GOP Primary Pegged for Patterson Supervisor Seat

By David Propper

Although the Putnam County District Attorney’s race is the main Republican battle residents have been keeping tabs on this summer, one more GOP primary scrum has popped up in the Town of Patterson as town planner Rich Williams is set to take on farm owner and former councilman Joe Capasso for the supervisor’s office.

Williams and Capasso are pegged for only the second primary election between two Republicans in the county outside of incumbent District Attorney Adam Levy taking on challenger Bob Tendy, who is currently Putnam Valley’s supervisor. Democrat and attorney Andy Falk, who has lived in Patterson for more than a decade, is running in hopes of giving a voice to the middle class and reigning in taxes. Falk ran twice in spirited state Assembly races against Republican Steve Katz, coming up short.

Capasso, who was a councilman for more than a decade, is running in hopes of giving a voice to the middle class and reigning in taxes. Falk ran twice in spirited state Assembly races against Republican Steve Katz, coming up short.

Williams is set to take on farm owner and all-around selfless residents Al and Dimmy Lotrecchiano.

The couple was honored last week during the opening ceremony of Putnam’s 44th annual 4-H Fair for their commitment to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County (CCE-PC) and the county overall. Al has served on the CCE-PC Board of Directors for three terms and was association president for two years. Both of them are involved in the Master Gardeners program and other organizations.

"It’s not just me, it’s the whole community they’ve lived in for more than five decades."

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Longtime Carmel Couple Honored at 4-H Fair for Selfless Service

By David Propper

Most mornings, along with the sun rising, Al Lotrecchiano wakes up and gets the plants hanging on lampposts up and down the center of the Hamlet of Carmel. For the longtime resident, it’s just one of the many small actions he and his wife, Dimmy, take to better the community they’ve lived in for more than five decades.

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The 44th annual 4-H Fair in Putnam County once again brought families to Veterans Memorial Park in Kent last weekend. After a series of events, the Carmel couple and all-around selfless residents Al and Dimmy Lotrecchiano snapped the ribbon to get the fun started Friday. With a line of local dignitaries on hand, the fair saw excellent, sunny weather most of the weekend, with the plenty of activities and programs to enjoy. For more on the Lotrecchianos, see the front-page story on the right and for photos of the festivities, please go to pages 10 and 11.
July 28-August 3, 2015

Astorino Knocks on Clinton’s Door as He Blasts Federal Gov’t

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive Rob Astorino went on the offensive against the federal government last Friday by slamming its assertion that Westchester County failed to meet its 2014 obligations for the controversial 2009 affordable housing settlement.

Holding a press conference outside the gate of Bill and Hillary Clinton’s residence on Old House Road in Chappaqua, Astorino charged that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice have continually questioned the county’s commitment to the settlement despite having complied with all milestones that had been established nearly six years ago.

Astorino also lambasted the government for its continued allegations that Westchester is guilty of perpetuating housing discrimination.

“T’m here to strongly refute that charge and warn that the federal government’s assault on Westchester is just the opening salvo, and it’s coming to a neighborhood near you wherever you live in this country,” Astorino said. “What’s at stake is who controls the future of our towns, our villages and our cities across the nation—the people who actually live in them or unelected bureaucrats working out of cubicles in Washington, D.C.?”

At the close of his comments, the county executive rang the Clintons’ buzzer on their property’s security system in hopes of speaking to Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential hopeful, and asking her where she stood on the issue. Security detail took his phone number and said the former U.S. senator and secretary of state would call Astorino.

“Does she think she lives in a discriminatory town? I don’t,” he said. “Does she think the Obama administration is being unfair in attacking her own community? I do. But we need to know where Hillary Clinton stands on this issue and she needs to speak up today.”

Astorino’s comments came three days after Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kennedy filed documents in federal court in White Plains asking the court to impose various penalties against the county for being in contempt of the settlement. Kennedy asked that Westchester establish an escrow fund of more than $1.65 million and pay fines of $30,000 for January and $60,000 a month for each additional month until the county is in compliance.

The government’s court action centers around the 28-unit Chappaqua Station affordable housing project proposed for Hunts Lane based on a report issued in May by federal monitor James Johnson.

“Calling the county’s alleged violation “serious and unmistakable,” the court papers state that credit toward the count’s funding approval for the 28 units late last year should not have counted toward Westchester’s Dec. 31, 2014, benchmark because state Board of Review fire code variances as well as building permits had not been issued.

Under the housing settlement, Westchester needed to have funding approved for 450 units by the end of last year. The money that the Board of Legislators overwhelmingly approved for the project gave the county 454 units.

The county is required to build 750 new units of affordable housing by the end of next year.

The 38-page filing also stated that the county failed to do its part to quell community opposition in New Castle against the project, which has contributed to its delay. The previous town board approved the project pending all other agency approvals.

In addition to the monetary fines, the government is asking the court to force Westchester County to post a letter on its own website stating support for Chappaqua Station, have that letter published in a future Sunday edition of The Journal News and keep tabs on New

continued on page 12
Brewster Man Gets Maximum Sentence on Child Sex Abuse Charges

By David Propper

A former Brewster bus driver was handed down the maximum sentence allowed by law for two counts of felony sex abuse, according to the Putnam County District Attorney’s office.

Michael Cunningham, 68, will be jailed for 14 years followed by five years of post-release supervision, after he was arrested in July 2014 stemming from an investigation into the sexual abuse of a then 6-year-old child. He was convicted of two counts of sexual abuse in the first degree during a jury trial in May and was sentenced by Putnam County Supreme Court Judge James Rooney, according to the DA’s press release. Prosecutors argued Cunningham worked to gain the trust of the child’s parents over a period of time, finally offering to babysit. ADA Danielle Pascale requested Rooney hit Cunningham with the maximum sentence because he groomed and manipulated the child before abusing her.

“This was a man we trusted, we opened our hearts, opened our home to him. We cared about him, and he hurt us in the worst possible way,” the child’s tearful mother said after sentencing, according to the press release. “No child, no family, should go through what we went through...Danielle (Pascale) and LuLu (Gonzalez) and the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) worked so hard and helped us. Very hard. Now he’s going to be in jail for a very long time and we don’t have to see him anymore. Never.”

DA Adam Levy praised Pascale, Gonzalez, and Putnam County Sheriff’s Department investigator John Alfano in building the case, as well as the CAC, which ensured the family received services and counseling needed.

“The sexual abuse of an innocent child is a truly abhorrent crime, and this sentence will ensure Michael Cunningham does not have an opportunity to victimize any other families,” District Attorney Adam Levy said. “The child and her family should be commended for their bravery in working closely with us and seeing the prosecution through.”

Cunningham worked for a time as a bus driver in the Katonah-Lewisboro and Brewster schools systems before retiring in 2004. This case is not related to his work, according to the DA’s office. Parents whose children may have had contact with Cunningham are encouraged to contact Assistant District Attorney Danielle Pascale at 845-808-1050.

