine was a natural accompaniment in Christ’s time, not a separate course.

There were a number of grape varietals growing in the Middle East in Christ’s time. The Greeks and Romans had occupied these lands for centuries, introducing their culture and traditions to the local populace. They planted grapes locally for winemaking and imported finished wines from their vast domains for local consumption.

Archeological discoveries in the Middle East in the last two years may hold the secret of grapes grown in Christ’s time. Remnants of winery, wine-stained vessels and 1,500 year-old seeds are being analyzed to unlock their DNA.

So what wine did Jesus drink? There is no documented proof of a particular grape, but speculation is boundless. Several researchers have posited that it was likely a grape with origins in ancient Greece – and which was transplanted to the fields around the region of Judah where Jesus lived. It is the Assyrtiko grape, a red grape still cultivated in Greece today. Yet speculation should not blur our focus on the symbolism of partaking of sacramental wine, rather than its oenological DNA.

The 21st century offerings at masses bear little resemblance to ancient wines. Across the globe, modern wines are of higher quality, with more discerning taste and aroma profiles.

Except in church. For Catholics, the prescripts for the production of sacramental wines are codified in the Code of Canon Law. Published in 1983, it dictates that the wine for the Eucharist must be natural and pure, from the fruit of the vine, and not corrupt . . . to which a small quantity of water is to be added (my paraphrasing).

What is served might be termed “ecumenical wine.” No particular grape is specified. The grape may differ in each locale across the globe, but the essence and spirit of the wine is the same.

Here in the United States, two wine companies supply over 80% of “sacramental wine” (made in accord with the Code of Canon Law) to churches. They offer a number of choices, yet names printed on the bottle labels tend to be more brand-related than varietal. Names such as Tokay, Burgundy and Port are generic descriptors not alluding to the contents, which are rarely disclosed.

There are three basic categories: dry, light and sweet (the latter being the most prevalent). These wines typically are a proprietary blend of California grapes that result in a red, or orange, or yellow, or amber, or brown or pink wine. The most widely grown blending grapes are Chenin Blanc, French Colombard, Char donnay, Petit Syrah, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon – and in many instances an underpinning of Thomson seedless grapes. Many are fortified with natural brandy or alcohol (as a preservative); the limit mandated for alcohol content is 18%. They typically are screw-cap bottles costing under $7 per bottle, but don’t look for them in your local wine shop; they’re generally sold only to churches. Christians seeking the certainty of consuming a natural, organic wine with no additives and a long history of ancient practices and symbolic legacy need look no further than their local church. One caveat: Whether it meets your personal preferences and taste should not be a criterion.

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.

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Filtering Natural Light at Home to Create or Fit Your Mood

You might expect that a column about window shades and blinds would be somewhat ordinary and, honestly, when I set out with the assignment, that’s what I thought I’d deliver to you.

But, that’s before I got to know Anthony Viverito, owner of Niles Floors & Blinds in Mohegan Lake, a virtual sunburst of a personality who led me on an adventure of education that went far beyond achieving privacy or blocking light through your windows.

I walked into his store as a recent convert to “naked windows” in my new condo, having spent all my years in historic homes with windows heavily draped with side panels or swags and jabots or both, and sheers in between.

“I want to breathe free and see forever from my big new windows from my fifth-floor perch,” my wife told me.

So far, our windows are completely unadorned. We undress for bed with confidence, unlike our last home where we had less privacy from the road below.

So a column about the art of window dressing was going to be for “other people,” not me. But once under the spell of Viverito’s tutelage and the influence of some amazing new products from Hunter Douglas, displayed gorgeously as the main focus of Viverito’s showroom, I caved with nary a whimper. I learned in short order that the function of dressing your windows can address such practical matters as better insulating your home, as well as subtle and psychological issues, including filtering your perception of the outside world and even altering your environment to suit or change your mood.

Yes, of course, I thought. If I’m spending effort and money for artificial lighting in my new pad, why don’t I think about the control of natural light as well? For instance, while our bedroom in our former home faced north, there was no problem with the rising sun. Now that our bedroom faces east, the rising winter sun hits us square in the eye, awakening us in our room.

“Viverito beamed. He pressed a button and the blinds to his store window opened fully and the sunlight streamed in. Then he adjusted them to different levels, commenting on the subtle difference in light with each setting.

