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Closing the Deal

Retired Yankee great Mariano Rivera, surrounded by Mount Kisco officials and members of the village’s Chamber of Commerce, cuts the ribbon outside his new car dealership on North Bedford Road last Saturday morning. Cheered on by a large throng who attended the ceremony, Rivera also signed autographs for the fans. Rivera Toyota opened for business during the summer.

Mt. Pleasant Mulls Eliminating Nonresident Train Parking Passes

By Neal Rentz

Faced with a shortage of parking spaces at the Hawthorne and Valhalla Metro-North station lots, Mount Pleasant officials favor a plan to end nonresident annual parking passes and establish a fund to maintain the lots.

Town Clerk Patricia June Scova, who proposed changes last week, said a lack of spaces in the parking lots have become commonplace. To free up space, annual parking passes should be eliminated for those living outside the town, she said.

"Nonresidents are generally people from Yorktown, North Castle, Ossining, (and) Silver Lake," Scova stated in an Oct. 6 letter to the town board. "Some come because there is no train service from their area or because it is cheaper."

The schedule for the remaining elements of the plan, which will include a survey of residents for the Comprehensive Plan, was outlined during last Wednesday night’s community outreach session at Robert E. Bell Middle School.

There will also be a different survey regarding the Millwood Revitalization Strategy and Chappaqua Revitalization Strategy, two separate reports being completed that assess the town’s two business hamlets.

Tiffany Zezula, deputy director of the Pace Land Use Law Center, which was retained by the town early last year to help New Castle complete its update, said the revised Comprehensive Plan is a concise seven-chapter document addressing the key issues raised by the public during the past three years that represents the town’s vision for the next couple of decades.

"We want to leave here and know that you have a Comprehensive Plan that is a living, breathing document," Zezula said. "I do not want to hear that your Comprehensive Plan is sitting on a shelf, continued on page 4

P’ville Eyes Expansion of Special Needs Youth Safety Program

By Arthur Cusano

The Village of Pleasantville and the Pleasantville Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) are looking for state and county help to expand the popular VIP Program for keeping developmentally disabled youths safe.

The topic was discussed extensively at Safety Summit 2015 held at Pleasantville Village Hall Oct. 7 that featured local public safety and education experts and elected officials.

Pleasantville School District Director of Educational Services Dr. Carolyn McGuffog, who gave a presentation about students with functional impairments, said the district has developed ways to address the issue of students who wander off.

"Unlike another child that runs away, who can generally figure out a solution or figure out a way to get themselves safe, these individuals don’t necessarily have a sense of understanding of safety concerns and self-care is lacking," McGuffog said. "So if they are missing for a while they won’t be able to take care of themselves."

Such students lack motor skills to voice their problems to another person or may not realize they are in trouble. About 49 percent of children with autism attempt to run away from a safe environment, McGuffog said. Accidental drowning and accidents are more common for those children, she added.

The VIP Program was started with the help of the village’s police department four years ago. Lt. Eric Grutzner said the village recognized the need for a program.

"We recognized that stress makes it difficult for parents to answer questions, to think straight, to remember details and reasonably anticipate locations continued on page 2
these children might go,” Grutzner said. “Obviously, when you’re talking about children with developmental disabilities, these issues are all magnified.” Pleasantville and Mount Pleasant police maintain a listing of all the developmentally disabled children voluntarily registered for the program by their parents. Photos and other information about the child can be used by police to help locate them.

A sticker is provided that could be placed on a car or a visible place at home to alert emergency responders that a developmentally disabled child is inside. They also offer letters that can be given to neighbors asking them to be on the lookout for a child who may wander. When searching for developmentally disabled children, police often look to nearby danger areas, such as water bodies and high-traffic locations, Grutzner said. Police can utilize K-9 officers and aerial units with heat cameras if a search is needed. They may also notify all law enforcement agencies in the county using a centralized phone system.

Amber Alerts are not used since they are reserved for abductions and children believed to be in physical danger, Grutzner said.

Forum organizer and village Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner said she wanted to see Pleasantville’s program implemented across Westchester and perhaps eventually across the state using a separate database that could be accessed by all law enforcement agencies. She also said she’d like to create a bracelet program to identify children countywide as well as a crisis team to handle these situations.

“If a kid goes missing in Westchester, like that boy did in Manhattan, it would cost us a million dollars to find them,” Wagner said. “And I think getting the resources for maybe $50,000 for a database would be a lot better than a missing or dead kid.” Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps Chief Krista Kolodzinski said having a list of a child’s special needs, such as the medications they take, is useful for children who are nonverbal. A nonverbal person could incorrectly be viewed as having a head injury, for instance, if responders don’t know his or her background, Kolodzinski explained.

She also praised the sticker program and hoped the program can expand into Mount Pleasant.

“If we go into a house it may not be for that individual with special needs,” Kolodzinski said. “It works for our safety as well, so we might know if that person created to have a specially trained team to deal with issues that would assist local police. He also said he wanted to see improved communication between local and state police using online databases.

County Legislator Michael Smith (R-Greenburgh) said the VIP Program could be a cost-efficient solution not only for Pleasantville but the entire county.

“When someone is wandering they aren’t going to come to a boundary of the village and stop,” Smith said. “They’re going to go where they want. When you take a program like this, which is simple in its form but so practical, and expand it out to the million-plus people that live in Westchester County, that’s where you have real opportunity.”

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) said he worked at the Cottage School in Pleasantville 27 years ago and was responsible for finding kids who had wandered off. He praised Arc of Westchester for its work and said he had hired developmentally disabled youth through Arc for his family’s restaurant in Yorktown Heights.

“I believe in smaller government, but the government that we do bring should be government that takes care of the people that can’t take care of themselves,” Murphy said. “That’s our obligation.”
Task Force Focuses on Issues Facing Westchester’s Families

By Martin Wilbur

A newly formed task force designed to solicit public feedback regarding important family issues reached out to Mount Kisco and northern Westchester residents last week in its latest stop around the county.

The roughly 40-member Family Task Force, comprised of a variety of stakeholders and co-chaired by Board of Legislators’ Democratic Majority Leader Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) and Kathleen Halas, executive director of the Child Care Council of Westchester, held its fourth public forum Oct. 8 at the Mount Kisco Public Library.

“We want people in Westchester to feel engaged on how policy gets set in our community,” Borgia said of a key task force mission.

Following an introduction, the crowd of close to 40 community members was randomly split into five groups, each led by facilitators from the Westchester chapter of Community Voices Heard, and asked to list their top three issues facing families in the county. After close to an hour of brainstorming, each group shared its priorities with all of the attendees.

Borgia said the information from last week, as well as the three previous meetings in Yonkers, White Plains and Peekskill, will be used to create a Families Bill of Rights, a similar strategy employed by county lawmakers last year to tackle intergenerational issues.

It will also brought to the full Board of Legislators and used starting next year as a guideline to shape policy and influence budgeting of programs and potential legislation, she said.

Similar to the previously held forums, concerns related to housing, the cost of child care, transportation and economic issues, and how to access available services were the most common issues raised. For example, a few of the subgroups last week discussed the dilemma facing families regarding the prohibitive cost of child care.

Halas said the prohibitive cost of child care is an overarching issue for everyone, “It’s all about having greater communication and getting some basic services and create some affordable housing and affordable child care, which is an overarching issue for everyone,” said 22-year Mount Kisco resident William Serratore.

Alan Mehlida of South Salem said the forum was a great idea but was concerned that a lot of the proposed solutions would likely require more spending, which would hurt many families by likely increasing taxes.

He also hoped that with only two Democratic legislators in attendance, Borgia and the area’s representative, interim legislator Alan Cole, both sides of the aisle can put aside differences and find solutions to common problems.

“We all have our own problems and whether we can do anything, the big thing is where do we get the money from, and the same people who are asking for all these things are saying I can’t pay my taxes,” Mehlida said. “So it’s a combination, but I think we can improve where we are.”

Although some teenagers participated last week, Borgia said the task force is hoping to hold a final forum before the end of the year exclusively for students.

The Family Task Force typically meets the third Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the county office building, she said. The public is invited to attend.

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MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

One of five groups that exchanged ideas during a portion of last week’s Family Task Force session in Mount Kisco.

“We all have our own problems and whether we can do anything, the big thing is where do we get the money from, and the same people who are asking for all these things are saying I can’t pay my taxes,” Mehlida said. “So it’s a combination, but I think we can improve where we are.”

Although some teenagers participated last week, Borgia said the task force is hoping to hold a final forum before the end of the year exclusively for students.

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Finish Line Nears for New Castle Comprehensive Plan Update

continued from page 1

because it's going to be short, it's going to be sweet and it's going to be that a developer, a citizen, the public or local leaders can take it off the shelf at any moment, take it off your desk and read and use it, because it is going to be that vision of New Castle.”

The proposed revised plan, which will be posted on the town's website, contains an introductory chapter, followed by addressing key areas of discussion in each of the next five chapters. Those are Livable Built Environment, which addresses sustainability; Harmony with Nature, which covers natural resources and environmental concerns; Resilient Community, which includes recreation and food sources; and Responsible Regionalism, or how New Castle's plan is integrated with neighboring jurisdictions. The final chapter discusses the implementation of the plan.

Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull said the Comprehensive Plan update is crucial for the town because it can help make the town eligible for various grants. Since the 1989 Comprehensive Plan does not address a host of current key issues, such as sewers for Millwood, the town cannot make itself eligible for the grants because there isn’t an approved document outlining a need, she said.

"A realignment, if a Comprehensive Plan talks of the need of communities from an infrastructure standpoint like that, directly aligns us with those funding sources when we ask for money, the proof is in the documentation,” Hull said.

A key goal with the updated plan is to have the town aligned with the best practices that the Pace Land Use Law Center and professional planners use today, Zezula said.

