A Year Later, Pleasantville Murder Remains Unsolved

By Arthur Cusano

A year after Falkoff was found dead in her Pleasantville home, memory of the crime, much like the poster, is slowly fading.

Falkoff, 76, a widow and a retired IBM employee, was found dead inside her residence on Oct. 30, 2014, after a U.S. Postal Service employee became suspicious when seeing mail pile up outside for several days.

Police checked on her at the home located at 79 Grandview Ave. and discovered Falkoff's body inside. Reports issued by police after she was found stated that Falkoff was stabbed to death but there have been virtually no comments since then that detail where in the home she was located or if a murder weapon was recovered.

Mayor Peter Scherer said this week police were following leads in the still-open case but that there was no new information to report.

"It's our goal to bring someone to justice," he said.

Pleasantville Police Chief Richard Love also said he had no new information on the case that he could share.

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety spokesman Kieran O'Leary said after speaking with department detectives that he could share.

"They don't think it would be helpful to the case to release any specifics," O'Leary said.

Falkoff's house, with light blue siding and a white garage door, remains vacant.

Flat Tax Rate Proposed in North Castle’s 2016 Tentative Budget

By Martin Wilbur

The tentative $31.6 million 2016 North Castle budget released by town officials last week is barely within the state imposed tax cap but carries a flat tax rate for residents.

Town Administrator Joan Goldberg said the spending plan increases the tax levy – the amount raised through property taxes – by $288,401, about $20,000 under the ceiling. However, with the first increase in years in assessable property, residents would receive no tax hike in the currently proposed budget.

"We are very happy to see an increase in our assessment roll," Goldberg said.

Assessor Victoria Sirota said there were several factors in the growth of assessable property. More than half of the total was attributed to the $378,600 rise in special franchises, which is real property owned by the public that is used by utilities in the public right of way. That figure is determined by the state, she said.

There was also a sharp reduction in residential tax property grievances during the past year, which allowed the town to maintain its gains in other areas, Sirota said.

In addition, the full impact of Armonk Square hit the tax rolls, which helped to bolster the assessed valuation.

"It was a very positive year for us," Sirota said. "We saw a significant rise for the first time in many years."

On the negative side, Stop & Shop in North White Plains was granted continued on page 2

Former Greeley Teacher Charged With Sexual Assault

By Martin Wilbur

The former Horace Greeley High School theater teacher who resigned following a complaint of inappropriate contact with students was arrested last Wednesday for having engaged in sexual assault and multiple instances of improper sexual contact.

Christopher Schraufnagel, 41, of Manhattan, surrendered to law enforcement authorities and was arraigned on Oct. 28 in New Castle Justice Court. He faces seven charges, including one felony count of third-degree criminal sex act, for allegedly having had oral sexual contact with a 15-year-old student at the school sometime between May 1 and June 24, 2011, according to the Westchester County district attorney's office.

The former Greeley High School drama teacher Christopher Schraufnagel. continued on page 2
Police tape can still be seen hanging on the door, and an aging dull gold-colored Thunderbird sedan remains in the driveway. The home was purchased by Falkoff and her late husband Adin in September 1998, according to village records.

Several of Falkoff’s neighbors, who asked not to be identified, said they had not heard any new information on the status of the investigation.

According to the county assessor and land records offices, the Grandview Avenue property is still listed as belonging to Falkoff. She is named on the deed as Linda Misek-Falkoff as of the most recent assessment records issued in September.

Village records show the couple also had owned a second nearby property at 163 Great Oak Lane, but sold it in August 1999 to its current owner.

Building Inspector Robert Hughes said there had been complaints from neighbors about the appearance of the Grandview Avenue property and the village was looking to better maintain it. He said the house may be in the process of being transferred to the bank.

Falkoff had been unable to make mortgage payments on the home and was reported to have been in debt when she was killed. Under new state laws, municipalities can hold banks accountable for failing to maintain properties they own, Hughes said.

Despite the fact that a murder took place in the home, Hughes said there is interest from potential buyers.

“"We've had several people come in asking about it," he said.

Falkoff’s death is the second murder in Pleasantville in the last 20 years. Pleasantville volunteer firefighter Thomas Dorr was found dead in Graham Hills Park on Jan. 7, 1996. Dorr was beaten and stabbed while walking from his home to the Washington Avenue firehouse during a blizzard, according to police. Like the Falkoff case, Dorr’s murder remains unsolved.

Anyone with information on either case is asked to contact 1-866-313-8477 or 1-866-313-TIPS. All calls will be kept confidential.

Former Greeley Teacher Charged With Sexual Assault

In addition, Schraufnagel was charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, a Class A misdemeanor, and four counts of third-degree sex abuse, a Class B misdemeanor.

New Castle police and the district attorney’s Special Prosecutions Division conducted the investigation, which commenced last spring, said Lucien Challen, a spokesman for District Attorney Janet DiFiore. Schraufnagel faces up to four years in jail if convicted of the offenses.

Bail was set at $12,000 for Schraufnagel, a popular teacher at Horace Greeley High School for 12 years who led the theater program before his departure. Challen said Friday that Schraufnagel had made bail.

In addition to the alleged incident in 2011, sometime between Dec. 1 and Dec. 25, 2014, Schraufnagel asked a student to participate in a slideshow kissing every student in one of his classes while he took pictures, according to the complaint. Another student was allegedly directed by Schraufnagel to have the same student kiss additional students, both male and female, while being photographed.

He then publicly displayed the slideshow to another class in an attempt to humiliate them, the complaint stated.

Between Oct. 1, 2014 and June 5, 2015, the defendant has also been accused of engaging in numerous inappropriate conversations with strong sexual overtones and having had sexual contact with another student at the school.

Chappaqua School District spokesman David Hayes issued a one-paragraph statement following the arrest on behalf of Superintendent Dr. Lyn McKay. He called the matter “deeply troubling.”

McKay also sent a letter to families explaining the situation. She stated that in the coming weeks school personnel will have a dialogue with families about how they can talk to their children about the incident and what the district is doing to ensure a safe environment.

"An arrest of this nature has a profound effect on our community," McKay wrote. Last June, Schraufnagel was placed on paid leave following a complaint to New Castle police by a 2014 graduate. Last spring's theater program production was abruptly canceled about a week before the school district's action to place Schraufnagel on paid leave. He resigned from his position in early September.
### Dodd’s Thanksgiving Wine & Liquor Sale - Sale ends November 30, 2015

- **Cavit Pinot Grigio**: $11.99 50.7 oz.
- **Yellow Tail Shiraz Chardonnay**: $10.99 50.7 oz.
- **Dewar’s Scotch**: $32.99 1.75 Ltr.
- **Belvedere Vodka**: $45.99 1.75 Ltr.
- **Chivas Regal**: $69.99 1.75 Ltr.
- **Jack Daniel’s**: $45.99 1.75 Ltr.
- **Svedka Vodka**: $19.99 1.75 Ltr.
- **Canadian Club**: $23.99 1.75 Ltr.
- **Zinfandel Sale for Thanksgiving**:
  - **Lambrusco** “Dancing Bull” Dry Creek “Heritage Vines” Rated 90 WS 11.99
  - **Raisin** Murphy Good’s “Liar’s Dice” Rated 90 WS 16.99
  - **Sugarloaf** Sephiska Rated 92 WS 19.99
  - **Maybe** Calabread 29.99

#### Dodd’s Standard Brand Sale
- **Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio**: $11.99 50.7 oz.
- **Robert Mondavi Woodbridge Cab or Chardonnay**: $11.99 50.7 oz.
- **Bolla (Soave, Valpolicella, Bardolino)** 50.7 oz. Large Size $11.99
- **Barefoot (Chardonnay, Cabernet, Pinot Grigio)** 50.7 oz. Large Size $11.99
- **Ruffino Chianti**: $7.99 50.7 oz. Large Size $11.99
- **Citra Red or White**: $8.99 50.7 oz. Large Size... $8.99
- **Lindemans’ Chardonnay, Merlot, Shiraz**: $11.99 1.5 Ltr.
- **Turning Leaf Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon** $5.99
- **Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio**: $19.99
- **Savognin Blanc Sale**
  - **Boyle**: $8.99
  - **BabiCh Great Price**...
  - **Sterling**: $11.99
  - **Kim Crawford**: $13.99

#### Dodd’s Thanksgiving Cabernet Sauvignon Sale
- **Caymus**: $14.99
- **Korbel Brut**: $19.99
- **Cook’s Brut**: $24.99
- **Freixenet Cordon Negro**: $8.99
- **Martinii & Ross Istil Spumante**: $12.99
- **Piper Heidsieck Brut**: $14.99
- **Piper Sonoma Brut**: $15.99
- **Veueve Clicquot Brut “Yellow Label”**: $39.99
- **Taittinger**: $39.99
- **Dom Perignon**: $149.99
- **Louis Roederer “Cristal”**: $199.99

#### Dodd’s Champagne Sale
- **Ch. St. Jean or Hess Groppolo**: $13.99
- **Columbia Crest “Grand Estate”**: $15.99
- **Chateau St. Michelle**: $15.99
- **Meridian**: $8.99
- **St. Francis**: $10.99
- **J. Lohr**: $15.99
- **La Crema “Monterey”**: $15.99
- **Simi**: $11.99
- **Robert Mondavi “Napa”**: $13.99
- **Grgich Hills**: $39.99
- **Cakebread**: $49.99

We reserve the right to limit items. Available while they last. Sale ends November 30, 2015. All 750ml unless otherwise indicated. In event of typographical error, listed prices will prevail. In order to keep our sale prices super low, cash and carry and we will not ship items.
Cuomo Appoints Bedford School Superintendent to State Post

Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week announced the appointment of Bedford Central School District Superintendent Dr. Jere Hochman as the administration's new deputy secretary for education.