“It’s amazing the technology that Hunter Douglas has put into its products,” he continued as he walked me through his highly styled showroom. “Not only in terms of materials but automation.”

“You mean, I can operate shades and blinds now by just pushing a button like my TV remote?” I asked?

“Right,” he said. “Or, from a special app with settings called ‘Good Morning’ or ‘Good Night’ that adjusts your blinds or shades just as you want them without getting out of bed.”

Great, I thought, another reason for me to not get off my butt.

Viverito also pointed out that the blinds industry is heading toward cordless technology as a child safety factor. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, chords on blinds are on the commission’s list of the top five “hidden hazards” in the home.

Next, we moved on to the wide range of materials and colors now available in window fashions, and the broad selection of opacities that offer varying degrees of privacy and light control. What surprised me most was learning that sheer and opaque serve a much more important function than just looking pretty; they provide ultraviolet protection to help counter the harmful effects of sunlight. So, who knew?

Viverito also pointed out that with as much as half of a home’s heating and cooling energy lost through windows, shades can provide varying levels of insulation as well.

Now I ask you, with all the fresh takes, creative ideas and smart solutions for dressing windows that Viverito puts forth through his line of Hunter Douglas products, who would want to have their windows go naked? Is this me talking?

You can consult personally with this encyclopedic source of information at Niles Floors & Blinds, 1821 E. Main St. (Route 6) in Mohegan Lake. For more information, call 914-737-6780 or visit www.NilesFloorsandBlinds.com.

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). His real estate site is: www.Primagiller.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Beatles Fest Coming to Rye’s Hilton Westchester This Weekend

Beatlemania will be coming to Westchester County in a big way. Fifty years since the British music invasion, “The Fest for Beatles Fans” (originally known as Beatlesfest), one of the largest gatherings of Beatles enthusiasts in the nation, will be held at the Hilton Westchester in Rye Brook.

The Fest, expected to attract more than 5,000 fans, will be held Friday, March 20 to Sunday, March 22. This year celebrates 50 years since the peak of Beatlemania in the United States, a time when their influence forever changed the landscape of rock concerts in stadium settings and popular music in general.

“The Beatles’ popularity has never faded and we’re thrilled to host this major celebration of the iconic band here in Westchester County,” said County Executive Rob Astorino. “Since 1974, the convention has appealed to young audiences and longtime fans of the well-known rock band.”

“We are very pleased to be hosting The Fest for Beatles Fans,” said Jeffrey Farina, director of sales and marketing at the Hilton Westchester. “We think we have the perfect venue for this three-day multifaceted event.”

Westchester’s largest business organization also adds the event is coming to the county.

“Westchester County is an ideal destination for this fab festival for Beatles fans,” said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester. “And the timing couldn’t be better. Fifty years ago this year, Beatlemania was at its peak and in August The Beatles held the Shea Stadium concert that set a new standard for the rock era when they played to a then-record crowd of some 55,000. It’s a true testimony to their greatness that thousands of people from the New York metropolitan area continue to enjoy their music and culture at festivals like this one. We couldn’t be happier to welcome ‘The Fest for Beatles Fans’ to Westchester.”

Numerous guests and an eclectic group of musicians, all of whom have performed with different members of the group, will make appearances at the convention, including multimillion-selling recording artist Gary Wright, who played keyboards on George Harrison’s “All Things Must Pass” album and Ringo Starr’s early ‘70s solo hits; Laurence Juber, lead guitarist for Paul McCartney’s band Wings; and Grammy-winning producer Russ Titelman, who produced Harrison’s self-titled album in 1979, as well as albums by Steve Winwood, James Taylor and Eric Clapton. Also attending will be “Newlywed Game” host Bob Eubanks.


