The Northern Westchester Examiner

Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

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FREE

Shrub Oak Treatment Center for Teens to Close in June

By Rick Pezzullo

A residential treatment center for troubled teens that drew the ire of some neighbors when it first opened more than 30 years ago will be closing its facility on Stony Street in Shrub Oak in June.

The Phoenix House Academy, which at one time had about 250 students ranging in age from 14 to 18, expects to have less than 10 clients by June, at which time the remaining students will be served on an individual basis, according to Karen Sodomick, Vice President of Marketing and Communications for the Phoenix House Foundation.

“T”his was a difficult decision given our almost 50-year record of providing a lifeline to teenagers who are struggling with the disease of addiction,” Sodomick said of the nonprofit organization that was created in 1972 and currently operates nine academies in six states.

“Since 1981, The Phoenix House Academy in Westchester has helped thousands of troubled teens reclaim their lives, establishing itself as a vital county resource for at-risk youth and their families,” Sodomick stated. “Today, we operate in a very different funding and regulatory climate. Juvenile justice reform and changing arrest policies have had a significant impact, reducing the number of teens referred for residential treatment. Funders prefer smaller, community-based programs.”

 Peekskill Police Save Life of Female Overdose Victim

By Rick Pezzullo

Two Peekskill police officers put recently obtained knowledge on opiate abuse to good use by saving the life of a 28-year-old female on a city street.

On March 15, officers Doug LaPerche and John Kolesar were dispatched to Dyckman Street on a report of an unresponsive female lying in a snow bank. Kolesar began to interview witnesses while LaPerche administered the medication Narlophone after recognizing the unidentified woman’s symptoms were consistent with an opiate overdose.

The woman immediately responded to the medication and began breathing on her own. Peekskill EMS arrived on the scene moments later and transported the victim to New York-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital for further treatment.

Police Chief Eric Johansen commended the officers for their quick response and utilizing their recent training on deploying Narlophone, more commonly known as Narcan, which is known to reverse the effects of an overdose on opiates such as heroin.

“There is no better feeling than saving one’s life and I’m proud of these two officers for their actions and accomplishment,” Johansen said.

Peekskill Police just completed training on Narcan in early March. The department received the medication through a grant from the New York State Attorney General’s Office in late 2014 but needed to complete training before it could be used on patrol. Sergeant Don Halmy and Detective Carl DeMarco administered the training to fellow officers.
Man Charged with Harassing Coach After Daughter Cut from Team

By David Propper

A Mahopac School District parent didn’t like that his daughter had been cut from the high school girls’ lacrosse team, and allegedly took his frustration out on the coach, according to police.

Two misdemeanor charges have been filed against Mahopac School District resident Alfonso DiFusco, according to the Town of Carmel court, following an incident between DiFusco and Mahopac girls lacrosse coach Jim Lieto on March 13. The charges are fourth-degree criminal mischief and second-degree harassment, according to the court clerks’ office. A March 17 arrest warrant has also been issued by Judge Thomas Jacobellis, according to the court clerks.

Carmel Police Chief Mike Cazzari said officers responded to a call from Lieto at the high school that Friday night after 8 p.m. Cazzari said a parent’s child was apparently cut from the varsity lacrosse team and as a result the parent confronted the coach. From there, it is alleged DiFusco was “punching on him and spitting on him, cursing and yelling at him.”

No arrest has been made as of Monday morning, Cazzari said. Carmel police didn’t respond until the incident was over, but took a report and investigated what occurred.

Mahopac interim Superintendent of Schools Brian Monahan said in an e-mail the individual accused has been barred from all school district properties.

“This incident has obviously triggered a legal process that will play out,” Monahan said in a statement. “Meanwhile, I have banned the individual that has been charged from all school properties. It appears that our coach handled the situation appropriately and professionally. We have security on campus at all times, including during after school activities. That will continue. Athletics is very important in Mahopac. We are glad that so many students are involved in sports. Fortunately, the vast majority of our students and their parents act appropriately. This event is certainly not typical and we will deal with it.”

State Police

March 16 – 7:30 a.m. – State Police in Somers investigated an accident involving a school bus on Route 202 in Somers. The mini school bus, owned by Allways East Transportation in Yonkers, was traveling westbound on 202, east of Brick Hill Road. The bus skidded on icy pavement, entered the eastbound lane and was struck by a car traveling eastbound. The mini bus then struck an earth embankment and rock wall adjacent to the eastbound lane and came to a rest, partially on the other vehicle. The bus was occupied by three people, including one student, who was not injured. The bus monitor and driver of the car were taken to Northern Westchester Hospital with minor injuries.

March 19 – Police in Cortlandt arrested Nicholas Doslop, 34, of Cortlandt, for grand larceny in the fourth degree after an investigation revealed he stole a family member’s debit card and fraudulently used it to withdraw almost $3,000 from an ATM.

Yorktown Police

March 16 – 1:30 p.m. – Gail Gallante, 62, of Lake Peekskill, was charged with texting while driving and driving with a suspended driver’s license following a traffic stop on East Main Street.

March 19 – 5:29 p.m. – Police received a report of an erratic driver possibly smoking marijuana while driving on Route 202. A police officer located the vehicle and pulled over Leonard Savallo, Jr., 51, of Yorktown, for driving without wearing a seat belt. An investigation revealed Savallo was allegedly in possession of more than 100 pills of Oxycodone, a quantity of cocaine and marijuana, as well as an open container of alcohol. He was remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of $5,000 bail.

Ask the Doctor

Ezriel (Ed) Kornel, MD, FACS
Director, Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwhealthandspine.org/DrKornel

Q: What is whiplash?
A: Technically, it’s a rapid acceleration and then deceleration of your head. In fact, the medical name for whiplash is “cervical acceleration deceleration” or CAD. It’s almost like your head and neck are at the end of a cracking whip. The dramatic forward and backward motion can lead to strained or torn tendons or ligaments, cracked vertebrae (the donut-shaped bones in the spine and neck), and concussion, even if the victim doesn’t strike his or her head.

Q: What causes whiplash?
A: While one of the most common causes is a rear-end car collision, there are many instances that may trigger whiplash symptoms: Workplace injuries such as falling from a ladder, a collision while playing basketball, soccer, or football, or even falling off a bike. For these reasons, parents and coaches must also be vigilant about watching for the signs of possible whiplash in children.

Q: When should I see a doctor?
A: Although symptoms may be delayed, those who suffer from whiplash often develop one or more symptoms, within the first few days. If pain spreads to your shoulders or arms, if moving your head hurts too much, or if you experience numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms, see a doctor immediately.

Although most people fully recover from whiplash within two to three months, some can experience pain for several months or years.

In fact, researchers have discovered that chronic pain can sometimes be traced to a whiplash injury. Managing the pain and treating any underlying injuries through physical therapy, chiropractic methods or, in some cases, surgery will help speed recovery and prevent long-term complications.

*Spine Research Institute of San Diego

Learn more about Dr. Kornel and the Orthopedic & Spine Institute at Northern Westchester Hospital, visit www.nwhealthandspine.org/DrKornel

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HEAD AND NECK INJURIES
What you need to know about whiplash...

Did You Know?
There are 3 million new whiplash injuries in the U.S. every year.*
Judge Backs Yorktown ZBA’s Ruling on Sober Home

By Rick Pezzullo

An acting state Supreme Court Justice last week wholeheartedly sided with the Yorktown Zoning Board of Appeals regarding its ruling last July that a facility for recovering alcohol and substance abuse addicts on Underhill Avenue falls under the definition of a “convalescent home.”

On July 24, 2014, three of the four sitting ZBA members denied an appeal from neighbors Linda Gironda and Al French, stemming from a written opinion by Building Inspector John Winter, that the sober home proposed by Compass Westchester did not fit the criteria of either a convalescent home or a nursing home, which are treated the same in the town’s Zoning Code and, therefore, it should not be allowed to be considered for a three-year special permit by the Town Board.

“It is undisputed that the proposed residence meets all the Zoning Code criteria for a ‘convalescent home,’ the ZBA stated in its decision. “The Board rejects Appellants’ arguments that a ‘smell’ test applies requiring the Board to look beyond the Zoning Code definition of ‘convalescent home’ because such use may have been traditionally associated with on-site nursing or other patient/resident care. The Board finds to supplement and substantially disregard the unambiguous definition of ‘convalescent home’ in this way would result in a flawed and irrational interpretation of the Zoning Code.”

Last week, acting state Supreme Court Justice Robert Neary also rejected legal arguments by Gironda and French seeking an order to reverse the ZBA’s decision and Winter’s opinion “on the grounds that said actions and determinations were affected by errors of law…and constitute an abuse of discretion,” by ruling “the Court finds that the Board’s determination was proper in all respects.”

“The Court finds that the Board’s determination was reasonable and was supported by evidence in the record,” Neary stated. “The record reflects that the parties in this matter had ample opportunity to present their positions and that lengthy discussions were had with respect to statutory interpretation in addition to the pros and cons of the proposed project.”

Attorneys for sober home owners Compass Westchester, Al Capellini and Robert Davis, maintained during public hearings Winter was correct in identifying the sober home residence with a convalescent home since it meets the criteria of having three or more people who suffer from any disease, affluence or ailment and are habitually kept or bordered.

The home purchased by Tom McCrossan and Mark McGoldrick for the sober residence sits on about three acres and is about 8,500 square feet. Two smaller residences also exist on the property, which once was used as boarding home for mentally challenged children.

The special permit being sought by Compass Westchester from the Town Board to allow as many as 14 individuals to live together for between 30 to 60 days to continue on a path to sobriety was denied on January 20.

McCrossan, his son Devin, slated to be the on-site supervisor of the sober home, and business partner Mark McGoldrick, filed an Article 78 proceeding February 23 in state Supreme Court seeking a judgment “reversing, annulling, and setting aside, as arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion and contrary to law, the determination of (the) Town Board rendered on January 20, 2015.”