Lake Carmel Woes Drag on in Summer Heat

As of Monday evening, all four Lake Carmel beaches were closed as summer temperatures were hitting mid-90 degrees this week because of blue-green algae blooms in the lake. According to Putnam County Department of Health’s Anne Bittner, Lake Carmel beaches 2, 3, 4 were opened Friday afternoon, but lifeguards noticed that the algae blooms that have plagued the lake were back Saturday and the Town of Kent then closed those beaches. Beach 7 has been closed since July 13. In an email, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming said the bloom could cause skin irritations and cause gastro-intestinal problems in people and pets. In order to save the rest of the beach season, the town accepted the bid of a LIFE, a company from Dutchess County that would apply copper sulfate to the lake to handle the algae blooms as a short-term solution. For more on last week’s Town of Kent meeting in which Lake Carmel was discussed, please go to www.theexaminernews.com.

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Lake Carmel Woes Drag on in Summer Heat

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GOP Primary Pegged for Patterson Supervisor Seat

Capasso said the town board and planning have turned down or made it difficult for new businesses to come to Patterson, stating he knows business owners that were rebuffed by the local government. Capasso wants to “help, not hinder” new businesses interested in Patterson.

“I’m not a politician, I don’t want to be one. I’m a businessman and I want to make things happen like Donald Trump but on a smaller scale,” Capasso said.

Williams, who got the endorsement of the town’s Republican Committee, said he believes his record in town government exceeds Capasso’s four years on the town board. Williams, a lifelong resident who has been working in town hall for 25 years, said he has received a “tremendous amount of support” so far and “a lot of people know me, a lot of people know where I stand.”

Patterson in the 1970s and 1980s put together development policies that made the town more of a residential than commercial area, Williams said, leading to tougher business growth. Regardless, Williams wants to push for zoning code changes in certain areas and foster tourism, commercialism, recreation and artisan based businesses growth. Williams added he is working with the Thunder Ridge Ski Area to become an attraction.

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Williams wasn’t concerned that Capasso came to the brink of an upset win four years ago against Griffin, stating the “longer you’re in office, people get tired and they’re looking for change.” Williams also argued Capasso ran a very dirty, negative campaign last time that many voters were too disgusted to vote at all.

“I’m hoping we don’t run that same race now,” Williams said. “That we stay on the issues, that we stay on what’s best for this community and what we can provide for this community.”

Capasso admits he had a difficult time grasping his narrow defeat in which absentee votes even had to be counted. Because his councilman position was already expiring, he was completely off the town board following the end of 2011.

“That was hard to digest,” Capasso, who even traveled out of town soon after the election to getaway for a few days, said. This time around, Capasso plans on spending a lot less money, not bombarding residents with too many signs, and running a campaign focused on what he can do for the town residents.

“They either want the same that they’ve seen for the past 20 years,” Capasso said. “Or they want change and the change is me.”

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Longtime Carmel Couple Honored at 4-H Fair for Selfless Service

Al and Dimmy Lotrecchiano of Carmel were honored for their years of volunteerism at the 44 annual Putnam County 4-H Fair at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in Kent. They are pictured with Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Marjorie Keith (left) and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell (right).

“Until those communities find people that everybody should aspire to be,” Keith said. “In terms of giving back to their community, making a positive change and they’re just wonderful, caring people.”

Cornell Cooperative Program Specialist Pat Madigan said when a project needs hands to complete it, it’s common knowledge the Lotrecchianos will step up “no problem, no questions.”

The reliability and enthusiasm of Al and Dimmy stand out, Madigan added.

That reliability and enthusiasm is exemplified every time Al waters those plants in Carmel.

“Most people think that there is some paid staff there that takes care of them,” Keith said. “It’s volunteers.”
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(Coming in July)

Pawling
7 Chapin Lane
Pawling, NY 12564
(Coming in July)
By Neal Rentz

After a wait of 10 years, the Putnam Valley town board decided at its last meeting to move forward and begin the process of spending grant money to bring solar power to town hall.

At the request of Councilwoman Wendy Whetsel, on July 15 the board voted unanimously to seek to hire a solar power company.

For 10 years, the town has had two grants totaling $94,200 that are intended to be used to bring solar panels to town hall to cut electricity costs. The town was given a $44,200 grant from NYSERDA and a $50,000 grant from the New York State Dormitory Authority to buy and install photovoltaic cells.

Whetsel told her town board colleagues it was time to bring solar power to town hall. Whetsel said she did not want the town to lose the grants due to a lack of action. "It's very difficult to get a grant," she said. "It takes a lot of work, a lot of time."

Two potential sites for the solar panels could be the salt shed or the highway department roof, which are both located on the town hall property, Whetsel said. The town needed to hire an expert who would provide potential sites on the town hall property, she said.

Councilman Louie Luongo suggested that the town board explore an alternative site that could be more conducive to solar power. But Supervisor Bob Tendy said under terms of the grants, the panels would need to be placed on the town hall property.
Putnam Golf Course Helps Save Man in Cardiac Arrest

Having the right people there at the right time turned what could have been the worst day for a New Jersey man into a fortunate situation. Robert "Bob" Beggs, a 78-year-old Riverdale New Jersey resident, was playing a round of golf at Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac on Tuesday, July 14 when he went into cardiac arrest at the 16th hole.

Daniel Cocozza of Danbury, Conn., who was part of Beggs' foursome, immediately started to administer CPR to his friend.

“I didn’t suspect anything was wrong with Bob earlier,” said Cocozza, who coached baseball in the past and was trained in CPR. “He seemed fine and then he just wasn’t.”

James Gilchrist Jr., a staff member of the golf course saw what was happening and went to the club. He notified David Solomon, assistant Golf Operations manager at the golf course, and also called 9-1-1. Solomon assessed the situation and had Mike McCall, general manager of golf course, bring out the AED out from the clubhouse.

Solomon, who is a retired physical education teacher from the Bronx, then took over for Cocozza, applying the AED and administering one shock per the device's direction.

“She came right in and took over the situation. We were relieved and she worked with the EMS workers to get Mr. Beggs into the ambulance and to the hospital,” said Solomon.

Within seven to eight minutes of the 9-1-1 call, the Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department and a Transcare Ambulance were on the scene. Paramedic Tracy Lombardo took command.

“After I used the AED on him, he started breathing on his own again,” said Solomon.

Since Beggs had an irregular pulse when the first responders arrived, Lombardo administered antiarrhythmic drugs to him to stabilize his heartbeat. She then traveled with Beggs to the Putnam Hospital Center in the Mahopac Falls ambulance.

Lombardo, a seasoned paramedic with over 26 years of training under her belt and seven years at TransCare, credits the staff at Putnam County Golf Course with saving Beggs life. “Those people on the golf course saved that man,” said Lombardo. “There were right where they needed to be. It was like the planets aligned and the angels sang.”

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell recognized the heroic efforts of Cocozza and the golf course staff on Friday, July 17.

