Ossining Bank Manager Sentenced for Stealing $1.4M

By Rick Pezzullo

A 47-year-old Mount Kisco woman was sentenced to two to seven years in prison last week after pleading guilty to stealing more than $1.4 million from two depositors during her tenure as branch manager of an Ossining bank.

Maria Rodriguez could have faced up to 25 years in jail after pleading guilty to two counts of grand larceny and one count of criminal tax fraud on February 23 in White Plains.

According to Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore, Rodriguez systematically stole the money over a five-year period starting in June 2008 from the two customers who knew her and trusted to help manage their accounts at the M&T Bank on South Highland Avenue.

Rodriguez is accused of stealing $1,112,127.40 from one victim by writing unauthorized checks to cash, making unauthorized cash withdrawals and requesting an ATM card and making unauthorized ATM withdrawals. She knew the victim for close to 20 years, authorities said.

The second victim, a 92-year-old retired Village of Ossining police officer, had $192,144 stolen from his account. DiFiore stated that the victim would only deal with Rodriguez and thought she was withdrawing just the interest from his bank account. However, she was making unauthorized withdrawals worth thousands of dollars over several years.

Reportedly, Rodriguez used some of the money to frequent casinos, including Empire City in Yonkers.

The thefts were uncovered when several of Rodriguez’s subordinates contacted M&T Bank’s whistleblower hotline to report suspicious activity. The bank then initiated an internal investigation, which led the financial institution to refer the matter to the Village of Ossining Police Department, which contacted the District Attorney’s Office. The New York State Tax Department also assisted in the investigation.

continued on page 14
May 14 - State Police from Stormville arrested Christine Lehner, 25, of Yorktown, for driving while intoxicated and unlawful possession of marijuana after responding to assist a disabled vehicle on the Taconic State Parkway. Lehner was found to be in possession of 4.3 grams of marijuana and provided a positive breath sample that revealed a blood alcohol content over the legal limit.

State Police from Cortlandt charged Sal Lagonia, 50, of Cortlandt, with failing to stop for an erratic vehicle complaint. Lagonia was charged with a felony after an investigation revealed he was convicted of DWI in 2010.

May 15 - Fuad Aljamal, 32, of Mahopac, was charged with providing false information on an application for a New York State driver’s license and displaying that information on an application for a New York State driver’s license and displaying that information. Imbimbo was charged with providing a false identification after an investigation revealed he was convicted of DWI in 2010.

May 16 - 5:02 p.m. – Peter Laqueur, 46, of Somers, was charged with criminal contempt and resisting arrest following a domestic dispute. An investigation revealed Baloy had violated a limited court order of protection by harassing and threatening a victim. As troopers attempted to place Baloy in custody police said she physically resisted arrest. Baloy was arraigned in Somers Town Court and released on her own recognizance.

May 17 - Robert Kissel, Jr., 30, of Cortlandt, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped by troopers for a license plate violation. He is due in Cortlandt Town Court May 29.

May 20 - Mark Riley, 55, of Mohawk Lake, was charged with intentionally shooting a series of crossbow arrows at an employee of the Mohawk Park Home for Adults on Lexington Avenue. He was arrested for attempted assault in the first degree and criminal possession of a weapon. He was arraigned in Cortlandt Town Court and remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of $50,000 bond.

May 21 - 5:15 p.m. – Two unidentified boys, ages 11 and 9, were charged with juvenile delinquency for allegedly forcibly entering the Crazy Paint paintball store on Route 6 in Mohiegan Lake on several occasions.
Busing for Peekskill Elementary Students, Budget Approved

By Rick Pezzullo

A transportation proposition to only include busing next year for Peekskill School District students in kindergarten through fifth grade in public and private schools was approved by voters last week.

The controversial $1.765 million proposition passed 544 to 360. District officials had been considering asking voters to approve a proposition that would have provided busing for all students, including in the middle school and high school, who currently have to walk or be driven to school.

Busing next year will be provided for 1,123 elementary public school students and 192 private school students who live within 15 miles of the school they attend. Not covered will be private high school students who have received busing from the district for the last 20 years.

Meanwhile, the $83.65 million budget, with a tax increase of 2.62%, was approved 582 to 320. Peekskill received $2.5 million more in state aid than it had anticipated. The additional funding will allow the district to offer new programs and services and add 27 new positions, including six part-time teacher aides, four reading teacher specialists, one bilingual secretary and a dance teacher for the middle school and high school.

In the Board of Education race for two seats, incumbents Colin Smith and Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon were reelected to new terms with 550 and 505 votes respectively. Ramen Fernandez finished third with 371 votes.

Budgets Pass Handily in Five Area School Districts

School budgets were approved handily Tuesday in the Lakeland, Hendrick Hudson, Yorktown, Ossining and Somers districts.

In Lakeland, the $161 million budget passed 877 to 248. In the Board of Education race for three seats, Carol Dobson was reelected with 881 votes, along with newcomers Michael Daly with 817 votes and Karen Pressman with 801. Former school trustee Michael Cherchia finished out of the running with 579.

In Yorktown, the $97.5 million budget passed 640 to 252. Jackie Carbone and Christine Montero were reelected to the board in an uncontested race. Yorktown Watchdog Ed Ciffone received one write-in vote.

In Hendrick Hudson, the $74.4 million budget was approved 580 to 154. A bus proposition and funding for the library were also approved. Trustees Mary-Pat Briggi, Laurie Ryan were reelected with no opposition.

In Ossining, the $117.2 million budget passed 1,106 to 405. Felix Flores and Maria Fernandez-Williams were elected to the Board of Education in an uncontested race.

In Somers, the $86.6 million budget was overwhelmingly approved, 1,029 to 371 and a proposition to utilize money from a Capital Reserve Fund passed 935 to 286.

In the uncontested Board of Education race, incumbents Michael D’Anna and Sarena Meyer were elected for another three-year term, while Chadwick Olsen was elected to fill an unexpired term effective immediately. He will serve through June, 2017.

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NRC Reviews Safety Performance at Indian Pt, Probes Fire

By Rick Pezzullo

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) publicly presented its annual safety performance assessment of the Indian Point nuclear power plants last Wednesday in Tarrytown.

A day earlier, a three-member NRC Special Inspection Team visited the Buchanan facility regarding the presence of water in an electrical supply room at Indian Point 3 following a May 9 fire at one of two main electrical transformers.

Entergy officials said the plant safely and automatically shut down following the 6 p.m. incident. The fire, which caused black smoke to hover over the plant, was quickly extinguished by an automatic sprinkler system and trained onsite personnel. No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

The fire was classified as a Notice of Unusual Event, the lowest of four emergency designations for U.S. nuclear power plants, as outlined by the NRC. Indian Point 2 was not affected by the fire and is operating at full power. Some oil from the transformer was discharged into the Hudson River.

"None of the electrical equipment became wet or experienced any damage or failures as a result of the water," said NRC Region 1 Administrator Dan Dorman.

"Nevertheless, the NRC inspectors will be tasked with gathering information on how the water accumulated in the room and the potential for impacts had there been a significantly larger volume of water."

As for the safety performance assessment, NRC officials said Indian Point, which is owned by Entergy, had no inspection findings or performance indicators greater than "green" (very low safety significance) in 2014. In 2014, the NRC devoted approximately 8,280 hours of review at Indian Point.