In a 2-1 vote, the Town Board denied a special permit for the sober home, with Councilman Vishnu Patel being the lone dissenter. Without the special permit, Compass Westchester is not required to abide by any conditions that the town would have imposed with the permit.

The matter is likely to be brought up again by the Town Board in light of newly elected councilmen Gregory Bernard and Tom Diana joining the board. According to one town official, Compass Westchester is pushing to have a permanent special permit be issued in exchange for the withdrawal of the lawsuit. Also off the table may be a condition for Yorktown residents to be able to live in the sober home at a discounted rate.
By Rick Pezzullo

Two residents who feel they have been the targets of “political vendettas” from some Yorktown officials have rekindled a citizens group to expand its mission from promoting intelligent business development in town to monitoring the governmental process.

An advocacy meeting for Citizens for a Progressive Yorktown, co-chaired by Bill Primavera, a public relations specialist/realtor who pens The Home Guru column in Examiner Media publications, and Brian Amico, owner of Competition Carting, Yorktown’s garbage hauler since January 2013, was held last week at Primavera’s Hickory Street home.

Among the small crowd in attendance was newly elected Councilman Tom Dianna and Supervisor Michael Grace, who took exception with the group’s claim that Yorktown’s government hasn’t been transparent but also coached the group on how to effectively express its concerns to town representatives.

“The notion that we haven’t been operating open and honestly disturbs me,” Grace remarked. “I don’t think our issue has been treated with the right respect and the town itself has to separate your business from this governmental process. We need a vehicle to get that information across. This is that vehicle.”

Prior to getting elected to the town board in November, Siegel appeared at many town Zoning Board of Appeals meetings raising issues about Competition Carting’s plans to park garbage trucks on a parcel on Front Street, which it had done illegally for more than a year. The ZBA ultimately granted the company permission to park the trucks there.

“All I want is equality and fairness in the town,” said Amico, who maintained he was “persecuted and prosecuted” over his plan to park garbage trucks. “This town has had its way of running it’s own way. I’m not happy with the current political system in town and it has to change today.”

Amico claimed he had been “stymied” for two-and-a-half years seeking information from Yorktown about another business in town, an allegation refuted by longtime Town Clerk Alice Roker.

“No he’s not telling the truth,” Roker said, explaining Amico routinely asked a series of questions in his Freedom of Information requests instead of specifically spelling out what records he wanted.

“I believe we have responded to his requests. If you ask for records I can give it to you. We can’t do any more. We have complied with the FOIL law,” Grace said.

After Primavera suggested the group’s top two priorities should be trying to remove Siegel and Councilman Vishnu Patel for being “irresponsible,” Grace recommended not pursuing personal attacks on elected officials or citizens.

“Attacks I find them distasteful. I don’t think they serve any purpose,” Grace said. “If people want to make a fool out of themselves there’s nothing you can do. The fact that your organization wants to present a vision for the town is a powerful thing. Be effective with your speech, be concise, be polite. I would be selective and surgical about it.”

Former Councilman Tony Grasso also offered the group some advice. “You have to separate your business from this group,” he said.

Siegel said she had no comment on Citizens for a Progressive Yorktown.
Historian Discusses Origins of Street Names in Peekskill

By Michael Giuliano

Peekskill native and historian John Curran spoke on Saturday to promote his newest book: “The History of Peekskill, New York Street Names.” Co-authored with fellow Peekskill author John Morabito, the book describes the origins behind the names of all the roads in Peekskill, from “Academy Street” to “Woods Brooke Drive.”

During the monthly meeting of the Van Cortlandville Historical Society, Curran gave a talk titled “On the Street Where You Live” (named after the song from “My Fair Lady”). Curran, who is the curator of the Peekskill Museum, discussed the merits of writing a reference book, emphasizing the historical significance it represents not only for Peekskill, but for communities everywhere.

“The names [of streets] have interesting secondary meanings and connotations that most people don’t even know about,” Curran said. “It’s an event, it’s a person, and it’s something important.”

The book took a year to write, with nine months of that focused solely on research, and even then Curran said that some information regarding street names could not be completely verified.

“In most cases there’s no documentation at all,” Curran admitted. “It’s mostly secondary information.”

One particular instance is Pemart Avenue, which branches from the Bear Mountain extension to Division Street. The street is named after Captain Francis Pemart, who alternatively fought for both the British and the Americans during the Revolutionary War. Considering that the American government eventually had Pemart tried for treason, forcing him to flee to Nova Scotia, it’s interesting to find a street named after him in this day and age.

Curran revealed that, for the most part, streets get their names from the original landowners where the streets are located, and that very few roads received names from political designations. One specific street he pointed out was Lockwood Drive, the entry road into the Highland Park residential area, which was named after Edwin Lockwood. Lockwood was the original designer for the Highland Park development during the 1940’s and 50’s.

Another notable example is Pataki Farm Drive, in the northern section of Peekskill. The road is named after the farm once owned by the family of former New York Governor George E. Pataki. Pataki’s father, Louis Pataki Jr., has a street named after him as well: Louis Court, located off of Frost Lane.

Towards the end of the meeting Bob Foley, the program chairman of the historical society, opened the floor for questions, and brought up a topic that Curran was quite enthusiastic about: the “Yellow Brick Road” of Peekskill.

Curran is an avid supporter of the notion that the iconic Yellow Brick Road from “The Wizard of Oz” is based on the once-abundant Dutch bricks that lined the streets of Peekskill. During the 1860’s, L. Frank Baum was a teenager attending the Peekskill Military Academy, and Curran maintains that the yellow-colored bricks that lined the streets could have served as inspiration for the road used in the book. Still, there are many detractors to the theory, saying that there is no solid evidence to prove Curran’s theory.

“People say, ‘There’s no written record of it.’ The point is: it’s a story,” Curran said. “It’s a story that’s a part of a story.”

If nothing else, Curran maintains that preserving and highlighting what’s left of the old yellow brick road would be a boost for the Peekskill economy, by encouraging more tourism.

“This was really the only formal schooling that [Baum] had in his entire life,” Curran said. “He was homeschooled for the rest of his life. That should be enough.”

While most of the original yellow brick pavement is gone in Peekskill, a small stretch can still be found on South Water Street, leading up to the railroad tracks behind the Standard House on Hudson Avenue.

The Van Cortlandville Historical Society is located in the Little Red Schoolhouse, at 297 Locust Avenue in Cortlandt. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of every month, and new members and visitors are always encouraged. More information can be found on their website, www.vancort.net.
Murphy Proposes Rules Reform Package During ‘Sunshine Week’

By Rick Pezzullo

State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown) presided over a state Senate session for the first time since being in Albany last week and took the opportunity during ‘Sunshine Week’ to propose new legislation that would allow more public discourse and transparency in state regulations.

Murphy, who was elected to represent the 40th Senate District last November, explained his rules reform package was designed to take the decision-making process out of the hands of “Albany bureaucrats” and back in control of elected representatives and their constituents.

“We cannot continue to allow unelected bureaucrats to impose job-killing regulations from on high,” Murphy remarked. “It’s time to shine a light on the rule-making process.”

The package unveiled by Murphy includes five separate bills. The first would allow a process for the public to seek adoption, repeal or other changes in state agency rules after submitting a petition with 100 or more signatures. Another would establish a negotiated rule making process for small businesses requiring a consensus be reached before any rule affecting their affairs is promulgated.

Murphy is chairman of the state’s Administrative Regulations Review Committee. A separate bill co-sponsored by Murphy that won Senate approval calls for a full review of rules and regulations that predate 1999, in addition to requiring a five-year review of all agency rules.

“As a small business owner I can tell you firsthand that the miles of red tape caused by the layers of rules and regulations in New York are doing more harm than good,” said Murphy. “From my experience with the Yorktown Health and Wellness Center, and my family’s experience with our restaurant (Murphy’s in Yorktown), many of these rules and regulations are approved with little input and transparency. It is our responsibility to ensure there is greater transparency and disclosure within the rule making process which I believe my legislation will help do.”
Obituaries

Dr. Sander H. Fogel

Dr. Sander H. Fogel, renowned psychiatrist, died March 19 of complications from pneumonia at his home in Ossining. He was 87.

Dr. Fogel was a warm, gentle, loving man with a ready smile and a playful sense of humor, who maintained and cherished ongoing friendships with people from his childhood and his encounters throughout life. Deeply interested in other cultures, he traveled the world for conferences, for research into child rearing practices, and for pleasure. For over 60 years, Dr. Fogel specialized in child and family therapy; with an active private practice in Ossining, he developed new therapeutic approaches to the family as a system, organizing groups of “artificial” family units, and presenting these innovative techniques at numerous international symposia. An accomplished teacher and lecturer, he was an associate professor of clinical psychiatry and director of the family therapy unit at New York Medical College, and held various teaching positions at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, State University of New York, and Westchester County Medical Center. Long-term medical director at the Westchester Jewish Community Services of White Plains, Dr. Fogel served as forensic, supervising and/or consulting psychiatrist at numerous institutions including Stony Brook Hospital, Pineland Children’s Psychiatric Hospital, Bridgeport Court Clinic, and Rockland Children’s Psychiatric Center, among many others.

Politically active, he was particularly concerned with racial and class divides, and in 1968 was a founder of the Interfaith Council for Action, a social welfare organization still vital today. He was also active in the Ossining school system, serving as the Chairman of the Board of Education elementary textbook review committee and as President of the high school’s Organization of Parents, Teachers & Students. An avid reader with a passion for history, politics, music, art, theater and film, he was a scholarly man of great integrity, high culture and deep knowledge. He had a particularly keen interest in Asian cultures stemming from his military service in Japan just after WWII, and he subsequently traveled to the Far East many times, developing lifelong friendships.

