Mt. Kisco Trustee Schleimer Announces Board of Legislators Bid

By Martin Wilbur
Mount Kisco Village Trustee Karen Schleimer announced her candidacy for the Westchester County Board of Legislators last week in hopes of succeeding fellow Democrat Peter Harckham for the District 2 seat.

Schleimer, 66, a real estate attorney who is serving her second term on the village board, said she is determined to fight for policies to protect crucial services for women, children and seniors and to strive for more prudent county fiscal policies.

"Unfortunately, most county budgets have borrowed heavily to pay for operating expenses, cut critical services, failed to find logical efficiencies that would have saved money, and put future generations at risk, resulting in even higher taxes," Schleimer said while surrounded by supporters on the steps of Mount Kisco Village Hall.

"As your county legislator I will fight for smarter fiscal policies that will make it possible for our children to live here and for our seniors to remain with their families."

Before being elected to the village board for the first time in 2012, Schleimer had served for close to 25 years in various capacities, including as Mount Kisco's prosecutor and as chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals. She also served on the planning board, was a member of the Master Plan and Zoning Law Revision committees and was counsel to Mount Kisco's Architectural Review Board.

Schleimer said she had been approached to run for the seat by county Democrats after Harckham announced earlier this year that he would be retiring from the Board of Legislators after four terms. She said it was a difficult decision but she ultimately decided to enter the race because her efforts would have wider

Former County Executive DelBello Remembered as Visionary

By Pat Casey
Alfred B. DelBello, a former New York lieutenant governor, Westchester County executive and mayor of Yonkers, died on May 15. He was 80 years old.

The announcement was made by his wife, Dee DelBello, CEO and publisher of Westfair Business Publications. She said her husband had been suffering from numerous physical ailments.

DelBello had an expansive career in the public and private sectors serving Westchester and greater New York as a visionary, lawyer and government leader.

Democrats on the Board of Legislators released a statement Monday that said DelBello's life was the "perfect Westchester story."

"Born and raised in Yonkers, DelBello died last Friday at the age of 80."

Pleasantville Approves Participation in Group Energy Buying Efforts

By Janine Bowen
The Pleasantville Village Board agreed last week to participate in a community choice aggregation energy purchasing program, although there were varying degrees of enthusiasm displayed by trustees.

Trustee Mindy Berard, who has been skeptical of the Sustainable Westchester program, was the dissenting vote, saying that she believed it would give local government too much authority to make decisions for residents.

"When we have the opportunity, which we don't have very often, to engage our residents and small businesses that they choose whether to opt into a program, not have the board make that decision for them," Berard said.

Under the program, all residents who are using Con Edison as their energy provider are automatically included in Sustainable Westchester's group-buying effort. In the coming months, Sustainable Westchester will put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for energy service companies (ESCOs). It will only enter into a contract if it demonstrates a significant savings over Con Edison rates.

Berard said she was uncomfortable that the program is run on an opt-out basis, noting that Sustainable Westchester could have utilized an opt-in method but chose not to. Any resident who does

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May 19 - May 25, 2015 SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS Volume 9, Issue 402
P’ville Assisted Living Plan
Developer Submits Zoning Request for
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environmental impacts and the amount
of the 24,000-square-foot building,
as potential noise, the use and mass
the proposal regarding issues such
speaking following the presentation
week’s meeting, with four residents
to a dozen neighbors attended last
lot. The latter proposal drew the ire of
with vehicles cutting through the church
Road rather than using Maple Hill Road
made from the design presented more
that these underlying conditions are
residential area, industrial area provided
Dwyer said. “Commercial area,
part of the village as long as the agreed
upon conditions are met.

One major change Benchmark has
“I am certainly pleased thus far with
another part of the village, ”

No alternate number of units was
mentioned by board members or Director
New Castle Historical Society Exhibit on Farms
New Castle’s Beginnings--Our
origins from Native American lands
through the farms of the 19th century,
founders are featured–Sutton Farm,
focus on several local farms and their
through the years, and the expansion
is characterized by the evolution
of the town's economy.

Did You Know?
Each year, approximately
600,000 Americans have
rotator cuff surgery.*

Q: What should I do?
A: If you’re experiencing pain, it’s important to see a doctor. A thorough
examination is needed to determine the cause of your pain. An orthopedist will
check for symptoms such as swelling, weakness, tenderness and any deformities. Additionally, imaging with MRI and X-ray will assist in a diagnosis. Treatment
options will vary. Most often rest, modified activities, and physical therapy will be
needed. To reduce inflammation and pain, medication or injections, such as cortisone
shots, may be used. Surgery will be required to resolve some shoulder problems.

Q: What can I expect if I need surgery?
A: If there is a tear, I’ll recommend surgery to repair it. Using a minimally invasive
arthroscopic technique, I’m able to repair a rotator cuff as an outpatient procedure
and patients can expect to be home within a few hours. For more serious problems
such as severe arthritis, degenerative joint disease, or chronic rotator cuff deficiency,
shoulder replacement surgery is often necessary. Patients can expect to leave
the hospital after one or two days. Arm movement is limited for
about six weeks while the tissue around the new joint heals. Most
patients return to normal activities after three months, and
shoulder replacements typically last a lifetime.

*American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Watch Dr. Karas discuss Advanced Shoulder Surgery
at www.nwhorthospinespine.org/DrKaras

TAKING CARE OF SHOULDER PAIN...
What you should know about symptoms and treatment options

Ask the Doctor
Evan H. Karas, MD, FAAOS
Co-Chief, Orthopedic Surgery
Co-Director, Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwhorthospinespine.org/DrKaras

Q: I’ve been experiencing discomfort when I lift my arm over my
head, most often brushing my hair and putting dishes in the cupboard.
What could be wrong?
A: Shoulder pain is often because of tendon inflammation or tear, dislocation,
arthritis or a broken bone. If you feel pain when you put on your coat or reach
into the back seat of the car from the front, you may have a rotator cuff
injury. The rotator cuff is a group of muscles and tendons that lets you rotate
your arm in a full arc. This intricate structure makes it possible for you to do
daily activities like reaching and lifting; you also rely on your rotator
cuff while swinging a tennis racquet or golf club or throwing a ball.
Injury can result from a fall or lifting something heavy — or it
might just be overuse. I often see
rotator cuff problems in patients
older than 35, as tendons lose
elasticity with age.
PLEASANTVILLE Farmers Market

The delicious good time opens this Saturday, May 23

Let’s Talk Nutrition with Marina starts at 8:30am
Marco the Magician at 9:30am & 11:00am
Live music by the Eugene Tyler Band 10:00am – 12:00pm
Plenty of seating for plenty of eating

EVERY SATURDAY 8:30AM - 1:00PM

Memorial Plaza Pleasantville, NY

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PLEASANTVILLE farmers market
Mt. Kisco Trustee Schleimer Announces Board of Legislators Bid

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impact.

“I feel that this gives me an opportunity to affect more lives, more changes,” Schleimer said. “I think the commitment to run is huge. I think that I’m ready for the challenge to serve and I’m excited, I’m excited about what the possibilities are.”

The Board of Legislators’ current leadership joined Schleimer for the announcement, as did Harckham. Chairman Michael Kaplowitz and Democratic Majority Leader Catherine Borgia praised Schleimer for her record of service in her home community.

Borgia said her commitment to issues in Mount Kisco has been extraordinary and she expects Schleimer to be able to transfer that focus to the county level.

“She has a wealth of local experience working with senior issues, doing constituent work,” Borgia said. “She really is committed in this community and all the people of this second legislative district are going to be very, very proud of their representative next January.”

Harckham pointed out how Schleimer has supported issues that reflect the Democrats’ values. While she specializes in real estate finance in her legal practice, there is a focus on advocating for women and seniors. On the village board, her votes have supported the protection of the environment and sound fiscal strategy, highlighted by the board’s recent decision to merge its police department with the county.

“Schleimer is committed in this community and she’s got an incredible resume of professional accomplishments,” Harckham said.

Schleimer said her background in real estate could also assist the county comply with the affordable housing settlement with the federal government and matters related to that issue.

It is not known who Schleimer’s challenger may be this fall. She said she has heard that Bedford Councilman Francis Corcoran has expressed interest in the Republican nomination, but the GOP has yet to formally announce its candidate.

In addition to Mount Kisco, District 2 covers the towns of Bedford, Lewisboro, North Salem, Pound Ridge and part of Somers.

Pleasantville Approves Participation in Group Energy Buying Efforts

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not wish to participate can opt out of the program at any time by making a phone call or sending a postcard.

Trustee Joseph Stargiotti said the ability to opt out at any point is what prompted him to change his mind and vote in favor of having the village join.

All residents who are currently Con Edison customers are now officially part of the community choice aggregation effort and can begin opting out at any point. Mayor Peter Scherer advised people to hold off on making a decision about opting out until Sustainable Westchester enters into a contract with an ESCO and the terms and savings are known.

“I would hate for anyone to deprive themselves of the savings without looking at the terms of the deal,” said Scherer, adding that he was “vigorously looking at the terms of the deal,” said Scherer, adding that he was “vigorously in favor” of participating.

