Consignment Shop Owner’s Scam Hits Local Residents

By Janine Bowen

Area residents ripped off by a local consignment shop owner are looking to recover their money and merchandise after the proprietor suddenly vanished in recent weeks.

Elegance II Consignment Shop, a popular fixture for years on South Greeley Avenue in Chappaqua run by Babette Faotto, abruptly left that site near the end of last year to move to 486 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville, but hasn’t operated since.

Over the last two years, Faotto’s daughter, Julia, began to take a larger role in the day-to-day operations, said some of the victims reached by The Examiner last week. Then Babette Faotto suddenly moved to Costa Rica with her boyfriend and her daughter took over the shop.

After the ownership change, longtime patrons began running into problems, including receiving reimbursement checks that bounced, according to several victims who asked that their identities be concealed.

“I don’t know where my merchandise is. I got nothing from her,” said Karen, a Thornwood resident who had brought a large number of items valued at about $45,000 to the shop to sell. “It’s like this girl just scammed everybody and she got away with it.”

One victim, who identified herself as Alexis, had been a customer at Elegance II for nearly 15 years and never ran into problems. Last September, Alexis brought a Chanel bag with a retail value of $6,000 into the shop to sell on consignment and has not seen it since.

Alexis said she later received two checks from Elegance II for previously sold merchandise, both of which bounced. After weeks of not hearing from Faotto, Continued on page 4

Tentative Deal Reached By Town to Operate Armonk’s Ehrman Pool

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle officials tentatively reached an agreement last week with the Anita Louise Ehrman (ALE) Recreation Center to operate the Greenway Road pool in Armonk this summer.

The town board is scheduled to vote during tomorrow night’s (Wednesday) meeting whether to authorize Supervisor Michael Schiliro to sign the agreement that would run through Oct. 31. The town would pay the nonprofit ALE a specific amount of money to operate the aquatic facility.

Details of the agreement will not be divulged until Wednesday’s board meeting, Schiliro said, including the town’s financial obligations and the status of the $975,000 that still needed to be paid to Key Bank, which extended financing on an original $1.25 million note.

Councilman Stephen D’Angelo confirmed Monday the bank note is still in place. There hadn’t been payments on it since last fall and there was the risk of a default.

Schiliro had said previously that he and the board wanted the facility to be available for use by town residents, but they needed to have a firm grasp on the town’s fiscal responsibilities in a licensing agreement. Officials were also against buying the pool at this time.

“It provides us the opportunity to use it for a year,” Schiliro said last week of the pending agreement. “The town has use of a pool, and if it’s working properly, we can come back for a second year.”

For the past three years, North Castle Pool and Tennis has operated the facility for ALE. Town resident Joseph DiMauro, the principal at ALE, informed the organization late last year that it would not continue in that capacity. ALE had sought an operator for the pool after it ran into financial difficulty stemming largely from the 2006 refurbishment project.

When reached over the weekend, ALE President Chris Yaroscak said he was “very excited” about the prospects of the pool being operated by the town this summer but refrained from making further comments.

D’Angelo, who was involved in the negotiations, said a large majority of residents that have communicated with him on the issue wanted the town to operate the pool and not see the facility shuttered.

“If I didn’t think there was support for the pool, we wouldn’t have put this much effort into it for one year,” he said.

However, a big consideration for the town was making sure that the children attending this summer’s town day camp had access to a pool. D’Angelo acknowledged that many parents let it be known that they wanted their kids to be able to swim or they would likely make other plans.

Despite the obligations, North Castle would be able to save the roughly $55,000 it has been paying each year for campers to gain access to the pool.

Although Schiliro and D’Angelo said there is widespread support, at the March 11 town board meeting one resident sharply criticized the town for considering taking over a money-losing facility.

Armonk resident Ann Dantzig told continued on page 4

Arc Stages Lights it Up

The cast of Arc Stages’ production of “The Light in the Piazza” is scheduled for its second weekend of performances this Friday and Saturday night and Sunday afternoon at the company’s home venue in Pleasantville. The Tony Award-winning musical when it was on Broadway is being directed by Community Stage Artistic Director Ann Shankman. For tickets and more information call 914-747-6206 visit www.arcestages.org.
Developer Submits Zoning Request for
continued from page 1 continued from page 1

environmental impacts and the amount
of the 24,000-square-foot building,
speaking following the presentation
week's meeting, with four residents
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
vehicles cutting through the church
Road rather than using Maple Hill Road
the facility's entrance point. The updated
met. "that these underlying conditions are
residential area, industrial area provided
Dwyer said. "Commercial area,
part of the village as long as the agreed
conditions are met."

Scherer said he was happy that
itself lead agency and to refer the
develop there.

the neighborhood if Benchmark does
property value of the houses in
concerned if Pleasantville, which relies
jobs generated by the facility would
addressed the potential traffic problem
meeting, Daniel Blaney, said afterward
ro a d."

provided that I think will give everyone a
terms of the documents they have
responsiveness of Benchmark in

One of the neighbors who spoke at the
"I am certainly pleased thus far with
the project to succeed if it were to move
forward and that means putting in the time
been raised. She said the board wanted
iron out the critical issues that have
for the immediate neighbors, but needed
property, including providing sewers
what Madonna was hoping to do with


"But the density of the project, hearing
no alternate number of units was
mentioned by board members or Director
additional screening.

A date for the work session was not
currently on the grounds that is slated to
height would not exceed a house that is
structures, although total footprint would
units would be contained in three separate
buildings would appear to be too great. The
expressed concern that the mass of the

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Ezriel (Ed) Kornel, MD, FACS
Director, Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwhorthospandspine.org/DrKornel

Q: When should I see a doctor?
A: Although symptoms may be delayed,
those who suffer from whiplash often
develop one or more symptoms, within
the first few days. If pain spreads to
your shoulders or arms, if moving your
head hurts too much, or if you experience
numbness, tingling, or weakness in your
arms, see a doctor immediately.

Although most people fully recover from
whiplash within two to three months,
some can experience pain for several
months or years.

In fact, researchers have discovered that chronic pain can sometimes be
trailed to a whiplash injury. Managing the pain and treating any underlying
injuries through physical therapy, chiropractic methods or, in some cases,
surgery will help speed recovery and prevent long-term complications.

*Spine Research Institute of San Diego

Learn more about Dr. Kornel and the Orthopedic &
Spine Institute at Northern Westchester Hospital,
visit www.nwhorthospandspine.org/DrKornel

Did You Know?
There are 3 million new
whiplash injuries in the
U.S. every year.*
New Castle Officials Wrestle With Coyote Regulations

By Neal Rentz

New Castle officials continued to grapple last week over a town coyote management policy, including the level of police response when residents have close encounters with the animal.

Members of the Coyote Management Task Force, one of two groups appointed last year to study the issue, met with the town board and Police Chief Charles Ferry March 17. The discussion focused mainly on the police department’s role in handling coyotes.

Ferry said he had also spoken with members of the Coyote Awareness and Safety Advisory Committee. The two committees have been at odds over what steps should be taken to protect residents, their pets and children as coyote sightings have become more common in New Castle over the past couple of years.

Ferry said currently police deal with coyotes in accordance with the level of threat the animal is posing to people or other animals. If a homeowner, for example, calls police for help regarding a coyote on his or her property and the animal is not posing a threat, the police will refer the resident to a trapper. However, should there be a report of a menacing coyote or one that appears to be rabid, a responding officer would shoot the animal, he said.

Ferry said over the past five years, 90 of the town’s 1,300 animal complaints reported to the police department concerned coyotes, the vast majority of which were resolved without police action. In six of those instances, a trapper was called in.

During the same timeframe, there were more than 200 cases of police shooting an animal, including injured deer and sick raccoons, but there was only one incident of an officer shooting a coyote after the animal was struck by a car, the chief said.

Town officials must also weigh whether a part-time opening in the department should be split between an animal control officer and a parking enforcement officer. It would be impractical to have every officer participate in animal control responsibilities, Ferry said.

Eileen Gallagher, a Coyote Management Task Force member, said one of her concerns is that coyotes could pose a threat at Gedney Park, a popular location for families and dog walkers.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he didn’t want homeowners and their families to feel threatened by coyotes. Residents should feel that they and their pets “are safe in their own yards,” he said, while calling coyote management a “quality of life” issue.

Greenstein said he was receptive to having the officer who fills the open police position take on some animal control responsibilities.

“I think the money would be well spent,” he said.

Members of the Coyote Awareness and Safety Advisory Committee were unable to attend last week’s meeting, but will meet with the town board Apr. 7, said Councilman Jason Chapin.

Ferry requested that the town board provide him with guidance after that meeting.

Councilwoman Lisa Katz also said she wanted additional public input on coyote management.

The task force and the committee have strongly disagreed on a couple of key matters, including when to kill a coyote. The task force favors a lethal choice as a last resort when people or animals are threatened, while the committee is opposed to that choice except in rare circumstances.
Consignment Shop Owner's Scam Hits Local Residents

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Alexis visited the Chappaqua store, only to find it closed.

A Pleasantville woman had a similar experience after bringing three pairs of Manolo Blahnik shoes to the shop in December. The woman said she had never sold through consignment before, but had seen Elegance II in Chappaqua for years and figured it would be safer than attempting to sell the unwanted shoes through eBay or Craigslist.

In December, she was told by Faotto to return in February, at which point she would receive a check or would be able to reclaim the shoes if they hadn’t sold. However, the victim arrived at the shop to find it closed, with no forwarding address.

“They have an obligation to let their customers know they’re going to move,” said the resident. “At least put a sign on the door.”

Since Elegance II was located in Chappaqua at the time victims started getting fleeced, reports were filed with the New Castle Police Department. But some have complained about a lack of updates from detectives.

New Castle Police Detective Sgt. James Wilson said he could not speak in detail about the open investigation but confirmed that the department has received about six complaints related to Elegance II. He hinted that police have had trouble locating Faotto.

“We’d like to talk to her, let’s put it at that,” said Wilson.

George, a Chappaqua resident, also had a bad experience when he brought in a fur coat to sell last fall. When he returned to the shop, he found the Chappaqua store closed without warning. Through Internet searches, he eventually learned the shop had moved to Bedford Road in Pleasantville.

Upon learning the new location of the shop, the Pleasantville woman paid a visit to find a note on the door from Faotto apologizing for the inconvenience and promising that the shop would be open soon. As the weeks went by, that note became surrounded by others from people demanding their money and merchandise back.

“It’s Lise, you don’t return calls,” read one note posted on the door. “You have a lot of my valuable possessions and jewelry and I trusted you. I am an attorney, as you know. What you have done is illegal.”

When the new Pleasantville location failed to open, many of the victims reached out to Faotto, but were all met with a variety of excuses. Alexis contacted her several times via text and e-mail to inquire when she would receive her money. Each time Faotto said she was having personal problems, ranging from fighting the flu to her father’s death, according to Alexis. Finally, in February, Faotto agreed to meet Alexis at Starbucks on Memorial Plaza in Pleasantville to return the Chanel bag and reissue the checks that bounced. Faotto never showed up.