"Because Indian Point did not have any safety or security issues rising above very low significance in 2014, we are not currently planning any inspections above and beyond our normal reviews," Dorman said.

Indian Point 3’s 40-year operating license expires on December 12, 2015. The NRC is currently reviewing a 30-year license renewal request from Entergy.

The Business Council of Westchester expressed its strong support for the continuation of Indian Point, maintaining closing the plants would eliminate 3,300 jobs and $75 million in revenue.

"While the economic and environmental arguments in favor of Indian Point are clear, the plant’s continued safe operations transcend all considerations," said John Ravitz, Executive Vice President/COO of the Business Council. "Our organization supports the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s stringent oversight of plant operations and its commitment to ensuring the highest level of safety for all our country’s nuclear power plants."

Meanwhile, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi called on the NRC to urge another federal agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reopen the public hearings for a planned gas pipeline expansion project that would run near the Indian Point power plants.

"Every day in the news we hear about a gas line explosion. The existing gas line would be rerouted closer to Indian Point 500 to 1,000 feet away at various spots and expanded from a 26” pipe to a 42” pipe with an increase of 25% in pressure," Puglisi stated. "That makes no sense and presents a possible problem and danger."

Ricky and Yasmin Jaisingh, owners of the GNC store at the Cortlandt Town Center, presented Kathy Quinn, executive director of Support Connection, with a check for $1,000 last week as Peekskill resident George Ondek and Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel looked on.

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Rigger Proud of Accomplishments, Confident in Peek Dems

By Rick Pezzullo

 Peekskill Councilman Darren Rigger said he would have run for a second four-year term if the Democrats were unable to field a formidable team, but he is confident in the foursome that was chosen.

 In particular, Rigger said he is excited about Andre “Noodle” Rainey, an entertainment company owner, who is vying for one of three available council seats.

 “He’s a young African-American guy with long ties to the community. He might be part of the solution to energize the young voters,” Rigger said. “Elections have great consequences. We can’t seem to get people energized. People over 55 make up 75% of the voters. I’m concerned about voter apathy and plummeting numbers in the City of Peekskill.”

 Rigger also believes Simpson Place resident Ken Martin, who is running for mayor, is on the right track with his campaign slogan “Positively Peekskill.”

 “I think he has a good positive outlook. We can improve Peekskill and make people feel good,” Rigger said. “The mayor (Frank Catalina) expresses his passion for Peekskill in a very different way. The way he would express it is different than the way I would express it. There’s been a lot of negativity on both sides. It turns people off.”

 Despite the battles on the council, Rigger stressed he feels much has been accomplished over the last few years, including new businesses opening in Peekskill, improvements to the waterfront and several “firsts,” such as the first African-American judge in the city and the Common Council having a meeting at Peekskill High School.

 Another reason Rigger said he opted not to seek reelection is the growth of his Manhattan business, Dynamic SRG, a fundraising consulting firm for candidates and organizations. However, he noted he would be waiting in the wings if the Democrats need a candidate for political office.

 “I’m not going anywhere. I plan on staying in Peekskill and staying involved,” he said. “We are blessed in Peekskill to have a deep bench of people who want to serve.”

 Cortlandt Concert & Movie Series Kicks Off Thursday

 The Town of Cortlandt and the Cortlandt Manor Rotary Club will be kicking off its Summer Movie and Concert Series on Thursday, May 28 with the first concert performance by The Lost Soulz band at 7 p.m. at Cortlandt Waterfront Park on Riverview Avenue in Verplanck near the Hudson River.

 At 6 p.m., a band of local high school students called U Crew will get the festivities started. All attendees at the free event are encouraged to bring a blanket and a chair. Food vendors will be on site selling a variety of goods for dinner or an evening snack.

 In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved inside the Hendrick Hudson High School auditorium on Route 9A at the same date and time.

 Check the Town of Cortlandt website www.townofcortlandt.com for a complete listing of concerts and movies through the end of August.
Testa Launches Campaign for Fourth Term as County Legislator

By Rick Pezzullo

Westchester County Legislator John Testa (R-C/Peeplskill) announced last week he will be running for a fourth term representing District 1 during a kickoff rally attended by more than 100 supporters at The Hudson Room in downtown Peekskill.

The Minority Leader on the Board of Legislators, Testa, a former three-term Peekskill mayor and retired Peekskill High School teacher, represents Peekskill, Cortlandt and Yorktown.

“Central to my focus as county legislator has always been fighting for the municipalities I represent and bringing to Northern Westchester the infrastructure improvements that were long overdue,” said Testa, who mentioned the rehabilitation and repaving last year of more than two miles of county-owned Route 6/Main Street and the soon-to-be reconstruction and repaving of county-owned portions of Route 202 and North Division Street in Peekskill.

Testa said in 2014 he was proud to spearhead an office in Peekskill focused on Northern Westchester and dedicated for free legal services for senior citizens, veterans and victims of domestic violence. He also touted being involved in passing five county budgets without increasing county taxes and reducing the size of county government by over 15% without cutting essential services.

“Taking a bipartisan approach and working with County Executive Astorino, we have been able to bring a common sense, fiscally responsible focus to Westchester County government,” he said. “Although much has been accomplished there is still much more that needs to be done. I look forward to continuing the progress of creating taxpayer-friendly policies and bringing new business and success to Westchester County. Continuing working together with like-minded colleagues from both sides of the political aisle I am confident that the best days of Westchester County are still to come.”

No Democrat has yet announced a challenge to Testa, but according to political insiders several potential candidates are contemplating a run, including former Peekskill Mayor Mary Foster, who had a contentious working relationship with Testa when he was mayor and she was on the Common Council.

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Obituaries

Anil Ramdeen

Anil Ramdeen, a resident of Yorktown Heights, died May 20. He was 25.

Anil was the youngest of four brothers. He is survived by his parents, Marjorie and Lutchman Ramdeen and his brothers Vidia, Rajesh, Dave and Regendra Ramdeen. Anil was born on April 27, 1990 and is a graduate of Lakeland High School. He earned an associate’s degree from TCI Technical College and achieved a promising future working in IT. During the time when he wasn’t working toward his career, Anil would spend hours playing with his two nieces Kaila and Leela Ramdeen and two nephews Derek Ramdeen and Aaron Singh. He also cared for both his loving mother and father. Anil was a loving and caring person who will be missed dearly by all of his family and friends.

Viewing will be at Yorktown Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 26 from 4 - 8 pm. The funeral will be at Yorktown Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 27 from 10 – noon with the procession leading to Rosehill Memorial Park.

Joan T. Fusco

Joan T. Fusco, a resident of Somers, died May 22 at Putnam Hospital Center. She was 82.

She was born in New Rochelle, on August 17, 1932. She was a graduate of Edison High School in Mt Vernon, NY. In Heritage Hills she was a member of the Bowling League and Needlecraft Club. She is survived by her children Joseph (Susan) Valentino, Toni Marie (Corando) Garris and JoAnn (Michael) Querio; grandchildren Joemarie, Cory III, Adam, Joseph and James; and great-grandchildren Gina, Anthony, Kaden, Angelina, Arianna and Lilliana.

The family will be receive friends on May 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Clark Associates Funeral Home in Katonah. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on May 27 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's RC Church in Somers.