Dr. Fogel was born on October 22, 1927 in Brooklyn, and graduated from Tilden High School (1944); New York University (1949); and the University of Buffalo Medical School (1954). He was predeceased by his three siblings, and is survived by his beloved wife Ruth Sherman, his former wife Natalee Saxon Fogel, his children Jan, Alice, and Brian Fogel, adopted Chinese son Joe Lam, step-sons Steve and Peter Sherman, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Ralph Ascani

Ralph J. Ascani, a resident of Yorktown Heights, died on March 14, surrounded by his family and friends. He was 92.

He was born to Paul and Mamie Ascani on October 26, 1922. Mr. Ascani graduated from White Plains High School, worked for the Navy and retired from Brunschwig & Fils. He is survived by his daughter Victoria E. Frederick, son-in-law Edward J. Frederick, and his grandchildren Danielle Ascani, Edward Frederick, Jr., Samantha Frederick and Andrew Frederick, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Barbara Ascani and his son Richard Ascani.

Ann Lisa Chick

Ann Lisa Chick, a lifelong Peekskill resident, died on March 17. She was 63.

She was a retired typist for AT&T in White Plains. She was born in Peekskill on August 2, 1951, to Frank and Mary Dorito Chicitano. She was very active in activities at Assumption Church, volunteering her time in fundraisers, such as the weekly bingo games. She also belonged to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Christopher Columbus Society. On April 7, 1981, she married Joseph Chick, at the Assumption Church. He survives, and lives in Peekskill.

Catherine Coto

Catherine M. Coto, formerly of Ossining, died on March 15. She was 95.

Born in Tarrytown on November 1, 1919, she was the daughter of Nicholas and Susan Speno Variano. She was raised in North Tarrytown and moved to Ossining in 1960 where she lived for over 50 years.

She was married to Joseph Coto, who predeceased her in 1980. Mrs. Coto was an avid bowler and she loved gardening. She always looked forward to planting flowers in the spring. She is survived by her children Patricia Savage of Fishkill, Nicholas J. Coto of Newburgh and Joseph N. Coto of Stony Point. She is also survived by five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband Joseph, she was predeceased by six siblings.

Robert Martin

Robert J. Martin, a resident of Ossining, died on March 15. He was 70.

Mr. Martin was born on December 2, 1944 in Ossining, to the late Theodore John and Elizabeth Margaret (Rothwell) Martin. He was a proud Army Vietnam Veteran who served from 1964 to 1966. He worked and retired as a Truck Driver with AA Trucking Local #456. He is survived by his beloved wife, Tina Martin; loving son and daughter, Robert J. Martin, Jr. and Charlene Martin; devoted brother and sisters, Pat Slader, Ted Martin and his wife Rosemary and Mary Mulhall and her husband Arthur. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Louis Valle

Louis Valle, a resident of Ossining, died on March 14. He was 98.

He was born March 2, 1917 in Rochester. He graduated from Pratt College with an Engineering degree. He founded Tel-Tronics, Inc. which produced electronic components for a number of companies including RCA & Motorola. Mr. Valle was inducted into Who’s Who in Electronics and continued to work in the industry until 1998. He was married to Ann Valle (nee Barbato) for 48 years and together they raised six children. His wife predeceased him in 1988, as did one daughter in 2004.

He is survived by his second wife of 24 years, Ana (nee Farrell), five children, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one sister. His favorite saying was, “You learn by doing”. With his first movie camera, he produced family classics that captured priceless memories. His gardens were colorful and lush. He travelled extensively both for pleasure and business. His family and friends will miss his independent spirit, great wit, wild dance moves and positive outlook.

Children of America Open House

Spring into Summer with Children of America, located in the Cortlandt Town Center in Mohegan Lake. Open House Event will take place on Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We offer educational childcare from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. for children six weeks through 12 years. Join us for fun activities, refreshments, music and a personalized tour.

Call (914) 743-1821 for more information.
Letters

Council Handing Out Special Tax Break for Artists Loft Owners

To the Editor:

Last year, Peekskill’s Common Council blocked a proposal to charge city residents a new tax to pick up their garbage. That was a wise decision.

Well, it’s a new year and now the Council seems in favor of a different kind of tax scheme. This one will give a special break to 28 co-op owners by cutting their property taxes 35% and guaranteeing a cap of 2% on higher taxes for the next 30 years.

Would you take that deal if you own a home in Peekskill - a 35% tax cut and a 2% cap for 30 years? I bet you might. But this sweetheart deal will only be offered to those 28 owners living in the Peekskill Artists Loft on South Street and no one else.

The Artists Loft has already gotten 15 years of tax breaks saving owners there about $700,000 in taxes. The new proposal will save them another $900,000, leaving the city $1.6 million short in tax payments. That's money that causes everyone else’s taxes to go up to cover the difference. There is no free lunch when governments hand out tax breaks.

There are many unanswered questions about this proposal. The city claims the Artists Loft is only legally required to pay $20,000 in taxes in 2016 after paying $104,000 in 2015 - how could that be? And why would the Loft owners agree to pay $65,000 if they only owe $20,000 as the city says?

The Council says it has the power to give a 30-year guarantee that will cap the Loft owners tax increases at 2% annually - but what law gives the Council the right to make that special deal for one group of 28 people?

And if the Council is going to hand out special tax breaks, what's to stop them from cutting taxes for the ones they pick who claim to be in financial distress? The Artists Loft building is here now – if the current owners can't make it, the bank will find new owners. There shouldn't be special rules for special interests in Peekskill.

JIM ROBERTS

Village of Ossining Launches New Website for Community Feedback

The Village of Ossining has announced the launch of a new website, “Village of Ossining – Become Part of the Conversation,” where citizens can connect, communicate and collaborate with community decision makers and other residents concerning the Village. Developed by MindMixer, the new site (villageofossining.mindmixer.com) aims to get the community involved and will be used as an online tool to generate new ideas and feedback from residents using an interactive and accessible platform.

“Village of Ossining – Become Part of the Conversation” gives residents a chance to work with community leaders on a variety of topics online anytime, anywhere. Contributors are encouraged to share new ideas, support or expand upon others’ ideas, and give feedback on a variety of initiatives. Feedback from the website will be used by the Village Board of Trustees in order to shape the future of the Village.

“We set a goal for 2015 to engage the public on what Ossining wants to see happen at the heart of our downtown. My colleagues and I on the Board of Trustees are excited that this new online platform enables us to hear from the community in a quantitative way,” said Village of Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearing. “We’ll be working hard to encourage residents to be part of the conversation. This input will impact our decision about the future of Market Square – the key to growing our vibrant local economy.”

The first topic discussed on the website concerns community input on the creative redevelopment of the Market Square and existing parking lots located at the intersection of Main and Spring Streets. Over the next three months the Village will be posting questions that will cover all aspects of the redevelopment of the site including buildings, architecture, site elements, amenities, and uses.

The new website measures and tracks participation, identifying the most interested citizens and most compelling topics. MindMixer’s tools will also allow the Village to communicate back with citizens, delivering measurable results and invaluable insights for the planning process.

To participate or learn more about “Village of Ossining – Become Part of the Conversation,” visit villageofossining.mindmixer.com. The Village Manager’s Office is located at 16 Croton Avenue in Ossining, NY. They can be reached at 914-941-3554 or www.villageofossining.org.

Bee-Line Bus Fares Increase

As of Sunday, March 22, fares increased on all Bee-Line bus routes except the BxM4C Westchester-Manhattan Express. The Bee-Line System is part of the MTA’s MetroCard system and the fare increases are identical to those on the MTA New York City Transit system. The fare for the Bee-Line Route BxM4C, Westchester-Manhattan Express will not change.

The increases are as follows:
• Single-ride bus fares will increase to $2.75, from the current $2.50, the same as the authorized increase for New York City subways and buses. For seniors and the disabled with proper IDs, the fare will increase to $1.35, from the current $1.25.
• The 30-day unlimited-ride MetroCard (useable on Bee-Line buses and New York City buses and subways) will increase to $116.50 from the current $112. For seniors and the disabled, the 30-day unlimited-ride Reduced-Fare MetroCard will cost $58.25, up from $56.
• The 7-day unlimited-ride cards will increase to $31, from $30. For seniors and the disabled, the fare will increase to $15.50, up from $15.

• A bonus discount will be available on pay-per-ride MetroCards with a value of at least $5.50. The amount of the discount will increase from 5 percent to 11 percent.
• The fare for the Bee-Line Route BxM4C, Westchester-Manhattan Express will not change.

For further information about fares, visit www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus or call the Bee-Line HOTLINE at (914) 813-7777, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Automated information is available 24 hours a day.
County Board Initiates Legal Action to Recover Federal Funds

By Neal Rentz

In an effort to recoup millions of dollars of lost federal funds, the Westchester County Board of Legislators voted last week to initiate legal action against the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The legislation, approved by a 14-0 vote, authorized County Attorney Robert Meehan to sue HUD and other “appropriate parties” over the withholding of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for 2012, 2013 and 2014 and for Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant funds from last year.

Board Majority Whip Lyndon Williams (D-Mount Vernon) said prior to the vote the county was seeking to recover CDBG monies of $5.2 million from 2012, $5.3 million from 2013 and $5.4 million from 2014.

Board Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) said legal action was necessary against the federal government to return “some of the tax dollars taken from Westchester.”

The Board of Legislators decision was in response to the recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit that determined HUD’s actions in withholding Westchester’s grant money were subject to judicial review.

The Feb. 18 decision stemmed from HUD holding back the money because it concluded the county was noncompliant with portions of the 2009 affordable housing settlement. That decision requires the two parties return to U.S. District Court Judge Denise Cote.

In its decision, the Court of Appeals said the agency did not have discretionary power to withhold funds because there are statutes limiting its authority. HUD had rejected the county’s Analysis of Impediment (AI), which has become a major sticking point between the federal government and the county.