Pleasantville is the sixth Westchester municipality to sign up for the community choice aggregation program. Sustainable Westchester CEO Mike Gordon said he expects that an RFP will be put out by mid-summer once all municipalities have made a decision about joining. To solicit an RFP, Sustainable Westchester will need to submit aggregate data regarding residents’ current energy use. Trustee Steven Lord voted to have the village participate in the program, but said he remained concerned about data collection and its potential cost.

Berard said she wants Sustainable Westchester to agree that the data, including names and addresses, will remain private even after a bid is awarded and the selected company needs additional individual data on energy use. She also asked that Sustainable Westchester and the village publish the expenses associated with participating in Sustainable Westchester, including the cost of public outreach.

The village will provide links to information about community choice aggregation to residents and send mailings to alert residents of the eventual terms of the contract and their ability to opt out.
Supporters Rally for Mt. Pleasant Board of Ed Write-In Candidate

By Martin Wilbur and Neal Rentz

Supporters for Mount Pleasant Board of Education write-in candidate John Piazza rallied on Broadway outside the Thornwood Town Center on Sunday in hopes of getting him elected this week.

Piazza, 42, a Valhalla resident who served one term on the board from 2006 to 2009, made the surprising decision to enter the fray last Thursday, announcing his candidacy through a release from supporters calling themselves Mt. Pleasant Residents in Support of Mt. Pleasant Schools.

Piazza questioned the lack of experience and motives of two of the four candidates on the ballot.

Today’s election (Tuesday) features incumbent Thomas McCabe and challengers Colleen Scaglione Neglia, Peter Peale and Catherine Tully for three seats. Current Board President John Grieco and Trustee Vincent D’Ambrosio decided against seeking re-election.

Piazza said he had considered submitting his petition last month, but was motivated to jump in after he and many other parents were troubled by Peale’s and Tully’s responses at a recent Meet the Candidates Night.

Although he and others at Sunday’s rally never mentioned Peal and Tully by name, many of the dozens of supporters held homemade signs urging for the election of Piazza, McCabe and Neglia.

“I don’t really think they’re for our school and for our community,” Piazza said without mentioning specifics. “They have an agenda and you can’t run for the board if you have an agenda. It’s not a good thing.”

Piazza, who owns his own contracting business, also said he wanted to make sure that necessary infrastructure repairs are made at the district’s schools, but at an affordable cost.

One of the rally’s organizers, Stephanie Pastilha, said she and other parents that she spoke with who attended the candidates’ forum didn’t believe that Peal and Tully supported the district’s $39.1 million budget that is also before the voters this week.

Pastilha said the spending plan carrying a 0.92 percent tax rate increase was a sound one.

She said with two decisive infrastructure referendum defeats earlier this school year, it was time the community united.

“We just didn’t feel that their intentions, that their answers were in support of the schools and, in particular, the school budget that’s coming up,” Pastilha said.

While McCabe and Scaglione Neglia did not return messages last week, Peale said he questioned why Piazza entered the race so late, although he added that he had the right to pursue the seat as a write-in candidate.

However, Peale pointed to an audit by the state comptroller’s office, examined district finances between July 1, 2007, and Dec. 2, 2008.

Peae said Piazza and other district officials never explained to the public what happened to the thousands of dollars charged on the credit cards.

Piazza responded that the Westchester County District Attorney’s office was made by district employees in violation of school board policy while Piazza served on the board.

The audit, which was conducted by the state comptroller’s office, examined district finances between July 1, 2007, and Dec. 2, 2008.

Peale said Piazza and other district officials never explained to the public what happened to the thousands of dollars charged on the credit cards.

Piazza responded that the Westchester County District Attorney’s office investigated the matter in 2009, but found no evidence of any criminal wrongdoing.

Tully briefly commented on Piazza’s write-in candidacy, saying, “I think it is great that someone else has decided to get involved.”

Christine Martinez, a parent of two children at Westlake Middle School, said she participated in Sunday’s rally because she felt the district was at a critical juncture and needed strong decision-makers.

“I think that last week the Meet the Candidates was eye-opening for a lot of people, to understand that there are other agendas besides what’s best for our kids,” Martinez said. “So I think what last week did was really unite us as a community to say that if somebody doesn’t step up and do something, we could be in big trouble.”

Pastilha said part of the public show of support was to educate voters on what they need to do to cast a write-in vote.

Piazza acknowledged that write-in candidates have an uphill battle in getting elected, but was optimistic that his campaign could be aided by technology and social media.

“It’s a new day and age,” he said. “I’m sure everyone’s up to date with how to do things. I’ve been here in this town my whole life and pretty well known, being a former board member. I think it’ll be alright.”

Voting takes place at Westlake High School until 9 p.m.
Former County Executive DelBello Remembered as Visionary

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was a symbol of what can be achieved through discipline and hard work. He was a role model to many of us and a tremendous supporter of various causes throughout the region,” the statement read.

County Executive Rob Astorino ordered all flags at county office buildings to be flown at half-mast. “It was with great sadness that I learned of Al’s passing, Astorino said. “We were good friends and I always appreciated his advice and counsel. Perhaps the greatest advice he shared with me, and something I’ve always adhered to, is always make sure you get home and spend quality time with your family.”

DelBello was born on Nov. 3, 1934, and graduated from Manhattan College and Fordham Law School. He was elected mayor of Yonkers in 1970 and county executive in 1973. The first Democrat to be elected to the post, he held the office for two terms.

DelBello is credited with numerous creative projects during his time as county executive including development of a unified bus service, which became the Bee-line system, and construction of the garbage-to-energy facility in Peekskill. He played a major role in bringing Muscoot Farm in Somers into the Westchester County Parks system.

In 1982 DelBello ran for lieutenant governor as a running mate of then-New York City Mayor Ed Koch. Although Mario Cuomo defeated Koch in the Democratic primary, DelBello went on and captured the race for lieutenant governor. However, he resigned the post in 1985 to go into private practice. He made an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the New York State Senate in 1994.

"This state is in a better place today because of his service," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement. Cuomo acknowledged DelBello’s “enduring commitment to bettering the lives of others.”

Andrea Stewart-Cousins, a fellow Democrat from Yonkers and the state Senate’s minority leader, followed DelBello’s career. “Al DelBello helped shape a better Westchester as a result of his vision, initiative, and collaboration,” Stewart-Cousins said. “Whether creating Westchester Medical Center from ‘Grasslands’ or connecting the county through a better public transportation system, Al was always asking ‘what if’ and transforming answers into action. His legacy of public service, even after leaving elected office, will continue to be felt and appreciated throughout New York State.”

He was a co-founder and partner in the law firm of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP in White Plains.

DelBello served on the firm’s executive committee and was a member of the Land Use and Zoning Government Relations practice groups. Over the course of his career, DelBello worked on some of the highest profile and most sophisticated real estate and economic development projects, public/private partnerships and urban renewal developments in the Hudson Valley.

DelBello was also chairman emeritus of the Westchester County Association (WCA).

William Mooney, Jr., CEO of the organization, said in a statement on Monday that DelBello was one of Westchester’s greatest visionaries and a mentor to him. He credited DelBello for his leadership on WCA projects including healthcare reform, economic development, government reform and young professionals.

“Al saw what was possible and masterfully moved sometimes implacable forces in order to improve the quality of life for all those living and working here,” Mooney said. “He understood human nature and skillfully brought people along, not an easy task in what was often a contentious and boisterous political arena.”

Referring to DelBello as an “omnipresent figure in the county,” Geoff Thompson, part of the senior management team at the marketing firm of Thompson & Bender, wrote that DelBello had encyclopedic knowledge of all things Westchester and that with his wife, Dee, became Westchester’s “Jack and Jackie.”

“Al was a genuine renaissance man,” Thompson said.

DelBello is survived by his wife, a son, Damon DelBello, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private. A public memorial is planned for May 28 at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown.
Whole Foods Market will have deliveries included in the resolutions were Whole Foods, the anchor tenant for the retail project, and would be constructed adjacent to the supermarket.

The second resolution, which approved the mapping for the Office Park Retail Overlay District at the 114-acre property was approved by a 3-1 vote, with Councilwoman Lisa Katz once again in opposition. Councilman Adam Brodsky was absent for the meeting.

Included in the resolutions were details regulating the 10,000-square-foot garden that would contain vegetables and herbs for educational and community outreach purposes. The garden will be operated by Whole Foods, the anchor tenant for the retail project, and would be constructed adjacent to the supermarket.

Other key issues that were resolved by the board during the past few weeks and included in the resolutions were Whole Foods’ hours of operation and deliveries. Whole Foods Market will have deliveries between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and the store will open at 8 a.m.

One new detail revealed last week was developer Summit/Greenfield’s offer to donate the Wallace Auditorium to the town. Supervisor Robert Greenstein said that the board would consider the offer but needs to make sure that there aren’t any hidden costs or responsibilities.

In a prepared statement, Katz said she supports the improvements that have been made to the 120,000-square-foot retail plan, particularly regarding architectural design, but still believes the scope of the retail is too big for the town.

“While I recognize the need to reuse that property and to restore it to the tax roll, I find that the desire to build the fullest potential permitted by law is not in the best interest of the community, and that it is not in keeping with the character of our community,” she said.