Cedar Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Ossining recently celebrated National Nurses Week by honoring its retired nurse residents. Left to right (seated): Carla Salanitro, Joann Miller, Arthine Mark and Evelyn Dolcimascolo. Left to right (standing): Pat Skidgell, Lovella Donati, Donna Penales, Margie Salazar, Emily Lagang and Debra Sabato.

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Letters

To the Editor:

There is a struggle taking place today between local small businesses where everybody knows your name and big box retail and national chains where the customer is an anonymous entity (nobody knows your name).

Much has been written lately about local small businesses, their importance to our economy, the feeling of community that they create, the critical role they have in a healthy vibrant community. Whether you live in a village, town or city, local small businesses are the backbone of the community. They are the risk takers and job creators that boost the local and regional economies. Becoming a go-to-place, a destination in large part, is the result of risk taking by local small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The memories that many of us have walking down Main Street, in Small Town USA (my Main Street was Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe circa 1950) is something we cherish and many of us have a longing to experience again. I remember walking down the Avenue (Columbus that is) with my mother and brothers, my mother would greet by name just about everyone we encountered. A trip for some milk and bread could take an hour (walking). We could get anything we needed on Columbus Avenue. Milk, bread, haircuts (Johnny Bambace), soda/beer (Leewood, Coca-Cola) fresh pasta, pizza (Româ’s, Saler-no’s) clothes (Epstein’s) fresh chicken. If there was not much foot traffic on the street we could stop in any shop along the way, walk in and be greeted by or greet the shop owner by name.

This was a time when people not only knew each other’s names, but where they lived, worked, and the conversation was more like one that you would have with a family member or neighbor, than with a stranger. Layaway plans and store credit were the norm then. In many shops after the owner added up the bill (often no cash register, just pen and paper); my mother would pay cash for nearly everything. On occasion she would just say, “Put it on my bill”. The owner would just say, “Ok Rose”. No credit cards then, just a pen in hand and a notebook.

Payday was a big event for us. As most cases then, Friday was the big day, pay day. During the next few days my mother or father would drop in on the local shops and settle up their accounts. It always seemed to be a happy and positive time for both my parents and the shopkeepers. Making good on credit that was extended to them on a hand shake and the good feeling that came from paying a debt owed (settling up).

Change is in the wind, you can smell it, you can taste it and you can feel it. People are talking about it, reporters and bloggers are writing about it. Yes we can bring back the sense of community, a vibrant local economy and that cozy down home, good feeling of years past, if we set our minds to it. One town, one street, one store front at a time.

The way forward is to assess our town’s assets and attributes to understand our strengths and weaknesses. With that information we can put a unified strategy together (nonpartisan, nonpolitical) that will help us weave the fabric of our community’s future. With our rich history dating back to the revolution, significant historic landmarks, a fantastic park system, a trail system unmatched in the area, growing interests in the arts, many cultural activities, we can become a destination. Improving, enhancing and creating a lasting, vibrant Yorktown community has become a priority.

BOB GIORDANO
Yorktown Small Business Association

An Open Letter to Vishnu Patel:

Dear Vishnu,

I write this as an open letter from one public relations professional to another. Yes, in my near half century of experience in my other profession besides real estate, I must say I stand in awe of your ability as a gifted public relations practitioner. I know that professionally you are a scientist as you always remind us, so your gift as a PR pro must be an innate one. Fictional Sammy Glick, historic P. T. Barnum and today’s Kardashians have nothing over your special talent to promote yourself. And let’s face it, in politics, getting votes is all about visibility in positive ways and you’ve always had some very good things going for you.

First, you are in an excellent position in that you have the time and energy to do all the things you do. You’re very patriotic and have two wonderful children in the military. You attend every opening (some people joke and say, “even the opening of an envelope”) and every event at which someone else achieves some success, inserting yourself into their pictures (in our trade, this is known as “con-sensual photo-bombing”).

You and I have had our differences, specifically when you breached ethical standards by sharing confidential town personnel and contractual information with Susan Siegel when she was not entitled to see it, but we have made our peace and I have not been critical of you in a long time because I feel that your ineffectiveness as a councilperson is beyond any kind of remedial help and I do not want to be unkind. Also, I have felt that you are genuinely concerned for your constituency even though you seem not to have a clue as to how to help them.

But Vishnu, one of your most positive features has always been that you have never seemed to be intentionally negative in your campaigning as I recall. Therefore, I was dismayed to see the really mean-spirited spin your choice to take when selected by our Democratic Committee to run for Supervisor against incumbent Michael Grace. To say that he has divided the town and, further, to dish him by saying that he governs like a “King” is somewhat dicey, wouldn’t you say? Surely you must have been coached in your comments by Twiddle Dee/Twiddle Dum Co-Chairs Elliott Krowe and Ron Stokes or real party boss, from what I understand, Lisa Mac-kay, whatever her title may be. In reading your comments, I suspect the only sentiments that can be credited directly to you is when you decline lawn signs which I applauded and when you say, “I don’t take no nickel from nobody.”

Vishnu, public relations is about communications, and very honestly, we just don’t understand what you’re talking about most of the time. I mentioned this once before, writing that our televised board meetings needed an interpreter and I was criticized harshly by a first-generation American who had misunderstood what I had written. I wasn’t referring to your language barrier. I myself am a first-generation American and neither my parents, my parents-in-law nor my wife spoke a word of English when they came to this country, so I am very sensitive about those of us with language issues.

I was referring not to how you speak but to the difficulty we have in figuring out the rationale behind the things you say! We may manage to decipher the meaning of the words you say but not

continued on page 9
For another character from down in the Village?

Or as another observer suggested to me: "Did Al show up at the Town Board meetings? The "Court Jester?" Or as another observer suggested to me, more unkindly, a two-word moniker for another character from down in the Village?

An Open Letter to Vishnu Patel: From One PR pro to Another

continued from page 8

their significance!

If you are portraying Michael Grace’s performance as the “King” of this governmental scenario, then which role would you have us cast you if we were to judge by observing your performance at Town Board meetings? The “Court Jester?” Or as another observer suggested to me, more unkindly, a two-word moniker for another character from down in the Village?

So Vishnu, here’s my advice from one PR pro to another: Take the high road in this campaign. Trust me, it’s your best card to play.

Sincerely,

BILL PRIMAVERA
By Neal Rentz

Westchester County residents and elected officials generally supported proposed regulations for onsite wastewater treatment systems last week, but asked the Board of Health to make sure they were not burdensome.

About 45 residents and elected officials packed the Somers Town House on May 21 to participate in a public hearing.

The county has stated that the regulations are intended to protect surface and groundwater from pollution.

The amendments being sought to Article VIII of the county sanitary code include requiring department approval for repairs of onsite wastewater treatment systems to verify that repair work complies with construction standards, ensuring the effectiveness of the repairs, offering homeowners the choice to install and use advanced wastewater treatment systems to better protect the environment by replacement of and retrofits to existing non-compliant septic systems; and strengthening the department’s licensed septic system contractor workmanship requirements to further protect against failure of onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Paul Kutzy, assistant commissioner for the county Department of Health’s Bureau of Environment Quality, said the department was still in the process of creating the new regulations. “It’s a draft, not a final product,” he said.

Kutzy said the county wanted to promote the use of alternatives to septic systems.