Karen, the Thornwood resident, was met with excuses even before Faotto abruptly closed the Chappaqua shop. Each time she attempted to claim money, Faotto told her that computer glitches were preventing checks from being issued. Karen received one $500 check, which bounced in December.

After corresponding via e-mail with Faotto, George said he was promised that a check for his fur coat, priced at $2,990, would be mailed to him on Feb. 1. He has never received the money. The Pleasantville woman, who is owed more than $700 for her shoes, never received a response to multiple e-mails sent to Faotto.

Calls to a cell phone number provided by Faotto’s sudden disappearance. The owner of a Mount Kisco check cashing company, who asked not to be identified, said he is owed more than $4,000. He said Faotto brought in two separate checks from Elegance II. Her checks were accepted by an employee who was unaware that Faotto was Elegance II’s owner.

“She knew the account was no good. It’s total fraud,” said the check cashing company owner.

He said he has a copy of Faotto’s driver’s license as well as video surveillance of her in the shop, but she has eluded authorities.

At least two of the victims were told that their claims against Elegance II would be handled in New Castle Town Court Apr. 9, but they aren’t confident that date will remain on the calendar if Faotto isn’t located.

“We’re at a standstill until they find her,” said Alexis.

Some victims, including Paulette, a Briarcliff resident, are concerned about whether they have any legal recourse. Paulette had been doing business with Elegance II for over a decade and considered the Faottos, whom she frequently saw around the village, to be friends.

After years of successful transactions with Babette Faotto, Paulette stopped signing contracts and left merchandise with the shop in good faith. Because of this, Paulette has no proof that she brought in a $14,000 Hermes bag to be sold last October.

“I have no recourse at this point, legally, because I don’t have any paperwork. I trusted because I never had a problem in the past,” Paulette said.

Also worrisome to the victims is that while the unopened Pleasantville shop has merchandise inside, none of them can see their items when they peer through the window. Many are concerned that Faotto filled the Bedford Road shop with cheap knock-offs and took the high-end merchandise for herself.

Those who attempted to sell merchandise aren’t the only ones affected by Faotto’s sudden disappearance. The owner of a Mount Kisco check cashing company, who asked not to be identified, said he is owed more than $4,000. He said Faotto brought in two separate checks from Elegance II. Her checks were accepted by an employee who was unaware that Faotto was Elegance II’s owner.

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Tentative Deal Reached By Town to Operate Armonk’s Ehrman Pool

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the board that the town is being “held hostage” by a small group of community members who want the convenience of a local pool at a low membership cost.

“ALE couldn’t make a go of it, North Castle Pool and Tennis couldn’t make a go of it, the town didn’t want the risk back in 2012 based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee,” Dantzig said. “The town should not gamble and take on this financial risk.”

Schiliro said that most of the feedback he has received about the pool has been positive, but that it was the board’s responsibility to balance that with financial common sense. He added that the pool doesn’t have to necessarily make money since it’s a service through the town’s Recreation Department program, but the board also has to act prudently.

With Recreation Superintendent Matt Trainor’s aquatic background, Schiliro was optimistic the Ehrman pool was something the town could handle.

“There has been a lot of passion in conversation about the pool,” Schiliro said. “Some people have been going several times via text and e-mail to inquire whether they have any legal recourse. Paulette had been doing business with Elegance II for over a decade and considered the Faottos, whom she frequently saw around the village, to be friends.

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The village operates its own pool, one that opened in 2012.

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Mt. Kisco Rotary Club, Bank Donate Books to Local Youths

By Neal Rentz

An annual charitable tradition continued in Mount Kisco last Wednesday as members of the local Rotary Club labeled and boxed books for children at Open Door Family Medical Center and Neighbors Link.

This year’s book distribution was co-sponsored by Tompkins Mahopac National Bank, which has assisted various chapters of the service organization’s efforts before. The books were distributed after being boxed following the Rotary’s March 18 meeting at the Holiday Inn.

“Nearly a hundred boxes of books, we’ve done this for the last eight years,” said Charles Hellmich, sales manager for Tompkins Mahopac National Bank. “On a yearly basis we’ve given to 10 Rotaries in the Westchester area to support their individual initiatives for literacy.”

The bank has donated between $70,000 and $80,000 over the past eight years, Hellmich estimated.

“It’s a terrific match between the bank and the Rotaries because we’re very involved in the Westchester area to support their individual initiatives for literacy. “It’s a terrific match between the bank and the Rotaries because we’re very involved in the Westchester area to support their individual initiatives for literacy,” said Charles Hellmich, sales manager for Tompkins Mahopac National Bank.

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Though the search to hire a permanent manager has been unsuccessful so far, the village board has said previously that the board would be changed, following a public hearing; however, officials said there are no plans currently to change the law. Cindrich has said that the board would not consider changing the residency requirement unless the board found a nonresident who lived close to the village, but they want to avoid someone who lives a long distance away.

Last June, trustees hired former New Castle town administrator Jerry Failla as interim manager. He replaced James Palmer, who held the permanent position since 2006, after he left to become Bronxville’s village administrator.

Through the search to hire a permanent manager has been unsuccessful so far, the board is still looking, Cindrich stressed.

“We’re not just sitting on our hands,” he said.

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Thank You, Teachers

Teachers at West Patent Elementary School were treated to a special luncheon on March 13 hosted by the West Patent Elementary School Association and parent volunteers. Food items were donated by local food establishments including Sinapi’s Pizza Rustica and Salsa Fresca of Bedford Hills, La Familia in Katonah, Bellizzi, Gerardo’s and Cafe of Love in Mount Kisco and Crabtree’s Kittle House in Chappaqua. Tables were supplied by Fox Catering and flowers were donated by Hello Market, both of Mount Kisco. “The staff appreciation is a time honored tradition that the parent organization enjoys doing and thoroughly likes to participate in,” said WPESA Co-president Jessica Cambareli. All teachers and staff saved room for delicious desserts donated by West Patent parents.

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EMPIRE CITY CASINO
Northern Westchester Hospital recently won a cooking competition among 14 regional hospital nutrition programs. Since Northern Westchester Hospital launched its Food is Care! patient nutrition program in 2012, the program has reached the top 10 percent among hospital nutrition programs in the United States.

“Proper nutrition is a critical component in providing high quality, patient centered care,” said Lauraine Szekely, the hospital’s chief nursing officer. “Providing healthy food is important for healing and wellness both in and out of the hospital, and our program delivers healthy food that is presented in a restaurant manner, tastes great and is more satisfying for our patients. The feedback we receive from our patients has been so positive, that we now provide them with our recipes.”

“It was a privilege to participate in this competition. The meals prepared by the chefs were amazing and we are honored that our dish was selected as the winner,” said Patty Sobol, executive chef at Northern Westchester Hospital. “We are really proud of our program and I find it personally satisfying to know that the healthy dishes that we prepare have an important role in helping our patients return to health.”

The competition, North Shore-LIJ’s fourth annual Ultimate Chef Challenge, included culinary masters from 14 hospitals across the health system. Chefs competing in the competition were required to serve up delicious restaurant quality meals, but without the high fat, calories or sodium.

Each team had 45 minutes to create tasty, attractive and nutritious meals for three judges to score and one for the presentation table. Hospital culinary teams were paired with a registered dietician from a North Shore-LIJ hospital to ensure that each dish contained no more than 500 calories, 15 grams of fat and 600 milligrams of sodium. Teams were given a “surprise protein” – such as halibut, shrimp, chicken and pork tenderloin – around which to build their original entree.

Coinciding with National Nutrition Month in March, hospital culinary teams faced off at Glen Cove Hospital’s Pratt Auditorium, which was transformed into a giant kitchen equipped with electric burners, a pantry and a bountiful farmers’ market for the cooking contest.

To learn more about the Northern Westchester Hospital Food is Care! Program, visit http://nwhc.net/about-us/food-is-care.

The Mount Pleasant Education Foundation would like to thank our sponsors. They are the local businesses listed who have chosen to support the students of the Mount Pleasant Central School District. We could not do our good work without them! Please look for our logo and make it a point to patronize these establishments. For more information about us and our ongoing events please visit www.mountpleaseducationfoundation.org

The office of Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) is currently seeking high school and college students to serve as interns this summer in his district office in Mount Kisco.

Students with an interest in government or public policy are strongly encouraged to apply. Interns are expected to work about 20 hours per week for at least eight weeks. Although the internship is unpaid, high school or college credits may be available through the internship.

Interested student may send a resume, cover letter, a high school or college transcript and a short writing sample to District Office Director Alex Roithmayr at roithma@assembly.state.ny.us. For more information, call the district office at 914-244-4450.

Buchwald Announces 2015 Summer Internship Program

The competition, North Shore-LIJ’s fourth annual Ultimate Chef Challenge, featured teams from 14 different hospitals from across the health system. The winning dish was the Moroccan-inspired Pork Casablanca.

Left to right: Northern Westchester Hospital executive chef Patty Sobol, lead clinical dietician Jill Ashby-Pejoves and assistant chef Chris Counts recently captured North Shore-LIJ’s fourth annual Ultimate Chef Challenge, featuring teams from 14 different hospitals from across the health system. The winning dish was the Moroccan-inspired Pork Casablanca.
Murphy Proposes Rules Reform Package During Sunshine Week

By Rick Pezzullo

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) presided over a Senate session for the first time since being in Albany last week and took the opportunity during the annual Sunshine Week to propose new legislation that would allow more public discourse and transparency in state regulations.

Murphy, elected to represent the 40th Senate District last November, explained his rules reform package was designed to take the decision-making process out of the hands of “Albany bureaucrats” and back in control of elected representatives and their constituents.

“We cannot continue to allow unelected bureaucrats to impose job-killing regulations from on high,” remarked Murphy, chairman of the Senate’s Administrative Regulations Review Committee. “It’s time to shine a light on the rule-making process.”

The package unveiled by Murphy includes five separate bills. The first would allow a process for the public to seek adoption, repeal or other changes that predate 1999, in addition to requiring a five-year review of all agency rules.

“As a small business owner I can tell you firsthand that the miles of red tape caused by the layers of rules and regulations in New York are doing more harm than good,” Murphy said. “From my experience with the Yorktown Health and Wellness Center, and my family’s experience with our restaurant, many of these rules and regulations are approved with little input and transparency. It is our responsibility to ensure there is greater transparency and disclosure within the rule making process which I believe my legislation will help do.”

Murphy wasn’t the only area state legislator who promoted reforms to increase transparency in state government last week. A bill proposed by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining), which is sponsored in the Senate by Sen. David Carlucci, would guarantee that copyright claims not hamper the desire or ability of citizens to use public records or serve as a roadblock to the economic interests of the state.

The measure passed the Assembly on March 18 104-1 as part of a package of legislation targeting government transparency. The bill addresses the issue that government records, especially ones which are available electronically, have increasing value and may be used commercially for profit.

Additional proposed legislation that was part of the Assembly’s Sunshine Week package included bill A.4468, which would clarify certain provisions of FOIL and other disclosure laws to make sure that people are not wrongfully denied access to public records; bill A.3149, which would clarify that the name of a retiree in a public employees’ retirement system is subject to disclosure under FOIL; bill A.5768, which would allow the public to submit requests for access to the records of a state agency by use of an online form; and bill A.4788, which would require the Internet broadcast of open meetings of each state and local authority.