"Dr. Hochman brings tremendous experience and an in-depth knowledge of the public education system to his new role," Cuomo said. "He has spent his career working to strengthen learning environments and make schools a better place for all, and he will be a valuable member of our policy team. I look forward to working with Dr. Hochman to ensure that all students in our state receive the best education possible."

Dr. Hochman brings 40 years of public education experience in suburban, regional and rural school districts and working collaboratively with urban schools. Prior to the appointment, he has served as a superintendent for 20 years. Before his appointment in Bedford seven years ago was superintendent in Amherst, Mass., and in the 22,000-student Parkway School District in St. Louis.

"It is an honor to join Gov. Cuomo's administration, a team of impressive individuals that work on the issues affecting the people of this state every single day," Hochman said. "This governor has spearheaded many important education initiatives to improve New York's public schools systems acting as the students' biggest advocate. I am excited to build on these initiatives and work to improve the quality of education for every child in New York."

Hochman began his career as an English teacher, going on to become school principal and assistant superintendent. In recent years, he served on the Regents Task Force for APPR and participated in the U.S. Department of Education Collaboration Conference with superintendents, board presidents and union presidents from districts across the country.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), whose district includes Bedford, last week applauded Hochman's appointment by the governor.

"Dr. Hochman is a true leader who exemplifies the best in caring for students and creating sound education policy," Buchwald said. "I heartily congratulate Dr. Hochman on his appointment to deputy secretary of education for New York State. Gov. Cuomo deserves to be commended for his selection."

Hochman is also an active member of several professional educational associations, which include the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents, American Association of School Administrators, and previously the Minority Student Achievement Network. He currently teaches courses for Manhattanville College and Bank Street College (Future School Leaders Academy).

He a bachelor's degree in English, a master's in curriculum and school administration and a doctorate from Teachers' College, Columbia University.

Flat Tax Rate Proposed in North Castle’s 2016 Tentative Budget

continued from page 1

a decrease of $250,000 in property valuation following a successful challenge, Goldberg said.

There are an assortment of minor adjustments throughout the budget, she said. Officials bumped up projected mortgage tax revenues for 2016 from $675,000 to $700,000. Sales tax revenue for next year has been pegged at $1,650,000, $675,000 to $700,000. Sales tax revenue for 2016 from mortgage tax revenues for 2015, Goldberg said. Officials bumped up projected adjustments throughout the budget, Goldberg said.

There is $393,000 budgeted for pool related expenses, up about $35,000 from 2015, the first year the town operated the aquatic facility on Greenway Road after taking it over from the Anita Louise Ehrman Recreation Center. That is mainly due to the extra time the Recreation Department will have to put together a full slate of programs for next year, Goldberg said.

Revenue projections for the pool for 2016 are listed at $200,000 in the tentative budget, which would be about $13,000 lower than what was taken in last summer. Goldberg said the town wants to be cautious with that figure in case the novelty wears off and some people choose not to return.

"Some people paid for the pool to support it," she said. "We don't know if they will return and that'll have an impact on us this year."

The town board is expected to receive the tentative budget tomorrow night (Wednesday). A public hearing will be scheduled for Nov. 18.

The tentative budget can be reviewed on the town's website at www.northcastleny.com.
New Castle Committee Outlines Steps to Curb Unfunded Mandates

By Martin Wilbur
Lobbying state legislators and coordinating efforts with neighboring municipalities to apply pressure that could put the brakes on unfunded mandates are two of the strategies recently proposed by the New Castle Mandate Relief Committee.

The committee, which was formed about a year-and-a-half ago, presented its list of recommendations last week to the town board that outlined general and specific courses of action that local officials can consider in hopes of convincing higher levels of government, particularly Albany, to ease mandates.

Committee Chair Judy McGrath said nearly four years after the 2 percent tax cap took effect, the state’s municipalities are handcuffed with prohibitive expenses such as skyrocketing pensions and health insurance costs and obligations imposed through the Triborough Amendment and Wicks Law.

“Mandates limit flexibility and limit local leaders to be less efficient and less cost-effective,” McGrath said. “These limitations are extraordinarily harmful during economic downturns.”

For example, New Castle’s pension obligation more than tripled from 2008 to 2014, rising 227 percent, said committee member Warren Gottlieb. However, in that time, the town slashed its number of full-time employees by 18 percent.

Gottlieb said that unrealistic annual investment projections of 7.5 percent in the state pension system has left municipalities the responsibility of covering any shortfall when that assumption fails to materialize.

“What that basically means is there was no way to use head count to solve this problem,” he said. “If you’re willing to do that, based on numbers we got from the comptroller, you’d have to fire half the town. This is not the way to go.”

McGrath pointed out the town has more retirees (121) collecting health insurance benefits than there are current employees (90). Of the 211 recipients of those benefits, 162 pay nothing, she said.

As of Jan. 1, 2013, new employees contribute 25 percent toward their health benefits while police pitch in 15 percent.

General recommendations outlined by the committee include having the town aggressively negotiate all contracts; coordinate with the town comptroller and other town officials to maximize efficiencies; coordinate with other municipalities; work to secure additional state funding for the West End sewage diversion project; educate the public about the impact of mandates and the needed changes; and lobby state and county legislators for relief, including a commitment to avoid adding new unfunded mandates.

McGrath said so far calls for change have been largely ignored, but towns must work together to continue to apply pressure.

“Unfortunately, today legislators have not provided any meaningful relief, thus causing additional budgetary pressures on both towns and schools,” she said.

Some of the specific recommendations include lobbying state legislators for changes to the pension costs, including asking that employees contribute more than the 2 percent they currently pay and press for a defined contribution plan; raise the healthcare contribution rate to 25 percent for all employees and retirees and call on state legislators to amend or eliminate the Triborough Amendment, which continues the terms of an expired contract, removing the incentive for unions to actively negotiate new pacts.

The committee has also called for repeal of the MTA Tax and Wicks Law, which calls for a municipality to use five different contractors on jobs of more than $1.5 million, and sensible changes to the prevailing wage and scaffold laws.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said the work by the committee gives the town a road map to pursue on its own and with other municipalities to combat unfunded mandates.

“We now know what to do,” Greenstein said. “Talking about it is not enough, and we need our elected officials in Albany and Westchester County to do their part.”

New Castle is one of the few municipalities to form this type of group. Recently, the Town of Bedford created a mandate relief committee to address the same issue.

A New Castle committee put forth recommendations to the town board last week to fight unfunded mandates. Despite Gov. Andrew Cuomo signing into law the tax cap four years ago, there is still no mandate relief on the horizon.
By Martin Wilbur

Three years ago Michele Berliner and Christy Saltstein didn’t know what the future would hold for their husbands after they were rushed to Northern Westchester Hospital during the worst of Superstorm Sandy.

Now they are helping the emergency responders in and around North Castle to save their husbands’ lives to do the same for countless others for years to come.

Two weeks ago the two Armonk residents presented $36,500 in checks to the North Castle Police Department and the four fire companies that serve the town through grant requests that had been submitted to their nonprofit organization to pay for critical equipment not included in their budgets.

The money was raised from proceeds collected from the first two years of the Stayin’ Alive 5K Fun Run, a road race that Berliner and Saltstein established and have held the past two springs in their Windmill Farm community.

“I think it’s been a very gratifying experience and I think that it was a great combination of a lot of work and effort from a lot of different people and just showing the community that it pays off,” Berliner said. “It pays off to pull together and that you can make it happen.”

Their husbands, Andrew Berliner and Doug Saltstein, were severely injured during Superstorm Sandy when they were struck by a falling utility pole. Not only did emergency service personnel arrive during the storm but so did the North Castle Highway Department to help the first responders navigate any blocked roads. Today both men are doing well despite long recoveries.

The two women, both avid runners, decided to create the Stayin’ Alive 5K Fun Run to recognize the town’s police and volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members for risking their own safety that night and to try and benefit the emergency service outfits in the future.

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The two women, both avid runners, decided to create the Stayin’ Alive 5K Fun Run to recognize the town’s police and volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members for risking their own safety that night and to try and benefit the emergency service outfits in the future.

