Mount Kisco, County Agree on Police Consolidation

By Neal Rentz

After three years of work, the effort to consolidate the Mount Kisco Police Department with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety may be decided within the next two months.

Mayor Michael Cindrich confirmed last week that the village and the county have agreed in principle to an intermunicipal agreement.

“The IMA is basically ready,” said Cindrich, noting that the county Department of Human Resources is reviewing the agreement.

Ned McCormack, communications director for County Executive Rob Astorino, said a final consolidation was near.

“It’s probably eight weeks away,” he said.

McCormack said the IMA would need approval from the county Board of Acquisition and Contract, as well as the Board of Legislators’ Finance and Public Safety committees. It would then be up to the full Board of Legislators and the village board, following a public hearing, to approve the agreement.

County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem), whose district includes Mount Kisco, said personnel issues still needed to be resolved in the IMA. The agreement has to include a way for village police to officially resign their current posts and become part of the county police, he said.

“There are a lot of civil service regulations” that need to be worked out, he said.

County and village officials said they supported police consolidation.

“This is a way the county can help municipalities and taxpayers,” continued on page 4

Motorist Safe After Scare at Chappaqua Metro-North Crossing

By Martin Wilbur

A driver became stuck in the Metro-North grade crossing on Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua last Saturday morning but was able to back out of harm’s way.

New Castle police received a call at about 10:50 a.m. that a vehicle was trapped between the tracks and the crossing arms after the gates lowered. The desk officer immediately alerted the MTA to halt any trains and have the MTA police dispatched to the scene, said New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein. Town and county police also responded, he said.

The driver, later identified by MTA police as Cynthia Parent, 67, of Mount Vernon, was able to put her car, a Chrysler PT Cruiser, in reverse but broke off one of the crossing arms that had lowered. There were no injuries.

The crossing, which is on the same grade crossing in Chappaqua where a motorist got stuck between the tracks and the gates last Saturday morning.

North Castle Retired Employees File Appeal to Reclaim Benefits

By Martin Wilbur

The current and retired North Castle employees and elected officials who recently lost a legal bid to have their health benefits restored have filed an appeal in the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court.

The notice of appeal, submitted on behalf of the group on Feb. 25, adhered to the 30-day deadline. It came less than four weeks after Justice Lester B. Adler ruled that since benefits for the nonunion employees and former elected officials were created by town board resolution, they could also be rescinded through legislative action.

In 2012, the previous town board decided that retired department heads and deputy department heads, who were nonunion employees, must contribute 15 percent toward the town’s health care coverage and prescription drug plan. It also eliminated benefits for former elected officials who served at least 10 years. Former officeholders can still obtain benefits through the town if they pay the entire cost of the plan.

In the appeal, four points of Adler’s decision are questioned by the petitioners: whether the retirees had a vested right to health, vision and insurance benefits under principles of unilateral contract; whether the town was permitted to unilaterally modify the contribution amounts; and whether civil service law was violated by requiring that the retired elected officials must pay 100 percent of the

continued on page 4

continued on page 4
Developer Submits Zoning Request for
continued from page 1

2 of the 24,000-square-foot building, as potential noise, the use and mass
the proposal regarding issues such
residents were generally skeptical about
speaking following the presentation
week's meeting, with four residents
to a dozen neighbors attended last
hearing the neighbors' concerns. Close
in late November.

application to the planning commission.
itself lead agency and to refer the

meeting, Daniel Blaney, said afterward
the jobs generated by the facility would
be for village residents. Also, he was
addressed the potential traffic problem
that while it was encouraging Benchmark

ro a d."

"But there is a lot to be said down the
chance to take a look at it, " Scherer said.
provided that I think will give everyone a

residential area, industrial area provided
part of the village as long as the agreed

terms of the documents they have

expressed concern that the mass of the
some residents at previous forums have

No. Castle Town Board: Age Restricted
New Castle's Beginnings--Our
Founding Farms will trace the town's
origins from Native American lands
through the farms of the 19th century,
focus on several local farms and their
developments that turned New Castle

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Director, Quality & Outcomes
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Q: What are the benefits of robot-assisted surgery
for a gynecologic condition?
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faster recoveries with so little pain that women are astonished.

At Northern Westchester Hospital, we are using this method to treat an
expanding range of gynecologic conditions. Hysterectomies, fibroids,
cystectomies, and even malignancies like cervical cancer, endometrial,
or early ovarian cancer can be addressed with this technique.

Q: The idea of a robot performing
gynecologic surgery on me is scary.
What exactly does the robot do?
A: A big misconception about this technology is that the
robot is in charge. The gynecologic surgeon is 100 percent
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Q: When can I return to my normal routine?
A: With robot-assisted surgery, women often return to
their busy lives, faster. And the psychological benefit of
getting back to their life sooner - whether that involves
kids, aging parents, a job or volunteering in the community
can be significant. It's possible to go home within a day
and return to regular activities in about 2 weeks.

Visit www.nwroboticsurgery.org to see what
our patients say about da Vinci surgery.
Notice of Claim Filed By Mt. Kisco Man in Metro-North Crash

By Martin Wilbur

A notice of claim has been filed on behalf of a Mount Kisco man injured on the Metro-North train that crashed into an SUV in Valhalla last month resulting in the death of six people.

Michael Colquhoun, who was riding in the second car and was hospitalized for an injured shoulder, filed the notice to protect his right to sue in the event he chooses to move ahead with litigation, said his attorney Robert Vilensky.

While the document mentions that Colquhoun could sue for up to $10 million in damages because the railroad, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and Metro-North were “careless and negligent,” no sum has been determined, he said.

Colquhoun had 90 days from the incident to file the claim. It is believed to be the first legal action associated with the fatal crash.

Vilensky said that his client is doing well and has returned to work, once again commuting on the train, but it has been a difficult period for him because he’s unable to escape the tragedy.

“It affects him even though he’s back on the train going to work,” he said. “It will affect him for a long time.”

In the Feb. 3 crash, five passengers in the first car, including two New Castle residents, were killed after the train slammed into a Mercedes SUV driven by Edgemont resident Ellen Brody. The gates at the Commerce Street crossing came down on the vehicle, prompting Brody to get out of her car and check the vehicle before getting back into the SUV, moving forward and being hit by the train, according to a preliminary report two weeks ago from the National Transportation Safety Board.

The crash sparked a fire and caused sections of the third rail to break apart and pierce the underside of the first car. The NTSB reported that 12 sections of the third rail ended up in that car.

Vilensky said about six years ago a state engineer’s report recommended that the Commerce Street grade crossing get an additional crossing arm that would have provided an additional 100 to 200 feet of space for the car closest to the tracks. However, that safety improvement was never made, he said.

The notice of claim also highlighted that the third rail should not have splintered and enter the train and that Metro-North failed to make use of technology that would have detected an obstruction on the tracks.
Mount Kisco, County Agree on Police Consolidation

continued from page 1

McCormack said.

Cindrich said the consolidation would have many benefits.

“The plan is in alignment with the governor’s tax-reducing mandates and our county executive’s proven policies of reducing taxes. The plan is a cutting-edge, progressive initiative,” Cindrich said.

Motorist Safe After Scare at Chappaqua Metro-North Crossing

continued from page 1

Harlem line where six people were killed in an accident in Valhalla last month, was where Rep. Nita Lowey and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney held a March 2 press conference with local and county officials demanding that federal money be authorized to make railroad crossings safer.

Last Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly passed two key provisions written by Maloney as part of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act that would provide $300 million for rail crossing improvements and positive train control.

Maloney mentioned that the gates are designed to break away, words that may have helped to avert a disaster. But Saturday’s close call is also a reminder why the funding to make grade crossings safer is urgently needed, he said.

“Today’s incident reinforces the need to eliminate these on grade railroad crossings,” Greenstein said. “We will continue to do everything we can to prevent another tragedy from happening, including educating the public on railroad crossing safety.”

It was not immediately known how Parent’s car came became trapped when the gates lowered.

The crossing, which is in close proximity to the Saw Mill Parkway and Chappaqua Crossing (the former Reader’s Digest campus), has long had a problem with congestion. It is also about a half-mile from Horace Greeley High School.

“It is clear that improvements to the Roaring Brook Road grade crossing and Saw Mill River Parkway interchange are long overdue and urgently needed to prevent another tragedy from occurring,” Greenstein said.

New Castle Police Department records show that over the past 10 years, problems with the gates at Roaring Brook Road were reported 14 times, he added. There have also been numerous car accidents at the location. County records indicate that 490 accidents have occurred at that interchange since 2006, Greenstein mentioned.

Association has also been a strong supporter of consolidation. Village Police Chief Joseph Spinelli, the former head of the PBA, said he continued to be a strong advocate for the move, which would have many advantages, including increasing police coverage in Mount Kisco and providing technology that is not currently available. For example, village police don’t have computers in their vehicles, he said.

The consolidation would provide additional police service “and it saves the town money,” Spinelli said. Village officials have estimated that consolidation would save Mount Kisco $2.4 million over the first five years.

Harckham said he has been a longtime supporter of government service consolidation. In this case, it would “reduce the costs and increase police coverage,” he said, adding that village officers would have more promotion opportunities as part of the county department.

“It’s a win-win for the officers of the Mount Kisco force,” Harckham said.

If consolidation takes place, current village officers would continue to have a presence in the municipality. Shifts would include three officers patrolling the village during the day and evening, while two officers would provide coverage during the overnight period.