Approval of the resolutions came a week after Summit/Greenfield announced tentative plans to switch the site of its affordable housing units from the residential component of the site to the cupola building. Under revised plans made public by the developer on May 5, there will be 91 fee simple townhouses in the East Village and up to 32 affordable apartments on the top two floors of the cupola building.

Greenstein said the town expects Summit/Greenfield’s application asking for a zoning amendment to allow the affordable units in the Business Research Office (BRO) zone within the next 30 to 60 days. However, the site plan review before the planning board may begin before the zoning request is submitted, he said.

The supervisor said the town board will have to decide whether the revision constitutes a significant change to the plan, although Greenstein mentioned that he didn’t think so. At some point the board will have to decide on a negative or positive declaration.

“I believe it should be a negative declaration because residential on the top floor is a less intensive use than retail,” Greenstein said.

The board also decided last week to approve a downward adjustment in the assessed valuation of the property for 2008 through 2014. The town had the parcel assessed at $11,132,800 in 2008 and $11,503,000 from 2009 through 2013. Last year it was assessed at $9,818,250.

The board approved lowering by between $2.2 million to $4.3 for each year through 2013, and about $1.6 million in 2014, saving Summit/Greenfield about $326,000 in town taxes for those years.

On May 6, the Chappaqua Board of Education also approved a tax certiorari for Summit/Greenfield.

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.
Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

May 9: Report of a suspicious incident on Marion Avenue at 9:12 a.m. A resident told police that a stone was removed from the end of his stone wall. It was not known how that occurred.

May 9: A West Street resident reported at 10:23 p.m. that there were youths smoking outside. The responding officer found that two males, 17 and 19 years old, were smoking marijuana. The individuals sought his own medical attention. The matter is under investigation by police and the state Liquor Authority was notified.

May 10: A sergeant was dispatched to the parking lot behind Winston restaurant on Main Street at 9:30 p.m. to respond to a call of criminal mischief. The complainant stated that a reflector was hanging from the driver side side-view mirror. There were no witnesses or video of the incident. It was estimated there was about $60 in damage.

May 10: Report of an assault outside El Mundo Latino Deli on Main Street at 10:28 p.m. A 36-year-old Mount Kisco man told police he was assaulted by a security guard at the establishment. The matter is under investigation.

May 11: A call was received from Mount Kisco Elementary School at 1:03 p.m. informing police that two males were seen drinking and loitering on a property on Dakin Avenue. When the responding officer arrived, the male subjects were found but they were not drinking; however, there were empty beer containers. Village code enforcement was notified to clean up the area.

May 12: Report of a grand larceny at the Saw Mill Club on Kensico Drive at 12:23 p.m. The subject, who stated that the car was locked, reported that items were stolen from his vehicle while parked in the club's lot. The investigation was closed.

May 15: Report of a domestic incident at a Leonard Street residence at 12:40 p.m. A 21-year-old woman told police that she had an argument with her sister regarding cats and stated her sister and brother got into a physical altercation with her. The complainant had some red marks and bruises but refused medical attention. The woman's brother and sister had left the premises.

North Castle Police Department

May 8: A 911 caller reported at 1:38 p.m. that a landscaping truck was on fire on Stony Brook Place. The call was transferred to 60 Control.

May 8: Report of an out-of-control irate parent near the athletic department office at Byram Hills High School at 3:19 p.m.

May 10: Subject arrived at headquarters at 7:15 p.m. to report that he was eating lunch at Bowls on Main Street on May 7 at about 1:30 p.m. When he arrived home, his wallet was missing. The individual wanted to report the lost wallet as a matter of record.

May 11: Complainant reported at 11:27 a.m. that a large amount of construction debris has been dumped at the Guion Lane cul-de-sac.

All-Day Community Blood Drive
May 26 in Pleasantville

Blood donations typically fall off during the summer when schools are closed and people are on vacation. However, there is an unending need for blood and supplies need to be constantly replenished. The greater metropolitan area requires 2,000 units of blood products daily to meet normal needs.

As a result, Pleasantville High School and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps have once again teamed up to sponsor an all-day blood drive on Tuesday, May 26 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Pleasantville High School, located at 60 Romer Ave.

Whole blood and red cell units will be collected from qualifying candidates. Although this drive makes it convenient for Pleasantville residents to participate, all donors are welcome regardless of where they live.

For information or to sign up to donate or to volunteer, call 914-747-2408 or e-mail angela.usobiaga@verizon.net. Although it is helpful to let organizers know in advance that you plan to come, walk-ins are always accepted.

Online registration is also available at http://nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood/
Mt. Kisco, County Police Operations Could Be in Place Next Month

By Neal Rentz

With only one approval remaining, the consolidation of the Mount Kisco Police Department and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety could be implemented as early as June 1, two county officials said last week.

Following the May 11 unanimous approval of the intermunicipal agreement by the county Board of Legislators, the only step remaining is the okay from the county Board of Acquisition and Contract. County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) said that board's approval is a virtual certainty, noting County Executive Rob Astorino's support for the arrangement.

“I think it should be a pro forma” action, Harckham said.

Harckham said the deal could take effect on June 1, which marks the beginning of the village's new fiscal year. The Mount Kisco police officers would have to resign and immediately be rehired by the county, he said.

“I'm thrilled. I think it's great for everybody,” Harckham said. “It's a great deal all the way around.”

Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrich said he expected the Board of Legislators' deal all the way around. “It's a great arrangement.”

Executive Rob Astorino's support for the agreement, the mayor added.

“We are working on several logistical issues to ensure a smooth transition,” Cindrich said. “Issues under review include everything, every aspect of policing, communications, training, police station modifications, even the fueling of vehicles.”

Though Harckham said consolidation could go into effect at the start of next month, Cindrich would not commit to a date.

“We do not have a date certain, other than to say as soon as possible,” he said. Kieran O'Leary, a spokesman for the county Department of Public Safety, said the new police setup in Mount Kisco could begin by the first of the month.

“The Westchester County police are gratified by the confidence placed in us by Mayor Cindrich, the board of trustees and the people of Mount Kisco,” O'Leary said. “We are committed to providing outstanding police service to the village and looking forward to welcoming those members of the Mount Kisco Police Department who will be joining the county police.”

Though police consolidation was praised by elected officials, there are Mount Kisco residents who have been opposed to the move. Resident Kim Terlizzi conducted a petition drive calling for a referendum on the issue, but the village board did not take up her proposal. In seven days, 825 signatures were collected for the petition drive, she said.

“We were not surprised at all by the vote on Monday evening,” Terlizzi said. “Government by nature wants to be bigger. We (the residents) of Mount Kisco are most disappointed by our local village board, which is supposed to represent what the taxpaying residents want. Ours has not. We were not even granted one public hearing on this topic, although we were promised that on many occurrences.”

Despite the approvals by the village and county governments, Terlizzi said opponents of consolidation would continue to fight.

“We are exploring several options going forward, but most importantly, we are not going away or stopping,” she said. “Even if this goes through, we will be there to hold them to all the promises of better services at a lower cost.”

The village will save an estimated $2.4 million over the course of the five-year agreement. The first payment by the village to the county will be $6.4 million. The agreement expires at the end of 2019.

Hitting the Road

The Pleasantville Road Runners girls soccer team advanced to the New York State Cup semifinals during the weekend of May 9-10 by defeating the top-ranked team, World Class FC, 2-1. The girls are one of only four remaining teams in the tournament and the first Pleasantville soccer team to advance to the Final Four. They will be playing their Cup semifinals round game later this month.
Obituaries

Thomas McConnell

Thomas P. McConnell, World War II veteran and longtime Pleasantville resident, died on May 8 just an hour and a quarter before his 93rd birthday.

McConnell was born on May 9, 1922, to Thomas H. McConnell and Frances (Imo Peter) McConnell. He was raised on the family farm near Kokomo, Ind. He went to Indiana University where he met Grace Richardson, whom he married in February 1943.

McConnell enlisted in the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program, going on active military duty in June after his junior year of college. In September 1944, as a second lieutenant, he shipped out to the European Theater. Based in Italy, where he flew in a B-24 as the bombadier/navigator on bombing missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. He flew 236 combat hours on 32 sorties, and was bombing right up to the end of the war in Europe.

Kevin Molloy

Kevin M. Molloy of Thornwood died unexpectedly on May 15.

He was 45.

Molloy was born on Sept. 24, 1969, to Patrick and Margaret (nee Kelly) Molloy in White Plains. He was a union carpenter with Local 157 in New York City. Molloy was a member of the Thornwood Fire Department and a former member of the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

In addition to his parents who live in Thornwood, Molloy is survived by his wife, Melissa (nee Roche) Molloy, and his two stepsons, Christopher and Jack Lee, all of Thornwood; two brothers, John (Chrissie) Molloy of Brewster and Timmy (Ann) Molloy of Pawling; five nephews, Jack, Cooper, Brendan, Luke and Cole; and by his niece, Callie.

Timber Ridge Deck Plan Returns to Mount Kisco Planners

By Neal Rentz

An application to replace the decks at Timber Ridge Condominium returned to the Mount Kisco Planning Board last week after he Zoning Board of Appeals had granted the complex its necessary variances.