Hull said that the town is eyeing either an online and/or paper survey for the Comprehensive Plan, which would take place over the next month. The two area studies, the Millwood and Chappaqua revitalization strategies, may be part of a phone survey.

Mt. Pleasant Mulls Eliminating Nonresident Train Parking Passes

continued from page 1

contain 678 parking spaces.

Scola is also asking the board to raise the cost of the annual resident parking permits by $15 to $250 and student permits by $25 to $100. The extra revenue would go toward a fund to maintain the lots. If the increase was imposed, an additional $125,000 would be raised next year to maintain the lots.

"The parking lots are in very poor condition," she said.

The current annual rates for nonresident passes are $600.

The cost of one-week parking passes is $20 for residents and $45 for nonresidents. Daily passes for seniors are $5. The cost to replace lost passes are $25 each. No price changes are proposed for the one-week, senior or student passes.

Scola said she is seeking the fee increases effective Jan. 1.

As of Oct. 6, 988 passes have been sold this year, generating $245,510 in revenue, she noted in her letter.

"The parking lots are in very poor condition," she said.

Rubeo said he agreed with the idea of raising the costs of the annual parking passes. Users of the train station lots, not the town as a whole, should be paying for lot maintenance, he said.

Councilman Denis McCarthy said he also felt a parking lot maintenance fund was needed.

The board supported Scola’s call to end nonresident annual parking passes. Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said discussion would continue on the town clerk's proposals in November.

"They are only responsible for the highway system in town," Scola said.

"We could use one of the private contractors (the) highway (department) uses now or go out to bid.”

Scola said Superintendent of Highways Peter Sciliano spends about $15,500 on each lot per year from his department's budget, which does not get reimbursed. Pleasantville created a similar parking fund for its lots in 2009, she said.

Though town board members did not make a firm commitment to the town clerk's proposals, they expressed support for her concepts. Councilman Mark Rubeo said he agreed with the idea of creating a fund to pay for parking lot maintenance costs and would consider raising the costs of the annual parking passes. Users of the train station lots, not the town as a whole, should be paying for lot maintenance, he said.

Councilman Denis McCarthy said he also felt a parking lot maintenance fund was needed.

The board supported Scola’s call to end nonresident annual parking passes. Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said discussion would continue on the town clerk's proposals in November.
Stop & Shop to Take Over Mt. Kisco A&P Within Month

By Martin Wilbur

Shoppers at the Mount Kisco A&P can look forward to the arrival of Stop & Shop by next month but uncertainty remains for the future of the space now occupied by the bankrupt supermarket chain in Millwood.

Stop & Shop announced on Oct. 8 that it has its conversion plans in place for the 25 stores it acquired in the metropolitan area through the bankruptcy proceedings. Its corporate headquarters stated that starting this week five stores will be converted each week until the conversion process has been completed by Nov. 13.

The company confirmed that the current Mount Kisco A&P is not in the first week of conversions, but did not say which week that will occur. Each store will be closed for about seven days. “We are very excited to begin the store conversion process and we will strive to minimize the inconvenience to customers,” Don Sussman, president of Stop & Shop New York Metro Division said in a statement last week. “Stop & Shop is committed to improving the overall shopping experience in these 25 stores to meet the quality, selection and savings that customers have come to expect from us.”

About 3,000 former A&P employees will be retained by Stop & Shop once the conversions are complete, which will make shoppers feel comfortable by seeing familiar faces, Sussman said.

He also said that at each location during the grand opening, Stop & Shop will make a charitable donation to a local nonprofit organization committed to children.

Stop & Shop bought the Mount Kisco A&P at 195 N. Bedford Rd. for $25 million. It has reportedly been A&P’s most profitable store.

While shoppers know the immediate future of that supermarket, the same cannot be said for the much smaller A&P at Millwood Plaza. During the first two days of the auction earlier this month it received no successful bids.

Recently, an online petition and social media campaign was undertaken by a large group of residents from New Castle and some surrounding towns hoping to attract a Trader Joe’s to that location.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said it does not appear Trader Joe’s has interest at this time in opening another store in Westchester. He was unsure whether it was because of the location or if the company had no interest in expanding at this time.

However, late last week Greenstein said he learned that the Millwood A&P lease was bought by Jaru Food Co., a subsidiary of Key Food. Since Jaru Food bid independently, Greenstein said it was his understanding that it won’t likely operate as a Key Food.

Greenstein said he was also told that Key Food may be trying to purchase the Food Emporium name, making that a possibility for Millwood Plaza.

More than 1,000 people signed the online petition a few weeks ago. A Facebook page, We Want a Trader Joe’s in Millwood (shown above), was launched. It was believed that because Trader Joe’s generally occupies smaller spaces, Millwood Plaza might be a good location.

The area’s other A&P at the Rose Hill Shopping Center in Thornwood was acquired by Acme.
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By Martin Wilbur

A public hearing on an updated North Castle ethics code will open next week after a town appointed task force recently completed a nearly yearlong review of the existing code.

The town board plans to entertain discussion on recommended changes to the document during its Oct. 21 meeting.

Task Force Co-chair David Simonds said the code that has been on the books is largely fine but the group was charged with making improvements. Some of that review included studying other municipalities.

“We’ve got a code, it’s good but what are they doing in other towns?” Simonds said.

Co-chair John Diaconis said the task force sought to strike a balance so that conflicts of interest among its employees and elected and appointed board members are addressed, but it also didn’t want to make the provisions so onerous that it would be difficult to find residents to serve.

Recommendations to the town board include a Board of Ethics that would consist of five members and two alternates, so in the event of an absence or a need for recusal there would be a full number of voting members. Also, officers of political parties and town employees will be prohibited from serving.

Terms of Board of Ethics members would be five years but staggered so one member’s term will expire every year to avoid widespread change at one time. If that recommendation is retained by the town board, it would have to initially appoint the new board members with terms of different lengths so that can be achieved, Diaconis said.

There are also no term limits currently proposed.

A key proposal would be to allow up to three members of the same political party to serve on the board at one time, said Simonds. The limit has been two members, which would then require a sitting member to be an independent or not be registered with any party.

Simonds said the task force concluded that party labels in local government are often insignificant.

“We thought it was more important to find the best people to appoint,” he said.

The task force also has proposed that a board member must disclose to his or her board before a vote any matter that would benefit a political supporter who contributed more than $500 to that member’s political campaign prior to the person being seated on the board.

That also applies to goods and goods and services that total more than $500.

Another new wrinkle would be to allow members of the public to submit an ethics complaint to the board through a one-page form. In hopes of limiting politically motivated abuse, the information shall remain confidential unless the Board of Ethics renders a final decision.

The town board has the latitude to make changes to any of the recommendations made the task force.

The full 13-page proposal can be viewed on the town’s website. There is a link to the task force’s submission under the item on the Oct. 7 agenda.
**Obituaries**

**Marie Cialini**  
Marie Cialini, formerly of Valhalla and White Plains, died on Oct. 6. She was 84.

Cialini was born on Sept. 1, 1931, to the late Philip and Rose Malara in the Bronx. She was the former owner of Valhalla Hardware and later was a secretary at Westchester Community College. She was a former member of the Rosary Altar Society at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla.

Cialini was predeceased by her devoted husband, John V. Cialini, in 1996, and two brothers, Frank and Pasquale Malara. She is survived by her loving children, Donald (Rosetta) Cialini of Hopewell Junction, John (Joy) Cialini of Lake Carmel and Rosemarie (Susanne King) Cialini of Tuckahoe, her seven cherished grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Oct. 8. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of Jesus Church on Oct. 9 followed by entombment at Ferncliff Mausoleum in Hartsdale.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Lung Association would be appreciated.

**Robert Tantillo**  
Robert Tantillo, Jr. of Belleview, Fla. and formerly of Valhalla died suddenly on Oct. 8.

He was 56.

Tantillo was born on May 24, 1959, to Robert and Ann (nee Marvullo) Tantillo, Sr. in New York City. He was owner-operator of Eco Green Lawn and Landscape in Belleview. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and coaching his sons in baseball, football and bowling.

Besides his mother of The Villages, Fla., he is survived by his devoted wife, Cecelia (nee Mattson) Tantillo, of Belleview; his two loving sons, Edward Giunta and Paul (PJ) Tantillo, both of Belleview; his two beloved sisters, Dr. Barbarann (Russell) Jeff Tantillo of Peeksill and Catherine (Michael) Jumper of Ridgefield, Conn.; one niece, Kristin Jumper; and one nephew, Harrison Jumper.

Visitation is at Hawthorne Funeral Home today (Tuesday) from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. A funeral Mass will be at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. Interment will be private.

**Betty Ann Leonard**  
Betty Ann (Vogel) Leonard of Thornwood passed away peacefully on Oct. 2 after fighting cancer. She was 71.

Leonard is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, John F. Leonard, her children, John and Patricia Leonard, and also adored by her four grandchildren.

She was the beloved sister of Robert and Douglas Vogel.

Leonard was a proud member of Westwood Swimming and Tennis Association, the Pleasantville Garden Club, Hearts and Hands Knitting Club and Holy Name of Jesus Altar Society.

She worked for 22 years at Southern Westchester BOCES as a teacher's assistant.

Visiting hours were on Oct. 4 at Beecher Flook's Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville. A funeral Mass was held on Oct. 5 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla followed by burial at All Souls Cemetery in Pleasantville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Ave., Hawthorne, N.Y. 10532 would be appreciated.

**Libertad Miller**  
Libertad M. Miller of Valhalla passed away peacefully on Oct. 7.

She was 65.