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Putnam Hospital Center March 12th and April 9th at 5:00 PM

Vassar Brothers Medical Center seminars
March 23rd and April 15th at 6:00 PM

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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Cook in a pan
2 Wind up
7 Dynamite
10 Hawaiian necklace
11 Morse character
12 Int’l workers’ grp.
13 Egyptian threat
14 Rite answer?
15 Madhouse
16 Google Earth feature
17 Potential juror
19 A python hit by lightning or Putnam County sewer and drain service (goes with 27 down)
21 Japanese food fish
22 Electric guitar need
25 Natural and all good
27 See 19 across
28 Olive flycatcher
29 ‘The Apprentice’ VIP
30 Painkiller
33 “Jingle Bells” contraction
34 Star Wars jedi
35 Hem and __ (stay undecided)
36 Cross-shaped Greek letter
38 Turner of “Proud Mary” fame
39 Any doctrine
40 Supped
41 Calm side
42 Prized mushroom

DOWN
1 Hearthrob
2 Flea market deal
3 “Hooray!”
4 It’s handed down
5 Lowest point
6 Hindu men’s wear
7 Effervescence
8 Hand cream ingredient
9 Godsend
10 World flying association
11 Morse character
12 Int’l workers’ grp.
13 Egyptian threat
14 Rite answer?
15 Madhouse
16 Google Earth feature
17 Potential juror
19 A python hit by lightning or Putnam County sewer and drain service (goes with 27 down)
21 Japanese food fish
22 Electric guitar need
25 Natural and all good
30 Painkiller
33 “Jingle Bells” contraction
34 Star Wars jedi
35 Hem and __ (stay undecided)
36 Cross-shaped Greek letter
38 Turner of “Proud Mary” fame
39 Any doctrine
40 Supped
41 Calm side
42 Prized mushroom

Solution on page 20
Tuesday, March 17
Free Medicare Counseling: Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/.

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 Peekskill Hollow Road (Adams Corners).

Senior Benefits Information: Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic.

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

Wednesday, March 18
Fitness Program The POUND™ Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and strength class session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses is offered at The Ace Center, 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914-960-4097.

Torah Studies Course: Chabad of Yorktown is conducting a season two course (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).

Friday, March 20
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 914-2416 Ext. 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.

Beekeeping 101: How to Get Started with Bees & Create a Pollinator Friendly Garden will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Grange, 99 Roseman Rd., Yorktown. The suggested donation is $10 per family. This workshop is suited for beekeepers, gardeners, and anyone interested in the supporting honeybees.

Historical Society Program: On The Street Where You Live is the theme of a talk to be presented by Peakskill author and historian John Curran at 2 p.m. at The Little Red Schoolhouse, 297 Locust Ave., Cortlandt Manor. Sponsored by the Yorktown Historical Society, the free program is open to the public. Curran’s talk will focus on his new book—‘The History of Peakskill, New York Street Names’—which he has co-authored with fellow Peakskill native and author John Morabito. The Schoolhouse is located next to Old Saint Peter’s Church and cemetery at the north end of Locust Avenue, just south of Oregon Road. For more information, visit www.yorcktown.org or call 914-736-7686.

Zumba Fundraiser: If you’re looking to have a fun night out with friends filled with Zumba, games, raffles, 50/50 & more, then join us for our Ay Cure-Rumba Zumba fundraising event from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Intrigue Dance & Fitness, 1950 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. All money raised will be donated to Relay For Life of Yorktown. Admission is $15 per person and adult women and men are welcome. To guarantee your reservation, visit www.rockforrelay.com. Walk ins will be welcome if space is available.

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, Bercea, Brenner, Brickley, Edmier, Feuerman, Guthel, Hacker, Indiana, LeDray, Majic, Mapplthorpe, Neshat, Newsom, Otterson, Ozbolt, Pretzer, Ritterpusch, Ruchhabler, Sadler, Tomaula, and Wathen. Free docent tours will be offered every Saturday in March from 2 to 3 p.m. for HVCCA members only. Each tour will feature different works. Membership is $25 for an individual, $40 for two people and $60 for a family. Info: 914-788-0100 or www.hvcca.org. HVCCA is also on Facebook.

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 800-352-4290.

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 DownToEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining’s Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

Overeaters Anony¬mous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anony¬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, March 22
Words & Music: James Maddock will take the stage as the Ossining Library Foundation’s Words & Music Concert Series presented by TD Bank opens its spring concert season at 2 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. The Words & Music series brings well known singer-songwriters and recording artists to the Library’s 200-seat Budraz Theater for free Sunday afternoon concerts. A door open at 1:30 p.m. and seating is on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 914-941-2416 Ext. 327 or visit http://ossininglibrary.org.