The proposal to replace 45 decks, some of which date back to the 1970s, at the complex near the intersection of routes 117 and 128, was being considered by the planning board at its May 12 meeting for the first time in about a year.

Variances were required from the ZBA because about half of the decks most of the current decks are about 12 feet wide and five feet deep. The new decks are proposed to be 15 feet wide with a depth of eight feet.

Last year, the planning board refused discussing the plan until the ZBA granted the variances. Timber Ridge also needs amended site plan approval from the planning board.

About 10 of the complex’s residents attended last week’s meeting, but none spoke on the issue.

Plans call for replacing the deck at the complex’s eight buildings one building at a time.

Planning Board Chairman Joseph Cosentino told project architect Lou Demas and Stefania Vasilesva, president of Timber Ridge’s board of managers, they were going to need a significant amount of landscaping before to help screen the larger decks before he would support the project. The board has scheduled a site visit for this Thursday.

“We have to see what we’re up against,” Cosentino said. “We need to see what is there.”

The matter will return before the planning board at a future meeting.

Nancy Robinson

Nancy C. Robinson, formerly of North White Plains and most recently of West Palm Beach, Fla., died on May 6. She was 75.

Robinson was born on March 29, 1940, to the late Eldridge and Louise Bondurant and stepfather Antonio Caixeiro in Fairfax, Va. She was a retired bus driver with Westchester Jumbo Taxi in Thornwood.

Robinson was predeceased by her devoted husband, Arthur Robinson, in 1997. She is survived by her loving children, Anne M. Cucciarre, Lynn M. (Ann) Molloy of Palm Beach, Fla, and by several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on May 9 followed by the funeral service. Interment was at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

In lieu of flowers, donations to either St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital or the American Heart Association would be appreciated.

Clara Bardong

Clara D. Bardong, formerly of Hawthorne and most recently of Inverness, Ill., passed away peacefully on May 3. She was 98.

Bardong was born on Apr. 7, 1917, to the late Peter P. and Clara Bardong (nee Reichard) in New York City. She was an executive secretary for Reader’s Digest in Chappaqua for many years. Bardong was also a member of the Women’s Guild in Pleasantville.

She was predeceased by her loving sister, Catherine Jamieson.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on May 10. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on May 10 followed by interment at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

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

Alfred Schwab

Alfred J. Schwab, Jr. of Hawthorne died on May 13 after a brief illness.

He was 53.

Schwab was born on Apr. 17, 1962, to Alfred and Barbara Schwab in White Plains.

Besides his parents of Melbourne Beach, Fla., and formerly of Hawthorne, Schwab is survived by his devoted wife, Christine (nee Carlo) Schwab, and by his loving children, Nicole and Matthew Schwab, all of Hawthorne; three brothers, John (Karen) Schwab of Homer Glen, Ill., Peter (Susanna) of Madison, N.J. and Steven (Andra) Schwab of Basking Ridge, N.J.; and by several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on May 14. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on May 16 followed by interment at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

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

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Special District Considered in No. Castle to Pay for Dam Repairs

By Martin Wilbur

Homeowners whose properties surround a North Castle body of water must decide by next week whether they want to form a lake district to pay for long overdue maintenance and dam repairs.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a Apr. 29 notice of violation to the town and the three homeowners who collectively own Long Pond Dam.

The DEC's sternly-worded letter demands that a detailed plan and schedule to repair or remove the dam must be submitted to the agency by June 12 or civil penalties would be incurred. A completed engineering assessment must be received by Aug. 19.

If no action is taken, the state would step in and do the work and seek reimbursement from the town and the homeowners. The DEC's engineer from its Dam Safety Section. There has been general neglect; overgrown trees, brush and plants, particularly along the spillway sidewalls; and deterioration of the concrete along one sidewall, the correspondence stated.

John Kellard, the town's consulting engineer, said the failure to maintain the dam dates back close to 20 years, in part because of the prohibitive cost. Current maximum estimates for the work is $310,000 plus contingency and borrowing costs, he said. Maximum annual costs projected with a 20-year bond would be $27,000.

He said the DEC, which last had formal contact with the town on the issue about four years ago, has become frustrated with the inaction.

"At this stage, I can say, the DEC is putting pressure to the town and the residents to come up with a solution," Kellard said.

Based on total acreage of the 19 properties and the water, it was determined the town owns the center of the pond, which accounts for about 22 percent of the area, Kellard said.

At a town board work session last Wednesday, the 19 private property owners listened to their choices in hopes of reaching a solution. Resident Peter Weiler was taken aback at the costs, saying "$27,000 a year just sounds like an unbelievable number to me and I'm sure to everybody in this room."

Town Attorney Roland Baroni said tree removal is projected to cost $27,000.

"There's got to be a mechanism and it's done one way or the other," Baroni said.

Most homeowners in attendance said they realized that something needs to be done but looked to town officials in hopes that could also reduce the cost. Kellard said tree removal is projected to cost about $100,000.

It appeared that a majority of residents in the room asked that Baroni draw up a petition to see if there was support to form a special district. The petition will be available starting this Friday to be signed at the office of Town Clerk Anne Curran. The 19 homeowners will have through May 29 to make a decision.

In order to have enough support, owners of 51 percent of the assessed valuation of the 19 parcels need to sign the petition. Baroni said. That would not include the town-owned acreage, he said.

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Editorial

DelBello’s Life and Career Was Impressive on Many Levels

For those of us who didn’t live in Westchester when Alfred DelBello was county executive, or weren’t old enough to be around or to remember when he held office, the impact of his two terms continue to be felt today.

As the first Democratic Westchester County executive, there are the well-documented contributions of his administration. Two of those were the creation of what is today the county’s Bee-line bus system and preserving Muscoot Farm in Somers as functioning farmland and as an educational center for children and families.

When he was elected lieutenant governor in 1982, in a different time when the candidates ran individually and not as a ticket, he found himself in an awkward position. Having been former New York City Mayor Ed Koch’s ally in the Democratic primary, when Mario Cuomo defeated Koch in 1982, DelBello left his post as lieutenant governor and later became governor, he and the elder Cuomo never thawed their frosty relationship.

DelBello would resign from office just over two years into his term, reportedly bored because there was little to do. That may seem odd to some, but DelBello wasn’t going to sit around collecting a paycheck, not when he could seemingly be a success in anything that he set his mind to do.

So he helped launch a successful law firm, today’s DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, where he specialized in zoning and land use. He would never hold public office again, despite a bid for state Senate in 1994, but DelBello wouldn’t fade at all from the public eye.

Thoughout his life, DelBello was highly respected by Democrats and Republicans and not just in the capacity of elder statesman, but as someone who could easily move in circles that involved people of all political persuasions.

Today, where politics can be so poisonous and partisan, that may seem foreign to some, but in so many different capacities DelBello remained a classy individual while still making important contributions. It is an example that anybody would be wise to emulate.

Write-in Candidate in Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant School District residents who were planning to go to the polls on Tuesday to vote in the board of education election were met with an unexpected choice at the polls. Well, sort of.

There were four names on the ballot, incumbent Thomas McCabe and challengers Colleen Scaglione Neglia, Peter Peale and Catherine Tully.

Extra Precautions Needed to Protect Your Skin From the Sun

Be it tanning at the beach or lounging around the pool, for many of us summer is the most relaxing time of year. The bright sun, however, can pose real health problems for your skin and overall well-being. While a nice tan can be rejuvenating and boost your self-esteem, the sun’s rays increase your risk of cancer and accelerate the aging process.

Ultraviolet rays increase your chances of developing melanoma skin cancer. Always check moles or sun spots for signs of melanoma using the ABCDE rule for malignant moles, which usually have the following characteristics:

- Asymmetry: one half does not match the other;
- Border: uneven notches;
- Color: variety of colors, such as red, white or blue;
- Diameter: larger than six millimeters across; and
- Evolving: any change in appearance.

The sun accelerates the aging process by damaging fibers in your skin called elastin, causing your skin to sag. Exposure causes premature wrinkles and dark, unsightly pigmentation.

To prevent skin damage, use sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30, as this blocks 97 percent of the sun’s rays. While higher SPF’s block more rays, no sunscreen provides complete protection. Make sure to apply lotion every two hours when outdoors, and directly after swimming or sweating. Use sunscreen even on cloudy days, as solar radiation still reaches you. Sunscreen can be used on toddlers and infants six months or older.

Discard the lotion after three years, the amount of time the FDA requires sunscreen to retain its original strength. Also, make smart clothing decisions. Use wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeve SPF-rated shirts and wear sunglasses. Remember that the simplest way to protect yourself is through carefully monitoring your exposure and making sensible choices.

Enjoy the summer!

Elena Ginsberg is founder of Primary Aesthetic Skin Care PC in Bedford.
know your Neighbor

Mekea Fishlin,
Yoga Instructor/Graphic Designer, Mt. Kisco

By Martin Wilbur

Throughout her childhood Mekea Fishlin was quite familiar with yoga by watching her mother practice regularly.

