Developer Unveils Plan for 175 Senior Units in Pleasantville

By Janine Bowen

Developers for Brightview Senior Living have entered into an agreement with the Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA) to lease a seven-acre parcel for an assisted and independent living facility.

Representatives from the Baltimore-based company first appeared before the Pleasantville Village Board last October and returned on March 9 to present their preliminary plans. The plans call for a four-story, 180,000-square-foot facility featuring 100 independent living units and 75 assisted living units, about 25 of which would be dedicated to residents with memory deficiencies.

Project architect Eric Anderson explained that an exterior design has not been chosen yet as Brightview hopes to take inspiration from nearby construction and incorporate suggestions from village residents. The height of the building would vary depending on architectural style.

Displaying a preliminary footprint for the building, which will sit on top of a hill, Anderson said that one of the challenges is the parcel’s grading. He explained that deeper into the property the land begins to slope. In order to work with the topography of the parcel, the back of the building will be one story shorter than the front, Anderson said.

The site, located off Broadway between County Club Lane and Seneca Lane and to the left of the driveway for the Cottage School, is heavily wooded, but Brightview plans to retain as many trees as possible and hopes to incorporate the foliage into the design of the facility. Anderson envisioned a final product that would be similar to the Usonia Homes in Mount Pleasant that would “blur the line between...”

Hawthorne Resident Appointed to Fill Vacant Mt. Pleasant Seat

By Neal Rentz

Hawthorne resident Nicholas DiPaolo was unanimously appointed to fill the vacant Mount Pleasant Town Board seat last week.

DiPaolo, 36, one of eight hopefuls interviewed for the opening, is a guidance counselor at Westlake High School.

“I believe that we live in a great town,” DiPaolo said of his decision to pursue the seat. “I believe the board is doing great things and I just want to do my part to continue doing that great work.”

He takes over Carl Fulgenzi’s old seat for the remainder of the year. Fulgenzi was appointed supervisor last October after former supervisor Joan Maybury resigned from her seat for family-related reasons.

Fulgenzi said all of the candidates who were interviewed were impressive, coming from different walks of life and with unique qualifications, but that DiPaolo stood out.

“He came off the interview process as someone very interested in the future of our community, easy to communicate with. He works in the guidance department at Westlake High School and is involved with community service organizations,” Fulgenzi said. “The entire board felt he would be a great asset to the future progress in Mount Pleasant.”

DiPaolo is the coordinator of the Mount Pleasant School Service Club, which works with several organizations such as the American Legion, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club and the Mount Pleasant Italian American Association.

DiPaolo is a member of the Lions Club and the Italian American Association as well as the Westwood Swim and Tennis Association.

continued on page 4

New Castle Hopeful State Budget to Include Sewer Funding

By Martin Wilbur

State and local officials expressed cautious optimism that significant funds would be earmarked in the state’s 2015-16 budget for wastewater treatment and clean water projects that could help pay for New Castle’s sewage diversion project.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he met last Wednesday with state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) and learned that the Senate has proposed a $1 billion matching grant program for the new fiscal year, which starts Apr. 1, to help pay for projects that would protect the state’s drinking water supply.

In 2012 the county Board of Legislators approved a measure to include 293 New Castle parcels from the Yeshiva, Riverwoods and Random Farm communities into the Saw Mill Sanitary
P’ville Assisted Living Plan
Developer Submits Zoning Request for
continued from page 1

environmental impacts and the amount of the 24,000-square-foot building, as potential noise, the use and mass of the proposal regarding issues such residents were generally skeptical about by Benchmark’s representatives. The speaking following the presentation week’s meeting, with four residents to a dozen neighbors attended last hearing the neighbors’ concerns. Close Benchmark is adjusting its plans after in late November.

Maple Hill Road residents during an lot. The latter proposal drew the ire of with vehicles cutting through the church Road rather than using Maple Hill Road version has the entrance on Bedford the facility’s entrance point. The updated than two months ago is the location of made from the design presented more met. “It can be anywhere in the village, ” Scherer said he was happy that application to the planning commission. itself lead agency and to refer the develop there. It will be a property, so our neighbors if Benchmark does the property value of the houses in concerned if Pleasantville, which relies fire services, can handle the four-story building Benchmark is proposing.

DiDonato-Roth said, “I am certainly pleased thus far with the board’s response to whittle its size to an appropriate level to project to succeed if it were to move forward and that means putting in the time to iron out the critical issues that have been raised. She said the board wanted to provide that these underlying conditions are of buffer between the structure and rest of the neighborhood if Benchmark does not accept, “DiDonato-Roth said. “A little bit out of the scope of what they’re a little bit out of the scope of what they’re willing to accept, “DiDonato-Roth said. “A little bit out of the scope of what they’re willing to accept, “DiDonato-Roth said.

Terms of the documents they have mentioned by board members or Director diDonato-Roth said. “It was a little bit out of the scope of what they’re willing to accept, “DiDonato-Roth said.

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Harlan R. Weinberg, MD
Director, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program Northern Westchester Hospital www.nwhrehab.org/pulmonaryrehab

Q: What is pulmonary rehabilitation, and who benefits from it?
A: This program of specialized exercise and patient education helps improve activity endurance, while lessening a person’s sensation of shortness of breath. The goal is to improve a person’s quality of life and ability to function independently.

Pulmonary rehab benefits those with COPD, smoking-related lung disease, asthma, and other lung disorders that progressively limit breathing, as well as people recovering from an acute exacerbation of COPD, those who are pre- or post-lung transplant, and lung cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Even for those with very impaired lung function, this personalized rehab can improve breathing and quality of life.

Q: What happens before, during and after pulmonary rehabilitation?
A: You are first evaluated for your degree of respiratory disability prior to rehab. This data leads to a personalized exercise plan that typically involves the treadmill or bike. At Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH), the eight-to-12-week multi-faceted program includes an exercise component, education about your illness, and psychosocial and nutritional support.

It is the most comprehensive pulmonary rehabilitation program in the region. When on-site sessions end, a customized maintenance program is essential and will help you continue exercising at home or at a gym. NWH offers patients the option to continue using the exercise facility at the Ambulatory Care Center at Chappaqua Crossing where they received their pulmonary rehabilitation.

Q: How do I access a high-quality pulmonary rehab program?
A: Speak with your physician, he or she should consider referring any patient who has chronic lung illness or has been recently hospitalized for breathing difficulties, particularly for an exacerbation of COPD. When referring you to a program, your doctor should know what it offers, the quality of the professionals involved, and patient outcomes.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation at NWH provides state-of-the-art exercise support, educational and nutritional counseling, and flexible scheduling, visit www.nwhrehab.org/pulmonaryrehab.

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New Mount Pleasant Schools Bond Goes to Voters Next Week

By Neal Rentz

For the second time in just over four months Mount Pleasant School District voters will decide whether the district will borrow money to pay for capital improvement projects at its secondary level schools.

Unlike the single $55,855,000 bond that was defeated on Nov. 15 by more than 2,1 voters will be presented with three propositions that would allow the district to borrow about $42.5 million.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney said each proposition is independent from each other, meaning that if one or two propositions pass, the work included would be completed.

In the fall, Guiney said addressing the district’s infrastructure needs, particularly at Westlake High School and Westlake Middle School was a top priority.

“This was something that we discussed early on in my tenure as superintendent when we put together our strategic plan,” Guiney said prior to the November vote.

“One of our goals was about addressing the facilities.”

The centerpiece of the vote is the $34.9 million Proposition 1, which includes most of the infrastructure improvements that comprised the November bond proposal. If approved, the proposition would cost the average homeowner an additional $320 a year in property taxes.

Mount Pleasant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney last week discussed the three-proposition capital projects bond that is going before the voters on March 24.

Among the work outlined in the largest of the three propositions is new heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, new boilers, electrical upgrades and additional middle school parking with a new school bus loop.

Also part of the proposal are five additional classrooms and physical education and team rooms at the high school; new art, health, photography, band and chorus classrooms; a new cafeteria and adjacent learning commons; and a new kitchen. At the middle school, there would be additional art and technology classrooms; a new cafeteria; new corridor lighting, flooring and ceilings; a nurse’s office; a sports team room; and additional toilet rooms.

The first proposition also contains additional parking and a student drop-off area at Columbus Elementary School and infrastructure projects at Hawthorne Elementary School.

Proposition 2 would give the district permission to borrow up to $4,996,000 to expand and renovate the high school auditorium, although the project would be scaled down from what was included in the November bond proposal. Guiney said the work would make the facility more attractive for groups to rent. The annual cost to the average homeowner would be $46.21.

The final proposition, at a yearly cost of $23.80 to the average homeowner, would pay for the construction of a second access road at the middle school/high school campus for $2,685,000.

The bonds would be paid off over 30 years.

Director of Business Administration Lisa Sanfilippo said the district would begin to repay the bonds in 2016-17. The district would be eligible for state aid reimbursement of 36.9 percent, she said.

Trustee Christopher Pinchiarioli said if the bonds are defeated the most pressing infrastructure projects would have to be financed through the annual operating budget, leading to higher budgets.

Guiney said after receiving comments from local residents, several controversial items from November were dropped. A new artificial turf field with lights, track resurfacing and tennis court renovations at the high school and a canopy at the middle school’s front entrance were eliminated from consideration.

The vote will take place from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Westlake High School gymnasium.

Mt. Pleasant Facilities Bond Presentations Scheduled

The March 18 Mount Pleasant Board of Education meeting, which includes a presentation about the three-proposition bond that will be up for voter approval on March 24, will be held in the multipurpose room at Hawthorne Elementary School. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

The district will hold a coffee and questions session with Superintendent of School Dr. Susan Guiney, which will include discussion on next week’s propositions, this Friday, March 20 at 9 a.m. at Hawthorne Elementary. A final presentation on the bond is scheduled Monday, March 23 at Columbus Elementary School at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the district office at 914-769-3733.
Developer Unveils Plan for 175 Senior Units in Pleasantville

Benchmark Senior Living in its failed attempt last year to gain approval for a facility on Bedford Road near Maple Hill, explained to officials that demographics dictate a pressing need for this type of facility in Pleasantville. He noted that the project would generate much needed commercial tax revenue for the village. The facility’s residents and employees and those who visit would likely spend money in Pleasantville.

Brightview who also represented plumbing fixtures to save water, he said. all Brightview facilities utilize low-flow natural light as possible. In addition, would be designed to bring in as much use passive solar, meaning the building environmentally friendly and energy-efficient facility, Anderson said. It will property, “he said.

Similar to the Benchmark proposal, Brightview Senior Living would need to be approved for a rezoning. Currently, the land is zoned residential, but Steinmetz explained that Brightview would like to work with the board and residents to find the most appropriate zoning.

Although Brightview has yet to submit a formal application, trustees and residents raised concerns about the project during last Monday night’s work session.