HUD had been demanding that an acceptable AI be filed because some of Westchester’s communities subject to the settlement were found to have potential exclusionary zoning.

The Board of Legislators’ action differed from its decision last year not to pursue lost funds from 2012-14, which placed it at odds with County Executive Rob Astorino.

The Court of Appeals’ decision last month allows the county to pursue $750,000 in grant money from 2011. That was the portion of money from that year which hadn’t been reallocated to other areas of the United States.

Legislators who were absent for Monday’s vote were Peter Harckham (D-North Salem), Ken Jenkins (D-Yonkers), Virginia Perez (D-Yonkers) and Bernice Spreckman (R-Yonkers).
Miss Fuller was an active member of the 1932, a victim of the Great Depression. young girls who attended the school, and as the guiding light for the thousands of Clara was named principal of the school. was there that Miss Cleveland offered her land) official White House hostess, Clara as her brother’s (President Grover Cleveland) daughter of Simeon and Martha (White) 26, 1852 near Holland Patent, NY , the granddaughter having purchased the family’s family’s farm from General Baron von Steuben, who had ably assisted the colonists’ in their successful fight for independence. Her formal education started in a small one-room stone schoolhouse. She then went on to attend a grammar school in Trenton, New Jersey, and finally, she completed her studies at the Utica Female Academy. During her time in Holland Patent, Clara became close friends with Rose Elizabeth Cleveland. When Rose served as her brother’s (President Grover Cleveland) official White House hostess, Clara would often visit at the White House. It was there that Miss Cleveland offered her longtime friend a teaching position at her school, at Mrs. Sylvanus Reed’s School in New York City, where Rose Cleveland was principal. In 1889, Miss Fuller settled in Ossining (then the Village of Sing Sing) and entered upon her duties as an English teacher at the Ossining School for Girls. In 1895, Clara was named principal of the school. For the next 37 years, Miss Fuller served as the guiding light for the thousands of young girls who attended the school, and remained as its head until it closed in 1932, a victim of the Great Depression. Filled with a deep devotion to history, Miss Fuller was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as president of the (local) Mohagen Chapter from 1908 to 1938, and as its state chairman in 1932. One of the chairs in Constitution Hall, the D.A.R. auditorium in Washington, was inscribed in her honor. In 1926, she was selected by Governor Alfred E. Smith to serve on a committee to oversee the construction of a monument to the New York signers of the U.S. Constitution, and was present at its unveiling in Albany in August of 1926. One of the first members of the Ossining Woman’s Club, Miss Fuller served as its president from 1931 – 32. Miss Fuller retired to her girlhood home of Holland Patent, and died on November 8, 1940 at the age of 88. At her burial, a statement was read by the-then president of the Ossining School for Girls’ Alumnae Association which read: “As (we) scatter these lilies, they represent a love and devotion of her who has been an inspiration to thousands of women throughout the country…Miss Fuller’s spirit will live on in the lives of her pupils now and for generations to come.” The Fuller Garden Apartments on Croton Avenue now stand on the site of the former school. Philanthropy and a commitment to political reform were the hallmarks of Narcissa Cox Vanderlip’s life. Born in Quincy, Illinois on February 9, 1880, Narcissa was involved in humanitarian and reform activities throughout most of her adult life. Blessed with affluence and social standing, Mrs. Vanderlip could have, easily, lived out her days as Mistress of the Manor, but she chose to use her wealth, her social connections, and her energies to fight for the causes she believed in. Her enthusiasm and her beauty drew people from far and near to follow her in her endeavors. The youngest of six children, Narcissa was the daughter of Charles Epperson Cox, an Illinois manufacturer and political activist and Narcissa Woods Cox, a former schoolteacher and a member of the Chicago Women’s Club. The New York Times in her 1966 obituary, happily relates that Narcissa, at the tender age of 6, was riding her first colt named Jimmy Blaine after James G. Blaine, the 1884 Republican Presidential nominee and a close friend of her father’s. Narcissa enrolled in the University of Chicago in 1899. Active in the school newspaper, The Maroon, she was named editor of the women’s edition in her junior year. At the start of her senior year, Narcissa met Frank Vanderlip, then Vice-President of National City Bank. Sixteen years her senior, Vanderlip proposed to the attractive co-ed. She left school to plan her 1903 wedding, but vowed that one day, she would return to the University of Chicago to complete her studies. True to her word, she did just that by completing the requirements for her baccalaureate degree in 1933. Over the next dozen years, Narcissa Vanderlip would give birth to six children. Keenly aware of the plight of those less fortunate, Narcissa volunteered her time to aid the impoverished New York City tenement children of the lower East Side. She helped to found a city settlement house and served on its board of directors. Narcissa invited more than 50 children and 18 adults to celebrate her eldest daughter’s first birthday in Central Park. Following the signing of the Armistice, the Vanderlips took a tour of war-torn Europe in early 1919, visiting capitals and battlefields and observing the tragic plight of refugees. While in England, Narcissa addressed the Women’s Committee of the National War Savings Committee. The Federal Suffrage Amendment was ratified in August of 1919. Narcissa was quoted as saying, at the time: “The great war and the battle for women’s vote were very much alike. The League of Women Voters will continue to function as a national body, devoting itself to urging legislative reforms and educating the new women voters regardless of party lines.” In November of 1919, at the first convention of the New York State League of Women Voters, Narcissa was elected Chairman. In a magazine interview, Narcissa was asked if women would vote as their husbands vote. She replied, “Thinking women will probably make research into candidates and measures and report to their husbands so that husbands will vote like their wives.” The bustling era of the 1920’s saw Mrs. Vanderlip and the League working for legislation of child labor, the minimum wage, the eight-hour day, maternity and infant care clinics, health insurance, birth control, citizen literacy tests, and the eligibility of women for jury duty. While sojourning in Paris in 1928, Mrs. Vanderlip received a cable summoning her back to New York to help rehabilitate the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. The hospital had been established in 1857 by America’s first female physician, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. A new board of trustees took office and in 1929, Narcissa was elected president. Under Mrs. Vanderlip’s leadership, the Infirmary survived the Great Depression and expanded. In late 1953, she laid the cornerstone for its new building on Stuy-
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7:00 PM Holy Communion Service
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Good Friday - FRIDAY, April 3rd
Noon – 3:00 PM Sanctuary open for prayer & devotion
7:00 PM Worship experience a journey to the Cross

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Preventing Colorectal Cancer
Discover the easy steps that could save your life...

By Dr. Jerald D. Wishner, FACS, FASCRS, Director, Colorectal Cancer Program, Northern Westchester Hospital

Did you know that colorectal cancer – cancer of the colon (large intestine) or rectum – is the third most common cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer death? Now consider that if everyone 50 and older had a regular screening test, 80 percent of deaths from colon cancer could be prevented, according to the Colon Cancer Alliance. More good news: Revolutionary treatment advances are dramatically increasing cure rates. Here, I explain your empowering role in preventing this disease.

An estimated 90 percent of all colorectal cancers occur in people age 50 and older. Risk factors include prior colon cancer, a family history, or a history of other cancers, colonic diseases or GI problems. In a sense though, everyone is at risk, simply by living long enough. In its early stage, colorectal cancer can cause a chronic loss of microscopic amounts of blood through the stool, triggering anemia with feelings of weakness and fatigue. Other warning signs include changes in bowel habits.

During the screening, besides looking for early cancer, we also look for pre-cancerous growths called polyps, which we know will probably turn into cancer, and we remove these during the colonoscopy.

If polyps are found and removed during a colonoscopy, you are safeguarded in another way: We create a custom-tailored surveillance program for each patient based on their colonoscopy results. If you have no risk factors or history of polyps, current guidelines call for being screened every 10 years starting at age 50. However, if polyps are found, you will follow a personalized screening regimen based on how many polyps are removed during a screening, and unique features of these growths. For example, if I perform a colonoscopy on somebody today and remove eight polyps, I cannot be certain if other polyps are in the process of growing. Therefore, we will schedule another screening in one to two years. If at that point, I don’t see any more polyps, I might have the patient come back in three years. Most cancers take six to eight years to develop from the time the polyp begins to grow. Theoretically, as long as a patient follows the customized regimen, they should never get colon cancer.

The death rate from colorectal cancer has been declining for more than 20 years, thanks in large part to the effectiveness of screening. We are finding cancer at an earlier stage, and that greatly improves survival. In addition, a range of technological advances in the treatment of colorectal cancer is resulting in significantly better outcomes. Even with patients who have advanced tumors, we are seeing more success.

Treatment always involves surgical removal of the diseased area of the colon or rectum. A small subset of patients with rectal cancer will also need radiation. A subset of all patients will need chemotherapy. Robotic surgery has added a level of precision that is revolutionary. The added precision offers a host of benefits to patients, including less post-operative pain, a shorter hospital stay, a quicker return to normal activities, and the fact that needing a colostomy bag following surgery is now very, very rare.

What’s more, today’s advanced chemotherapy produces fewer side effects. Because side effects are so reduced, patients can tolerate a higher dose of the medicine, which kills more cancer cells. That produces higher cure rates.

Visit www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/Dr-Wishner to watch Dr. Wishner describe how colorectal cancer can be treated using the da Vinci Robot.

Dr. Wishner is the Co-Director for The Institute for Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery and the Medical Director for the Colorectal Surgery Program at Northern Westchester Hospital. He is Fellowship trained in both colorectal and minimally invasive surgery, has received advanced training in robot-assisted training and has been designated as a trainer for robot-assisted general and colorectal surgery by Intuitive Surgical.

Dr. Wishner performs advanced colon resections using robot-assisted surgery for both benign and malignant disease and is one of the first surgeons in the U.S. to conduct single incision robot-assisted gallbladder removal surgery (cholecystectomy). He has lectured nationally on various topics, is a member of the Mount Kisco Medical Group, and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. Dr. Wishner has been recognized as a “Best Doctor in America,” selected as a Westchester Magazine “Top Doctor,” and recognized as a “Top Doctor” by Castle Connolly.