One of the requirements being considered by the county is to have contractors who make repairs to treatment systems call the county to inform them of what they are doing, Kutzy said, adding that someone from the county was available by telephone every hour of every day. If the emergency repairs are made outside of regular county workday hours, the county would allow the work to take place and have someone from the Department of Health’s staff to inspect the work during the county’s workweek.

“We get calls all the time” about potential health emergencies, such as oil spills, county Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said. The proposed regulations do not include “design standards” for water treatment systems, Kutzy said.

Bedford Supervisor Chris Burdick said he was a strong supporter of the proposed regulations. Burdick said he wanted to “commend the department for moving forward on this plan” that would encourage the use of alternatives to septic systems.

Richard Cordon, an engineer, expressed concerns about the need to call the county when emergency repairs were needed for wastewater treatment systems. Cordon said he was also concerned that some non-licensed engineers would refuse to call the county and that would put his and other reputable companies at a competitive disadvantage.

“You’re never going to have a perfect system,” Kutzy replied. “The county should be made aware of non-licensed firms making repairs, Kutzy said. “Let us know,” he said. “We’re open 24-7.”

The notification to the county was not meant “to slow you down,” he added.

North Salem Supervisor Warren Lucas said he supported the concept behind the new regulations, but added some of the wastewater treatment systems “smell a bit” and could be difficult to work in winter because they must have a temperature of at least 50 degrees.

Written comments about the proposed amendment will be accepted through July 6 at sqbb@westchestergov.com or by sending them to Silvia Baez, Secretary to the Westchester County Board of Health, 25 Moore Ave., Second Floor, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.
Businesses of the Week

Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe
Mohegan Lake

By Neal Rentz

Mohegan Lake resident Desiree Roberts and Yorktown resident Nicole Fervan opened the Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe in Mohegan Lake in March and named it in honor of the classic novel, which has been turned into films on multiple occasions.

“We really wanted to do a 1920’s theme and we were thinking of names,” Roberts said last week, adding her stepfather suggested the name. “I loved that book. I loved the movie,” pointing out she is a fan of the 2013 version starring Leonardo DiCaprio. “It totally fits in with the theme that we had.”

Roberts said several pet services are offered at Great Gatsby.

“We provide full service grooming for cats and dogs – haircuts, baths, nails, everything,” Roberts said. The facility also works with other small animals, she said, noting she clipped a bunny’s nails recently.

Great Gatsby also has a retail aspect, offering a variety of pet related products, including pet shoes, bowls, collars, breath fresheners and shampoos.

A “grand opening” is scheduled for this weekend at the Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe in Mohegan Lake. The pet facility opened in March.

The “grand opening” for Great Gatsby is slated for May 30 and 31. Some of the features of the two-day event include a pet adoption program and the presence of business owners who offer pet services, Roberts said.

Great Gatsby is devoted to the Wounded Warrior Project. Fervan’s son, Andrew, is currently serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany. Fervan did a fund-raiser at a Yorktown High School lacrosse game last year.

“It’s something that I fell in love with,” she said. “They just do such awesome things.”

Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe is located at 1960 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake. For more information call 914-743-1677. Great Gatsby has a Facebook page.

By Neal Rentz

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“We provide full service grooming for cats and dogs – haircuts, baths, nails, everything,” Roberts said. The facility also works with other small animals, she said, noting she clipped a bunny’s nails recently.

Great Gatsby also has a retail aspect, offering a variety of pet related products, including pet shoes, bowls, collars, breath fresheners and shampoos.

A “grand opening” is scheduled for this weekend at the Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe in Mohegan Lake. The pet facility opened in March.

The “grand opening” for Great Gatsby is slated for May 30 and 31. Some of the features of the two-day event include a pet adoption program and the presence of business owners who offer pet services, Roberts said.

Great Gatsby is devoted to the Wounded Warrior Project. Fervan’s son, Andrew, is currently serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany. Fervan did a fund-raiser at a Yorktown High School lacrosse game last year.

“It’s something that I fell in love with,” she said. “They just do such awesome things.”

Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe is located at 1960 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake. For more information call 914-743-1677. Great Gatsby has a Facebook page.

By Neal Rentz

Mohegan Lake resident Desiree Roberts and Yorktown resident Nicole Fervan opened the Great Gatsby Grooming Salon & Retail Shoppe in Mohegan Lake in March and named it in honor of the classic novel, which has been turned into films on multiple occasions.

“We really wanted to do a 1920’s theme and we were thinking of names,” Roberts said last week, adding her stepfather suggested the name. “I loved that book. I loved the movie,” pointing out she is a fan of the 2013 version starring Leonardo DiCaprio. “It totally fits in with the theme that we had.”

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Cortlandt Community Discusses Drug Awareness at Hen Hud

By Robert Montague

Concerned community members spoke about drug use and prevention recently in Montrose after watching a powerful documentary about the death of a 17-year-old from Yorktown who died of a heroin overdose.

The Whispering Spirits Forum at Hendrick Hudson High School brought tears to the eyes of its audience last Thursday night. The event, sponsored by The Cortlandt Community Coalition, was put together to view the documentary “Whispering Spirits” and talk about current drug problems in the Westchester area.

“Whispering Spirits,” coordinated by Jeffrey Veatch, is a documentary about the life, death, and memory of Veatch’s son, Justin, a talented musician who died in 2008.

Strong emotions filled the room after the screening. “It was very powerful,” said Andrea Fallick, of student assistance services, and the moderator for the event. “Everyone should see this film,” said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi.

“It was a parent’s worst nightmare,” Veatch remarked.

In memory of his son, Veatch started the Justin Veatch Fund, which reaches out to young artists to help them opportunities, such as college scholarships. Through his foundation Veatch also travels to schools to teach them about drug awareness and the real consequences that come with doing drugs.

Veatch gave a speech at the end of the presentation. He spoke about how teens get into drugs and ways to try and help them kick the habit. “It’s easy to get into but very hard to get out,” said Veatch, who stressed teens need to be encouraged to talk to people close to them, like family, and, most importantly, friends.

A panel of community members also spoke about drugs and prevention. Dr. Rachel Schoolcraft, of Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, spoke about the dangers of prescription drug use. She broke down what addiction is, explaining addiction changes brain chemistry and makes drugs go from voluntary to compulsive. “If it’s not your medication, it’s abuse,” Schoolcraft emphasized.

Angela Alvarado, Student Assistance Counselor at Hendrick Hudson High School, spoke about drug prevention efforts in the schools. Alvarado said parents need to intervene as early as possible and mentioned over the past eight years alcohol and marijuana have been the most prevalent drugs. She noted she only gets a handful of reports about heroin.

Alvarado said teens doing prescription drugs turn to heroin by 18 because of its cheaper street value.

Colleen Anderson, Coalition Coordinator for the Cortlandt Community Coalition, spoke about how the community itself tries to prevent and educate about drug use.

Anderson said many police departments in Westchester have drop boxes for prescription drugs. These drop boxes are for people who no longer need prescription drugs they get. This also prevents teens from getting certain prescription drugs from their homes.

After the panel spoke, a question and answer segment was held. Charles Thompson, a trustee on the Hendrick Hudson Board of Education, asked, “How do you talk and most importantly listen to your kids?”

The panel responded by saying it’s a hard question to answer. They said parents have to be nonjudgmental and not rush to harsh conclusions.