Trustee Mindy Berard acknowledged that the village needs housing options for seniors, but that the inclusion of 100 independent living units makes it a much more intense use than the Benchmark proposal. She also expressed fear the project would be too dense for the location.

“There is no guarantee that you can give me that 100 seniors are not going to be active seniors,” she said. “I know a lot of seniors in their 80s … and they are extremely active people.”

Steinmetz responded that the facility is not “active adult housing.” The average age of residents in Brightview’s independent living units is 83 to 85, while the average age for its assisted living residents is 85 to 87.

Steinmetz said that very few residents drive or own cars in other Brightview facilities. There is no minimum age requirement for the Pleasantville facility, he said.

Berard and residents still voiced traffic concerns in an area that already sees much congestion.

One resident noted that when the Saw Mill Parkway floods, traffic is diverted onto Broadway, resulting in gridlock. She feared that adding more cars might worsen the problem.

Pleasantville County Club residents were also concerned about traffic, noting that volume is already so bad on Broadway that many residents refuse to make left turns when exiting Country Club Lane for safety reasons. Berard said the board may have to consider a traffic light at that location if the project moves forward.

Steinmetz said that Brightview, which will have three daily employee shifts and a maximum of 40 employees, will work with the Pleasantville School District and other parties to schedule shift changes that avoid peak traffic times.

According to Steinmetz, Brightview representatives will eventually conduct a traffic study as part of the SEQRA process following the submission of a formal application to the village.

Brightview is expected to submit a formal application to rezone in the coming weeks.

“This will be an extended process and it will be extremely open and extremely collaborative,” said Mayor Peter Scherer.

Hawthorne Resident Appointed to Fill Vacant Mount Pleasant Seat

He said he intends to run for a full four-year term in November.

DiPaolo said he wanted to continue the work the board has been doing to revitalize the town’s downtown areas. He also hopes to continue “the great work” the board has been doing on fiscal matters, such as “making sure that we’re being responsible to taxpayers and, of course, enhancing the recreation within the limits of the budget, so that our children and seniors can benefit.”

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By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville School District officials are preparing for a worst-case budget scenario as New York State has yet to release educational aid figures for next year.

Assistant Superintendent for Business David Quattrocchi presented the preliminary budget for 2015-16 last Tuesday night, which assumes no increase in state aid. Estimated spending for next year is $48,970,094, a 3.28 percent increase. The maximum allowable tax levy would be $35,202,471, an increase of $749,022 or 2.17 percent over this year.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo had announced that schools statewide will receive a $1.8 billion increase in aid if his education reform proposals are passed by the state legislature. Cuomo’s proposals include linking teacher evaluation scores to state tests and hiring independent evaluators to conduct the APPR observations, a concept that concerns Pleasantville administrators.

Bedford Road School Principal Peggy Galotti said that principals spend significant time evaluating teachers, something that won’t happen if independent evaluators are brought in for a one-time classroom observation. Furthermore, principals have more extensive background knowledge of students and can use that knowledge to understand the interactions between teachers and students. “My judgment on classroom management is going to be based on history,” said Galotti. “In a one-shot, that doesn’t exist.”

Board of Education members were also worried whether independent evaluators would be funded by the state or if each district would be required to pay for them. Trustees noted that the next two weeks are crucial for residents to weigh in on Cuomo’s proposal, as the state budget is slated to be approved by the end of the month.

“I haven’t met a single elected official, Democrat or Republican, who agrees with any of the governor’s reform agenda items, and they do understand our incredible need for our aid and money,” Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter said.

Instructional expenses rise by $1,210,215, the single greatest increase in the proposed budget. Quattrocchi said money is earmarked for a new director of technology, a position previously held by Fox-Alter that has remained vacant since she became superintendent.

Trustee Larry Boes suggested that the position could be filled by hiring a consultant rather than having a full-time employee to save money. Fox-Alter said although that option is being analyzed, the position is necessary because several technology-related projects, including installation of VOIP systems at two of the district’s schools, require more staff support.

If costs must be reduced, Boes said the board would need to evaluate the increased technology expenses and decide if some can be postponed. Other technology increases include $268,000 associated with the Smart Bond, an act passed in the 2014-15 state budget that allocated $2 billion to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure in schools throughout the state. Under the rules of the bond, the district must pay for it through the budget and be reimbursed later.

Another noticeable increase is in the general support category, which includes staff and administration, Board of Education operating expenses and central services. The $152,786 hike over last year is largely due to increased electricity costs, Quattrocchi said.

With nontax revenue at a projected $13,762,206 and no increase in state aid, $1,750,000 of fund balance would be necessary to balance the budget. Another potential increase is in the general support category, which includes staff and administration, Board of Education operating expenses and central services. The $152,786 hike over last year is largely due to increased electricity costs, Quattrocchi said.

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Sewer District. Many of those parcels have failing septic systems.

However, the work on installing the sewers has been delayed after the original $16 million set aside for the project—$6 million from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and $10 million from the county's East of Hudson funds—has proved insufficient. The most recent estimate for the project is about $26 million.

Matt Slater, a spokesman for Murphy, said under the Senate's plan a municipality could apply for funds to pay for projects related to wastewater treatment, protection of drinking water supplies or bringing Internet broadband to areas that don't have access to that service.

A municipality would be required to match whatever money it receives from the state as a condition of the grant.

While Slater was uncertain where the Assembly and Gov. Andrew Cuomo stood on the issue, he was hopeful that the funding would be supported. "I think it's a pretty good program that we can definitely sell to the Assembly," Slater said.

Greenstein said that the money was originally intended for a low-interest loan program to help fund similar projects. But in the past few years municipalities have neglected to tap into the funds because it would count against the property tax cap, which was signed into law in 2011.

Westchester County has already approved $10 million for the New Castle sewer project, an amount which could be used as the matching funds, Greenstein said. "The money is already allocated, they budgeted for it, so they think it has a decent chance of passing, and the best part is that what could be in the match is the money that Westchester County put in," he said. "It doesn't necessarily have to come from us, per se, because this project is going to benefit New York City and Westchester, all of Westchester's water."

When reached last week, Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), who like Murphy represents the Town of New Castle, didn't comment directly on the Senate's plan. But he said the Assembly is currently including $250 million toward clean water and wastewater treatment projects in its budget proposal. A key difference is that the Assembly's plan would not require matching funds from the municipality.

Although Cuomo's executive budget did not include money for sewer and clean water projects, Buchwald was confident that since legislators have identified this as a priority, the governor would support the concept. "I think the governor recognizes the need for action for our water and sewer projects to protect our drinking water and the environment," Buchwald said.

On the Road Again

Pleasantville Middle School Science Olympiad students will again be heading to the state finals in Syracuse. The team, which captured fourth place in last year's regional competition, took second place this year and will compete at the state level on Apr. 17-18.

Students earned medals for finishing first, second and third in several of the competition's 25 individual events. Coached by Pleasantville residents Dr. Martha Matteo and Dr. Charles Matteo since its 2012 launch at the middle school, Science Olympiad is the only school club to reach the state finals two years in a row, said Principal Vivian Ossowski.

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new castle hopeful state budget to include sewer funding
continued from page 1

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Service & Parts Director
to the family!
Darlene brings 23 years of service experience
to Pleasantville from Rye.

Please welcome
our newest addition
John Challacombe
Service Manager

As of April 4th we will be open Saturdays 8-12
Board of Legislators Initiates Legal Action to Recover Federal Funds

By Neal Rentz

In an effort to recoup millions of dollars of lost federal funds, the Westchester County Board of Legislators voted on Monday to initiate legal action against the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The legislation, approved by a 14-0 vote, authorized County Attorney Robert Meehan to sue HUD and other "appropriate parties" over the withholding of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for 2012, 2013 and 2014 and for Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant funds from last year.

Board Majority Whip Lyndon Williams (D-Mount Vernon) said prior to the vote the county was seeking to recover CDBG monies of $5.2 million from 2012, $5.3 million from 2013 and $5.4 million from 2014.

Board Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) said legal action was necessary against the federal government to return "some of the tax dollars taken from Westchester."

The Board of Legislators decision was in response to the recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit that determined HUD's actions in withholding Westchester's grant money were subject to judicial review. The Feb. 18 decision stemmed from HUD holding back the money because it concluded the county was noncompliant with portions of the 2009 affordable housing settlement. That decision requires the two parties return to U.S. District Court Judge Denise Cote.

In its decision, the Court of Appeals said the agency did not have discretionary power to withhold funds because there are statutes limiting its authority. HUD had rejected the county's Analysis of Impediment (AI), which has become a major sticking point between the federal government and the county.

HUD had been demanding that an acceptable AI be filed because some of Westchester's communities subject to the settlement were found to have potential exclusionary zoning.

The Board of Legislators' action on Monday differed from its decision last year not to pursue lost funds from 2012-14, which placed it at odds with County Executive Rob Astorino.

The Court of Appeals' decision last month allows the county to pursue $750,000 in grant money from 2011. That was the portion of money from that year which hadn't been reallocated to other areas of the United States.

Legislators who were absent for Monday's vote were Peter Harckham (D-North Salem), Ken Jenkins (D-Yonkers), Virginia Perez (D-Yonkers) and Bernice Spreckman (R-Yonkers).
P’ville Weighs Signing Up for New Energy Program for Residents

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville officials are exploring ways to reduce energy costs for residents through a new community choice aggregation (CCA) pilot program.

The pilot, which was approved by the state Public Service Commission in late February, was pursued by Sustainable Westchester, Inc., a nonprofit organization comprised of several Westchester municipalities, including Pleasantville. The CCA allows local governments to procure energy supply from energy service companies (ESCOs) for residents.

Under the program, Sustainable Westchester negotiates with ESCOs on behalf of local municipalities to select an alternative energy provider that would meet residents’ needs based on current usage rates. The goal is to achieve lower costs through the group buying effort.

Citing privacy issues, Trustee Mindy Berard voiced concern that current usage rates and resident data would need to be provided to Sustainable Westchester.

The consortium wouldn’t accept any offer from an ESCO unless it was lower than the energy rates residents currently pay. However, if Pleasantville agrees to participate, residents who aren’t currently using an ESCO would automatically be included in the program.

Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner said that participation in the pilot program is a good opportunity, but Berard was more hesitant, also concerned about the opt-out process.

Berard stated that even though the program could offer lower rates, there may be residents who don’t want local government deciding which entity is supplying their energy.

She said that the board should work closely with residents to make sure they understand that the program is optional.

Joseph Stargiotti, one of three candidates running unopposed for the village board this week, said that the board should inquire whether residents would be able to opt out of the program after the initial 20-day period if they are unhappy with service.

Trustees agreed to obtain more information regarding the opt-out process. They may also invite Mike Gordon, CEO of Joule Assets, a Bedford Hills company that provides financing for energy efficiency projects and a member of the Sustainable Westchester Board of Directors, to an upcoming meeting before making a decision.