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By Neal Rentz

Much has changed in Yorktown over the period of several decades, including the business owned by the Mastro family that opened in 1939.

The Reliable Oil Company had a different mission when it was opened as Reliable Service by the late Louis Mastro, his son recalled last week.

“He started as an ice delivery man in Yorktown,” Mastro, Sr. said. “Not realizing it was a summer community, at the end of summer all the ice business stopped, so he had nothing else to do. So he started cutting wood and selling wood and then he started selling kerosene to heat homes.”

Mastro added that his father continued to sell ice and added selling charcoal for barbecues during the summers and later sold coal for home heating.

The business transitioned to selling fuel oil in the late 1940s Mastro, Sr. said, adding his brother, Frank, entered the business in 1951 and Mastro, Sr. came to work full-time in the family endeavor a decade later. Mastro said it was natural for him to want to work at his father’s company full-time because it is a family-oriented venture that caters to homeowners and light commercial businesses.

“I just fell right into the business because I worked all my life in the business from when I was very young,” he said.

The company’s loyal customers are mainly located in Yorktown and Somers, Mastro Sr. said. “We try to treat them by our name, reliable,” he said. “It’s a great business. It’s also great being in the Town of Yorktown where I was raised.”

Though Yorktown still has a small town feel, “It’s gotten larger than it was originally,” Mastro said, but he knows nearly everyone who lives in town. “I just love the people around here,” he said. “It’s just nice that you can greet everyone on the street by name.”

The company’s facility has two underground oil tanks that can store up to a combined total of 30,000 gallons of oil.

Louis Mastro, Jr., who co-owns the company with his father, has been working full-time for Reliable Oil for nearly 23 years. He said the company installs and services boilers and oil tanks “and taking care of any oil need.”

Mastro, Sr. said he has no intention of selling his business. "I wouldn't give this up for anything," he said.

The Reliable Oil Company is located at 277 Veterans Rd. in Yorktown. For more information call 914-962-4508.
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Wine is big business in the United States and the lure and attraction of being part of its potential success and heady prestige is enticing to many. Some desire their own winery for the love of the land or the love of crafting their own artisanal juice of the Gods, or for the prestige and boasting rights or simply to be in the “mix” of the glamour, celebrity and fine dining in the inner circle of wealthy enthusiasts.

And then there are those who have an entirely different reason: the scam artists. These nefarious, unscrupulous rogues roam the earth seeking out the innocent and gullible.

Last week I read an account from the New York Times front page, replete with a color photo, which epitomizes the dark side of human nature and the wine industry.

For years, Robert Dahl had been pursuing the glamorous life of the wine industry, to be financed with investor funds. Things went wrong, he turned to deceit and deception, and in the end, millions were diverted and lives were lost.

Here are a few examples of how precarious life in the wine industry can be. Each presents varying perspectives of how individuals handle the stress and vicissitudes of pursuing one’s dream.

1. Follow your dream. A number of early idealists settled in California in the 1970s, pursuing humble lifestyles as farmers and wine producers. They were followed by wealthy investors from the technology industry, with wads of cash in their pockets. Many were egocentrics and hobbyists seeking the prestige and cachet of cult winemaking.

   Enter Mr. Dahl, the scam artist, and Silicon Valley investor Emad Tawfils.

   End result: small farmers and wealthy investors persevered through the highs and lows of the winemaking industry. We read about the successes; the failures fade into the background. Mr. Dahl? He took advantage of Mr. Tawfils. In fact, he defrauded him of $1.2 million. Mr. Dahl viewed Mr. Tawfils as his ticket to the glamorous life without the burdensome trappings of debt.

2. Live the dream. Sweat and toil are secondary to aspiring cult winemakers. The end product of their efforts, a signature wine, is the reward. For Mr. Dahl, pouring wines for tasting room patrons and being in the lofty mix of high-end Napa denizens was his dream-come-true. But his outward success was a cover for declining finances. He became desperate and channeled Mr. Tawfils’ capital to unrelated ventures.

   End result: Mr. Dahl’s fraud was uncovered. The mingling with the tasting room public, the walks in the vineyard and the elbowing with the jetsetters, turned into courtroom dates and dark meeting rooms with feuding lawyers.

   The travails of Mr. Dahl and Mr. Tawfils continued. A shared vision became a polarizing, contentious relationship. Instead of chasing his dreams, it was government regulators, Mr. Tawfils and his inner demons that were chasing Mr. Dahl. In court, Mr. Tawfils gained the upper hand, obtaining court orders and equipment seizure warrants to partially recover his now failed investment.

3. The afterglow. Walking through your vineyard, picking grapes, taking in the sweet scents of the soil and grapes, knowing this is all your own handiwork, is the epitome of euphoria for a winemaker.

   Unless you are also a fraud, with the legal system chasing you through your vineyards to corral you into a courtroom. Mr. Dahl’s afterglow was not a salmon-hued evening sunset, but a fiery, combustible volcanic eruption.

   End result: Last Monday, Mr. Dahl shot Mr. Tawfils at his Napa vineyard. Wounded, Mr. Tawfils escaped by running on foot through the very vineyards he had financed. Mr. Dahl was in hot pursuit in his SUV, barreling through the rows of grapevines that had inspired his dream. Mr. Dahl caught up with his investor, shot, and killed him. Cornered by police, he committed suicide.

   Chasing one’s dream can be a life-fulfilling pursuit, even if success is not always at the end of the journey. Some handle success, or failure, well; others are so egocentric, they are not able to accept failure. Dreams are self-rewarding for some, self-destructive for others.

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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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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No Telling What You’ll Learn from Home Improvement Suppliers

One of life’s greatest pleasures for me since I assumed the moniker of The Home Guru more than a dozen years ago has been the great talents and personalities I’ve encountered among the suppliers who service our many needs around the house, both inside and out.

As for me, a self-professed klutz with most things that require any amount of skill or technical expertise, knowing these miracle workers has always been essential to running my household and maintaining my property. I can communicate the expertise of others by writing about it, but I can’t do it.

As I have become friends with my suppliers and learned more about their backgrounds, I have encountered much ingenuity, sometimes sheer genius, and many surprises along the way.

For instance, some years ago when I needed to have wallpaper removed from some of my rooms and have them painted, Joe Pascarelli came highly recommended from some of my contacts. Pascarelli’s expertise was needed to do the job. Little did I know that he would become part of my life, both personally and professionally.

More famously known as “Fireman Joe,” Pascarelli retired as a Mount Vernon Fire Department lieutenant seven years ago. But 14 years before that, he had experienced a trauma where a young child had been lost in a fire he responded to and, as he put it, “I needed to get help to deal with that.”

As part of his recovery process, he decided to educate young children about fire safety and has been doing that annually at the Van Cortlandtville Elementary School in Mohegan Lake for the past 20 years.

Last week, I met him for lunch with another good buddy of his, Frank Quigley, also a retired fireman who had been with the New York City Fire Department in the Bronx and also involved with teaching children about fire safety.

In his case, Quigley would invite them into the firehouse to see the equipment. When he retired nine years ago, Quigley developed his own construction business called Window Plus. Besides windows, his company covers the gamut of projects from roofing, siding and decks to full additions.

The purpose of our meeting was to discuss our writing a brochure together about fire safety in the home for children with illustrations that Pascarelli could distribute at his school appearances. The intention would be to expand it into a children’s book and a CD.

As a public service to us all, especially to any young children in your own family or to any children you know, please share the basic outline below.

Fireman Joe’s Safety Tips for Kids

- If you smell smoke, don’t go back into the house for pets or anything else;
- Two “toys” NEVER to play with: matches and lighters;
- Have an EDITH plan with your family (Exit Drill in the House);
- Change batteries in smoke detectors when you change clocks.

To my way of thinking, good guys who are concerned for the safety and education of children are the kind of people with whom I want to work.

To reach Joe Pascarelli for wallpaper removal and painting, inside or out, call 914-330-3889. To reach Frank Quigley for any construction project, big or small, from roofing to an addition to your home, call 914-438-0249.

Postscript: While Pascarelli’s good work was born from the tragedy of the loss of a child, a young girl who attended one of his school presentations was able to save her own life and her entire family when fire struck her home in the middle of the night.

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.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.
Ossining & Briarcliff’s Salute to Women’s History Month

continued from page 10

to-vesant Square and 15th Street. As women doctors became accepted everywhere, the Infirmary was obliged to employ men doctors and ‘Women and Children’ was dropped from the name. Later, by merger it became the New York Infirmary/Beekman Downtown Hospital. Until shortly before her death in 1966, Mrs. Vanderlip commuted to the city regularly to attend to her duties as president.

A pioneering spirit, if ever there was one, Narcissa Cox Vanderlip died at her Beechwood estate on March 5, 1966. The 1997 mega-hit motion picture, TITANIC, evokes fond memories of a beloved Ossining resident, who we had the great pleasure to know. Elizabeth Underhill, who at the age of 19 could have played the real life version of the character played by Kate Winslet. She, too, was traveling with her parents through Europe in the late winter of 1911-12 when they booked passage on the Titanic. Fate intervened when her father, because of a last minute change of itinerary, postponed their journey home. Days later, the impressionable young woman watched the chillingly poignant scene when the captain of her vessel tossed a wreath over the side in memory of those who had perished. Elizabeth knew she could have been one of them. At that moment, she resolved to make the most of her life.

True to her word, Elizabeth set out on a course that would see her transcend the role of the American woman of her time. The rebellious daughter of an aristocratic family, Elizabeth was born on November 21, 1892 in what was then the Village of Sing Sing. Her father’s family could trace their American roots to Captain John Underhill who settled in the New World in 1630. The fashionable and trendy ‘Murray Hill’ in New York City was named after her mother’s family. Elizabeth graduated from the Ossining School for Girl in 1911. In 1917, she was appointed the Ossining Suffrage President and campaigned, along with Narcissa Cox Vanderlip, for its passage in New York State. She represented her hometown in two marches along New York City’s famed Fifth Avenue. This experience prompted Elizabeth to enroll in law school and in 1921, she received her L.L.D. from New York University.