Miller was born on March 29, 1950, to the late Juan and Julia (nee Santiago-Rodriguez) Rivera in the Bronx. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Alfred Miller, in 2006. Miller is survived by her loving daughter, Michelle Miranda (Wilfredo), of North Haven, Conn.; her caring sisters; cherished grandchildren Jazmin Chisolm, Aaron Miranda and Trinity Miranda; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She held a master's degree and worked as a director of finance for Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Oct. 11. Funeral services were held at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Oct. 12 followed by interment at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

**Police Blotter**

**North Castle Police Department**

Oct. 3: A 911 call was received at 1:42 p.m. reporting that a male subject passed out at Equinox gym on Business Park Drive but is regaining consciousness. Call was transferred to 60 Control for dispatch of Armonk EMS. The male party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 3: A Freedom Road resident reported at 1:46 p.m. that some of his son's friends were at his residence the previous night and threw eggs inside the house. The responding officer reported speaking with the homeowner. Matter adjusted.

Oct. 4: Report of a larceny on Custis Avenue at 1 p.m. The complainant stated that she placed her bicycle in her garage three or four days ago and this morning it was missing.

Oct. 5: Report of a burglary on Round Hill Road at 2:03 p.m. A male caller stated that he just interrupted a male party breaking into his mother's house. The unknown male party, described as a white male, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-9, wearing a dark blue sweatshirt, fled in a blue van with New York license plates BYJ8785.

Pleasantville Police

Oct. 3: Report of a dog possibly being abused on Castleton Street at 12:14 p.m. The dog was found to be in obedience training with its master.

Oct 6: A 27-year-old Pleasantville man was arrested at 8:35 p.m. on Marble Avenue and charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation. He was issued a ticket to appear in village court at a later date.

Oct. 7: At 6:55 p.m., a Pleasantville family arrived at police headquarters to report that a $500 Oriental rug is missing from their home. A report was filed.

Oct. 8: Officers arrested a 22-year-old Ossining man at 2:03 p.m. and charged him with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation. He was issued a ticket to appear in village court at a later date.
Annual Fall Festival Set for This Saturday in New Castle

The Town of New Castle will hold its fourth annual Fall Festival this Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Chappaqua.

The Fall Festival is a celebration of community and will showcase local merchants, fall activities and promoting the charming hamlets of Chappaqua and Millwood. Residents can also enjoy fabulous food and local and seasonal tastings from restaurants in town, a DJ, carnival games, mobile archery, arts and crafts, airbrushed tattoos, a Gaga court, an inflatable Velcro wall, balloon animals and more.

“The Fall Festival holds a special place in my heart,” said Supervisor Robert Greenstein. “It’s an event we started when we started the Chappaqua-Millwood Chamber of Commerce in 2012.”

The Fall Festival will also feature an apple pie contest at the farmers market. Residents can bring their 100 percent homemade pies (the crust must be made from scratch as well as the filling) to the market table by 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Bring the registration form with the pie and make sure to tape an index card with your name, address, e-mail and phone number on the bottom of the pan.

Download the registration form at http://chappaquafarmersmarket.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CMKPieRegForm_2015.pdf and remember that local apples are the best.

There are three different categories for contestants: ages 16 and under, adults and gluten-free pies (a category that all ages can enter).

The Fall Festival is sponsored by Kiwi Country Day Camp and New Castle Recreation & Parks.

For more information contact Rob Greenstein at RGreenstein@MyNewCastle.org.

Friends of Mt. Pleasant Library Book Sale Opens Oct. 22

The Friends of the Mount Pleasant Library will hold its semiannual book sale from Oct. 22 through Oct. 27 at the main library in Pleasantville, located at 350 Bedford Rd. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the book sale.

The Friends’ Preview Sale will open the sale on Oct. 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for members. New members can join at the door. It continues for the general public on Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 is Bag Day running from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

New this year on Monday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. for a $10 admission is an all-you-can-carry sale. Admission is free for Friends members.

Free leftover books will be made available on Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon.

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New Programs, Enrollment Increase Mark New Year in P’ville Schools

By Arthur Cusano

There are a slew of academic changes in the Pleasantville School District this fall, and the district’s principals described them for trustees and central administrators at the Sept. 29 board of education meeting.

Bedford Road School has an enrollment of 589, with 33 new students. There are five sections for kindergarten and first grade and six each for grades 2-4.

“Wel’re actually on a climb up (with our kindergarten being the littlest, but that’s 100 now,” said Principal Peggy Galotti. A major change is a new program called W.A.M. time (an acronym for writing, activity and math). The program is designed to provide extra individualized writing instruction for third- and fourth-graders and an additional period of physical activity and movement and math practice, explained Assistant Principal John Morash.

Each class is divided into two groups. On Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., one group will be given small group writing instruction with the classroom teacher, while the other will use the time for physical activity or math practice. The two groups will then switch activities during the same period on Friday.

Morash said the school will also be changing the lunch/recess time halfway through the year to see if students perform better in the classroom depending on the order. Students in grades 1 and 4 eat lunch first, then have recess before returning to the classroom, while grades 2-3 have recess before lunch and then return to class. The school will change the order for both groups in the second half.

“We plan to observe how and if student classroom focus and demeanor are changed depending on whether they come back to class from lunch or recess,” Morash said. Pleasantville Middle School now has 542 students, with 18 new students enrolled this year, said Principal Vivian Ossowski. The seventh grade is the largest class with 152 students.

A significant change this year is a new 80-minute “block period” system for grades 7-8 in English, social studies and science. Ossowski said that allows for more time for each subject as well as character-building activities.

There have also been changes to the flex period. Students are now in a study hall setting, but all of the academic teachers for each grade are free and available to help them, Ossowski said. They can sign themselves out of the study hall to visit a particular teacher. The system also helps keep track of where students are if they need to be located, she said.

The school has eliminated bells that mark the end of class, which Ossowski said was welcomed by students and teachers.

“They’re really enjoying not having to watch the clock in 42 minutes,” Ossowski said. “I think there is a different atmosphere in the school without bells, less of a factory feeling and more of a natural flow. We’ve told the teachers that if they’re a minute late or a minute early, that’s okay. Just watch the clock.”

Grades are now posted on the online parent portal on the 15th and 30th of each month to allow parents to view their child’s progress instead of sending home a report halfway through every quarter. Only high school students are permitted to log into the system to view their own grades, Ossowski said.

At the high school, enrollment also rose slightly to 604 students, said Principal Joe Palumbo. The 11th-grade class is the largest, with 160 students.

Assistant Principal Gregg Fonde told the board that the school now offers a humanities research and a computer science principles class.

Morning announcements are now a student-made daily TV news program called “The Daily Panther,” which is shown to students using smart boards in each classroom. Fonde said the school has a Daily Panther YouTube channel that can be found via a link on the school’s website, as well as a Twitter feed, @PHSpanthernews.

“We’re always looking for additional people to work in that program, so I would encourage any parents who have an interest in getting their student involved in those activities to let us know and we’ll try to steer them that way,” Fonde said.

Announcements are also posted daily by Fonde on the school’s website as the “Green Gazette.”
Area Credit Union Changes Name to Attract More Members

By Martin Wilbur

A more than 75-year-old credit union that has members in school districts throughout central and northern Westchester has changed its name with the hopes of broadening its membership base.

The Hudson River Teachers Federal Credit Union is now the Hudson River Financial Federal Credit Union. The name change, which took effect Oct. 1, better reflects the changing membership of the organization even though it still serves 29 school districts in Westchester and Rockland counties, said CEO Thomas Powers, Jr. Those districts include Chappaqua and Byram Hills locally.

“Having teachers in our name perpetuated the misperception that we only serve teachers, which has not been so for a very long time,” Power said. “So, we’re happy to now have a new name – and one that better conveys the broad reaching credit union that we are.”

Based in Mohegan Lake, what is now the Hudson River Financial Federal Credit Union was formed in 1938 after federal legislation had been passed to allow for various occupations to offer its members the ability to use financial services during the darkest years of the Great Depression. It now has more than 6,000 members, Powers said.

For participating school districts, all of their employees, students and board of education members and their families are eligible for membership in the credit union, he said. Retirees of those membership groups are also eligible to continue being a part of the credit union.

Mt. Kisco Officials Clarify Energy Program for Public

By Neal Rentz

Mount Kisco officials plan to educate residents on the ramifications of the Sustainable Westchester’s Community Choice Aggregation energy program, which was approved last month by the village board.

Village Manager Edward Brancati said he was working on a series of talking points that he would submit to the village board for its review to better explain the program to residents.

Trustee Jean Farber said last week she had received calls from residents who were “somewhat confused” about the program, which will allow municipalities to pool residential and commercial energy consumers to reduce bills.

After Farber spoke with residents and explained to them the program’s intent and how they can opt out if they choose, most were understanding. “There’s a lot of misinformation,” she said.

Brancati said Sustainable Westchester would not go forward with an agreement with an energy provider if savings cannot be realized.

Planning board retirement

Ten-year planning board member Sol Gibbons recently submitted his resignation to the village because he is moving to White Plains.

“It was with regret that we had to make this decision, but age and the inability to care for our house in the (manner) it deserves prompted the move,” he stated in his letter to the village board.

Gibbons praised building department staff and thanked his planning board colleagues.

Mayor Michael Cindrich said Gibbons, who has known for decades, contributed “a great deal of service to the village.”

Trustee Peter Grunthal, who previously served with Gibbons on the planning board, called him “an outstanding gentleman in every way.”

The trustees did not discuss when they would fill the planning board vacancy.

AMERICAN GIRL EVENTS

Saturday, November 7th

Meet Valerie Tripp, American Girl Author

of books about Maryellen, Molly, Emily, Kit, Ruthie, Samantha, Nellie, Josefina, Elizabeth, and Felicity.

Meet the Author & Afternoon Tea at Katonah Village Library

3:00 pm—5:00 pm

Nourish your daughter’s imagination and encourage her creativity!

Attend tea with Valerie Tripp, with a ‘50’s sock hop theme!

