North Castle Vote on Brynwood Zoning Change May Be Near

By Martin Wilbur

A vote on Brynwood Golf & Country Club's requested zoning change could occur as soon as next week if North Castle officials and the applicant can agree on revisions to the zoning text and conservation easement.

Following last week's resumption of the public hearing on whether to create a Golf Course Community Floating Overlay District to allow for the construction of luxury townhouses on a portion of the 156-acre property on Bedford Road, resolutions on the new zoning may be scheduled for next Wednesday, June 10.

If that takes place, then a vote to map the overlay district would have to be scheduled for a future meeting before the town board can go to the planning board, said Supervisor Michael Schiliro.

Last week some residents urged the town board to tighten language in the plan to allow for a 24-month extension, saying that the project is so complicated that two years would be needed to prevent his client from having to return again.

"We're asking for that because we know how long projects take to get all the building review and get all the work done," Chafizadeh said. "We thought instead of coming back to you in 18 months we would get it all done in two years."

It took Conifer about 16 months to receive the necessary variances from the state Board of Review, which regulates fire and safety code requirements, after the former town board granted the original permit in September 2013.

In February, Conifer went to court to contest the interpretation of the town board to tighten language in the continued on page 4

School Officials to State: Wait to Get Education Bill Right

By Janine Bowen

With only weeks left in the current state legislative session, Westchester and Putnam school officials are urging lawmakers to halt the proposed Education Transformation Act of 2015.

"What we're not in favor of is this misguided, misinformed, completely misaligned-reform that we have been forced to follow. It is unfair, it's ineffective and today we said no more."

A panel of superintendents from six Westchester districts referred to the continued on page 6

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

...environmental impacts and the amount of the 24,000-square-foot building, the proposal regarding issues such as fire services, can handle the four-story building. The latter proposal drew the ire of some residents at previous forums. Blaney expressed concern that the mass of the building will overwhelm the small residential area, industrial area provided on the residential street, he still has other concerns. Blaney questioned whether the facility’s entrance point. The updated proposal to iron out the critical issues that have been raised so far. At each visit, your gynecologist will evaluate all risk factors and determine if you need a Pap smear. Although the recommendations call for getting a Pap smear every three years, annual gynecologist visits are extremely important to your health. Pelvic exams, Pap tests and breast cancer screenings help detect problems at an early and potentially highly treatable stage. At each visit, your gynecologist will evaluate all risk factors and determine if you need a Pap smear. Although the recommendations call for getting a Pap smear every three years, annual gynecologist visits are extremely important to your health. Pelvic exams, Pap tests and breast cancer screenings help detect problems at an early and potentially highly treatable stage. Q: What about the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer? A: Two other forms of prevention include the condom and the HPV vaccination, which protects against several strains of HPV known to cause cervical cancer. It does not, however, protect against all strains. I often recommend to my patients that they get the vaccine when they are considering becoming sexually active. Note that the vaccine does not replace the need to practice safe sex or to get regular Pap smears.

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LIFE-SAVING NEWS FOR WOMEN

What you need to know about cervical cancer screenings...

Ask the Doctor

Navid Mootabar, MD
Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar

Q: What causes cervical cancer? A: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes about 90 percent of all cases. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that is so common, most people will have it at some point in their lives. Certain strains of HPV can cause changes on a woman’s cervix that may result in cervical cancer. Additional risk factors include smoking, extended use of birth control, and having many sexual partners.

Q: What are the symptoms of cervical cancer? A: It’s important to realize that in most cases, there are no symptoms. Uncommon symptoms include unexplained vaginal bleeding, bleeding after intercourse and abnormal vaginal discharge. Given that the HPV strains that can lead to cervical cancer are themselves asymptomatic, it becomes clear why you must be regularly screened for cervical cancer.

Q: How often should I have a Pap smear? A: New guidelines recommend women have a Pap smear and HPV test every three years starting at age 21 until age 65, provided you have no risk factors or abnormal Pap smears. This regimen makes it extremely likely the disease will be caught while still in the highly curable pre-cancerous stage. Some women require more frequent screenings.

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Did You Know?
Cervical cancer is usually highly curable... when caught early through regular screening.
By Martin Wilbur

Former North Castle Democratic Committee Co-chairman John Diaconis announced Monday that he intends to run against two-term incumbent County Legislator Michael Smith for the District 3 seat this fall.

Diaconis, 60, a litigation attorney, said he was motivated to run for the Board of Legislators in large part by the poor efforts on the part of the county and Smith to refurbish the Miller House on Virginia Road in North White Plains, which served as George Washington’s headquarters during the Battle of White Plains in 1777. The county is responsible for its upkeep.

The town’s position on properly rehabilitating the structure and maintaining it in its original location has been clearly and repeatedly communicated to the county executive’s office and to Smith, Diaconis said, but nothing has been done, leaving the deteriorating structure in a “deplorable” condition.

While that is one issue, the unresponsiveness from the Board of Legislators has also surfaced in other matters, he said.

“Despite this unambiguous communication, the Town’s plea to save the structure has fallen on deaf ears,” said Diaconis who has served as treasurer of the Friends of Miller House for the past four years. “It has been brought to my attention that similar instances of inadequate representation and lack of action exist throughout District 3.”

Diaconis had served as co-chair of the town’s Democratic Committee until early this year when he stepped down to become co-chairman of the municipality’s Ethics Task Force. Before moving to North Castle in 2010, Diaconis had served from 2001 to 2005 on the New Castle Town Board.

He said he was unaware of any other Democrat who was prepared to run for the seat.

Contacted on Monday afternoon, Smith, 57, confirmed that he will be running for re-election and said he looks forward to having an opponent during this election cycle to debate the issues. He ran unopposed two years ago after ousting Democrat John Nonna from the seat in 2011.

Smith, currently senior vice president, finance and chief financial officer at Berkeley College, said he suspects there will be sharp differences between himself and Diaconis.

For example, he said he opposes spending significant taxpayer money to rehabilitate Miller House in its current location and supported the town’s previous administration to relocate the historic house to a more suitable site.

If Diaconis receives support from the Democratic Party, Smith said he will have to answer for the majority of his party’s positions on issues such as taxes and the response to the affordable housing settlement with the federal government.

“If he is going to be endorsed by the same party that supported Noam Bramson for county executive and Ken Jenkins, is he going to be another tax-and-spend liberal?” asked Smith, who previously served two terms on the Valhalla Board of Education.

Diaconis said in the coming weeks he will be making a more formal announcement but wanted to start the candidacy. He must submit his petition to the county Board of Elections by July 9.