At the end of the event, Puglisi vowed efforts to try and prevent drug use will never stop. “This is very close to my heart and this town,” she said.
Yorktown Heights $1,295,000
Lakeview Estates - Single Family
14 Room Mediterranean
4 BR/ 5 BA - 5566 Sq. Ft. - 2.26 Acres
Catherine Duff-Poritzky
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-960-5577

Buchanan $799,000
11 Room Tri-level
4 BR/ 4 BA - 2576 Sq. Ft. - .78 Acres
Kenneth Dobbins
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-924-2791

Pound Ridge $750,000
9 Room Contemporary Colonial
3 BR/ 4 BA - 2800 Sq. Ft. - .67 Acres
Patricia ‘Patty’ Canniff
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-907-5916

Yorktown Heights $699,900
Single Family
10 Room Colonial
3 BR/ 4 BA - 2800 Sq. Ft. - .67 Acres
Michael O'Connor
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-552-5143

Yorktown Heights $629,000
Huntersville - Single Family
9 Room Contemporary Colonial
3 BR/ 4 BA - 2402 Sq. Ft. - 1.17 Acres
Catherine Duff-Poritzky
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-960-5577

Garrison $465,000
7 Room Tudor
3 BR/ 4 BA - 2475 Sq. Ft. - .39 Acre
Noor Dunn
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-393-7588

Putnam Valley $447,500
Barger Pond - Single Family
9 Room Colonial
4 BR/ 4 BA - 2404 Sq. Ft. - 1 Acre
Maria Tomaselli
Real Estate Salesperson
914-319-2962

Shrub Oak $430,000
6 Room Cape Cod/Farm House
3 BR/ 3 BA - 2200 Sq. Ft. - 2.05 Acres
‘Nancy’ Patricia Warner
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-879-0272

Cortlandt Manor $410,000
9 Room Cape Cod
4 BR/ 2 BA - 1700 Sq. Ft. - .41 Acre
Francesca Mulone
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-943-6442

Cortlandt Manor $399,999
8 Room Split Level
3 BR/ 3 BA - 1850 Sq. Ft. - .48 Acre
Douglas McGowan
Real Estate Salesperson
914-629-9045

Yorktown Heights $299,900
Jefferson Village 55+ Condominium
4 Room Garden Apartment
2 BR/ 2 BA - 1200 Sq. Ft.
Rose Delagi
Real Estate Salesperson
914-924-2820

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NY Presbyterian/HV Hospital Rewards Staff for Years of Service

By Robert Montague

New York Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital recognized the milestones of its employees last week by awarding some staff with a ceremony for their years of service, some of whom put in over 40 years of work.

At its annual recognition ceremony, 217 out of the 712 full-time employees were honored for their perfect attendance. Since so many employees were being awarded, two separate events were held for the awards. According to Hospital President, John Federspiel, only a few hospitals can boast about having so many employees with perfect attendance.

The hospital is no stranger to awards. It has won a string of national awards for patient and employee satisfaction as well as clinical excellence. It also won the 2014 Guardian of Excellence Award from Press Ganey for scoring higher than 95 percent of hospitals in the country in quality metrics.

“We are blessed with a dedicated group, which leads to our success,” said Federspiel, who noted the award ceremony was his favorite day on the calendar.

continued on page 18

Yorktown Strikes $2.1M Deal with Pipeline Co. for Land Use

continued from page 1

Island and Massachusetts.

The major construction work to remove an existing 26-inch gas pipeline that has existed since 1954 without incident and replace it with a 42-inch one would take place in the summer of 2016 and last for two to three months.

The gas pressure would also increase by 25%. The project was approved by the town in March.

25%. The project was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in March.

Supporting the agreement with Grace were fellow Republican councilmen Greg Bernard and Tom Diana.

“I believe this is a good deal. The land would have been taken from us. It’s a no-brainer,” Bernard remarked. “There’s no downside to this other than we are going into a campaign. There’s a campaign going on and the battle lines have been drawn.”

Opposing the deal were Councilman Vishnu Patel, who is running against Grace for supervisor in November, and Councilwoman Susan Siegel, Patel’s running mate on the Democratic ticket.

“It’s not a good deal. We should maintain what we already have,” Patel said. “You can’t put a dollar value on a tree.”

The agreement calls for Spectra to build an access road to the Granite Knolls property, which Grace lamented Spectra had once proposed to develop for multipurpose recreational fields at no cost to the town but were turned down by the board. The road would guarantee the town access to the property once Phoenix House is sold.

In 2010 Yorktown purchased the Granite Knolls site for $2.7 million ($900,000 was owed to the town in back taxes). $25,000 was later allocated to spruce up the property.

“Contrary to what Supervisor Grace has been saying, the record will show that when the Town Board purchased Granite Knolls in 2010, there was no agreed upon plan to use the land for active recreation,” explained Siegel, who was supervisor at the time. “The proposal put forward by then Councilman (Terrence) Murphy, who initially opposed purchasing the land, was only to spend $25,000 to ‘clean up’ an existing cleared area for use as practice fields. The record also shows that neither the Recreation Commission or the Parks and Recreation superintendent knew about Councilman Murphy’s plan before he publicly opposed it.”

“The public has been grossly misinformed and misled as to the cost of the Granite Knolls project,” Siegel added.

Several residents claimed the board was alienating parkland with the agreement, a contention Town Attorney Jeanette Koster disagreed with.

“By giving the seven-and-a-half acres you’re alienating. You just gave it another name,” Jane Daniels contended. “Why wasn’t the Conservation Board given the opportunity to weigh in on these plans?”

“It’s easy to take a shortcut and avoid the SEQRA process. The public has the right to know what’s going on,” said resident Paul Moskowitz.

Spectra is proposing to run another pipeline, four miles in length, from Stony Street to the Town of Somers. The Atlantic Bridge pipeline, which Spectra is looking to start constructing in 2017, would cross through some residential developments. Legacy Field and near Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin elementary schools and a playground on Curry Street.

As a tradeoff for disturbance of a right-of-way near the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan with its Algonquin expansion, Spectra will be restoring Junior Lake in Yorktown by

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Surprising Facts About Year-Round Skin Cancer Risks... 
...And Tips to Protect Yourself

By Dr. Stuart Zweibel, MD, PhD

Did you know that skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States? Now, a recent study from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) finds an increase of 50 percent in the average annual number of adults treated for skin cancer. We all know how and when to protect our skin – or do we? It’s essential to know the risk factors for skin cancer and the best forms of protection.

Skin cancer occurs in two forms: melanoma and non-melanoma. Non-melanoma cancers, which are the most common, are almost always caused by sun exposure. For the more dangerous melanoma, genetics plays a larger role in determining your risk.

When we talk about sun exposure, we refer to the effect of three types of ultra-violet (UV) light – or radiation – on our skin: UV A, UVB and UVC. Skin cancer can develop when these skin-penetrating rays damage the DNA of our skin cells.

UVC is filtered out by the ozone layer. UVB causes sunburns and tans. While less UV A enters our atmosphere than UVB, it penetrates our skin deeply enough to potentially cause skin cancer. Here is how I advise patients about skin cancer risks throughout the year, and my best tips for protection:

Best year-round protection: Only use broad-spectrum protection (the type that guards against UV A and UVB) with an SPF of 30 or higher. Check that it contains the necessary ingredients merocyanine – sometimes called ecamsule – and avobenzone, which can be called parasol 1789. The Anthelios brand is one example of an effective broad-spectrum sunscreen.