After the death of her mother in 1919, Elizabeth became the lady of the house, dividing her time between accompanying her father on his travels and taking part in a host of organizations.

By World War II, Elizabeth had crossed the Atlantic Ocean some 49 times and circumnavigated the globe three times. At home, she was involved in the Ossining Women’s Club, Ossining Historical Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the First Presbyterian Church of Ossining and the New York State Republican Club.

She broke tradition by becoming the first woman bank director in Westchester County history when she was named to the governing board of the (then) First National Bank (across from the Municipal Building). She led a rich and fulfilling life, proving that a woman could find happiness outside marriage and the home. Elizabeth was well into her eighties when she read an article written by her minister’s wife who categorized all ‘unmarrrieds’ as ‘dis-appointed.’ Elizabeth was incensed and fired off a saucy letter: “My dear Mrs. Bollinger: I have traveled extensively in my lifetime and have met people you could only dream about. Please be assured that I am, and never was, disappointed as a result of my unmarried state!” With a devilish wink in her eye, she acknowledged she had ‘fun in her life.’ It was this author’s pleasure to know this remarkable lady who died on November 7, 1982, two weeks shy of her 90th birthday.

Anyone can look on a map to find parks. Not everyone can tell you where the hidden dog paths are.

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Jewish History Group: Once each month, Marsha Sternstein has a study group (just for women), discussing Jewish history at 7:30 p.m. in the library at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Here are the dates for the sessions: March 24 (Nisan), April 21 (Iyar), May 19 (Iyun) and June 23 (Tammuz). Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

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 and B and 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/sbic.

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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.

Swimming Lessons: American Red Cross Swim Lessons are offered in our indoor warm water pool by certified instructors in Peeksilk. All levels are offered and private lessons are also available. Classes are conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call Terri, manager of the Society Hill 2 Recreation Center, at 914-737-4909 for more information.

Healthy Happy Hour: Healthy Happy Hours are held on Tuesday nights in Mahopac and another location may be added. Take a 10 day vacation from processed foods. Are sugary, fatty, easy-to-prepare, addictive junk foods making you feel sick and tired? Then reset your metabolism and break your addictions to unhealthy foods. For more information contact Diane at 914-843-8745.

Wednesday, March 25

Fitness Program: The POUNDTM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop-in or weekly discount rates available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914-941-4087.

Bingo Wednesdays: Come to First Hebrew for $2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of $1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew’s website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914-739-0500 or www.firsthebrew.org.

Wine With Weinor: Come to Beth Am today for an informal conversation with the Jewish community on the issues that affect our lives. With welcoming wine (or other beverages people bring), Rabbi Weinor facilitates a fascinating “laid-back” discussion while bringing us closer as a Jewish community. Congregants and non-congregants alike are invited to take this journey with our Rabbi. No previous knowledge is required and all backgrounds are welcome. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbis@optonline.net.

Thursday, March 26

IBM Retirees Club: The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will hold their March meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. The scheduled speaker is Dr. Katharine Prase, vice president and CEO of Global Public Sector, IBM Corporation. Frase’s topic will be “IBM Today and What is New” Refreshments and sign-in at p.m. Dues will be collected. New members are welcome. Info: 914-528-5916.

Poison Control: Poison Control and Prevention, presented by Andrea Elam, community health educator for the New York City Poison Control Center, will be held at 6 p.m. at the Somers Library. The program will discuss the “three-legged stool of safety: safe usage, storage and disposal of potential poisons and medications.” There will be a Q&A at the end of the presentation. The program is free but registration is required. To register, call the library at 914 232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org.

Somers Library Exhibit: Lusandre Lee Chaudruc will be the featured artist for the month of March at the Somers Library Art Gallery. Please call the library for viewing times in the program room at 914-232-5717 or visit us online at www.somerslibrary.org.

Friday, March 27

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.

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services in the spring will begin at 8 p.m. (not 6:15 p.m.) and Sabbath services on Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. On most Saturdays, after the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324或 www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Environmental Film Series: The Call to Action Environmental Film Series, Episode 4 “Ice and Brimstone” of the Showtime “Years of Living Dangerously” series will be screened at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Hudson Valley, 2021 Albany Post Rd., Croton on Hudson, just off the Montrose exit of Rt. 9. Admission is free and discussion and refreshments will follow the film. Info: ucvroton.org or 914-271-4283.

Saturday, March 28

SAT Practice Exam: A free SAT practice exam will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Somers Library. Students will receive an analysis of their results from Kaplan Test Prep within a few weeks of the exam. Please bring calculators, pencils, water and a snack. Registration is required. To register, call the library at 914 232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org.

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, Berceza, Brenner, Brickley, Edmier, Feurman, Gathell, Hacker, Indiana, LeDray, Majul, Mapletonre, Nesbit, Newson, Otters, Ozbolt, Pretzer, Ritterpusch, Rückhäberle, Sadler, Tomasula, 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 programming and resources 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 Cortlandt 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 Anonymous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous—may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

Blood, Sweat And Tears: Blood, Sweat and Tears will perform at 8 p.m. at The Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. The iconic jazz/rock outfit known as BS&T rolls into The Paramount in Peekskill featuring the amazing vocals of American Idol’s Bo Bice who was discovered by the band’s original drummer Bobby Colomby. Info: paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Music Night: Music in the Night, An Evening of Cello and Candlelight, part of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown’s 2015 Concert Series, will be held at 7:30 p.m. The performers will be international artists Andre Tetelmassov, cellist, and Simona Fenkel, pianist. The concert will be held in the historic candlelit sanctuary at 2880 Crompond Rd., Yorktown. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall and a donation is suggested to help support the concert series. Info: 914-245-2186 or www.fpcychortown.org.
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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING 2015-16 TENTA- TIVE VILLAGE BUDGET: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trust- ees of the Village of Pleasantville, West- chester County, New York will hold a pub- lic hearing on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 8:00pm, prevailing time, Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pleasantville, N.Y. for the purpose of hearing comments as it pertains to the 2015-2016 Tentative Village Budget. All persons interested in speaking on this subject will be heard. Judith Weintraub, Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Final Assessment Roll for the Village of Pleasantville, New York for the year 2015 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Village Clerk, 80 Wheeler Avenue, in said Village on the 1st day of April 2015 where same will remain open to public inspection for fifteen days. Judith Weintraub, Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

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Behind a top-10 state playoff scoring performance from senior MVP Jalay Knowles (45 points), the awe-inspiring Ossining Pride 3-peated as NYSPHSAA Class AA champions last Saturday night at Hudson Valley Community College after their 76-54 no-doubt-about-it win over previously undefeated Section 5 champion Rush-Henrietta, the only other Class AA team in state history to 3-peat. Seniors Abby Squirrell, Stef Svoboda, Madison Strippoli, Jalay Knowles, Jenna Lividini, Alicia Sanchez and Cyan Scarduzio, along with All-Tourney junior Shadeen Samuels, plus the rest of Coach Dan Ricci’s Pride -- including Gabby Ferrao, Kelsey Quain, Alexis Bernardo, Iaida Strippoli, Cassidy Martinez, Helen Ishmael and Kailah Harris -- are the very fabric of this marvelous achievement... see Girls Hoops Notebook
Knowles Spectacular in Ossining’s 3-Peat for NYS Title

**Pride MVP Paves Way to Federation Tourney**

By Tony Pinciari & Ray Gallagher

Obviously, Bethlehem Central and Rush-Henrietta did not pay attention to the way Horseheads played defense against Ossining senior MVP Jalay Knowles.

Horseheads held Knowles to a season-low nine points, but the Pride still won by double digits in a New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AA Girls Basketball regional final.

Horseheads focused solely on not allowing Knowles to take over the game. Knowles responded to her uncharacteristic nine points with a highlight-film performance at the state final four.

Knowles registered 25 points and 18 rebounds in a state-ranked (No.1) Ossining’s 70-53 semifinal win over Bethlehem Central. The University of Hartford-bound Knowles followed up with a 45-point, 16-rebound effort in a 76-54 victory over Rush-Henrietta, giving Ossining its third consecutive New York State Class AA title. Knowles set a state playoff record for most points in a quarter (22 in the second) and was named the Class AA most outstanding player for her showing, capping one of the most impressive varsity basketball careers in NYS history.

Ossining, riding a 20-game winning streak, will face Long Island Lutheran Friday, 3 p.m. at the University of Albany in a NYS Federation semifinal. The Crusaders knocked off the Pride in last year’s Federation title game. The other semifinal has Christ the King playing South Shore (PSAL champ). The semifinal winners play Saturday, 7 p.m., for the Federation championship.

"Jalay was amazing this weekend," Ossining coach Dan Ricci said. "The 25 and 18 followed by 45 and 16, in back-to-back days, is an amazing feat. I get a kick out of coaches who don’t want to play back-to-back days. These are kids and they want to play every day!"

Knowles’ impact on the court has become legendary; however, the five-year varsity player has an impact off the court.

“One of the best compliments I can give Jalay is how impressed all the opposing coaches and media feel about what a great kid she is,” Ricci said. “Every game someone tells me how nice a person Jalay is.”

Even though Knowles was held to nine points in the Horseheads game, her teammates showed they can be just as dangerous. Junior guard Shadeen Samuels had a monster game, offensively, fueling the Pride to victory. All-Tourney pick Samuels scored 14 points for Ossining against Bethlehem and Stefanie Svoboda added 13. Samuels, a junior who scored her 1,000th career point on a 3-pointer to open the second quarter, finished the season with a state playoff record 19.6 points per game.