Each of the four fire departments received $5,000 from Stayin’ Alive Charity. The Banksville Independent Fire Company and the North White Plains Fire Department will use the money toward the purchase of a Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera, which allows firefighters to view heat in a given area. This helps the responders locate a fire or victims within a building or to find victims at a motor vehicle accident or as part of a large area search effort.

The money will help the Armonk Independent Fire Company buy a Lucas 2 CPR Chest Compression System, to help sudden cardiac arrest victims and improve operations for medical responders. The Thornwood Fire District is acquiring a commercial turnout gear dryer, which ensures that the gear is properly dried to prevent contamination from carcinogens and other toxins.

Meanwhile, the North Castle police department received a $16,500 gift of a new high-pressure hydraulic rescue tool, also referred to as the Jaws of Life, which will allow for quicker and safer extrications.

“I think they all did a good job pinpointing a piece of equipment that can be used frequently or in multiple scenarios,” Saltstein said.

Grants were dispersed from the first two years simultaneously, Saltstein said, because Stayin’ Alive Charity hadn’t received its nonprofit status until earlier this year.

Previously, another $20,000 had been donated to the town’s emergency services, from money raised by Berliner and Saltstein at the Westchester Running Festival before they held their local race.

At the Oct. 28 North Castle Town Board meeting where the checks were handed to representatives of each department, Supervisor Michael Schiliro lauded the two women for their efforts to benefit their home communities.

“You represent all that’s good and I can’t thank you enough as a supervisor and as a resident,” Schiliro said. “You just do some really good things for the community. You set a great example for all of us.”

The third annual Stayin’ Alive 5K Fun Run will be held on Saturday, May 14. For more information about the race and the charity, visit www.stayinalive.org or visit Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/stayinalivecharity.
Critics Press for More Enviro Study on New Castle Pediatric Home Plan

By Martin Wilbur

Opponents of a pediatric nursing home's proposed major expansion urged the New Castle Zoning Board of Appeals last Wednesday to call for an environmental impact study citing disappearance of wetlands and increased traffic as chief concerns.

Critics of the 128,000-square-foot addition sought by Sunshine Children’s Home and Rehab Center on Spring Valley Road called for the more detailed environmental inquiry because a facility in a rural setting that would expand drastically from its current 19,000 square feet is likely to negatively impact the area.

“To move forward without an environmental impact study, claiming that a facility of this size would have no environmental impact on this area, is simply unconscionable,” said Karen Wells, who heads the opposition group Concerned Citizens for Responsible Sunshine Home Development.

The ZBA is considering whether to grant two variances to allow the project to proceed. One variance is required because nursing homes in New Castle's residential districts must have frontage or direct access to a state or county road. Spring Valley Road is a town road.

Also, under the town code only 83 beds are allowed at Sunshine Children's Home, which is situated on a 33-acre parcel in the far western portion of town. The applicant is seeking to increase the number of beds from 52 to 122 because of high demand for a facility that cares for children with medically acute conditions. The facility reports a waiting list of about 70 names.

Attorney Mark Weingarten, representing Sunshine Children’s Home, said the lengthier study is unnecessary because the expanded building would be much more efficient in its water use and some water would be able to be recycled.

“To observe a plan that ensures the water use will not exceed current levels and that may be, in fact, reduced,” said Weingarten. “That is the quintessential example of no impact. We guaranteed the status quo of the existing facility. That should be the end of the inquiry in our opinion in regard to environmental significance.”

There would be no wetland disturbance and traffic would not appreciably increase during or after construction, he added.

ZBA Chairman Kenneth Cooper said the board is awaiting the submission of a hydrology study from town environmental coordinator Steve Coleman, who board members hope will help them determine the mystery surrounding what at one time appeared to be a significant wetland on the property.

Cooper said the study is expected to be submitted to the board within the next two weeks.

Greg Fleischer, a professional wetland scientist retained by some of the plan’s opponents, said aerial photographs taken as recently as eight to 10 years ago clearly show the existence of water on the site. It appears that a wetland has been filled in, he said.

“People who grew up in that area used to (ice) skate there,” Fleischer said. “You can’t say that there’s not water here, there’s not hydrology here. It’s there. The proper analysis needs to be conducted in order to assess that.”

Coleman, however, said he has researched the property back to the 1940s and there were no violations or complaints on record. He said there appears to be changing conditions at the site.

“It seemed to fluctuate depending on the decade and I think it’s correlated to the types of land use practices that occurred as part of the history (of the site),” Coleman explained.

If the area is going to continue to be used for parking, then more modern practices regarding stormwater, filtration and water quality should be a benefit, he said.

Meanwhile, opponents also charged that the project would overburden Spring Valley Road and other area thoroughfares during construction and afterwards. The applicant’s traffic engineer said that there would be only four trucks per work day during construction and an increase from 35 to 55 to 60 vehicles per 15 minutes after expansion.

But opponents said whether it’s Spring Valley Road, Cedar Lane or other nearby roads, they are too narrow to accept any traffic increase.

“I don’t know if there is any good route,” said attorney Steven Barschoff, representing one of the residents. “It’s a real problem with this site.”

Others said that if Sunshine Children’s Home’s ownership wants to expand it should find a more appropriate site, such as part of a medical complex.

The ZBA closed oral comments but will accept written comments through Nov. 16. Additional comments will be allowed on the hydrology study at the Nov. 23 meeting. Should the study not be completed by then or if the board or public need more time to read the report, comments will be accepted at the subsequent ZBA meeting.

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Bethel is the only not-for-profit, full continuum of care offering senior services in Northern Westchester.
Mt. Kisco Funeral Home Collects Cell Phone Donations for Soldiers

By Neal Rents

John Flynn, the president and owner of Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home and King David Memorial Chapel in Mount Kisco is making sure to give back to those who serve America.

Flynn, a U.S Navy veteran, has joined a national effort to collect cell phones that will be distributed to troops around the world by the nonprofit organization Cell Phones for Soldiers.

This is the first year Flynn and the funeral home have participated in the program.

It's "something we could do as a community service," said Flynn, a medic who served from 1962 to 1974 stateside and in South America.

The cell phones are being collected at the funeral home, located at 288 E. Main St., through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Cell Phones for Soldiers is dedicated to serving troops and veterans with free communication services and emergency funding. The organization was founded in 2004 by Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, who were 12 and 13 years old, respectively, at the time. So far, it has provided more than 216 million minutes of talk time to troops serving around the world.

"This is the kind of project that proves the small efforts of a few can make a huge effort for many," Flynn said. "We all recognize and salute the sacrifices of our loved ones serving in the military; this is a simple but effective way to let them know we love and appreciate them."

The phones will be accepted on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the funeral home. For more information, call 914-666-4840.
Mount Pleasant Proposes $43.8M Budget for 2016
By Neal Rentz
Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi last week proposed a $43.8 million 2016 budget, a $648,000 increase over this year.

Fulgenzi said most of the increased spending comes from higher costs for employee health insurance and pensions as well as unfunded mandates.

“We will be below the mandated cap of .73 percent,” he said. “No money was taken from the fund balance.”

Residents living in the average assessed home in town would pay an additional $10.65 next year, he said.

“We are holding spending to a minimum,” Fulgenzi said.

Fulgenzi said he would present his budget to the rest of the town board at its Nov. 4 work session. It will also be discussed during the board’s Nov. 10 regular meeting.

The board is scheduled to approve next year’s budget on Dec. 8.

The town is projected to save more than $400,000 next year as a result of its new garbage hauling contract. Officials plan to save over $4 million over the duration of the deal.

“There are areas where fees will need to be increased to be more in line with surrounding communities, such as parking, building, etc.,” Fulgenzi said.

The town will also be seeking grants to pay for infrastructure improvements.

Fulgenzi said he would present his budget to the rest of the town board at its Nov. 4 work session. It will also be discussed during the board’s Nov. 10 regular meeting.

The board is scheduled to approve next year’s budget on Dec. 8.
Fulgenzi Lays Out Priorities for Next Term in Mt. Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

Unlike his Republican town board colleagues, Mark Rubeo and Nicholas DiPaolo, Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi is unopposed for re-election today (Tuesday).

Fulgenzi, who replaced Joan Maybury as supervisor in October 2014 after serving 12 years as councilman, talked last week about his next two years.

He said the town board will soon consider a five-year road improvement bond. A difficulty facing municipalities is that the cost of borrowing and capital projects are counted toward the state-mandated property tax cap, which will be about 0.7 percent for 2016.

“Two tough winters in a row really did a lot of damage to our roads,” he said. “It’s pretty hard to catch up with the limited amount of money you have to work with on the roads.”

The board has been working with town department heads to limit spending in next year’s budget, he said.

Fulgenzi said he hopes the town will work with developers to fill the few vacant commercial properties, including office space. Commercial developments should be low impact, including medical research facilities that would add little additional traffic, he said.

The town has submitted a state grant request to pay for the revitalization of Mount Pleasant’s downtown areas, Fulgenzi said. Some of the work would include improving road curves and sidewalks, increasing pedestrian safety and additional parking, lighting and plantings.

He said the boarding school EF Academy is considering future expansion that would allow it to double its enrollment to about 1,200 students.