In addition, the county would provide the village with a full-time sergeant who would work in a supervisory capacity. The village’s detective division would be supervised by the county’s detectives.
Abinanti Calls on DOT to Study Signs in Wrong-Way Crashes

By Martin Wilbur

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) last week called on the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to form a task force to study whether improved signage on Westchester’s state parkways could reduce the incidents of wrong-way drivers.

Abinanti sent a letter to the agency’s commissioner requesting that an independent task force study whether better signs could prevent at least some of the incidents, including a rash of unauthorized commercial vehicles entering parkways.

While Abinanti acknowledged that many of the wrong-way drivers have been under the influence of alcohol and drugs, he said perhaps some of those instances could have been avoided. At this time, he is only requesting the task force study the state parkways in Westchester, since the matter seems to be a bigger problem locally than in other areas.

“It’s clear we have an issue of public safety and I think it’s more than just a law enforcement problem,” Abinanti said.

The assemblyman said that there are difficult exits and entrances throughout the county that he’s familiar with that cause problems. Examples include some Saw Mill Parkway exits in Yonkers and the Underhill Avenue exit in Yorktown where he has seen sober drivers have a hard time distinguishing between an exit and an entrance ramp. The problem is often worse at night and in the rain, he said.

During the past six or seven years there has been an alarming increase in the number of anecdotal reports of wrong-way drivers in Westchester, particularly on state parkways, Abinanti said. While the legislator didn’t have statistics to cite, he believes inadequate signage and a greater number of distracted drivers may play a factor.

“We need an independent review to determine whether exits should be reconfigured, signs should be changed or added and other traffic control devices installed,” Abinanti said.

Messages left for DOT officials in hopes of getting a reaction to Abinanti’s task force request were not answered.

One of the first high-profile wrong-way crashes occurred on the Taconic Parkway near the Route 117 exit in Mount Pleasant on July 26, 2009. A minivan traveling southbound in the northbound lanes struck another car head on killing eight people. Most recently, New York City police Detective Paul Duncan died on Feb. 27 when a wrong-way driver was heading northbound in the southbound lanes on the Sprain Brook Parkway in Greenburgh.

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There’s something for everyone at the 5th annual “PCS Palooza Week”:
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North Castle Retired Employees File Appeal to Reclaim Benefits

continued from page 1

the health insurance premium for plans that are provided through New York State.

The fourth point specifically concerns former Town Justice Robert McGoey, who was a sitting judge at the time of the 2012 resolution. The appeal also questions whether there was a violation of the constitutional separation of powers principles on the part of the town for reducing his compensation.

Messages left for Ronald Dunn, the attorney for the 16 petitioners who took the town to court, and Stephanie Roebuck, the counsel representing the town on the matter, were not returned.

Last month, Dunn wrote to the 16 petitioners that he believed the court incorrectly ignored their argument that would distinguishing the case from one of a simple town board resolution.

"Rather, we believe the facts of our case set up a unique argument that once a retiree fulfills the conditions in a Resolution promising continued health benefits at no cost and the employee retires based on those conditions and begins receiving the benefit, that then becomes a binding contract," Dunn wrote to his clients.

He also contended that the court "completely misapplied the facts and the law" regarding the argument of whether the town acted inappropriately in charging the former elected officials 100 percent of the premium.

Dunn estimated in his Feb. 6 letter that the appeal would cost between $7,500 to $10,000, including printing expenses.

"Assuming we can address the economics, we believe an appeal has a very viable (chance) of success," he stated.

At the Feb. 11 town board meeting, former supervisor Howard Arden applauded the state Supreme Court decision, saying that the board majority at the time correctly concluded that the town would save significant sums of money that where needed for services.

Arden mentioned that in the first year, the town saved between $70,000 and $100,000, which would multiply over the years.

"At the end of the day, it really was the right thing to do and that's one of the reasons why we did that," he said.

DON'T EVEN THINK OF GOING TO WORK ON TUESDAY MARCH 17TH!

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1. It is St. Patrick’s Day!
2. March Mayhem starts!
3. You have been “cooped up” all Winter!
4. You work hard-you deserve a break!
5. Every study shows that by taking a vacation day your work productivity will actually go up - so you “owe it” to your boss and co-workers to take Tuesday March 17th off!
6. We will feature delicious corned beef and cabbage plates and sandwiches - shepard’s pie and more!
7. We will have several super cold, super fresh lagers and stouts on tap!
8. Irish music all day long!
9. St. Patrick’s Day is the unofficial end of the Winter season and the start of spring/summer!
10. The Kelly Oster School’s “Irish Step Dancers” will be here!
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DEP Accepting College Student Applications for Watershed Internships

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) encourages college students to apply for one of 19 paid summer internships at offices throughout the watershed. Those accepted into the program will have the chance to work alongside scientists, engineers, planners and other professionals who help run the largest unfiltered water supply in the United States.

“Our summer internship is a great opportunity for college students to explore their field of study by working alongside world-class engineers and scientists who operate and protect New York City’s water supply,” DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd said.

“I encourage college students from around the watershed and the state to apply for these excellent internships.”

The intern positions available include summer work associated with upstate water quality laboratories; water quality field operations; engineering; wastewater facilities; community water connections; wildlife biology; natural resources; stormwater management; and science and research. The internships are located at DEP’s offices in Downsville, Hawthorne, Grahamsville, Kingston, Margaretville, Shokan and Valhalla.

Information about these internships, including online applications, can be found on the DEP website at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/job_opportunities/icims_internships.shtml.

The application deadline is Apr. 1. Prospective interns are encouraged to carefully read the qualifications for each job to determine whether they meet the enrollment, GPA, coursework and other requirements.
By Janine Bowen

A new committee is working on bringing some new ideas for this year’s renewal of Pleasantville Day.

Committee members, who appeared before the village board during its March 2 work session, said while Pleasantville Day remains a popular street fair-style attraction for local residents, the format of the day hasn’t changed in several years. Reliant largely on vendors and booths, the celebration, which is scheduled this year for May 16, doesn’t offer much to keep middle school and high school age students entertained, they said.

“If we heard one big complaint about Pleasantville Day, it’s that people just kind of walk back and forth…all of the interactions are kind of one on one,” said committee member Peter Rogovin. “That’s good, and we don’t want to do away with it because people will be looking for the things that they’re used to but we want to add, too, by having more free fun for everyone.”

Although the new plan is in its infancy, it calls for more free activities that minimize the reliance on traveling from table to table and would focus more on themed and programmed entertainment. Ideas suggested during the discussion included more physical activities for youngsters as well as entertainers, such as magicians.

Plans are in the works to make some changes to Pleasantville Day to enliven the popular springtime event.

The committee is also mulling the creation of an area that would allow visitors to get a taste of Pleasantville by sampling food from local restaurants for a flat fee; however, this would be contingent on the participation of restaurants and various organizations.

For this year’s event, organizers are planning to bring in tables and chairs so that the public will be able to sit down and relax; an opportunity that didn’t exist in recent years.

Pleasantville Day, which has been held on Memorial Plaza in the village’s downtown, has typically been scheduled for mid May.

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Organizers Planning Changes for Pleasantville Day Festivities

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Parking, Development on Scherer's Agenda in Upcoming Term

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer will begin his third term next month and is already looking forward to the work the village board will do over the next three years.

Scherer, 58, the principal of H Plus, Inc., a graphic design company on Wheeler Avenue, stated that his primary focus will be on development. Several projects, including the Toll Brothers condominiums on Washington Avenue, which is expected to break ground this spring, and the partially operational J.A. Henckels building on Marble Avenue provide excellent improvements to Pleasantville, he said.

Scherer would like to see streetscape improvements along Manville Road to create a greater connection between parts of the village. In addition, he would like to reconfigure the area where Cooley Street meets Bedford Road to straighten the street to allow for new storefronts and improved circulation and parking.

All of the ideas are dependent on funding and whether private investors are willing to join the effort, Scherer said. Tackling these issues played a large factor in his decision to run for re-election.

“One of the reasons I was interested in running again is there is significant interest in the Village of Pleasantville for a lot of reasons that we can all be proud of, and shepherding that interest towards productive, Pleasantville-scale development would be an accomplishment that would be something we could all be proud of,” Scherer said.

To accommodate existing and new businesses, Scherer said parking should be improved, although there are economic barriers. Ideally, he would like to see commuter and village employee parking relocated to a new structure, although a 200-space garage could cost as much as $10 million.

One business that has recently showed interest in Pleasantville is Brightview Senior Living. There are preliminary plans for an assisted and independent living facility near the Cottage School.

Scherer was one of two board members who voted against the Benchmark Senior Living facility last year, which defeated the proposal. He acknowledged that while the Methodist church, which owned the Bedford Road parcel where the facility was to be built, wanted to sell the land to maximize its assets, it wasn't fair to approve the necessary rezoning at the expense of neighbors.

“For me, in the end when it came time to vote on it, I felt like it was the right project in the wrong place,” Scherer said. He said he would be less inclined to consider a major development project on that site. Future development there would hinge on the type of project proposed.

Growing the village’s commercial tax base has been frequently mentioned, but the municipality also faces tax cap challenges. Last year, the board agreed to override the tax cap so it could remain under the cap this year triggering a property tax rebate for residents. Scherer said the village is likely to remain under the cap for 2015-16, but expressed misgivings about it.

One of the core tenets of Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s tax freeze proposal emphasizes shared services, which Scherer said does not necessarily result in substantial savings. While officials have identified a few places to consolidate, the village has been sharing services with the Pleasantville School District and the Town of Mount Pleasant for years.

“I think local government had delivered a lot of value for this town,” Scherer said. “It is by no means clear that consolidation is automatically a big savings.”