Ossining MVP Jalay Knowles smiles as she accepts her third NYS championship medal.

Ossining girls celebrate their 3-peat as NYS Class AA champs last Saturday after knocking off Rush-Henrietta.

Ossining’s Abby Squirrel, Cyan Scarduzio and Gabby Ferraro flaunt their gold medals.

that could compete for the section title.

the game believing it was one of two teams

win it could hang its hat on against a state-

of the season, Lakeland (3-2) chalked up a

It’s 20-6 win over visiting John

äs24

Put Valley Steamrolls Ossining, 68-49, Basso Drops 23 (5-2) will have a lot to say about that on

Fourth (60-yard score) was an absolute

told the chemistry-seeking Tigers a little

ordered for an inconsistent Putnam

Nothing, Nolan playing one of his better

swingman Peter Hoffmann, who will pose

and PV will feature Basso and Blue Devil

scored a team-high 14 points.

Harrison Deegan (10 points) and Anders

Putnam Valley’s Zack Nolan fires J against the Pride and played one of his best games this season in

"at least we have each other" when they

Put Valley’s Joe Spinola finds seam in Ossining defense.

something tells me Feb. 6th will be a

to that list after winning the Pride’s

third consecutive NYS Class AA girls’

basketball championship last Saturday at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY, where state-ranked (No.1) Ossining manhandled No.5 Rush Henrietta, 76-54. Those same Royal Comets were the only other team in state history to accomplish this rare feat, doing so from 2006-08.

In the eyes of opposing fan bases, Ricci has gone from public enemy No.1, to among the most respected basketball coaches in New York State, having won five consecutive Section 1 Class AA basketball titles and six overall since 2004. His players run through walls for him.

“I’m just glad I was able to play under Coach Ricci because without him I wouldn’t get half of the awards I have received,” said Hartford-bound Pride MVP Jalay Knowles, who scored 45 points (not a misprint) and collared 16 rebounds (normal stuff, for her).

That sounds eerily similar to something former Pride All-American Saniya Chong once told me after she became the first Ossining player to win Slam Dunk, Section 1 and NYSPHSAA tournament MVP awards; a feat matched only by Knowles last Saturday.

The brash and unabashed Ricci, now in his 24th season at Ossining (404-139), has been known to stir the pot, illicit emotion and get under the skin of opponents with his fiery bravado, but he’s done so in a manner that one has to
Haldane Falls in State Semis, Loses to Champion Lake George

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Haldane High shot just 9 for 25 from the field (36%) and 1 for 9 from 3 (11.1%) in the first half, putting themselves in a 29-21 halftime hole, from which they could not dig out of in last Friday’s 70-60 loss to Lake George in the NYSPHSAA Class C semifinals at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Lake George’s Kyle Jones buried a 3 at 5:50 of the third, providing a 35-23 lead and the romp was on, effectively ending Haldane’s historical season at 18-5.

Lake George went on to win its second NYSPHSAA championship in three years by knocking off Waterville, 53-50, on Saturday.

The Blue Devils held Lake George hotshot and tourney MVP Joel Wincowski to seven points, six rebounds and four assists in the first half, but they still trailed by eight on account of being outrebounded 18-14 and allowing the Warriors to drain open 3s, six before the half.

Jones (19 points) hit his fourth three, the ninth of the game for the Warriors at 5:04 of the third, for 38-25 lead. His fifth trey gave Lake George a 48-30 lead at 2:15 of the third. The Blue Devils were simply helpless to stop what was a decisive third-quarter run, leading to a 16-point bulge. Jones, son of the Warriors’ head coach, David Jones, buried five of his team’s 11 three-pointers on the night.

Lake George (26-1) went up 20 with 1:54 left in the third when Wincowski picked up his fourth foul, providing a glimmer of hope for the Blue Devils.

Haldane dropped six straight to cut the deficit to 59-47 with 4:19 left. The Blue Devils trimmed it to 10 points with a minute left, proving there was no quit in the team, which reached Glens Falls for the first time since 2001 after becoming the first Haldane boys’ team to repeat as Section 1 champs.

All-League senior F Edmund Fitzgerald led the Blue Devils with 17 points and 10 boards while All-Section senior Peter Hoffmann added 16 points on 6-of-13 shooting to earn an All-Tournament nod.

“I’ll never will forget the memories I made with my brothers,” said Hoffmann.

Senior G Ryan McCollum added 12 points for Haldane.

“We have some great memories and I’ll never forget the run we made,” McCollum said.

Wincowski, the all-time scoring leader in Section 2 history, finished with 21 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists and three steals while drawing rock-star status in the Albany region and beyond.

Knowles Spectacular in Ossining’s 3-Peat for NYS Title ———

continued from page 24

night with 19 points in the title tilt.

“This is a true team,” Ricci said. “I think the regional final was Jalay’s lowest-scoring game of the year, but Horseheads focused their defense to stop her, which opened things up for Shadeen and Stef (Svoboda).

“I don’t believe the girls realize what they just accomplished. Winning three consecutive class AA state championships is amazing,” Ricci said. “Like some of my kids have been quoted following yesterday’s game, each time you win, it seems brand new again.”

For the talented starting five of Knowles, Abby Squirrell, Samuels, Stefanie Svoboda and Cyn Scarduzio, plus reserves Madison Strippoli and Jenna Lividini, winning two – or three in the case of Knowles, Squirrell, Svoboda, Strippoli and Samuels – NYS titles never gets old.

Tough Love Works ———

continued from page 24

admire; through tough love and mutual respect. He’s earned the right to bark along the sidelines like a rabid dog because he truly cares about Section 1 basketball and its representation on the state’s grand stage. Watch him at the County Center: He’s there for every coach and player seeking to advance the game he loves.

At a time when a girls lax coach is getting sucker punched at Mahopac for allegedly cutting a player (see our news story), Coach Ricci defies the new-school mentality, still toeing a hard line and marching with the last bastion. As scores of vicarious, modern-day parents seek to ruin varsity athletics, turning the evolution of sports into a “Devilution” (disrespect with no shame); take a good, long look at his Ossining basketball program, which Ricci built from the ground up, and has the support of an entire town and school district.

“I think it’s the tradition of our upperclassmen teaching the young bloods the ropes,” said Ricci, still nutty at his core.

Tradition is where it starts, just like it does in neighboring Yorktown when it comes to lax. The message out of these places is simple: Let the coach, coach, and use athletics for teachable moments and valuable life lessons; like it was back in the day. There’s a lot of tough love going on at Ossining, and the kids there are better for it.
Lax Begins, Ends at Yorktown, Home of 37-Time Section Champs

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Where it all starts, is where it all ends in the Section 1 lacrosse world. It starts with Yorktown High, among the premier programs in the nation, and for 43 of the last 47 years it has ended there; with Yorktown winning the Section 1 and/or Hudson Valley championship before representing the region in the NYSPHSAA tournament where the Cornhuskers have been crowned state champions seven times, behind only to West Genny (15) and Ward Melville (8) in NYS.

And look no further than Yorktown (18-5) when searching for your 2015 Section 1 Class B favorites. Coach Dave Marr’s reigning NYS champions may have lost a ton of talent to graduation, including three All-Americans -- Luke Palmadesso (Villanova), Conor Vercruyssse (Rutgers) and Austin Fusco (Syracuse) -- but the Huskers bring back far more than anywhere else in Section 1.

CLASS B is Yorktown’s for the taking this season, with perhaps SOMERS or another program providing the stiffest challenge as JOHN JAY goes into rebuilding mode for at least a year. The Huskers are stacked where it matters most, at the midfield where they must fill the void of face-off man Palmadesso, one of the best two-way players in recent memory, who shined in their 10-9 NYS title win over Jamesville-DeWitt.

When it comes time to pay the piper, Yorktown will always be ready to pay the man, and the midfield is where it all starts with M/A Nick Del Bene (32 G-18 A-50 P), Monmouth-bound M/A Michael Devukaj (36-8-44) and M Ryan Baker (19-9-28). Others expected to carry the load on offense include Billy Strassman, Justin Cavallo and Logan Peters, who each scored eight or more goals last season.

Devukaj is stoked to carry on the tradition.

“We got a lot of great new guys this year,” he exclaimed. “We have Justin Cavallo, a sophomore, who is absolutely ridiculous. He’s a lefty attacker and plays like a Canadian. We have Logan Peters, a big 6’3” 240-pound attacker who’s pretty much impossible to stop unless you double him.

Defensively, Yorktown will need to replace two-time A-A Fusco, perhaps its finest long pole since two-time A-A Stephen McElduff, and the only three-time A-A in program history, Chris Watson. Additionally, All-Section G Austin Graham improved with each game before excelling in the playoffs, and the void in goal is a huge one that junior Liam Donnelly will attempt to fill. LSM Jose Boyer is a beast to keep your eyes on, as are poles Tyler Makar and Timmy Forbes, a strong physical senior defenseman who can push attacker around.

Boyer, just a soph, may already be the best defenseman in the section. Fast and physical, the kid is already drawing comparisons to Fusco.

“He’s a freak of nature,” Devukaj said. Here’s what we know: The Huskers have simply re-loaded where they lost key personnel, and they’re not whole heck of lot stopping them from winning yet another sectional crown while providing a typical run at the state jewel.

“That’s always the goal,” Devukaj said. SOMERS (14-5) enters an entirely new era with first-year Coach Vin DeGregorio taking over the reins from Lew Janavey, who was unceremoniously excused from the position he held since 2009, the last year Somers won the Section 1 Class B crown. That was during the final year of the then-Syracuse-bound Jojo Marasco run. Marasco is now with the MLL’s NY Lizards and the Tuskers haven’t seen hide nor hair of the Section 1 championship Jojo bolted.

Somers has been seeking the next level since Jojo left for ‘Cuse, where he attained All-American levels, but either Yorktown or John Jay has been in Somers’ way, leaving DeGregorio with the same problem Janavey and a phalanx of other coaches in Section 1 is left with: How to beat Yorktown.