A small group of girls will meet with Ms. Tripp to talk about writing, how to develop an idea into a finished story, and steps in the creative process. Ms. Tripp will answer questions and give your young writer tips, pointers, and advice about writing fiction and nonfiction.

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Letters to the Editor

North Castle Misinterpreted Existing Law When Passing New Law

At the North Castle Oct. 7 town board meeting, the board voted to change an existing law because the building and planning departments made the mistake of misinterpreting the law. So instead of simply deciding to start implementing a law correctly, a law that is identical to many other towns, they decided to cover up their mistake by changing the law and add many more layers of subjective language to what used to be simple and objective.

Leading the discussion was Councilwoman DiGiacinto, a retired English teacher with no experience in land development, building, engineering or even the law with respect to local town codes.

Watching local town laws being adopted is laughable. While the town board considers input from the town’s planner and attorney, we often saw them looking at each other asking questions, obviously not exactly sure what to do. Ironically, after the unprofessionally reviewed law change was agreed upon, the next agenda item was a review of the Ethics Committee Task Force that took a team of professionals an entire year to complete their assignment. How often do we get to see in the same meeting something handled so poorly alongside something handled so professionally and comprehensively?

What we witnessed once again, in a government that insists it can do no wrong, is the systemic arrogance that permeates virtually every North Castle department, board and employee. The town’s own zoning board ruled in a 5-0 vote that the law changed by the town required review by the ZBA for a variance, but because the building and planning departments misinterpreted the law, the planner and town board members decided to change the law rather than to start enforcing it and allowing a ZBA review. This begs the question: How many other mistaken interpretations of laws have been made in the past by the building and planning departments with regard to other laws, and why is the zoning board obviously being left out of the loop with no input from them during these discussions?

The town board obviously does not believe in additional transparency of land development issues by deferring all decisions to the all-powerful planning board and its acting chairman playing the role of king with the town planner being the king maker.

Richard Panetta
North White Plains

Cunzio’s Experience, Attributes Would Serve District Residents Well

I am pleased to have an opportunity to write this letter in support of Margaret Cunzio for county legislator. At a time when our taxes are the highest in the country, our community needs someone like Margaret who will work collaboratively with County Executive Rob Astorino to rein in government spending. Astorino has endorsed Margaret’s candidacy in this race. I am troubled by the federal government’s attempts to expand the terms of the affordable housing settlement, which was agreed to by the former Democratic county administration.

I have known Margaret since she was a toddler and watched her grow up to be a responsible, ethical, outstanding citizen. She will stand with the taxpayers to protect property rights and the sanctity of home rule.

It is important to have a Republican majority in order to preserve the fiscal restraint of the past six years. Margaret has the ability to communicate her ideas and energize people. She is a creative problem solver and an energetic and enthusiastic advocate. She will apply the same passion as our legislator as she does as an educator and animal rescuer. She has experience in numerous administrative positions where she demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities.

I hope you will join me in voting for Margaret Cunzio on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Bill McClure
Armonk

Diaconis’ Experience in Housing Cases Exactly What County Needs

I write to endorse the candidacy of John Diaconis, the Democratic candidate for Westchester County legislator. As John’s law partner for almost eight years, I have served as co-counsel with him in the defense of municipalities in housing discrimination cases. In those cases, we defended home rule, local zoning and local regulations as they related to affordable and low-income housing cases. In two of those matters, our adversary counsel was the former senior trial counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice that had been responsible for prosecuting housing discrimination cases on behalf of HUD.

I have seen John in action, sitting across the table with such counsel in the presence of federal magistrate judges, negotiating successful resolutions while defending local zoning. In one of the cases, we were retained to defend the Town of Yorktown. Then-Councilman Terrence Murphy voted with his colleagues on the board to retain us and approve the resolution that John and I had crafted. These cases were all resolved in a fair and cost-effective manner, without fanfare or publicity and in a way that protected local zoning. And no federal monitor was appointed to oversee the matters.

John has the experience and qualifications needed to help the county resolve the housing dispute with HUD. And he has the skills and knowledge to do so in a way that would protect local zoning and prevent expenditure of additional, unnecessary fees, expenses and penalties. If you want someone with a demonstrated record of success in defending local zoning, I urge you to vote for John Diaconis for county legislator on Nov. 3.

James W. Glatthaar
Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP
White Plains

Ex-Councilman’s Clarification on His Armonk Lumberyard Vote

I am writing to you about the article titled “No. Castle Opposes Transfer of Affordable Units From Lumberyard” (Sept. 29-Oct. 5). In referring to comments I made at the Sept. 24, 2015, town board meeting opposing developer Mike Fareri’s latest request for zoning and property tax benefits, it was reported that I was on the town board last year when the board granted Mike Fareri the density bonus he sought on a second parcel at the “old lumberyard” on Bedford Road, and that I was concerned at the time about granting his request because the units would be taxed at the lower condominium tax rate, which is roughly half the normal (fee simple) rate at which residential real estate is taxed.

That article apparently has given some readers the impression that as a councilman I voted for the density bonus and condominium tax treatment Mike Fareri received last year. Accordingly, I am writing to you to clarify that when the proposal came before the town board for a vote, I articulated my opposition on various grounds and voted against it. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this.

Jose Berra
North Castle

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Jessica Freedman
Doctor/Medical School Admissions Expert

By Martin Wilbur

If a student wants to become a doctor what better way to enhance the chances of being accepted to medical school then consulting a physician?

After all, if someone went through the rigorous application and interviewing process to obtain a prized spot in an American medical school, it would seem natural that they could help others.

While that may be true to some extent, Jessica Freedman is one doctor who clearly understands what applicants face. The former Mount Sinai Hospital physician, emergency medicine specialist and assistant professor at its school of medicine was a member of the admissions committee and also was closely involved in curriculum development.

While still at the hospital, where she worked for about 10 years, Freedman founded MedEdits Medical Admissions. She has seen firsthand potentially strong medical school hopefuls ill-prepared to effectively complete their applications, including what to highlight in their personal statement, which medical schools would be best for them to apply to and how to prepare for the critical interview.

As someone who has enjoyed working with students and medical education, Freedman believed she could help the next generation of future doctors. “A lot of (applicants) think that if they have good grades that’s all they’ll need, but that’s not the case,” Freedman said. “You need great extracurriculars, you need good interview skills. A lot think location doesn’t matter, that if I went to a top-notch college and I have a 3.7 (GPA), I’m golden.”

It didn’t take long for her business to grow, forcing her departure from the hospital. It got to the point where she could rarely practice and Freedman wasn’t comfortable with that. Freedman now has several people working for her, and her husband, Randy Katzke, a pediatrician, has become increasingly involved in the business.

The couple, who has a young daughter and recently moved to Westchester, advise clients from their home office, work with them over the phone or via Skype.

In addition, Freedman assists clients in applying for residencies and fellowships. While Freedman, who has written four books on the topic, including a recently updated version of “The MedEdits Guide to Medical School Admissions: Practical Advice for Applicants and Their Parents,” said there are a lot of advisers who help prospective medical students with the application process, but few specialize in it. Close to 95 percent of her clients are accepted into one of the 141 allopathic medical schools in the United States, she said.

“There are a lot of people who come into the industry because people think that it’s easy and they think ‘Oh, I’m an educator, so I can do this,’” Freedman said. “We have people coming into the industry thinking it’s easy money.”

Freedman said her approach is to take a broad academic and personal history of each client and learn about their goals before she starts to make recommendations.

She stressed that they never write a personal statement for their clients but make suggestions and edits, including advising what information should be included and omitted to help distinguish each applicant.

Freedman also factors in a candidate’s location. Getting into a medical school in Florida for an in-state resident, for example, will likely be easier than if a New Yorker tries to apply to an in-state school. In advance of the crucial interview, she works with clients to brush up those skills, since many admissions boards are looking for future doctors who can relate well to patients.

It also may not be feasible for all students to start medical school immediately out of college because of the extensive yearlong application process. Other times, there are high school graduates who want to know what to do before starting their undergraduate work.

“We have high school students who are starting their freshman year of college and they want to make sure they’re on the right path,” said Freedman, a Watchung, N.J. native who graduated from Haverford College and Temple University School of Medicine. “We also have people, who let’s say didn’t do well in college, their GPA is horrible and they realize, ‘Gosh, I really messed up. What do I do?’”

While the challenges for doctors continue to increase, Freedman sees no shortage of people who want to practice medicine. The profession may be tougher than ever but there’s no shortage of satisfaction.

“It’s still a career where you’re always going to have a job, where you’re always going to be doing good, where you always come home at the end of the day saying, ‘Okay, I actually did something valuable today,’” Freedman said.

"Peekskill is my home, and keeping us safe is my job."

Kaitlyn Corbett
Nuclear Engineer

Kaitlyn Corbett has always called New York home. Born and raised in Buffalo, she earned her degree in nuclear power engineering at SUNY College of Technology and moved to Peekskill to start her career at Indian Point. Safety is the single most important mission for Kaitlyn and her 1,000 colleagues at the plant, and it’s been the focus of her years of study and training in the nuclear power industry. Every day, engineers are graded on their performance by inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC recently gave Kaitlyn and the team at Indian Point its highest safety rating — for the fifth year in a row.

Discover more about Indian Point at SafeSecureVital.com

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POWERING NEW YORK
Family Secret Revealed in Hudson Stage Production of Acclaimed Play

By Martin Wilbur

In 2011, Dan Foster headed to Lincoln Center to take in a new Off-Broadway play and was enthralled with what he saw.

Foster, co-founder of Hudson Stage Company and a longtime actor and stage director, was at the original production of “Other Desert Cities.” The play eventually enabled Jon Robin Baitz to become a Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama.