Easter Bunny Breakfast: The Yorktown Lions and American Legion are holding Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Yorktown American Legion, 235 Veterans Rd. Seating will be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. The fees are $10 for children 12 and older, $7 for youngsters between the ages of 2 and 12 and free for those under the age of 2. To make a reservation call Maria Marks at 914-488-4185 or send an e-mail to yorktownlionsevents@gmail.com.

School Open House: Lil’ Sprouts Early Learning Center, a state-certified, non-sectarian nursery school and day care provider that welcomes children from 18 months to four years old, will hold an open house from 10 a.m. until noon (and is always available by appointment). The center is located inside the First Hebrew building at 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of the Beach Shopping Center. Info: 914-739-6504.

Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is $15. Info: Elisia Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to info@laughingheartsyoga.com.
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A childless young married couple, hands on mom/ devoted dad (she-31/ he-37) seeks to adopt. Financial security, expenses paid. Call/text Mary & Adam 1-800-790-5260

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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the “District”) that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following propositions:

PROPOSITION #1
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct additions to and reconstruct various District buildings and facilities, including infrastructure and site work improvements, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, at a maximum cost of $34,920,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $34,920,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION #2
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct an addition to and reconstruct the auditorium and related music rooms, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose, at a maximum cost of $4,996,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $4,996,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION #3
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct a new access road between the District campus and construction of grass athletic fields, at a maximum cost of $2,685,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $2,685,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such propositions shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the principal place of voting or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots. Personal registration of voters is required, and no person shall vote whose name does not appear on the regist- er of the District. If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he or she is eligible to vote at this meeting. If a vot- er is registered and eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he or she is also eligible to vote at this meeting. All other persons who wish to vote must reg- ister. Any person who may register to vote not less than five (5) days preceding the vote may register to vote at the office of the District Clerk, 825 West Lake Drive, Thornwood, New York. The regis- ter prepared by the Board of Registration shall be filed in the office of the District Clerk, 825 West Lake Drive, Thornwood, New York and will be open for inspec- tion immediately upon its completion by any qualified voter of the District from during regular school hours on each of the five days prior to the vote, except for Sunday, March 22, 2015. Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on or prior to March 23, 2015, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2015. A list of all per- sons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk on each business day during hours for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his challenge and reasons therefor known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2015
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The two-time defending NYS champion Ossining High girls’ basketball team, including point guard Steph Svoboda (above) and the hugging Strippoli sisters -- Madison & Jaida (inset) -- advanced to the NYS Class AA Final 4 after the state-ranked (No.1) Pride (21-2) rolled to a 74-51 Region 1 championship win over Section 4 champion Horseheads last Friday night at Marist College. Ossining beat Horseheads, 69-52, last year after posting a 69-49 win over the Raiders in the 2013 state tournament and will head back to the Final 4 to face Section 2’s Bethlehem at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy on March 20th at 8:00 p.m... see Girls Hoops’ Notebook
Ossining Back at Troy to Defend NYS Class AA Title
Haldane Nipped in Overtime by Pine Plains

By Tony Pinciaro & Ray Gallagher

Ossining’s Abby Squirrell was a freshman when she made her first trip to the New York State Girls Basketball Championship Final Four as a fan. “It was a great environment,” said the current senior and starter. “It looked like the whole community was there because there were so many people supporting the team. I knew then this was somewhere I wanted to be.”

Cicero-North Syracuse shocked Ossining that day in March 2013, but that was the last Pride loss in the state final four. In her sophomore year, Squirrell was a member of the 2014 state-title team and last year, added her second consecutive state championship, along with fellow seniors Jalay Knowles and Stef Svboda and junior sniper Shadeen Samuels.

Squirrell and her senior classmates will be going for the hat trick this weekend at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy after Ossining crushed Section 4 champion, Horseheads, 74-51.

Ossining will face Bethlehem Central (Section 2) in one Class AA semifinal, 8 p.m., preceded by the other semi of Commack (Section 11) --Rush-Henrietta (Section 5) on Friday. The semifinal winners play for the title Saturday, 8:45 p.m.

“Sophomore year was a great experience to win it with the seniors that year,” Squirrell said. “I was happy to take part in it.