DeGregorio spent the last six seasons as Greetley’s lead dog, and the Tuskers spent the entire off-season mired in what went wrong during their shocking 14-5 semifinal loss to Byram Hills. That is undoubtedly stuck in the craw of top returnees, including skilled poles Sean Wagner and Joe Spor, plus middies Tyler DeVito, Andrew Gross and Pat Cousin, as well as attackmen Rob Zatolia and AJ Cartelli.

With nine impact players to graduation, the goal remains the same at prideful Somers, where expectations are to contend with Yorktown and win a Section 1 title.

“They’re committed to working hard and pushing each other to maximize their potential,” said DeGregorio, a former All-Section player at Yorktown. They also understand the effort required to achieve a success. Good senior leadership coupled with talented newcomers has created a great atmosphere.

BREWSTER Coach Michael Honey enters his 9th year as Bears’ coach coming off an 8-9 season whereby the Bears were eliminated by Class B runnerup Byram Hills in the opening round of sectionals. He will do so without the All-American services of Fairfield-bound middie Liam DaRosa.

Several returnees are expected to have impactful seasons for the Bears (8-9), including the coach’s son, freshman A Ryan Honey and A Tyler Gonska. At midfield, seniors Joe Guida and Joe Petrogallo return, along with junior Kevin Blank.

The defense has been hit hard by graduation, seeing only pole Nick Coco and G Chris Schaub return.

Key newcomers include M Jack Guida (sohp) and junior D Nick Panucci and Jeremy Meissner.

“Our goal each year is to try and get better each day and peak when we get to sectionals,” said Honey. “We are very young in spots and play in a very tough league. We can’t get discouraged; the key will be to remain positive and grow as a team. This is a great group of kids and I am really looking forward to this season.”

HEN Hud (8-9) lost in the first round against Greetley last year when the Sailors jumped to Class B after losing to Bronxville in the Class C finals. They quickly found out that the jump to B isn’t for the light-hearted, but 18th-year Coach Craig Solomon thinks the current unit is a year wiser with a slew of top-flight returnees, including seniors...
Andrew Sofroniou and the Lakeland D did some serious snot-knocking in win over Jay.

The juniors are strong and middie Mike Smith (58-14-72) is the team’s most prolific scorer, who will go full bore at the Hen Hud career scoring mark the next two seasons. He will be joined at midfield by Nick Marra and Jared Hershman. D Sebastian Burbano is another junior.

Top newcomers will include senior Nick Anapol and underclassmen Frank Riefenhauser, Joey Ledwin, Aiden Barry, Joe Pecchia, Andrew Persaud, Santiago Cardona, Mike Moran and a trio of talented freshmen in Alan Jackson freshman (LSM), Vinny Bell (G) and Austin Fraser (A).

We do have a great deal of experience on the offensive side of the ball and we have had a great crew to start to the season,” said Solomon. “Our goals as always is to compete in every game, improve throughout the season and play our best come sectional time. I think this season could be special for us. We have a solid group of returning players and a bunch of young kids who will contribute right away for us. Our schedule is very competitive as always and we look forward to having to play our best every game.

CLASS A

LAKELAND/PANAS (15-6) has had a Sienna-bound Prunty brother as the front man for the last two Section 1 Class A championships the Rebels have won (2010-14); both Connor and Brian, respectively, each passing the reigns from one brother to the other, with Brian doing so vastly to skillful junior A Kevin Prunty (29-19-48), the last in the line.

Coach Jim Lindsay’s Rebels have been hit hard by graduation and repeating the feat as Class A champs is something the district has failed to do since the 1991 three-peat, the tail end of the Ric Beardsley era; an era unlike any other in the history of Lakeland lacrosse. The Rebels may never see another period like that again, but the Class A tourny is there for the taking without a clear-cut pre-season favorite, unless one subscribes to the hype coming out of an improved Arlington camp.

If it all starts at midfield, which it does, then the Rebels are in a good place with junior faceoff man Nick Vazquez, one of the best in the region off the draw. But besides he and Prunty, the Rebels don’t have very much varsity experience, so Lindsay admitted the team we see now should be vastly different from the one we see in May. If it is indeed a rebuilding year, Lindsay will never cries the blues. He will coach his kids to be competitive and work them hard to be better.

The junior class is pretty solid with Joe Cortese displaying a quick first step and a finishing touch. Watch out for Sean Makar, a stud attackerman, who sees the field exceptionally well. LSM Griffin Shialdon is solid. G Kevin Dyckman will be taking over for Mike Zingaro between the pipes and looks to have a ton of potential, as do young attackmen Kyle Castner and Tim Fallo.

MAHOPAC tail-spin last season when the dearth of scoring became so prevalent that the Indians failed to keep up with Class C teams like Putnam Valley, for a second-straight year. Not that Putnam Valley is anyone’s slouch but a legit Class A title contender has to be able to beat the second-tier teams in Class C, which Mahopac was able to do down the stretch when it upset eventual NYS Class C champion Bronxville and Class B runner-up John Jay. Youthful Mahopac came on strong down the stretch, and with an additional year of seasoning under their collective belts, the Indians (8-10) look like they could be one of the last two teams standing this season.

The athleticism within this unit runs fairly deep with sniping senior attackman DJ Pearl, juniors M Dan Foley and Yale-bound LSM Aidan Foley are legit, joining senior pole Max Littleton, plus the expected emergence of juniors Christian Donahoe and Johnny Ward, who are both nursing minor injuries. Nick Schring, Robert Buckley, Ryan Maloney and Frankie Ward will provide some depth.

Newcomers like Andrew Evans, Zach Carlin, Chris Howard, Johnnie Ward, Shane McDonald, Tom Wilson and Joe Cavaciuti are hoping to be impactful.

“Foley and DJ are going to have a big season for us,” eighth-year Mahopac Coach Mike Haddeland said. “They will be up there as our leading scorers this season. A lot of the juniors are going to have good seasons for us. The junior class is very good. We will be a tough out once we get healthy. Donahoe is dealing with a knee injury and Johnny Ward is also out with a leg injury, so we are without two starters for a bit. At least it will let some of the young guns get some time.”

In Andrew Evans, only a soph, is someone to keep serious tabs on, as are junior poles Zack Carlin and Chris Howard; both solid athletes alongside Littleton, giving the Indians three close defenders that are 6’1” or better and over 190 pounds.

Junior G Michael Aurisicchio improved steadily last season and should be solid between the pipes for the Indians, who will be in a league with a vastly improved Arlington club that is looking to steal Mahopac’s thunder.

CLASS C

PUTNAM VALLEY (12-7) will have reigning NYS champion Bronxville to contend with and there is some doubt as to whether or not first-year Coach Ted Ignatz can run with the Broncos this spring, as they seek to become the first Section 1 team to repeat as NYS champions since Yorktown’s three-peat back in 1993.

The Tigers, semifinal losers to Pleasantville last season, are setting their sights on getting back to the Class C finals for the first time since 2010.

Senior A Kyle Bronzo (26-16-42) is built like the proverbial brick crapper and a healthy Jack O’Connell should provide a significant boost to the depleted midfield corps, but the strength of this unit lies in its goaltender, senior Ryan Mello. The St. Thomas Aquinas-bound captain is one of the more gifted goalies in the region and he will be tested often as the Tigers break in two new poles alongside senior Connor Malone.

Expect the Tigers to produce a League 1-B title as they appear (on past history) to be as good or better than every team in their new league, but they may not add up to post-season success with lesser challenges coming from non-traditional powers like Ossining, Haldane, North Salem, Peekskill and Pawling (2X each).

HALDANE will need to replace the 80 points scored by George Fibble as they look to reach the next tier in Section 1 lax.

Ignatz is stoked for Year 1 of the new era, hoping it is the start of continuing a Brian Kuczma-led tradition that produced three Section 1 championships from 2004-10, but the Tigers have failed to reach the finals ever since repeating in 2010. The rise of Bronxville has coincided with several years of mediocrity at PV, including a 4-11 season and a first-round ousting in 2011. PV went 12-7 last year and hopes to be a finalists this season.

“We have a highly motivated group of young men and coaches working hard to make this a great season here at Putnam Valley,” Ignatz said. “Our goal is to continue to build on the core values that this program has always been about and continue to work hard to play our best lacrosse every game. We brought in former players Billy Ries and Ryan Fitzgerald as assistants and I have Evan Kneuer and John McLean working at the JV level. All of these individuals played on the 2009 or 2010 sectional title teams and they know what it takes to compete at that level and their influence on our players is already showing. The team is looking forward to a great season of lacrosse and stepping up to the challenges that wait for us throughout our schedule.”

Ignatz said the coaches will lean heavily on the experience of returning seniors; Bronze, Jacob DeMey, Sam Honors, Malone, Mello and O’Connell.

LEAGUE BREAKDOWN (2x around)

League I-A – Arlington (A), Carmel (A), Hen Hud (B), Lakeland/Panas (A), Mahopac (A), Lourdes (C), Wappingers (A)

League I-B – Haldane (C), North Salem (C), Ossining (B), Pawling (C), Peekskill (B), Putnam Valley (C)

League I-C – Brewster (B), Fox Lane (A), Greeley (B), John Jay (B), Somers (B), Yorktown (B)

Past Local Section 1 Champs Since 1974

Yorkstown 37 (every year except 2010, ’06, ’97, ’79, ’75, ’76)


Somers 6 (2009, ’06, ’03, ’02, ’01, ’00)


Lakeland 3 (1991, ’90, ’89)

Put Valley 3 (2010, ’09, ’04)

Brewster 1 (1999)

Panas 1 (1975)

Section 1 finals at White Plains

May 21: Class C, 3 p.m.; Class A, 5:30 p.m.; Class B, 8 p.m.