A separate bill co-sponsored by Murphy that won Senate approval calls for a full review of rules and regulations that predate 1999, in addition to requiring a five-year review of all agency rules.

“Let’s make sure that no paper does anything to defeat the purpose of FOIL,” Murphy said. “I want the people of Putnam County to know that we are fighting this battle.”

Murphy’s bill would allow the public to submit requests for access to the records of a state agency by use of an online form; and bill A.4788, which would require the Internet broadcast of open meetings of each state and local authority.

Additionally, state Senator Greg Ball, who has called for The Journal News to remove the map it posted on its website that revealed the names and addresses of pistol licensees in New York state’s Hudson Valley counties, is supporting Murphy’s bill. Ball stated that the county was ready to kill the measure if passed by the state Legislature.

“We are standing together with state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) and Associates Committee Chairman Carl Menands (D-Watervliet),” said Ball. “We are willing to stand together and fight the Freedom of Information Law if disclosing information is going to hamper the desire or ability of citizens to use public records or serve as a roadblock to the economic interests of the state.”

“We are not refusing because we are against FOIL. I believe my legislation will help do. " Murphy said. “From my experience with the Yorktown Health and Wellness Center, and my family’s experience with our restaurant, many of these rules and regulations are approved with little input and transparency. It is our responsibility to ensure there is greater transparency and disclosure within the rule making process which I believe my legislation will help do.”

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A separate bill co-sponsored by Murphy that won Senate approval calls for a full review of rules and regulations that predate 1999, in addition to requiring a five-year review of all agency rules.

“The measure passed the Assembly on March 18 104-1 as part of a package of legislation targeting government transparency. The bill addresses the issue that government records, especially ones which are available electronically, have increasing value and may be used commercially for profit.

Additional proposed legislation that was part of the Assembly’s Sunshine Week package included bill A.4468, which would clarify certain provisions of FOIL and other disclosure laws to make sure that people are not wrongfully denied access to public records; bill A.3149, which would clarify that the name of a retiree in a public employees’ retirement system is subject to disclosure under FOIL; bill A.5768, which would allow the public to submit requests for access to the records of a state agency by use of an online form; and bill A.4788, which would require the Internet broadcast of open meetings of each state and local authority.
Sylvie Binder has competed successfully in national and international fencing tournaments, but when she heads off to Tashkent, Uzbekistan next week, it will be a whole new experience for her.

Binder, 15, an Armonk resident and a Byram Hills High School sophomore, is headed for the Apr. 3 World Championships, one of three Cadet foil fencers representing the United States in the 17 and under group. She will be competing with hundreds of other high ranking hopefuls, who like Binder, are among the best young fencers from around the globe.

“I’m really excited. The whole year I’ve been training to make it on the team,” Binder said during a break in a recent training session at the Fencing Academy of Westchester in Hawthorne. “Now that I’ve made it on the team, I’m focused on the actual prospect of going to World Championships. It’s kind of surreal because my coaches and the other fencers at my club were all so happy for me. I’ve been training and I’m excited, but it hasn’t really sunk in.”

Binder qualified for the team by finishing with the third highest ranking in the U.S. in her age group during the 2014-15 season. She was able to accomplish that by excelling in national competitions, the North American Cup and capturing the Sparkassen Cup in Germany earlier this campaign. In addition, Binder, who can confuse opponents as a lefty, took home a bronze medal at a competition in Hungary to help secure her ranking.

While there is little down time for a competitive fencer even at her age, the past few weeks have been especially hectic for Binder. She has been training five times a week in preparation for the World Championships, and participates in a four-hour open training session each Friday sparring with other youngsters at the Fencing Academy of Westchester.

Her spot on the U.S. team may not have completely sunk in yet for Binder, but she spoke of never being completely content with her performance as motivation.

“It’s been a steady progression,” Binder said. “Obviously, if you take my results from three years ago until now, you’ll see I’ve become a lot better and I’ve seen I’ve become a lot better. But there’s no point when you say that you’re satisfied with yourself and that I’m doing so well.”

Anya Katkova, who coaches Binder at the academy along with Slava Grigoryev, said Binder has earned her berth on the U.S. team not only by developing her physical tools but she has the personal drive to be among the best. She also said that Binder has outstanding concentration and the ability to think ahead, comparing fencing to a chess match.

“Self-motivation is the key,” Katkova said. “If you’re self-motivated, you can push yourself much further.”

Binder’s mother, Cindy, said that the family has been taking her to lessons at the Fencing Academy of Westchester for about eight years, and more recently, Sylvie’s two siblings. Cindy Binder said that for the first few years she enjoyed the activity, but at about 10 years old, Sylvie won her very first tournament in Brooklyn.

From there her interest and commitment blossomed. It is also consistent with Sylvie’s determination and self-motivation, Cindy Binder said. When the World Championships were within reach, she pursued the berth full throttle.

“She’s put her mind to it and decided she wanted to do it this year and she made it,” she said.

Sylvie Binder said she’s looking forward to testing herself against some of the world’s best, facing a variety of styles. When asked about a spot on the Olympic team one day, Binder said it’s a dream but that there’s a lot of work to do.

“Her determination and personal drive will take her far,” Katkova said. “And she’s got the skills to go with it.”

Binder is also trying to raise funds through an Internet crowd sourcing campaign to help pay for her coaches and family to travel to Uzbekistan. As part of that campaign, she has pledged to donate 10 percent of all funds raised to the U.N. Human Rights office because of the region’s weak record on human rights. For more information, visit https://www.rallyme.com/rallies/1476.
Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

March 14: A Beverly Road resident reported at 3:56 p.m. that an unknown subject walked onto his property at about 10:10 p.m. the previous evening. The subject left the premises after the motion light went on.

March 15: A 33-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 1:46 p.m. and charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief for breaking the jukebox at Mundo Latino Deli on East Main Street.

March 15: A 25-year-old Bedford man reported at 11:33 p.m. that he was assaulted at the Las Vegas Sports Bar on South Moger Avenue. However, the man refused to press charges against the subject.

March 16: Two subjects, a 43-year-old homeless man and a 34-year-old Yorktown man, were arrested at 3:56 p.m. and charged with disorderly conduct, a violation, after fighting each other in front of the American-Latino Deli on East Main Street.

March 16: A male subject reported at headquarters at 6:15 p.m. to make a civilian complaint notifying the police he was the victim of a larceny. During his visit, he discovered broken glass in the driveway, which was from a passenger side window of the resident's 2003 Honda Odyssey. There are no suspects at this time.

March 16: Two Queens men, both 20 years old, were each arrested at 2:20 a.m. following a traffic stop and charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation.

March 17: A doctor's office on Marble Avenue reported at 11:49 a.m. receiving harassing phone calls. The incident was reported as a matter of record.

March 17: A 32-year-old Valhalla man was arrested at 11:21 p.m. and charged with DWI following a traffic stop on Bedford Road.

March 20: Report of a larceny at 8:04 a.m. from a vehicle outside the car owner's home on Pleasantville Road. Various items were stolen, including a brief case and cell phone. The matter is under investigation.

Spring Classic and Exotic Car Show

Spring Classic and Exotic Car Show Proposed for Chappaqua

By Neal Rentz

Three New Castle car enthusiasts are looking to bring a car show to Chappaqua this spring.

Residents Bob Matluck, his son, Sam, and Sam Birenbaum pitched a proposal to the town board last week to hold the event, which would be called Revs and Bevs, at no cost to the town in May. They proposed Saturday, May 16 as a potential date.

"It's a real passion of mine," Bob Matluck told the town board.

The car show would be a casual event for area residents to display classic or exotic types of cars to the public, similar to other local car shows. Advertising for the event would be done through fliers, e-mail and social media.

"For people with a passion of all kinds of automobilia, Revs and Bevs will provide the opportunity to view exotics, classics, domestics and any type of interesting vehicles in our backyard," the trio's proposal to the town stated.

The show would be held in the rear of the Chappaqua Metro-North train station parking lot, near the old skate park. The cars grouped by age and type.

Matluck asked that the show be held from 9 a.m. to noon, with the showcases at the site by 8:30 a.m.

Councilman Jason Chapin question Matluck about how traffic would be handled. He replied that they would have a sufficient number of people on hand to direct traffic.

Matluck agreed to a suggestion from Supervisor Robert Greenstein to ask the town's police department to have two of its cars displayed in the show, which could be of interest to children.

The organizers are slated to meet with town staff to discuss a variety of issues related to the show before returning to the town board for further discussion.

Obituary

Thomas Buffum

Thomas H. Buffum of Hawthorne died suddenly in Florida on March 15. He was 60.

Buffum was born March 22, 1954, to Gertrude and Thomas Buffum and is survived by two sisters, Christine Tananone of Thailand and Susan Buffum of Chatham, N.J. He treasured his times spent with his sisters and nieces and nephews.

He lived in Cranston, R.I. for the first 41 years of his life. In 1981, he married Debbie Nuttall in Rhode Island and they have two children, Peter and Emily. He attended Hartwick College then joined the family business, John F Allen & Son Inc. in Providence. Eventually, the company acquired Pulver Importing and he became a co-owner, moving to New York in 1995 to manage that part of the business.

Buffum was very active in his church where he was the chairman of the administrative board and enjoyed singing in the choir. Golf was a passion of his. He was a longtime member of Pleasantville Country Club and also recently of Hollowbrook Country Club. He was a loving husband and proud father and his enthusiasm for life will be missed by many.

The family received friends on March 20 at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A church service was celebrated on March 21 at the Valhalla Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Valhalla United Methodist Church, 200 Columbus Ave., Valhalla, N.Y. 10595 or The American Heart Association.
Chap Crossing Architecture Style Unveiled By Developer

By Neal Rentz

Representatives for Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield addressed the architectural aspects of the project during a March 17 joint meeting of the New Castle Town Board, Planning Board and Architectural Review Board.

Architect David Ball said new buildings that would house the commercial components at the campus would mirror the 18th-century Georgian-style architecture featured in the main cupola building that was used by Reader’s Digest. One of the features of the Georgian style is its rectangular windows, Ball said.

The commercial development being proposed would be part of a “streetscape” featuring a series of commercial buildings that would be “pedestrian friendly,” he said. Spaces between buildings could be used for outdoor cafe seating.

“The main goal is to be true to the architecture of the (cupola) building,” Ball said.

Summit/Greenfield’s intention is to have shoppers park at one location and walk to multiple businesses. Customers would park either near the main building or in front one of the businesses, he said.

While Whole Foods would house heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units on its second floor, the other stores at Chappaqua Crossing would not use the upstairs space, Ball said.

Summit/Greenfield representatives disagreed with a suggestion from some town officials, including Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood, to use space above the first-floor commercial developments for housing. Andrew Tung, a Summit/Greenfield planning consultant, said the developer’s intent was to have the second floor of the commercial buildings vacant, except for Whole Foods.

In December, the town board approved the rezone of a 19-acre portion of the former Reader’s Digest property to allow for up to 120,000 square feet of retail space at the site.