Other local municipalities involved in Sustainable Westchester include New Castle, North Castle, Mount Pleasant, Mount Kisco and Bedford.

DEP Accepting College Student Applications for Watershed Internships

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.

Car Parked in P’ville Driveway Slammed From Behind Into Garage

Pleasantville police were searching for the driver of a vehicle that rammed the back of a car parked in its owner’s driveway early Sunday morning, propelling it forward into the door of the garage.

The incident occurred outside a residence on Saratoga Avenue at about 2:40 a.m., according to police. Lt. Erik Grutzner said a neighbor told police that they saw a dark-colored SUV leaving the scene after the collision but had no other descriptions or leads immediately following the incident.

“At this time we don’t know who the driver is or where that vehicle is,” Grutzner said on Monday.

The accident remains under investigation.

—Martin Wilbur
Preliminary Improvements for Downtown Chappaqua Detailed

By Martin Wilbur

Several preliminary recommendations were suggested to New Castle officials last week as the town board considers plans to make necessary improvements to downtown Chappaqua’s infrastructure and streetscape.

Bob Severance, an associate and project manager at the surveying and engineering firm WSP Sells, highlighted the series of potential changes and enhancements to sewers, drainage and traffic and to make the hamlet’s downtown more appealing and function more effectively.

“The goals of the project is providing long-term corrective measures to the infrastructure, improving vehicular and pedestrian safety and operation throughout the corridor and improving the aesthetics and overall functionality of public safety,” Severance said.

Among the recommendations included in his March 10 presentation to the town board was to eliminate the right hand slip lane from the north side of the street to the south board was to eliminate the right hand slip in his March 10 presentation to the town.

Severance said.

Streetscape improvements include repairing the pavement and widening sidewalks downtown; improving the sidewalk ramps for those with disabilities; enhancing the pedestrian crossings; and coordinating light fixtures and furniture.

The town’s director of planning, Sabrina Charney Hull, said the information provided by WSP Sells could be used to request state funding. There are various state grant programs that could help offset some of the costs for the work, she said.

“The work that WSP is doing can easily be turned into a consolidated funding application, which is due to the state at the end of June, beginning of July” Hull said.

“The intent is you want (to include) the various components of this project.”

New Castle officials have also been preparing for a multimillion dollar infrastructure improvement project in the heart of downtown Chappaqua to replace aging and deteriorating water mains and pipes and improve drainage along South Greeley Avenue from near town hall to King Street.

Although that work was slated to begin by this summer, Supervisor Robert Greenstein said it is becoming increasingly likely that part of the project will be delayed until the board has a better grasp of the extent of all the work that is needed downtown.

Greenstein also asked WSP Sells’ representatives to propose their best ideas for the downtown and not hold back because of any preconceived notions of what the town may want or can afford to do.

“We want you to come at this with your creativity and expertise and experience, not be have your hands tied by a bunch of town board members that are not architects, or anything like that,” Greenstein said.

The focus of the current administration since the rezoning of Chappaqua Crossing last December has been to move forward with making major improvements to downtown Chappaqua.

WSP Sells is scheduled to return for the board’s Apr. 7 work session, which may also include members from the town’s other volunteer boards.

New Castle Comp Plan to Evaluate Business Centers in Next Phase

By Martin Wilbur

Studies examining how to revitalize downtown Chappaqua and Millwood and the impact of Chappaqua Crossing will be conducted over the next three months as New Castle moves into the next phase of its Comprehensive Plan update.

Last Thursday night two representatives from the Pace Land Use Law Center, Kevin Dwarka and Tiffany Zezula, outlined what the community decides, there could also be an evaluation of the zoning. Depending on what the visions that have been articulated to look at its properties downtown and with recommendations.

“The challenge, though, is making sure that the plans that have been articulated are fact financially feasible (and) are also legally implementable,” Dwarka said.

He said it is necessary for the town to look at its properties downtown and evaluate the zoning. Depending on what the community decides, there could also be recommendations to rezone certain parcels to accommodate the types of uses and future development the town would like to see.

Although the main focus has been on revitalizing the business centers, Dwarka said that also requires the town to look at other factors such as the type of housing stock and its demographics. For example, the town has just over 6,000 residential units with 655 of those being condominiums and 328 rental units. There has also been a continued decrease in the Millenial population (25-34-year-olds).

Zazula said the next public session is likely to be scheduled for June. The town is still eyeing adoption of an updated Comprehensive Plan for the end of the year, but Dwarka acknowledged that timeline is ambitious.
Thomas Langan

Thomas J. Langan Jr. of Boynton Beach, Fla. and formerly of White Plains died on March 5. He was 94.

Langan was born in the Bronx on May 14, 1920. He retired in 1983 as president of the County Trust Region of the Bank of New York and had been president since 1972. A World War II Marine Corps officer, he would later graduate from New York Law School and the Graduate School of Banking of the American Bankers Association at Rutgers University. During his banking career, he was on the faculty of that school as well as at the National Mortgage School at Ohio State University.

Active in civic affairs, he was at various times president of Cardinal McCloskey Children and Family Services; chairman of the White Plains Zoning Board of Appeals; president of the Academy of St. Vincent De Paul in Tarrytown and its successor St. Vincent De Paul Foundation, Inc.; president of the Legal Aid Society of Westchester County; a member of the Advisory Council of Pace University; and president of Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, Conn. After retiring, he was a director of the Bank of Westbury, a director of Carney Bank and its successors and a governor of the Quail Ridge Property Owners Association in Boynton Beach.

He is survived by his wife, Christina R. Langan, of Boynton Beach. He was predeceased by his wife, Flora E. Langan, and is survived by their children, Thomas R. (Christine) Langan of Pleasantville, Barbara (William) Mahoney of Cortlandt Manor, Marie (George) Marsh of Poolsville, Md. and Nancy (Stephen) Fischer of Armonk. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren (with a ninth expected soon). He was also predeceased by his grandson, Dennis Marsh.

Family received friends at Beecher-Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on March 12. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Patrick’s Church in Armonk on March 13 with burial at Mount Calvary Cemetery to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Bethesda Hospital Foundation in Boynton Beach, Fla. or St. Vincent De Paul Foundation, Inc. in Peekskill.

Kathleen Broderick

Kathleen Broderick (nee Delaney) of Thornwood died March 14 after a long battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family.

Broderick was 73.

Born July 8, 1941, in Bronxville to John and Juliana Delaney, she was an avid art enthusiast and graduated from Vermont and Manhattan College. She was an avid art enthusiast and graduated from Vermont and Manhattan College. She was an avid art enthusiast and graduated from Vermont and Manhattan College. She was an avid art enthusiast and graduated from Vermont and Manhattan College.

Kathleen was the first of five children: she is survived by her loving husband, John Delaney, of Penfield, N.Y.; her eldest son, John, of Hawthorne; her only daughter, Patricia (Angela) of Elmsford; her sister, Patricia Williams of Thornwood; and nine nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her longtime loving companion, Titus, a Boston Terrier.

Visiting hours were March 16 at Beecher-Flooks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 at Church of St. John & St. Mary (Little Church) in Chappaqua at 10 a.m. Internment was private.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society.

Daniel McCartney

Daniel Francis McCartney died on March 11 at Mount Sinai Hospital after a courageous battle with Myelolobrosis. He is remembered as a devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, friend and coach.

He was 64.

A proud native of Queens, McCartney attended Mater Christi High School and Manhattan College. He began teaching at The Buckley School in 1974, where he coached football, baseball and lacrosse until his death, leaving a profound mark on generations of Buckley boys.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Dodie McCartney; his son, Ryan; and five siblings, Peg Leder, Noreen Haffner, George McCartney, Kathleen Ryan and Kevin McCartney.

The family received friends on March 15 at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 16 at the Church of St. John & St. Mary in Chappaqua, Dan’s hometown for over 30 years.

In lieu of flowers, kindly make contributions to the Myeloproliferative Disease Program, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital, and The Buckley School’s McCartney Scholarship Program.

Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

March 8: A guest at the Holiday Inn reported at 11:14 a.m. that he parked his 2014 Ford Fusion in the hotel’s lot the previous evening but discovered earlier this date that all four tires and rims were stolen. The vehicle was placed on two sets of blocks. Value of the tires and rims was estimated at $500. There are no suspects.

March 9: A 34-year-old Port Chester man was arrested at 7:10 p.m. and charged with driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop.

March 11: At 11:39 a.m., police were notified of offenses involving fraud. The matter is under investigation. No further information available at this time.

Pleasantville Police Department

March 8: Report of a dispute between two male subjects outside Newport Market on Kirby Plaza at 3:48 p.m. The two parties went on their way without further incident once the responding officer arrived.

March 10: An officer on patrol observed a male subject distributing handbills on Lexington Avenue at 3:20 p.m. that advertised for a nightclub in Newburgh. The individual did not have a permit to be engaged in that activity. He left the scene without incident after being confronted by the officer.

March 12: An employee at the Nissan dealership on North Bedford Road reported at 10:09 a.m. that a car in the lot had its license plates removed sometime in November. The incident was reported as a matter of record.

March 13: Report of a grand larceny on North Bedford Road at 9:33 a.m. Security from Target reported that video surveillance determined that two white males had entered the store on March 9 and stole three Dyson vacuum cleaners priced at $499 each. On March 11, the pair attempted to steal four additional vacuum cleaners but store personnel alerted security. The individuals fled the store without the merchandise.

North Castle Police Department

March 6: A complainant reported at headquarters at 7:36 p.m. to report a grand larceny after a long list of medicinal items valued at about $2,846.50 were missing from her place of business on Bedford Road. The business owner stated that she believes an ex-employee may have been involved. Witness deposition forms were provided and the merchant was instructed to return them to headquarters once completed.

March 8: A 34-year-old Port Chester man was arrested at 7:10 p.m. and charged with driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop.

March 11: At 11:39 a.m., police were notified of offenses involving fraud. The matter is under investigation. No further information available at this time.
Curran Won’t Seek Re-election as North Castle Town Clerk

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle Town Clerk Anne Curran announced last Wednesday that she has decided against running for re-election in November in order to pursue other endeavors.

Curran, 58, a 17-year North Castle resident who was appointed by the town board in December 2009, said she enjoyed working for the town and its residents. She took over for former town clerk Ann Leber, who retired late that year, then defeated Gina Sinon for the remaining year in Leber’s unexpired term. She was unopposed for her current four-year term in 2011.

Curran, a Democrat, did not say what other professional opportunities she may explore once out of office.

“My decision is based on what is best for me and my family and to have the opportunity to explore and pursue other career opportunities,” said Curran who also served six years as deputy clerk prior to her tenure as clerk.

“I have truly enjoyed serving the residents of North Castle for nearly 12 years. I am grateful for the varied experiences the clerk’s office has afforded me including opportunities to improve public access to town government and help residents stay informed about town services and community news.”