District 3 covers the towns of North Castle and Mount Pleasant, the villages of Pleasantville, Briarcliff and Sleepy Hollow and a portion of the Town of Greenburgh.
North Castle Vote on Brynwood Zoning Change May Be Near

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the conservation easement to ensure there will be no further development at the site beyond what Brynwood has currently planned. Meetings were also scheduled that included the Westchester Land Trust to work on the conservation easement.

Attorney Mark Weingarten, representing Brynwood Partners, said that his client has now agreed to a maximum of 73 units, which includes seven affordable units, that are required to be built. That represents a reduction from last fall’s revised proposal of 88 residences. If a location can be found to place the seven affordable units off site, there would still be 66 market-rate units at the property.

Also, all market-rate units would now have fee simple taxation; the land would either remain a golf course or be open space should Brynwood obtain their approvals; and Brynwood could join nearby Windmill Farm’s Water District 2 to help defray costs for district residents. If the district doesn’t want Brynwood to join, there is a sufficient on-site water supply through wells, Weingarten said.

In addition, the developer has agreed to pay $860,000 for overall community improvements, $100,000 for windmill improvements at Windmill Farm, $75,000 for the repair of a stone wall along Route 22 and $15,000 to the Friends of Miller House, he said. The applicant has also agreed to abandon its tax certiorari if the approvals are obtained.

Weingarten urged officials that once the zoning text and conservation easement language is finalized the board should schedule a vote. The hearing is scheduled for tomorrow (Wednesday) at the recreation center at 7 p.m.

“It’s time to make a decision,” Weingarten said. “Let’s make one in the near future. We know this process has to finish legally for it to occur and let’s make a decision one way or another.”

Several residents remained strongly opposed to the project, while there were those who voiced strong support. There were also some residents, including from Windmill Farm, who thought there had been some improvements made.

Windmill resident Jan Bernstein said she was pleased with many of the latest changes and it could have positive impact on the project. However, she raised concerns that the zoning amendment was too loosely worded and doesn’t place enough restrictions on membership or construction of other recreational facilities.

“Tightening the language in the amendment will make it more likely that the end result of the proposed amendment will meet the residents’ and the board’s expectations,” Bernstein said.

Green Valley Road Resident Barry Malvin, who chaired the town’s Land Use Study Committee about 10 years ago, urged the board to use caution. A decade ago North Castle was under development pressures, which have resurfaced, but it is still critical to preserve the town’s character.

“I think you really need to think about not just this property but the direction that this town is going,” Malvin said. “We set out to preserve neighborhood character, preserve the beauty of the town to prevent overdevelopment and at the time we succeeded.”

An artist’s rendition of Brynwood Golf & Country Club’s new proposed clubhouse.

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New Castle Disbands Coyote Groups; Delays Vote on Response Plan

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Town Board disbanded the town’s two coyote committees last Tuesday but agreed to hold off on adopting the response plan until next week to allow for additional public comment.

In a split vote, the majority of Supervisor Robert Greenstein and council members Lisa Katz and Adam Brodsky favored ending the Coyote Awareness and Safety Advisory Committee and the Coyote Management Task Force, even though comments may still be collected.

Council members Elise Kessler Mottel and Jason Chapin urged the rest of the board to delay acceptance of the response plan for two weeks since residents had just three days immediately preceding the Memorial Day weekend to review the eight-page plan and send in comments.

“I feel that it’s been rushed to approve it without hearing from the public, and we have had comments from the various committees, but I feel we’ve been rushed in getting comments with the short time period,” Mottel said.

Chapin added that if comments are still being taken then the committees shouldn’t be disbanded in case any revisions in the document are warranted.

Police Chief Charles Ferry, who drafted the response plan with town environmental coordinator Stephen Coleman, said the document is a guide for how authorities should react to various situations involving coyotes. Materials to educate the public on how to keep themselves, their families and pets safe is now what’s needed, he said.

“You don’t have to change a plan every time you want to change something in the brochure,” Ferry said. “So if new information comes out, or something, you change the brochure.”

The board unanimously agreed to wait until its June 9 meeting to vote on the response plan.

Late last year the town board split the two advisory groups after members were unable to work with each other. The matter came to a head in February when both committees were scheduled to present their research at a meeting, but inflammatory comments surfaced on social media and forced the task force to pull out and make a taped presentation on the town’s website.

Aside from the disagreement on the board, there were additional fireworks last week when Greenstein, in justifying the termination of the committees, repeatedly referred to the situation with the committees as “a circus.”

“This issue has taken on a life of its own,” Greenstein said. “It’s the most common joke I hear when I’m at a town board meeting, about these coyotes. It’s gone on past the point of ridiculousness.”

Mottel and Chapin immediately jumped in, calling Greenstein’s characterization of the committees “disrespectful.”

“I’m pretty insulted by the use of the word circus,” Chapin said.

Greenstein said he wasn’t referring to the circus but rather how the process deteriorated.

“From a head in February when both committees referred to the situation with the committees as “a circus,” Greenstein said. “It’s the most common joke I hear when I’m at a town board meeting, about these coyotes. It’s gone on past the point of ridiculousness.”

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“I’m pretty insulted by the use of the word circus,” Chapin said.

Greenstein said he wasn’t referring to the circus but rather how the process deteriorated.

“This has become a politicized process and this circus should end,” he said. “The chief and Steve have adopted a reasonable plan, these groups did an incredible amount of work and the nonsense about the way this process has been politicized should end.”

Victoria Alzapiedi, chair of the Coyote Awareness and Safety Advisory Committee, tersely rebutted Greenstein’s comments, saying she was “deeply insulted” and has been made to feel “invisible” by being kept out of the loop when the issue was to be publicly discussed.

“I’m a volunteer in this town,” Alzapiedi said. “I’ve put in a lot of time and energy and commitment and so have the people on the committee and to have to be on the defensive, not just is inappropriate but way beyond what I think anyone in our town should expect in how they should expect to be treated by you and anyone on the town board when they’re volunteering and giving so much time.”

Onward and Upward

Mrs. Green’s Natural Market CEO Pat Brown and state Sen. Terrence Murphy congratulated associates in at the supermarket’s location in Mount Kisco last Tuesday. The associates, from stores across Westchester, graduated from an English as a Second Language program sponsored by the company. The classes are a company-wide effort to make sure associates have the tools and resources they need to help customers find the locally-sourced organic food and healthy products they need.