“They’ve been a good neighbor. They work with us. They’ve worked with the school districts, offering whatever assistance they can give to the community,” Fulgenzi said.

The town hopes to attract a developer to build additional housing for its seniors on a portion of the former Legion of Christ property that is not occupied by EF Academy, Fulgenzi said.

Officials would also like to see the developer donate 16 acres of that property off Columbus Avenue in lieu of paying a recreation fee that would allow the town to expand its recreation complex. That complex could include an indoor swimming pool, a second indoor pool for seniors only, additional indoor basketball courts, soccer, baseball and football fields and a facility for more senior programming. If the plan went forward, the recreation department offices would be moved from town hall to the complex, Fulgenzi said.

The site could also include a new garage to house Recreation Department equipment, rather than taking up space at the Highway Department’s garage.

“Two tough winters in a row really did a lot of damage to our roads,” he said. “It’s pretty hard to catch up with the limited amount of money you have to work with on the roads.”

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“We pretty much filled me in on a lot of things – what to expect, what not to expect,” Fulgenzi said. “Being born and raised here, I know the town.”
By Neal Rentz

Once again there was no competitive election this year for the mayor’s office and two trustee seats on the Mount Kisco Village Board.

Returning to the five-member all-Democratic board will be Mayor Michael Cindrich, Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus and Trustee Peter Grunthal, who each had time to think about where they wanted to take the village over the next two years.

“My mission remains the same: provide services at a reasonable cost, rebuild Mount Kisco’s aging infrastructure, continue to explore opportunities to control taxes with shared services agreements and implementing new and innovative ways to provide essential services,” said Cindrich, the mayor for the past 12 years.

He said once the garbage transfer station closes next July with the termination of its lease, officials will work to find an appropriate use for the property. There is also a need for the village to construct a new Department of Public Works facility and renovate three fire stations, Cindrich said.

The mayor is planning to continue vigorous enforcement of building and zoning codes and fire safety laws while focusing on quality-of-life issues. Village finances will remain a priority, Cindrich said. The village’s bond rating has been increased twice during his years as mayor.

“I will advocate keeping tax increases under the New York State tax cap as we have for several years,” Cindrich said.

Mount Kisco should also be affordable for all residents, from young adults starting out to the senior citizen population, many of whom are on fixed incomes, he added.

Cindrich would also like to see a Master Plan update, focusing on the central business district and the challenges facing the small retailers and commercial property owners struggling to fill vacant space. Cindrich also vowed to continue to lobby state and federal officials to ease unfunded mandates.

Markus, who will be beginning his seventh two-year term next month, is chairman of the village’s Finance Committee. He said the village saved more than $1 million by refinancing its municipal bonds.

“I am continuing to work with our Finance Committee to find other ways to save money and reduce costs while maintaining the same level of services,” Markus said.

Overseeing the continued transition of the police department following its consolidation with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety last June is also a top priority.

“By adding the county police we have improved our public safety as we have more police officers patrolling our village at a lower cost,” Markus said.

Markus said he is working with Grunthal to provide best practices to streamline planning board and building department approvals while maintaining compliance with municipal zoning.

Grunthal is in his second stint as a trustee. He was originally appointed to the board by Cindrich before retiring from the board in 2011. About two months after the death of Trustee George Griffin Jr., he was appointed to return last February.

Grunthal said “sound financing and environmental sustainability” is his focus. While he supported the village borrowing to pay for large infrastructure projects, he opposes taking on debt for operating expenses or small capital projects.

He has helped lead the village’s effort to have businesses and residences install solar panels and is heading Mount Kisco’s part of the state initiative to build microgrids across New York.

“If we can build microgrids around our first responders and medical facilities we will have power where it is most needed when severe storms cause power shortages,” Grunthal said.

Grunthal is helping to update the village code regarding zoning and building permits to make the approval process more efficient.

Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus  Trustee Peter Grunthal  Mayor Michael Cindrich
Editorial

Pleasantville Woman's Death Shouldn’t Fade From Public’s Memory

No one is expecting the police to share any secrets with the public when it comes to an active criminal investigation. Certainly that would be foolish if not negligent.

But since authorities found Linda Falkoff dead inside her Grandview Avenue home in Pleasantville on Oct. 30, 2014, the victim of a homicide according to the Westchester medical examiner's office, this case has fallen eerily silent.

No chatter about it in the streets or coffee shops, no occasional wonderment about how somebody could get away with murder in the 21st century where omnipresent surveillance cameras or citizens with an iPhone are recording something – almost everything – all the time.

While life always moves on, it seems at least on the surface that there may be a willingness to forget or be in denial that a homicide could actually occur in a quintessential right-knit community, save for the weathered sheet of paper on the Pleasantville Police Department’s door announcing a reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the perpetrator.

It also doesn’t make it easier that January marks the 20th anniversary of the murder of Pleasantville volunteer firefighter Tomas Dorr, found in a snowbank during a blizzard after he failed to show up at the firehouse to be on standby for a storm.

No one has ever been arrested in connection with that crime either. However, each year near the anniversary of his death, Pleasantville firefighters and others who gather for a vigil at Graham Hills Park, not far from where Dorr’s body was discovered. His loss, even by those who never knew him, is properly recognized and grieved if only for about 15 minutes each year.

Last week, a year after Falkoff’s death, there were no ceremonies to honor her memory. It doesn’t make a difference whether she was a popular figure who hobnobbed around town or a bit of an eccentric loner, as she was portrayed in some reports in the days following her discovery.

The fact that both murders occurred in or around Pleasantville and remain unsolved is almost certainly an unfortunate coincidence. But when a life is cut short, particularly as a result of a crime, it needs to remain in the public’s consciousness.

Guest Column

How Each of Us Can Combat the Scourge of Ageism in the U.S.

By Lou Giampa

At times, life can be harsh for older people. Comedians joke about “senior moments.” Corporations downsize, particularly letting go of employees over 55. Hair products press for covering up the gray, while anti-aging cream and Botox promise to smooth wrinkles. Or, there’s the well-meaning conversation with the store cashier: “Oh, that’s okay. You don’t need to pull out your driver’s license or AARP card. I can tell by looking at you that you qualify for our senior discount.”

Getting older in America carries its own set of stereotypes and discrimination, which physician and gerontologist Robert Butler coined in 1969 as “ageism.” Ageism includes negative views of a person or group of people based on their age, but predominantly, ageism is considered prejudice toward older adults.

Regardless of their age, most seniors stay physically and mentally active, but insults and generalizations about aging run deep in our culture, leaving many elders feeling disrespected and undervalued.

Some young people mock the older generation as slow and confused. Others talk past a senior as if the person were not even in the room. TV commercials often depict aging people as out of touch with modern conveniences and fumbling to keep up, while hit movies like “Grumpy Old Men,” “Gran Torino” and “The Bucket List” portray aging individuals as everything from cantankerous to cute. Hollywood films can perpetuate the view that older people are eccentric and fading into the sunset. Or elders are only called upon to dispense mystical wisdom.

A Duke University survey of 84 people 60 and up reported that 58 percent of respondents encountered ageism when told a joke about older people. In the same survey that appeared in The Gerontologist, 31 percent of participants reported that they were not taken seriously or were ignored because of their age.

Our culture seems desensitized to complimentary comments and actions against seniors. Sometimes ageism is more subtle, like assuming an older person can’t remember things. At other times, it can be more jarring, like labeling someone as senile.

We all are aging. And we can all use reminders to treat others with respect regardless of how many birthdays they’ve had.

Yale epidemiology professor Becca Levy and her research team have documented that a positive attitude toward old age affects older people’s recovery from injury and illness. Collecting data from 660 seniors over more than two decades, Levy’s team also reported that optimistic seniors lived an average of seven-and-a-half years longer than pessimistic folks. How others view and interact with a senior can add healthy, active years to the elder’s life.

Despite the prevalence of negative stigmas against older adults in our country, a number of individuals, groups and entire communities continue to counter ageism in America. Butler was the founding director of the National Institute on Aging, whose research and educational training works to boost the health and well-being of older Americans.

What can you do to combat ageism and help seniors live less encumbered by stereotypes?

Pay attention to your own aging perceptions. Learn to look beyond the labels placed on older individuals. Be mindful that no specific age is considered “old” in today’s society. Learn to identify ageism language and unfair treatment of seniors.

Celebrate older role models. Highlight older people’s contributions to society and how they positively influence all generations. Recognize a senior’s strengths and positive qualities.

Foster a friendship with a senior. Be an aging advocate in your community. Help employers rectify age biases in the workplace. Attend local meetings that represent the interests of the elderly, including intergenerational programs and improved access to urban spaces. Write a letter to the media. Volunteer at a senior center.

The movie “The Straight Story” rallies people to embrace older individuals for their continued ability to teach all generations about “seizing the day.” Viewers are drawn to 70-something Alvin Straigh, who drives his lawnmower from Iowa to Wisconsin to visit his estranged brother. Alvin’s journey is a tribute to ingenuity, strength, compassion and resolve that perhaps can only come through years of life experience, proving again that the majority of American seniors are self-sufficient, productive members of society who will remain engaged with the world and with others no matter what jokes or misperceptions come their way.