A little more than four years later, Foster will be directing “Other Desert Cities” for local audiences for Hudson Stage at its home theater, Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk, for the next three weekends. He also directed a 25-performance production that ended last month in Nantucket, but the majority of the five-member cast has changed for the nine upcoming performances at Whippoorwill Hall.

“I remember seeing it originally at the Newhouse Theater in Lincoln Center and being bowled over,” Foster recalled. “Jon Robin Baitz is just such a terrific, terrific writer. Just great. It was a great story.”

The play takes place at Christmas in 2004, when Polly, the mother of novelist Brooke Wyeth, welcomes her daughter back to her and her husband’s Palm Springs, Calif. home to celebrate the holiday. Brooke’s brother and aunt also arrive.

But Brooke reveals that she’s about to publish a tell-all memoir, reopening old and painful wounds for the family.

The play also features Malachy Cleary, who has been seen on “Law and Order” and “Boardwalk Empire,” as Polly’s husband Lyman Wyeth; Brenda Withers (Brooke Wyeth); Davy Raphael (Trip, Brooke’s brother); and Peggy J. Scott (Aunt Silda).

After a run at Lincoln Center in early 2011, “Other Desert Cities” moved back to her and her husband’s Palm Springs home to celebrate the holiday. Brooke’s brother and aunt also arrive.

But Brooke reveals that she’s about to publish a tell-all memoir, reopening old and painful wounds for the family. “It is a thrilling play to do,” said Zenk, who has been seen on “Law and Order” and “Boardwalk Empire,” as Polly’s husband Lyman Wyeth; Brenda Withers (Brooke Wyeth); Davy Raphael (Trip, Brooke’s brother); and Peggy J. Scott (Aunt Silda).

After a run at Lincoln Center in early 2011, “Other Desert Cities” moved over to Broadway’s Booth Theater for an engagement, which marked Baitz’s debut work on the Great White Way.

One of the challenges for Foster and Zenk for the upcoming production, which opens Friday night, is the change in cast members, which makes the Hudson Stage version an entirely new production, Foster said. While the script may be the same, there are differences between the actors and the larger stage at Whippoorwill Hall.

Foster said he was fortunate to land Zenk in a lead role and pursued her after he learned that she loved the play and the characters.

“She had great interest and I, of course, thought very highly of her,” he said. “I was very fortunate that she wanted to do it.”

In addition to Friday night, additional performances are scheduled for Oct. 17, 23, 24 and 30 at 8 p.m. and Sundays, Oct. 18 and 25 at 3 p.m. There will be a matinee and evening performance on Saturday, Oct. 31. Tickets are $35; $30 for seniors and students.

Whippoorwill Hall at the North Castle Public Library in Armonk is located at 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East. For more information and tickets, visit www.hudsonstage.com.

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Report: Real Estate Market Robust in W’chester, Putnam

During the last quarter of the year, any prospective homebuyer can tell you that it hasn’t been a sure thing that you can get the house you’ve set your cap on.

In today’s market, if a house is priced right and is in good condition, it doesn’t last long on the market. Further, we’ve seen the return of multiple offers and bidding wars as buyers have returned to the game and inventory has remained tight.

According to a report released last Thursday by the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR), which reports on real estate sales in Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange counties, home sale volume in this region continued to be rigorous. There were moderate price changes through the third quarter, representing an increase of 15.2 percent in home sales over last year’s third quarter results.

Specifically in Westchester, the sales of single-family homes increased during this period from 1,935 units to 2,065, or 6.7 percent. Sales of condos jumped significantly from 330 units to 403, a 22.1 percent increase, while co-ops jumped 13.5 percent, from 481 to 546 units.

In Putnam, sales were more dramatic with single-family homes increasing 18 percent (233 to 275) and condos increasing 51.9 percent (27 to 41).

The rapid pace of sales all year long and into the third quarter put some downward pressure on the supply of available properties posted with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Westchester experienced a 4.3 percent decrease in inventory while Putnam declined 2.1 percent.

Leah Caro, president of the Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service and Bronxville Real Estate, commented on the last quarter as “holding steady with the modest increase in sales in Westchester and with prices not becoming too overbearing for purchasers to stay in the marketplace.”

“Condos and particularly co-ops took the hardest hit during the recession, in the double digits,” she said, “and the fact that they’ve rebounded now is indicative that there are first-time purchasers moving out of rentals and jumping into ownership. At the same time, those condo sellers can be buying into a single-family home.”

“When we see that all segments of the marketplace (are) showing an improvement, it means health in the real estate market,” she continued. “When one segment over-performs or underperforms another, it shows that something is out of balance.

“As in the last quarter, I talked about the ‘tale of two inventories.’ Homes that were priced well got multiple offers and sold well, while homes that were overly ambitious in their pricing did not sell and are coming off the market. Maybe those owners had the luxury of time to have the market catch up to the price they’re seeking. Because of that, we are seeing inventory levels that are pretty stable. I think the number of sales looks good.”

Although the region’s inventory has been trending downward as a result of strong market activity, it has not shrunk so much or so rapidly as to put a crimp in the continuing market improvement, according to the HGAR report. Further, there doesn’t appear to be so much of a decrease as to generate significant upward pressures on prices. In fact, there were price decreases in some market sectors.

In Westchester, for instance, the third quarter median sale price of a single-family house was $676,500, representing a price decrease of $6,000, or nearly 1 percent, from last year. In contrast, Putnam’s $335,000 median price rose $15,000, a 4.7 percent increase.

The closed real estate sales reported here largely reflect successful marketing and showing activity that took place during the spring and early summer months of 2015. At that time there were favorable conditions for a healthy market, including stable mortgage interest rates in a tight range around an average 4 percent for a 30-year conventional loan. Rates were even lower from other mortgage products.

Also in that period, acting as a confidence-building factor for prospective homebuyers, unemployment rates were decreasing and new jobs were generally increasing. HGAR’s overall assessment of the report was that “our local regional real estate market has had a good run and remains poised for more as conditions permit.”

Caro projects that there may be sustained momentum through the fourth quarter and advises sellers that anyone coming out to view homes between Thanksgiving and New Year’s “are not folks who have nothing to do. I would advise sellers to keep their homes on the market during the fourth quarter,” she said, “because they’ll be inconveniently less in that there are fewer buyers out there, but those folks who come out tend to be real buyers rather than lookers.”

By Arthur Cusano

The Gordon Parks Foundation in Pleasantville is featuring a new exhibition, "A Harlem Family 1967," by the late Westchester resident and acclaimed Life magazine photographer.

Parks, who died in 2006, was best known for his photographic essays for Life magazine. He was also a musician and writer and directed the 1971 film classic "Shaft" and several other major motion pictures for television and the big screen. Parks lived in Greenburgh from the 1940s through most of the 1970s.

The exhibition, last displayed in 2012 in Harlem, will be the foundation's second show in its exhibition space at 48 Wheeler Ave., which opened earlier this year. The exhibit's photographs were taken by Parks in 1967 while on assignment for Life and depict the daily life of the Fontenelles, a 10-member family living in a Harlem tenement.

"This story came as a response to the race riots that were erupting throughout the country in 1967; there were over 100 of them," explained foundation archive assistant Brigid Slattery. "This particular story came at the end of (them) and Life wanted a response from the magazine to readers explaining why these riots were happening. Gordon Parks, the first and only staff photographer for Life that was black, answered, 'Racism and poverty.'

"Gordon immersed himself in their lives for a period of time," said foundation archivist Amanda Smith. "He would go to their home and document how they were living at home and follow them in their daily lives as they walked around Harlem or went shopping."

The pictures, along with an essay authored by Parks, were featured in a special section of the March 8, 1968, issue of Life that focused on race and poverty entitled "The Cycle of Despair: The Negro and the City." One well-known photo shows the mother, Bessie, appearing before a city poverty board.

"Gordon had a way with his subjects where he would make them feel really comfortable with his presence and he developed a relationship with the family after the story was published and throughout his life," Smith said. "When the story was published, there was such support from Life's readers that they provided money for the family to move into a new house."

The exhibition, which also consists of a screening of Parks' documentary film "Diary of a Harlem Family," will be on view throughout the fall.

The foundation was created and run by the Kunhardt family of Chappaqua. It has partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to present an online exhibition of "A Harlem Family 1967." The book, "Gordon Parks: A Harlem Family 1967," was published in 2012 and is available online through the foundation's website at www.gordonparksfoundation.org as well as at the exhibition space.
Men’s Shelter Reopens With Expanded Facilities in White Plains

By Arthur Cusano

The Open Arms men’s shelter reopened last Thursday after a $6.4 million renovation that will allow it to help more people in need.

The facility, located at 86 E. Post Rd. in White Plains, has provided shelter for homeless single men since 1989. It is run by Lifting Up Westchester, a nonprofit organization founded by Grace Church of White Plains. The shelter, like its sister facility, Samaritan House Women’s Shelter, is operated by contract with the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

Open Arms will now be able to serve 38 men in temporary housing, in addition to the emergency overnight shelter located on the lower level.

The shelter has helped thousands of men get back on their feet, including Ricardo Sandoval, a former alcoholic and drug abuser who arrived in 1992.

“I got involved in a program of recovery because there were pieces of myself I couldn’t stand anymore,” Sandoval told a crowded room of people on hand for Thursday’s ribbon cutting. “They say that when the pain gets too great, you’ll change and that’s what happened to me.”

Sandoval said he eventually got his life together with the shelter’s help, and got a job through the carpenters union, Local 53.

“I have a pension today,” Sandoval said. “It’s unbelievable that a person with my background could stand here with a pension.”

Lifting Up Westchester Executive Director Paul Anderson-Winchell said Open Arms has single rooms to help them learn self-reliance, he said.

“They’ll have the opportunity to move from congregate care dorms to single rooms so they can practice living on their own and gain some of those experiences,” he said. “It’s also why (we) plan to start a wide array of life skills training programs now that we finally have the space to do it.”