Although she didn’t enjoy participating as a teenager, that youthful aversion is long a thing of the past.

In recent years, Fishlin, 41, found herself gravitating back to yoga as a form of meditation, particularly when she was pregnant and had more time when no longer commuting to work in the Bronx. Today, if Fishlin hasn’t found time for a session, or at least to do it at home for 20 minutes, she said she feels off center.

“It was something that I could do that was completely relaxing, and to me has a spiritual connection as well as getting a workout,” Fishlin said.

She began taking classes at the Saw Mill Club in Mount Kisco. One of those classes was prenatal yoga when Fishlin was pregnant with the second of her three children.

When she stepped down as publisher of The Riverdale Press, a weekly newspaper in the Bronx, about three years ago, Fishlin was searching to find a new direction in her life, so she training to become a yoga instructor. She put in 200 hours to become certified, then an 85 additional hours to be able to teach the prenatal yoga sessions. She’s currently in the midst of 300 additional hours of training.

Fishlin started off as a substitute instructor at Saw Mill, and since January, has been leading three 60- or 75-minute classes a week—one for beginners, a power yoga class and the prenatal.

She said having attended the prenatal class helped her and other women as they went through the various stages of pregnancy and beyond. The class focuses on controlling breath.

“Besides from providing a wonderful communal space with people who are going through the same thing as you, yoga itself helps to even the body and helps prepare for the changes that are happening, the growing belly and the labor to follow,” Fishlin said.

The roughly five-minute commute for Fishlin, who has lived with her husband, Todd, in Mount Kisco for about 11 years, allows her to be close to home to raise their three children, who range in age from nine years to 20 months. It also permits Fishlin to be able to teach the prenatal yoga sessions.

Fishlin, who has lived with her husband, Todd, in Mount Kisco for about 11 years, allows her to be close to home to raise their three children, who range in age from nine years to 20 months. It also permits Fishlin to do freelance graphic design from home for several publications, including The Northern Westchester Examiner.

Today, she works 20 hours a week as graphic designer for the paper’s parent company, the Long Island-based Richner Publications.

Fishlin would also like to continue adding to her qualifications. She’s in the process of getting her childbirth education certificate and also hopes to become a doula, someone who assists a woman before, during and after childbirth.

And yoga will remain a big part of her life.

“It’s something that I had always wanted to understand more about the history of the culture, the philosophy, to be able to dive into it and have my questions answered as well as being able to share it with other people,” Fishlin said.

Discover more about Indian Point at SafeSecureVital.com

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

“Peekskill is my home, and keeping us safe is my job.”

Kaitlyn Corbett
Nuclear Engineer
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Important Decisions Facing College-Bound Art Students

By Donna Ferreiro

Should I attend an art school or a school that has art?

This is a difficult yet common question for college-bound students considering a future in art. Understanding the difference is not only a matter of weighing the pros and cons but also a question of happiness and comfort.

To find out which path is right for you, you will need to ask yourself some questions.

It has been many years since I stood in their shoes, but I had to ask the same questions, and for me the answers were simple. Did I love the visual arts and everything about the visual arts more than anything? Yes I did, ever since I could remember.

Did I have any interest in becoming a doctor or lawyer, politician or office executive? Absolutely not!

How about a scientist or financial wiz? Nope, not with my math scores.

Could I imagine myself working in an art studio all day, every day and finishing my art projects all night? I actually couldn’t wait. For me the answer was clear.

Did I have any interest in becoming a doctor or lawyer, politician or office executive? Absolutely not!

How about a scientist or financial wiz? Nope, not with my math scores.

Could I imagine myself working in an art studio all day, every day and finishing my art projects all night? I actually couldn’t wait. For me the answer was clear.

What if you are a talented artist but have other interests as well? What if your math test scores are pretty strong and you do enjoy science and other courses of study? Maybe you know you love being an artist, but you are open to spending a good amount of your time doing other things as well? What if there is a tiny doubt that maybe doing art 24/7 may not be for you?

In that case you should definitely take a look at your other options. You may want to look into a liberal arts college with a strong art department, such as Skidmore or Vassar, so you can explore the arts seriously as an art major, but have access to academics as well. Maybe you would be more comfortable in a larger university, like Syracuse or SUNY New Paltz, that has a strong art department as well as many other classes and majors to explore and choose from.

Once you have decided what kind of schools to apply to, you have to ask yourself the most important questions: Am I ready? Do I have a strong enough portfolio to get accepted into an art school, liberal art school or university as an art major?

No matter which schools you apply to, if you are planning to major in art you will need to get a fine art portfolio ready. A surprising number of students are unaware that this is true even if your field of study is architecture, interior design, graphic design or photography. Most schools require portfolios that contain 12 to 20 pieces of artwork. Do not panic. Summer is here and there are many college portfolio development programs out there. Do your homework and find one which will give you the opportunity to work in a variety of mediums and draw from live models and still life because most schools want ALL work to be from life. If you buckle down and apply yourself there is still time to get a beautiful portfolio ready by application time.

Keep in mind that no matter which path you decide to take, art school, liberal arts school or university, it is not irreversible. Transferring is always an option, and looking on the bright side, this time your portfolio will be ready.

Donna Ferreiro is a portfolio coach at the Katonah Art Center.
Nature Versus Lazy Bone (and Rickety-Boned) Gardeners

Most every spring I write a piece about simplifying garden chores to achieve maximum effect in design and color with minimum effort in terms of planting, weeding and especially bending and kneeling.

This is critical for us folk who are “getting better” each year, as they say now about active, mature adults.

But a lot happens to a property after decades of living, much of it not good, and that sometimes throws a monkey wrench into landscaping simplification.

How naive I was as a young homeowner thinking that every tree, shrub and bulb I discovered on my property, as well as ones that I plopped there over the years, would continue to grow and prosper during their lifetimes and mine.

Oh, my, how the landscape that embraces my historic property has changed over the years thanks to pestilence, severe winters and especially hurricanes Irene and Sandy, transforming my shaded Shangri-La into a very sunny pestilence, severe winters and especially changed over the years thanks to embraces my historic property has and mine.

And in the sunny areas of the property, as well as ones that I plopped shrub and bulb I discovered on my homeowner thinking that every tree, which had been a gorgeous shaded glen, suddenly looked like a war zone. I was also thousands of dollars poorer from the experience.

That unforgiving sun demands that newspaper headlines danced in my head, such as “Neighbors Complain That Home Guru Blacktops Entire Property.” At first I was grateful that none of the trees had hit the house, but I didn’t know where to start with suddenly moving from shade gardening to that of bright sunlight.

Years ago, the spreading limbs of two-century-old sugar maples required only broad swaths of pachysandra below. And in the sunny areas of the property, enthusiastic gardener that I was at the time, I planted beds of annuals and perennials in every inch of space that had access to the sun. Now, suddenly there was too much access to the sun and I had no drive to plant much at all.

It taught me some lessons in garden simplification that I pass on here.

But it taught me some lessons in garden experience.

For flowers that require less planting time, I’ve turned to container gardening. Since my attack by Mother Nature, I’ve created a more architectural garden by collecting urns – iron, aluminum that looks like iron, concrete and clay – and have interspersed them on either side of the entrance to my driveway, three on my patio, at the entrance to my front door and at several locations in my backyard. To make them really carefree, I plant three geraniums in each urn, usually in pink and one white, my favorite combination. Geraniums are the hardest plant under the sun, and surrounding them, I plant white and pink petunias, the kind which make them really carefree, I plant three Geraniums are the hardiest plant under plant them.

Also, I’ve added three teak benches in those areas of the yard that are still shaded so I can sit and enjoy the new vistas of lawn and color that I’ve created, with the containers as focus points.

To guard against the need for constant weed pulling during the summer, I ask my young buddy, John Fitzpatrick of Fitz Landscaping, to drop me off a truck of “clean” wood chips at the far edge of my wooded property. When I feel like some exercise, instead of going to the gym I take my pitchfork and coat every bed of perennials and around my hosta with a thick layer of chips to keep the weeds at bay all season long.

If you’d like Pat Fitzpatrick to do the same for you, call him at 914-618-1549. At the same time, you might ask him to give you an estimate for your other landscaping needs. You’ll find that his pricing for landscaping services is very good.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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EMPIRE CITY CASINO
P’ville SEPTA Honors Those Who Work With Special Needs Kids

By Janine Bowen

Local teachers, community members and organizations were recognized Monday in Pleasantville for volunteer work with special needs students.

During an annual awards ceremony at Lucy’s, Pleasantville’s Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) granted honors to nine people in four different categories.

Lauren Peterson, a teaching assistant in Pleasantville for the past eight years, was named SEPTA Educational Partner of the Year.

Susi Wilson, a Pleasantville special education teacher who has known Peterson for about 14 years, said she has never encountered anyone who possesses Peterson’s kindness and innate ability to teach by building on the strengths of her students. Wilson said every classroom in America would be better if it had a version of Peterson.

“Each day I am in awe of her passion, dedication and ability to reach and connect with each individual student that she works with,” Wilson said.

Becoming emotional when she accepted her award, Peterson said she learned a lot by working with Wilson. She mentioned how she derived her work ethic from her parents. Her mother was a special education teacher while raising four children and battling Multiple Sclerosis.