Lou Giampa is president of Right at Home Westchester, which provides in-home care and assistance to seniors and the disabled. For more information, visit www.westchesterseniorcare.com.
Ed Elliott, Architect
Pleasantville

By Martin Wilbur

Ed Elliott remembered as a child being fascinated by the construction of a house on a neighboring property. Since he always seemed to be building something in his own home, he would be given tools, not toys, as Christmas gifts.

It made sense that when it was time for him to decide a career that it would be something related to building or construction.

As it turned out, Elliott became an architect, and for the past 30 years the longtime Pleasantville resident has been the sole practitioner of his own firm, Elliott Architects. For about 20 years, he has worked out of a 350-square-foot space he carved out in the lower level of the house that he and his wife Katherine raised their three children and still live.

Elliott said he has always enjoyed working on a plan and seeing what he comes up with on a plan and seeing what he comes up with. He finds the variety of projects he gets hired to design fascinating but it also helps to insulate him against economic slowdowns, where invariably the smaller residential jobs dry up and prospective commercial customers look for good deals.

"When the economy is bad, the residential stuff kind of dries up," Elliott said. "That's one of the reasons why I do a variety of projects."

"Most of his work has been in Westchester, but the largest project he's designed was in Putnam, an expansive homeless shelter at Graymoor in Garrison. That project also included a kitchen, which serves about 600 meals a day, a dining room, a chapel and a meeting space."

"It had a lot of everything, even though it was one project," Elliott said.

Elliott has also helped to build sets for the Pleasantville High School spring musicals. "I wanted to dabble on my own projects in the evenings and on weekends. When work dried up with the contractor, Elliott was on his own trying to make a go of his fledgling firm."

When he and his family still lived in Yorktown, he had an office. But shortly after moving into their Pleasantville house in 1993, Elliott opted to work from home where he could tend to their children rather than pay for prohibitively expensive daycare. His wife is a nurse practitioner.

During the past two decades in Pleasantville, Elliott has been heavily involved in the community. He was one of the founders of the Pleasantville Youth Soccer Club, remains an assistant scout master for Boy Scout Troop 12 and has been a longtime officer with the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce.

Since his oldest child was a high school sophomore, Elliott has also helped to build sets for the Pleasantville High School spring production.

Although computers heavily assist today's architects, there's no substitute for preciseness and taking an idea from concept to design.

"A builder's got to build it. He can do it from what I'm giving him," Elliott said. "If he can't, how am I going to explain to him how it's going to happen? It might be a note on the drawing. It might be a meeting with him or meeting him at the job site."

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
Electronic Blackjack & Three Card Poker Have Arrived

Empire City Casino
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Prices valid while inventories last. Good through 11/30. No further discounts.
I’ll confess that I’ve always been a country boy at heart, having been reared in the Tidewater area of Virginia, where as a boy, I spent most of my time outside and barefoot at that.

So, it was a real transition for me when I went to college and lived in a third-floor dorm room and couldn’t just swing open the door and feel the lush softness of grass under my feet.

Now as I contemplate my transition from a single-family residence with a yard to a top-floor condominium in a five-story building, I have one particular concern: how would I adjust to living without my own outdoor property? I began my adult life in a series of apartments and townhouses in New York City and Boston, so at least I wasn’t completely new to the notion of my home being “in” a building. But the decades of living on and tending to my home being “in” a building, I have these built into the structure of your other surfaces. You may be lucky and have these built into the structure of your home already, be they unique wood floor planks, exposed ceiling beams or a stone fireplace. Otherwise, you can use smaller elements to the same effect.

Consider a line of seashells along a mantelpiece or a hand-carved wooden bowl that still retains the irregularities of the original tree. One deluxe option, which includes the element of water, would be one of the new designs of vertical indoor fountains, where water flows down over a wall of copper, slate or pebbles.

While we are on the subject of flowing water, let’s not forget the element of sound. There are machines advertised that generate the sounds of ocean waves, rain or birdsong. Now you can also create the same soundscape with the use of an app or a streaming music service.

With such diverse options available, I do not need to lose the feeling of being in a verdant landscape of my own no matter what the season is outside.

By Colette Connolly

Some people start a home-based business searching the Internet for tips on how to launch their ideas. When Rose Colonna was toying with the notion of creating a new business, she found inspiration in a book called, “How to Start a Home-Based Gift Basket Business.”

Thirteen years later, Tasteful Treats & Treasures is among the top 100 gifting companies in the United States. Along with her daughter, Jennifer Colonna, the company’s director of sales and marketing, and two other women, Colonna has built a business that caters to individual clients and a growing number of corporate customers across the United States and around the world.

With 10 years of previous experience in the intimate apparel business in addition to her background as an advertising and marketing, and two other women, Colonna was well-versed to sales director for several New York City companies, Colonna was toying with the notion of creating a new business, she found

...somebody who had an idea. "Some people start a home-based business searching the Internet for tips on how to launch their ideas. When Rose Colonna was toying with the notion of creating a new business, she found inspiration in a book called, “How to Start a Home-Based Gift Basket Business.”

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With 10 years of previous experience in the intimate apparel business in addition to her background as an advertising and sales director for several New York City companies, Colonna was well-versed to step into the gifting industry.

“My mom is extremely talented and creative,” Jennifer Colonna said. “I could envisage that anything she puts her mind to would work out.”

After earning a business and marketing degree, Jennifer Colonna decided to join her mother’s growing business. She describes their relationship as the “yin to my yang,” which allows them to “complement each other really well,” she said.

The mother-daughter duo, along with production manager Sue Cecchetelli and Heidi Lewis, the company’s visual director, search for ideas at various trade shows, although Jennifer Colonna admits they get gift ideas from just about anywhere.

The company, which employs four to eight part-time workers, offers an array of gift basket options for all occasions, including gourmet food and wine baskets, holiday gift baskets, corporate gifts and promotional products, in addition to balloons, banners and a gift-wrapping and ribbon imprinting service.

While she initially focused on individual consumers, Colonna quickly realized there was more potential serving corporate clients. Today, that comprises about 95 percent of her business, which she operates through a corporate gifts program, allowing companies to order multiple gift baskets at once.

Tasteful Treats & Treasures, a 2015 Westchester Magazine Best of Westchester winner, maintains accounts with clients from a variety of industries, including financial institutions, healthcare companies and the hotel industry, to name a few.

Tasteful Treats & Treasures, considered one of the fastest growing companies of its kind in the U.S. by Gift Basket Review, also offers baskets that include a number of licensed sports items. The company also ships NCAA gift baskets bearing the names of universities and colleges from across the country as well as Major League Baseball and NFL themed gift baskets.

What makes Tasteful Treats & Treasures unique, Jennifer Colonna explained, is that everything is made to order.

“You can mix and match; we literally take everything off the shelves as the orders come in,” she said.

Rose Colonna envisions the company expanding beyond its current Banksville location to a bigger, more visible headquarters.

“Right now we’re bulging because we are getting deliveries on a daily basis,” she said, referring to the approaching holiday season and the need to constantly replenish the company’s stock to accommodate the changing seasons.

Despite the hard work and commitment it takes to run the business, Colonna said it’s been a great experience. The company’s team always has time to have lunch and dinner, and sometimes a “midnight snack,” she joked.

“It’s a labor of love for us,” said Jennifer Colonna. “But the work is not difficult because we really enjoy what we do, and it makes us happy knowing that we are exceeding customers’ expectations.”

To purchase a gift basket or learn more about gifts available at Tasteful Treats & Treasures, call 800-425-9226, visit www.tastefultreats.com or e-mail info@TastefulTreats.com.

Pictured, left to right, are Heidi Lewis, Sue Cecchetelli, Tasteful Treats & Treasures owner Rose Colonna and her daughter Jennifer Colonna.
Let’s Get Ready to Rumble: Byram Hills to Host Student Debates

It’s the most wonderful time of year. Well, maybe more like the most wonderful time of month. Or in this case months.

The presidential debate season has started. With Republican and Democratic debates already underway, prepare for one of the longest debate seasons in presidential politics.

Although the actual election isn’t for another year, the public will continue to be bombarded by candidates from both sides of the aisle with ideas that are good, bad and crazy.

However, the key to victory isn’t necessarily the campaign, but rather the debate. Candidates can fundraise and campaign extensively, but if they perform poorly in a debate, their campaign’s days may be numbered.

However, there is an alternative that may give hope for the future of politics. Byram Hills High School this Friday evening will be hosting a program of college and high school debates. First, it will feature teams from Princeton and Yale in a battle of ideas. Then six area high schools will be duking it out on a topic to be chosen the evening of the event leaving students to think quickly on their feet.

Once you see the交换 of ideas on Friday evening, perhaps your faith in politics, or at least some of the future leaders, may be restored. Perhaps you may feel a sense of joy knowing that there are young people who have a clear grasp of the pressing issues of the day and can communicate those ideas through debate better than the “professionals.”