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New Castle Grants Conifer Permit Extension, Rejects Most Fee Waivers

continued from page 1

zoning code, arguing that in the case of workforce housing a special permit allows an applicant 25 years to complete the project. It lost the decision but is now appealing; however, it complied with the court’s ruling to file for the permit extension within 20 days.

During periods of verbal jousting last week between Conifer representatives and board members, Greenstein impatiently asked Chafizadeh and Conifer Realty Vice President Andrew Bodewes whether the company has made any progress since receiving its Board of Review approvals in January.

“What exactly have you done?” Greenstein asked. “Besides the Board of Review and filing a lawsuit and your appeal, and besides asking for the fee waivers and things like that, what exactly have you done and besides asking for the fee waivers?”

Chafizadeh responded that his client has been working with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to obtain an easement and a no-build agreement from Metro-North, which is a condition of the permit.

Greenstein then pressed the attorney to find out what Conifer was requiring of Conifer, and later asked if the applicant would withdraw its appeal if it received its extension.

Chafizadeh said he wasn’t in a position to answer those questions, but indicated that the MTA is a large entity that moves at its own pace.

“I think if we get the extension we'd be very happy,” he said. “We'd like to work with the town moving forward.”

The supervisor chided Conifer’s representatives, saying that it expended considerable time and energy on litigation.

“When a judge calls (your argument) absurd I don’t file an appeal so quickly,” Greenstein said.

The board unanimously rejected Conifer’s attempt to have a $152,862 building permit fee and an inspection fee waived. Inspection fees cost 3 percent of the cost of all site work, said Town Attorney Edward Phillips. Site work could cost upwards of $1 million, he said.

Officials agreed to waive fees of $8,329 stemming from the application for the Board of Review variances.

Bodewes said Conifer made the waiver request because a 2011 letter from former supervisor Barbara Gerrard informed the company that the town would waive the fees. However, he acknowledged that the letter was not legally binding.

“Certainly, all we're asking you to do is what you’d say you’d do,” Bodewes said. Councilman Adam Brodsky said he would be unable to approve forgoing fees when the developer is already receiving county, state and federal subsidies for the project.

Phillips also said he could find no legal mechanism in town law that would allow officials to waive a building fee for any applicant.

During the discussion several residents spoke on the issue. Chappaqua architect Bill Spade, a project opponent, said the fact that Conifer stands to make a $2 million development fee on the project should have disqualified it from any consideration for fee waivers.

“For them to ask the town to subsidize, as you’re saying, a pretty appropriate word for this project, when they’re due to earn that level of fee it’s absurd to me,” Spade said. “If they are a for-profit company that’s perfectly capable of paying its costs, then they should pay their costs.”

School Officials to State: Wait to Get Education Bill Right

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current education situation as a “crisis” detrimental to students that will negatively alter the teaching profession. Wool said state tests, which will count for at least half of a teacher’s Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) score under Cuomo’s reform, are given too much weight.

Wool recalled his experience as a teacher, which focused on interaction with students, lesson planning and collaboration with colleagues and parents. Now a teacher’s effectiveness will be rated on state test scores and two observation periods, he said.

Under the system, which educators said is flawed, teachers can be rated as ineffective, developing, effective or highly effective. New teachers who receive a score of ineffective or developing for two consecutive years would automatically be fired.

Superintendents at Thursday’s press conference noted that multiple tools must be used to evaluate a teacher’s effectiveness. A previous recommendation was made to include conferences, student surveys and student projects but Cuomo’s legislation excludes those criteria from consideration.

Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter explained that the current system uses predetermined conclusions. When superintendents, parents and teachers have made comments, their words have been taken out of context in order to fit this conclusion, Fox-Alter said.

She also stated that cut scores used to grade standardized tests are up to guarantee a certain number of students will fail.

Byram Hills Superintendent Dr. William Donahue noted that with so much emphasis placed on standardized tests, teachers will soon become accountable to Albany rather than parents. Educators fear the system would eliminate creativity and innovation in schools and teachers would stop encouraging students to take risks by enrolling in challenging classes because their performance could be detrimental to a teacher’s career.

“No one is going to be willing to try something new, try something different, to put students into opportunities that they haven’t had before because the worry and the fear is going to be dramatic for them,” said Ardsley Superintendent Lauren Allen.

Donahue said the changes will ultimately have an impact on property values, which are closely tied to the quality of public schools.

Parents noted that greater emphasis on testing is already negatively impacting the youngest students. Lisa Eggert-Litvin, co-chair of the New York Suburban Consortium for Public Education and co-president of the Hastings-on-Hudson PTSA, said there’s been a reduction in school play time for kindergartners because more time is needed to focus on testing.

“What we are hearing, especially at the elementary level, is children saying ‘I don’t want to go to school, I don’t like it,’” she said.

More than 200,000 parents statewide exercised their option to keep their children from sitting for the state ELA and Math tests in April. Valhalla School District Superintendent Dr. Brenda Myers said officials have been told that the opt-out won’t affect APPR scores, which runs counter to research and common sense regarding data usage.

Wool said that while superintendents will continue to follow policies implemented by government, they have a responsibility to advocate against policies they disagree with. Superintendents are urging residents to send letters to their state officials and educate friends and neighbors about the issues. Residents are also being asked to sign an online petition calling on elected officials to suspend and amend the Education Transformation Act. The petition, which can be accessed by visiting http://bit.ly/GetItRightNY, had more than 600 signatures at the time of the press conference.

Several New York legislators are already supporting suspension of the Education Transformation Act. Although local state representative were unable to attend Thursday’s event, they sent a representative, Nancy Fisher, to speak on their behalf. Reading from a statement penned by lawmakers from Westchester, Dutchess, Putnam and Suffolk counties, including Westchester Assembly members Tom Abinanti, Amy Paulin and David Buchwald, Fisher said they support a one-year delay in the implementation of new state Education Department regulations and call for a research-based evaluation system that utilizes multiple types of student data.

“Allowing for a delay gives the legislature the time to create a meaningful teacher/ principal evaluation system without going through multiple unnecessary stages,” Fisher said.

Stephen Jambor, president of the Brewster Board of Education, said he believes it will take at least two years to create a proper teacher evaluation system and collect enough data to prove that it is effective and fair.

“The people of New York need to put the burden of proof back in Albany before they start rolling out any more of this Mickey Mouse stuff because it’s causing children–our children–to suffer unnecessarily, and that’s not the purpose of education,” Jambor said.

White Plains Hospital to Open Outpatient Facility in Armonk

White Plains Hospital is scheduled to open an outpatient medical facility on Business Park Drive in Armonk before the end of the summer.