Summit/Greenfield is proposing a 40,000-square-foot Whole Foods supermarket to be the anchor tenant. There would also be health and fitness facilities, restaurants, a bank and other retail shops. Chappaqua Crossing’s residential component would feature 111 housing units, 20 of which would be classified as affordable housing.

The public hearing on the Preliminary Development Concept Plan is scheduled to resume before the town board Apr. 14.
Rhododendron
73 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville

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AT LAST
29 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville
BEGIN YOUR EASTER JOURNEY WITH US

St. John’s Episcopal Church
8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570
www.stjohnspleasantville.org 914-769-0053

Palm Sunday, 29 March
8am & 10am
Maundy Thursday, 2 April
7pm, Eucharist, Agape meal
Good Friday, 3 April
10am, Children’s Stations of the Cross
12pm to 3pm, Ecumenical Service at
Emanuel Lutheran, Manville Rd
7pm, Prayer Service
The Great Vigil of Easter, 4 April
7pm, Saturday
Easter Sunday, 5 April
8am, Holy Eucharist;
9:15am, Children’s Service, Eucharist
10:15am, Coffee, Easter egg Hunt
& frozen peep golf
10:45am, Choral Eucharist

St. Mary’s of Scarborough
669 Albany Post Rd., Rte. 9, Briarcliff Manor, NY
www.StMarysScarborough.org 914-941-3030

Palm Sunday, 29 March
10am Liturgy of Palms
Maundy Thursday, 2 April
6pm Food Pantry Volunteers (pls call to register)
Good Friday, 3 April
7:30pm Service & Stations of the Cross
Easter Sunday, 5 April
10am, Resurrection Celebration with Communion

Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin
191 South Greeley Ave., Chappaqua, New York
www.smtv.org 914-238-8751

Palm Sunday, March 29
8 am & 10 am Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 30, 31
April 1
7 pm Holy Week Meditation
Maundy Thursday, April 2
12 Noon Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday, April 3
4 – 6 pm Rite of Reconciliation (“Confession”)
7 pm Stations of the Cross with Anthems & Hymns
Easter Sunday, April 5
8 and 10 am Easter Mass of the Resurrection
Communion from the Reserve Sacrament

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
85 East Main St., Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
www.stmarksmtkisco.org 914-666-8058

Palm Sunday, 29 March
8am & 10am
Maundy Thursday, 2 April
7pm
Good Friday, 3 April
12noon to 3pm
The Great Vigil of Easter, 4 April
7pm
Easter Sunday, 5 April
7am, 9am & 11am
Editorial

Good Decision for No. Castle to Operate Ehrman Pool—For Now

An apparent agreement for the Town of North Castle to operate the Anita Louise Ehrman Pool in Armonk, at least for this summer, was an easy call to make.

Near the heart of the hamlet is a beautiful state-of-the-art facility that many residents have used and enjoyed over the years. Supporters have pleaded with the town board to step in and save the pool, at least until its long-term future is ironed out. It would be foolish, when temperatures finally turn summerlike in a few months, to have that pool sit empty to save what would likely be a pittance in taxes even if things don’t work out all that well financially this year.

The town put itself in a tight spot regarding its summer camp this year. It seemed with no other options available at this late date, officials ran the risk of having a summer camp without swimming, which really is the single most important activity for any camp. Councilman Stephen D’Angelo stated that many parents were ready to take their children elsewhere if there wasn’t a pool—and with good reason.

However, what’s good in 2015 may not necessarily be the right decision in future years. The town board has to be prepared to answer many questions Wednesday night when it is expected to give the go-ahead for Supervisor Michael Schiliro to sign the licensing agreement with the nonprofit organization Anita Louise Ehrman Recreation Center (ALE). Not only will there be high curiosity about how much the town is paying for this licensing agreement, but what is its exposure considering that previous estimates have pegged the pool’s operating expenses at $300,000 a summer. What does the town plan to charge this summer and what is a realistic goal regarding membership levels?

Given the fact that the town is doing this somewhat on the fly, and seemingly without the time to start scheduling some additional revenue generating programs, what would be an acceptable expense for the town in the event the venture doesn’t break even? Also, who is responsible for the outstanding $975,000 pool debt that still needs to be paid to the bank?

Most of all, how many years can a licensing agreement be extended and at what point, if any, does the town need to make a decision about whether to acquire the pool or cut bait? By all accounts, the agreement is for this summer and a comment last week by Schiliro made it appear that there would be a chance for a renewal for 2016.

Having a municipal pool, especially one as beautiful as the Anita Louise Ehrman facility, is an outstanding amenity. It becomes a summer meeting place during many residents’ favorite season. Plus, not every resident wants or can have a pool in their backyard or is able to be a member at a private club. There is always a place for a town to have a swimming facility, and North Castle should be able to support one.

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the Ehrman pool and it would have been a nasty slap in the face for anyone in town who wants to swim there to see it fallow. But it does come with some baggage and many questions that need to be resolved sooner rather than later.

Letter to the Editor

Monthly No. White Plains Community Meetings Should Be Recorded

When is a meeting not a meeting? Answer: When it’s a gathering.

This was the distinction made at the last town board meeting by North Castle’s attorney, Roland Baroni, to justify Councilwoman DiGiacinto’s position of no audio or video taping of the “gatherings” at the North White Plains Community Center.

Mr. Baroni explained a gathering is not subject to open meetings laws, and therefore as moderator, Councilwoman DiGiacinto gets to make the rules. I contend that because these gatherings are open to the public and take place in a public building, there is no expectation of privacy, which is central in arguments allowing audio and video tape recordings consistent with our First Amendment rights.

DiGiacinto claims to have stated from the beginning there will be no electronic recordings allowed. There is no record of this. A majority of attendees don’t remember her addressing this issue. She also stated she’d been asked to not have these gatherings recorded. Again, there is no way to verify this.

And what about the disenfranchised North White Plains residents who can’t affect and would like to know about the decisions made at these gatherings that affect them? Everything discussed at these gatherings, and subsequent decisions, are unrecorded, unverifiable, and in Town Attorney Baroni’s own words, “ unofficial.”

This means Councilwoman DiGiacinto cannot be held accountable for anything said or promised. This is very problematic.

I’m only trying to establish some form of documentation of these gatherings. Councilwoman DiGiacinto said she doesn’t tolerate any personal attacks, but proceeded to attack me by alleging my desire for documentation, transparency and clarity were an attempt to stop the gatherings and turn them into something negative.

There are only five or six households from North White Plains represented at these gatherings in a hamlet of approximately 1,000. It should also be noted that Councilwoman DiGiacinto only considers the input of an even smaller group.

The esteemed councilwoman may contest my recollections of what transpired at these gatherings, to which I will quote sportscaster Warner Wolf, by saying “Let’s go to the video tape.” But alas we cannot, lest the town were to defend yet another lawsuit.

Anthony Futia
North White Plains
By Martin Wilbur

The first year after college, Cassie Ward was working as a waitress in Washington, D.C. when a chance conversation with someone she had known from school helped to clearly define her career path.

Ward, a history major at Coastal Carolina University, learned that her peer had studied public history, which enabled her to pursue positions in museums, historical sites and historical archives, where most of the jobs are for historians outside of academia.

"When she told me that, I did some research and thought this is really what I want to do," Ward said.

She enrolled in American University in Washington to earn her masters in history with a concentration in public history. After spending six years with the National Park Service in its National Register of Historic Places Department in the nation's capital, then two years as director of public programs at the site of a former plantation in rural Virginia, Ward wanted to move closer to family and friends.

A native of Pine Bush, Orange County, Ward, 32, recently returned to the Hudson Valley, starting last month as the new executive director of the New Castle Historical Society. She succeeded previous longtime executive director Betsy Towle.

Like many of her colleagues, making history relevant to people of all ages in the 21st century may be a challenge but one that Ward embraces.

"You're constantly making connections from today to the past," Ward explained last week at the Horace Greeley House in Chappaqua. "People, they want some connection to what they're learning. They just don't want to memorize information. They want a more interactive experience and one that moves them."

"One of my personal goals as a professional, is that if someone can leave here and if they're just interested by history, it doesn't mean they have to be necessarily interested by what they learned that day, but they (can) go home and then they want to talk to their grandparents about their story. So through that you're kind of creating mini preservationists and historians everywhere."

That way our historic places will always be preserved and our historic stories will continue on.

Part of her job will be to continue on with the historical society's current successful programs and exhibits with its dedicated roster of volunteers and board trustees, some of whom put in what amounts to full-time hours. Last week the organization, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year, held the second installment of its speaker series. There is also the annual fall antiques show, which will be moved this year to Bell Middle School, be held in October and given a new name, Chappaqua Expo.

Ward is also excited about the possibilities of introducing new programs that will attract varied age groups. Chappaqua School District second-graders already visit the Horace Greeley House, but Ward hopes to hold historical story times for young children, lunch-and-learn programs for some of the community's older members and a history happy hour to entice 20- and 30-somethings to the historical society.

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She is looking to work with Horace Greeley High School students to begin an exhibit of the school's namesake that can continually be added to over time. In addition, Ward wants to tap into the vast museum resources of New York City and periodically present guest speakers.

She also hopes to have the historical society have its place in the community's cultural conversation.

"Again, not everyone is going to become a public historian but there are elements you can have wherever you are in your life, whatever town you live in," said Ward, who with her extensive knowledge and interest in historic places has visited sites in 49 states. "Alaska is the only state she hasn't yet reached."

Ward's interest in history, particularly local history, extends back to when she was growing up. She would often accompany her father on weekend antique excursions and learned that the Hudson Valley is home to an enormous amount of major American history but also places of significant local impact.

The area is full of a long list of well-known people. But Ward said she's probably more interested in the regular folks that helped contribute to what New Castle and the surrounding area is today.

"I love the history and the stories of the common people, the ordinary people," Ward said. "My interests are less about the presidents and that type of thing because I think that's where you can make these connections."

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Beckets Fest Celebrates Return to W’chester With Music, Memories

By Janine Bowen

More than 50 years after the iconic band set foot in America for the first time, The Beatles took over Westchester County last weekend – at least in spirit.

Starting last Friday night, The Fest for Beatles Fans moved into the Hilton Westchester in Rye Brook. More than 5,000 visitors from 27 states and three continents were expected, according to event founder Mark Lapidos.

“You probably can’t ask for a more iconic band than The Beatles,” said County Executive Rob Astorino, who welcomed the festival to Westchester for the first time since 1982.

Founded 41 years ago, The Fest for Beatles Fans has been held in New Jersey for the majority of its run and had been slated to take place in the Garden State again this year, until the roof of the building at the originally scheduled venue collapsed due to snow. Lapidos said the event returned to Westchester because of the wonderful experience they previously had in the county.

The event featured a variety of attractions for fans of all ages, including puppet shows and games for children. Lapidos said since the festival’s inception he has seen three generations of fans come through to show their love for The Fab Four.

“It’s really exciting to see young people,” he said. “The kids today, they have their music they listen to and then they realize, when they get to their mid-teens … my parents have this music that sounds so much better.”