Griffin-Wagner, Stargiotti Look Forward to Next Three Years

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville village elections will be held next Wednesday, March 18, but once again there will be no contest to fill the two trustee seats.

Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner, who will be entering her second term next month, and Joseph Stargiotti, an attorney who is currently on the village planning board, are the only candidates.

Stargiotti, 51, originally served on the village board from 2006-08 before a scheduling conflict as corporation counsel for the City of Peekskill forced him to resign.

“I think the lack of interest in running for the board, in a lot of ways, stems from people being satisfied with the way the government is being run, so that’s good, but you think that somebody might come along and say ‘I could help out,'” said Stargiotti.

Griffin-Wagner, 52, said she was disappointed that others didn’t step forward, noting that several residents have voiced criticism of the board, particularly regarding its handling of the Benchmark Senior Living project.

Griffin-Wagner said she was very disappointed that the project failed, receiving only three votes from the village board when a supermajority was required for approval. When considering the project, she said she did an extensive amount of research and felt the facility would have been a great addition to the community.

She said that in speaking with residents at the Clinton Street Senior Center, many were concerned about aging out of their homes and would have liked to have seen an assisted living facility that would allow them to remain in the village.

Griffin-Wagner criticized the bad behavior she said that several residents exhibited during the Benchmark review, adding that those board members who voted against the project didn’t have enough information from residents who were in support but weren’t as vocal.

“I felt as if those few people, out of a village of [more than] 7,000, made their position known and … to a great extent, the people who behaved badly were rewarded,” she said.

Griffin-Wagner said the village must increase its commercial tax base, even by increments of 1 or 2 percent, as the Benchmark project would have done.

Stargiotti said while the village won’t have Benchmark, several other projects are underway. The 68-unit Toll Brothers’ condominiums on Washington Avenue was approved late last year and the old Mahar Funeral Home site is currently being redeveloped.

Stargiotti, who raised the issue of development when he announced his candidacy, said he has several projects in mind. He would like a plot of vacant land adjacent to Memorial Plaza developed and hopes to see the north end of the plaza converted to green space. He also envisions possible mixed uses near Memorial Plaza with first-floor retail and apartment on the upper levels of the buildings.

“I have something in my mind,” said Stargiotti. “I don’t know how feasible it is, I’ve never drawn it on paper, I’m not an architect or an engineer, but I have some thoughts … about what it could be.”

Stargiotti and Griffin-Wagner agreed that increasing parking in the village is essential to enhancing business and hope a parking structure will be built in the current village-owned lot behind the post office. Economic barriers will likely be the project’s biggest obstacle, they said.

Griffin-Wagner said while some residents may be concerned about the aesthetics of a multilevel parking garage, it is necessary to help maintain a business environment that can compete with other municipalities.

“I understand that people are concerned, but there are new, innovative parking facilities that are more attractive, that would fit perhaps in better than … those huge cement monstrosities,” she said.

Over the past year, one of the biggest new initiatives within the village has been Pleasantville Strong, a coalition that aims to prevent youth drug and alcohol abuse. Over the past few years, the village has seen several youngsters hospitalized for overdoses. Griffin-Wagner said she believes the coalition is helping to contain the issue.

Recently, the village agreed to act as the fiscal agent for a grant that the organization is pursuing. The grant will have no financial impact on the municipality but is an important step in bringing multiple aspects of the community together in the effort, she said.

Griffin-Wagner, a coalition member, said helping Pleasantville Strong grow was one of the biggest factors in her decision to run for a second term. She explained that her position will help her leverage relationships with key people, including state Sen. Terrance Murphy, who has been vocal about the state’s growing heroin epidemic.

“My position on the board has allowed me to reach out to people that maybe I wouldn’t be able to reach out to if I wasn’t a trustee,” she explained.

Going forward, Griffin-Wagner stated continued on page 10
New Castle Proposes Measure to Tightly Regulate Massage Parlors

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are considering stringent regulations overseeing the operation of massage parlors in town in hopes of cracking down on illegal activity, including prostitution.

The town is weighing the possibility of requiring massage parlor operators to obtain a special permit from the zoning board of appeals and a license from the town clerk. Under the current proposal, the landlord as well as a prospective massage parlor tenant would be applicants for the license.

New Castle Explores Train Station Parking Rules

By Martin Wilbur

With space at premium at the Chappaqua train station lots this winter, the New Castle Town Board may look to tighten restrictions and raise fines on overnight parking.

Last week the board discussed ways it could combat the number of car owners who use the parking areas as a garage. Chappaqua resident John Ehrlich, who spoke publicly earlier this winter about opening up, said Town Attorney Edward Phillips.

Officials are looking to halt the proliferation of illegal activity. In recent years, several so-called massage parlors opened in town that were fronts for brothels.

All massage establishments and practitioners will also be expected to maintain photo identification from any state agency that regulates that type of business.

According to the proposal, chiropractors and other medical or nursing professionals will be exempt from the regulation. Nail salons and barbershops that give neck or facial massages will also be exempt.

Under that scenario, officials are hopeful that landlords would likely be more vigilant regarding the tenants they allow to open establishments on their property.

“If an illegal use is occurring, not only is the operator subject to fines but the landlord potentially could be subject to fines that could be a big deterrent with respect to this type of establishment from opening up,” said Town Attorney Edward Phillips.

Officials are looking to halt the proliferation of illegal activity. In recent years, several so-called massage parlors opened in town that were fronts for brothels.

While the town board last week was supportive of the proposed local legislation, Councilman Adam Brodsky said he didn’t want to place too onerous a burden on commercial landlords, particularly those who are absentee landlords. Brodsky said he was concerned that they could become de facto law enforcement.

“I understand we have the best of intentions to try and prevent these sleazy operations and (get) them out of our municipality,” he said, “but the problem is where does it end? All of a sudden a landlord now is going to become the local police for what goes on in the operation and has some responsibility?”

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said the town needs to do what it can to prevent illegal operations from setting up shop in New Castle.

“I think the goal is, if it’s going to be an illegal business we’re trying to put up a roadblock, but for legitimate businesses we’re going to try and remove the roadblocks,” Greenstein said. “We want to be pro-business. We just want to be pro-legal business.”

The town board may discuss the matter further on March 17 when Police Chief Charles Ferry is scheduled to attend that night’s meeting. An Apr. 28 public hearing has been scheduled for residents to weigh in on the measure.
Obituary
Margaret Adamik

Margaret (Peg) Hinchcliffe Adamik of Thornwood passed away peacefully on March 6. She was 89.

Adamik was born in Yonkers on April 9, 1925, to Ellis Hinchcliffe and Margaret Hughes. She is survived by her beloved husband, George F. Adamik, whom she married at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers on May 1, 1949; her son, Rev. “Junior” Hinchcliffe. She is predeceased by daughter Joanne Adamik, who passed away in 1957, and brothers Ellis Hinchcliffe, Joseph Hinchcliffe and “Junior” Hinchcliffe.

Besides her wisdom, care and love for her family, Adamik enjoyed volunteering her time in the community in both church and hospital work.

Visitation was at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville on March 9. A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Adamik’s life was scheduled for this morning (Tuesday) at Holy Innocents Church located at 431 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. Burial followed at St. Joseph’s Cemetery in Yonkers.

Checks for transactions. One woman was stopped by store security before she could complete the purchase. Another managed to buy $24.15 worth of merchandise and received $75.85 change in cash.

March 4: A St. Marks Place resident reported at 3:16 p.m. that someone stole a valuable blanket from his house that he claimed had been from the Titanic. The resident has also accused family members of stealing money from his house in the past but has refused to provide police with names.

March 4: A 41-year-old Brewster man was arrested at 4:25 p.m. and charged with criminal contempt for violating an order of protection that had been in place against him. The man was found in his wife’s residence.

March 4: A 35-year-old homeless man was arrested at 4:27 p.m. and charged with disorderly conduct after patrons at the Mount Kisco Public Library reported the man was giving them a hard time.

Griffin-Wagner, Stargiotti Look Forward to Next Three Years

continued from page 8

that she wants to help develop a support group as an offshoot of Pleasantville Strong, where parents could meet to share experiences and struggles with their child’s addiction.

Meanwhile, Stargiotti said the village will need to be vigilant about disseminating information about drug and alcohol abuse and should rely on local recreation and youth officers to talk to students and reinforce the message.

The owner of Pour wine bar on Main Street reported at 6:40 p.m. that he was given $220 in counterfeit $20 bills on Feb. 25. The matter is under investigation.

Pleasantville Police Department

Feb. 28: Report of a domestic dispute on Foxwood Drive at 3:14 p.m. Police did not release any additional information because the matter is confidential.

March 2: Report of a larceny at the 7-Eleven on Bedford Road at 10:50 p.m. A complainant stated that a subject just stole some beer from the store and was sitting in a van in the parking lot.

March 5: Report of a missing person at 8:49 a.m. A Chappaqua woman reported that she has not heard from her husband.

March 6: A 21-year-old Telford, Pa. man was arrested at 2:18 a.m. on Marble Avenue and charged with DWI following a traffic stop. The suspect was transported to headquarters for processing and his car was impounded.

Feb. 28: Report of a disruption at 10:41 a.m. A 34-year-old Mount Kisco man who was drunk was ejected from a South Moger Avenue bar and he continued causing a disturbance outside. The individual eventually left the scene after police arrived.

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Gary holds his Series 7 and 66 securities licenses, and is an accredited life, accident and health insurance agent. He is a graduate of Fairfield University, Dolan School of Business with both a B.A. and an M.A. in finance.