The roughly 24,000-square-foot facility, on the opposite side of the same building that houses Equinox Fitness Center, will feature multiple specialties including pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics and diagnostic imaging, among other services, said Elizabeth O’Neill, the hospital’s communications director.

It will be open seven days a week and have some evening hours, O’Neill said. The hospital has targeted a September opening.

Although located less than 10 miles from the hospital’s main location, it will provide services for patients who won’t have to make a longer trip to White Plains or a similar facility that opened two years ago in New Rochelle, she said.

“It allows us to serve a number of patients who live in northern Westchester,” O’Neill said of the location. “This new facility will allow us to treat patients without having them travel as far.”

Interior renovations in the building are underway. The property is zoned light industrial.

White Plains Hospital, which is now part of the Montefiore Health System, is providing more clinical services as a regional hub for tertiary care, according to a hospital statement.

—Martin Wilbur
Incumbents Ready to Run Again in Three Local Races

By Neal Rentz and Martin Wilbur

Most incumbent board members in Mount Kisco, Mount Pleasant and North Castle confirmed last week they will be running for re-election this fall.

Mount Kisco Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus and Trustee Peter Grunthal said they will be going for another term in November.

Markus, 54, an attorney who has been on the village board since 2003, said he wanted to continue to keep the village fiscally responsible. Markus is chairman of the Finance Committee.

Markus said he would like the village to update its Master Plan and is seeking grants to pay for the project, he said.

Grunthal, 72, was first appointed to fill a board vacancy in 2003. After being re-elected several times decided not to seek another term in 2010. He was appointed last year.

“My objectives are the same – sound management of operating expenses, investment in infrastructure and conservation of the village assets,” Grunthal said. “I am pressing for major improvements to the highway garage to extend the life of the village fleet, and I recently led an initiative to win a grant from New York State to work towards energy security and efficiency.”

Mount Kisco Republican Committee Chairman John Franklin said his party was seeking candidates.

“I’m talking to a couple of people,” he said. “Nothing’s firmed up.”

Mayor Michael Cindrich could not be reached for comment.

Mount Pleasant

Three incumbent Mount Pleasant Town Board members have been endorsed by the town Republican Committee and the Conservative Party.

The endorsements were received by Supervisor Carl Fulgentzi and councilmen Mark Rubo and Nick DiPaolo, Town Clerk Pat Scovva, Superintendent of Highways Peter Sciliano and Town Justice Robert Ponzini.

For its part, Mount Pleasant Democratic Committee executive board member Peter Fiumefreddo said his party may run candidates this fall.

“Why do we know yet” who would be willing to run on the Democratic line, he said.

Fulgentzi, 61, was selected by his colleagues to become supervisor last October after Joan Maybury left the post for family-related reasons. He is in his 12th year on the town board.

“We want to continue development in the town, supporting the project; they’re going to be expanding further in the Town of Mount Pleasant. EF Academy will be continually expanding on their campus,” Fulgentzi said.

Rubo, 43, an attorney, is in his sixth year as councilman. He was said seeking re-election because he wanted to continue the positive direction the town was moving in.

DiPaolo, 36, appointed to his seat in March to replace Fulgentzi. “The vision that this current board has one that I truly believe in,” DiPaolo said of why he’s running again.

North Castle

The three town board incumbents who are up for re-election this fall, Supervisor Michael Schiliro and councilmen Stephen D’Angelo and Guy Mezzancello, will be on the ballot.

Schiliro, 51, a Democrat, has received an endorsement from Republican Committee. He said he’s running for a second two-year term after being able to tackle issues without the distraction of nasty politics.

“Not like being part of something good and doing something for the community it’s a great way to serve,” Schiliro said.

D’Angelo will be running for his second full-term, while Mezzancello narrowly was elected for the remaining year on Schiliro’s unexpired term last November. Both are on the Republican line.

Also endorsed by the Republicans was Alison Simon for town clerk and Elyse Lazansky for town justice, said Committee Chairwoman Ania Cozza.

Democratic Committee Chairman Barry Malvin said his party will announce its slate later in the week following its meeting Tuesday night.

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Gun Safety Advocates Honor Lowey, Press for Tighter Regulation

By Isabella Fitzgerald

The sun shined brightly on about 30 mothers in Bedford last Friday afternoon, but they weren’t outside to enjoy the beautiful weather.

The women gathered to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Million Mom March, a rally on Mother’s Day, May 14, 2000, which brought national attention to the fight for stricter gun safety laws. It attracted about 750,000 participants on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. along with another 200,000 people who held their own events in over 70 cities across the country.

Last week’s event at a private residence drew about 30 mothers from the Million Mom March/Brady Campaign Northern Westchester Chapter and Rep. Nita Lowey, whose efforts in Congress have been vital to enacting national gun safety laws.

“Everyone should have the opportunity to live a good life in the United States of America,” said Lowey. “We can’t afford to lose another child like in Newtown to a gun that was being carried by someone who shouldn’t have that gun.”

Last week three women whose efforts were crucial to the event were honored: Donna Dees-Thomases, Jill Brooke and Elise Richman. The guest list also featured women who were victims of gun violence or members of the Brady Campaign. One attendee is a member of the Newtown Action Alliance.

Prior to the event, the women voted overwhelmingly to bestow the Apple Pie Award to Lowey. The award, which hasn’t been given since 2002, honors an elected official who strives to promote sensible gun laws.

“Our Apple Pie Awards have been a way for us moms -- the majority who support common sense gun laws -- to show our appreciation for the courageous votes in Congress for gun safety,” said Dees-Thomases.

The movement will continue to advocate for tighter regulation of firearms until action is taken. Colette Martin, a gun violence prevention advocate from Queens, said one doesn’t have to be anti-gun to support gun safety laws.

“You can be for common sense regulation without being anti-gun,” Martin said. “These things don’t have to cancel each other out. It’s fundamentally unreasonable to think that guns are going away so we have to create a world where we can live with them. Some of these bad things that we witness every single day are preventable.”
Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino released a four-point plan last Tuesday in hopes of strengthening Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s “Enough is Enough” proposal that seeks to better protect victims of sexual assault on college campuses throughout the state.

Astorino was joined at Manhattanville College by Montrose resident Sarah Tubbs, a SUNY Stony Brook graduate and a victim of an on-campus rape, law enforcement officials, sexual assault victim advocates and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell to formally announce the plan.

“Colleges have a right to create their own code of personal conduct for students, but they no longer should be defining and adjudicating crimes,” Astorino said. “That should be left to police and district attorneys.”