Older fans explored the marketplace, where everything from tote bags and T-shirts to rare albums priced as high as $17,000 were on sale.

During the three-day festival, several people who worked and recorded with John, Paul, George and Ringo during their solo careers hosted discussions and performed alongside the tribute band Liverpool.

One special guest who shared his stories with fans was Jack Oliver, head of Apple Records, The Beatles’ record company from 1967 to 1971. Working with the band for several years, Oliver experienced several once-in-a-lifetime moments, including being present for The Beatles’ famous rooftop concert in London, ultimately the band’s final live performance.

Oliver said he and the rest of the office staff were unaware that the roof of the Saville Row building would be turned into a stage that day in 1969, and recalled two men removing the skylight in his office to hoist a piano up to the roof. He regrets now that he isn’t visible on any of the concert footage, which was later used in the film “Let It Be,” but he had good reason—he spent the majority of the time running up and down the stairs trying to prevent the police from getting into the building to shut down the concert.

“It was our job. A lot of us don’t have any pictures at all just because it was our job and we lived in this bubble, and on the outside everyone thought we were gods and we were just regular people working together,” Oliver said.

Oliver never expected that people, including many who were born years after the breakup of The Beatles, would be lining up to hear his stories five decades later.

“We had no idea that 50 years later The Beatles would still be going on because, in those days, when a band broke up that was it, you never heard from them again,” he said.

County officials said The Fest for Beatles Fans generated revenue locally for Beatles Fans.

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County officials said The Fest for Beatles Fans generated revenue locally for Beatles Fans.

“”It is such a good time, it is so happy, you really hear fabulous music and relive memories of times that were really, really special and wonderful,” said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester, which altered plans for its own event at the hotel last weekend to accommodate The Fest for Beatles Fans.

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One special guest who shared his stories with fans was Jack Oliver, head of Apple Records, The Beatles’ record company from 1967 to 1971. Working with the band for several years, Oliver experienced several once-in-a-lifetime moments, including being present for The Beatles’ famous rooftop concert in London, ultimately the band’s final live performance.

Oliver said he and the rest of the office staff were unaware that the roof of the Saville Row building would be turned into a stage that day in 1969, and recalled two men removing the skylight in his office to hoist a piano up to the roof. He regrets now that he isn’t visible on any of the concert footage, which was later used in the film “Let It Be,” but he had good reason—he spent the majority of the time running up and down the stairs trying to prevent the police from getting into the building to shut down the concert.

“It was our job. A lot of us don’t have any pictures at all just because it was our job and we lived in this bubble, and on the outside everyone thought we were gods and we were just regular people working together,” Oliver said.

Oliver never expected that people, including many who were born years after the breakup of The Beatles, would be lining up to hear his stories five decades later.

“We had no idea that 50 years later The Beatles would still be going on because, in those days, when a band broke up that was it, you never heard from them again,” he said.

County officials said The Fest for Beatles Fans generated revenue locally for Beatles Fans.

“”It is such a good time, it is so happy, you really hear fabulous music and relive memories of times that were really, really special and wonderful,” said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester, which altered plans for its own event at the hotel last weekend to accommodate The Fest for Beatles Fans.

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Like Us!
Beloved Armonk Camp Director to Receive Award Posthumously

By Daniel Zenkel

J.R. Tesone, the longtime owner and director of Breezemont Day Camp in Armonk, will receive the American Camp Association’s 2015 Legend of Camping Award in memoriam on Apr. 16.

The award will be presented to his family at the annual dinner of the Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education (SCOPE), an independent, nonprofit organization committed to providing camp and college scholarships to low-income inner-city children. The Legend of Camping Award recognizes camp professionals for extraordinary contributions.

Tesone, who passed away last February, lived his life for Breezemont Day Camp and the members of the community for nearly five decades. He started as a counselor in 1966 and became the owner and director in 1986. His passion for camp and for his campers and staff was self-evident as he poured himself into Breezemont.

Tesone served on the boards of the American Camp Association and the Westchester County Board of Health and was president of the Westchester-Rockland Camp Directors Association. The New York State Camp Directors Association, where he also served as president, honored him as Man of the Year in 2007. His wealth of knowledge and experience and his uncanny ability to remember vital information made him an invaluable resource among camp directors.

He was passionate about sports, having directed and coached in the Armonk Baseball League for many years. He also played in a softball league for nearly 50 years.

"J.R. was a wonderful and generous person who touched the lives of so many people," said SCOPE Executive Director Michele Friedman. "He truly understood the value of the summer camp experience for children. SCOPE is honored to present the American Camp Association’s Legend of Camping Award to his family."

Those wishing to honor Tesone’s memory can attend the dinner on Thursday, Apr. 16 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Conrad Hotel in Manhattan or purchase an ad in the Dinner Journal at http://www.bit.ly/scope-ny. For more information about the dinner or to register, visit https://support.scopeusa.org/2015-ny-benefit.

Daniel Zenkel is a SCOPE board member.
Summer Fun, Excitement Return for North Castle Town Camps

By Martin Wilbur

You'd have a hard time convincing Matt Trainor that North Castle's town summer day camp isn't on par with top private camps in the region.

It's not only that Trainor is the town's superintendent of recreation of parks, which oversees Camp Kick-A-Poo for three- to five-year-olds and Camp Chippewa for children who will have finished kindergarten through eighth grade.

The camp also has access to municipal facilities and the Byram Hills School District and hires hardworking and dedicated staff who have the same training as any private camp, including about 100 staff members at Camp Chippewa alone. The programs provide a combination of fun, excitement and enrichment for children at affordable prices, Trainor said.

"I always hear from anyone, from any parent that I talk to that town camp by far is the biggest bang for the buck," he said. "In some ways or in certain instances we might not have certain resources that a private camp may have, but our staff is of the same ilk, they're vetted in the same way, they're hired in the same way. I'd also argue that in some cases our facilities are better because a lot of times we use school district facilities, so it's your tax dollars at work."

The popularity of North Castle's town day camp in recent summers is not only because of competitive pricing but by making sure there is a good mix of favorite camp activities with a sprinkling of new offerings, Trainor said.

Like most camps, there are the arts and crafts and sports activities, the latter being made more convenient because the camps are housed in public schools with access to gymnasiums, especially important when there is inclement weather. Camp Kick-A-Poo operates out of Coman Hill Elementary School after making the switch from the IBM property; Camp Chippewa is at Wampus Elementary School.

Trainor said the program also features Mad Science, Nature of Things and Musical Munchkins, which have been popular among many children. At Camp Chippewa, since a narrow majority of its campers are girls, a gym period that includes yoga and some dance elements has been introduced.

One of the staples of summer camp, of course, are the trips. This year, Trainor and his staff have decided to extend the limits for a commute from 30 to 40 minutes each way to a little more than an hour to provide more choices. The change allows for new excursions such as to Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, Conn. and minor league baseball games, for example. Going to the movies at the Palisades Center has also proved popular for the older campers.

"For me, where we face the biggest change in our thinking is our trips," Trainor said. "Instead of relying on the same stuff every year, we try to find some different things." It appears that swimming will return this summer after the town was on the verge last week of reaching an agreement with the Anita Louis Ehrman Pool.

Flexibility of scheduling also provides families with options. Three-year-olds at Camp Kick-A-Poo can go for the full six weeks for $940 or one of the three-week sessions for $545.

Four- and five-year-olds can choose to go weekly at $210. The three-day Week 1, which starts on June 30, is $126.

The three-year-olds’ session is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily and the four- and five-year-olds attend from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Camp Chippewa, which divides its groups by age, is also available weekly at $225 per week and $135 for the first three-day week. The camp day is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There's a 5 percent discount for a second child on all programs. All prices reflect the early bird discount (registration through May 16).

Families interested in registering their children and getting all the information needed for campers, can visit www.northcastleny.com, then go to the Recreation Department and click on Town Summer Camps. Credit card payments are now available.

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Contact LIU Hudson in Westchester: 914-831-2700 or westchester@liu.edu or LIU Hudson in Rockland: 845-450-5414 or rockland@liu.edu.

Learn more at liu.edu/hudson
No Telling What You’ll Learn From Home Improvement Suppliers

One of life’s greatest pleasures for me since I assumed the moniker of The Home Guru more than a decade ago has been the great talents and personalities I’ve encountered among the suppliers who service our many needs around the house, both inside and out.

As for me, a self-professed klutz with most things that require any amount of skill or technical expertise, knowing these miracle workers has always been essential to running my household and maintaining my property. I can communicate the expertise of others by writing about it, but I can’t do it.

As I have become friends with my suppliers and learned more about their backgrounds, I have encountered much ingenuity, sometimes sheer genius, and many surprises along the way. Sometimes there have been valuable life lessons learned as well.

For instance, some years ago when I needed to have wallpaper removed from some of my rooms and have them painted, Joe Pascarelli came highly recommended to do the job. Little did I know that he would become part of my life, both personally and professionally.

More famously known as “Fireman Joe,” Pascarelli retired as a Mount Vernon Fire Department lieutenant seven years ago. But 14 years before that, he had experienced a trauma where a young child had been lost in a fire he responded to and, as he put it, “I needed to get help to deal with that.”

As part of his recovery process, he decided to educate young children about fire safety and has been doing that annually at the Van Cortlandtville Elementary School in Mohagon Lake for the past 20 years.

Last week, I met him for lunch with another good buddy of his, Frank Quigley, also a retired fireman who had been with the New York City Fire Department in the Bronx and also involved with teaching children about fire safety.

In his case, Quigley would invite them into the firehouse to see the equipment. When he retired nine years ago, Quigley developed his own construction business called Window Plus. Besides windows, his company covers the gamut of projects from roofing, siding and decks to full additions.

The purpose of our meeting was to discuss our writing a brochure together about fire safety in the home for children with illustrations that Pascarelli could distribute at his school appearances. The intention would be to expand it into a children’s book and a CD.

As a public service to us all, especially to any young children in your own family or to any children you know, please share the basic outline below.

Fireman Joe’s Safety Tips for Kids

If you smell smoke, don’t HIDE, run OUTSIDE;

Make noise! Shout “Fire!”

If you see a man in strange-looking fireman’s gear, DON’T BE AFRAID. He’s a friend;

Have an established place outside for all family members to meet;

If your clothes catch fire, STOP, DROP and ROLL!

Never go back into the house for pets or anything else;

Two “toys” NEVER to play with: matches and lighters;

Have an EDTIH plan with your family (Exit Drill in the House);

Change batteries in smoke detectors when you change clocks.

To my way of thinking, good guys who are concerned for the safety and education of children are the kind of people with whom I want to work.

To reach Joe Pascarelli for wallpaper removal and painting, inside or out, call 914-330-3889. To reach Frank Quigley for any construction project, big or small, from roofing to an addition to your home, call 914-438-0249.

Postscript: While Pascarelli’s good work was born from the tragedy of the loss of a child, a young girl who attended one of his school presentations was able to save her own life and her entire family when fire struck her home in the middle of the night.

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), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. 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.
The Trials and Travails of Start-up Winery Owners

By Nick Antonaccio

Wine is big business in the United States and the lure and attraction of being part of its potential success and heady prestige is enticing to many.