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“I’m confident that Gary’s insight and expertise will make us even more effective in helping our clients achieve what’s most important to them.”

— Barry Mitchell
By Neal Rentz

While police consolidation between Mount Kisco and Westchester County appears to be at hand, two other long-term issues before the village board don’t appear close to an end.

Mayor Michael Cindrich said last week the board is still seeking a permanent village manager and the vacant building that formerly housed the Borders bookstore is not close to being filled.

During the March 2 board meeting, Cindrich said despite various rumors circulating in the community, there is still no potential tenant or tenants for the roughly 20,000-square-foot space at 154-162 E. Main St. The space has been vacant since September 2011 when the bookstore went out of business after Borders filed for bankruptcy.

GCCFC 2007-GG11 Kisco Retail, LLC purchased the property for $6.5 million in an auction last summer.

Cindrich acknowledged that having the building without a tenant for over three years in the heart of downtown has had a negative impact on Mount Kisco.

“It’s a burden on the village, ” he said.

“I’m at a loss to as to why they can’t find a tenant. ”

Permanent manager search
Following last week’s meeting, Cindrich said trustees are still searching for a permanent village manager.

Last June, trustees hired former New Castle Town Administrator Jerry Faiella in an interim role. He replaced James Palmer, who left the post after about eight years to become Bronxville’s village administrator.

Restricting the village has been the residency requirement outlined in village law for the manager’s position, which has been an issue with two candidates that have been interviewed, Cindrich said.

While trustees are considering non-residents, they do not want to hire someone who has a lengthy commute, he said. The next permanent manager would need to be a resident or someone who “lives in close proximity to the village, ” Cindrich said.

If the board hires a village manager who lives outside of Mount Kisco, the residency requirement law would need to be changed. The requirement does not apply to interim managers.

The board has no timeline to hire a permanent manager, Cindrich said.
Democratic County Lawmakers Press for Campus Sexual Assault Policy

By Janine Bowen

Democratic members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators announced their support last Friday for Gov. Andrew Cuomo's statewide campus sexual assault prevention policy that would expand its reach to all colleges and universities.

Earlier this year, Cuomo introduced the Enough Is Enough proposal, which was developed to ensure that all students at public and private colleges and universities throughout the state are protected through comprehensive and uniform procedures and guidelines regarding sexual assaults. The policy was adopted by all SUNY schools last year, but the latest proposal would be extended to cover the state's remaining 13 colleges and universities.

“We feel that the governor’s program is extraordinarily comprehensive and addresses the needs of the university as well as the needs of the victims of sexual assault,” said Democratic Majority Leader Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining).

“It empowers them to take charge of the prosecution of their assailants and also allows them to have dignity in the process of investigating these crimes,” Borgia said that students must be aware of their legal rights.

One in four college women will be the victim of a sexual assault, according to statistics from the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault. However, fewer than 5 percent of sexual assaults against college women are reported to police, according to the National Institute of Justice.

Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) compared the frequency of sexual assaults on college campuses to the sexual assault problem that exists within the military. She noted that a more victim-friendly approach to handling sexual assaults would not only encourage more victims to report crimes, but would help police catch serial offenders.

It is estimated that the majority of college women who are sexually assaulted know their attacker. Many colleges and universities currently handle reports of sexual assaults through student disciplinary councils, which Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) called an inadequate and unacceptable practice. Sexual assault should be held to the same standard on a college campus as it is for the general public, he said.

Borgia added that under current practices many victims avoid coming forward.

The mother of a daughter in college, Borgia said that students must be aware of their legal rights.

The Enough Is Enough proposal would create a statewide definition of affirmative consent, removing the ambiguity that currently exists, Harckham said. For example, a woman must be able to consent if under the influence.

The Democratic caucus plans to introduce a resolution declaring its support for Cuomo’s proposal in the coming weeks. Legislators voiced optimism that it would receive bipartisan support.

Several legislators last week criticized County Executive Rob Astorino for not signing on to Cuomo’s proposal when it was introduced about two weeks ago.

“These provisions are so commonsense, so necessary to protect our children, I don’t understand why anyone could possibly be opposed to them,” Shimsky said. “We need to come together; this is not something to play politics about.”

Astorino spokesman Phil Oliva explained that the county executive chose not to sign on to the governor’s proposal because he was asked to do so just hours before the deadline and felt that he did not have enough time to adequately research the proposal.

Emphasizing that the decision was not a political ploy, Oliva said that Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner, a Democrat, chose not to sign for similar reasons.

“Rob doesn’t just sign on to bills or proposals without knowing what is in them,” he said.

Astorino has since spoken to law enforcement agencies and victim advocacy groups to learn more about the issue. He believes that Cuomo’s proposal could be taken even further, Oliva said. Astorino would like to see a victim’s rights advocate at colleges and universities, a position funded through the school but functioning independently. The advocate would be able to assist victims through the steps of reporting and prosecuting sexual assaults, Oliva said.

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Column

Time to Change Sexual Assault Policy on College Campuses

It’s been more than 40 years since I was sexually assaulted and the image of my attacker remains with me. I can still see his face and the details of that horrendous experience are etched in my mind. I am adult now and logically I know this man can no longer hurt me. Yet the idea of having to face the predator who assaulted me continues to terrify me in ways that most people can never imagine.

So it was as if my heart stopped beating when I saw the headline, "SUNY grad says school made her prosecute her own sex attacker” on the front page of The Journal News. Sarah Tubbs, a Montrose resident, attended the State University at Stony Brook on Long Island. She was allegedly sexually assaulted on campus, then required to prosecute the alleged attacker herself at a university disciplinary hearing. She had initiated a disciplinary action because campus police had advised her that she did not have a case. Tubbs is now suing Stony Brook to have its practice of having sexual assault victims “prosecute their own cases and cross-examine and be cross-examined by their assailants” abolished and to seek damages.

The thought of Tubbs having not only to confront her alleged assailant but also to act as both prosecutor and defendant is disconcerting as well as infuriating. It flies in the face of everything we have learned and know about sexual assault and helping survivors of sexual assault.

Whether Stony Brook has abolished or will abolish this abhorrent practice remains to be seen. The Journal News reported that the university declined to comment on the issue.

I am calling on Stony Brook and every other college and university in New York State to strike down this policy and remove it from their respective student handbooks. Such a policy has no place in any code of conduct.

Although the State Universities of New York adopted, at Gov. Cuomo’s urging, a stricter sexual assault policy in December, Tubbs’ alleged attack occurred in January 2014. She wants to make sure the SUNY policy expressly prohibits victims being forced to prosecute their attackers at student disciplinary hearings.

My heart goes out to this young woman and to every other woman or man who has been forced to confront the predator who has forever changed their lives. We must remember, whether it’s in society or on campus, to protect the one who has been attacked, not just the alleged attacker.

I have introduced legislation (A.5400) that requires college campuses to adopt policies and procedures concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, involving on and off campus students. The policies must include a definition of affirmative consent (note a person cannot consent if incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs), and victim-centered protocols that cover the initial response by the school to a report of an incident and investigating and adjudicating the report.

Colleges would also be required to implement comprehensive prevention and outreach programs addressing sexual violence and, where feasible, enter into agreements or collaborative partnerships with existing on-campus and community-based organizations, including rape crisis centers, to refer students for assistance or make services available to students.

Corrections

In last week’s article regarding the ongoing New Castle coyote issue, (“War of Words Heats Up in New Castle Coyote Debate”) it incorrectly quoted Councilman Jason Chapin as stating that town Supervisor Robert Greenstein had proposed the resolution to condemn the Coyote Awareness and Safety Advisory Committee for inflammatory e-mails in executive session. That matter was raised actually raised in an e-mail sent to town board members. The Examiner regrets the error.

In the article “Pvville Anti-Drug and Alcohol Coalition Prepared to Submit Grant Request” that was posted Feb. 27 on www.theexaminernews.com, it incorrectly stated that the Village of Mount Kisco and the Town of Yorktown were prepared to relinquish the role as fiscal agent for a similar grant that had been obtained in those municipalities. There are no plans in Mount Kisco to switch fiscal agents while the Orange County Alliance for Safe Kids handles that responsibility in Yorktown. The Examiner regrets the error.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

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By Martin Wilbur

From the time Jill Robustelli was in high school, her work experience helped shape her professional interests and endeavors.

It was Robustelli’s department store job at 16 years old near her hometown of upstate Rochester when she discovered her love for the challenge and excitement of traditional retail work.

As an adult, she was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug when she had the opportunity to work for a small, fledgling startup technology company from 1994 to 1999 when the Internet was in its infancy.

“I had a very intriguing and exciting time with the business but it also got me headed in the direction of getting involved in something of my own,” Robustelli, a SUNY Binghamton graduate with a degree in economics, said of her time with the Internet startup.

Although hesitant at first because she wasn’t sure it was for her, Robustelli signed on to become what the company calls a creative partner, where she builds her team to sell the merchandise. In just over three years it has been a perfect fit. Robustelli now has a team of close to 30 partners that she oversees from different walks of life, including a college professor. They’re mainly scattered throughout the metropolitan area, the Northeast and Florida.

She has used her ebullient personality to build her team and introduce customers to the products that are suitable for gifts, holidays and a host of other occasions.

“I’m really a people person,” said Robustelli, who served two years as president of the Byram Hills Education Foundation, one of many community volunteer efforts she has been involved with. “I love people. I love going out there and mixing with people.”

She said the growing popularity of direct sales businesses allows the participants, particularly women, to schedule their work around their families. Besides the flexibility of schedule and extra income, Initials, Inc. provides a support team that includes training for each creative leader to get their business up and running. There is also a start-up kit for a nominal $149 and incentives for reaching certain sales milestones.