The sexual assault bill proposed by Cuomo is currently before the state legislature but would still allow colleges and universities to conduct sexual assault investigations and adjudicate the matters.

George Longworth, the Westchester Department of Public Safety commissioner, said polices should be handling sexual assault cases.

“Violent crimes should and must be handled by law enforcement,” Longworth said. “And when you are dealing with sexual assaults there is a fast-closing window for preserving the integrity of the evidence. All the more reason to call the police immediately.”

Astorino’s plan calls for a college or university employee to be charged with a Class B misdemeanor if he or she has knowledge of an alleged sexual assault and fails to report the matter to local law enforcement authorities.

It also requires colleges and universities to provide an independent victim advocate for students by having the schools enter into formal agreements with state-certified rape crisis agencies. Promotion of these services on campuses would be mandatory, as well as providing information for students at the beginning of the school year.

Another point is to enhance training of local police departments free of charge. The program, which Astorino called “Start by Believing” training, is so law enforcement officials have greater sensitivity and knowledge on how to deal properly with sexual assault victims. Locally, the county’s police academy would provide this enhanced training offered by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, Astorino said.

He also wants to see his proposed Victim’s Bill of Rights incorporated into the state legislation. It addresses topics such as appropriate interactions among local authorities, colleges and victims and establishes protocols on rape test kits.

In addition, Astorino asked that the county pay $20,000 to train advocates of sexual assault victims in Westchester. Tubbs said she strongly supports Astorino’s efforts to seek justice against perpetrators of sexual assault after she said her own college failed her following her rape on campus. SUNY Stony Brook has yet to release the report of a rape test kit from her attack about two years ago.

“Something needs to change,” Tubbs said. “I do think this gives the opportunity for victims to be more supported.”
Obituaries

Joseph Viola

Joseph Viola, Jr. of North White Plains died on May 27.

He was 81.

Viola was born on Sept. 17, 1933, to the late Joseph and Eugenia (nee Massaro) Viola in White Plains. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a retired truck driver with Local 456 in Elmsford and an exempt member of the North White Plains Fire Department.

Viola is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara (nee DeMilta) Viola, of North White Plains; his loving children, Jo-Ann Parrino of Peekskill and Michael (Gale) Flynn of White Plains; two cherished grandchildren, Michael and Christopher Flynn; one sister, Margaret Zuzolo, of North White Plains; and one nephew, John Zuzolo, of Scarsdale.

Burial will be at Hawthorne Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Holy Name of Jesus Church, 2 Broadway, Valhalla, N.Y. 10595 would be appreciated.

Stephen Frauenthal

Stephen C. Frauenthal, son of Roslyn L. and Herman C. Frauenthal, died peacefully on May 27 following a long illness.

He was 75.

Frauenthal taught mathematics for 53 years in the Chappaqua School District and at The Hackley School. He directed Camp Lincoln in the Adirondacks for many years and was a founding director of the Chief's Fund. He was a long-term trustee of the Helene Fuld College of Nursing and the Hospital for Joint Diseases. He was an avid outdoorsman, leader and friend to thousands.

Frauenthal is survived by his brother, James C. Frauenthal.

A memorial service will be held in September.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Helene Fuld College of Nursing (www.helenefuld.edu/ways-to-donate) or to the Chief's Fund (www.chiefsfund.org).

Kennen Kinzler

Kennen Rosamonde Kinzler of Shrub Oak died on May 20 at her residence.

She was 80.

Kinzler was born on July 29, 1934, to the late Robert and Rosamonde Pratt in St. Clair, Mich. She was a retired social worker with the Westchester County Department of Social Services in White Plains. She was a graduate of SUNY Purchase, an avid gardener, reader and an advocate of human rights and social justice.

Kinzler was predeceased by her devoted husband, Warner Kinzler, in 1972, her daughter, Frances Grandia, son Karl Kinzler and one brother, Robert (Gus) Pratt. She is survived by her loving children, Mary Alice (Francis Xavier) Bracken, of San Jose, Calif., Susan (Phillip) McBrearty of Oswego, N.Y., Joseph Viola, Jr. of North White Plains; his loving children, Jo-Ann Parrino of Peekskill and Michael (Gale) Flynn of White Plains; two cherished grandchildren, Michael and Christopher Flynn; one sister, Margaret Zuzolo, of North White Plains; and one nephew, John Zuzolo, of Scarsdale.

Burial will be at Hawthorne Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Holy Name of Jesus Church, 2 Broadway, Valhalla, N.Y. 10595 would be appreciated.

Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

May 23: Report of an assault at O'Connor's Pub on Main Street at 1:53 a.m. A woman stated that she was punched in the face for no reason by another man while at the establishment and bleeding from the right side of her face. However, she and the male subject that she was with were apparently under the influence and were uncooperative. She left police headquarters without providing any additional information about herself or the alleged assailant.

May 23: A 46-year-old Mount Kisco woman arrived at headquarters at 4:18 p.m. to report a past harassment by an ex-boyfriend. A report was taken; no further action needed.

May 23: A 58-year-old Mount Kisco man told police at 6:49 p.m. that he was dining at Thai Angels restaurant on Lexington Avenue and claimed that someone tried to poison him by tampering with the green tea and the purple rice. The patron said he would go to Northern Westchester Hospital to get checked out.

May 24: A 72-year-old Brewster man was arrested at 3:13 a.m. and charged with DWI following a traffic stop on North Bedford Road.

May 24: A Carlton Drive resident reported seeing two coyotes in his backyard at 12:16 p.m.

May 27: Report of a grand larceny from the radio tower on Lexington Avenue at 12:39 p.m. Two bus bars, estimated at $2,000 each, were stolen from the tower. The matter is being investigated.

Pleasantville Police Department

May 24: A subject was arrested at 12:57 a.m. for exposing themselves on Bedford Road.

May 27: Report of criminal mischief at 9:59 a.m. is under investigation. Damage to a vehicle was sustained.

May 28: Report of a larceny at noon on Castleton Street. There was the theft of copper wiring from a cell phone tower. No further information is available at this time.

North Castle Police Department

May 22: A complainant arrived at headquarters at 1:23 p.m. to report being scammed by an online travel company.

May 24: Report of fireworks being set off on Woodcrest Drive at 11:08 p.m. An officer was dispatched to the scene; matter adjusted.

May 25: A citizen assist is required on High Street at 7:42 p.m. A caller’s wheelchair was stuck in the mud in his backyard. An officer responded and assisted the individual.