“You never know when something like this is going to happen and it is like Mr. Beggs bought the winning lottery ticket,” said Odell. “The right people were here at the right time to save his life.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Commissioner Anthony Sutton met with the staff of the Putnam County Golf Course and the friends of Robert Beggs to thank them for their valiant actions that helped save Robert Beggs’s life. Pictured left to right: General Manager Mike McCall, Operations Manager Jim Woods, James Gilchrist Jr., Assistant Operations Manager David Solomon, Greg Gutter of Carmel, Daniel Cocozza Od Danbury, Conn., Frank Tomasulo of Somers, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Commissioner Anthony Sutton.

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Open Letter to PV Library Board of Trustees

Putnam Valley Board of Trustees: I am writing this open letter not only to reiterate my objections to your Chapter 414 proposal, but also to present a reasonable compromise that residents maybe more willing to support. My objection has always been with the vehicle you chose to receive additional tax funds, not with the library.

Under Chapter 414 the taxpayers are left in the dark as to how a requested budget is spent. In a Chapter 414 the library board is not required to be transparent, you’re only required to put forth an amount, in this case, an increase of over 100%. A Chapter 414 library board is not required to be elected by the residents. Therefore, there could be no real accountability in an unelected board responsible for $600,000 of taxpayer money.

In response to Dan Vera’s letter to the Editor about the Putnam Valley Library:

If the referendum is voted in in November, Mr. Vera is correct -- the Town will no longer have control over the Library budget. The residents of the town will. What is frightening for lovers of education and the Library is that right now it only takes a majority of three Town Board members to determine whether or not Putnam Valley has a functioning Library. We believe that decision should be in the hands of ALL the voters, not just three.

I’m not sure why Mr. Vera guesses that our Library is sitting on a $4 million reserve. If we were, we’d spend it upgrading our computers, being open more hours, having more programs for adults and children, lending e-readers, increasing our collections, and fixing bridges. Whatever “reserves” we have are not hoarded tax dollars -- every penny of that goes to keeping the doors open. The minute savings we do have represent fund-raising initiatives and a bequest. The Library goes to the Town Board every budget season, hat in hand, and have not in recent memory ever received what we requested. In fact, last year Councilwoman Annabi suggested the Town cut the Library by $50,000 -- almost 20% of our budget!

To compare Putnam Valley Library to Mahopac Library is comparing apples and oranges. Mahopac Library is a school district library with a budget of over $2 million, supported by a much larger population and business base.

We at the Library believe in democracy. We believe the Library budget belongs in the hands of the residents, and shouldn’t be decided by council members campaigning to keep their seats on the Town Board. I encourage you all to ask questions of knowledgeable people before “guesstimating” and spreading misinformation. Come down to the Library, get to know the staff, director, and trustees. Educate yourself about how Putnam Valley Library compares to other COMPARABLE libraries in the county.

Mr. Vera got one thing right in his letter: the Library’s function in the community is vital.

The Library will be holding an informational meeting about the Chapter 414 initiative on Monday, August 3rd at 7pm in the Library. All residents are invited.

-Patrice Kissedy President, Putnam Valley Library Board of Trustees

PV Library Board Prez Responds to Funding Controversy

On behalf of the Brewster Public Library and the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Senator Terrence P. Murphy for providing us with funding of $7,500 to purchase laptops and a charging cart for the library.

Up until now, due to a lack of space and funds, the Brewster Library has had only 4 public computers in the main reading room, and 2 in the children’s room. Oftentimes, all of these computers are in use. This funding will lead to increased services to keep up with the changing needs of our patrons. More and more people come to the library for digital literacy instruction, or to browse the internet, search for employment, etc.

We appreciate Senator Murphy’s demonstrated support for libraries, as we continue to strive to provide free high-quality programs and services to the community.

-Gina Loprinzi Director, Brewster Public Library

Obituaries

Yolanda Battista

Yolanda Battista, a lifelong resident of Mahopac, died peacefully on Friday July 24 after a brief illness. She was 93. She was born in Mahopac on July 13, 1923, the daughter of James and Nancy Lombardi. Yolanda attended business school following her graduation from Mahopac High School. Along with her late husband Frank, she owned and operated Lombardi’s Dug Out Restaurant in Mahopac, which was founded by her parents and grandparents. They retired in 2000 when they sold the restaurant. While Frank was noted for his table to table conversation, Yolanda was known for adding her personal touch to every event. Yolanda was a parishioner of St. John The Evangelist Church in Mahopac and a member of its Rosary-Altar Society. She was a member of the Italian-American Club in Mahopac and was a member of the Red Hat Ladies. She attended the Carmel-Mahopac Senior Drop-in. On June 15, 1947 she married Frank Battista at St. John The Evangelist Church. Frank passed away on August 14, 2011. She is survived by her sons Anthony (Sandra), James (Joanne) and John Battista and her daughter Linda Verde (Ralph), all of Mahopac, 11 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her infant son, Francis and her sister, Sylvia Pisanello. Her greatest joy was being surrounded by her family. Visiting will be held today Monday July 27 and Tuesday July 28 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. & 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday July 29 at 10 a.m. at St. John The Evangelist Church, Mahopac with interment to follow at St. Lawrence Cemetery in Brewster. Family and friends are making donations in her memory to The American Cancer Society.
The YogaScape
Carmel

By David Propper

Yoga can be for anyone, even if they might be a tad out of shape or not the most flexible. That's the message new owner of The YogaScape in Carmel Heather Reiners wants to convey to the community interested in practicing yoga, the Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline.

"You can do yoga no matter who you are, what your ability is, you can be disabled, you can have injuries, you can be a senior citizen and do yoga," Reiners said. "So for me it's really about making it accessible to everyone and demythifying that kind of idea that you need to be thin and young."

Offering daily yoga classes at every level, private sessions, workshops, and other special events, The YogaScape is aiming to be a sacred place for clients looking to improve their mental and physical state. Reiners wants to create a space that's welcoming, where different walks of life are accepted.

When the previous owner sent a mass email out informing yoga goers she was moving on and the studio was set to close, Reiners made the quick decision--about ten days--to buy it from her. Though the northern-Westchester resident was never at the studio before, she didn't want a void to be felt in the yoga community.

"It's been a dream to own by own studio for awhile," Reiners said.

While the studio did shut its doors for about a month so renovations could be made, a grand reopening took place on July 12. People who regularly attend the same location under the past owner were happy to see The YogaScape continue in the heart of Carmel.

A main difference is the old studio was more of a co-op arrangement, where the owner would rent out the space to different instructors to teach classes. Now, somebody with a fresh perspective like Reiners is visible at the studio managing and directing to make the studio feel more like a unified vision.

Reiners hired past teachers from the studio for familiarity, but noted many regular yoga goers have been welcoming to Reiners, who is a new face.

Calling herself a "hippie at heart," Reiners started practicing yoga when she was teenager. Then since 2007 when she was a senior in high school, Reiners was working for studios, doing behind the scenes work like managing different locations and doing website design. Finally, about a year ago, she started teaching after getting her certification at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck.

Reiners, who describes herself as a go-getter, is also balancing a full-time job at a non-profit on top of her new endeavor. "I've always wanted to do this," Reiners said. "And I've always been very dedicated to yoga, dedicated to succeeding as a business owner. It's what I enjoy doing."