There was also another important element that made Initials, Inc. attractive for Robustelli: charity. The company’s iCare Foundation partners with the Bethany Organization’s NOW campaign, which raises money to locate families who will adopt children so they don’t have to spend their childhood in the foster care system. For every $20 Your Best Life case, a Initials, Inc. purse, that is sold, $5 is donated to the campaign.

At certain times she may host or attend parties or hold events in office buildings at the request of various companies.

Robustelli has also conducted fundraisers for many other charitable organizations, including The Leukemia Lymphoma Society, which hits close to home for her. In 2004, after her mother was diagnosed with lymphoma, she began raising money for the society by participating in the annual fall Light the Nigh Walk at Playland. Her mother passed away the following year but she and her family have remained committed to the cause and has continued to participate.

“We have walked every year since as a family and we have raised more than $40,000 in 10, 11 years,” Robustelli said.

Robustelli’s move to the metropolitan area occurred in 1987 when she arrived in New York to work as a buyer for Bloomingdale’s in Manhattan. By 1994, Robustelli moved on to the Internet startup where she worked in business development.

After five years and with twins, Robustelli decided to spend time raising her daughters and volunteer in the community. When she made the decision to sign up for Initials, Inc., she said her family was tremendously supportive.

“They were old enough to appreciate that I was willing to do this,” Robustelli said of her daughters. “They kind of feel that this is their own little piece of it.”
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nyp.org/hudsonvalley
This morning I took my first bath in 50 years, and it wasn’t for the purpose of getting myself clean but rather to clean the air tub, which hadn’t been used since I purchased my new condo three months ago.

I’m one of those people who opted for showers instead of baths in my youth and for a very good reason.

I had arrived in New York with two fellow actors fresh from a stint in summer stock at a time in the early 1960s when, if you can believe it, there was a glut of new construction in the New York City market and landlords were offering concessions of up to three months to sign a lease.

My two friends and I took advantage of this opportunity to rent a brand new studio on the 10th floor of a building in the heart of Greenwich Village. What a naïve cluck I was for failing to consider the consequences of not having enough money to afford an apartment with separate bedrooms when one of my roommates was gay and the other was a Horn & Hardart restaurant, and I was not getting enough sleep to get to work in the morning.

Then through an ad, I got another apartment share with my own bedroom, this one with an older gentleman who had a rent-controlled, five-floor walk-up, cold water flat, which meant that while it was heated, it had no hot water.

To cleanse ourselves there was only a tub in the middle of the kitchen with a large wooden board across the top which doubled as the kitchen table. When the board was lifted, we would fill the tub with water and add boiling water heated on the stove. We would both take our showers afterward to make sure they are clean.

My wife threw in some bubble bath. Did I lower myself into a tub again? No, I never lowered myself into a tub with its massaging air flow, it lasted 45 minutes and I enjoyed it, but it was more a spa experience than one of hygiene. Just to make me feel really silly, my wife threw in some bubble bath. Did I enjoy it? You bet. Would I make the experience a habit? Nah. Who has the time?

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.
ARTSEE: A Festival of New Work was ushered in last Friday at a press conference at ArtsWestchester’s main gallery in White Plains.

The festival, which includes dance, film, theater, art exhibitions, concerts, open studios, poetry readings and more, encompasses 70 events involving 40 organizations over five months starting this month and running through July.

The festival is part of ArtsWestchester’s 50th anniversary celebration and stemmed from a desire to not only look back at the organization’s first half century, but to look to the future as well. Featured events include cutting-edge work by a robust array of talented local artists and arts organizations in the county as well as spotlighting Westchester as an ever-growing cultural hot spot.

“ARTSEE celebrates the arts in its many forms,” ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam said in a statement last week announcing the festival. “Featuring new artistic work created within the last three years, this festival will highlight the county’s growing reputation as a hub of innovation and creativity. ARTSEE includes a robust and diverse array of arts events for residents and visitors.”

As widespread as the genres are, so are the locations of the events. Since 40 organizations are participating, the events take place throughout Westchester at some of the county’s iconic cultural institutions, such as Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Emelin Theatre, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Katonah Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase and Sarah Lawrence College. Most of the events are reasonably priced and many are free.

The first ArtsWestchester event, Crossing Borders: Memory and Heritage in a New America, will open at the organization’s gallery in White Plains next Tuesday, March 17. The exhibit highlights the work of new and first-generation American artists who use their autobiographies and family history as an artistic tool to explore universal concerns of memory, heritage and identity.

A complete brochure is available online at www.artswestchester.org. You can also keep up with ARTSEE on social media with the hashtag #ARTseeFest where updates, highlights and information will be posted on a regular basis.

ArtsWestchester is also encouraging people to post photos of themselves and others with artwork, using the same hashtag.
Contemporary German Films to Be Screened at Jacob Burns

By Neal Rentz

Film critic Terrence Rafferty believes there have been two great eras for German cinema.

There was the Golden Age of the 1920s when the likes of F. W. Murnau, Fritz Lang and G. W. Pabst brilliantly used light and shadow. Wim Wenders and Volker Schlöndorff worked in wildly contrasting styles.

Then there was the 1970s New Wave, where idiosyncratic luminaries Werner Herzog, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and the Rudyard and Emanuella Reimss Fund, which promotes Germanic culture in Westchester. This is the first program of contemporary German films presented at the Burns in several years. Films were selected by film center programmer Kathryn Bonomi. Bonomi said she was immersed in German films last year when she attended the Berlin Film Festival and was a member of a jury during the event. She hopes the festival provides local film buffs a chance to experience works they otherwise wouldn't see.

A lot of the films were fantastic,” she said.

The opening night feature is Dietrich Brüggemann, on March 15 and Jan Ole Gerster's "A Coffee in Berlin" on March 16.

The series is sponsored by the Westchester Community Foundation and the Rudyard and Emanuella Reimss Fund, which promotes Germanic culture in Westchester. This is the first program of contemporary German films presented at the Burns in several years. Films were selected by film center programmer Kathryn Bonomi. Bonomi said she was immersed in German films last year when she attended the Berlin Film Festival and was a member of a jury during the event. She hopes the festival provides local film buffs a chance to experience works they otherwise wouldn't see.

"A lot of the films were fantastic," she said.

The opening night feature is Schlöndorff’s “Diplomacy.” The film tells the story of Hitler’s plan to take down the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the bridges over the Seine as the Allies marched toward Paris.

"Diplomacy" is an impressive film that tells a story that few people know, Bonomi said. Also, Schlöndorff is a director who is a creative bridge from the 1970s of outstanding German films, she said.

Another series highlight is "Beloved Sister" directed by Dominik Graf scheduled for March 14. The film is based on the true story of a love triangle involving two aristocratic sisters and the 18th century poet Friedrich Schiller. Bonomi said she was impressed by the film's beautiful cinematography.

Though nearly all of the films in the series have been released in the past few years, there is one exception. A restored version of "The Tin Drum," the 1979 film that won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film and also directed by Schlöndorff, will be screened on March 15. The restored version includes 20 minutes of footage not previously presented.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, including schedule and ticket prices, call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.
Making Faces Parties
Mount Kisco

By Colette Connolly

Transforming the body into a breathtaking portrait is just one of the things Margie Nugent is known for.

This talented body artist, face painter, henna expert and owner of Making Faces Parties in Mount Kisco said she has another mission in life—to bring smiles and a sense of empowerment to the people she paints.

The personable entrepreneur wasn’t always in a position to offer such benefits. A domestic abuse survivor, Nugent has worked her way from having nothing to operating a vibrant small business. In the early 2000s, the Bronx native relocated to Mount Kisco after leaving her husband of five years.

Although Nugent earned a degree in fashion, buying and merchandising from the Fashion Institute of Technology and had been a successful jewelry designer, she found it difficult to land on her feet.

Employed doing administrative work, she stumbled upon a Craigslist ad for a part-time face painter. That gave Nugent the impetus to eventually start her own venture, Making Faces Parties, in 2009.

“I was always the one who was helping other people start their own businesses,” Nugent remembered.

A 15-week course offered by the Women’s Enterprise Development Center in White Plains gave her the confidence and the tools to pursue her dream.

Making Faces Parties offers something for everyone. At a party Nugent could be painting the face of a five-year-old at a birthday party, applying special tattoos she’s made for kids at a pool party or enhancing the physique of a body builder through body art.

Nugent is also available for corporate and professional events and has worked in day care centers, sporting events, Sweet 16 parties, bar and bat mitzvahs, fundraisers and other events.

The business may seem as simple as slapping on some paint with a brush, but Nugent said it’s demanding and takes much skill.

“It’s an industry that people think they can get into, until they try it,” said Nugent, whose older son, Lonie, 21, works with her as a face painter and balloon twister and also applies glitter tattoos, a new technique popular among teens.

Nugent especially enjoys working with women who, like herself, have had to overcome obstacles.

“They all wanted to be invisible at one point,” she said. “Body painting women has a certain healing aspect to it.”

It’s also empowering when her clients realize the beauty of her painted designs and how they help transform their bodies, and more importantly, their self-image.

Henna art is a relatively new addition to Nugent’s slate of services. She uses a natural plant-based stain to create unique designs on their hands, feet, back or chest, or even on the tummies of pregnant women.

Nugent, who is also an ordained interfaith minister, said her deep spirituality blends well with this centuries-old art form.

Continuously retraining herself and researching new painting techniques, Nugent has learned to apply traditional, modern, Moroccan and Arabic forms of henna to the body.