High-risk scenarios in winter: Those enjoying outdoor sports in winter, particularly skiers and snowboarders, need to know that snow reflects UV rays and that higher altitudes mean slightly higher UV penetration. That makes sunscreen and lip protection vital, especially during spring skiing at higher altitudes. This is the case even when temperatures are low and it seems that sun exposure is not an issue.

Are we at risk on overcast days? Radiation does penetrate on cloudier days. However, most people don’t realize that hazy days create significant UV ray exposure.

What times of day present greater risk from UV radiation? During warm weather, the peak time is between 10 am and 4 pm. In winter in our latitude, peak UV radiation occurs around 11 am to 3 pm. That means you need sunscreen protection at certain times year-round.

When to apply: Sunscreen takes up to an hour to be fully effective. Apply before you hit the beach or head outside.

How much to apply: Most people apply far too little sunscreen. The average adult needs approximately one ounce to be protected.

Where to apply: Everywhere that is exposed – make sure to get it in your ears and behind your ears. Protecting the nose is critical. 15 to 20 percent of all skin cancers occur on the nose. And don’t forget your lips. If your clothing is sheer, apply sunscreen to your entire body. Wear sunglasses, a hat and protective clothing.

Protecting children: Do not use sunscreen on babies under one year old. If needed, use protective clothing and consider using a non-chemical sunblock. However, be aware of recent suggestions that certain chemical-free blocks are made so finely, they might enter the skin. Ask your pediatrician’s advice before using this type of sunblock on a child.

Stuart Zweibel, MD, PhD, is a board certified dermatologist and dermatologic surgeon specializing in skin cancer, laser surgery and cosmetic dermatology. Dr. Zweibel served as the Chief of the Division of Dermatology at Northern Westchester Hospital from 1999 to 2007. He has been recognized as a ‘Best Doctor’ in both New York Magazine and Westchester Magazine.
Memorial Day 2015

Peekskill

Yorktown

RICK PEEZZULLO PHOTOS

ROBERT MONTAGUE PHOTOS
The Katonah Art Center (KAC), which has raised more than $2,000 toward relief for Nepal earthquake victims, will continue the effort in June with the Art for Nepal Earthquake Relief Exhibit at the center’s Anderson Chase Gallery and the KAC Mandala Project, a free collaborative effort open to community participation.

KAC has a longstanding connection to Nepal through Liana Chase, whose mother, Loren Anderson, founded the art center 18 years ago and worked as a pottery assistant, assistant and instructor for many years.

Chase, a graduate of John Jay High School and Dartmouth College, is an anthropologist who first traveled to Nepal in 2008 and later returned in 2011-12 as a Fulbright scholar in Nepal working with Bhutanese refugees.

She has maintained close ties with the country and contributed to other Nepal-based projects throughout her graduate studies at McGill University.

The art center’s other connection to Nepal is through Larry Frank, an artist, KAC instructor and director of its new exhibition space, the Anderson Chase Gallery. Frank has been a resident artist at several locations in Asia, has traveled extensively in Nepal and has a wide network of Nepali friends, many of whom have been affected by the earthquake.

Upon learning of the devastation, Chase sent a letter to the KAC community asking for donations. The donations were collected through a nonprofit organization, Educating Nepal. Chase chose Educating Nepal, based in the Sindhupalchowk District, because as a local organization donations go directly to helping the Nepalese people working on the frontlines of the disaster. The area also faced floods and landslides last year, which saw significant loss of life.

Sindhupalchowk has been devastated by the recent earthquakes. Chase’s connections have reported to her that most houses have been destroyed and survivors are in need of medical assistance. Hundreds of children are starving without a roof over their head. There is no electricity lights, inadequate clothing and landslides have blocked access to the village.

Most of the relief campaigns have been concentrated in the Kathmandu Valley, and villagers in Sindhupalchowk are now dying after having survived the earthquake.

KAC’s Anderson Chase Gallery, will be holding the show featuring photographs and paintings of Nepal and work created by Nepali artists and artisans. Frank will curate the exhibit.

The Art for Nepal Earthquake Relief exhibit and the Mandala Project will open on Saturday, June 13 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. with a reception featuring a sampling of Nepali food, donated by Gyaljen Nuru Sherpa, owner of Jewel of Himalaya restaurant in Yorktown Heights, and an update by Frank on the relief efforts in Nepal. The exhibit will run through June 28.

The KAC Mandala Project is a collaborative art project, which will coincide with the exhibit. Community members are invited to visit, learn and try their hand at the ancient art of Buddhist Mandala sand painting. Older children, teens and adults can try traditional sand painting tools called Chak pur and spend time working on the Mandala Project. Younger children will have their own sand painting station and can create individual Mandalas to bring home.

The art exhibit and the KAC Mandala Project will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the duration of the exhibit. Donations and all proceeds from sales will go to Educating Nepal. You may also donate directly to Educating Nepal through www.gofundme.com/999Nepal.
The Predictable Yet Nuanced American Wine Palate

What are Americans drinking? How much are Americans drinking?

These are subjects I’ve explored on numerous occasions with readers. And each year the dynamics change. As the availability of international wines increases in the United States, and as Americans’ palates and wallets expand, the breadth and depth of wine sales has steadily evolved over the last ten plus years.

What has become evident is that we have gained international prominence in the international wine market. To wit:

- American consumers can now lay claim to the highest overall wine consumption in the world.
- We consume more wine than ever, 13 bottles per year. That’s more than one glass every week per every man, woman and child.
- Our 21st century palates now dictate the style of wine being produced, here in the United States, and in the premier wine regions of the world, including Bordeaux, Burgundy, Piedmont and Tuscany.
- Industry surveys track what American consumers are purchasing for home consumption: big, fruit-forward wines with mild tannins and moderate acidity. Very few surveys track our purchasing habits away from home. Are we enjoying the same wines in restaurants? Do we differentiate when we dine out?

Anecdotal information would indicate that we do. Outside our homes, we tend to be more adventurous, taking risks we otherwise would avoid. This creates an anomaly of sorts, which I never understood. Why take a chance on an unknown wine, recommended by an unknown sommelier? However, this is precisely what is occurring in many American restaurants today.

Or so it seems.

While a good number of us are willing to consider a restaurant experience as a lab experiment, most stick to a comfort zone honed from past restaurant experiences. And we compartmentalize.

With the rise of multi-cultural menus at restaurants, where ingredients dictate the offerings, not ethnicity, the wine selection rules are without borders. Eclat rules; obscure reigns supreme. The new generation of sommeliers has partnered with executive chefs to compose wine lists that explore new possibilities in pairing food and wine.

These young, highly trained “sommies” are just as anxious to explore the nooks and crannies of wine regions as diners are to engage them as virtual tour guides in search of their next favorite wine.

An annual survey of the Top 50 wines sold at restaurants in the fourth quarter of 2014 is revealing. Wine & Spirits magazine recently polled 242 Zagat-rated restaurants in the United States for their ten best-selling wines.