The YogaScape is located at 64 Gleneida Avenue in Carmel and its phone number is 845-225-9642.

Owner Heather Reiners stands inside her new studio The YogaScape in Carmel.
Program specialist Pat Madigan and Executive Director Marjorie Keith.

Opening ceremony of the 4-H Fair got underway last Friday at noon.

Two visitors from Green Chimneys have some photo fun at the fair.

DAVID PROPPER PHOTOS

Young girls recite the 4-H Pledge.

Another year, another terrific rendition of the National Anthem.

The 4-H teen action club walks their banner to the stage.

David Al and Dimmy Lotrecchiano are honored and recognized by many last week.

All the banners make it to the main stage.

4-H Fair Continues to Shine in Putnam
In spite of gloomy skies, 250 people, mostly parents and children, came to see the big trucks gathered at the Kent Public Library on July 18. Besides fire trucks, police vans, construction equipment, and a well driller this year’s “Big Truck and Community Vehicle Day” included a former tank belonging to the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department.

Many people, including Supervisor Maureen Fleming, the Kent Highway Department, the Kent Police Department, The Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, the Lake Carmel Sanitation District, the Lake Carmel Fire Department, and the Boyd Artesian Well Company helped to make the library’s “Big Truck Day” a success. The library plans to host it again next year.
Crossword by Myles Mellor

Across
1 Family member
4 Bananas
7 Beer barrel
10 Coastal storm dir.
11 DeLuise
12 Kind of trip
13 Soup holder
14 Crystal ball
15 Penpoint
16 Mix
18 Kiddie’s foot
20 You can get “all shook up” at this local theater,
22 Slasher film feature
23 Leprechaun’s land
26 Complete, as an athlete
29 Scuffle
30 “Good going!”
33 What a keeper may keep
34 Creeping vine
36 ___ compos mentis
37 Word with Grande
38 Previously called
39 Afore
40 Power hitter, Mel

Down
1 Lure
2 Kind of recording
3 Co-star in “The Good Shepherd”
4 Stink
5 Portuguese wine capital
6 Build an arbor around
7 Superman’s alter ego or Putnam town
8 Direction (var.)
9 Pass
17 Gumbo veggies
19 Vegetable that makes you cry
21 Revelatory
24 Kaput
25 Crowd cry
27 Bank
28 Bright star in Cygnus
29 Amateur
30 Condo division
31 Arrogant person
35 So far

solution on pg 15

Astorino Knocks on Clinton’s Door as He Blasts Federal Gov’t
continued from page 2
Castle with monthly letters to monitor the project’s progress.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein, who campaigned against
Chappaqua Station in 2013, said Friday that developer Conifer Realty paid its
building inspection fees and awaits a
decision to receive its building permit.
Because of the extensive approvals needed
besides the town, the project has taken a
long time, he said.

“We have done nothing to impede
this project,” Greenstein said. “I don't
understand what else they want us to do.”

Astorino said the county had checked
with Johnson last December regarding
Chappaqua Station, but Astorino said it is not going
to limit citizens’ First Amendment rights
if they oppose the project.

Astorino vowed to fight the issue in
court to protect the county.

“We're doing what we're supposed to
be doing, but threats, litigation—that’s
not going to help the process,” Astorino
said. “That's going to stop the process
and make it harder for us to build
affordable housing.”
Putnam ARC, the leading provider of services for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Putnam County, has been awarded $3,500 by Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc., under a program that lets Staples associates direct donations.

The grant will support PARC’s “Job Skills Training Program” to train and coach workers at PARC Center in Carmel who will be transitioning into community-based employment. The goals and objectives of our vocational program are to create an inclusive work environment for people with developmental disabilities and allow each person to reach and realize their full potential. The Job Skills Training Program will further help to prepare people for community-based jobs by teaching and fortifying basic job skills including: setting goals, attitudes and professionalism at work, job hunting and preparation, balancing work and personal life, first impressions, confidence on the job, teamwork, communication, and personal futures planning.

This grant is part of a philanthropic initiative created by Staples Foundation which allows Staples associates around the world to directly funding to nonprofit organizations that are focused on education or job skills. The program, called 2 Million and Change, encourages local community engagement by awarding larger grants to organizations where associates are highly engaged in volunteering or fundraising – up to $25,000 per organization.

In 2014, Staples awarded more than $2.4 million in grants to 1,056 local organizations in support of education and job skills programs, including tutoring for pediatric cancer patients, job skills development for individuals with disabilities, school supplies, mentoring and more.

“Staples Foundation is committed to encouraging associates around the globe to make a difference in their local communities and through 2 Million and Change we enable them to directly support the programs where they personally see the greatest need,” said Katy Dobbs, director of global community and giving for Staples, Inc.

About Staples Community and Giving Staples contributes to educational and job-related community efforts with a primary focus on disadvantaged youth, from literacy and mentoring to career skills development, through in-kind and monetary donations and grants from Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc. Through its community and giving efforts, Staples and Staples Foundation have helped more than 7,000 organizations in 26 countries. For more information, visit www.staples.com/community.

**Support Connection Launches Team Spirit Campaign**

Support Connection, Inc. announces the launch of the 2015 “Team Spirit” campaign for their 21st Annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer, which will take place on Sunday, October 4, (rain or shine) at FDR Park, Route 202, Yorktown Heights.

The Support-A-Walk is held to bring attention to the needs of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, and to raise funds for Support Connection’s free support services for those living with these diseases. People across the Hudson Valley and beyond are helped by Support Connection’s counseling and other services.

Each year, thousands of people take part in this inspiring and uplifting community event. Participants of all ages complete a 3-mile walk, often in honor of loved ones who are affected by breast and ovarian cancer.

The Team Spirit Campaign encourages friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors to “team up” for the Support-A-Walk. Teams are groups of people who decide to participate in the Walk together. Team activities can include seeking donations, planning fundraising events, inviting others to participate, spreading the word about the Walk. Attending the Walk is not a requirement; many Team activities can be done before the Walk from any location. Teams that do attend together often create signs or banners to carry while they walk, and gather for Team photos as part of the morning’s festivities. To learn more about forming a Walk Team, visit supportconnection.org/support-a-walk-overview/form-or-join-a-team/

Team Spirit Awards will be presented for the: Top 3 Teams for fundraising, Top 3 Teams for number of Team members; Most creative Team sign or banner. For details on how to qualify, contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 walk@supportconnection.org/walk/

Putnam Kennel Club dog shows are a hit at Veterans Memorial Park

Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park is known for many things. It hosts the annual 4-H Fair and the Daniel Nimham Pow Wow and is home to the Putnam County Veterans and Military Museum as well as related military artifacts and monuments. It may now be known to those in the canine competition world as one of the best venues to host a dog show.

Hundreds of dogs from all over the East Coast and Canada competed to be named “Best in Show” at Veterans Memorial Park in Kent on Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, at the Putnam Kennel Club’s All Breed American Kennel Club Show.

It was the first time the park was used by PKC which previously held its annual dog shows in Stormville and Pound Ridge. The Hudson Valley Hound Association also held a hound-only show at the park on Sunday, July 19.