Her father worked three different jobs. Peterson said the best teachers are the students who she feels “blessed” to interact with on a daily basis.

Anna Fishman, who accepted the Community Partner of the Year award on behalf of Pace University, said the students have been able to teach her valuable lessons. The Pace University School of Education was honored for its partnership with the district to create and run the Pace Lab School.

“I have learned how much pleasure these wonderful young adults can bring to others if given the chance,” Fishman said.

Developed two years ago, the program allows special education students between the ages of 18 and 21 to continue their education while having a college campus experience. The program also offers students the chance for internships on the Pace campus where they can develop important job and social skills.

Also honored was John Fearon, who has devoted his Sunday mornings for the past few years to teaching in the VIP soccer program for special needs students. Although Fearon said he didn’t deserve his Parent Partner of the Year award because all he has to do is show up and have fun, Colleen Griffin-Wagner, who founded and runs the program, disagreed. She praised Fearon, who approached her on a whim wanting to assist with the program. He always has a smile, a positive attitude and something nice to say, Griffin-Wagner said.

“He has put such a burst of energy into our high school kids, I can’t thank him enough,” she said. “He is a treasure to all of us and I am so privileged to call him a friend.”

Adult volunteers weren’t the only ones recognized. Six Pleasantville High School students received special community service recognition for their work with special needs students.

One student singled out was junior Julia Mulry, who developed the Peer 2 Peer program at the school. Peer 2 Peer aims to include special needs students in monthly social activities such as bake sales and crafting, each of which is planned by Mulry.

Over the past year, the program has grown and has attracted students in all grades and of all abilities.

“It really has been an amazing experience for all of us,” Wilson said of program.
Village Responds to New and Improved Pleasantville Day

By Liana Frasca

Pleasantville Day is usually a highly anticipated event in the village, but this year's celebration was met with a greater enthusiasm and excitement than ever.

With new rides and activities such as rock wall climbing, five-on-five human foosball, a gaga court and a Velcro blow-up castle for the kids, hundreds filled the village's downtown for the new and improved Pleasantville Day.

Peter Rogovin, one of the event's organizers, said he was struck by how involved everyone seemed to be.

"People used to walk up and down a few times and then want to get on with their day," Rogovin said. "Now there's a constant sense that there's always more to see."

Rogovin said it was great to see nearly every booth surrounded by eager participants; some lines, like for the rock climbing and bungee jumping, were at least 15 families long most of the day.

Co-sponsored by the village, the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce and Kiwi Country Day Camp, Pleasantville Day was previously coordinated by Ginny Brentano. Since her retirement last year, the duties were passed on to Rogovin and community members Petro Zorgman and Marlene Canapi.

Mayor Peter Scherer said they did an outstanding job reimagining the day.

Runners Battle Hills and Humidity to Conquer New Castle 10K

By Isabella Fitzgerald

Liam Harrison woke up on Sunday morning with one goal in mind: To win the New Castle 10K.

With a time of 37:58, the Chappaqua resident accomplished his goal, capturing the race for the second consecutive year.

"[The humidity] makes you slower. It's like you're running through soup," Harrison said.

The rigorous course was anticipated; however, eager runners like Harrison faced one difficult obstacle—the humidity.

"[The humidity] makes you slower. It's like you're running through soup," Harrison said.

The New Castle 10K, contested for the 28th time on Sunday, attracts an average of about 150 participants each year and is a fun event for the town. A $20 pre-registration payment or $25 same-day registration fee helps cover the cost of the race, said Robert Snyder, superintendent of New Castle's Recreation & Parks, the department which organizes the event.

He said there's plenty of work that goes into making the race successful.

"There's a lot of pre-planning. We're already starting to plan for next year," Snyder said, adding that the effort is worth seeing the participants enjoy the race.

The 10K, which originated as "something fun to do," evolved into a fundraiser a while for North-East Special Recreation, an organization that delivers recreational activities to children with disabilities in northern Westchester, but eventually returned to its original purpose, Snyder said. Winners from each age category and gender are recognized. Age categories range from 14 and Under to 70 and up, so community members of all ages can compete.

The top female finisher was Kathy Zavarella, who completed the course in 43:43.

This year, there was again a varied field of runners, which included town Supervisor Robert Greenstein and Katie Hulme, an 11-year-old Seven Bridges Middle School student. This was Hulme's first time running in the race and her second 10K. She finished first in the 14 and Under category for both genders with a time of 1 hour and 34 seconds.

Hulme agreed with other runners that the course was difficult to navigate.

"Sometimes I had to walk." Hulme said. "There's lots of down hills. I like the down hills, but the up hills are hard;" Hulme said.

To cover the costs of the race, the 10K was sponsored by six different businesses. The primary sponsor was New Castle Physical Therapy & Personal Training, which had a station past the finish line where runners could be stretched after completing the race.

New Castle Physical Therapy & Personal Training has been sponsoring the race for six years. Its owner, Matthew Marucci, a licensed physical therapist, said that he does more at the race than promote his business.

"It's just a matter of fielding a day of injuries...We try and offer [a runner] a few things to help them," he said.

The race's other sponsors included the Chappaqua Dunkin' Donuts, Drug Mart of Millwood, Dave's Fencing and Teaches Basketball Camp.

Once runners reached the finish line they were provided with orange slices and water by volunteers. Winners in each age category and gender were announced at a reception inside Town Hall.

A complete list of the participants and their times can be found on the Recreation & Parks Department's page on the town website at www.mynewcastle.org.
Armonk Assisted Living Facility Honors First Responders

By Baylor Rosenbaum

There was no safer place in Westchester last Monday than The Bristal assisted living facility in Armonk.

It was wall to wall police, firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians as The Bristal honored the men and women who keep the residents of North Castle and surrounding communities safe at a banquet breakfast.

The first Heroes Breakfast at Bristal brought together residents of the facility with the first responders who are regularly called upon to help them.

“It is so important that we have dedicated individuals that respond given our population of senior citizens,” said The Bristal Executive Director Nichola A. Johnson. “This breakfast is to honor the selflessness and service that we are so lucky to have here at The Bristal.”

Answering several calls daily at the Business Park Drive facility, many of the local emergency service workers respond around the clock to provide The Bristal residents and the wider community with police, fire and ambulance coverage.

Fundraiser Pays for New Scoreboards at Parkway Field

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville sports enthusiasts may notice new scoreboards at Parkway Field this week thanks to the fundraising efforts of local community members.

Jay La Capria, who is on the board of Dad’s Club, was one part of a large contingent who took the initiative to replace the aging, faded and outdated football scoreboard at the field. He said it was purchased sometime in the 1990s and had numbers that were dimly light or couldn’t be seen at all.

“Quite frankly, it was the oldest board around,” said La Capria. “There was no one else in the area that had such an old, kind of decrepit board.”

La Capria and Dad’s Club member Will Collins decided that the best way to get a replacement would be to hold a fundraiser, so the pair created a fundraising page on Eventbrite.com and targeted current and former Pleasantville football players. After someone posted the link to the fundraiser on Facebook, it went viral, raising about $52,000 in just six weeks.

“We got donations from across the country from people who used to live in Pleasantville, whether they played sports or not. It was that type of thing,” La Capria said.

One alumus who donated had never played sports but had taken to the field as part of the high school’s marching band, while another had played baseball at Parkway Field before World War II. There was another donor who recalled going to Mickey Mantle Day at the park in 1957.

Due to the fundraiser’s immense success, La Capria said a baseball scoreboard was bought and installed near the diamond, something that Parkway Field had never had before. Initially they anticipated that it would take another year to afford a baseball scoreboard.

La Capria said receiving the scoreboards was a true community effort even after the fundraiser had ended. George O’Reilly, a local contractor and the Pleasantville Department of Public Works pitched in to get the scoreboards installed.

Bristol resident Beverly Shechtman said she experienced first-hand the importance local first responders play in a town like North Castle. When her husband suffered a heart attack, Shechtman praised the comfort and security they provided her when they answered the call.

“I think they’re the greatest, what can I say?” Shechtman said.

North Castle Police Chief Peter Simonsen said he and his department and the town’s other emergency service providers appreciate the recognition.

“We realize how grateful the residents of Bristol are regarding our services,” Simonsen said.

Since The Bristal opened early last year, there has been an increase in emergency calls to the town, Simonsen said, but the department has been adapting well to the higher volume.

Also attending the Heroes Breakfast were Christy Salstein and Michele Berliner, founders of Stayin’ Alive, Inc., a charity that supports the first responders of Northern Westchester. Inspired by the dedication and service of local emergency service workers, particularly the North Castle Police Department, Salstein and Berliner founded Stayin’ Alive after both of their husbands were injured and subsequently rescued during Hurricane Sandy.

The Stayin’ Alive Foundation is holding its second annual 5K Fun Run on Saturday, May 30, which starts at the Windmill Club, located at 10 Maple Way in Armonk, at 8 a.m. All local residents and first responders are encouraged to attend. Registration forms for the event are available at www.stayinalive.org.