In addition to handling the typical duties of a town clerk, Curran filled many other roles with a focus on telecommunications and website issues. Curran led the Cable Advisory Committee to successfully negotiate franchise agreements with Cablevision and Verizon FIOS; led the search and implementation for a platform to televise and stream town board and planning board meetings live; and helped establish the Communications Committee, which recommended two part-time consultants who deliver electronic communications.

She also convinced the town board to audit Cablevision’s franchise fees, resulting in an additional payment of more than $70,000 to the town, oversaw two website redesigns and is currently working on a review of the town code to eliminate conflicts and inconsistencies and update language.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said that the town board will miss Curran’s grace and professionalism and has taken on more than her position calls for. She was also able to succeed Leber without any reduction in performance in the clerk’s office, he said.

Schiliro called Curran’s pending departure at the end of the year a loss for the town.

“She’s done an incredible job,” Schiliro said. “At the clerk’s office she always carries herself with class and dignity, which is very important.”

Curran, pledged to continue working hard for the town through the end of the year. She said her notification to the town board and ensuing public announcement came when it did so she could work with potential candidates for the job to try and insure a smooth transition.

“During the balance of my term I am committed to fulfilling my responsibilities while preparing for a smooth transition and assisting in any way I can to preserve the integrity and efficiency of the Town Clerk’s office,” she said.
The days of working for one company, or even having one career for life, are past. Equally long gone is the era when a successful career did not require higher education. Gearing up with a graduate degree before entering the workplace most often translates into a higher starting salary and increased opportunity.

By the same token, shifting gears in mid-career is highly dependent upon the acquisition of new skills and credentials developed when pursuing a graduate degree.

LIU Hudson, a local branch of Long Island University with locations in Purchase, West Point and Orangebury, provides up-to-date graduate study for those seeking an advantage upon entering the workforce, as well as those undertaking a career change.

Offering master’s degrees and advanced certificates leading to a variety of careers, LIU Hudson’s MBA and MPA degrees, for example, are paths to advancement in the corporate, nonprofit and government spheres. The M.S. Ed. is required for a teacher’s state credentials, school counselors and school psychologists, with the M.S. a requisite for marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors. Likewise, the M.S. in industrial pharmacy or cosmetic science provides the key to employment in the burgeoning pharmaceutical and cosmetics fields.

LIU Hudson supports successful workforce entry and advancement through the Chamber of Commerce Scholarships for MBA students (members of the Mahopac/Carmel Chamber of Commerce or the chambers of Orange County, New Rochelle, Yonkers and Mahwah, N.J. are eligible); through grants for students in the MPA, MBA or Mental Health Counseling program who are employed by a nonprofit organization in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Fairfield, Bronx, Bergen or Orange counties; and grants for students pursuing the M.S. Ed. in teaching.

Graduates of LIU Hudson hold significant positions in school districts, businesses, clinics, hospitals and public agencies.

“LIU places great emphasis on personal attention,” said LIU Dean and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Sylvia Blake. “Our faculty do all of the advising because they are in the best position to know what is happening in the real world beyond the ivory tower. Whether the area of study is health administration, public administration, teaching, therapy or counseling with the CASAC track, our faculty advise and guide as well as teach. LIU Hudson is distinguished by those one-on-one relationships that can only flourish in the kind of nurturing environment that Long Island University has created in its regional campuses.”

For more information, visit www.liu.edu/hudson.

Mt. Pleasant to Appeal Medical Center Lead Agency Ruling

By Neal Rentz

Mount Pleasant will appeal a recent ruling from state Court of Claims Judge Robert Neary who concluded that Westchester Medical Center does not require town approvals to construct a seven-story medical office building.

Last week the town board voted unanimously to appropriate $21,181 to the law firm Harris Beach to pay for legal fees related to the appeal.

Medical center representatives have contended that the hospital should be the lead agency in the environmental review.

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi explained the rationale behind the board’s decision to mount an appeal.

"Westchester County has a lease with the medical center on the property and the lease specifies that the medical center must have approval from the Town of Mount Pleasant for any zoning changes and improvements on the property," Fulgenzi said.

The proposed building would be located between the existing University Hospital and the Taylor Pavilion buildings. It would be used for ambulatory surgery and related services and medical office space for doctors.

Messages left for medical center officials last week were not returned.

Railroad crossing safety

Also at the March 10 meeting, Fulgenzi said in response to the deadly Feb. 3 accident at the Commerce Street Metro-North crossing, it was looking to make the Cleveland Street grade crossing safer in Valhalla.

Fulgenzi said the Cleveland Street crossing is “one of the most challenging” in the area with local vehicles and school bus and pedestrian traffic.

The town contacted state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown), who in turn spoke with the MTA about the crossing, he said.

“Our preliminary plans are to reroute Kensico Avenue to Legion Drive and request the addition of a staircase from the Legion Drive Bridge to the existing train platform to enhance pedestrian traffic safety,” Fulgenzi said.
Mt. Pleasant Approves Columbus Avenue Rezone for Retail

By Neal Rentz

Over the objection of former supervisor Joan Maybury, the Mount Pleasant Town Board unanimously agreed to rezone four Columbus Avenue properties last week to allow for potential retail development.

The town board on March 10 approved Chris DeMartino’s request to change the zoning of his 5.1-acre property, across the street from the Highway Department garage, from an office use (OB-1) to CPS, a zone that allows retail businesses. DeMartino, a town resident, is looking to build a small shopping center with a total of 16,700 square feet of retail space.

The board also rezoned three other nearby properties on Columbus Avenue to extend the CPS zone at the request of the planning board--the town Highway Department parcel, the Valhalla Garden Center and Westwood Swim & Tennis Association. The rezone enables these four parcels to have the same zoning as the nearby Rose Hill Shopping Center.

Last month a planning board majority opposed changing the zone only for DeMartino because it could have constituted spot zoning. Instead, the planning board indicated that if a rezone were to be considered, it should include other properties.

Several Rose Hill Shopping Center merchants have been critical of DeMartino’s plan because they are concerned about an oversaturation of businesses in the area. Rose Hill is located less than a mile from DeMartino’s property.

Last year while she was still in office, Maybury was the only town board member to publicly oppose his request. She called on the board last week to postpone its vote, but no avail.

“The rezone also violates the intent of the Master Plan, which called for office buildings in that area, Maybury said.

Many residents also weren’t aware of the change, she added. “They should delay the public hearing and not go forward with the vote tonight,” Maybury said before the meeting.

Neither Maybury nor any other residents spoke during the public hearing.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said he and his colleagues had taken the proper steps in rezoning the Columbus Avenue parcels. Though Fulgenzi said he respected Maybury’s opinion, the board followed proper protocol and consulted legal counsel.

“We would not try to push something through that was not proper,” Fulgenzi said.

The public was notified numerous times at the planning board level and at the town board level. This has been in discussion for a number of years.

Additional office buildings on Columbus Avenue was discouraged by town planning consultant Pat Cleary because of the high vacancy rates for office space, he said.

“We don’t want to have empty office buildings,” Fulgenzi said.

The remainder of the board agreed with the supervisor. Councilman Denis McCarthy pointed to Fulgenzi’s comments at the reorganization meeting in January when he outlined the additional development in the area, including the opening of EF Academy and the boarding school’s proposed expansion. With the additional students and staff, more retail will be needed in the area, McCarthy said.

Councilman Mark Rubeo also said the change was needed for Columbus Avenue.

“The town is changing. It is changing for the better,” he said.

Keeping Fit, Helping Kids

This Sunday is the fifth annual Think Fit For Kids Family Fitness & Fun Festival to raise money for A Kids’ Brain Tumor Cure Foundation. The event will take place at Club Fit on North State Road in Briarcliff Manor from 2 to 4 p.m. Along with exercises and activities for the entire family, it will also feature carnival games and mobile archery, which have been added to go along with Zumba, basketball, a drum circle, a Mommy & Me class, food, a DJ, face painting and more. The event has raised nearly $1 million for children’s brain tumor research, including a $400,000 grant that was awarded to Massachusetts General Hospital. For more information and to register, visit www.akidsbraintumorcure.donordrive.com.

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Editorial

Main School Proposition Worthy of Mt. Pleasant Voter Approval

Mount Pleasant school officials learned a lesson the hard way last November. They took their shot putting up a $55.8 million infrastructure and facilities referendum, with many critically important improvements, but admittedly there were items that overtaxed homeowners could do without.

The results, a defeat by a resounding 2-1 margin, clearly demonstrated that taxpayers will cast a wary eye before they are ready to open their checkbooks.

Next Tuesday, the district asks voters to return to the polls, this time to consider a three-proposition proposal that separates the nuts and bolts infrastructure items at Westlake Middle School and Westlake High School with what could be considered extras.

Proposition 1, a $34.9 million proposal, has most of the same projects that were included in the November referendum - additional classrooms, new boilers, HVAC improvements and enlarging and modernizing the two schools’ antiquated kitchens. There are also a small number of improvements at Columbus and Hawthorne elementary schools. It would cost taxpayers an additional $320 annually in property taxes.

Proposition 2 for nearly $5 million would be to renovate and enlarge the high school auditorium, although the project has been downsized.

The third proposition, up to a $2,685,000 expense, would pay for a second access road at the middle school/high school campus.

Given the economic realities, what is most needed and how concerned the voters are for the bottom line, it is recommended that the public approve Proposition 1, but not the second and third proposals.

If anyone has taken a tour lately of the two secondary schools most of the areas of the buildings that are targeted for improvements are deficient and inadequate.

It’s not like the problems with the infrastructure will disappear should the proposition be defeated. The district would do it piecemeal, maybe even ignoring the tax cap or cutting student programs to fund the work.

The high school auditorium improvements and second access road are items the district could manage without given the financial pressures.

It’s understandable that $320 a year is a lot of money, especially for those on fixed incomes. But school officials did what they could to get rid of the excess and trim a few necessities.

Good schools, just like a house, costs money to keep up. It may be painful for some but neglecting needed work would be more painful for the entire community later on.

Column

Almost Spring: Seven Tips to Prepare Your Home for the New Season

By Lou Cardillo

Spring is right around the corner. This means it’s time to start preparing your home for spring, so you have more time to enjoy the gorgeous weather that we all deserve. Here are seven tips to prepare your home, inside and out.

1. Gutters and roofing. The heavy snow and ice can take a toll on your gutters and roofing. Make sure to clean out your gutters of any clutter and inspect your roofing for areas that need to be resealed.

2. Doors and windows. Inspect the seals around your doors and windows to make sure that the cold weather hasn’t separated them from the frame. It’s also a good time to clean your windows, drapes and blinds from the dirt that old man winter has left behind.