Maybe it’ll remind some politicians in our area that in the not-too-distant future these are the kids they’ll be going up against and that they may need to step up their game if they want to stay in office.

The program will be held at Byram Hills High School, located at 12 Tripp Lane in Armonk, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. There is no admission. Concessions will be sold with all proceeds going toward the Byram Hills Debate Team.

Submitted by the Yale Alumni Association.

P’ville H.S. Students to Stage Comedy to Help School Theater Groups

By Arthur Cusano

It’s fitting that a group of Pleasantville High School students are staging a production of the one-act comedy “Apostrophes” at their school’s auditorium this Friday evening.

It’s not only the play’s subject matter but why.

Sophomore James Persons created the group, Plays for Progress, as a volunteer service to help raise money for theater groups in low-income school districts in Westchester. It also represents a chance to offer the school a nonmusical production during the fall, something that he has also wanted to do.

“I’ve always been into acting, so as a community service project I decided to do something with that theme to give back,” Persons said.

Plays for Progress will raise the curtain on “Apostrophes,” written by Bradley Hayward, at 7 p.m.

Persons has assembled a cast of 13 students and a crew of another 18 students, including himself. The items included for the set were easily found throughout the school, such as desks and chalk boards, which made stage preparation easier, he said.

“It’s all about how people frequently misuse apostrophes and why,” said Persons of the play. “We chose it because it’s an easier, funny show, and also because I’m a student and there’s some grammatical humor. It’s about a guy going through a high school trying to solve the problem of students misusing apostrophes. It’s only about 40 minutes, but it’s a fun play.”

Tickets for the show are $5 and must be purchased at the door before the show on Friday.

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Tina Gambino 5K Run/Walk Draws its Biggest Turnout in P’ville

By Arthur Cusano

Weather conditions were perfect Saturday for the fifth annual Tina Gambino Memorial 5K run/walk, and the cool, sunny fall morning led to the event’s biggest crowd ever at the starting line.

More than 300 people ran in this year’s renewal, with many others walking the 3.1-mile course that started at Pleasantville High School and looped through the village before finishing at the school.

Jean Christophe Yah, 16, of Pleasantville was the top men’s finisher at 16:22, while Alethea Lynch, 41, another Pleasantville resident, was the first women’s finisher with a time of 21:26.

The annual event is held in honor of Tina Shaina Gambino, a Pleasantville High School senior who died after collapsing during a school soccer match in November 2014 at 17 years old.

Tina’s mother, Janice Gambino, said her heart is still heavy over the loss of her daughter more than a decade later.

“Maybe because it’s a child, (but) I’ve lost my parents and it’s very different,” Gambino said after Saturday’s race. “I think that’s why the community supports this, because those who were here and knew her want to honor her.”

After Tina’s collapse, she was taken to Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital’s pediatric intensive care unit. She was brought in on a Sunday and passed away the following Saturday. When Gambino died, she saved four other lives by having donated her organs.

Money raised from the annual event goes to a scholarship and a program to raise organ donor awareness, as well as an annual Thanksgiving food delivery at Maria Fareri.

“Because Tina was at Maria Fareri hospital, and the community was so physically close to it, we had a lot of support, whether from people coming to visit or bringing food or coffee and sustenance to keep us going,” Gambino said. “So on Thanksgiving we bring food to the hospital’s pediatric care unit, because you’re not going to leave your child’s bedside. We bring it not only for the families, some of whom are coming from long distances and don’t have the support that we did, but for the staff who are giving up their Thanksgiving to be there.”

The foundation has also begun making donations to the Pleasantville schools to help pay for extra items such as school trips and costumes for disadvantaged students.

One of those people that Tina made an impact on was Michael Bloom. Bloom, a 16-year-old Pleasantville High School junior, established the event in 2011.

“Tina was my first babysitter,” Bloom said. “She was close to me and she’s part of some of my earliest memories.”

He said preparation for the race requires a significant group effort by friends and family.

“We start planning each race in August,” Bloom said. “Mr. and Mrs. Gambino and my parents, every Sunday we’ll have meetings and once we get closer to the race we do more preparation for it.”

Bloom said he wasn’t certain who would take the baton and run the event when he goes off to college but said its immediate future is secure.

“I’m definitely doing it next year, for sure,” he said.

Complete results from this year’s event can be found at www.albanyrunningexchange.org.
The annual Pleasantville Halloween Ragamuffin Parade made its way through the village Saturday from the Bedford Road Elementary School to Memorial Plaza, led by the Pleasantville Middle School band. The event featured hundreds of young Pleasantville students and their families, most dressed in costumes.

All Kinds of Ragmuffins Invade Pleasantville

The 30th season of “Poe Evermore” is currently underway at the Historic Mount Hope Mansion in Manheim, Pa. The festival, which runs through Nov. 15, features performances of some of Edgar Allan Poe’s greatest works. The quiz this week features words from Poe’s stories. Perhaps you’ll find some of the words have the “Poe”tential to build your vocabulary.

1. hearken (v.)
   A) to listen attentively  B) bestow lavishly   C) restore purity

2. beetling (adj.)
   A) acting out  B) jutting out   C) starting out

3. trumpery (n.)
   A) worthless nonsense  B) a heavy burden   C) a penetrating cry

4. volition (n.)
   A) an act of irreverence  B) an intense feeling   C) a choice made

5. deputed (v.)
   A) to delegate  B) describe   C) deduce

6. lambent (adj.)
   A) ineffectual  B) hidden   C) flickering

7. moiety (n.)
   A) a limited quantity  B) a unit of measure   C) half of something

8. lustrum (n.)
   A) attraction  B) a period of 5 years   C) a drunkard

ANSWERS:

1. A. To listen attentively
2. B. Jutting out
3. A. Worthless nonsense
4. C. A choice made
5. A. To delegate
6. C. Flickering
7. C. Half of something
8. B. A period of 5 years

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT
A vocabulary-building quiz
By Edward Goralski

November 3 - November 9, 2015 The Examiner
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The annual election period for MVP Health Care Medicare Advantage health plans is Oct. 15–Dec. 7, 2015. MVP Health Plan, Inc. is an HMO-POS/PPO/MSA organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MVP Health Plan depends on contract renewal. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, premiums and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium.

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**LEGALS**
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KEVIN KENNEDY PLLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY on September 9, 2015. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 250 Bronxville Road #3H Bronxville NY 10708.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF JON- eph G. Del Toro, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/24/2015. Office location: WEST- CHESTER 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. 304875

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION of Corporate Jet Support, LLC d/b/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. Att: Harry Be- atty. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF PUT- NAM RABBINICAL SCH OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, -against- LARKSBOURG CEMETERY COR- PORATION, Defendant. 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, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff’s Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of ser- vice (or within 30 days after the service if this summons is not per- sonally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Dated: July 22, 2014 White Plains, NY. ZARIN & STEIN- METZ By: David S. Steinmetz on behalf of Plaintiff Attorney.

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 The principal business address of the LLC is: 250 Bronxville Road #3H Bronxville NY 10708 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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As wines become more democratized than ever before, consumers are the direct beneficiaries. Prices of quality wines have become more affordable and thus available to the masses.

Twenty-five years ago, many affordable wines were of spotty quality, typically mass produced and devoid of the personal touch of artisanal winemakers. American consumers were not exposed to the quality wines being produced in Europe.

To my mind, wine prices have evolved into three tiers: the lower end, under $15 bottles; the mid-range, $15 to $50 bottles; and the high-end wines with price tags of three and four digits.

This three-tiered pricing is analogous to concert ticket price structures. The majority of tickets are for the masses: affordable and seats with decent views. For those willing to spend more, seats closer to the stage or with better sightlines, command higher prices. For the few who are able to afford the finest and wish to revel in exclusivity, the first 20 floor seat rows and luxury boxes are available to satiate their desire and their egos.

These thoughts came to mind last week as I attended a wine tasting event in New York City. I was invited to an exclusive event, open to the trade and press only. A consortium of the top winemakers across Italy were coming together to present their world famous wines. The group, Grande Marche, is an amalgam of 19 family-owned wineries perennially considered the most prestigious in the land. Winemakers poured one representative wine from their locale, while extolling their cultural heritage, their family history and the unique terroir of their vineyards.

The wines and their winemakers may seem pretentious to the masses. The recognition and accolades afforded each has elevated them to rock star status. In some quarters this adulation has driven demand and bottle prices higher than coveted concert tickets.

As I sat before these winemakers, my thoughts began to focus on the current infatuation of wine lovers with cult winemakers and their wines. Would these wines live up to their reputations as premier wines? Would the lofty prices of many justify the reputation that preceded them? And had I become a winemaker groupie, awestruck by the mere presence of these stars, anxious to be in their exclusive inner circle?

Let me first address the last of my above thoughts. The answer is no. In the end, wine is a common beverage, regardless of a famous name on a label or the unique content in a bottle. To be enjoyed, certainly. To be idolized, by no means.

On to the event.