International Student KenKen Competition May 31 at Pace

As part of an ongoing effort to promote STEM education in Westchester, County Executive Rob Astorino announced that the Westchester County Youth Bureau will host an international KENKEN® math competition from 1 to 5 p.m. on May 31 at Pace University, located at 861 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

The tournament is open to students in grades 6-12 and participation is free.

KENKEN is a challenging pencil-and-paper puzzle that originated in Japan and has attracted millions of enthusiasts. KENKEN puzzles are carried daily in The New York Times and hundreds of other newspapers.

Up to 125 students are expected to participate in the “Westchester Smart: Westchester Loves Math International KENKEN Tournament.” Among the competition will be five finalists from India, who won a trip to compete at Pace during a KENKEN tournament consisting of over 14,000 students held in more than 200 schools across India.

The KENKEN company, Nextoy, has an office in Pleasantville, which has partnered with the Youth Bureau on other local competitions.

“For over 30,000 teachers nationwide have already discovered that KENKEN can help even the most math-averse students,” said Robert Fuhrer, founder of the company.

“Not only does KENKEN help develop math and critical thinking skills, but it also instills a sense of self-confidence and perseverance.”

To sign up, call 914-995-3918 or e-mail kenken@westchestergov.com. Prizes will be provided by IBM and Acorda Therapeutics.
Variety Sets Tone for Outdoor Pleasantville Farmers Market

By Martin Wilbur

Since the Pleasantville Farmers Market moved indoors a few years ago it doesn’t completely go away for more than a week or two at a time.

But like best friends reuniting after summer at the start of a new school year or the beginning of a new baseball season, there’s something extra special at the market’s outdoor opening day each year.

This Saturday will be the 18th summer season for the Pleasantville Farmers Market and it’s come a long way, not only from its more humble origins on the sidewalk near the train station but also since it moved out into the Memorial Plaza parking lot several years ago.

“People like the variety and they like the vibe and I don’t think that’s an accident,” said Peter Rogovin, president of Foodchester, the nonprofit organization that operates the market. “I don’t think that just happens. We curate the variety.”

While there are no new categories this year, the market will open with 56 approved vendors, with 40 to 45 on hand each Saturday. Some vendors with the same or similar offerings will be part of a rotation. Vendor selection is one of the most important tasks that organizers struggle over, Rogovin said.

Among the new vendors is Bulich Mushroom Farm; Gajeski Produce, a Riverhead, L.I. farm that sells a variety of produce; Wright’s Farm, an upstate operation that specializes in berries, stone fruits, pies, preserves and pastured eggs; and the highly requested Oraison’s Bakery.

One focus of the market is to make sure that vendors are predominantly, but not exclusively, from the Hudson Valley, Rogovin said. While there are also a few from New Jersey, expanding the reach diversifies the offerings and doesn’t leave the market vulnerable to natural crises in a more localized area. However, you won’t find fish from Florida or vegetables from California at the Pleasantville Farmers Market, he said.

“We’re kind of about this area,” Rogovin explained. “I know if we let our farmers bring in some lemons or some mangoes or grapefruits, we’d sell them and people would be really excited. I think most of our customers understand that you are not going to get all your food from a farmers market.”

Variety isn’t just limited to the food vendors, but extends to the musical entertainment and children’s activities as well. While many farmers markets feature a certain type of music to add to the ambiance, typically the singer-songwriter/guitar player, visitors will see and hear all types of genres over the next several months.

In addition to acoustic rock artists such as Skyfactor and Tumbleweed Mike, market-goers will be treated to eclectic sounds from performers such as Tipsy Oxcart, a Balkan fusion band (June 27); the classical ensemble DuoEssence (July 4); hammered dulcimer player Paul Mueller (July 11); The Biryani Boys, which features a sitar (July 25); and BottomsUp, a Dixieland band (Sept. 5).

On the activity front, there will still be popular arts and crafts, tie-dye and musical storyteller Jonathan Kruk, but there will also be Irish dancing, Westchester Engineering, which has fun with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities, and activities from the Katonah Museum of Art.

Rogovin acknowledged that the market does have a lot of rules, both for patrons and vendors. One rule that rankled a few people last year—and a few more on online threads this year—was the banning of dogs from the market following a incidents where a small number of dogs left their manners at home, he said.

Market operators also want the vendors to engage the customers and not use their iPads and iPhones while customers walk by. Some people shop at a farmers market because they’re interested in learning where the food comes from, Rogovin said.

While there’s always some turnover, most vendors enjoy coming to Pleasantville, he said.

“The feedback we generally get from the vendors is that we really manage the market well,” Rogovin said.

The Pleasantville Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Dec. 5. For more information, visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Treasurer of the Village of Pleasantville has received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Payments will be accepted in the Finance Department on the Third Floor of Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue, in said Village from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays as follows: Taxes and other assessments, if any, become due and payable June 1, 2015, but may be paid in two installments without penalty. The first installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2015 to and including July 1, 2015. The second installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2015 to and including December 31, 2015. To all first installment taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2015, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of July, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. To all second installment taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2015, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of January, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. On or before February 1, 2016 a delinquent list will be published.

Mary Schwartz Village Treasurer Dated: May 19, 2015

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By Martin Wilbur
Some homeowners may be uncertain how much their landscaper is going to charge them each time they visit their property. Other providers may try to get paid in cash in an increasingly cash-less society.

There are times when the homeowner may not know if a crew is going to show up or may think service is unnecessary. Failure to maintain proper insurance is another prevalent problem in the industry.

Then there are many quality landscapers who have to wait months to get paid after rendering services or who may be losing thousands of dollars in income because of antiquated billing practices.

If any of those problems are recognizable for customers and vendors, Westchester entrepreneur James Albis and business partner Bill Ralph have introduced a new mobile technology device and website that hooks up the landscaper with the homeowner.

Last week they launched Yardhub, Inc., an online source where Albis and Ralph sign up reputable landscapers across Westchester and Fairfield counties who have been fully vetted to be matched up with homeowners across those counties.

Albis said he came up with the idea after he and his family moved into their Somers home. As a new homeowner, he had no idea where to turn to find a trustworthy landscaper other than to search online or ask his neighbors. He said the mission is to change the way the public buys and receives its landscaping services.

“It’s a one-stop source where everybody can easily order and pay for all of the services outside the home,” Albis said. “No more sending an invoice to the homeowner, no more showing up at 9 o’clock on my doorstep where I’m going to pay you cash like the paperboy.” For homeowners, they can sign up to have an account by visiting the Yardhub website, www.goyardhub.com. When service is needed, they include information about their property, the type of service they want and when they want an appointment and they will be booked in as quickly as 90 seconds, Albis said. The customer will be quoted a price without any guesswork. They will also pay a small service fee, he said.

After each job is completed, the landscaper is required to upload photos to the company’s job-complete dashboard, which will trigger electronic payments within 24 hours. Each customer’s account or credit card will be billed.

Albis said he believes Yardhub will also be a boon to the landscapers and expects many vendors who enroll to receive more business.

“While this is a great place for the homeowners, it’s also a tool for the landscapers to allow them to get paid in a more efficient kind of manner,” Albis said.

He said that some landscapers may fear losing longtime customers and acknowledged that the service isn’t for every vendor. The plan is to sign up the top 10 to 20 percent of landscapers in the region, he said. As more people learn about the service, Albis hopes to have as many as 100 providers be part of the network to call upon.

“We provide the best service, we provide the best quality and we fulfill the transaction for the service provider,” he said.

In addition to landscaping, Yardhub can match customers and vendors for any service outside the home, including tree removal and snowplowing.

Appointments can be made using a personal computer, laptop or mobile device.

For more information, visit www.goyardhub.com.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
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Happenings

Tuesday, May 19
Westchester Community College Open House. Representatives from admissions, financial aid, the Career and Transfer Center, counseling and academic advisement will meet with high school juniors and seniors and their parents. The focus of the event will be providing information regarding programs leading to careers and transfer to four-year universities. Westchester Community College’s gym, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6929 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/openhouse.

Wednesday, May 20
Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Julie Genovesi at 303-929-7203 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For adults struggling with the loss of a loved one. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

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.

Art Discussion Series: “Michelangelo.” When you think Renaissance Man, you think Michelangelo, often considered to be one of most talented artists and diverse and brilliant minds of his time. So talented was he, a sculptor and fresco artist, that as a 14-year-old apprentice in Domenico Ghirlandaio’s studio, he was also on the payroll, astonishing considering the apprenticeship system of the time. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastleslibrary.org.

Birding Cuba. Cuban bird life is diverse with more than 372 species recorded and 26 endemic species, including the charming Cuban Tody, the striking and elegant Cuban Trogon and the smallest of all birds in the world, the Bee Hummingbird. Led by Arturo Kirkconnell, the bird curator at the National Museum of Natural History of Cuba and author of two books. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program from 7:20 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.swalmliverraudubon.org.

Thursday, May 21
Castles of New Castle House Tour. Go on a tour with the New Castle Historical Society that explores some of the special houses throughout the tour. All proceeds will go toward helping the historical society fulfill its mission of discovery, education, community outreach and research. Ticket holders will also receive a 15 percent discount to one of several restaurants in town. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Historical society members: $50. Non-members: $75. Tickets: In person at the House Greeley House Museum, 100 King St., Chappaqua or visit www.newcastlesaths.org. Info: Contact Cassie Ward at 914-238-4666, e-mail director@newcastlesaths.org or visit www.newcastlesaths.org.