3. Ventilation and air conditioning. Now it’s a good time to remove and clean your air conditioning or ventilation filter. You should also change the direction of your ceiling fan. In the summer you want your ceiling fans to blow air down to provide a nice cool breeze. It is also a good idea, on the first warm day, to open all the windows in your home to help get rid of any toxins that have built up from winter heating and cooking.

4. Rugs and carpeting. With winter comes heavy sand and salt on the roadways and walkways. Rent or hire a professional carpet cleaner to remove all that salt, sand and dirt from your carpets and area rugs.

5. Outdoor space and landscaping. Summertime barbecues are right around the corner. It’s time to clean your outdoor furniture, give the lawn a fresh cut, clean up any remaining leaves from last autumn and stock the grill with a fresh propane tank.

6. Bugs and insects. Unfortunately, as the weather warms up, the bugs come out. Make sure you use airtight containers to store food, clean up and rinse dishes and glasses immediately after use and make sure your trash cans are properly sealed. It’s also a good time to stock up on bug spray.

7. Tag sales and donating. This is the best time to clean out your closets, home office, basement and garage. Compile everything you no longer need and host a tag sale to make a few extra bucks and get rid of clutter. Anything you don’t sell at the tag sale can be donated to a local charity.

What are you waiting for? Spring is right around the corner. Now get going!

Lou Cardillo is the broker/owner of Keller Williams Realty Partners & the award-winning Lou Cardillo Home Selling Team in Yorktown Heights. He has been in the Real Estate business for 18 years and has successfully marketed, sold and closed over 500 homes. For more information, visit cardillolorealestate.com.

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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.

Letter to the Editor

Pleasantville Lucky to Have Such a Reliable Police Department, Ambulance Corps

My mother passed away recently after over two years of failing health. Over that period of time, we had several occasions when we needed to call 911. The Pleasantville police and the Pleasantville Ambulance Corps responded quickly each time. They were to our house within minutes, even once at 4 a.m. during a snowstorm. They were not only prompt but courteous and respectful with an added touch of humor.

Our community is fortunate indeed to have such reliable people tending to our emergencies. Our sincere thanks to both the Pleasantville Police Department and the Pleasantville Ambulance Corps.

Carol Kelly & Family

Pleasantville
know your Neighbor

Bruce Heckman
Doctor/Children’s Book Author, Millwood

By Martin Wilbur

Dr. Bruce Heckman dreamed of being a writer well before he enrolled in medical school.

Starting at nine years old, when his aunt gave him 50 cents as an incentive to practice writing, Heckman composed stories, poetry, and later on, song lyrics. Furthermore, a number of his friends are jazz musicians and Heckman has always admired their creativity.

"I think the whole creative process and being able to do it at the level these guys do is greater than what Mother Teresa (did)," Heckman said.

That might be bit of an exaggeration, but a career of just over 40 years practicing internal medicine never diminished Heckman’s passion for writing or his own creativity.

Late last year Heckman fulfilled a longtime dream having his first book, "Parthenope: A Papa Sam Story," published. It’s a children’s tale that was inspired by his grandfather.

On that trip, Heckman stopped at an Italian deli and spotted pastiera, an Italian Easter dessert. He later looked up the recipe and came across the myth of Parthenope.

Since Heckman would often tell stories to his grandchildren when he’d see them, he decided to create one combining the mythical Greek siren and the popular Easter dessert.

His grandchildren loved the story, so Heckman wrote the text and looked to get it published. He located an illustrator, Randy Gallegos, from an online search, and had one of his longtime patients, Warren Smith, design the book. His son, daughter and grandkids also made suggestions.

In the story, Heckman’s character is Papa Sam, in honor of one of his grandfathers as well as his younger brother who has the same name.

Heckman decided to self-publish by sending the material to the Amazon website createspace.com. The book, for children about six to eight years old, also includes a recipe for pastiera.

"It was fantastic. Here it is. It really happened," Heckman said of seeing the finished product. "It just was exciting. You could see it develop, which is really interesting. You could see the illustration and the design develop over time."

The book may have come to fruition decades after Heckman, 72, made his career choice, but he certainly has no regrets. Having grown up in Brooklyn and Long Beach, L.I., he went to William & Mary for undergraduate studies followed by New York Medical College in Manhattan. His father, a chemist had wanted to be a doctor and hoped for that for his sons.

As much as Heckman dreamed of writing, he had trouble visualizing himself living an uncertain life.

"Until the day I walked into medical school I wasn’t sure that that was the right thing for me," Heckman said.

He and his wife, Lynn, a psychiatrist, who is originally from Peekskill, put down roots in Millwood. It was while his father-in-law was hospitalized that he crossed paths with the doctor who he would acquire his practice from.

Heckman bought the practice after he completed his Army obligations, and has been its medical director since its inception.

"It was fantastic. Here it is. It really happened," Heckman said of seeing the finished product. "It just was exciting. You could see it develop, which is really interesting. You could see the illustration and the design develop over time."

"The whole creative process and bringing it to fruition is probably as great or greater," he said.

"Parthenope: A Papa Sam Story" is available on Amazon.com. Copies are on sale at The Village Bookstore in Pleasantville.

Indian Point Energy Center

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Learn more about the true value of Indian Point to our area, as well as the $1 billion we’ve invested in the safety of our plant in recent years, at SafeSecureVital.com/PoweringNY
Beatlemania will be coming to Westchester County in a big way. Fifty years since the British music invasion, The Fest for Beatles Fans (originally known as Beatlefest), one of the largest gatherings of Beatles enthusiasts in the nation, will be held at the Hilton Westchester in Rye Brook.

The Fest, expected to attract more than 5,000 fans, will be held Friday, March 20 to Sunday, March 22. This year celebrates 50 years since the peak of Beatlemania in the United States, a time when their influence forever changed the landscape of rock concerts in stadium settings and popular music in general.

“The Beatles’ popularity has never faded and we’re thrilled to host this major celebration of the iconic band here in Westchester County,” said County Executive Rob Astorino. “Since 1974, the convention has appealed to young audiences and longtime fans of the well-known rock band.”

“We are very pleased to be hosting ‘The Fest for Beatles Fans,”’ said Jeffrey Farina, director of sales and marketing at the Hilton Westchester. “We think we have the perfect venue for this three-day multifaceted event.”

Westchester’s largest business organization is also pleased the event is coming to the county.

“Westchester County is an ideal destination for this fab festival for Beatles fans,” said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester. “And the timing couldn’t be better. Fifty years ago this year, Beatlemania was at its peak and in August The Beatles held the Shea Stadium concert that set a new standard for the rock era when they played to a then-record crowd of some 55,000. It’s a true testimony to their greatness that thousands of people from the New York metropolitan area continue to enjoy their music and culture at festivals like this one. We couldn’t be happier to welcome The Fest for Beatles Fans to Westchester.”

Numerous guests and an eclectic group of musicians, all of whom have performed with different members of the group, will make appearances at the convention, including multimillion-selling recording artist Gary Wright, who played keyboards on George Harrison’s “All Things Must Pass” album and Ringo Starr’s early ’70s solo hits; Laurence Juber, lead guitarist for Paul McCartney’s band Wings; and Grammy-winning producer Russ Titelman, who produced Harrison’s self-titled album in 1979, as well as albums by Steve Winwood, James Taylor and Eric Clapton. Also attending will be Newlywed Game Show host Bob Eubanks.

“An event like The Fest is a great example of the kind of exciting attractions that we like to bring to Westchester,” said Natasha Caputo, director of Westchester County Tourism. “We are enthusiastic about the upcoming convention and look forward to the buzz surrounding this phenomenal celebration.”

The Fest was founded by New York-born, New Jersey-raised Beatles fan Mark Lapidos in 1974. It took place at the Commodore Hotel in New York City where more than 8,000 Beatles fans attended. Since its inception, the Fest has taken place every year in the New York area, as well as being held in Chicago, Boston, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia and San Francisco. The Fest has received great support from the original Beatles members, including John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

“I am very excited to be bringing our 41st Annual Beatles Celebration, ‘The Fest For Beatles Fans,” to ‘The Hilton Westchester for one fab-filled weekend, March 20-22,” Lapidos said. “Beatles fans of all ages are coming in from over 20 states, Canada and Europe. Many fans from Westchester have been coming over the years. Now with the Fest in their backyard, they can easily enjoy the myriad of events that makes this event so special.”


Lovers of The Beatles celebrate last year’s 40th anniversary of The Fest for Beatles Fans in New York City. Fans will converge in Rye this weekend for this year’s festival and convention.

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Filtering Natural Light at Home to Create or Fit Your Mood

You might expect that a column about window shades and blinds would be somewhat ordinary and, honestly, when I set out with the assignment, that's what I thought I'd deliver to you.

But, that's before I got to know Anthony Viverito, owner of Niles Floors & Blinds in Mohegan Lake, a virtual sunburst of a personality who led me on an adventure of education that went far beyond achieving privacy or blocking light through your windows.

I walked into his store as a recent convert to “naked windows” in my new condo, having spent all my years in historic homes with windows heavily draped with side panels or swags and jabots or both, and sheers in between.

“I want to breathe free and see forever through your windows. It’s amazing the technology that Hunter Douglas has put into its products,” he continued as he walked me through his highly styled showroom.

“Not only in terms of materials but automation.”

“Right,” he said. “Or, from a special app with settings called ‘Good Morning’ or ‘Good Night’ that adjusts your blinds or shades just as you want them without getting out of bed.”

Great, I thought, another reason for me to not get off my butt.

Viverito also reminded me that the blinds industry is heading toward cordless technology as a child safety factor. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, chords on blinds are on the commission’s list of the top five “hidden hazards” in the home.

Next, we moved on to the wide range of materials and colors now available in window fashions, and the broad selection of opacities that offer varying levels of privacy and light control. What surprised me most was learning that sheer and opaque serve a much more important function than just looking pretty; they provide ultraviolet protection to help counter the harmful effects of sunlight. So, who knew?

Viverito also pointed out that with as much as half of a home’s heating and cooling energy lost through windows, shades can provide varying levels of insulation as well.

Now I ask you, with all the fresh takes, creative ideas and smart solutions for dressing windows that Viverito puts forth through his line of Hunter Douglas products, who would want to have their windows go naked? Is this me talking?

You can consult personally with this encyclopedic source of information at Niles Floors & Blinds, 1821 E. Main St. (Route 6) in Mohegan Lake. For more information, call 914-737-6780 or visit www.NilesFloorsandBlinds.com.

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.
Father-Daughter Chappaqua Authors Collaborate on Teen Novel

By Janine Bowen

Erynn Altabef may only be a junior at Briarcliff High School, but she is now a published author.

The 16-year-old collaborated with her father, Jeff Altabef, on "Wind Catcher," the first book in a trilogy about a young Native American girl who bears voices and visions. Residents of Chappaqua, the Altabefs were influenced to write the novel while vacationing in Sedona, Ariz., two years ago.