In addition to the work she performs at parties and on individual clients, Nugent also spends a considerable amount of time talking about her work at several public libraries and at conventions around the country.

Nugent uses only professional, FDA-compliant cosmetic makeup that is approved for the face and the skin. She never uses acrylic, poster or other craft paints or markers, which are not approved for skin use. She also maintains a strict cleanliness regime with her tools.

“If you just want the smiley face, I’m not your person, but if you want the memory, I’m your person,” Nugent said.

To find out more about Making Faces Parties, call 914-714-8069 or visit www.makingfacesparties.com.
Tuesday March 10

English Conversation Mini Course. For speakers of other languages seeking to improve their English. All welcome. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Tuesdays through March 31. Info: 914-864-0038 or visit www.monticollibrary.org.


Italian Language and Culture With Maria De Matteo. De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also March 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31. Info: 914-273-3887.

German Language Potluck. All German language skills welcomed. A chance to speak and converse or brush up on your language skills before traveling to Austria, Switzerland or Germany. All German language skills welcome. Potluck dinner does not need to be a native dish. American Legion Hall, 52 Garrigan Ave., Thornwood. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-739-8986.

Wednesday, March 11

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

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

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

Mommy Meet Up. Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this program is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For newborns birth to eight months old and their moms. Romperee Indoor Playground at World Cup Nursery School & Kindergarten 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua, 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except holidays) through June. Info: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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, H E A P, E P I C, 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.

Support Group for Alzheimer's Caregivers. Temple Shaary Tefila and Westchester Jewish Community Services have scheduled this forum to provide a place for caregivers to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer's Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaary Tefila's Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin Rd., Baldwin Corners. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer’s Association at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Women's Leadership Council Luncheon. The United Way of Westchester and Putnam will host this second annual luncheon. Area women are invited to attend and learn about the real challenges women are experiencing in our local communities and network with other women of influence. Stephanie Ruhle, anchor and co-host of “Market Makers,” will be the keynote speaker. Trump National Golf Club, 339 Pine Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 12 to 2 p.m. Individual tickets start at $175. Tables of 10 and various sponsorship levels available. Info and reservations: Visit http://www.wwwp.org/wcluncheon.shtml.

Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. No previous yoga or fitness exercise experience necessary. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also March 11, 18 and 25. Info: 914-273-3887.

Knitting Club. Come learn to knit, or if you already know how, bring your current project and enjoy a visit with other knitters and crocheters. Beginners should bring a pair off size 8 or 10 straight knitting needles and skin or worsted weight yarn. Open to knitters and crocheters 10 years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-666-8041.

Lego Club. We provide the Legos, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Wednesday Night Bingo. Regular bingo tickets and specials available for sale. Includes coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Dog and soda for sale. Holy Rosary School, 180 Bradhurst Ave., Hawthorne. Doors open at 6 p.m. Games start at 7:20 p.m. $2 (for one card). Extra game cards may be purchased for $2 or $3 each along with a few specialty games. Every Wednesday.

Adult Beginner Salsa Classes. A four-week trial for beginners who want to learn how to salsa. Walk-ins welcome, but call in advance to be added to the class list for the session. 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:15. Free. Wednesdays through March 25. Info and call ups: 917-215-1720.

Art Discussion Series: Mayken Verhulst. More than just Pieter Coecke Van Aelst's second wife, Verhulst was an accomplished artist in her own right. Born in 1518, this painter explored various media including watercolor and tempera and was a tremendous painter of miniatures. The matriarch of artistic dynasty, Verhulst's legacy lived on for generations through the artists and her grandchildren who studied under her. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastliblr.org.

Climate Change and Birds. Did you know that 314 North American bird species are threatened or endangered due to climate change? Join Dr. Gary Langham, National Audubon’s vice president and chief scientist and author of the groundbreaking climate change report, for a lecture on the impacts of climate change on our feathered friends. Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999.

Local Birds: What They Are, the Problems They Face and What You Can Do. The common and not so common birds in our area are introduced, along with the best places to see these birds in Westchester. Includes a presentation and discussion about the kinds of problems these birds face and what individuals can do to help these birds. Presented in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thursday, March 12

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


Story Time Playgroup. Join Miss Debbie for a story, music and playtime with toys and books in this new program. Children and a parent or caregiver can spend special time together and make new friends. For children six months to four years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or visit www.mountpleasntlibrary.org.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Every Thursday. Info: 914-864-0130 or visit www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Confused About Senior Living Options? A panel discussion for seniors, families and adult caregivers. Experts will discuss and answer questions about the various senior living options including independent living, assisted living and enhanced living and how to make the best decision for your family. Light refreshments will be served. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-769-2021.

Data Security for Business Owners. Learn what you need to know to make your company’s data secure and your systems safe from malicious attacks that continued on page 24

We're happy to spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words “Happenings Calendar Submission” in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Martin Wilbur at mwilbur@theexaminernews.com.com.
How to Revamp Your Refrigerator in Five Easy-to-Follow Steps

We are more than two months into the new year and I hope those of you who made resolutions to be healthier are still going strong.

When changing your dietary habits you can start simply by replacing many common refrigerator staples with more nutritious choices. This way the next time you reach into the fridge you’ll fuel your body with healthier, more natural foods without sacrificing taste or convenience. Here are some suggestions for a fridge makeover.

Milk and Eggs: Buying organic can be expensive, but when it comes to milk and eggs it’s worth it. Research suggests that organic milk has a healthier ratio of omega-3 to omega-6 fatty acids, meaning it has lower levels of the pro-inflammatory omega-6 fatty acids and higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids. In addition, studies consistently show that organic milk is higher in vitamin content.

Most commercial egg producers keep their chickens in cages. Not only are they denied fresh air and exercise, but the eggs from these hens can contain growth hormones and antibiotics. Eggs that are labeled “cage-free” are better, but these chickens are often still kept inside buildings and given antibiotics. You should always look for free range or pasture-raised organic eggs. A USDA certified organic label means the hens have had access to the outside and have not been given hormones or antibiotics. According to a Penn State University study, organic eggs contain 40 percent more vitamin A, double the amount of vitamin E and are higher in omega-3 fatty acids than factory-farmed eggs. Milk and eggs that come from cows and chickens fed a grass diet as opposed to grains are a more nutritious choice.

Butter: Saturated fats, such as those found in butter, raise the body’s LDL (bad cholesterol) and can contribute to the risk of cardiovascular disease and increased inflammation in the body. When you replace butter with options like coconut oil and extra virgin olive oil, you eliminate saturated fat and gain the healthy benefits of those “good fats.” Coconut oil contains medium chain fatty acids, which have been shown to help manage healthy cholesterol levels, improve glucose tolerance and reduce body fat accumulation. It can be substituted for butter in most recipes with no change in quantity and little to no change in taste.

Processed Meats: Bacon, sausage, hot dogs, pepperoni and salami contain the preservative sodium nitrate. Nitrites have been linked with heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Meat cooked at high temperatures, as many processed meats usually are, can contain heterocyclic amines (HCAs), which also show a connection to certain cancers.

To lower your exposure to unwanted by-products, replace processed meats with organic meats that are grass-fed or free-range. Look for “uncured” varieties without nitrates, MSG, high-fructose corn syrup, preservatives, artificial flavor or artificial color.

Fruits and Veggies: Storing fruits and veggies properly is important to maintain their nutrient quality. Refrigerated pans are usually the way to go as long as you know which fruits and veggies should be stored in the fridge. Storing fruits and veggies separately because some fruits, such as apples and pears, produce ethylene, a substance that hastens ripening of other produce, causing them to spoil more quickly.

Although some fruits and vegetables can last for long periods when properly stored, try to eat them as soon as possible for optimum nutrition and flavor. Also avoid boiling vegetables, as this is the easiest way to lose nutrients. Opt instead to steam your vegetables to retain the nutrient quality in your food.

Beverages: Many brands of fruit juice, even those labeled 100 percent fruit juice, are not as nutritious as you may think. Fiber and vitamin C are lost through extensive processing and storage, and to make up for lost taste, manufacturers add flavoring and coloring.

Instead, choose fresh, cold pressed juice or blended shakes that you can make yourself. You will gain better taste and all the nutrients that fresh juice can provide, including pulp, fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Eliminating soda from your fridge is a key makeover step. Aside from an overload of sugar, soda contains a multitude of harmful ingredients that interfere with nutrient absorption and utilization and contribute to development of chronic disease. Replace the soda in your fridge with healthier options, such as tea or water. If you crave carbonation then keep some seltzer water with fresh lemon and lime handy.