Herewith, several highlights from the Wine & Spirits 26th annual survey:

- The top wine ten years ago garnered 19.3% of all votes. This year, a different wine won top honors with only 7.8% of all votes. The obvious implication is that diners are ordering greater numbers of wines than ever before. Diversity is the new dining mindset.
- A new trend is to enjoy champagne with dinner. And different styles of champagne with each course, from lighter to more robust, from sweeter to drier, from creamier texture to acidic mouthfeel.
- Fully 80% of the Top 50 Restaurant wines are produced in America. Across the full spectrum of the hundreds of wines ordered, 46% were American, 22% French and 18% Italian.

The most popular grapes were Cabernet Sauvignon (16.6% of all wines ordered, an increase from 2010), Pinot Noir (14.5%, similar to 2010) and Chardonnay (11.4%, down significantly from 2010).

The Top 10 selling wines were:

1. Jordan Vineyard & Winery
2. Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars
3. Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards
4. Duckhorn Vineyards
5. Cakebread Cellars
6. Caymus Vineyards
7. Silver Oak Wine Cellars
8. Kistler Vineyards
9. Veuve Clicquot
10. Chateau Ste. Michelle

Are you at the vanguard of today’s wine scene? As a consumer in the wine capital of the world trust your globally trained palate. Be adventurous as you search for your next favorite wine, be it at a wine shop or restaurant.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted 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@theexamernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

Hudson Valley Hospital Center Rewards its Staff

from page 14

From Guest Services at New York Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital, Susan Sheehy makes sure guests are happy with the care they are getting, Sheehy said they gather each year to celebrate their employees. “We love celebrating each other’s milestones,” Sheehy said.

Victoria Winkelmann received the award for working at the hospital for the most amount of time. Winkelmann has been working at the hospital for 45 years, starting as a floor nurse and working her way up to being the daytime supervisor. She said she stayed so long because of how the hospital makes her feel, and because of how much trust she has in it.

“When you walk down the hallway, everyone smiles and says hi, and that feels good,” Winkelmann said.

She said over the past 45 years the hospital has changed a lot. “There used to be little to no IV’s and when somebody had cancer it was a death sentence. Now the hospital has the Cheryl R. Lindenbaum Cancer Center, offering specialized care for cancer patients including radiation therapy, infusion, and support services all in one place.

“There are so many new things and ways to help people now,” she said. “I think so much of this hospital that my own son is getting operated on here today.”
Whenever I see a model home, I marvel at how a professional designer can throw together a beautiful living space with so many creative ideas so quickly. Some peoples’ minds are just wired that way, but mine is not. In fact, the one college course I dropped mid-term was interior design.

While I’ve frequently heard other people boast about how quickly they’ve “settled in” when they’ve purchased a new home or moved from one place to another, either working with a decorator or doing it themselves, I need to add the element of time to be fully happy with any design project I tackle.

I remember years ago when I invited one of the editors of Good Housekeeping to my home, she asked how long I had lived there. When I responded “20 years,” she said, “It shows.” And truly, it wasn’t until another 10 years that I was really happy with what I had done there.

I know I’m not alone. When the question “How long did it take for you to decorate your home?” is asked online, most people write things like “I’ve been in my house three years and I’m STILL not done.” Some will elaborate and share that they enjoy the “process.” For instance, one response was “I just kind of bought things here and there, changed them out, changed my mind and now I am starting to fix it exactly how I want it.”

My wife’s theory is that when a decorator does a model home, it’s easier because the assignment is impersonal. “There are no personal memories attached to the things selected so it’s easier to bring the plan together,” she said. “But there’s the danger there that the end result is going to lack any ‘soul,’ and that can happen if a decorator selects everything for you.”

With our current move, our biggest dilemma has been dealing with too much “soul” in that our decades of collections had to be reduced from nearly 4,000 square feet to less than half that. This time around, my wife wanted more open space than we had in our antique home, but after six months in our spanking new condo, slowly adding this and that from many things we had previously vowed to sell or give away, we’ve definitely missed that opportunity.

There was a second problem, a big one that the time element helped solve. I had always resisted the idea of having a television set in our living room, no matter where we lived. In our old home, we had a television only in the master bedroom and a small one in our library. When our family visited, we all would pile into the bedroom if we wanted to watch a show together, and my wife always hated that.

She insisted that in our new condo at Trump Residences in Shrub Oak, there must be a large television installed above the fireplace/mantel that we are having designed and installed. I had been “angsting” about that for months. It was probably the biggest decorating conflict my wife and I had ever had. I have always hated visiting beautifully designed homes costing over a million dollars and I had ever had. I have always hated visiting beautifully designed homes costing over a million dollars to find a big “black hole” of a television set over the fireplace in a living room. In a family room, fine.

Last week, the workers arrived to install the magnificent mantel with its gorgeous Carrera marble inset and its rich baronial-style design. Inwardly I was balking at the idea of having the television plopped on top of it. I stayed awake thinking about it. I knew that once the new TV and sound system was installed, I would be stuck looking at that big black screen, center stage, for the rest of my life.

With a lot of pleading, my wife gave me one last stay of execution. We are now planning to place the tube on the far side of the room above a bookcase in the corner. Thank goodness it took some months to plan, design and build the cabinetry for the living room because it helped me avoid the bullet of a lifetime eyesore. Once again, it was the element of time that came to my rescue.

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 914-322-2076.
Crossword

ACROSS
1 Sensitive subject, to some
4 Dot-com’s address
7 Long slippery fish
10 Speed (up)
11 House vote
12 Seafood delicacy
13 Darth Vader's nickname
14 Indian rice dish
16 Indian Point power plant location
18 Instruments of India
19 Short for stomach
22 Easter’s beginning
23 Beatle wife
24 “Able was I ___...”
25 F.Scott Fitzgerald novel or new Mohegan Lake pet groomer, Great _____
28 Landlocked land
30 Instrumental hit in 1962
33 Chicago's state
34 Indivisible
35 Suffix with expert
36 Sandra Bullock movie “The ___”
37 Treat like a dog?

38 Any car, affectionately
39 Group known for cookies (abbr)

DOWN
1 Dubai dwellers
2 Real
3 Landlord, at times
4 Open
5 Torrents
6 Northern constellation
7 Period in history
8 A long long time
9 Hawaiian headwear
10 House vote
11 Seafood delicacy
12 Seafood delicacy
13 Darth Vader’s nickname
14 Indian rice dish
16 Indian Point power plant location
18 Instruments of India
19 Short for stomach
22 Easter’s beginning
23 Beatle wife
24 “Able was I ___...”
25 F.Scott Fitzgerald novel or new Mohegan Lake pet groomer, Great _____
28 Landlocked land
30 Instrumental hit in 1962
33 Chicago's state
34 Indivisible
35 Suffix with expert
36 Sandra Bullock movie “The ___”
37 Treat like a dog?

38 Any car, affectionately
39 Group known for cookies (abbr)
Tuesday, May 26
Breast Cancer Group: A breast cancer support group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Yorktown offices of Support Connection, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org.

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).

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 Peekskill. 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, May 27
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 914 960-4097.

Knitting Circle: Support Connection, Inc. announces a free educational program: “Marge’s Knitting Circle,” that will be offered on May 27, June 24, July 22 and Aug. 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Support Connection, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown. It is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, pre-registration is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

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 of www.firsthebrew.org.