Some desire their own winery for the love of the land, or the love of crafting their own artisanal juice of the Gods, or for the prestige and boasting rights or simply to be in the “mix” of the glamour, celebrity and fine dining in the inner circle of wealthy enthusiasts.

And then there are those who have an entirely different reason: the scam artists. These nefarious, unscrupulous rogues roam the earth seeking out the innocent and the gullible.

Last week I read an account from The New York Times front page, replete with a color photo, which epitomizes the dark side of human nature and the wine industry.

For years, Robert Dahl had been pursuing the glamorous life of the wine industry, to be financed with investor funds. Things went wrong, he turned to deceit and deception, and in the end, millions were diverted and lives were lost.

Here a few examples of how precarious life in the wine industry can be. Each presents varying perspectives of how individuals handle the stress and vicissitudes of pursuing one’s dream.

1. Follow Your Dream. A number of early idealists settled in California in the 1970s, pursuing humble lifestyles as farmers and wine producers. They were followed by wealthy investors from the technology industry, with wads of cash in their pockets. Many were egocentrics and hobbyists seeking the prestige and cachet of cult winemaking.

   Enter Mr. Dahl, the scam artist, and Silicon Valley investor Emad Tawfilis.

   End result: small farmers and wealthy investors persevered through the highs and lows of the winemaking industry. We read about the successes; the failures fade into the background. Dahl? He took advantage of Tawfilis. In fact, he defrauded him of $1.2 million. Dahl viewed Tawfilis as his ticket to the glamorous life without the burdensome trappings of debt.

2. Live the Dream. Sweat and toil are secondary to aspiring cult winemakers. The end product of their efforts, a signature wine, is the reward. For Dahl, pouring wines for tasting room patrons and being in the lofty mix of high-end Napa denizens was his dream come true. But his outward success was a cover for declining finances. He became desperate and channeled Tawfilis’ capital to unrelated ventures.

   End result: Dahl’s fraud was uncovered. The mingling with the tasting room public, the walks in the vineyard and the elbowing with the jetsetters turned into courtroom dates and dark meeting rooms with feuding lawyers.

   The travails of Dahl and Tawfilis continued. A shared vision became a polarizing, contentious relationship.

   Instead of chasing his dreams, it was government regulators, Tawfilis and his inner demons that were chasing Dahl.

   In court, Tawfilis gained the upper hand, obtaining court orders and equipment seizure warrants to partially recover his now failed investment.

3. The Afterglow. Walking through your vineyard, picking grapes, taking in the sweet scents of the soil and grapes, knowing this is all your own handiwork, is the epitome of euphoria for a winemaker.

   Unless you are also a fraud, with the legal system chasing you through your vineyards to corral you into a courtroom. Dahl’s afterglow was not a salmon-hued evening sunset, but a fiery, combustible volcanic eruption.

   End result: Last Monday, Dahl shot Tawfilis at his Napa vineyard. Wounded, Tawfilis escaped by running on foot through the very vineyards he had financed. Dahl was in hot pursuit in his SUV, barreling through the rows of grapevines that had inspired his dream. Dahl caught up with his investor, shot, and killed him. Cornered by police, he committed suicide.

   Chasing one’s dream can be a life-fulfilling pursuit, even if success is not always at the end of the journey. Some handle success, or failure, well; others are so egocentric they are unable to accept failure. Dreams are self-rewarding for some, self-destructive for others.

   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.
Tuesday, March 24

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: 914-238-0038 or visit www.mounkisco.lib.ny.us.


Empowerment Series for Women: Women's Guide to Happiness. Learn tools to change your mind set by shifting your focus to create higher levels of happiness and to provide balance, joy and ease while diminishing stress. Led by certified life coach Amanda Scocozzo. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Series continues on March 27. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mounkisco.lib.ny.us.

Pleasantville SEPTA Spa Night. Enjoy delicious refreshments and fabulous spa services while relaxing with friends. Special offers available for teachers and members bringing friends. Tiffany Nail Salon, 42 Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 6 to 8 p.m. Manicure and neck massage: $30. Pedicure and foot massage: $50. Manicure and Pedicure: $60 per person, or "Girlfriend Special," two for $100. Teacher Special: $25 for manicure and neck massage or $50 for manicure/pedicure. All ticket prices include gratuity. Info and registration: Visit www.pvillesep.ta or at the door.

Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo. De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., Mount Kisco. 10:15 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Regina at 914-960-4097.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightweight drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m. Drop-in, in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Paggy at 914-960-4097.

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

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

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 Mignone, 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 Westchester Community College Humanities Institute, Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11:15 a.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6840 or www.mountkisco.lib.ny.us.

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

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

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

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

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 Aist, 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.northcastlelibrary.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 Lizst'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 Cantitore 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

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


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

Great Books Forum Series. "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker will be discussed. Led by Professor Mira Sarkajda. 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.

continued on page 24
New American Cuisine Restaurant Opens in Tarrytown

By Jerry Eimbinder

The Toasted Barrel has opened at the Sheraton Tarrytown serving a wide variety of dishes from burgers to baby back ribs, steak and peppercorn seared salmon.

An extensive whisky and bourbon list is also offered, a reason for the res-taurant's name choice. (A toasted barrel refers to a barrel used for a second sitting for certain alcoholic beverages to enhance flavor in the aging process.)

The cuisine at the Toasted Barrel is New American and the menu includes crab cakes and lobster mac and cheese as appetizers.

Al fresco dining on the restaurant’s brick patio will begin as soon as the weather permits. Outside grilling on the patio is planned for steak, lobster and fish. Heat lamps will help to expand the patio’s dining season.

“Bourbon is a popular ingredient used by Chef Michael Koonce in many of his dishes,” said Manager Michael Dizzone, a Nyack native who graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Providence with a hotel management degree. He was food and beverage manager at Comfort Inn & Suites in Nanuet before assuming his present duties early last year.

Koonce was previously a line chef at the Loews Regency Hotel and The Water Club in Manhattan and is a graduate of the New York Restaurant School.

Items prepared with bourbon include its signature baby back ribs, bourbon cheese steak, French onion soup, bread pudding, cheese cake and fried ice cream, which comes with a flamed bourbon glaze.

The restaurant has breakfast (6:30 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday) lunch, dinner and bar menus. There is also a tapas menu and a weekend buffet brunch from 7 to 11 a.m.

The tapas menu includes lamb chop lollipops, gumbo soup, stuffed mushroom and popcorn shrimp ($10 and up). A personal pizza is offered in many varieties including oven-roasted tomato with arugula and mozzarella, pepperoni, sausage, chicken, seafood and calamari ($8 and up).

Burgers range from a basic burger on a brioche bun ($11) to one with foie gras and truffle ($18).

Entrees come with a house salad; a Caesar salad can be substituted for $2 extra. Entrées include a 14-ounce New York strip steak with vegetables and fingerling potatoes ($32), veal parmesan with pasta ($28), baby back ribs with French fries and coleslaw ($23) and spaghetti and meat balls ($18).

Peppercorn seared salmon is served with bourbon peppercorn demi-glace and basmati rice ($26) and penne a la vodka is topped with bourbon-glazed smoked chicken ($18). The bourbon cheese steak is sliced and comes with cheddar cheese, smoked Gouda cheese, carmelized bourbon onions and bell peppers ($15).

Two eggs (any style) is part of the “Sleepy Hollow Breakfast” and accompanied by Italian sausage, applewood bacon or Black Forest ham steak, home fries and toast ($14). Omelets with up to three toppings also cost $14. A breakfast quesadilla is priced at $10.

The weekend buffet brunch includes fruit, yogurt, oatmeal, cereal, granola, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, bakery items, bagels, cream cheese, butter, jam, juice and Starbucks coffee. It costs $19.95 for adults and $12.95 for children. Children under four years old are free.

Live music is planned for the patio every Thursday night. Requests will usually be honored by the band and there is no cover charge.

The warm-weather outdoors schedule will also include Caribbean nights, BBQ nights, Maine lobster nights and BYOC (Bring Your Own Cigars) cigar nights, mostly on Thursdays but occasionally on Friday evenings.

Sampling “theme” evenings are planned for bourbon, whisky and cocktail specialties — some with blues music — and with brief comments by representatives of liquor distributors.

Ladies’ nights feature half-cost drinks for women.

Hastings French Bistro to Host Five-Course, Wine-Paired Dinner

By Jerry Eimbinder

A five-course, prix-fixe wine-paired dinner prepared by executive chef Chris Vergara and wine selected by sommelier Ned Towlé is planned for French bistro Saint George in Hastings-on-Hudson on March 31. Towlé is the founder and director of the Westchester Wine School, also located in Hastings-on-Hudson.

The dinner courses are:

1. Diver scallop crudo
2. Smoked trout rillette
3. Seared Hudson Valley foie gras
4. Braised lamb shoulder
5. Episole, valencay, roquefort

The wine selections are:

1. Champagne, Brut Reserve, N. Faillan, NV
3. Bourgeuil, Domaine de la Chantelauere, 2012

The restaurant is named after Vergara’s pet rabbit George. Vergara is also a co-owner and co-founder of Meritage Restaurant in Scarsdale, which opened in 2004, and a co-partner and executive chef at Harper’s.

Towlé is certified as a sommelier, wine educator and wine judge.

The cost is $115 per person, with tax and tip is included.

Saint George opened in October, 2013. It is located at 155 Southside Ave. in Hastings-on-Hudson, the same location occupied by Buffet de la Gare for 33 years. For reservations or more information, call 914-478-1671.

For students in grades 7-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Friday through Apr. 24 (except Apr. 3). Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquallibrary.org.

Friday Night Cinema: “Twenty Eight Up.” Richard Linklater’s “Boyhood” might never have been made if British Director Danny Boyle and cinematographer Sean Bobbitt hadn’t come up with an award-winning play by Moises Kaufman and The Tectonic Theater Project. Chappaqua Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

“The Laramie Project.” The Lighthouse Youth Theatre will be presenting this award-winning play by Moises Kaufman and The Tectonic Theater Project. Chappaqua Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. $18 in advance (online). $20 at the door. Also March 28 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Info and tickets: www.showtix4u.com/boxoffice.

“The Light in the Piazza.” Arc Stages presents this Tony Award-winning musical, a haunting, romantic story of an American mother and daughter who travel to Florence on vacation and discover life and changing love. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. $28. Seniors and students: $20. Also March 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.arcstages.org.

Saturday, March 28

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The market moves indoors featuring vendors with winter-grown produce along with prepared foods. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through May 9. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.com.

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

Sahaja Meditation. Led by Peter Simone. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 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. 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 Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit www.addietude.com.

 Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and yoga. Ergonomics & General liability required during a class called Ripsip, and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre And Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. $20. Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.


Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $15 a 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.addietude.com.