Dr. Kaitlyn Clarke is a chiropractor and clinical nutritionist at ProClinix Physical Therapy and Chiropractic in Armonk and Pleasantville. For more information visit www.proclinix.com or email admin@proclinix.com.
magic: the gathering with lucas. drop-in and play. beginners and experienced players welcome. for students in grades 7-12. chappaqua public library, 195 s. greeley ave., chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. free. every friday through april 24 (except apr. 3). info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquilib.org.

mini-anime festival. start with origami with hitomi kihara, story boards with andrew kihara and cherry blossoms with eleanor friedman of the garden club in the teen zone, followed by an asian dinner and an anime film in the theater. come to any or all activities. for students in grades 6-12. chappaqua public library, 195 s. greeley ave., chappaqua. 3:30 to 9 p.m. free. info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquilib.org.

friday night cinema: "pope joan." this 2009 drama starring david wenham ("top of the lake," "the lord of the rings") is based on the international bestseller of the same name by donna cross. how can a young german girl determined to break past the barriers put up against her gender during the middle ages go on to become pope following the sack of rome by the saracens? adult content. post-screening discussion led by prof. valerie franco. north castle public library, 19 whippoorwill rd. east, armonk. 7 p.m. free. info: contact donna edlund at 914-403-4237.

zumba fitness class. addie-tude performing arts center, 42 memorial plaza (lower level), pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $15 a class. $20 for four classes. $5 for eight classes. meets every thursday. also saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. info: 917-215-1720, e-mail addietudedance@gmail.com or visit www.addie-tude.com.

new castle comprehensive plan meeting. representatives of the pace land use law center will discuss trails; fields, parks and open space; parking and transportation; community amenities and services; housing needs; economic development; and commercial areas. chappaqua public library, 195 s. greeley ave., chappaqua. 7 to 8 p.m. free. info: visit www.mynewcastle.org.

friday, march 13
zumba gold class. a trial class featuring zumbás low-impact approach. drop in anytime. addie-tude performing arts center, 42 memorial plaza (lower level), pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. free. (12 drop-in fee after free trial class.) every friday. also tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. info: contact amy olin at olin.amyj@gmail.com.

aging wisely. this community-based program focuses on multiple aspects of retirement, aging and planning for the future. come with your questions and concerns. everyone welcome. ruth keefer memorial library, 276 titicus rd., north salem. 6 to 7:30 p.m. free. info: 914-669-5161 or www.ruthkeefermemoriallibrary.org.

digital art. north castle public library, 19 whippoorwill rd. east, armonk. 6:30 p.m. free. info: 914-273-3887.

home sellers clinic. maximize the value of your home through organizing, home improvements, staging, maintenance and working with an experienced real estate agent by asking experts questions. guest speakers are certified home inspector louis rafio of superior home inspections; accredited staging professional marie graham of the refreshe home; and kurt McKinney, vice president, home services shop. sponsored by donna edlund and hans weber, licensed associate real estate brokers, coldwell banker. emmanuel lutheran church, 197 manville rd., pleasantville. 7 p.m. free. info: contact donna edlund at 914-403-4237.

zumba fitness class. addie-tude performing arts center, 42 memorial plaza (lower level), pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $15 a class. $20 for four classes. $5 for eight classes. meets every thursday. also saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. info: 917-215-1720, e-mail addietudedance@gmail.com or visit www.addie-tude.com.

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saturday, march 14
sean duffy of the refreshed home; and kurt McKinney, vice president, home services shop. sponsored by donna edlund and hans weber, licensed associate real estate brokers, coldwell banker. emmanuel lutheran church, 197 manville rd., pleasantville. 7 p.m. free. info: contact donna edlund at 914-403-4237.

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handle trails: a community path program. guided trail experience through the greenburgh nature center. 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
bagel with cream cheese, savory cheese scones with eggs and waffles with maple syrup.

Celebrating its fourth anniversary this month, the Red Barn Bakery is a busy place that regularly varies the freshly baked goods displayed on its shelves. Below are the holiday specials it will be offering throughout the month.

**Saint Patrick’s Day**
From March 11 through March 17, the bakery will sell round loaves of Red Murphy Irish soda bread. Golden brown in color, the loaves have a crisp buttery crust and ingredients that include caraway and raisins. The loaves measure about 7.5 inches in diameter. Shamrock cookies and Guinness chocolate cake will also be offered.

The recipe for the soda bread was developed by the mother of a friend of Dodge’s, a lady born in Ireland whose name was “Red” Murphy. “She lived to be 100 and passed away only a few years ago, but her recipe lives on,” said Dodge, a former model who also once designed for Ralph Lauren.

To ensure availability, customers can call a day ahead to order the bread. “Otherwise it’s first-come, first-served,” she said.

**Passover**
The bakery’s offerings for Passover will include flourless chocolate cake (a big seller last year), hazelnut tarts and French macaroons.

**Easter**
- Organic sugar cookies
- Organic cheese cake
- Savory asparagus tarts
- Lemon meringue pie
- Decorated layer cakes
- Carrot cake
- Pastiera (organic ricotta cheese cake pie). This Dodge’s mother’s recipe.

**New at Lunchtime**
- Asparagus omelet (to be available in the spring)
- Carrot cake
- Curried broccoli coconut
- Mushroom, spinach and white cheddar cheese omelet
- Curried broccoli coconut
- Asparagus omelet (to be available in the spring)
- Roasted kale
- Vegetable French onion soup with root vegetables. Each are available for midday eating or takeout are gluten-free.

**New Pastries and Pies**
- Organic cheese cake
- Organic sugar cookies
- Organic sugar cookies
- Savory asparagus tarts
- Lemon meringue pie
- Decorated layer cakes
- Carrot cake
- Pastiera (organic ricotta cheese cake pie). This Dodge’s mother’s recipe.

**New items available at the bakery**
- Donut muffins, apple pie roll-ups, key lime pie and salty caramel crumb muffins.
- Doughnut muffins, apple pie roll-ups, key lime pie and salty caramel crumb muffins.
- The bakery’s wares have been available for the past seven years at farm markets conducted by Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture in Pocantico Hills; the center’s next market date is Sunday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other vendors participating with Red Barn Bakery include The Amazing Real Live Food Company (dairy products), Pure Food Sisters (pesto), Samosa Shack and Penny Lick Ice Cream. The bakery’s goods will also be available at the next Pleasantville Farmers Market at the Pleasantville Middle School cafeteria this Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cooking and baking classes at the Red Barn Bakery are planned for the spring. The Red Barn Bakery is open Tuesday through Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is located at 4 S. Astor St. in Irvington. For more information, call 914-231-7779.
ADOPTION
A dream is a wish your heart makes, our wish is a baby to love. We’re loving, educated, close family. Expenses paid. Danny/Lorraine 1-866-997-7171

Enthusiastic, active, devoted couple seek to adopt and create unconditionally loving, adventurous family. All allowed expenses paid. Hillary and Joel.

real property tax foreclosures

A childless young married couple, hands on mom/ devoted dad (she-31/ he-37) seeks to adopt. Financial security, expenses paid. Call/ text Mary & Adam 1-800-790-5260

auctions

A dream is a wish your heart makes, our wish is a baby to love. We’re loving, educated, close family. Expenses paid. Danny/Lorraine 1-866-997-7171

AUTO DONATIONS
Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

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

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
WELDING CAREERS- Hands on training for career opportunities in aviation, automotive, manufacturing and more. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. CALL AIM 877-206-4006

CAREER TRAINING
VETERANS- Start your new career. Become a professional tractor trailer driver with National Tractor Trailer School, Liverpool/Buffalo, NY (branch) full/part-time with PTDI certified courses & job placement assistance with local, regional & nationwide employers; Tuition, transportation & housing packages available; nfts.edu/veterans POST 9/11 G.I. BILL - If eligible; Paid tuition, fees & military housing allowance. 1-800-243-9300

EMPLOYMENT
AVON Career or pocket money you decide Call Brandie (Ind Sls rep) 1-800-305-3911 Or sign up online: www.startavan.com Reference code:gsim For award winning support

FINANCIAL AID
Parents! Having trouble with financial aid forms for free grants. Visit www.sourcesforstudents.com or call Paul Anthony Rivers at (914)358-1700.

FOR SALE

HELP WANTED


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

LAND FOR SALE
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A Brief History of Wine’s Role and Influence in Christianity

By Nick Antonaccio

March 10 - March 16, 2015

As a Roman Catholic -- and a wine writer -- I haven't given much thought to the wine that is consumed at Mass during the sacrament of the Eucharist. Shame on me.

I first began thinking about sacramental wine in the context of my column while I was chatting with our parish priest a few years ago about the wines at Mass. I decided to add this topic to my list of future columns.

This week I recalled our conversation and decided to offer my thoughts to you.

For Catholics, one of the fundamental precepts underlying their faith is the transformation during mass of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. This transubstantiation has formed the basis of their faith since Christ performed this miracle at the Last Supper.

However, the history of the underlying wine used in this consecration is not widely discussed. Certainly, there are religious laws that define how a particular wine qualifies for this sacrament of the Eucharist, but over the course of the last two millennia, there have been many different varieties of grapes utilized in this sacrament.

The history of wine is as old as the history of civilization. The first mention of wine was the planting of grapes and the production of wine by Noah after the Great Flood. Numerous historical records exist since that time of wine being consumed as a beverage of choice.

Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans cultivated grapes and produced wine as an alternative to contaminated water in their daily lives and as a celebratory beverage for special occasions. Each civilization created wine to conform to their particular palates. Several added water to wine to dilute the bitter taste; others added honey and herbs for the same reason. Ancient wine bore no resemblance to the refined wines we consume today.

And so it was for centuries. Then the perspective of wine for Christians changed forever at Christ's Last Supper. It became a religious focal point of Christians as they and their religion spread across the ancient world. The wine itself did not improve much; the respect for it grew, as a religious symbol of the underlying tenet of Christianity.

And so the quality of wine remained unchanged for centuries as devout Christians received both species at mass. Until the European monks came on the scene in the Middle Age --especially in France and Spain. They became experts in cultivating a more refined and pure wine that was pleasing to them and their spiritual subjects. They owned and developed what today are considered several of the premier wine growing regions in the world. The French monks toiled in Burgundy, the Loire Valley and the Rhone Valley. The Spanish monks ventured to the New World, planting grapevines and cultivating wine production in South America and all along the Pacific Coast as far north as northern California. The highly regarded wines produced in these regions today are rooted in the soil and sweat of those European monks.

All of this for the sake of having ample supplies of sacramental wine for masses.