Autism Discussion: The Latest Autism Spectrum Disorder Research and Approaches to Treatment will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. at the Somers Middle School Library. Please join us as Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell provides an overview of longitudinal research that looks at different areas of development and outcomes for children with ASD. She will also discuss strategies to support children with ASD in the school and home environments. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, register at rsvpforsepta@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 28
IBM Retirees Club: The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak. The scheduled presentations will be given by the Bethel Nursing Home as well as a representative from Club Fit. Members who are interested in attending the June/Summer luncheon are asked to sign up and make their $5 advance payment at this meeting. Payment at door or guests is $10 each. Refreshments and sign-in will begin at 1 p.m. Dues will be collected. New members are welcome. Info: 914-528-5916.

Library May Exhibit: Judika Konowe Lieberman will be exhibiting a selection of her contemporary interpretations of abstracts, florals and pen & ink work during the month of May at the Somers Library. In addition to being in private collections, Judika’s work has been exhibited in Manhattan at the Jacob Javits Center and the Agora Gallery in Soho. Locally, her work has been shown at the Hammond Museum, Cutting Board Restaurant, Northern Westchester Hospital and Town & Country Galleries, to name a few. For more information, you can visit Judika’s website: www.judika.com or contact her at judeowinger@gmail.com. For viewing times at the Somers Library please call 914 232-5717 or visit the library website at www.somerslibrary.org.

Wine With Weiner: Come to Beth Am for an informal conversation with the Jewish community on the issues that affect our lives. With welcoming wine (or other beverages people bring), Rabbi Weiner 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 962-7500 or e-mail him at rabiwi@optonline.net.

Friday, May 29
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.

MUSICAL SHABBAT: Bring your family and friends to a Shabbat service featuring live music, with dinner to follow, hosted by First Hebrew Congregation and Yorktown Jewish Center. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of the Beach Shopping Center. Admission is $10 per person; children under 5 are free. RSVP to: 914-739-0500 or fhc@firsthebrew.org. Visit www.firsthebrew.org for more information.

Bean Runner Events: A series of performances have been scheduled for this weekend at the Bean Runner Cafe, 201 S. Division St., Peekskill. Steve Chizmadia and the Accidental Gypsies will perform on May 29. Admission is $10. “World Peace in the Key of Jazz” with Antoinette Montague will perform on May 30. Admission is $15. Susan Fisher Wright will perform on May 31. Admission is free. All three performances begin at 9 p.m. Info: 914-737-1701 or beanrunnercafe.com.

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services in the spring will begin at 8 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 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Saturday, May 30
Lunch & Learn: A Shabbat service/Lunch & Learn, a lively discussion of the weekly Torah portion led by Rabbi Fred Schwab, will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. Info: 914-248-9532.

Love: “Love,” an exhibit about varying aspects of love in the 20th and 21st centuries in print, 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, Berea, Brenner, Brickley, Canady, Factor, Gurewitsch, Hackett, Indiana, LeDray, Majic, Mapplethorpe, Neshat, Newsom, Otterson, Ozbolt, Pretter, Ritterpusch, Ruchkaebler, Sadler, Tomasula, and Wathen. Info: 914-788-0100 or www.hvcca.org. HVCCA is also on Facebook.

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

Ossining Farmers Market: Down to Earth Market is holding the Ossining Farmers Market outside at the corner of Spring and Main Streets. The market runs every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining’s Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

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

City of North Tonawanda - Tax Foreclosure Auction. Saturday, June 6, 2015 †Registration: 9:00AM Bring ID Auction Start: 10:00AM Stephen Sikora Post #1322 950 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Sale Catalogs Now Available at City Hall www.auctionsinternational.com † 800-536-1401

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HELP US HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS! Do you have an old or unneeded CAR or TRUCK sitting in your driveway or garage? Consider donating it to Yorktown Love in Action. We are a non-profit 501(c) (3) tax deductible organization that helps local residents in need. Whether the vehicle is running or not we will pick it up just Call: 914-490-3966

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EVENTS
Rinaldi Flea Markets Open Every Sunday through October. 900 Dutchess Turnpike Poughkeepsie. See you there! RINALDIFLEAMARKETS.COM

HELP WANTED
ANIMAL CARE TECHNICIAN - TEMPORARY TO POSSIBLE HIRE OPPORTUNITIES We are looking to fill Animal Care Technicians for Regeneron in Tarrytown, NY. This person will provide husbandry duties including, but not limited to feeding, watering, cage changing, and health checking of animals on a daily basis. Responsibilities: Performs daily observations to check animals health status, environmental monitoring with associated documentation, changing and cleaning cages, equipment, water bottles, and food, packing and housing animals upon arrival, janitorial maintenance of facility rooms and stocking of supplies, responsible for preventative maintenance of animal facility equipment and supplies, and sanitization of equipment and the facility. This position requires a High School Diploma, GED or equivalent technical certificate. 1 year of experience in animal care is preferred for this position. This position requires Weekend and Holiday work. For immediate consideration, call 210-262-9077 or email resume to Adriana.monacosta@regeneron.com

NYS Licensed Security guards needed for retail site in Somers and Vails Gate, NY. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9 AM to 9PM. Looking for mature, responsible individuals. Should live in surrounding areas. Other work may become available if desired. Must have car and driver’s license. Please call 1-800-544-3949 to schedule an interview. Starting at $10.00 per hour.

SUMMER WORK. Must be at least 18-40. Physically fit and willing to work hard. McAvey Moving in Thornwood is looking for responsible individuals for household moving and packing. Please call 914-747-1533 if interested.


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LEGAL NOTICES
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Treasurer of the Village of Pleasantville has received the “Tax Roll and Warrant” for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Payments will be accepted in the Finance Department on the Third Floor of Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue, in said Village from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays as follows: Taxes and other assessments, if any, become due and payable June 1, 2015, but may be paid in two installments without penalty. The first installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2015 to and including July 1, 2015. The second installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2015 to and including December 31, 2015. To all first installment taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2015, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of July, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. To all second installment taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2015, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of January, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. On or before February 1, 2016 a delinquent list will be published.

Mary Schwartz Village Treasurer Dated: May 19, 2015

PUBLIC HEARING
The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 8, 2015, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York to hear comments as it pertains to a Local Law amending Chapter 173, Vehicles & Traffic, Section 173-57 “Stop Intersections” as follows: ADD STOP SIGN ON Country Club Lane DIRECTION OF TRAVEL East AT INTERSECTION of Broadway (Route 141)

Judith Weintraub Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York

PUBLIC HEARING
The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 8, 2015, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York to hear comments as it pertains to a Local Law amending Chapter 173, Vehicles & Traffic, Section 173-66, Schedule XVIII: “Time Limit Parking”, Tompkins Avenue (Holy Innocents) Parking Lot as follows: Tompkins Avenue Parking Lot, North & East, 1 hr., 8:00am to 6:30pm/All Except Saturday, Sunday & Holidays, Designated spaces at north & east side of lot. ADD Holy Innocents Parking Lot, North & East, 1 hr. Parking 8:00am to 6:30pm Monday through Friday, Designated spaces at north & east side of lot 1 hr. Parking 8:00am to 3:30pm, Saturday & Sunday, No parking 3:30pm to 5:30pm, Saturday & Sunday.

Judith Weintraub Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York

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