Anderson-Winchell said the City of White Plains and Mayor Thomas Roach have been vital partners through the renovation process while keeping services open to those who needed them. He also credited the city’s police outreach team for getting people who need help off the streets.

Operations Manager Ada Raiford has been with Grace Church and Lifting Up Westchester for 38 years, when services were provided out of a little bookstore on Main Street by four volunteers. She said the new facilities were a giant leap from those humble beginnings.

“In the back of that store there was a big room, and 19 guys slept downstairs on cots,” Raiford said. “We had a small kitchen to make food and a microwave. Now we feel like Moses, like we made it to the Promised Land. He couldn’t make it, but we did.”

Lifting Up Westchester purchased the building from the insurance company that leased them the space last year using a $5.7 million state grant from the Office of Disabilities and Temporary Assistance. The Leviticus Fund provided a $133,000 loan and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York’s Affordable Housing Program provided a $507,000 grant. Shelter residents were housed at other locations in the city while the year-long renovation took place.

The facility has been expanded from 12,000 to 16,000 square feet and now has a separate dining room, an industrial kitchen and an elevator to make it fully handicapped accessible. The second floor has 10 single-occupancy rooms and an eight-bed dorm space. On the new third floor, which had been used by the insurance company prior to the purchase, there are two- and four-bed rooms. Other improvements include a new common area and new bathroom/shower facilities.

Grace Church Senior Warden Walter Simon is a Lifting Up Westchester board member and like Raiford has been with the organization from the start. He said what started out as an activity for the church’s congregation is now a $10.2 million nonprofit that runs two homeless shelters, support programs for seniors, children and the developmentally disabled, a summer camp and permanent housing programs.

“As we grew, we realized the church couldn’t afford to fund the whole program, but by creating a 501(c)(3) corporation we could get private funds, corporate donations and government funds,” Simon explained. “We changed the name because it’s not a church organization anymore, it’s not a community center and we service all of Westchester.”

Roach said facilities such as Open Arms are necessary in Westchester where the cost of living is among the highest in the nation.

“We live in a county where you don’t have to stumble too hard to find yourself without a place to live if you don’t have a family safety net,” Roach said. “We’re talking about places where a studio apartment costs $2,500 a month, and that’s not something that can happen for someone living paycheck to paycheck, and suddenly the job isn’t there or something happens to their health.”

County Executive Robert Astorino, who also attended last week’s event, announced last Thursday as the first Westchester County Homeless Awareness Day. He said the county has been aggressively attacking homelessness. The homeless student population was down 38 percent and in the past two years 329 previously homeless veterans had been placed in permanent housing.

“We now have a functional zero homeless population of veterans in Westchester,” Astorino said.

He said that as nice as the renovated facility is, the county doesn’t want people there any longer than they needed to be.

“This is temporary shelter,” Astorino said. “We want them here for a very short period of time and to get them into permanent housing and back on their feet and into a healthy, productive life. But as long as they are here, they’re going to be treated great.”

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J-n-S Car Wash Hawthorne

By Colette Connolly

After closing his family’s Mount Vernon-based auto repair shop and gas station after 40 years in business, John Repetti didn’t anticipate starting a new venture.

But not being one to stay idle for long, Repetti and his wife, Susan, found a car wash for sale in Hawthorne that piqued their interest. Now eight months into its operation, J-n-S Car Wash is thriving.

Repetti’s wash technicians, who all worked for the former owner, have helped give the business its stellar reputation. Repetti said many J-n-S customers know the dedicated crew by name and travel for miles to have their cars washed at the Broadway establishment.

When Repetti, a Yonkers resident, took over the business, it was in disrepair. Renovations were made to the interior of the building, including the installation of a new bathroom for customers and a newly designed walkway to keep them warm during the winter. Repetti also replaced much of the car wash equipment.

To ensure customers’ cars receive a high-quality wash during every visit, Repetti installed new wheel and rim cleaners and side brushes made of foam to prevent scratching and circling, swirl marks created from the brushes rubbing up against the care while it is being washed.

Even though the car wash tunnel is short – about 52 feet compared to 90 to 120 feet for an average facility – Repetti explained that cars moving along the conveyor still get cleaned more effectively than if they went through a longer building.

Much of the improved service, Repetti said, is due to the state-of-the-art equipment and the new chemicals being used, including a solution that Repetti said has a lot more “washing power.”

J-n-S offers a number of car wash options – the single, double, triple and home run services and an a la carte add-on menu, which includes Carnauba wax, triple wax, speed glaze sealer, tire shine and Fresh Scent wafers.

The monthly wash membership has proved to be particularly popular. Customers can pay $20 a month for an express exterior car wash; $30 a month for a full-service car wash, which includes vacuuming, window cleaning, a doorframe and dashboard wipe, speed glaze sealer, triple wax and a tire shine.

“If the customer is not 100 percent satisfied, neither am I,” said the affable Repetti, the father of two grown children. His daughter Danielle works with him in the business.

A special bar-coded sticker, which is placed on the windshield of each car, is used to track the number of times a car is washed. Repetti said the monthly discount can only be used on one car per family, but is good for up to 30 washes a month. He plans to offer car detailing, an ultra-cleaning service, $40 a month for the exterior wash that is accompanied by vacuuming, mat cleaning, window cleaning, a doorframe and dashboard wipe, speed glaze sealer, triple wax and a tire shine.

“This is a nice business to own,” said Repetti, who is on the premises most of the time, eager to be of assistance to customers and to become acquainted with his clientele. “I see people coming back time and time again and many of them with higher-end cars,” he added. That speaks to the quality of the service that J-n-S Car Wash is now offering, Repetti said.

J-n-S Car Wash is located at 148 Broadway in Hawthorne, next door to the Mobil gas station. It is open 365 days a year. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. unless it is raining heavily or snowing.
Grand Prix to Host Fundraiser for Armonk Animal Rescue

Tails are wagging across Westchester County this week as Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco will host a fundraising event to support a local animal rescue charity.

Racing for Rescues, an event in which participants can have fun racing go-karts while raising money for Armonk-based Adopt-A-Dog, will be held this Thursday, Oct. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m.

“I’m a huge dog lover, so when I heard Adopt-A-Dog was looking for a new and unique way to hold a fundraiser I thought Grand Prix would be the perfect place,” said Nat Mundy, vice president of sales and marketing for Grand Prix New York. “Adopt-A-Dog’s dedication to animal rescue in the Westchester community is extraordinary and we are proud to host Racing for Rescues.”

At Adopt-A-Dog’s Armonk facility, staff and volunteers care for more than 35 dogs at a time and more than 150 animals a year, including dogs of all ages, breeds and sizes.

Adopt-A-Dog Executive Director Kristen Rice said the nonprofit organization has set a fundraising goal of $3,000 for the event.

“Adopt-A-Dog is so thankful to Grand Prix for providing us with the opportunity to showcase our animals and collect the necessary funds to help care for them,” Rice said. “The biggest expense to our rescue is veterinary care, which is why this event is so important to us. Each and every dog has different needs, and different costs associated with those needs. The money raised at ‘Racing for Rescues’ will offset those costs including providing vaccines, preventative care and direct care from shelter staff.”

A few of the dogs that Armonk’s Adopt-A-Dog is hoping to match with owners. This Thursday night it will run a fundraiser at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco.

Pets will not be permitted at the event, but Adopt-A-Dog will have information, including pictures and profiles of the dogs currently available for adoption, on hand for potential adopters.

Tickets are $50. Light finger foods and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. All participants must be pre-registered. To register, please visit http://adopt-a-dog.org. For questions on the event or about Adopt-A-Dog, call 914-273-1674.

Adopt-A-Dog is a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission has been to save, socialize and secure loving homes for unwanted or abandoned dogs and cats and has been serving the tri-state area and beyond for more than three decades. The shelter, located at 23 Cox Ave. in Armonk, is open seven days a week.

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Despite Market’s Travails, Investing Need Not Be Spooky

Remember the Addams Family? The oddly elegant Morticia, peculiar children Pugsley and Wednesday, bizarre butler Lurch and freaky Uncle Fester, all living in a macabre mansion? Perhaps it was the eccentric and ghoulish Gomez, master of the household, swooning husband and billionaire, who was most memorable. Gomez was extraordinarily wealthy through a significant inheritance and extensive investments. He darkly joked that it was possible to “make a killing in the stock market” and played the markets with gusto. He even kept a tickertape machine in the living room.

An extravagant spender, Gomez invested lavishly in odd schemes that inadvertently paid off big. He purchased swamp land under which oil was discovered; a mummified hand he picked up at a flea market was later identified as the priceless remains of an ancient tombstone factory, a uranium mine and many others.

In Forbes’ 2007 “Fictional 15” list of the richest fictional characters, he was ranked #12 with a net worth of $2 billion. Unless you are Gomez Addams, with unlimited funds at your fingertips, you may not want to invest in such far-fetched schemes as buzzard farming. But Gomez can teach us a valuable lesson: a certain amount of your funds exposed to growth – if tempered with good judgment and solid information – can be hugely rewarding over time.

It’s not too late to get into the stock market. If you have been sitting on the sidelines until now, being ultraconservative, you missed out on stock market declines that offered buying opportunities.

Where are Americans looking to place their investments right now? A recent Morgan Stanley poll of high net worth investors in the New York area showed that of personal investment allocations at the beginning of 2016, stocks or equities (42 percent) are expected to comprise the biggest part of HNW investors’ portfolios. Along these lines, dividend-bearing stocks (49 percent) and actively managed mutual funds (48 percent) top the list of promising 2016 investments. One in five or more HNW investors view international stocks and mutual funds (22 percent), gold and bond funds (each 20 percent) and annuities (19 percent) as “bad” investments for 2016.