“Winning it last year was special because I did it with the girls I’ve been playing basketball with all my life. It was also special because going into the season, no one expected us to get to the state final four, let alone win it after losing Saniya (Chong) and Danielle (Gervasio). We wanted to prove everyone wrong.”

Ossining advanced despite a season-low nine points from Knowles. However, Squirrell said Horseheads focused its defense on stopping Knowles, so Samuels responded with a game-high 26 points and Svboda attacked for 18 from the point.

“Shadeen stepped up for us and we had a lot of players come off the bench and play really well,” Squirrell said. “Jenna (Lividini) hit some big shots in the first half and then Stefanie (Svoboda) hit some big shots in the second half.”

Squirrell and Madison Strippoli were the defensive stoppers on Horseheads’ pivot player, Amanda Schiefen.

“Madison and I drew the assignment of their post player, Amanda (Schiefen),” Squirrell said. “All week in practice I focused on not allowing her (Schiefen) to go to her left and take over the game.”

Squirrell and her teammates began preparing for Bethlehem Central, Sunday as Ossining Coach Dan Ricci – a six-time Section 1 champion -- distributed video of the Pride’s next opponent. Squirrell was intently studying the video of the girl she will guard.

“Bethlehem Central have two sisters who are really good,” said Squirrell of Jenna and Gabby Giacone. “I will be guarding Gabby. While I was watching the film I was looking to see what she does

Ossining’s Abby Squirrell grabs rebound in Region 1 championship win over Horseheads.
Andrew Sofroniou and the Lakeland D did some serious snot-knocking in win over Jay ranked (No.21) John Jay club that entered of the season, Lakeland (3-2) chalked up a another weekend of upsets; none bigger than to win in order to qualify for the post season weekly upset or two.

Examiner Sports Editor
By Ray Gallagher

Panas, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown on Cusp of Playoff Contention

Haldane’s Allie Monteleone goes up for two in Blue Devils’ season-ending loss to Pine Plains last Tuesday at Mt. St. Mary College.

and what her tendencies are.”
Squirrel is hoping to make her final trip to the state final four a memorable one for her and her classmates.

“We definitely want to finish this season on a good note,” Squirrel said. “We’ve all worked so hard and we want to give back to the community and Coach Ricci, as well, because he has put so much into this program.”

Ricci expects the competition to be stiff, especially the semifinal game where the Pride’s side of the bracket is loaded. State-ranked Bethlehem (No.16) is every bit as good as Comack (No.15) and undefeated Rush Henrietta (No.5).

“The fact that Bethlehem is 10 minutes up the road from where we’re playing means their whole town will be out in force,” Ricci said. “They are going to pack the place and they have the two sisters who are very good players. We usually travel well as a program, so we’re hoping to get the support we need to counter what they’re going to bring.

From a player’s standpoint, I think our two best players will cancel out their two best players, but I like the rest of my team better than theirs,” Ricci added. “If they try to come in and shut down Jalay, Shadeen will take it personally just like she did against Horseheads. We saw the articles written up there and she wasn’t even mentioned. I showed that to her and she reminded them. She played fantastic. I thought Madison really played well defensively;

Haldane’s Allie Monteleone reacts after fouling out in Blue Devils’ season-ending loss to Pine Plains last Tuesday at Mt. St. Mary College.

Haldane’s Marissa Lisikatos drive lane in Blue Devils’ season-ending loss to Pine Plains last Tuesday at Mt. St. Mary College.

Haldane’s Abbey Stowell goes up for two in Blue Devils’ season-ending loss to Pine Plains last Tuesday at Mt. St. Mary College.

Haldane’s Alison Chiera drives baseline in Blue Devils’ season-ending loss to Pine Plains last Tuesday at Mt. St. Mary College.

Steph just plays bigger and the games get bigger, and Jenna Lividini came off the bench to really spark us with three 3’s. The whole team showed heart and hustle. We played Ossining basketball.”

And that has worked out quite swimmingly for the reigning two-time NYS champions to date.

HALDANE had its road to the final four derailed by Pine Plains, 59-58 in overtime.
State-ranked (No.11) Haldane had beaten No.7 Pine Plains during the regular season.