Each wine presented was produced by families, not corporate entities. Winery heritage ranged from half a century to six centuries. Each winemaker spoke with pride and passion of the commitment to preserving the legacy of their forefathers. Each winemaker spoke as an ambassador for the history, culture and natural beauty of their locale and their region. The virtual tour through landscape and time was as enticing as any travel brochure or travel agent monologue. Each was most passionate when extolling the virtues of the particular soil, favorable climate or elevation of their vineyards. For them, to produce an exceptional wine is second nature. To be blessed with ideal natural elements is an act of God.

On to the wines.

In all, 16 wines were poured: one sparkling wine, two whites and 13 reds. The top wines command prices in excess of $100, while several of the whites are under $20. To present the specific attributes of these wines and their heritage requires more space than is available in this column space. Next week, I’ll present a virtual tour of landscapes, culture and tastings of wines from storied producers such as Antinori, Gaja, Masi, Sassicaia and Pio Cesare. All rock stars commanding commensurate prices. But stay tuned for the opening acts; new discoveries are in the wings.

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.
Tuesday, Nov. 3

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., Eastchester. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-366-3957 or e-mail bsteiger@pmhc.us.

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.

Church Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and an improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Nov. 18 and 25. Info: 914-273-3887.

The Explorers Club. A new literacy/activity program this fall. Join Miss Debbie to explore a new theme each week (science, art and more) through literacy and hands-on activities. Come read, discover and create. For children five to seven years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Registration required. Info and registration: www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

Knitting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

An Evening with Tracy K. Smith: A Lecture, Reading and Conversation. Smith, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, is the author of three books of poetry, including “Life on Mars,” which won him the Pulitzer. Presented by the Purchase College School of Humanities, the event is part of the Durst Distinguished Lecture Series, which brings preeminent writers to Westchester. Neuberger Museum Study at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6550 or visit http://news.purchase.edu/oct-27-an-evening-with-tracy-k-smith.

Zumba Toning With Amy. Sculpt and tone muscle groups while dancing and shaking toning sticks to the sassy sizzling rhythms of the Zumba. Toning sticks provided. PFX Fitness, 10 Casleton Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-in fee: $12. Every Wednesday Info: E-mail olm.amyj@gmail.com.

Breaveament 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 Franz: “Parmigianino.” Before there were the elongated sculptures of Giacometti, there was the Madonna with the Long Neck, by Girolamo Francesco Maria Mazzola, aka Parmigianino. Born in Parma in 1503, Mazzola’s Manerist style looked at the elongation of form centuries before artists began visual exploration of length in figures. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free: Info: 914-273-3887.

“Raising Our Youth With the Best of Intentions.” A panel will address some of the community and cultural characteristics that contribute to a generation of children that has been described as exhibiting “duck syndrome,” calm on the surface, but moving frantically beneath to stay aloft. A Mental Health Association of Westchester event. Rosenthal JCC, 600 Bear Ridge Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Registration required. Registration: Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/raising-our-youth-with-the-best-of-intentions-tickets-18781124850.

Bedford Chamber Concert Series. A program featuring George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” a composition by series Music Director Anthony Newman titled “#2” performed by the Bedford Chamber Ensemble. Refreshments at intermission. Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew’s Church, 382 Canton St., Bedford. 8 p.m. $35 and $40. Info and tickets: 914-522-5150 or visit www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Junior League of Central Westchester’s 29th Annual Holiday Boutique. With the holidays quickly approaching, come and enjoy a fun-filled day featuring the best of Westchester. This shopping extravaganza will feature an amazing roster of fabulous local vendors, including many new ones. More than 50 businesses will offer a wide variety of merchandise such as gorgeous jewelry, home goods, clothing, hostess gifts and items for children and more. Raffle tickets available for purchase. Scarsdale Golf Club, 1 Club Way, Hartsdale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 10 p.m. Suggested donation for admission: $10. Drink tickets for the open bar: $15 each or two for $25. Info: Visit www.jlcentralwestchester.org/hb.

Let Your Yoga Dance Classes. The popular Kripalu noon dance class is now in Chappaqua! Combines easy dance, gentle flow, and a few very short stories. The experience will surface the creativity in all of us. The experience and the creative juices will flow together and come out to dance together. 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 claudiyogadance@gmail.com.

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.

Pleasantville Garden Club Meeting. The club’s monthly meeting will feature guest speaker Caroline Fanelli of Caroline’s Garden. Her presentation will include growing gourds, when to plant, when to harvest, which plants are not edible and which ones to choose for various crafts. Followed by a 30-minute craft project. Refreshments served. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville 10:15 a.m. Free. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org.

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 two- and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0726 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses pictures books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and other activities. 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 Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0726 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.


Storytime Playgroup. Come hear a story and music and join in on playtime

continued on page 26
OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY 11/8, 12:00 - 2:00 PM
85 West Orchard, Chappaqua | $1,695,000
Serenity abounds in this 5,700+ sf 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath home set at end of a cul-de-sac adjacent to North County Railway on 4+ acres with gardens, stone patios and lush landscaping. Totally renovated and designed by noted architect, the open living space has soaring ceilings, kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counter tops, tons of glass to bring the outside in. Web# 450405 Bedford Office 914.234.4590

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Beautiful 3,600 sf home, originally the dairy barn of Inglewood Farm, converted into an elegant and unique home design, yet preserving its original charm. Soaring 40 ft+ ceilings, original exposed wood beams, original sliding barn doors and wide plank floors all giving a unique and open layout. Breathtaking grounds with two waterfalls leading to a fish pond. Web# 452003 Chappaqua Office 914.238.3988

COUNTRY CONTEMPORARY
Pleasantville | $769,000
Meticulously maintained and ready to move right in, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on one acre offers a scenic view from either its wrap-around deck or from the screened-in porch (250 sf) with interchangeable glass windows. Warm and inviting interior features living room with cathedral ceilings and wood-burning fireplace, upgraded kitchen, library/ family room plus lower level playroom. Web# 4538659 Pleasantville Office 914.769.3333

BROOKSIDE VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM
Mount Kisco | $350,000
Immaculate 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath garden-style end unit offers a renovated eat-in kitchen with maple cabinets, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances plus living room with sliding glass door to patio. Bamboo flooring on first level with architectural detailing and recessed lights. Complex amenities include tennis and basketball courts and swimming pool. Web# 4544479 Chappaqua Office 914.238.3988
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.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Bereavement 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 and pre-registration: Contact Bess Steiger at 914-366-3975 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.

Great Books Forum Series. “Crime and Punishment” by Feodor Dostoevsky will be discussed. An opportunity to encounter extraordinary works of classic and modern literature with other interested readers. Discussion led by Professor Jim Werner. Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor Jim Werner at 914-666-6840 or e-mail james.werner@sunywcc.edu.


“Roadmap to the Stars: The Night Sky Explained.” Astrophysicist Kevin Manning, a former consultant to NASA, will present this stellar workshop where attendees will learn to identify objects in the night sky by learning about the celestial sphere and its coordinates. The evening includes using star charts and getting a peek through Manning’s telescope (weather permitting). Appropriate for the entire family. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6:45 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

Author Talk: Houses of Civil War America. Historian Hugh Howard leads a revealing historical and photographic tour of the homes of influential Civil War figures, including Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Clara Barton, Stonewall Jackson and Chappaqua’s Horace Greeley House. Cosponsored by the New Castle Historical Society; Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4666, visit www.newcastlehs.org or e-mail Cassie Ward at director@newcastlehs.org.

Beginner Conversational Hebrew Class for Adults. Learn to speak Hebrew using everyday conversational words and phrases, practice answering and asking questions, interactive games, skits and songs. Class taught in an Ulpan interactive style. Rosenthal ICC, 600 Bear Ridge Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8:30 p.m. $160 for eight sessions. Registration required. Info: E-mail cathy@rosenthalicc.org. Registration: Visit www.rosenthalicc.org.

Friday, Nov. 6

Zumba With Amy. Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginners. 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 olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Tai Chi Classes. A graceful form of exercise that helps reduce stress and improve overall health. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center’s James’s House, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. $10 per session. Also Nov. 13. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-9397.

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 olin.amyj@gmail.com.


Princeton-Yale College Student Debate. Byram Hills High School will be hosting a college and high school debate tournament. Come watch high school and college students debate topics of the day, Yale, Princeton and Columbia University will be attending. High schools include Ardsley, Byram Hills, the French American School, The Hackley School, Rye Neck and Yorkonkers. Moderated by Richard Bradley, editor-in-chief, Worth Magazine. Local town judges will be judging the event. Byram Hills High School, 12 Tripp Lane, Armonk. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Free. Concessions will be sold. All proceeds go to the Byram Hills Debate Team.