Edward Arron & Friends. This string quintet lends itself to camaraderie, and with a theme of friendship, Arron brings together alumni of Caramoor’s Rising Stars mentoring program and Atmospheric director Pamela Frank for an evening of inspired chamber music. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 8 p.m. $15, $15, $35, $45 and $55. Info and tickets: 914-323-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

Sunday, March 29


Dining in the Dark: A Blind Dining Experience. This second annual event to benefit Guiding Eyes for the Blind, includes a delicious five-course tasting menu plus gelato. Guests will be offered blindfolds to test just how discriminating their taste buds are with prizes awarded to the diners with the savviest palates. Via Ristorante 225, 182 Plank Road, Mount Kisco. 1 to 4 p.m. $75 per person. Seating is limited. Reservations required. (Rescheduled from March 1.) Info and reservations: 914-666-6400 or visit www.viavanti.com.


Monday, March 30

Balanced Leadership for Women: Live Life Inspired. An interactive one-day workshop hosted by the Women’s Leadership Institute at The Manhattanville School of Business, will define and articulate enhanced methods of leading, working, being and contributing more holistically in the workplace. The program will individually coach women leaders on ways to leverage their experiences as they take control of their career development. Led by certified coach and trainer Kathy D’Agostino and Kathy Meany, director of the Women’s Leadership Institute. Reid Castle at Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. $125 per person (includes assessment, materials and lunch). Registration required. Info: Contact Kathy Meany at 914-323-5150 or kathryn.meany@mville.edu. Registration: Visit https://community.mville.edu/msb.

Knitting Group. Hats for our servicemen and women overseas and other ongoing projects for care centers and hospitals. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.
Women’s Rights Pioneers Featured at Jacob Burns Program

By Neal Rentz

Before there was Sandra Day O’Connor on the Supreme Court, Sally Ride in space and Hillary Clinton as secretary of state, there were thousands fighting for the rights of American women.

On Sunday, the Jacob Burns Film Center dedicated a program to their struggles and the issues they fought for when it screened “She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry,” a 2014 documentary directed by Mary Dore, which chronicled the early Women’s Liberation Movement from 1966 to 1971. The film was followed by a panel discussion and question-and-answer session.

The documentary covers the time from the founding of the National Organization for Women in 1966 to the publishing of the first edition of “Our Bodies, Ourselves,” a book about women’s health and sexuality five years later.

Dore’s work raises several key points behind the early women’s movement, such as career opportunities that were previously only open to men and equal pay. The film provided historical footage of the pioneers of the modern movement and new interviews with many of those who participated.

The movie also portrayed the infighting among the pioneers, the role of African-American and lesbian women and how the movement generated publicity, including a famous bra burning incident on the Atlantic City boardwalk during the week of the Miss America pageant.

Following the screening of Mary Dore’s documentary, “She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry,” on Sunday at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, a panel discussion on women’s issues featured, left to right, moderator Catherine Marsh, executive director of Westchester Community Foundation; Ann Spaeth, founder of the Westchester Fund for Women and Girls; and Julie Klaber from the Center Lane Program at Westchester Jewish Community Services.

It even showed how some women turned the tables on men by making sexual comments to them on Wall Street.

The panel discussion and Q&A on the film and the women’s movement featured moderator Catherine Marsh, executive director of the Westchester Community Foundation; Ann Spaeth, founder of the Westchester Fund for Women and Girls; and Julie Klaber from the Center Lane Program at Westchester Jewish Community Services.

Spaeth, active in the movement over the years, said watching the film brought back memories.

Marsh noted that Germany recently approved legislation requiring that corporate boards have 51 percent of its membership be women by 2020. In comparison, in the United States only 17 percent of current corporate board members are female, Marsh said.

Decades later, Marsh said women still suffer from pay inequality. Women earn between 78 and 82 percent of what men command in the same jobs, with the statistics varying depending on the study. At the current rate, it would take until 2058 for women’s pay to catch up, she said.

Klaber said that some of her peers have told her they would be interested in women’s equality issues, but are turned off by some of the controversial tactics.

“We still have a long way to go,” Klaber said.

In response to an audience question, Klaber said women’s studies are offered today in college. While some were offered when she was in school, many female students declined to enroll.

Another audience member said the women’s movement needed to encourage activism of women who “by choice or by chance” never had children.

Sunday’s program was part of Community Matters, which is sponsored by the Westchester Community Foundation. Community Matters is dedicated to generating discussion and activism around local topics including health, environment, education, housing and energy.

Preventing Colorectal Cancer: Easy Steps That Could Save Your Life

By Dr. Jerald D. Wishner

Did you know that colorectal cancer – cancer of the colon (large intestine) or rectum – is the third most common cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer death?

Now consider that if everyone 50 and older had a regular screening test, 80 percent of deaths from colon cancer could be prevented, according to the Colon Cancer Alliance. More good news: Revolutionary treatment advances are dramatically increasing cure rates.

Here, I explain your empowering role in preventing this disease.

An estimated 90 percent of all colorectal cancers occur in people age 50 and older. Risk factors include prior colon cancer, a family history or a history of other cancers, colonic diseases or GI problems.

In a sense, though, everyone is at risk, simply by living long enough. In its early stage, colorectal cancer can cause a chronic loss of microscopic amounts of blood through the stool, triggering anemia with feelings of weakness and fatigue. Other warning signs are changes in bowel habits.

However, you can easily prevent the disease from progressing to this point. The goal is to find cancer at a curable stage. As the “gold standard” for colorectal cancer screening and surveillance, that is precisely what a colonoscopy screening does. Importantly, colonoscopy goes a step further: During the screening, besides looking for early cancer, we also look for pre-cancerous growths called polyps, which we know will probably turn into cancer, and we remove these during the colonoscopy.

If polyps are found and removed during a colonoscopy, you are safeguarded in another way: We create a custom-tailored surveillance program for each patient based on their colonoscopy results. If you have no risk factors or history of polyps, current guidelines call for being screened every 10 years starting at age 50.

However, if polyps are found, you will follow a personalized screening regimen based on how many polyps are removed during a screening, and unique features of these growths. For example, if a colonoscopy is performed on somebody today and eight polyps are removed, I cannot be certain if other polyps are in the process of growing. Therefore, we will schedule another screening in one to two years. If at that point, I don’t see any more polyps, I might have the patient come back in three years. Most cancers take six to eight years to develop from the time the polyp begins to grow. Theoretically, as long as a patient follows the customized regimen, they should never get colon cancer.

The death rate from colorectal cancer has been declining for more than 20 years, thanks in large part to the effectiveness of screening. We are finding cancer at an earlier stage, and that greatly improves survival. In addition, a range of technological advances in the treatment of colorectal cancer is resulting in significantly better outcomes. Even with patients who have advanced tumors, we are seeing more success.

Treatment always involves surgical removal of the diseased area of the colon or rectum. A small subset of patients with rectal cancer will also need radiation. A subset of all patients will need chemotherapy.

Robotic surgery has added a level of precision that is revolutionary. The added precision offers a host of benefits to patients, including less post-operative pain, a shorter hospital stay, a quicker return to normal activities and the fact that needing a colostomy bag following surgery is now very, very rare.

What’s more, today’s advanced chemotherapy produces fewer side effects. Because side effects are so reduced, patients can tolerate a higher dose of the medicine, which kills more cancer cells. That produces higher cure rates.

Visit www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/ DrWishner to watch Dr. Wishner describe how colorectal cancer can be treated using the da Vinci Robot.

Dr. Jerald Wishner is the Co-director for The Institute for Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery and the medical director for the Colorectal Surgery Program at Northern Westchester Hospital.

Visit www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/ DrWishner to watch Dr. Wishner describe how colorectal cancer can be treated using the da Vinci Robot.

Dr. Jerald Wishner is the Co-director for The Institute for Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery and the medical director for the Colorectal Surgery Program at Northern Westchester Hospital.
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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING 2015-16 TENTATIVE VILLAGE BUDGET: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 8:00pm, prevailing time, Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pleasantville, N.Y. for the purpose of hearing comments as it pertains to the 2015-2016 Tentative Village Budget. All persons interested in speaking on this subject will be heard. Judith Weintraub, Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Final Assessment Roll for the Village of Pleasantville, Pleasantville, New York for the year 2015 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Village Clerk, 80 Wheeler Avenue, in said Village on the 1st day of April 2015 where same will remain open to public inspection for fifteen days. Judith Weintraub, Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

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Classified Ad Deadline is Thursdays at 5pm for the next week’s publication
The Pace men's lacrosse team held off Northeast-10 rival Saint Anselm at Pleasantville High School Saturday, earning a home-opening win and its first Northeast-10 Conference victory of the season.

"That's the thing, in the NE-10 we're 1-1," said Setters coach Tom Mariano after his team's 14-11 win. "To get that first NE-10 win, that's where it really matters. Before this, it's great, that's all frosting on the cake a little bit. But, really, this is the real season. The NE-10, that's what matters. Every win is hard-fought, every win is not easy."

But Saint Anselm, still winless after four games, came storming back, scoring four straight goals in the following seven minutes and cutting the deficit to just one. Kreitler eventually broke up the Hawks' run around the eight-minute mark, wrapping around the cage and finishing with his left, giving the Setters back a two-goal cushion.

Just 47 seconds later, Peter Sharp tallied his second goal of the game, but Saint Anselm countered exactly a minute later and went to the half trailing by three.

The Hawks carried the momentum they had late in the first half by controlling most of the possession time to start the third quarter. They scored three unanswered goals to tie the game at 9-9 with 4:48 left in the period.

"That's just how the game goes, ebbs and flows," Barfoot said about Saint Anselm's third-quarter spurt that tied the game. "We battled back, they battled back. It was just a hard-fought game and we came out with it."

But Pace never allowed the Hawks to get ahead. Anthony Gadaleta and Cossidente each added goals to end the third quarter, giving the Setters back a two-goal cushion.

"I mean, honestly, we played this team almost the same exact way last year," Mariano said. "We jumped on them big, they scrapped back in it. But every time we're about to break, we made a nice play to keep us that lead. It's always better to play with that lead, 100 percent."

Saint Anselm made one last push, trimming its deficit to 11-10 on a Geoff Kennedy goal only 40 seconds into the fourth quarter. With the pressure on, Sharp answered nearly three minutes later, beating O'Neill to the top left corner and restoring the Setters' two-goal margin.

Saint Anselm cut into the lead one last time as a Ben Warren shot skimmed off the left pipe and past Pace goalie Michael Bonitatibus with 6:08 left on the clock.

But as the clock wound down under four minutes left and soon the final whistle sounded as the Setters celebrated their first conference win and the end of a two-game losing streak.

"It's our first conference (home) game, so you always want to get that win," Barfoot said. "These guys battled hard, but at the end of the day we got the win. So that's all that counts. We just knew if we came out with a lot of excitement, a lot of energy, we'd have the confidence to win."

Bonitatibus finished with 11 saves for Pace, while the Hawks' O'Neill made 13 saves in the loss.

"Defensively, outside of a couple mistakes, I thought we really played hard," said Mariano, whose team's next home game is Saturday vs. Franklin Pierce. "Got good ground balls, cleared it, did some good things. Put us in position to be successful."
BOYS’ BASKETBALL
2014-15
A Look Back

Bryan Wolf of Pleasantville takes the ball to the basket in a home game vs. Sleepy Hollow.

Westlake sharpshooter Jesse Boyce launches a 3-pointer from the left corner.