Blue Devil senior Allie Monteleone forced overtime with a running one-hander at the buzzer, but she fouled out early in overtime, and with her went Haldane’s chances of advancing. Without their All-NYS guard running the show, and her kid sister, Hannah, already having fouled out, Haldane (12-8) was running on fumes in overtime.

“It felt like forever,” a distraught Monteleone told reporters as she fought back tears. “It is hard being a senior and sitting out the last minutes of your last game. The game was a roller-coaster full of emotions.”

Allie Monteleone had nailed a game-high 24 points and G Marissa Lisikatos had dropped 15 as Haldane was seemingly in control throughout three quarters and then some, but the Bombers (14-7) erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter, then nailed the game-winning 3-pointer with 12.3 seconds left in overtime, a swish from Brooke Hapeman. She also stole the inbound pass to seal the deal.

Despite the loss, Haldane was the Section 1 Class C champion for the second consecutive year and third time in the last five years. The Lady Blue Devils will graduate only Monteleone, who will attend Pace University next fall and play basketball, but a young, returning core will have Haldane ready for the challenge of defending its title.
Haldane Going Back to NYS Final 4 for 1st Time Since 2001
Blue Devils Take Region 1 Title in Win over Stony Brook, Lake George Next

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

The state-ranked (No.9) Haldane Blue Devils advanced to the NYSPHSAA Final 4 for the first time since 2001 when they held off Section 11 champion Stony Brook, 39-32, last Friday on Long Island at Suffolk County Community College to earn a berth in this Friday's Class C semifinals at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Region 1 champion Haldane (18-4) will play against Section 2 champion Lake George at 5 p.m. after its most improbable win of the season. If Haldane wins Friday's semifinals, it will play for its first state title on Saturday night at 7:15 p.m., seeking the only state title in any boys' sport.

The Blue Devils led by as many as 19 in the third quarter against Stony Brook, despite their All-Section senior Peter Hoffmann scoring just five points in the game, 17 points below his scoring average. With Hoffmann shackled by an array of defenses designed to stop him, Haldane senior G Ryan McCollum paved the way with a post-season-high 10 points. The kid has never shied away from the moment and he was ready to be the hero when needed against Stony Brook.

"It felt great to play a big role offensively in a game like that, but I don't consider myself the hero," McCollum said. "We play a very balanced game offensively, as a team, and we had another very strong game defensively with many guys stepping up in big spots to help us earn our spot in the final four. It was a great team effort from our players and coaches in a big game, especially with two of our big men out for the game."

Senior F Edmund Fitzgerald finished with eight points while Tucker Beachak and Will Zuvic had seven points apiece off the bench for the Blue Devils, who played major minutes without Garret Quigley (ankle injury), who brought the house down with a late, game-sealing flush against Section 9's Chester last Tuesday during the Blue Devils' 44-34 opening-round win. Chester had won at Haldane, 63-62, on Jan. 23, but the Blue Devils' defense is now a vastly improved facet of their game. Hoffmann took control in the third quarter, draining nine of his game-high 19 points before fouling out late in the fourth quarter.

Haldane led 35-30 when the Hamilton-bound Hoffmann fouled out, but Fitzgerald went 4 for 4 from the free throw line down the stretch, while Zuvic hit a clutch hoop. Hoffmann said there was never any doubt his teammates would rally behind one another in his absence.

"We have multiple weapons each night that step up," said Hoffmann. "If they key on Edmund and I like Stony Brook did, other guys are going to score the ball. As a senior, it sure feels great to get one shot to go up to Glens Falls. We are going to make the most of it."

Blue Devils Coach Joe Virgadamo, who played for the 2001 team that last went to Glens Falls and lost to Batavia (Notre Dame), cited the unit's commitment to defense, as the Blue Devils have held three of their last four playoff opponents to under 34 points, including Section 9's Chester, whom the Blue Devils defeated 44-34 in last Tuesday's regional victory at Mount Saint Mary College.

Section 2's Lake George (24-1), ranked No.3 in NYS, features one of the state's premier scorers in 6'2" 187-pound point guard Joel Wincowski (34 PPG), so the Blue Devils will need to continue with their stellar defensive efforts to contain him if they are going to advance and face the (Sect.5) Lyons vs. (Sect.3) Waterville winner in the finals on Saturday (7:15 p.m.). Waterville is ranked No.1 in the state while Lyons checked in at No.14 on the March 10th state poll.