May 26: A Spruce Hill Road resident reported at 6:20 p.m. that her grill caught on fire. The Armonk Fire Department was dispatched.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS SPOTLIGHT

Relief for Lower Back and Neck Pain

If you have chronic back and/or neck pain, surgery is not the only option. Finally, a new FDA-approved therapy can relieve pain and promote optimal healing for sciatica, bulging, degenerating, or herniated discs.

About Herniated Discs
Back pain and/or neck pain is most often the result of inflammation from a herniated spinal disc – meaning there is a protruding disc pressing into the spinal column, applying pressure on the nerve. Herniated discs can cause pain, weakness and numbness in the back, neck, legs and feet. This pain affects daily activities – work and play – and ultimately, one’s overall quality of life.

About Sciatica
'Sciatica' is diagnosed when there is inflammation of the sciatic nerve. That nerve may be inflamed as the result of a bulging or herniated disc. It is important to seek treatment that addresses the cause of the pain in order to achieve long-term relief.

Herniated Disc Symptoms
When a herniated disc ruptures and pushes out, the nerves may become pinched. A herniated disc may come on suddenly as a result of a fall or accident, or it may occur gradually as a result of repetitive strain within the spine. When the spinal cord or spinal nerves become compressed like that, they may not work properly resulting in electric shock pain among other symptoms.

What patients are saying
“I was living with increasing pain for months on end. I couldn’t identify any particular incident that led to my pain and discomfort, yet I finally ended up in Urgent Care because it became so severe. I was so unhappy with the treatment options that were presented to me, including surgery and steroids. Instead, I decided to try spinal decompression at Mount Kisco Medical and Injury Care. I am so relieved. Not only are their treatments innovative and effective, but their employees are pleasant and professional.” — Brad C.

Spinal Decompression with Rehab Delivers Results
Decompression therapy involves stretching the spine using an innovative, motorized traction table to relieve pain. The rehabilitation program at Mount Kisco Medical and Injury Care combines spinal decompression therapy with massage therapy, chiropractic care and comprehensive rehab to provide patients with the most complete, non-surgical package available to treat lower back and/or neck pain.

Why Choose Mount Kisco Medical and Injury Care?
It is important to seek treatment that addresses the root cause of the pain in order to achieve long-term relief. At Mount Kisco Medical & Injury Care, doctors use non-surgical protocols, such as spinal decompression, to meet the unique needs of each patient. Patients are choosing Mount Kisco Medical & Injury Care because of their extensive knowledge and experience in effectively treating patients with chronic pain.

Mount Kisco Medical & INJURY CARE, P.C.

914-241-8000 mkmInjuryCare.com
103 S. Bedford Rd. suite 109, Mount Kisco
P’ville Girl Sentenced in Last Summer’s Pa. Fatal Crash

By Janine Bowen

A 16-year-old Pleasantville teenager involved in the fatal car crash last August in the Poconos has been sentenced to probation by a Pennsylvania judge for causing the death of three boys.

The girl, who was 15 at the time of the Aug. 30 accident and underage,

Chappaqua Gas Leak Shuts Down Metro-North; No Injuries

About 80 preschool-age children and teachers were evacuated last Tuesday afternoon from World Cup Gymnastics in Chappaqua after a contractor who was fixing a water main on Hunts Lane hit a gas line causing a leak.

The incident was reported to the Chappaqua Fire Department at about 1:30 p.m. on May 26, said Fire Chief Russell Maitland. The one-inch high-pressure underground gas line near the school posed a threat because it was near electrical wires, Maitland said.

A threat of static electricity buildup could have sparked an explosion, he said.

On orders from Maitland, Metro-North shut down train service on the nearby Harlem line tracks for about two hours until the situation was under control.

The children and teachers were transported by two Chappaqua Transportation buses to Roaring Brook Elementary School, he said. Teachers stayed with the children in the school’s gym until parents arrived to take them home.

According to the original report given to police by the teenager, Ware allowed her to take the car to drive to get breakfast with the three Pennsylvania boys who were killed along with two other unidentified juveniles. Upon their return to the Wallenpaupack Lake Estates Development, where Ware owned a home, the girl lost control of the car while driving around a curve, causing the vehicle to roll over multiple times.

Edwards explained that the daughter was not ordered to enter into juvenile detention because she had no criminal history. Juvenile detention is typically reserved for minors who have had numerous encounters with the law or have been found delinquent and have demonstrated a refusal to modify their behavior and obey the law.

—Martin Wilbur

Trespassing, Loitering Plagues Mount Kisco’s Dakin Avenue

Mount Kisco police have made multiple arrests in recent weeks in connection with people drinking and loitering on Dakin Avenue behind Mount Kisco Elementary School.

Police Chief Joseph Spinelli said last week the back of the school, located at 47 W. Hyatt Ave., is separated by a fence. A village municipal parking lot is located in the area. Individuals have apparently been entering Dakin Avenue through the parking lot and using the area to drink and trespass, Spinelli said.

A homeowner told police there was drinking in the area and individuals were leaving beer cans on his property, he said.

—Neal Rentz

Free* Book! Free Coffee! and Invaluable Advice

Noted author and substance abuse counselor Karen Milici Palmiero, LMHC, answers your questions about children, substance, and how to create distance between them—at every stage of development.

Mount Kisco Library
Community Room
Saturday, June 6, 1:30 – 3 pm

*The first 50 people to reserve a seat receive a free copy of 90 Ways to Keep Your Kids Drug Free—from Toddlers to Teens at the event. Visit the main desk at the library or call 914 864-0038 to reserve your seat. You can e-mail a reservation request with the subject line “90 Ways” to miwan@wlsmail.org.
Pataki Returns Home for Presidential Campaign Rally

By Rick Pezzullo

Three days after joining an expanding field of candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president, George Pataki returned to his Peekskill roots Sunday to join longtime friends and supporters who believe he can make it to the White House.

Several hundred people jammed into the Lincoln Depot Museum -- where President Abraham Lincoln stopped to make a brief speech in 1861 -- to hear the equally lanky Pataki, who has never lost an election, proclaim why he should be taken seriously.

"I'm home," Pataki declared to a throng ofdelirious, sign-waving believers. "Wherever I am, wherever I go, this is home. This is where my values, my family, my friends have always underestimated his ability to win elections, " said former Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina. "I think there's a path, certain things have to happen. I think George Pataki is exactly what this country needs. It would be amazing to have the president of the United States right here in Peekskill."

In a four-minute video released last Thursday that officially kicked off his campaign, Pataki spoke about his beginnings in politics.