"The Red Rocks were just so inspiring and the Native American culture was very inspiring, so we kind of used that as the muse to begin the story," Jeff Altabef explained.

He's always loved the Native American culture, but noted that many books and films depict Native Americans in a historical setting. This book, Erynn said, brings the Native American characters into a modern setting and focuses on issues that its population currently faces, such as poverty and the challenges of reservation life.

Ruby Standing Deer, an author of historical Native American fiction, read through the manuscript of "Wind Catcher" to help the Altabefs with the Native American themes.

Through their research and assistance from Standing Deer, the father-and-daughter team was able to explore aspects of the culture that many readers may be unfamiliar with. For example, certain tribes keep their hair long because it is considered a source of power and mysticism, a tidbit that is incorporated into the plot.

"All of a sudden, the stereotypical image makes sense and it's a way of educating people about some parts of that culture," Jeff Altabef said.

Although her father has previously published several adult thrillers, the book marks Erynn's first author credit. An avid reader of young adult books, she was well versed in what that audience would like and incorporated dialogue that today's teens would use.

When the pair first started working on the novel, Jeff wrote the majority of the story while his daughter read the manuscript and offered corrections and opinions. Erynn noted that she feels it's easier to be hard on her father than it would be with another collaborator.

"He has to love me, even when I'm hard on him," she joked.

They completed the second book in the series and have just sent it to the publisher.

Erynn Altabef and her father, Jeff, will celebrate the release next week of "Wind Catcher," the first book of a trilogy, with a book launch and signing this Saturday at Chappaqua’s Sherry B Dessert Studio.

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As the process progressed, Erynn advanced from giving opinions to making her own rewrites. The second part of the series features a large amount of content written by her.

The Altabefs explained that as they began to develop the plot, the story became too elaborate to be covered adequately in one volume, so they decided to expand it to a trilogy. Erynn noted that many young adult novels today are released as a series.

"Wind Catcher" will be officially released to the public on Saturday, but the book is currently available for preorder through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It has already received several accolades, including being honored by Awesome Indies, an organization that sorts through small press publications to certify published works that are on par with those released by major publishing companies. In addition, the book received an excellence award from Mom's Choice, an organization that examines products for quality and age appropriateness.

The Altabefs agreed that "Wind Catcher" is a true young adult novel containing themes suitable for teenage readers.

To celebrate its release, Jeff and Erynn Altabef will host a book launch and signing party Saturday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Sherry B Dessert Studio at 65 King St. in Chappaqua. The event will feature desserts and coffee as well as T-shirts, posters and other items related to the book.
Pleasantville Tennis Club Hires New Head Coach

The Pleasantville Tennis Club announced last week it has hired Steve Owens as head coach.

Owens has worked closely with legendary tennis instructor Nick Bollettieri, teaching at the Bollettieri Tennis Academy and serving as director of tennis at two separate Bollettieri facilities. He is a USPTA P-1 certified tennis professional and has been on the ATP and WTA circuits. Owens has worked with illustrious tennis professionals including Jimmy Arias, Tim Mayotte, Aaron Krickstein, Brad Gilbert, Yannick Noah, Andre Agassi, Kathy Rinaldi and Pam Casale, among others.

“We are thrilled that such a consummate professional as Steve Owens will be the head coach at our club,” said Pleasantville Tennis Club President Neal Muroff. "In addition to his vast experience, Steve brings an effervescent personality that I know our members will enjoy. I feel that Steve will give an added dimension to the PTC experience."

In addition to Owens, Angelica Mattschei will be returning. A University of Connecticut graduate where she played first singles and first doubles, Mattschei has been with the club for several years. She has taught tennis in the U.S. and abroad.

Pleasantville Tennis Club has six adult courts and has added a brand new court designed for children 10 years old and younger. Club Vice President Tom May said that "the 10 and under court, which we believe is the first such court in the Northeast built to USTA specifications, will enable young children to experience the joys of our sport. The smaller court, along with specialized balls and smaller rackets, will allow young children to achieve success on the court. We are very excited about this addition."

Pleasantville Tennis Club is a member-run and member-owned club devoted strictly to tennis. It has programs for children four and five years old and 5 to 16 years old. There is a camp for four-to seven-year-olds and 8- to 17-year-olds. The club has 10 separate teams (four men's, including a senior team, five women's and one junior) for different skill levels. The club was founded in 1928.

For more information and to request a brochure, visit www.PleasantvilleTennisClub.com or call Marielise Watts at 914-769-7931.

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The Wines Consumed By Christians From Ancient to Modern Times

By Nick Antonaccio

Last week, I attempted to follow the history and antecedent practices leading to today’s Christian celebration of the Eucharist, the celebration of Christ’s Last Supper. This week I address the two questions left unanswered: 1) What wine did Christ likely consume during his life on earth and 2) what type of wine do we consume at mass in the 21st century?

Christ’s wine? The four gospel writers don’t mention a specific varietal, vintage or producer. That is not unusual. In all likelihood, it was the house wine that was served in that upper dining room as Christ and his disciples reclined at the table -- Christ’s last supper. Fast forward to today’s restaurant dining experiences. Do you remember the wine served to you the last time you ordered “a carafe to go”?

There were a number of grape varietals growing in the Mideast in Christ’s time. The Greeks and Romans had occupied these lands for centuries, introducing their culture and traditions to the local populace. They planted grapes locally for winemaking and imported finished wines from their vast domains for local consumption.

Archeological discoveries in the Mideast in the last two years may hold the secret of grapes grown in Christ’s time. Remnants of a winery, wine-stained vessels and 1,500-year-old seeds are being analyzed to unlock their DNA.

So what wine did Jesus drink? There is no documented proof of a particular grape, but speculation is boundless. Several researchers have posited that it was likely a grape with origins in ancient Greece – and which was transplanted to the fields around the region of Judah where Jesus lived. It is the Assyrtiko grape, a red grape still cultivated in Greece today. Yet speculation should not blur our focus on the symbolism of partaking of sacramental wine, rather than its oenological DNA.

The 21st century offerings at masses bear little resemblance to ancient wines. Across the globe, modern wines are of a higher quality, with more discerning taste and aroma profiles. Except in church.

For Catholics, the prescripts for the production of sacramental wines are codified in the Code of Canon Law. Published in 1983, it dictates that the wine for the Eucharist must be natural and pure, from the fruit of the vine, and not corrupt...to which a small quantity of water is to be added (my paraphrasing).

What is served might be termed “ecumenical wine.” No particular grape is specified. The grape may differ in each locale across the globe, but the essence and spirit of the wine is the same.

Here in the United States, two wine companies supply more than 80 percent of “sacramental wine” (made in accord with the Code of Canon Law) to churches. They offer a number of choices, yet names printed on the bottle labels tend to be more brand-related than varietal. Names such as Tokay, Burgundy and Port are generic descriptors not alluding to the contents, which are rarely disclosed.

There are three basic categories: dry, light and sweet (the latter being the most prevalent). These wines typically are a proprietary blend of California grapes that result in a red or orange or yellow or amber or brown or pink wine. The most widely grown blending grapes are Chenin Blanc, French Colombard, Chardonnay, Petit Syrah, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon -- and in many instances an underpinning of Thomson seedless grapes. Many are fortified with natural brandy or alcohol (as a preservative); the limit mandated for alcohol content is 18 percent. They are screw-cap bottles costing under $7 per bottle, but don’t look for them in your local wine shop; they’re generally sold only to churches.

Christians seeking the certainty of consuming a natural, organic wine with no additives and a long history of ancient practices and symbolic legacy need look no further than their local church. One caveat: Whether it meets your personal preferences and taste should not be a criteria.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
We're happy to help 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@theexaminernet.com.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.mountpleasantlibrary.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.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser. Enjoy fine wines, hors d’oeuvres, music, raffles, door prizes and more. Proceeds support the Huntington’s Disease Society of America. Vino 100, 171 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 5 to 8 p.m. $20 donation (includes raffle tickets and 15 percent off in-store sales during event.) Info and tickets: Contact Carlene Gajza at 212-242-1968 or cczaja@hdsa.org.

Mobile Marketing: Don’t Leave Your Business Without It. Smart phones and tablets are everywhere and are how most of us get a lot of information. However, not all businesses understand how to create information that looks great when delivered on a mobile device. Join David Fischer for this seminar. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $15 per class. $29 for four classes. $55 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.

"Unexplainable Spiritual Feelings That Have Been Medically Verified." Dr. Franz Gringer, an Austrian physician, will lecture about medically inexplicable healings that have been documented and verified by independent physicians. Healing reports will be presented. The "natural laws" of spiritual healing will be explained. The audience will have the chance to experience the healing force for themselves. Crown Plaza Hotel, Ballroom A, 66 Hale Ave., White Plains. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.bruno-groening.org/english and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/BrunoGroeningCircleOfFriends.

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Happenings

Tuesday, March 17
Crossing Borders: Memory and Heritage in a New America. ArtsWestchester is hosting the opening of this exhibit, the first of 70 events throughout the county that comprise "ARTSEE: A Festival of New Work," highlighting 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. ArtsWestchester Gallery, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 12 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through May 2 (Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m.). Info: Visit https://artswestchester.org.

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.mountkiscolibrary.org.


Camera Club. Bring a photo or two you love and your camera and user manual. Professional photographers visit and critique monthly. Gallery exhibit at the end of the program series. No experience necessary. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Earring Making Workshop. Learn to make earrings while helping people in need. For every pair you make for yourself, make earrings while helping people in need. For all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. Noon. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.
Westchester will soon have two new restaurants serving Mediterranean-inspired food.

An early April soft opening is expected for 273 Kitchen, a 30-seat establishment in Harrison, and in June for the 100-seat 251 Lex in Mount Kisco in the space previously occupied by The Flying Pig.

The same four-person, executive team currently operating 8 North Broadway in Nyack will launch the two new eateries. The group is led by chef and owner Constantine Kalandranis, executive chef Hichem Habbas, general manager/sommelier Richard Mitchell and co-general manager Louis Cea. The menus at the three restaurants have similarities but there will also be differences.

At 273 Kitchen, almost the entire menu will be devoted to small plates with an emphasis on the oyster bar. Wine and beer will be served but not other alcoholic beverages. The restaurant will have an open kitchen.

"An open kitchen creates a sense of intimacy and play; it heightens the entire dining experience," Kalandranis remarked.

At 251 Lex, a more extensive menu than the one at the 65-seat 8 North Broadway will be available. Like the Nyack restaurant, it will have a full-service bar. The restaurant has two floors with dining primarily on the second floor while a bar menu will be offered at the first-floor bar.

"The menu at 251 Lex will change only every couple of months or so, whereas the menu at 8 North Broadway changes daily," Kalandranis said.

Whole roasted-animal service will be introduced at 251 Lex for individual guests with the type of animal changing from day to day. At most restaurants where this type of service is provided, group participation is usually required. The restaurant will also have outdoor seating, weather permitting, on the same patio where the spit roast will be cooked and carved.