“We are ecstatic about how well the park worked out as a venue,” said Barbara Pessina of Putnam Valley, who is president of the Putnam Kennel Club. “We host our annual picnic here at Veterans Memorial Park and Chris Ruthen, [director of the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Department], suggested we consider hosting our dog shows here as well. I am so glad he did. Everyone has been talking about how great the site has worked out. There was plenty of shade to keep the dogs cool and just as much room for the RVs that many of the people travel in. We could not be happier.”

Garry Newtown of Texas, a seasoned dog show judge who travels all over the country, commended the location choice.

‘The Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park is one of the best sites in the county to hold a dog show event,” said Newtown. “The shade provided comfort for the dogs and the grounds allowed space to showcase the canines’ movement. It was a pleasure and honor to judge there.”

The Friday show had about 600 dogs entered. On Saturday there were an estimated 700 dogs entered. An additional 400 hounds were entered in the Sunday show. Joining the dogs on the road are typically the owners, handlers and groomers. Hundreds of spectators also came to see the shows.

“The PKC dog shows are incredible opportunities for so many people from outside of Putnam to see how beautiful our county is and the things we have to offer,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. “We are fortunate that people are talking and word is spreading. Putnam is in its primetime. Our parks, Veterans Memorial, the golf course and Tilly Foster Farm, are all becoming regional destinations. Promoting use of these county resources is both fiscally and socially beneficial to Putnam residents.”

Often visitors discover Putnam County for the first time by attending an event hosted by a local organization. “I am amazed at how many visitors from outside of Putnam County came to support the dog show,” said Interim Director of Tourism Frank Smith. “These are people that dined and shopped in the area. I hope that Putnam County’s beauty and hospitality will entice them to come back.”

Of the hundreds of dogs that competed in Friday’s and Saturday’s show, the top honors of “Best in Show” each day were given to GCh Takara The Time Is Now, known affectionately as Ali, a Saluki breed. Ali’s handler is Lesley Potts of Hannacroix, N.Y., and her owner is Pam Mehr of Oxford, N.J.

parc program chosen to receive $3,500 grant

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**What it Means When We Get Interested in Historic Homes**

When I received the e-mail from Vicki Jimpson-Fludd, a real estate agent with Better Homes & Gardens Rand in Briarcliff Manor, to have my historic house listing in Ossining join a group of other historic houses in Westchester and Putnam counties for a joint open house tour, I thought it was an inspired idea.

"Hey, wait a minute, I wrote back, "I'm the realtor with the PR background! Why didn't I think of that?"

I immediately offered to volunteer my company to help promote the event. Working together, Vicki and I scored a huge turnout for 18 different brokerage houses showing 40 historic houses on one day.

At my open house in Ossining, a 15-acre estate contiguous to Teatown Lake Reservation with a late 1700s home that has been rebuilt over the past 30 years, I didn't have a chance for a breath. There were many as three visiting parties at a time from start to finish. I heard similar reports from realtors at the other open houses.

It was interesting that the common thread among normally competing brokerage firms was the antique home, at best a quiet category when it comes to marketing and selling a home. It is a narrow category in terms of those that populate the inventory and buyers who seek them.

If an historic home is considered to be one that is at least 100 years old – those that have survived storm, fire and general neglect – it would be difficult to surmise the percentage of inventory that exists overall. Just to get a sense of it, I happen to know that in my hometown of Yorktown there are about 13,000 residences, and of those, 206 homes were identified as those of "historical significance" in a survey done a few years ago.

At the same time, I once heard it said that only about 1 to 2 percent of the population is interested in living in antique homes, so that would seem to.

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**The Intended Consequences of Living With Nature**

In past columns, I've extolled the virtues of winemakers intent on producing unadulterated wines made from grapes that are untouched by industrial science. This trend to produce wines in a manner most is in line with nature's influence, not man's. Natural wines can be expected to be more representative of the qualities and characteristics of a particular grape.

I've also reported on the unintended consequences of industrial products and practices on grape growers who are committed to produce natural grapes and wine.

Numerous winemakers across the globe adhere to natural grape-growing techniques, eschewing the marvels – and shortcomings – of man-made chemical fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides. Natural winemaking has grown significantly over the last decade, with popular support for the health of vineyards, global farmlands, the atmosphere and wine consumers.

Last year, I reported on the effect of governmental regulation on a French winery owner. Emmanuel Giboulot has been maintaining his vineyards organically for many years. He eschews chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, instead preferring to utilize natural methods and products. Among other measures, he lays down organic fertilizers and promotes an environment in his vineyard for beneficial insects that in turn control harmful insects. It seems he is in harmony with Nature.

However, he was fined, and nearly jailed, by the local city government for defying an ordinance that required the use of Pyrevent, a pesticide used to kill a leafhopper insect found to spread disease in grapevines.

Ironically, this ordinance flies in the face of a European Union command that stipulates the use of organic farming to prevent contamination of agricultural products and the environment.

Much has been written of the agricultural industry's business model based on increasing productivity and profits in direct polarization of organic practices. For example, The Monsanto Company produces many of the seeds (including GMO varieties), pesticides and herbicides used by farmers around the world. They sell the world's top-selling herbicide, Roundup, and ironically, seeds genetically modified to resist the effects of Roundup on plants. Today, over 80 percent of all corn and soy grown in the United States is from genetically engineered seeds.

The dangers of industrial herbicides and pesticides are well documented. Recently a French laboratory conducted tests on wines. They tested 92 bottles of wine and found small (non-lethal) traces of pesticides in all 92 bottles, a number of which were organically produced.

Another unrelated laboratory test of 300 bottles found pesticides in over 90 percent.

This startling result for organic wines may be attributable to a number of factors, including shifting winds that carry air-born pesticides and herbicides from non-organic vineyards and other farmlands to organically sustained vineyards; and higher-than-normal rainfalls that carry atmospheric-trapped pesticides and herbicides across a wide swath of vineyards.

I've reported on several examples of the unintended consequences of society's effort to control its own destiny rather than anything within the context of the natural order. An example surfaced last week of a winemaker's susceptibility to industrialized agriculture and its consequences.

An Oregon winemaker initiated a lawsuit against a neighboring farm. The suit alleges that the fumes of a herbicide used by the farm drifted to the highly susceptible grapevines, destroying the crop. Williams Valley Vineyard claimed that 12.7 tons of its Pinot Noir grapes were lost, the equivalent of 826 cases of wine. The winery stated the value of these wines to be over $400,000.

To pinpoint the source of the herbicide, the winery enlisted the aid of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct an investigation that, according to the lawsuit, ultimately concluded that an herbicide drift had occurred from the neighboring grass seed farm.

Does man coexist in harmony with nature or at war? What are the unintended consequences? It is as if man constantly tests the boundaries and capacities of nature, expecting the balance will be sustained with no material negative impact. We are modern man and we are in control of our destiny – or are we?