WCC Friday Night Film Series: “A Separation.” An Iranian middle-class couple separate and the conflicts arise when the husband hires a lower-class caregiver for his elderly father, who suffers from Alzheimer’s. The wife wants to leave the husband but he insists she stay to care for his father. In time for the holiday gift season. Directed by Asghar Farhadi and starring Bahman Ghobadi, Shahab Hosseini, and Leila Hatami. Byram Hills High School, 11 Tripp Lane, Armonk. 7 p.m. $28. Seniors and students: $22. Also Nov. 7. Info and tickets: 855-254-7469 or www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Three Dog Night. Legendary music icons Three Dog Night celebrate their fourth decade bringing some of the most influential hits in popular music to their legions of fans. Their well-loved hits will be performed by founding members Cory Wells and Danny Hutton on lead vocals, as well as original band member and guitarist Michael Allsup. Paul Kingery (bass and vocals) and Pat Bautz (drums) complete the lineup. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. $54 and $74. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 ext. 2 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

“Carrie the Musical.” Theatre Now New York presents this new production based on the Stephen King novel that’s filled with horror, blood, laughs and lots of fun. Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. 8 p.m. $25, $30 and $35. Also Nov. 7. Info and tickets: 855-254-7469 or visit www.tny.org.

“Little Shop of Horrors.” Arc Stages will present its production of this delectable sci-fi horror musical just in time for Halloween. Directed by Ann Shankman and starring Anthony Malchar, Daniele Hager, David Adair, Anthony J. Mendoza, Reid Aronson, Vanessa Tantillo and Chris Dieckman. Arc Stages, 174 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville 8 p.m. $28. Seniors and students: $22. Also Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 8 at 2 and 7 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-747-6206 or visit www.arcstages.org.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Come experience the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted Best of Westchester 2014 and 2015 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 55 vendors, it’s a delicious good time outdoors. November hosts seasonal vendors including AlpacaTrax, Living Edge Designs and Harper Keen Knish Sharpening. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine. Saturdays through Nov. 21. Info: Visit www.pleasantvilletown.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Brining locally-raised and produced food to the community in a weekly market, creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. Featuring about 40 vendors weekly. Also includes music, children’s activities and a food demonstration. Chappaqua train station, Chappaqua. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Mount Kisco Farmers Market. St. Mark’s Church, 85 Main St., Mount Kisco. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit https://www.facebook.com/MTKiscoFarmersMarket.

Holly Harvest Fair. An annual event featuring Christmas constant – simulated jewelry, bake sale, tag sale, books, gift shop, fashion boutique, snack bar, lunch, silent auction, raffles and a 50/50. The Reformed Church, 65 Broadway, Hawthorne. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 914-769-2920.

Chappaqua Craft and Gift Fair. More than 100 local merchants, crafts people and artisans exhibiting their fine handmade pottery, unique handcrafed jewelry, designer clothing, handbags and accessories, gourmet food, bath and body products and myriad unique and original items. In time for the holiday gift season. The fair support PTA-run enrichment programs at Robert E. Bell Middle School. Robert E. Bell Middle School, 50 Senter St., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.chappaquacraftfair.com.

Practice Tai Chi With Larry Attile. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Nov. 14 and 21. Info: 914-273-3887.

Adult Salsa Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. $12. Every Saturday. Also Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit www.addie-tude.com.

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 Nov. 15). Info: 914-733-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.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 Ripsticks and combining consistent simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body.

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The Restaurant Examiner

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Kicks Off in Pleasantville

By Arthur Cusano

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino helped kick off the annual Hudson Valley Restaurant Week in Pleasantville Thursday, and received a small honor of his own in the process.

Astorino was joined by Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer and Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi at the Iron Horse Grill, where owner Andrew Economos has named a new burger for the county executive - “The Astorino” - made with tomatoes and guacamole and served with truffle fries.

Restaurant Week runs from Nov. 2-15 and will be celebrated in participating restaurants in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Ulster counties, as well as parts of Fairfield County in Connecticut.

"Each year it gets bigger and bigger," Astorino said. "We're now at 157 restaurants in seven counties, and half of them are in Westchester. If you're in Westchester, this is a perfect opportunity to hop on a train and get off at the Pleasantville train station and you're two steps away from a great restaurant or 99 other restaurants in Westchester County that are just as good. It's an opportunity to visit parts of the county you don't normally go to."

The restaurants will be offering special menu items made from locally sourced ingredients at discounted prices. A full list of participating establishments can be found at www.hudsonvalleyrestaurantweek.com.

Scherer said he was thrilled to kick off this year's Restaurant Week in his community.

"What Andrew (Economos) has done here at the Iron Horse with the renovations make it a perfect setting to kick off this event and it will ripple out from the 10570 (zip code) across the Hudson Valley," he said.

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week founder Janet Crawshaw agreed that Pleasantville was an ideal spot to kick off this year’s event.

"Pleasantville not only has great restaurants, but it also has the largest farmers market in all of the Hudson Valley," Crawshaw said. "And so much of restaurant week is about connecting the farmers and chefs. So many of the chefs love cooking with the ingredients that come off of the farms."

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week has other benefits as well. It generates more than $10 million in sales for participating restaurants and over $800,000 in tax revenue for New York State, Crawshaw said.

Happenings

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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.

World Cup Fall Festival. An open house filled with fall activities for the entire family including open gymnastics, puppet making, hay rides, autumn arts and crafts, food and snacks and tattoos. World Cup Gymnastics, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4967 or visit www.worldcupgymnastics.com.

Family Saturdays @ the Lab. Learn about green screening, explore an augmented reality sandbox and make your own claymation stop-motion film! Jacob Burns Film Center educators will be on hand to guide visitors through an experience like no other. Jacob Burns Film Center's Media Arts Lab, 405 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Info: Visit www.jacobburnsfilmcenter.org.

Feeding Fun. Come see what’s on the menu and learn the diverse animal population is kept happy and healthy. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: $5. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-965-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Storytelling Performance. Professional storyteller Elizabeth Rowe will retell the Christmas Truce in the trenches, how he barely escaped that war alive and how his “war horse” didn’t. For adults. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

“Venturing into the Unknown: The Best Wines You’ve Never Tasted.” A wine tasting seminar and live auction. Presented by Roger Bohmrich, master of wine. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua’s Centennial Hall, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 3 to 5:30 p.m. $60 per person. $55 per person for two or more. Info and reservations: 914-238-4411 or e-mail office@fcc-chappaqua.org.


“Call Mr. Robeson: A Life With Songs.” This rollercoaster journey through actor/singer Paul Robeson’s remarkable life highlights his pioneering and heroic political activism as well as his music. It features “Of Man River” and other famous songs, fiery oratory and a defiant testimony to the House Un-American Activities Committee. One of the highlights of the play is the infamous Peekskill Riots of August and September 1949. Learn about an important figure in local history through theater and song. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7 p.m. $25 and $35. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Yefim Bronfman in Concert. This Grammy Award-winning pianist will present a unique program of two demanding works by Robert Schuman, and four of Serge Prokofiev’s dazzling piano sonatas. Sleepy Hollow High School’s Kusel Auditorium, 210 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow, 8 p.m. $30. Students (under 18): Free. Info and tickets: 914-861-5080 or visit www.friendlymusicconcerts.org.

Sunday, Nov. 8


Meet the Animals. Join the herd as a naturalist presents an informative hands-on program with some of the center’s live animals. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: $5. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thanksgiving Turkey and Trimmings Available for 10 at Ben’s

By Jerry Embinder

Ben’s of Scarsdale will package a dinner for takeout featuring a whole roast turkey (weighing about 15 pounds) for Thanksgiving for $219.90.

The package will feed 10 people and includes stuffing, gravy, cranberry-pineapple compote, cole slaw, a relish tray and two side dishes.

Orders can be placed until to two days before the holiday. Orders received by Nov. 22 will qualify for a bonus – two buy-one-get-one-free” entrée meal coupons.

Two choices of side dishes can be selected, including roasted red potatoes with garlic and rosemary; thyme baked yams; string beans almondine; fruit noodle pudding; sweet potato pudding; and mashed potatoes. Items available at extra cost include chicken soup with matzo balls; franks in jackets; miniature knishes; grilled vegetables; miniature potato pancakes; a fruit salad bowl; and apple pie accompanied by rugalach.

Dine-in patrons on Thanksgiving Day get a special deal, too. Ben’s offers adults a roast turkey dinner with soup and a soft drink for $24.99. Their children’s turkey meal is priced at $9.99 and includes dessert and a soft drink. Seatings are offered at 1, 2:30, 5 and 7:15 p.m.

The dining area is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The restaurant opens for takeout only every day at 9 a.m.

Ben’s has a seating capacity of 220. (There are 132 seats are on the main level with the remainder in the upstairs dining room.)

Ben’s has a Preferred Patrons Club. Membership is free and includes birthday and anniversary gifts, point rewards for meals and other perks. Buy-one-get-one-free Thanksgiving bonuses are credited to club accounts.

Ben’s also has restaurants in Manhattan, Queens, Long Island and Boca Raton, Fla.

Ben’s of Scarsdale, Kosher Foods and Catering opened in January. It is located at 718 Central Park Ave. in Scarsdale. There is free parking in its lot. For more information, call 914-468-BENS or visit www.bensdeli.net.
Lindsay Hauptman and the Quakers Set Their Sights on a Championship After Defeating Scarsdale Saturday