Fox Lane’s Matt Redhead boxes out Horace Greeley’s Adam Quine in a game won by the visiting Foxes.

Fox Lane’s Emmett Robin tries to drive past Ben Wolfensohn of Greeley in a midseason game won by the Foxes.

Malik White of Briarcliff pushes the ball past the midcourt line during a Bears’ home game.

Greeley standout guard Cameron Ciero tries to score inside during a home game vs. Fox Lane.

Byram Hills senior point guard Ross Weinfield drives to the basket in a home game vs. Brewster.

Alex Olsen of Fox Lane gets smacked in the side of his head as he floats in the lane vs. visiting Woodlands.

Above: William Snyder of Westlake hauls in an offensive rebound vs. visiting Rye Neck.

Left: Matt Groll of Byram Hills sends up a shot in the lane during a Bobcat home game.

Far left: Byram Hills star center Andrew Groll shoots a short jumper during the playoffs at the Westchester County Center.

Ezekiel Demasio of Valhalla shoots the ball from the right baseline.
Westlake sharpshooter Jesse Boyce launches a 3-pointer from the left corner.

Pleasantville senior Chris Maloney shoots a free throw during the Panthers’ playoff game vs. Bronxville.

Freshman guard Skylar Sinon of Byram Hills drives to the basket in the Class A playoff win over Hen Hud.

Fox Lane guard Sean New fires a jump shot from the top of the key.

Lou Filippelli of Byram Hills battles Harrison Adams of Westlake for rebound position.

Horace Greeley’s Jason Neff dribbles across the court in a holiday tourney win vs. Carmel.

Above: Briarcliff forward Josiah Cobbs levitates in the lane in a holiday tourney game at Tappan Zee.

Left: Pleasantville guard Patrick McPhee calls out a play as he sets up the Panthers’ offense.

Valhalla forward Michael DeSantis tosses up a one-hander in the lane vs. Pleasantville.

Briarcliff’s Sean Crowley shoots over the outstretched arm of Westlake’s William Snyder.
By Cutler Klein

The second part of our local hockey season recap looks at the Horace Greeley Quakers, who finished the 2014-15 campaign with nine wins in 20 games and ended up as the 10th seed in the postseason.

Greeley's season finished in a rather disappointing fashion, with a triple-overtime loss to the Mount Pleasant IceCats. According to head coach Zach Dargaty, that playoff defeat ranked among the most disappointing in program history.

"That's probably one of the toughest losses we've had as an organization," he said. "I really thought we had gotten back in that game, and we had taken over the momentum. The game-winner was a great play, not a fluke, but it was definitely one of the toughest defeats we've had."

The Quakers' season was marred with inconsistencies. Great victories would be followed up by soul-crushing defeats. From one period to the next, Dargaty was never quite sure which Greeley team would show up -- the one that crushed Lakeland/Panas 17-3, or the one that lost 5-3 to the 12th-ranked Somers/North Salem Sabers.

"Some of that was just a function of some of our players being in and out of the lineup," Dargaty said about the inconsistencies of his team. "We never could really find our rhythm. We had some injuries at the beginning, and we had some players missing games due to other commitments. That's what did us in at the end. Our highs were very high, but we couldn't be consistent enough."

Perhaps the highlight victory of the Quakers' season was their December 21 victory over rival Fox Lane. Trailing 3-1 midway through the second period, the Quakers roared back, with captain Calder Fontaine eventually scoring the tying and winning goals in the third period. In the waning moments of the game, the Foxes picked up their physical play, leading to skirmishes and game misconducts, mostly to Fox Lane.

Despite the stirring comeback victory in front of a raucous Greeley crowd, Dargaty said that he did not enjoy the third-period fireworks so much.

"That was kind of crazy," he said. "I was glad that we showed a little toughness but, as a coach, I'm always looking for more good hockey up and down the ice, not the after-the-whistle stuff."

Dargaty said that his team didn't really have much expectation going into the season, but as it turned out did not live up to its potential.

"I knew we were going to struggle a bit, because we lost a lot of leadership and defense from last year," he said. "I didn't know how good we could be and, ultimately, we were probably a little short of our goal."

Going into the 2015-16 season, the Quakers will be losing many of their top scorers and leaders. All three captains, Sam Mishkind, Scott Jakubowicz and Calder Fontaine will be graduating in June. However, they should be returning some good talent, including Ed Girardi and Sam Whitehouse on defense, and Ryan Katchis and Ryan Rusiecki at forward.

"Not that the other seniors weren't integral to our success, but Mishkind and Jakubowicz were our top two scorers, and Fontaine was a jack-of-all-trades," Dargaty said of his captains. "It's going to be tough losing those three guys. We'll just have to see. There have been other years when we've lost some really high-level players and followed it up with some unexpectedly good seasons."

For next season, much like Byram Hills coach A.J. Cloherty, Dargaty will be looking for a bigger buy-in from his players.

"I would like our players to be a little more committed to the program, but I think a lot of other coaches are like that," he said. "It's tough, because we don't have our own rink and we don't practice every day. Life gets in the way, especially in high school. If we could be a little more focused and be together as a group a little more, I think we'll be able to find more consistency."
A Love of Wrestling is Shared by a Father and His Sons

By Monica D’Ippolito

Since making the Irvington wrestling team as an eighth grader, Lenny Balducci Jr. always had a passion for the sport.

He earned All-Section honors as a junior for the Bulldogs, and then went on to wrestle four years at Oneonta State, where he was named captain his senior year. After graduating, he went on to become a coach.

For the past six years, he has transitioned to the youth level, and is currently at the helm of the Pleasantville Dad’s Club youth wrestling team, which enables him to coach his two sons, Lenny Balducci III and Michael Balducci.

“(Coaching) was always something I wanted to do,” Lenny Jr. said. “I was fortunate enough to have two boys and fortunate enough also to have them want to wrestle.”

Both Lenny III, now 13-years-old, and Michael, 11, have had early success in the sport, which they both agreed was their favorite among the other sports they also play -- football, lacrosse and baseball.

“Wrestling is unlike any other sport,” explained Lenny III. “Like football or baseball, you have guys behind you to help you out, but wrestling it’s just you. Only you can change the outcome and only you can make it happen. Only you are stepping on that mat. You and somebody else.”

On March 7 and 8, Lenny III and Michael both qualified for the New York State Youth Wrestling Championships, which were held at Sullivan Community College in Loch Sheldrake, located in central New York.

Lenny III wrestled in the 91-pound schoolboy division with about 27 of the best kids in the state, while Michael was in the 11 other wrestlers. Lenny III was one match away from placing, while Michael took 11 other wrestlers.

Lenny Balducci III (far right) took second place place at the recent New York State Youth Wrestling Championships.

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“It was good, it was a little tough,” Michael said. “I mean, it’s not that fun losing in the finals, you know? Because you’re just one match away and you lose it, but it’s fine. You can get it the next year.”

Although Michael still has a year left at the youth level, Lenny III has plans to try out for the Pleasantville varsity wrestling team next year.

“It’s definitely going to be harder wrestling as an eighth grader on varsity, going to be wrestling kids that are older than you,” Lenny III said. “But it’s very exciting, I can’t wait until next year.”

It almost comes full circle for the Balducci clan since Pleasantville’s head varsity coach is no other than Bob Bernarducci, Lenny Jr’s former high school wrestling coach.

“He was my wrestling coach in high school, so he had me and now he’s going to have my sons,” Lenny Jr. added.

For Michael, even though he has a couple of years before he can think about varsity wrestling, his ultimate goal is to become a high school state champ. But, for now, he’s determined to go back and place first in next year’s state tournament.

“Yeah, a lot, I really want it,” he said. “I usually do some (training) in the offseason, so when I get back to the mat I’m not that rusty and don’t make as many mistakes and so I feel like myself when I have my first match back in the fall.”

The Dad’s Club wrestling program’s season runs from about late November until mid-March, with approximately 25 kids in the program, ranging in age from first to sixth grade.

“I just want the kids to have fun and be successful and make them learn the values of life, hard work, commitment and dedication,” Lenny Jr. said. “That’s what the sport does for you, that’s what I’m trying to instill in them. I want the kids to have fun, work hard and try their best. That’s the main principles I try to coach to at the youth level.”

Although he enjoys coaching the youth club and his two sons, Lenny Balducci Jr. admitted he feels the time may be right for him to step back from coaching for a bit. But he fears if he leaves, the youth program might falter.

“I think if you talk to anybody in the town, they’d say that I run a great program,” he said. “You’re not going to get every kid to like it, but if you talk to any kid in my program they like the way I coach. I’m very nurturing to the kids. At this point, I’d like to be able to transition out and find someone to succeed, but it’s hard. If I walk away from the Dad’s Club program, it can potentially spin downward and who knows what will happen. So I’m just kind of holding on this year and maybe next year and trying to find someone to take over for me.”

While with the Dad’s Club, Lenny Jr. has also organized the annual Pleasantville Youth Wrestling Tournament held at Pleasantville High School, which gives back to the varsity wrestling program.

“We’ve run a really successful tournament the last four years,” Lenny Jr. said. “What I try to do is take the proceeds from that and put it into the varsity program and partner it up with the high school. I bought a full wrestling mat a few years ago. We try to take what we do there and re-invest it back into the program.”

According to Michael, when his father was in seventh grade he was cut from the school’s basketball team. So the following year, he decided to try wrestling instead. Little did he know he’d fall in love with a sport that he would later pass down to his two sons.

“My favorite part is seeing them grow and get better,” Lenny Jr. said. “And just them being successful, and successful doesn’t always translate into winning, but getting better.”

Although they were asked separately, both Lenny III and Michael said the same thing when the question was posed about what was the most important thing their dad has taught them.

“Never give up, do my best, and have fun.”

Pat Kennedy’s Reign at Pace Ends After Only Two Seasons

The Pat Kennedy Era at Pace has come to an abrupt ending with the announcement last Wednesday from the university’s director of athletics, Mark Brown, that the veteran coach will no longer be in charge of the Setter basketball team. Matt Healing, an assistant under Kennedy the last two seasons, takes over and will be the head coach in 2015-16.

Under Kennedy this past season, the Setters won just one of their 20 games in the Northeast-10 Conference and finished with a 5-23 overall record. In two years at the Pace helm, Kennedy was 12-42. He won the 499th game of his long coaching career on January 10, but the Setters dropped their final 13 games of the season and Kennedy leaves still one victory shy of the 500 milestone.

Kennedy guided three different Division I teams to the NCAA tournament in his nearly 35 years as a head coach -- Iona, Florida State and DePaul. But he hasn’t finished with a winning record in any season since 1999-2000 when his DePaul team wound up 21-12. He didn’t coach for two years after leaving Towson State in 2010-11 and then resumed his career when Pace named him to replace longtime coach Jim Harter in May 2013.

Healing is a 2004 graduate of Monmouth University. As the top assistant to Kennedy, he was the recruiting coordinator for the program and oversaw scouting, academics, game preparation, scheduling and travel. Before arriving at Pace, he was also an assistant coach at Centenary College, Vassar and Division I’s New Jersey Institute of Technology.
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