For some reason, along the way, another sea change occurred--the Reformation. This schism divided Christianity and the beliefs in the role of wine.

It wasn't until Vatican II in 1962 that Roman Catholics once again were permitted to partake of both the body and blood of Christ at Mass.

Here in the 21st century, Christians of the Western and Eastern churches, as diverse as they may be, continue to consume wine in their celebration of Christ's sacrifice.

This now brings me to a more specific focus of my discourse. What wine did Christ likely consume at the Last Supper? What type of wine do we consume at mass in the 21st century? But alas, the limitation of space on this page requires me to defer discussion until next week.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credits: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
Bobcats Fall in the Class A Title Game to Spring Valley

By Monica D'Impolido

Despite an overwhelming deficit on the scoreboard, the large and loyal Byram Hills cheering section remained standing and chanting at the Westchester County Center as Bobcats coach Ted Repa removed each one of his seniors, including center Andrew Groll and guard Ross Weinfeld, both later named to the all-tourney team.

"It's tough," Repa said after the Bobcats' 75-41 loss in the Section 1, Class A final to top-seeded Spring Valley last Monday evening. "Especially with Andrew, I've been through four years with him and I teach all these kids in middle school, too. So I've known these guys for like, six, seven years, so it's tough to say goodbye. The great thing is that we have a great foundation for the future."

Despite the lopsided loss in the title game, it was still a very successful season for the Bobcats, who won 18 of their 21 games before facing the state-title-favorite Tigers, including a 10-point victory over second-seeded Somers at the packed County Center in the semifinal round.

"It's great, it's a great culmination to the season," said Weinfeld. "For 18 games, we've worked just to get here, and to be on this stage with an opponent like that is actually an honor. Getting onto this stage in front of the County Center crowd was awesome. I've been looking forward to it for four years and finally got it now."

Byram Hills did well matching Spring Valley in the opening quarter, even taking a 5-4 lead nearly midway through on a putback by center Andrew Mitchell (17), were being handed the Gold Ball for the first time in nearly two decades as the disappointed Bobcats looked on.

"It's been fun" said Groll. "Being a senior on the team was just great, with all the young kids. Watching some of them grow up and step up, was just great. It didn't end perfectly, but it ended the way we wanted it to. We went out for a Gold Ball, that's what we said that we wanted to do in the beginning of the season. We came out and we did that and, you know, just a good year."

With about two minutes remaining, Repa pulled Weinfeld, who made a pair of 3-pointers and wound up with nine of his 16 points and 11 rebounds at the packed County Center.

Sophomore forward Matt Groll fires a jump shot during last week’s Class A sectional playoffs.

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F u t u r e ."
County Center Extra

Byram Hills forward Matt Groll tries to get to the basket in the Bobcats’ 44-34 semifinal win over the Somers Tuskers.

Westlake guard Natalie Alfieri gets set to fire a pass after coming around a screen in the Class B semifinals.

Pleasantville guard Courtney Sheehy drives across the lane vs. top-seeded and eventual champ Irvington.

Byram Hills basketball fans revel in the Bobcats’ victory over Somers in the Section 1, Class A semifinal playoff game.

Briarcliff coach Cody Moffett escorts dejected guard Malik White off the court moments after the Bears fell to Woodlands in the championship game.

Pleasantville’s Josie Amerson tries to score inside during the Panthers’ semifinal vs. Irvington.

Lou Fillipelli of Byram Hills dribbles into the lane in the semifinal victory over second-seeded Somers.

Westlake’s Katie Cullen drives to the basket during the Section 1, Class B semifinal game vs. Ardsley.

Byram Hills’ Jared Friedberg passes the ball along the right baseline in the Bobcats’ Class A semifinal playoff win over Somers.

Left: Briarcliff’s Jack Reish concentrates on a free throw in the Class B championship game vs. top-seeded Woodlands.

Above: Faith Lovett of Westlake holds the ball beyond the 3-point arc in the Wildcats’ semifinal loss to Ardsley.

Left: Briarcliff coach Cody Moffett escorts dejected guard Malik White off the court moments after the Bears fell to Woodlands in the championship game.

Pleasantville’s Josie Amerson tries to score inside during the Panthers’ semifinal vs. Irvington.

Left: Byram Hills’ Jared Friedberg passes the ball along the right baseline in the Bobcats’ Class A semifinal playoff win over Somers.
Pace Women’s Lacrosse Team Impresses in its Inaugural Game

By Monica D’Ippolito

Not even first-year Pace head coach Michael Spinner thought his women’s lacrosse team could produce such a dominant performance in its first game as a program. But after the first 30 minutes of action on Saturday afternoon, it was clear the brand new squad was here to stay.

“It was a 60-minute type of effort and I’m kind of shocked,” said Spinner following the 15-5 drubbing of Nyack College. “I didn’t think at halftime we would be as comfortable as we were, but it shows how capable we are.

Playing on a cold, overcast day at Mazella Field on the campus of Iona College, the Setters gained their first possession off the opening draw, but had trouble finishing on the offensive end. About two minutes in, Casey Gelderman, who wound up with a team-high five goals, fired a shot that slammed off the pipe. She collected the rebound of her own shot and slipped the ball past Barbarino. Gelderman later took advantage of her first shot that caromed off the pipe.

“Of course it did that,” Gelderman said of her first shot that caromed off the pipe. “But I was ready for the next one. I really wanted the first goal, but I said, ‘figures.'”

It didn’t take long after Gelderman’s near-miss for Pace’s first celebration of the day. Just a minute later, teammate Rachael Casasanta claimed the first goal in team history, beating her defender one-on-one and placing a shot low post past Warriors goalie Madeline Barbarino to give Pace a 1-0 lead.

Spinner liked what he saw from his players right after Gelderman’s bid for the initial goal. “They pounced on the ball,” he said, “got it back and we got a goal pretty quickly. I was really encouraged by all that.”

Gelderman managed to net the second goal of the game seven minutes later when she collected the rebound of her own shot and slipped the ball past Barbarino. Gelderman later took advantage of another rebound, this time on a shot from Casasanta, and buried it again past the Nyack goalie, giving the Setters a 2-0 lead.

“A couple of minutes earlier, we were still looking for the shot, but now we had everything to gain and that’s what’s it shows,” said Spinner. “Coming out, we just had so much energy built up and we knew that we had absolutely nothing to lose,” said Setter midfielder Kelly after she finished with two goals and two assists. “We just had everything to gain and that’s what’s those things that can really change the complexion of the game and we didn’t allow the slow start, the shooting, to really affect the way we played.”

The Setter’s defense dominated throughout the game, allowing just 13 shots on goal, while doing an impressive job clearing the ball out of its defensive end.

“Coming out, we just had so much energy built up and we know that we have absolutely nothing to lose,” said Setter midfielder Kelly after she finished with two goals and two assists. “We just had everything to gain and that’s what’s

Pace’s Casey Gelderman, who scored five goals, races up the left sideline in the win over Nyack College on Saturday.

The players on the brand new Pace women’s lacrosse team had plenty to celebrate vs. the Nyack College Warriors in their inaugural game.

The Setters’ Courtney Sulfaro keeps her eyes on the ball as she battles Nyack’s Danielle Page for possession in Saturday’s game at Iona.

Rachel Casasanta of Pace tries to run past Nyack’s Rebecca Wakeley soon after scoring the first-ever goal for the school’s new women’s lacrosse team.

Cassandra Pacelli of Pace searches for an open teammate during Saturday’s season-opening game on the campus of Iona College.

Casasanta ended the day with four goals and sent nine shots on net, while Sulfaro added three goals on eight shots on net. When time expired, the Setters celebrated as if they had just won the conference title.
then posed for pictures on the turf while friends and family cheerfully captured all their smiles for posterity.

According to Spinner, the motto for the inaugural season for the all-freshmen squad of 20 players is “uncommon.” But as the game went on, it was easy to tell this team was more than just uncommon.

“I think the common thread among this group is, it’s a group that chose Pace University,” said Spinner, who more than a decade ago helped launch the women’s lacrosse program at Mount Saint Vincent and most recently was the girls’ varsity coach at Trumbull High in Connecticut.

“What we sold them was the opportunity to build the leadership of being a new program, like these two (Gelderman and Kelly) as freshman captains,” he added. “It’s a very unique experience not every program can offer. When you combine the academics, the construction and the things that we’re doing for the university and the playing-time opportunities here, who would want to say no? And I was very lucky and very blessed to have this group.”

With their first game now a part of school history, the Setters will try to remain undefeated this coming Saturday when they travel to North Andover, Massachusetts to take on their first Northeast-10 opponent, Merrimack College.

Pace Women’s Lacrosse Team Impresses in its Inaugural Game

continued from previous page

Pace University’s McKayla McDermott moves the ball up the field as she’s defended by Emily Sigmon of Nyack College during the first-ever game for the new Setter women’s lacrosse team.

Pace University women’s lacrosse coach Michael Spinner directs his new team in Saturday’s inaugural game, easily won by the Setters vs. Nyack.

Pace’s Najmah James moves the ball across the turf in Saturday’s game at Mazzella Field on the campus of Iona College.

Pace’s Alyssa Canning tries to win the race for a loose ball in the second half vs. the Nyack Warriors this past weekend.

Pace University’s McKayla McDermott moves the ball up the field as she’s defended by Emily Sigmon of Nyack College during the first-ever game for the new Setter women’s lacrosse team.
Dazzling Debut

Casey Gelderman Scores Five Goals as the Pace Women’s Lacrosse Team Triumphs 15-5 in Its First-Ever Game Saturday Afternoon on Iona’s Campus