"When I was elected mayor the last time in the world I thought of was that someday I could be governor of New York State. I was this unknown person from Peekskill, not exactly Manhattan or New York City," he said.

"America has a big decision to make about who we are going to be and what we are going to stand for. If we are to flourish as people, we have to fall in love with America again. We are all in this together. We, the people, can make a difference. When we stand together, we as Americans can accomplish anything."

With 15 other Republicans actively or considering running for the party nod, former Peekskill mayor and current Westchester County Legislator John Testa said Pataki "has the ability to stand out and move into the top tier of candidates."

"We all have seen what he can make happen then," Testa said. "We know he has been contemplating this decision to run for some time so for him to move forward is exciting. If the rest of the country gets to know the George Pataki we know he will do well. His record as an elected official and track record of campaigning are second to none."

Deb Milone, executive director of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce, said Pataki's candidacy will provide an opportunity for Peekskill to showcase itself.

"Peekskill has a special place in political history. Our small community has produced senior statesmen at the local, state and national levels, as well as the notable achievement of having the first African-American Mayor (Richard Jackson) of a city in New York State," she said. "Then there's the story of a hometown kid named George Pataki who made it all the way to the Governor's Mansion. Now, with Pataki's sights set on the White House, regardless of politics, his presidential run will put Peekskill into the national spotlight."

Pataki was accompanied at the rally by his wife, Libby, who is Putnam County's director of tourism. The couple now lives in Garrison.

Pataki is currently Of Counsel with Chadbourne & Parke LLP, and president of the Pataki-Cahill Group, which works in energy, infrastructure and clean tech.
Editorial

Brynwood: No Such Thing as Perfect But Compromise Works Just Fine

After more than five years of fits and starts and vigorous debate surrounding Brynwood Golf & Country Club’s proposal, it appeared last week that there has thankfully been some thawing between the applicant, the town board and some nearby residents.

The Brynwood Partners have now agreed to lower the number of residences to 66 market-rate units and seven affordable apartments; make the high-end townhouses fee simple rather than with condo taxation; and agreed to what is shaping up as a rather restrictive conservation easement.

At last week’s continuation of a public hearing that last convened nearly two years ago, Brynwood’s attorney made sure to tell the North Castle Town Board that this was his client’s last best offer. In actuality, after spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not into the millions, it would take a lot for Brynwood to walk away or suddenly activate the backup plan for single-family houses.

While Brynwood brought on some of their difficulties themselves with the preposterous 243 units in the original proposal, the partners have been slowly and steadily moving in the right direction. It just took them five years to get there.

Certainly not everyone is happy. There are residents at nearby Windmill Farm and elsewhere in town that fear this could open the floodgates of development. Or overload the schools or the roads.

Others appear haltingly but legitimately encouraged that there have been some key concessions made by the developer, most notably the shift to fee simple for all market-rate units, limiting the development portion to a maximum of 73 units and agreeing to a conservation easement where the land would be a golf course or nothing in perpetuity should Brynwood receive its approvals.

With all those concessions, there’s no way town officials could keep saying no after there could be as few as 66 units on site, just 17 more than the oft-repeated as-of-right number, and clustered onto only 17 of the 156 acres.

That’s because this is the tax cap era where there are two choices for local governments to make—find new sources of revenue or cut services. Since few taxpayers would tolerate fewer services for Westchester-level property taxes, if Brynwood could get reasonably close in density, give up the condo taxation and agree to a restrictive easement, then there should be a deal.

While details regarding the easement and the final language in the zoning text still have to be ironed out, assuming that’s squared away, it’s a compromise that all sides should be able to live with. There will be a catering hall in the clubhouse but that facility and the golf course is a much less intensive use than a more conventional commercial development.

If the final steps can be taken, the town and Brynwood will be better off for all the hard work and the long nights at the board meeting.

It may not be perfect but it’s better than if both sides walked away.

Guest Column

Corruption Puts Focus on Ethics and Leadership in the Hudson Valley

Today’s headlines are ripe with stories of political and business corruption. Hardly a day goes by without hearing a breaking story of another alleged corrupt politician or poor conduct by the “leaders” of industry.

These stories are as abundant as weeds choking off the bounty of the just. Is it really a surprise or a revelation today? Many of our elected leaders in Albany are stepping down after being charged with corruption – using their public office for their private interests and the public good.

Just recently Preet Bharara, U.S attorney for the Southern District of New York, fined Westchester Medical Center $18.8 million for misconduct for improperly charging Medicare.

We are fortunate to have such a zealous champion of organizational ethics. It would be a fair and empirical observation to state that corruption is on the rise in America, and the good guys rarely make it to the upper echelons of leadership. A casual Internet search will confirm that America is not in the top 10 of ethical countries.

In terms of our elected officials, we are all a bit culpable by voting for such candidates and not demanding more from them.

Politicians who seek votes to be elected to an office often do not serve their constituents but serve themselves and their cronies. This certainly is nothing new, but in recent times has reached alarming proportions. It is evident that many of our “leaders” lack organizational ethics and leadership, finding it ever more difficult to discern between their private interests and the public good.

Socrates in his writings on ethics and leadership said it best: “Every action has its pleasures and its price.”

Bharara certainly made this point when he made Westchester Medical Center pay the high price for the pleasure of a lapse of discretion and ethics. It would be fair not to slight Aristotle, who stated: “Character is the basis of leadership.” Regrettfully this philosophy fell along with the Greek world and is rarely emulated in America today.

When such lapses of ethics occur it is the innocent who fund the indiscretions. In the case of Westchester Medical Center it was the taxpayers, employees and patients of the county who paid the price.

In cases when a prominent organization is fined because of a lack of ethics on the part of its CEO, it would be fair to pose this question: “Where was the organizational stewardship?”

If it was not present at the CEO level, then certainly the board of directors must take some responsibility. Was the WMC board of directors aware of the ethics breach? Did they support it? Or were they asleep at the wheel?

Richard Cirulli is a retired healthcare executive and professor of business and economics.

Letters Policy

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

For many people it’s never too late to give something new a try. In Jason Brower’s case, it wasn’t too late for him to return to his first passion.

Brower had loved art as a child, drawing prolifically since he was about three years old, particularly enjoying horror characters such as Dracula and Frankenstein.

But as he entered his teen years, other pursuits such as music took priority.

It wasn’t until about three-and-a-half years ago that Brower, now 45, turned his talent and love of art into a new career under rather unexpected circumstances.

He was working a seasonal job for UPS and discovered that the Topps Vault, the trading card company, was a regular stop on the route.