Here’s what the HNW investors had to say about where to invest: the U.S. (63 percent), followed distantly by Japan (35 percent), China (34 percent) and India (33 percent) are viewed as the strongest investment areas for 2016. Ukraine, Russia and the Middle East, on the other hand, are rated by majorities as “bad” investments.

Regardless of any investor’s opinion or analyst’s prediction, the future is always uncertain. Nevertheless, being too conservative can be costly, as even modest inflation will take a bite out of your buying power. I believe that now may be the time for even the most cautious investors to dip their toes back into the financial waters. There may be higher-yielding investments that offer interesting options for the rest of 2015. Other industries worthy of consideration include tech companies and those related to an improved housing market.

“Creepy and kooky” approaches to investing should be left to fictional characters like Gomez Addams. In the real world, tread carefully, but this Halloween season don’t miss a great opportunity either.

Peter Chieco is a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Greenwich, Conn. He can be reached at 203-625-4897.
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LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE DIVINE ACRES, LLC Notice of Formation of THE DIVINE ACRES, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (“LLC”). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY on July 20, 2015. NY office location: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to The Divine Acres, LLC, 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CHEF TDB CONSULTING, LLC ARTS. of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/16/15. Office location: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMA- TION OF THE READY NETWORK LLC. Notice of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/11/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is the designated agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Winslow Rd, White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful act.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DStrength LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/16/2015. Office Location: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY has been designat- ed as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 234 Bedford Rd. Unit #4, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Adler & Adler, LLP. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/18/2015. Office Location: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite N-641, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000032823 w.o.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Joseph G. Del Toro, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/25/2015. Office Location: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to principal business address: 78 Paulding Drive Ste. A, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000034875 w.o.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FIRST PRINTING PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/16/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 250 Bronxville Road #3H Bronxville NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF Corp- orate Jet Support, LLC db/a Wolfgang Jet Support. Application for Authority filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/01/15. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to LLC: c/o KGB 11 Times Square FL10, NY, NY 10036 Attn: Harry Beatty. Purpose: Any lawful process.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORKCOUNTY OF PUTNAM- RABBI ISRAEL MEYER HACOHEN RABBINICAL SEMINARY OF AMER- ICA, Plaintiff, - against - LARKSPUR CEMETERY CORPORATION, Defen- dant. Index No. 1425/2015 SUMMONS WITH NOTICE Plaintiff designates Putnam County as the place of Trial The basis of venue is: Location of the real property subject to judgment in this action To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.Dated: July 22, 2014 White Plains, New York NOTICE: The nature of this action and relief sought is: (i) Quiet title, pursuant to Article 15 of the New York State Real Property Actions & Proce-edings Law ("RPAPL"), to: (a) a ±46.8 acre parcel of land, located in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam, State of New York, also identified on the Town of Putnam Valley's Tax Map as Parcel 85.13-1-33, and commonly known as the Larksbury Cemetery ("Lot 33", collectively with Lot 29, the "Subject Property"); and (ii) Damages, as a result of De- fendant's tortious slander of Plaintiff's title to the Subject Property, including, but not limited to: (a) special and actual dam- ages, including reasonable attorney's fees expended in order to clear title, as well as additional future expenses and damages not ascertainable at this time, and will be proven at trial, which Plaintiff will con- tinue to incur until such time as the cloud on Plaintiff's title to the Subject Property has been removed; and (b) punitive dam- ages in such amount as will sufficiently punish Defendant for Defendant's willful and malicious conduct and as will serve as an example to prevent a repetition of such conduct in the future. If you do not serve a notice of appearance or demand for a continued on next page
The 2015 Wine Harvest: Early Reports From Around the World

Last week's column focused on the threat of climate change on wine harvests. Regardless of which side of the argument one espouses – the reality versus the perception of global warming – it is clear that recent harvests have been impacted by warming weather patterns in most of the grape-growing regions.

Over the past decade, growing seasons have generally lengthened, providing longer hang-times for grapes once they reach maturity. The end result is bountiful harvests and riper fruit.

My empirical mind has attempted to deal with the effects of recent weather patterns. My aesthetic mind has dealt with the comparative quality of recent wine vintages.

My conclusions? Let's peek into the 2015 harvest across the major wine regions of the world to assess the impact of weather on this vintage. There is talk that 2015 will be a classic wine year.

In the United States, the focus at harvest-time is invariably California. Accounting for over 90 percent of domestic production, it is understandable that, as the California season goes, so goes the entire domestic wine industry.

In spite of a warm season, the yields in California's vineyards have decreased from previous years. That other factor in climate change, available water for irrigation of crops, has loomed large. However, this appears to be a boon for this year's vintage. Yields are estimated to be a whopping 30 percent lower than in each of the last three years. As water became scarcer during the growing season, grapevines struggled to produce fruit. Counterintuitively, the resulting smaller crop is more concentrated in flavor and taste. Why? The energy of each grapevine has been focused on the small crop this year, which is expected to result in a stellar vintage.

As for the other 10 percent of wine produced in the United States, harvests in two of the larger wine producing regions, Washington and Oregon, look promising.

In Washington, yields and quality of its signature grape, Cabernet Sauvignon, are at historic peaks. A warm late summer allowed grapes to be harvested a full month earlier in some cases, escaping the annual threat of overnight frosts at harvest time that can wreak havoc on grape yields.

In Oregon, 56 percent of vineyard plantings are Pinot Noir, a notoriously fickle and weather-sensitive grape. The hottest year on record in 2015 resulted in earlier-ripening grapes, with high yields and historically high concentrations of fruit and tannin. If you’re a Pinot Noir fan, get ready to enjoy world-class wine from this vintage.

Closer to home, a warm, sunny summer with very few rainy days has made for pleasant vacationing on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley – and the potential for one of the best harvests in recent history.

In Europe, the 2015 vintage has the potential to be one of the best vintages of the past 50 years, perhaps matching the much heralded 1990 and 1982 vintages.

After a disastrous 2014, Italian winemakers are reveling in high yields and excellent quality due to a warm summer and ideal levels of rainfall. Prosecco sales are at all-time highs in the United States, severely straining available supplies and causing winemakers to tap the mandatory “Harvest Reserves” from prior years.

France is experiencing mixed results. Mother Nature has wielded a double-edge sword. The weather has been generally favorable, but the Burgundy and Champagne regions have been punished with summer hailstorms at the peak growing periods, destroying significant portions of maturing crops.

Bountiful yields and high quality are the hallmarks for many wine regions in 2015. Is this the result of several favorable years of excellent weather or the portents of wines exceedingly high in fruit, but unimpressive complexity and structure? Stay tuned as we build a trend line over a 20-year continuum.

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**

**Tuesday, Oct. 13**

**Controlling the Pain of Arthritic Knees Without Surgery.** Orthopedic surgeon J. Robert Seebacher will discuss a nonsurgical therapy that often helps people maintain active lifestyles while postponing – or eliminating – the need for surgery. Learn how injections and exercise can enable reconditioning and reduction of inflammation and pain. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center auditorium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. Refreshments at 6 p.m. Program at 6:30 p.m. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3100.

**Italian Language and Culture.** Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, she combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Golden Apple Chorus Open House.** For women who want to sing in a barbershop chorus and in the group’s holiday show. Hawthorne Reformed Church, 85 Broadway, Hawthorne. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Susan at 914-318-4054 or e-mail susanannmssass@hotmail.com or visit www.goldenapplechorus.com.

**Wednesday, Oct. 14**

**Master Networker Meeting.** Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Julie Genovesi at 303-929-7203 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.


**Preschool Storytime.** This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

**Senior Benefits Information Center.** Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

**Zumba Fitness.** A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. $20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

**Bedford Chamber Concert Series.** The 2015-16 concert season kicks off with Spanish violinist Francisco Fullana performing Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in D, using a 1697 “Rainville” Stradivarius loaned to him by the Stradivari Society of Chicago. The second part of the program will feature Beethoven’s Symphony #3 (“Eroica”), played by the Bedford Chamber Ensemble. St. Matthews Church Fellowship Hall, 382 Cantioce St., Bedford. 8 p.m. $35 and $40 (includes refreshments at intermission). Six-concert series: $185. Info and tickets: 914-522-5150 or visit www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

**Let Your Yoga Dance Classes.** The popular Kripalu noon class dance now is class in Chappaqua! Combines easy dance, gentle yoga and great music. Come join this noncompetitive, heart pumping and joyful experience. Drop-ins welcome. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua.10 a.m. $20 per 75-minute class. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-238-8974 or e-mail claudiaiyogadance@gmail.com.

**Eating Well With Mushroom Mushrooms.** This program will introduce the many culinary and medicinal uses of mushrooms, with emphasis on edible mushrooms. North Castle Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Preschool Storytime.** Come share your experiences and tell fun stories during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-237-3887.

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Come share patterns and ideas and learn how to knit. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer’s Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaaray Tefila Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin Rd., Bedford. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer’s Association at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/nysf. 

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Cardio Dance Class.** A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-8974 or e-mail claudiaiyogadance@gmail.com.

**Pre-registration suggested.** Info and pre-registration: Contact Bess Steiger at 914-366-3957 or e-mail bsteiger@pmhc.us.

**Tartare Support Group for Parent/Sibling Loss.** Led by Jody Monkovic. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Suite 225, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Suggested donation: $10 per meeting. Wednesdays through Dec. 2. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Bess Steiger at 914-366-3957 or e-mail bsteiger@pmhc.us.

**Art Series With Professor Valerie Franco: “Bronzino.”** Born in 1503, Agnolo di Cosimo, known as II Bronzino, was one of the most popular Mannerist painters from Florence for his spectacular portraits and religious images. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors.** Presented by Westchester Seniors Out Speaking, this program is for anyone trying to navigate the complicated healthcare system for older adults. For those who already have Medicare, people soon turning 65 or are assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions and paperwork. Outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with the medical and drug insurance provided by the government and private companies. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Walk-ins accepted; pre-registration suggested. Info and pre-registration: 914-231-3236.