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
Happenings

Art on Display:

Art on Display: "iterations" is a project, process, and body of art created by six local artists through a mail-based exchange over a six-month period. The results of this collaboration, produced by project members Charlotte Berwind, Christopher Staples, Claudine Musuto, Georgine Honohan, Joann Zwolski, and Laura Paradiso, will be on view in the newly renovated Third Floor Gallery at Mahopac Public Library, from August 1-29. A reception, free and open to the public, will be held at the Library on Thursday, August 6, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. "iterations" will be on view from Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 29. The artwork can be viewed during regular Library hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. For further information, call 845-628-2009, ext 100, or visit www.mahopaclibrary.org.

Works on paper: Featuring art created by Christopher Staples, James Sparks, & Susan Zoon, August 1-30. Mid-Run Reception: Sunday, August 16, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. The exhibition, Works on Paper, presents three unique divergent takes on this definition by three local artists at the very top of their game. Combined, these works represent a celebration of the mysterious alchemy of time, talent, thought, intent, and instrument that eventuate in works on paper. Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. During the exhibit, Saturday and Sunday noon - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Upcoming Defensive Driving Classes: Saturday, September 12

Defensive Driving at Kent Library.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kent Public Library at 17 Sybil's Crossing in Kent Lakes. Receive up to a 10 percent discount on your motor vehicle collision and liability insurance premium for up to three years, and up to a four-point reduction on your driving record. This class is offered by DigitalDefensiveDriving.com. The cost is $40, with a portion benefiting the library. Registration is required at www.kentlibrary.org or call 845-225-8585.

Saturday, September 26

Putnam Valley Parks and Rec. New York Safety Class. Given by Cummings Safety Benefits - Get a savings of 10% on your car insurance (collison and liability) for three (3) years; and reduce up to 4 points on your license. Classes are one day/with no tests. * You can now take this class on-line at NYSF.com. Go to promotions and type in code # RCS35. The cost for this is $35.00. This is a savings of $14 over the regular on-line fee. Cost is - $35. Classes are held at Putnam Valley Town Hall. FMI: 845- 526-3292.

Teen Programs:

Teen Programs at the Kent Library: All teens (ages 12 and up) are invited to two fun programs in early August at the Kent Public Library. The first is a Teen Black Light Party on Monday, August 3rd from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Bring a plain black or white t-shirt and decorate it with neon fabric paint. The library will have glow in the dark activities and snacks. The second program is a Teen Chocolate Party on Friday, August 7 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Do you love chocolate? Have a blast at this chocolate themed party just for teens! Play games, do a craft and eat some of your favorite chocolate treats. Both programs require registration. Teens can register by clicking on the calendar & events button at kentlibrary.org or by calling the Kent Library at 845-225-8484.

Register Now:

The Ty Louis Campbell Foundation will host its 3rd annual Muddy Puddles "Mess Fest" on Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Camp Kiwi Day Camp (825 Union Valley Rd, Carmel, NY). The "Mess Fest" is an outdoor event featuring food, music, games, and, of course, plenty of mud. This event is a celebration of kids being kids and honoring children with cancer. All proceeds will directly fund childhood cancer research. Tickets are $40 for children ages 3-13 and $30 for adults. For more information, please visit http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-muddy-puddles-mess-fest-2015-tickets-16667428728?aff=erelexpim.

Saturday, August 8

Putnam County Wine and Food Fest: Entering its fifth year, the Putnam County Wine and Food Fest is at a new location— Beaver Creek Farm on Route 311 in Patterson. The event for all ages features wineries, distilleries, farm market and specialty foods, food trucks, arts and crafts, and special exhibitors. Tickets are available online at PutnamCountyWineFest.com. The Fest will provide a wide variety of food, drinks, activities, and more. There will also be cooking demonstrations from celebrity chef to the star. FMI: putnamcountyingewinefest.com/travel/. All ages are welcome on August 8th from 11-6 and August 9th from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Beaver Creek Farm in Patterson. General admission tickets are available for $25, $10 for those under 21. One day VIP passes are being sold for $100, advance sale only. Visit PutnamCountyWineFest.com for additional information.

Ongoing:

Nature's Jewels Exhibit at the Kent Library: An exhibit of nature photography by Susan Bores, entitled "Nature's Jewels," will be on display from July 1 to July 30 at the Kent Public Library. There will be an artist's reception on July 11th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibition, sponsored by the Friends of the Kent Public Library, brings together images taken from nature that inspire, resemble, or are inherently jewels. "Marge's Knitting Circle" will be offered July 22 and Aug. 26, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. at Support Connection, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights.

Thursday's:

Paws to Read at the Kent Public Library: Join volunteers from Therapy Dogs International, and their dogs at Kent Public Library, for the Paws for Reading Program, select Thursdays and Fridays in July and August. This program is designed to give children, ages 6-10, the opportunity to gain confidence and improve reading skills by reading aloud to a therapy dog. This is a free event. One-on-one fifteen minute sessions are available by appointment only. Registration is required. Call the Kent Library at 845-225-8585 for times and dates, and ask to reserve a time which is convenient for you. You may also register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or by calling the Kent Library at 845-225-8484.

Friday's:

Puppet Story Time & Crafts: Brewster Public Library on Fridays, July 10 to August 14, from 11 a.m.-noon. Children ages 2-5 are invited to attend a puppet show and then create a puppet of their own. Registration is required. For more information call 845-279-6421 or visit http://tinyurl.com/pzbx668b. Children of all ages are invited to drop by the Brewster Public Library on Fridays, July 10 to August 14, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m., to make a creative craft. Registration is requested. Young children may need some assistance. For more information call 845-279-6421 or visit http://tinyurl.com/o9ox04kd.

Cancer Support:

Cancer Support Available: Support Connection, Inc., a not-for profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, offers a wide range of free support groups women with breast and ovarian cancer. Groups focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. They are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, and by toll-free teleconference. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, July 28

Family Movie Cars 2: Mahopac Library 1:30 p.m. Free. FMI: www.mahopaclibrary.org Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Boscoel House and Gardens, 1601 New York 9D, Garrison. For additional dates and more information visit: For Tickets: http://hvshakespeare.org/whats-playing/buy-tickets.html

Wednesday, July 29

Riverfront Concert Series - Blue Sky in Peekskill: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Riverfront Green Park, Peekskill. Concert is family friendly and free. FMI: www.cityofpeekskill.com

The Water is Wide at Kent Library. 11 a.m. Participants in this adult book club will be encouraged to share their interests and appreciation for historical, biographical, travel and other serious literature. Richard Harrison will lead a discussion of The Water is Wide by Pat Conroy. Registration is required. Call the library at 845-225-8585 or go to kentlibrary.org for more information.