"We're looking forward to Glens Falls, looking forward to doing something big this weekend," Virgadamo said. "We want to win it all, make history for Haldane and become the first boys' state champs. We're doing this for us, for Section 1 and for every boys' team at Haldane that came close but never won a state title. Wincowski is an absolute stud, maybe the best player in the state. We know we're not going to stop him, so we'll do everything we can to contain him, hold him to 20 and make him work for everything he gets. Our defensive intensity has been phenomenal throughout the playoffs, and the guys need to stay hungry. The place is going to be packed with Lake George just 10 minutes away, but we wouldn't want it any other way. To be the best, you have to beat the best and that's our mindset. We've been up to the challenge all year."

History beckons, thee; go get some.
Hen Hud Cheerleaders off to National Competition

The Hendrick Hudson Varsity Cheerleading team is heading to the Cheer Ltd. Nationals at CANAM in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The team is hosting a send-off for the community on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:45 pm in the Hendrick Hudson High School Gymnasium. The community is invited to attend this event, where the team will perform their routine for the national competition, and speeches from the coaches and captains will occur.

On Thursday, March 19, the team boards a bus to begin the venture to Myrtle Beach. The team will attend the CANAM Pep Rally on Friday night. The competition takes place on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22. Head coach, Nicole Selvaggi-Landry was very excited when asked about the team heading to South Carolina. “I am very proud to be a part of this wonderful program at Hendrick Hudson. The girls have been working so hard and I am confident that their perseverance will benefit them. I am elated for them.”

The Hendrick Hudson Cheerleaders have won first place at six different competitions this year, highlighted by first place at the Westchester County Championships in November. The Sailors have also won the Lakeland, Croton, John Jay EF, Arlington and Ketcham competitions this year. Athletic Director, Tom Baker, was delighted when he spoke about the opportunity that this team had in front of them. “The cheerleading team has had a wonderful year. Their record at the competitions speaks for itself, but the type of young ladies that they are is something that the district is quite proud of. They have represented themselves in such an impressionable manner. I am excited for the opportunity that this team has in front of them. I know that they will create memories that last a lifetime at this competition.”

MSA 5-6th Grade Girls Attain Perfection

Members of the MSA girls’ 5-6th grade basketball league revel in the moment of their perfect season, having capped off an undefeated (8-0) season with a championship victory last Friday night at the Mahopac Falls School. Members of the team include Madeline Jacobellis, Megan Gallagher, Carly Ravoli, Julie Debrocky, Melanie Demeo, Alexandra Savino, Kiara Condon, Kerrianne King and Jaclyn Grea.

Mahopac 6th-Graders Crowned CYO, Tri-County Champs

The future appears bright at Mahopac after the recent hardwood showing by this group of talented sixth graders. (L-R top) James O’Boyle, Caroline Feeley, Carly Ravoli, Shannon Becker, Caitlyn O’Boyle, Chris Feeley; (L-R Middle) Amanda Beberman, Tessa Daley, Julia McGrinder, Mia Klammer; (L-R Bottom) Katie Abbruscato, Kara Thimm. The unit produced a Tri-County Basketball League 2014-2015 “A” division championship last Saturday after winning the CYO championship the week prior.

Bard to Play Field Hockey at Pace

Lakeland’s Sarah Bard shares a proud moment with mom and dad after recently signing her National Letter of Intent to play field hockey at Pace University next fall.
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Real Estate Salesperson

GOLD AWARD
Lisa Bucolo
Associate Real Estate Broker

GOLD AWARD
Raymond Magnani
Real Estate Salesperson

SILVER AWARD
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SILVER AWARD
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SILVER AWARD
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SILVER AWARD
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Marybeth Gillen
Real Estate Salesperson

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Barbara Sawin
Real Estate Salesperson

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Andrea Miccarelli
Real Estate Salesperson

SILVER AWARD
Nancy Heller
Real Estate Salesperson

SILVER AWARD
Marybeth Gillen
Real Estate Salesperson

SILVER AWARD
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SILVER AWARD
William Frattarola, Sr.
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