"The animal could be lamb one day and pig or a whole side of beef the next," Kalandranis said. "On a day when it's lamb, we could serve lamb soup and seasonal dips as well as carved roast lamb with lemon and oil."

The signature dish at the restaurants will be sizzling octopus, served seven days a week as either an appetizer or entree.

At a la carte Sunday brunch with a different menu each week is offered at the Nyack location. All three restaurants will serve brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Live jazz is planned for the Mount Kisco location on Sundays beginning at 4:30 p.m. starting on a date that has yet to be announced.

Kalandranis explained why all three restaurants have their addresses in their names.

"We want patrons to feel they are walking into the dining room of a friend's home in their neighborhood — an unpretentious, comfortable place to enjoy great wine, fresh seafood and seasonal preparations," he said.

Before opening 8 North Broadway, Kalandranis cooked at two Manhattan restaurants owned by Michael Psilakis, and he was the executive chef and a member of the opening team for exo, a Mediterranean restaurant in Whitestone, Queens. Kalandranis, his wife Johna, and two-year-old daughter Isla live in Mount Kisco. The family is expecting another child shortly.

Born and raised in Algeria, Habbas worked with Kalandranis at Athhos and exo before 8 North Broadway. Mitchell left the financial industry to become assistant general manager at Stonebridge Restaurant and also worked at exo. Cea was born into an Italian family in the Bronx and working in the restaurant business. His father and uncle started Faille's Pine Tree Inn in the 1940s and he was later part of a second generation to lead the restaurant.

A sightseeing attraction at 8 North Broadway is its unusual copper bar. On Tuesdays, selected wine by the bottle is offered at half price and on Wednesdays, oysters cost $1 from 5 to 10 p.m.

251 Lex will be at 251 Lexington Ave. in Mount Kisco. 273 Kitchen will be located at 273 Halstead Ave. in Harrison near the Metro-North train station. 8 North Broadway is located in a more than 100-year-old building at 8 North Broadway in Nyack. For more information, call 845-353-1200.
Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.


**Backyard Nature.** Celebrate the arrival of spring and get out and explore. Join a naturalist as we search the nature center's backyard for critters and more. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: Free; Non-members: $8 per their own score. The Play Group Stage, 1 N. Broadway, White Plains. 2:30 p.m. 

**Sahaja Meditation.** Led by Peter Simone. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0137.

**Tai Chi With Larry Attile.** Learn specific Feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. A hands-on class that is geared to the level of experience of the class. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also March 28. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

**Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education.** Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Also March 22. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

**Pound Fitness Program.** A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre And Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. $20.


**Calidore String Quartet.** The quartet continues its year-long residency with a program that recalls a period in time that transformed the world. Includes performances of Milhaud’s String Quartet No. 4, Op. 46; Bartók’s String Quartet No. 2, Op. 17; and Ravel's String Quartet in F major. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 4 p.m. $15, $25 and $35. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

**"She's Beautiful When She's Angry."** The Westchester Community Foundation will be showing this film, which focuses on the buried history of the outrageous, yet courageous and brilliant women who established the women’s movement from 1966 to 1971, paving the way for future generations. Catherine Marsh, executive director of the Westchester Community Foundation, will lead a panel discussion featuring Ann Sparber, a founder of the Westchester Fund for Women and Girls, and Julie Klaber of the Center Lane Program at Westchester Jewish Community Services. A reception will follow the panel discussion. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 4 p.m. BFPC members: $10. Non-members: $15. Info and tickets: Visit http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org/films/filmseries/detail/10107.

**Creating Wildlife Habitat.** Dr. Linda Rohleder will discuss luring butterflies, birds and other wildlife to your property by planting their favorite trees, shrubs and perennials. Bedford Audubon naturalist Tait Johannson and Mianus River Gorge's Dr. Chris Nagy will also be on hand to answer questions. Pound Ridge Public Library, 271 Westchester Ave., Pound Ridge. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999.

**Saturday, March 21**

**Financial Education Day.** This fourth annual event will feature 13 workshops covering specific financial topics such as planning for retirement, estate planning, investing basics, elder care, social security, insurance, managing credit and debt, paying for college and starting a business. There will also be sessions on women’s financial planning. Private consultations are available. Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-606-6559 or visit www.mysunywcc.org/2015fed.

**Pound Fitness Program.** A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body, TADA Theatre And Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. $20.
**Acclaimed Director, Burns’ International Fellow to Have Films Screened**

By Neal Rentz

He has been making feature films in South Korea since 2000 and now local film buffs will have the chance to appreciate four of his works.

The Jacob Burns Film Center’s latest series that starts on Thursday is the Films of Bong Joon-Ho, featuring his most recent features. The series will continue through Apr. 2 with a question-and-answer session following each screening. Joon-Ho is also this year’s international fellow at the Jacob Burns. Film center programmer Andrew Jupin, who put together the series, said Joon-Ho was expected to arrive in the United States last Sunday. He will live in Pleasantville for the duration of his residency through Apr. 10, and may take part in activities with students at the Media Arts Lab. Joon-Ho will also be working on the screenplay for his next film, Jupin noted. He added that Joon-Ho makes films in a variety of genres.

“He’s such a big figure in the film community,” said Jupin.

“To have Director Bong living on the JBFC campus and holding Q&A sessions after each of his screenings at the theater is a truly extraordinary opportunity for the JBFC and the surrounding community to interact with one of the most critically and commercially successful filmmakers working today, a filmmaker of incredible invention and vision,” said Burns Program Director Brian Ackerman.

The first film in the series is “Memories of Murder,” which was released in 2003. It’s a gritty crime thriller about the search for a serial killer. The film is one of Jupin’s favorites.

“I’m a sucker for a good crime movie,” he said.

“The Host” (2006), to be screened on March 24, is a tale about a monster that emerged from a river to eat its human victims. It features cutting edge special effects, Jupin said. The film was the highest grossing movie in the history of Korean cinema during its initial release.

“Mother” (2009) scheduled for a March 30 screening, is about a mother who fights for her 27-year-old son after he’s accused of murder. The film, originally released in color, will be presented in black and white for the first time in the United States.

The series will conclude on Apr. 2 with “Snowpiercer.” The film is about how a “post-apocalyptic ice age forces the last humans on earth aboard a super train zooming around the world in endless loops,” according to Jupin.

This series is made possible through The Kathryn W. Davis Fellowship for International Understanding Through Film with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Korean Cultural Service.

For more information, including schedule and tickets, call the Jacob Burns Film Center at 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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**Happenings**

continued from page 24

of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd, Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: $9 per child. Non-member: $12 per child. Every Monday in March. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

**Zumba Class.** Open to all. Drop-ins welcome; no membership needed. PXF, 101 Castleton St., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. $10 a class. Every Monday. Info: Contact Amy Olin at olin.amyj@gmail.com.

**Tuesday, March 24**

**POUNDTM Fitness Demo Class.** A 45-minute full-body jam session that combines cardio, Pilates, plyometrics and isometric movements along with the excitement and euphoria of drumming using lightly weighted drumsticks. You’ll rock your entire body into beautiful shape while torching calories, isolating core muscles and strengthening coordination and balance. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquaalib.org.

**Wednesday, March 25**

**Support Group for Alzheimer’s Caregivers.** Temple Shaaray 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 Shaaray 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.

**A Visual History of the Italian American Experience.** Dr. Mario Mipson, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and director of the Center for Italian Studies at SUNY Stony Brook, will discuss his recent publication, co-authored by Antonio Canovi. For the first time, Italian-American history is seen through the photographic collections of the Library of Congress. Co-sponsored by the Westminster Community College Humanities Institute. Westminster Community College’s Gateway Center Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11:15 a.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6790.

**Art Discussion Series: Bruegel the Elder.** Born Pieter Bruegel in 1525, this master printmaker and painter was famous for his exceptional landscapes and genre scenes of everyday peasant life. One of the main protagonists of the Flemish Renaissance, Bruegel, son-in-law to Pieter van Aalst, was born in the Netherlands, and lived in a world that was rapidly changing, expanding and dividing socially, culturally and geographically. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlenibrary.org.

**Bedford Chamber Concert Series.** Pianist Yun-Chin Zhou, 2013 winner of Juilliard’s prestigious Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, will perform. The first half of the concert includes Liszt’s “Benediction to God in Solitude,” Ravel’s “La Valse” and a new composition by St. Matthew’s Music Director Anthony Newman called “Fantasia on Te Deum,” which the composer is dedicating to Mr. Zhou. There will be also six songs by Charles Trenet that will be performed and Sonata no. 2 in B-flat Minor by Rachmaninoff. St. Matthew’s Church, 382 Cantitoe St.(Route 22), Bedford. 8 p.m. $30. Includes refreshments at intermission. Info and tickets: 914-522-5150 or visit www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

**Thursday, March 26**


**Great Books Forum Series.** “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker will be discussed. Led by Professor Mira Sakrajda. Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor James Werner at 914-606-6840 or email james.werner@sunywcc.edu.
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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pur- suant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the “District”) that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Thursday, March 24, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following propositions:

PROPOSITION #1
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct additional additions to the existing property of District build- ings and facilities, including infrastructure and site work improvements, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, at a maximum cost of $34,920,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected from annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into ac- count state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $34,920,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION #2
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be autho- rized to (1) construct an addition to and reconstruct the auditorium and related music rooms, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose, at a maximum cost of $4,996,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $4,996,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

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Westchester Ends Losing Skid Behind Lamb's Scoring Barrage

By Monica D'Ippolito

Led by Doron Lamb's franchise-record 40 points, the D-League's Westchester Knicks snapped their 10-game losing streak Thursday night by defeating the Iowa Energy 104-101 at the Westchester County Center.

"It feels good to have a win, more importantly it feels good to get a win doing it the right way," Westchester coach Kevin Whitted said shortly after his team's long losing skid had ended. "The guys made a conscious effort to get better. Really, it's about them. When you have guys on the floor who are committed to doing what's necessary, good things happen."

Lamb, who was picked up via trade with the Texas Legends on February 17, matched his season-high of 30 points midway through the third quarter. The 23-year-old former Kentucky Wildcat knocked down 12 of 17 shots from the field, including four of five from behind the arc, and was a perfect 12 for 12 from the charity stripe in the contest.

"I knew he could score, we knew he could shoot, the only concern we had was could he fit in to what we're doing," Whitted said of Lamb. "I felt like when he came in, he was just trying to find his way… what I tell guys all the time is, don't lose your aggressiveness. Stay aggressive, stay committed to what we're doing, continue to find shots, seek opportunities and take advantage of opportunities when those opportunities are there. I thought he did a good job of doing that tonight."

Iowa (21-18) – the Memphis Grizzlies D-League affiliate – opened up its largest lead in the middle of the third quarter, when 35-year-old veteran Damien Wilkins got a bucket to give the Energy a 79-69 advantage.