Thursday, July 30

Summer Art for Adults at Reed Library Thursdays 10 a.m. to noon. Landscape Watercolor. August 6 and Exploring Line and Shape with Pen and Ink. Register for one class or all three. Please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Brewster Theater Company's "The Drowsy Chaperone": Wells Middle School. Also, Friday July 31 and Saturday Aug 1 at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee Aug 1 at 2 p.m. FMI: Brewster Theater Company.org. (845) 232-0739. info@brewstertheaterc.org. August 1 at 2 p.m. FMI: Brewster Theater Company.org. (845) 232-0739. info@brewstertheaterc.org. August 1 at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee August 1 at 11 a.m.-noon. Children ages 2-5 are invited to attend a puppet show and then create a puppet of their own. Registration is required. For more information call 845-279-6421 or visit http://tinyurl.com/pzbx668b. Children of all ages are invited to drop by the Brewster Public Library on Fridays, July 10 to August 14, from 11 a.m.-noon. Children ages 2-5 are invited to attend a puppet show and then create a puppet of their own. Registration is required. For more information call 845-279-6421 or visit http://tinyurl.com/o9ox04kd.

A childless married couple wishes to adopt. Loving secure home life. Hands-on mom & devoted dad. Large extended family. Expenses paid. Felica & Tom. 1-844-286-1066

**AUCTIONS**

4BR Dorset VT Home Prestigious Neighborhood Commute from Boston or NY, Near Area Amenities Foreclosure Auction: Aug. 13 @ 11AM THCAuction.com 800-634-7653

**AUTO DONATIONS**

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

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AUTOS DONATIONS

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**ADVANCE**

LIVIA'S HAIR SALON, HAWTHORNE, NY, is looking for a professional hair stylist that has a desire to grow with the business. Our atmosphere is friendly and we pride ourselves on customer service. We are seeking an energetic candidate with a good work ethic, and has excellent customer service skills. Must be a licensed cosmetologist by the state of New York and have experience styling men, women & children. There is an option to rent a chair. Salary, commission & benefits will be discussed upon interview. 914 747 6155

***SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED ASAP*** Looking for reliable, mature, punctual guards to work in retail stores in Somers. F/T-P/T available. Must have NYS guard license and able to work weekends. D/L and car a plus! CALL US NOW 718-544-3949.

CASHIER/COUNTER HELP. BP Cortlandt Manor. Store help needed part time. Must be at least 21 years of age. Will train. Call Yolanda (914) 755-0970

**IN HOME PET SITTING**

Pleasant Paws Inn LLC Catering to the most discerning dog owners in Westchester. Our home will be their home. 24/7 one on one love. Boarding, daycare, walks & transportation services available. Book a reservation at info@pleasantpawswinn.com or 914-773-2020 or 914-906-8414. 9 Hobby St., Pleasantville.

**LAND FOR SALE**

SO. ADK LAKEFRONT! 1st TIME OFFERED! JULY 25TH & 26TH! 12 acres Abuts State Land- $39,900 9 acres Laakefront- $69,900 30 acres - 3 Lakefront Cabins- $299,900 144 acres Lake Access- $289,900 Less than 3 hrs NY City, 1/2 West of Albany! Call 888-905-8847 to register or tour at WoodworthLakePreserve.com

**MISC MULTIPLE**

SAWMILLS from only $4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber anydimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N

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ALGEBRA, ENGLISH AS WELL AS CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCE. 14 years of experience. Westchester Community College employee. Your home or mine. (914) 525-8966.

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MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683

CASH for Coins! Buying Gold & Silver. Also Stamps, Paper Money, Comics, Entire Collections, Estates. Travel to your home. Call Marc in NY: 1-800-959-3419


**HELP WANTED**


**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

HAS YOUR BUILDING SHIFTED OR SETTLED? Contact Woodford Brothers Inc, for straightening, leveling, foundation and wood frame repairs at 1-800-OLD-BARN. www.woodfordbros.com. "Not applicable in Queens county"

**ATTEND AVIATION COLLEGE**


**LIVIA’S HAIR SALON, HAWTHORNE, NY**

is looking for a professional hair stylist that has a desire to grow with the business. Our atmosphere is friendly and we pride ourselves on customer service. We are seeking an energetic candidate with a good work ethic, and has excellent customer service skills. Must be a licensed cosmetologist by the state of New York and have experience styling men, women & children. There is an option to rent a chair. Salary, commission & benefits will be discussed upon interview. 914 747 6155

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Putnam Valley hosted first-place Carmel last Tuesday but the battle for supremacy in the 14-U WPBA division was halted when the rains came and put an end to PV’s John Listwan’s and Carmel’s Brendan M’Cabe’s effort to settle it on the field. The 14-U Division of the Westchester-Putnam Baseball Association is a tightly contested race whereby a host of local teams are in the chase for the regular season league title, including Carmel (9-1), Somers A (9-2), Putnam Valley (8-2), Somers B (7-3) and Mahopac (6-5), all of whom are capable of winning it all in the upcoming playoffs, which are set to begin Monday, August 10th with the championships to be contested at Lakeland High on August 15th for all divisions between 9-18.
SOAC Storm Reaches Final 8 in Cooperstown Field of Dreams

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Shrub Oak Athletic Club Coaches Patrick Kelly, Mike Casale, Wade Frobose, Frank Phillips and Jim Wainer knew they had a 12-U baseball club that could compete with the best of the best when the Shrub Oak Storm journeyed to the Cooperstown All Star Village in late June with the expectations of an enjoyable week of baseball festivities. They were also treated to one of the worst weeks of summer weather in Cooperstown history, but still came home with one of the best runs for a Shrub Oak team and an experience that no player, coach or family will ever forget: A Final 8 finish among a field of 45 teams.

The week began on a typical Saturday with the usual unpacking and bunkhouse hijinks, but weather already started to rear its ugly head as it was announced that the Opening Ceremony would be condensed to one event.

After a dreadfully wet Sunday, baseball finally resumed on Monday with it being announced that all teams would play three 4-inning games.

Against the Slammers Brown (Colorado) SOAC win 6-0. Austin Wainer pitched a complete game with 10 strikeouts.

Against the Octane Warriors who ended the magical week-long run.

Against the St. Charles Knights Orange (Illinois) SOAC won 7-6. Andrew Frobose and Zach Cohen led the way on the hill for the Storm in the game two victory. The Storm rallied from a 6-4 deficit with 3 runs in their last at bat. Joey Phillips had a key RBI and Mike Casale went 2-2 in the win.

Against the Utah Knights, SOAC stole the show Joey Phillips spun a no-hitter to lead the Storm to its third victory of the day, a 4-0 triumph. Zach Cohen’s second homer of the day led a four-run first inning and would be all the Storm would need.

Against KOA Sports (Maryland), SOAC posted a 12-1 win. David Eckert pitched 4 solid innings and Mike Mauro closed out the win on the hill. The Storm clubbed 4 HRs in the rout as Mauro (3rd), Cohen (3rd), Casale (1st) and David Wilsea (1st) all went yard. Kian Ray was 3-3 and was instrumental in multiple rallies in the win.

Against the Backyard University Gamers (Pennsylvania), SOAC won 10-3 and completed a perfect pool record. Mauro hit his 4th HR and David Wilsea, Landon Ruggieri and Colin Kelly combined to pitch the Storm to victory.

Against the Capitol Renegades Black (NY), SOAC won 9-3. The Storm scored in every inning and Austin Wainer led off game Rickey Henderson style with a HR. Andrew Frobose was 2-3 and he along with Wainer and Joey Phillips combined to pitch the Storm into the next round of playoffs.