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

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

Friday, May 22
Zumba Gold Class. A trial class featuring Zumbals low-impact approach. Drop in anytime. 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.Addie-tude.com.

Saturday, May 23
Pleasantville Farmers Market Opening Day. Come experience the largest farmers market in Westchester, the one voted Best of Westchester 2014 by the readers of Westchester Magazine for its 18th outdoor season. With over 55 vendors, some of them new, seven nearby parking lots and creative weekly programming, it’s a delicious good time. Opening Day program includes a “Market Sprouts” kickoff event of Marco the Magician, Acoustic American duo the Eugene Tyler Band and nutty tambourine-wieldingNaturalist Marina Stoper introduces another series of “Let’s Talk” events at the Culinary Tent. Rain or shine. No dogs. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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

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

Mediterranean-Inspired Restaurant Opens in Harrison

By Jerry Eimbinder

A unique dinnertime dining concept awaits customers at 273 Kitchen, which opened in Harrison late last month.

The Mediterranean-inspired menu provides three listings called first, second and third courses and patrons typically select one item from each. The portion sizes are larger than the “small plate” fare offered at many restaurants but smaller than typical entree sizes.

With dessert included as a fourth course, the cost per person is $45, plus tax and gratuity. As an alternative, guests can order individual items à la carte instead of the four-course meal. All menu items are priced at $25 or less and some cost only $10 or $11.

The menu changes daily and is dependent on what is available that day from local suppliers, including farms and the New Fulton Fish Market Cooperative at Hunts Point in the Bronx. The menu is finalized and printed late in the afternoon, sometimes only a half-hour before the restaurant’s 5 p.m. opening.

There is latitude for the patrons in making their selections. For example, the selection of two first-course items and no second-course plates is cheerfully permitted. The wait staff is trained to assist in decision-making and will recommend combinations that blend well together for flavor and balance. Each member of the wait staff handles only eight customers allowing ample time for describing dishes, making suggestions and providing guidance.

Although determining what goes on the menu is a daily task, some dishes are frequently repeated such as fresh shucked oysters and house-cured salmon gravlax (first-course items), Montauk fluke and King salmon (third-course dishes).

A 100-seat sister restaurant, 251 Lex, employing the same menu concept is expected to open in Mount Kisco in July.

Kalandranis pointed out that bottles of wine at 273 Kitchen are marked up at only twice the actual cost. At many restaurants, the practice is to mark up wine at three or four times cost. Half-size bottles, wine by the glass and beer are also available.

Dinner is served seven days a week from 5 to 10 p.m. At Sunday brunch, mimosa “bottomless” refills are free. Brunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 273 Kitchen is located at 273 Halstead Ave. in Harrison at the corner of Halstead and Harrison avenues in Harrison.

Foundation Honors Westchester, Putnam Cookbook Authors

By Jerry Eimbinder

Author Barbara Poses Kafka was named to the Cookbook Hall of Fame in a ceremony held at the 2015 James Beard Foundation Book, Broadcast and Journalism Awards dinner held on Apr. 24 in Manhattan.

Kafka, a former resident of Garrison, Putnam County, was the sole 2015 cookbook author elected to the Hall of Fame by the panel of 48 judges.

At the same event, Dan Barber was announced as the winner of the 2015 Award for Writing and Literature for his book, “The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food.” Barber is a co-owner and executive chef of Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills.

The award winners receive a certificate and a medallion engraved with the James Beard Foundation Awards insignia. There are no cash prizes.

The festivities took place at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers.

The soft poached egg with Blooming Hill Farm asparagus and Tsatziki vinaigrette is one of many delicious dishes at 273 Kitchen.

The获奖者将获得证书和一枚刻有詹姆斯·比尔德基金会荣誉奖标志的奖章。没有现金奖。

庆祝活动在切尔西码头的Pier Sixty举行。
Giants’ Manning, Guiding Eyes Team Up to Promote Golf Classic

By Isabella Fitzgerald

Eli Manning and Guiding Eyes have teamed up once again to promote the Spring Tee-Off at Mulino’s New York Grill. Last year, Manning donated $1 million to the charity and participated in the event as a golfing blindfold. This year, he hopes to raise even more money for the organization.

Manning, who is returning this year to host the Golf Classic for the ninth year, was accompanied at last Monday’s event by his guide dog, London, a golden retriever puppy. Manning has been a strong supporter of Guiding Eyes since he learned about the organization’s work and has returned each year.

“Guiding Eyes is a great organization that helps visually impaired individuals,” Manning said. “It’s rewarding to hear from the families,” he added.

The nonprofit and internationally accredited organization was founded in 1954. Since its creation, Guiding Eyes has provided more than 7,000 dogs to those in need and currently has over 1,000 active guide dogs.

Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday (except June 14). Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre And Dance Center, 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.

Trolls and Tiaras. Celebrate the magic of the forest as we scout the woods for fairies, trolls and gnomes. Hear some mythical lore, build fairy and troll houses and more. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: $13. Children (under 12): $11. Also May 25 at 2 p.m. and May 31 at 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Observance. The American Legion Gilbert Rauh Post 1574 invites the public to join in the holiday’s observance at the monuments at the old Thornwood railroad station on Commerce Street. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony at the American Legion Post, 52 Garrigan Ave., Thornwood. 11 a.m. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the post. Contact Past Commander Stephen Loia at 914-762-2298.

Tuesday, May 26

Blood Drive. Pleasantville High School and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps are again teaming up to sponsor this all-day blood drive. Whole blood and red cell units will be collected from qualifying candidates. All donors are welcome regardless of town of residence. Volunteers needed. Walk-ins accepted. Pleasantville High School, 60 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Info: 914-747-2408 or e-mail angela.usobiaga@verizon.net. For online registration: Visit http://nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood/
Creating a New Experience When Tasting Wine and Chocolate

By Nick Antonaccio

What began as an analytical approach to comparing the processing of grapes and cacao beans to their logical end-product of wine and chocolate, has stirred more interest than I expected.

In recent columns, I’ve focused on the similarities in the life cycles of wine and chocolate, from raw ingredients to finished product. In the growing, harvesting and production of wine, I compared each step to similar steps in the making of chocolate. The similarities run deep and broad.

Then last week I alluded to the pairing of each product as a synergistic relationship that brought pleasure to my palate and my senses. In pairing wine and chocolate, a third level of appreciation is achieved. Beyond the sensory experience of chocolate, a third level of appreciation is found in wine enjoyment, beyond the ethereal palate and my senses. In pairing wine and chocolate together, creating a higher level of enjoyment.

The logical inference would be a wine pairing that raises the experience to a new level of enjoyment. Certain wines have a relatively high acidity that cuts through the coating on the tongue, setting up one’s palate to enjoy the next bite of chocolate. Drier style wines cannot accomplish this; the conflict between the astringency of the wine and the bitterness of the chocolate ruins these pairings. Likewise, sweeter chocolates tend to be overwhelmed by sweet wines; high tannic dark chocolates are invariably incompatible with high tannic wines.

So, which wines with which chocolates? The logical inference would be a wine with characteristics of sweetness and acidity, and a chocolate that is dark and semi-sweet.

The wines: In my opinion, Port reigns supreme in pairing with chocolate. Older, heavier style Ports tend to be too cloying when paired with dark chocolate. Lighter styles, such as tawny and ruby, are excellent. Their livelier style brings out the best in dark chocolate’s creaminess and pungency.

The chocolates: There are so many fine chocolates on the market today. Seek out medium to small producers who focus on a (bitter) sweet spot of 60 to 70 percent chocolate. Lesser levels of chocolate make for a too-sweet confection; higher levels for a mouth-puckering, lingering bitterness.

Not into Port? My next favorite is Zinfandel. Many producers craft Zins that are bold with a touch of sweetness, acidic but well-balanced. Bella Vineyards in Sonoma County and many of the California Ridge Zinfandel blends pair well with fine dark chocolate. I’ve also enjoyed several dessert wine pairings such as Vin Santo.

When in doubt in my pairing decisions, when I’m in a quandary over selecting a wine to pair with chocolate or many other foods, my go-to wine is sparkling wine made in the Méthode Champenois style. The acidity and bubbles cut through the oiliness, creaminess or heat of most foods, setting up one’s palate to enjoy each bite.

If you prefer the sensual experience of wine and chocolate pairing without the effort of selecting examples of each, try Amarone wine from the Valpolicella region of Italy. Its terroir and winemaking process produce a robust wine with aromas and flavors of chocolate in every sniff and sip.

Whether you enjoy pairing your favorite chocolate with a particular wine or your favorite wine with a particular chocolate, be mindful of the sensory dichotomies present. Strive to seek a combination that results in a higher level of enjoyment. Just as in life, diversity and compatibility result in the best relationships.

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.
Briarcliff’s Mike King Takes a Mighty Hack in the Bears’ Victory Over Rival Westlake at Dutchess Stadium