But back-to-back baskets by the Knicks' Andre Barrett helped cut the Energy lead to seven points, two assists and a steal in that stretch.

"Well, we need them late in games," Whitted said. "We talked about that earlier today, about really just being prepared for the last six minutes of the fourth quarter. Tonight, we really just wanted to say, 'Hey, listen, take a step back, let's allow our young players to really start us out of the gate and we'll see how things turn out. We'll integrate you guys as we move into the latter part of the game. Get comfortable and if we're rolling we'll continue to do that.' And tonight worked."

Barrett finished second on the team with 20 points, three rebounds and two assists, while Jackson wound up with 13 points, 14 rebounds and four assists.

"Honestly, it's OK, but it's only one win, just trying to win some more," said Jackson. "It's only one. I'm not happy about the win because we should have been winning. But, hopefully, in the morning when we go to Erie we can get one more. Start a little streak before the season goes down."

Lamb, who had 23 of his points by halftime, was the offensive catalyst for the Knicks the entire contest. So it was only fitting that he iced the game in the final minutes by sinking seven consecutive shots from the free-throw line.

"I told him at halftime, go for 40," said Whitted of Lamb's big performance. "I'm happy he got 40. I was cheering for him to get 40, but I'm kind of jealous he got it."

Prospects Thanasis Antetokounmpo and Jordan Bachynski, Jackson and Barrett have been plugged into the starting five since the beginning of the season, but with the recent additions of Lamb and 7-foot-2 center Bachynski, Whitted chose to bring both veterans off the bench, saving their legs for important minutes down the stretch.

"We feel good, we feel like we're able to get touches around the basket. "Like we were able to get touches around the basket, having that mindset. I'm happy he got 40. I was cheering for him to get 40, but I'm kind of jealous he got it."

Jackson, who spent three years in the NBA, said watching Lamb's scoring binge wasn't quite the same as witnessing the offensive exploits of one of his former teammates.

"Like 40? Man, I've been around LeBron, so that right there doesn't compare to The King," Jackson said. "King James, I've seen him drop 55 like he was out there by himself. So, hopefully, I can see some more of that from Mr. Lamb."

KNICK NOTES: Westchester, which hadn't won a game since the first week in February before beating Iowa on Thursday, lost on the road to the Erie BayHawks 106-98 on Friday. Jackson scored 20 points, Lamb had 18, while Durrell Summers added 17 for the Knicks, whose record away from home fell to 1-18 with the loss in Erie. The Knicks only have three more home games this season, starting with a 7 pm contest next Tuesday, March 24, against Canton at the County Center.
GIRLS’ BASKETBALL
2014-15
A Look Back

Pleasantville guard Courtney Sheehy lines up a shot.

Westlake point guard Natalie Alfieri pushes the ball during a Wildcat road game.

Pleasantville’s Josie Amerson gets inside for a bucket vs. Briarcliff.

Maria Violante of Fox Lane powers her way to the basket vs. visiting Woodlands.

Greeley’s Molly Gonzalez takes the ball to the basket in a road game vs. Fox Lane.

Ashley Polera of Byram Hills gets ready to pass the ball in a game early in the season.

Above: Valhalla’s Brandi Coon handles the ball near midcourt during a Viking road game.

Left: Valhalla’s Claudia Halbaur (left) and Kaylie Dymek battle for control of a rebound.

Above: Carly Fanelli of Briarcliff dribbles the ball near the top of the key.

Right: Westlake’s Lauren Holzer dribbles near the 3-point arc vs. visiting Briarcliff.

Anna Waterhouse of Greeley leads a Quaker fast break vs. Clarkstown North at an early season holiday tourney.
Sophia Mazza of Valhalla tries to drive the right baseline early in the season vs. Westlake.

Fox Lane guard Emily O’Mahoney works her way along the right baseline during the Foxes’ win over Woodlands.

Faith Lovett of Westlake gets set to hit a 3-pointer from the left wing.

Byram Hills’ Taylor Verboys shoots the ball during the Bobcats’ annual holiday tourney.

Sophia Mazza of Valhalla tries to drive the right baseline early in the season vs. Westlake.

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Byram Hills’ Taylor Verboys shoots the ball during the Bobcats’ annual holiday tourney.

Westlake’s Kathleen Cullen and Briarcliff eighth-grader Maddie Plank await a rebound late in the season.

Westlake’s Kaitlyn Schmid battles for a rebound during a victory over visiting Pleasantville.

Fox Lane’s Tara Lombardi sets her sights on the rim as she shoots a 3-pointer.

Byram Hills guard Lucy Bancone reached the 1000-point plateau late in the Bobcats’ season.

Westlake’s Kathleen Cullen and Briarcliff eighth-grader Maddie Plank await a rebound late in the season.

Westlake’s Kaitlyn Schmid battles for a rebound during a victory over visiting Pleasantville.

Fox Lane’s Tara Lombardi sets her sights on the rim as she shoots a 3-pointer.

Byram Hills guard Lucy Bancone reached the 1000-point plateau late in the Bobcats’ season.

Above: Briarcliff’s Kelsey Simpson pushes the ball up the floor while Pleasantville’s Courtney Sheehy gives chase.

Left: Horace Greeley’s Lauren Brown rises for a jump shot during a Quaker home game.

Above: Briarcliff’s Kelsey Simpson pushes the ball up the floor while Pleasantville’s Courtney Sheehy gives chase.

Left: Horace Greeley’s Lauren Brown rises for a jump shot during a Quaker home game.

AmMarie DiCarlo of Pleasantville finishes a fast break with a layup.
Local Hockey Recap: Mt. Pleasant and Byram Hills

By Cutler Klein

The Section One hockey season has come to a close, and local teams are hanging up their skates, reflecting on the successes and failures of the past year and looking to next season with hope. Let’s take a look at how Mt. Pleasant and Byram Hills finished the season, and what they are looking forward to about next season (we’ll look at Horace Greeley and Fox Lane next week).

Mount Pleasant IceCats

Perhaps the most successful of the local teams, the IceCats finished their season at 12-7-1, getting to the second round of the Division Two playoffs before falling to second-seeded Mamaroneck. Head coach Josh Isenberg said that his team was simply less experienced and deep than their second-round opponents.

“I think they just had a couple more guys that were more seasoned and experienced," he said. "We did about as well as we could. We played two lines, and they can throw out a third line.”

Despite getting eliminated one game later, Mount Pleasant still relished its thrilling triple-overtime victory over Greeley in the first round. Isenberg said that the playoff victory marked their progression as a team, noting that “it shows that we were definitely getting better from the beginning of the season.”

Isenberg also admitted that his players thought they could have gotten past Mamaroneck in the second round.

“We really felt good about getting past Mamaroneck,” he said. “So we were pretty disappointed when we lost.”

Going into next season, the IceCats are returning a lot of their top talent. Greg Kramer and Michael Sala will both be seniors next year, and a solid young player in Xavier Duque will be back. They also bring back goaltender Lucas Van Bramer for his senior year. Van Bramer played an integral role in securing the playoff victory over the Quakers.

However, Mount Pleasant will be losing a few key leaders from this year’s team. Senior Oscar Marchi, perhaps the best player this season, will be graduating, as well as defensive leader Richie Cantwell. Daniel Bramson will also be moving on from the defensive corps, leaving a very young and thin blue line for next season. The Cats may have to rely on the goaltender they call “Lucas Van Fuego” even more next year.

For 2015-16, the IceCats will look to develop a more consistent offense. They found scoring in spurts this year, but could never really get on an offensive roll.

Reflecting on a successful season, Isenberg said his team came up just short of a big goal.

“I think we fell one game short of where we thought we would be,” he said. “We were really confident that we would make the playoffs and be a decent seed. We thought, when the season came to an end, we would make it to the semifinals or finals of D2. It’s no fault to our kids. They worked as hard as we could. They gave it all they had, but came up a little short.”

Byram Hills Bobcats

It was a bit of a disappointing season for the Bobcats, who finished with a 6-14 record, falling just short of a playoff berth by just two points. After starting the season well, Byram Hills could not get it together down the stretch. Head coach A.J. Cloherty said that one loss in particular rattled his team.

“We lost in overtime to Joel Barlow High School, a Connecticut team,” he said. “I think that loss really hurt our psyche. We were a young team, and I think a lot of the freshmen had a hard time handling the loss. It showed in the next few games, losing to ETBE, one of the lower teams in our section, after outshooting them 30-6. Then we were absolutely blown away by White Plains. Our players didn’t show up mentally.”

However, it was not all so bad for the Bobcats, as they won their big rivalry game over Fox Lane 2-1 in the “Rumble for the Ribbon.” Cloherty said that each game against the Foxes is like a season within itself.

“Any game against Fox Lane is truly a pleasure to coach,” he said. “Records just fly out the window. It’s just about pride and school spirit.”

Coming into the season, the Bobcats were a bit decimated after losing a few key seniors. However, the young squad got things together and had some hope of making the sectional playoffs. Cloherty was disappointed that his team could not quite qualify in the final games.

An amazing aspect of this young team was its resiliency. In past years, getting scored on first spelled doom for the Bobcats. This season, they were able to come back more often and, occasionally, squeak out a win.

The Bobcats are graduating three senior forwards, but only one of whom is a major points contributor, Alexander Mykitiuk. Most of the top scorers on the team will be returning, including Joe Rocco, Robbie Lunder, Nicholas Salandra and Matthew Behar. They also will return their entire defensive corps for their senior year, as well as starting goaltender Grace Lunder. With another season under their belts, a more mature Byram Hills squad could make some noise next year.

According to Cloherty, the Bobcats will also receive an added boost from five or six immediate-impact players coming up from their modified team to complement all the returning talent.

The biggest thing that will be changing next year will be commitment. There will be a strong interest in joining the team, and Cloherty will expect 100 percent attendance and commitment from all the players. During this season, some players were unable to make it to all practices and games, and it became a major problem for the team.

“Those that are not capable of continued next page
Local Hockey Recap: Mt. Pleasant and Byram Hills

committing to that level will be asked not to be members of the team and program we have built over the past three or four years,” said Cloherty. “I think that once we have that level of commitment, we are going to have the team we want to go into next season with. We need 100 percent commitment from all the players.”

Looking at how well his young team played, and how close it was to making the playoffs, Cloherty thinks next year could be a good one for the Bobcats.

“We had two overtime losses, and were two bounces away from finishing with a better record than we did last year,” he said. “We are returning 95 percent of our team. We were that close with this young group of guys, and we should be able to do something special next year.”

continued from previous page

Mt. Pleasant’s Greg Kramer leads an IceCat rush up the ice earlier this season.

Mt. Pleasant goaltender Lucas Van Bramer stays ready between the pipes during the IceCats’ sectional playoff game vs. Mamaroneck.
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