**“Bats in the Boroughs: The Secret Lives of New York City’s Bats.”** Conservation biologist Kaitlyn Parkins will describe how this taxonomic group is studied and what threats exist to our urban bats. She will also present the results of her four years of research on the bats that reside in New York City, including findings on how bats use green roofs for foraging in the city. Katonah Village Library’s Garden Room, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. (Please bring reusable mug.) Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit www.bedfordcaudubon.org.

Voluntin Francisco Fullana is the featured performer for the Oct. 14 Bedford Chamber Concert Series at St. Matthew’s Church in Bedford.

At 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit www.bedfordcaudubon.org.
Remembering One of America’s First Celebrity Chefs

By Jerry Eimbinder

World famous Chef Paul Prudhomme, who died on Oct. 8 at 75, was considered by many in the food world to be its first celebrity chef. He popularized New Orleans food, received numerous awards, hosted television shows, wrote bestselling cookbooks and invented blackened redfish.

James Beard Foundation President Susan Ungaro issued a statement upon hearing about Prudhomme’s death.

“As our Foundation is about to celebrate the many great chefs and cuisine of New Orleans this weekend, we will miss and mourn the passing of the great Paul Prudhomme,” she said. “He was one of our country’s first, best-loved celebrity chefs and had a huge influence on America’s love for his home city and its exceptional food scene. New Orleans’ loss is also America’s.”

Prudhomme became a key player in elevating restaurant chefs to superstar status after he and his wife, K. Hinrichs Prudhomme, opened K-Paul’s Louisiana Kitchen in the French Quarter in 1979. One of his employees in those early days was a 20-year-old kitchen trainee named Emeril Lagasse.

As colorful as he was creative, Prudhomme could capture your undivided attention with his wit, personality and smile just as easily as he could please your pallet with his southern Louisiana cooking.

I had lunch with him at a Chicago food industry convention in early 1995. At that meeting, he described how he had been pranked by comedian and actor Dom DeLuise, who bore a striking resemblance to Prudhomme. Both were bearded, weighed over 300 pounds and frequently wore white caps.

Prudhomme had related that one evening DeLuise had stopped at his restaurant and was mistaken for Prudhomme by several customers. Graciously, he thanked them for their patronage and said, “Your meals are on the house tonight.” Then he left.

Prudhomme said he was at a total loss to understand why customers at four or five tables insisted their bills had been “comped” until DeLuise visited and confessed the following day. From that day, his staff had instructions to be on the lookout for DeLuise.

A couple of years before our meeting in Chicago, Prudhomme’s 48-year-old wife, Prudhomme’s 48-year-old wife lost a seven-year battle with a rare form of cancer. She died on New Year’s Eve 1992.

“Then he left.

In 2006, Prudhomme received Bon Appetit magazine’s Humanitarian of the Year award for providing free food to recovery workers and displaced residents following Hurricane Katrina.

Prudhomme was noticeably unhappy when redfish was declared an endangered species, a ruling commonly believed to be influenced by the demand for blackened redfish at his restaurant. (It was K-Paul’s most popular dish.)

“I had to stop serving it when the law was passed,” he said. “What bothered me most was that cooks who left us continued to offer it elsewhere — they just didn’t mention it on their menus.”

Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown to Offer Red Barn Bakery Wares

By Jerry Eimbinder

Red Barn Bakery will begin operating a “pop-up cafe” in the Carriage House at Lyndhurst in Tarrytown shortly. The new eatery will be open during events and guided tours taking place Thursday through Sunday.

Lyndhurst events include the daytime “Scarecrow Invasion” and the nighttime “Jay Ghoul’s House of Curiosities.” The theme for this season’s House of Curiosities program is Lyndhurst, the Disenchanted Castle.

The Red Barn Bakery wares will vary but will typically include such organic items as savory tart with roasted wild mushroom, tomato and kale; veggie hand pies with lentil, kale and carrot or white beans, leeks and heirloom tomato. Also to be offered are gluten-free macaroni and cheese and soup varieties such as carrot and ginger or lentil, carrot and kale along with crispy bread.

“Gluten-free pumpkin donut muffins, seasonal scones, muffins, decorated cookies and French macarons are sure to be a treat for all ages along with hot cider and coffee,” Red Barn Bakery owner Randell Dodge said.

An assortment of pies to take home will include apple pie and apple salted caramel crumb pie — baked from apples picked from trees over 100 years old in the estate’s orchards. Grab-and-go meals will be available to visitors attending late afternoon tours.

Red Barn Bakery’s store is located at 4 S. Astor St. in Irvington. For more information, call 914-331-7779 or visit www.redbarn-bakery.com.

Lyndhurst is a National Trust for Historic Preservation site. It is located at 635 S. Broadway in Tarrytown. Call 914-631-4481 or visit www.lyndhurst.org/programs-2/halloween-at-lyndhurst-2015.
Happenings

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to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two- and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Thursday and Saturday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountainpleasantlibrary.org.


Storytime Playgroup. Come hear a story and music and join in on playtime with toys and books. Children, parents and caregivers will make new friends and share time together. For children one to four years old; with a caregiver. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountainpleasantlibrary.org.

Grieving Support Group for Spouse/Partner Loss. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Suite 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2:30 to 4 p.m. Suggested donation: $10 per meeting. Thursdays through Nov. 19. Pre-registration required. Info: 914-565-0320 or e-mail bsteiger@pmhc.us.

Gaming Old School. Join old school gaming enthusiasts to play board games like a kid again. Open to all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Lung Cancer Screenings for High Risk Individuals. Dr. Avraham Merav, chief of thoracic surgery and director of the Westchester Lung Nodule Center, will discuss how low-dose CT lung cancer screening for individuals who are at high risk can save lives. Preceded by a light finger food screening for individuals who are at high risk. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, 777 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3010.

Zumba With Amy. Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginner. Addie-Tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Drop-in rate: $12. Every Friday; also Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Info: 914-643-6162 or e-mail olina.my@gmail.com.

Friday Night Films: “La Notte.” This 1961 drama from Italian powerhouse director Michelangelo Antonioni, stars Monica Vitti and Marcello Mastroianni as an emotionally estranged couple who face heartache, desperation and personal loss in the course of one night. Considered to be one of Antonioni’s masterpieces. In Italian with English subtitles. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.addie-tude.com.

Town of New Castle Fall Festival. A celebration of community showcasing local merchants, fall activities and promoting the charming hamlets of Chappaqua and Millwood. Residents can enjoy fabulous food, including local and seasonal tastings from local restaurants, a DJ, carnival games, mobile archery, arts and crafts, air-brushed tattoos, Gaurdian, an inflatable velcro wall, balloon animals and more. Throughout downtown Chappaqua. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday (except Oct. 25) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburgnaturecenter.org.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre And Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. $20. Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.
By Martin Wilbur

Anthony Rispo knows what it's like to overcome a rough patch in life. Like many young people over the generations, he found expectations difficult to manage, especially external pressures concerning college and career.

Fortunately for Rispo, 25, he has had music and songwriting to fall back on, not only to help pay the bills through being a church organist and teaching music lessons, but also as an avenue to express himself.

"All my life I was in the classical music scene playing the organ, and I assumed my role in that scene, like unintentionally, just by default," said Rispo, a Mahopac resident since he and his family moved from Yonkers when he was 15.

"Basically, it all kind of came to a head. I feel like I repressed a lot of it when all this stuff came to a head and I realized on my own there's a person behind all of this," he added.

At about 21 years old, after having been forced to leave the Cleveland Institute of Music following a year and a half of study because of a prohibitive tuition increase, Rispo experienced feelings of anxiety and being emotionally trapped.

For a child who played the organ at church as a young child and attended the precollege program at Juilliard while still a high school student, what had been forecasted to be a successful classical music career appeared to be suddenly derailed.

He said he also didn't get much solace from the cathedral and classical music communities. "As I got older, I've been around people that were in it for the competition or the status or the recognition, and I fell into that a little bit, but in a distant way," said Rispo.

This Sunday, Oct. 18, he will help celebrate overcoming his darker periods through a performance at the Winery at St. George on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake. The program, called Music for Tomorrow, will feature Rispo performing about 10 of his original songs, mainly in the pop music/singer-songwriter genre. He will be on keyboard and be accompanied by two guitarists, a drummer, a string quartet and backup singers.

"The concept behind the program, which Rispo describes as more of a movement or cause, was to write and perform music that makes people feel good about themselves. "Music for Tomorrow was an idea where I wrote music that would inspire people and give hope," Rispo said. "It was a simple idea to use songwriting to inspire people. And I was drawing on my own experience." Originally, Rispo had planned on focusing the performance to spotlight mental health issues. However, he concluded that there are plenty of young people who have insecurities and anxiety wondering about their place in the world, but are not diagnosed with a specific condition.

Rispo picked up music while going to church as a young child with his parents at Bartholomew's Church in Yonkers. At about nine years old, he would practice on a keyboard that was at home. He took organ lessons from the church's music director and progressed rapidly, to the point where he was playing at church in his early teens.

While Rispo has had opportunities to play cathedral music professionally on a full-time basis – something he has resorted doing – he also wants to explore other musical possibilities.

Recently, a family friend listened to his original music and through a contact put him in touch with a Los Angeles music producer. He plans on raising money to head out to California. The upcoming concert at St. George's is free, but for those patrons who like Rispo's music, there will be a crowdfunding website set up at www.indiegogo.com to help him meet some of his expenses.

For more information about Rispo and the Oct. 18 concert, scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m., visit www.anthonyrispo.com. The Winery at St. George's is located at 1715 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake.
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