Against the Suburban Columbus Trappers (Ohio), SOAC won 4-1. Austin Wainer threw his second complete game of week. Landon Ruggieri (1st) and Mike Mauro (5th) went yard back-to-back in the 1st inning to provide all the runs they would need to advance to the final 8.

But the run came to an end against the Warriors Baseball Club of Michigan in an 11-1 SOAC setback. Unfortunately, the Storm bats were quieted by the high octane Warriors who ended the magical week-long run.

In the end, the Storm went 7-1 overall and 5-0 in pool play, joining only two other Storm teams that have matched that feat while competing in Cooperstown. The team hit 12 HRs while only allowing two, had two shutouts ended up as the #5 seed and reached the Final 8 for the week.

“We couldn’t be more proud of how we competed,” Manager Kelly said of the Storm. “As a team we have talked about Cooperstown and worked towards this week as our ultimate goal for years and hoped that it culminated in a great week and it actually happened. The kids played flawless, handled themselves with class during wins and the loss; as they did their families, our league and our community very proud this week. We would like thank the community for all their financial and verbal support that helped make this experience happen for our kids.”

Lakeland Rules Roost in Summer Field Hockey Action

Lakeland All-American Dana Bozek has Lakeland Green playing at an unbeatable summer season clip as the Hornets prepare for the fall season.

Hen Hud’s Grace McMurrin has the improving Sailors playing to a 3-2 record in Hudson Valley Summer Field Hockey League action.

Lakeland’s Julia Wanamaker is ready to take her game to the next level this fall after a solid summer campaign in the Hudson Valley Field Hockey League.
Yorktown, Somers Paired Up in Week 4 Grid Clash

I know, I know... it's way too early to start talking about high school football. Unless of course you're a freak like me and can't get enough of it, which is why we'll slowly start to take a look at some of the insanity we can expect in places like Mahopac, Yorktown and Somers. I haven't been this stoked for the local football season quite some time. We'll look at places like Mahopac and Class B Putnam Valley next week while we concentrate more on Class A for now.

Mandatory football camps are set to open up this week, as we prepare to separate the "haves" from the "have-nots". As it usually is this time of year, optimism is at an all-time high in most places, even places like WALTER PANAS where the injury bug didn't just bite Coach Dan Petranik's Panthers, it may have obliterated them.

The loss of senior RB/LB Joey DeLuca (broken ankle, major rehab time) is about as debilitating as any injury could be to any team in the section. Patronik's plan for the 2015 season included a series of plays centered around DeLuca-right, DeLuca-left, DeLuca-up-the-middle. The powerful RB was expected to be a bell-cow figure, similar to 2013 when the Panthers ran the heck out of then-senior John Brophy.

Don't count him out, because if anyone back in the section this season. It's entirely possible that Santavicca, the son of assistant Coach Roger Santavicca, and nephew of former two-time NYS champion Yorktown Coach Ron Santavicca, sets some school records this season for rushing yards and touchdowns while leading the Huskers back to their second straight title appearance after returning last year for the first time since 1998.

I'm thinking Yorktown might actually be the team to beat this season, and I'm loving the thought of Week 4. This year, we are lucky enough to have Coach Mike Rescigno's Huskers squaring off against Somers in Week 4, in what will certainly be must-see stuff for Class A grid fans from the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region, including a BREWSTER team that expects to be very improved this season.

"Week 4 is gonna be awesome without a doubt," said Santavicca, who rushed for 1,726 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns last year. "I don't know if we can replace Baker. I'm truly going to miss him."

Yorktown will turn to either Jose Boyer and/or Kyle Casey to replace the speedy Baker under center.

"Both are looking awesome," Santavicca said. "It is a tight race, but we'll be good with either of them. We are 100% ready to get back to the title game. We have unfinished business, enough said."

Somers has a ridiculous senior in DL Tommy Castelluccio, who figures to be the guy expected to stuff Santavicca and the rest of RBs looking to keep Coach Tony DeMatteo's Tuskers off the top rung. There's a whole lot of new faces at Somers this season, but we've come to expect nothing less than a Tusker team that annually contends for the Section 1 crown that was theirs as recently as 2012 and 2013.

BREWSTER will be young this year but the cast of characters is encouraging, according to Coach Ed Mulvihill.

"The best asset is it looks like we will have some depth," said Mulvihill. "Our JV had over 50 players last season so we are expecting bigger numbers on the varsity. That will bring out some good competition for playing time, which is always a good thing. We will also have some bigger linemen, which we haven't had in a few years."

That is good news for All-Section QB Matt catalano, who is back with great expectations.

"Matt threw for just under 1,700 yards last season, so he will be our primary weapon this season," Mulvihill said. "We did lose some great receivers (Kyle Catalano playing at Catholic University and Matt Gargano playing at Lehigh University), but we have some good athletes ready to jump in to their roles. We will be a little on the young side, so it depends on how quickly the team can gel, but there is optimism entering this season. We can, hopefully, get back to the playoffs. Players have been working hard in the weight room and at the workouts. We're looking forward to the Friday Night Lights!"

Who isn't, coach, who isn't?

Next week, we'll put Mahopac, Carmel and Putnam Valley under the microscope. Dang, I'm stoked!...

How 'bout my NY Mets! All they need to do now is get themselves one more bat and broadcast their games on an FM station next season (WOR 710 is a flagship joke, right?) in order to legitimize this franchise as a contender for the next five seasons...

Hulk Hogan or Bill Cosby? Wow, how the mighty have fallen... a racist and a rapist, and I didn't even have to try to rhyme that one. And that 50 Cent ain't worth a plum nickel nowadays. It all went south for "Fiddy" after one bad pitch at Citi Field, oh, the irony.
Members of the StarStruck Dance Studio of Mohegan Lake stole the show in Wildwood, NJ, last week when they competed in the Sophisticated Productions Summer Nationals where the competition team took home a slew of top honors, including Outstanding School Spirit, Outstanding Choreography (9-12 & 16-plus age groups), 2nd place overall duo trios (3-12s), 1st place overall title Tap Solo (13-15s), 1st place Tap Duo (13-15s), plus a clean sweep of platinum awards across the board for every number in which they competed. Competition team members from the Putnam Valley, Yorktown and Cortlandt area include Nicolette DeBellis, Zakiyah Johnson, Pheby Aryee, Mariah Koballa, Melina Mojica, Caitlin Quinn, Emma Woods, Alyson Ferreria, Lauren Seiler, Luke Zadrima, Daniella Milano, Alex Sirico, Alexis Fuchs, Arianna Stockinger, Kelli Venezia, Tarah Pivarnik, Gabriella Lirano, Alyssa Stockinger, Danielle LaFleur, Madysyn Winogradoff, Emma Longden, Cierra Espineira, Nicholas Sirico, Adrianna Lawrence, Ariana Nicolo, Keren Markovitch, Steven Fitzgerald, Katherine Reynoso and Juliana Vanno, who has been an inspiration to the entire unit while battling pediatric cancer #TeamToughCookie.