Brower would venture inside the company’s space seeing boxes piled high, merchandise that had been purchased online by customers and ready to be shipped.

“I sketched the things and two days after that he sent them to the art director without me knowing,” Brower recalled. “He tells me he liked what he saw (and asked) how would you like to be an artist? It was the first week, so it was pretty cool.”

Brower became a sketch artist for Topps, first working on sets of Wacky Packages Old School 4, a revival of the old wacky cards, which parodied various products and had first been popular in the 1970s. That was followed by his work on a set of cards for the comeback of The Garbage Pail Kids, a set of cards from 1985 that lampooned the Cabbage Patch Kids.

Through networking with fellow sketch artists, Brower today works for four other card companies on a freelance basis in addition to Topps—Upper Deck, Monsterwax, Pastime Cards and Viceroy Card Co., doing all of his sketching out of his Mount Kisco home.

He has also sketched for Wacky Packages Old School 5 series and was recently signed by Topps to work on a Star Wars Chrome card set. In addition, Brower has contributed artwork to the magazine Little Shoppe of Horrors, a trade publication on British horror.

“Never give up on your dreams; always follow your passion...and great things will happen,” Brower said. “I played on a lot of big stages in New York City, played the Apollo at 16, played B.B. King’s a couple of years ago.”

But in just a few years, after getting his chance as a sketch card artist, he is rapidly becoming more well-known among those in the card collecting world. Plus, it has quickly accelerated into plenty of work as the card companies provide him with several artist proofs per set to sell or privately commission to collectors.

Brower is confident that positive things are in his future and he’s looking forward to the opportunities that await.

For more on Jason Brower, visit his Facebook page Low Brower Art.

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

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

Discover more about Indian Point at SafeSecureVital.com
P’ville History Buff to Hold Ceremony for Local Civil War Vets

By Martin Wilbur

Since reading his first book on the Civil War when he was seven years old, Glenn Hayes has immersed himself in the war between the states.

During much of the past decade, the lifelong Pleasantville resident has made repeated trips to Gettysburg, successfully joining others who spoke out at public hearings to help prevent a chain department store from opening within a cannon shot of the historic battlefield. He also participated in the 150th anniversary events.

On Sunday afternoon, he gets to appreciate a small slice of Civil War history much closer to home.

Hayes has organized a ceremony at All Souls Cemetery on Marble Avenue in Pleasantville at 2 p.m. to honor Civil War veterans who are buried in his home village. There will be representatives on hand from various organizations or a branch of the military who will place a wreath by the grave of each of the 12 Civil War veterans interred at All Souls. There are also 39 more buried at the Methodist church’s cemetery in the Old Village.

While Sunday's ceremony is mainly to commemorate the recent 150th anniversary of the war's end, Hayes also has a greater purpose in mind. He wants to raise awareness about the veterans buried and would like to convince the government or other groups to replace the faded gravestones of the long-deceased soldiers.

“Hopefully, this will give attention to the ones in the Old Village where you can’t even read them,” he said.

Hayes took on the task of looking after the Civil War veterans’ graves after he visited his parents’ plot at All Souls one day. He noticed an overturned headstone and went to see if he could straighten it out.

“It said 5th New York Zouaves, so I knew right away it was Civil War,” he said.

He researched and found 11 more buried at All Souls. He has since written a biography for each one of the dozen soldiers. During Sunday’s ceremony Hayes will read their names and provide a small amount of background about each one.

Hayes said that many local residents are puzzled about why there would be Civil War vets buried at All Souls. Most don’t realize that the cemetery, which is operated and maintained by Holy Innocents parish, was established in 1861. While some of the soldiers died from their wounds, most settled nearby and were buried there when they died, he said.

The public may attend the ceremony; however, Hayes asks visitors to walk if they live in the village or try to carpool since parking in the area is limited. He cautioned that visitors who do drive will need to find legal on-street parking on the nearby side streets and not use the lots of businesses that are open.

He anticipates that the ceremony will last close to an hour.

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Follow us on  •  •  •
Soon after I moved into my new residence at Trump Park in Yorktown, a neighbor named Dan Potter introduced himself to me as a retired New York City fireman. He said that he had read my column about Fireman Joe, who instructed school children about fire safety in the home.

Potter told me not to forget about seniors who have a much higher risk of dying from fire in their homes than the rest of the population and that he had done educational programs on the subject.

This week we got together and I learned many new things, some surprising, including his personal history. Potter had been at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, arriving between the times the first and second planes hit the towers. His wife, Jean, was working in Tower 1 on the 81st floor, and for some hours he didn’t know whether she had made it out of the building. After searching at the site and at his apartment just a block away and not finding her, he collapsed on a bench in despair and a passing photographer captured the moment. That photograph appeared around the world.

But some really surprising information followed. “Citizens over 65 are twice as likely to die in a fire than the general population,” he said. “And once they reach 85, they are five times as likely to die in a fire than the general population, “ he said. “And once they reach 85, they are five times as likely to die in a fire than the general population.”

When we hear stories about expecting a parent to run back into a house to rescue a child, sadly the heat is so intense, so much more than anyone has ever experienced, it just doesn’t happen,” Potter said.

There was one last sobering thought that Potter conveyed to me. When the Avalon, a large New Jersey condominium complex burned to the ground recently, it went very fast. Within 30 seconds there was intense heat. Within one minute there was no way that a person could stand. Within two minutes, the room was engulfed in flames and within three minutes there was total conflagration. All the while, there was silence, not the crackling of wood and the roar we would expect from a romantic fire.

When I confessed that I had no idea, he informed me that it was enacted by Congress after the Great Chicago Fire, which burned Oct. 8-10, 1871.

He proceeded to talk about fire prevention.

“When most people have smoke detectors in their homes, the batteries are frequently dead,” Potter said. “Or they can be cooking, the alarm goes off, they might take them down, take the batteries out and not put them back.”

But some really surprising information followed. “Citizens over 65 are twice as likely to die in a fire than the general population,” he said. “And once they reach 85, they are five times as likely to die in a fire than the general population.”

While most people have smoke detectors in their homes, the batteries are frequently dead,” Potter said. “Or they can be cooking, the alarm goes off, they might take them down, take the batteries out and not put them back.”

“No,” I responded. “Do you think you really know what fire is?” Potter asked. “Do you think it has sound? Do you know how fast it is? How hot it is?”

I didn’t have answers. He took out his computer and showed me a controlled demonstration of a sofa catching fire. Within 30 seconds there was intense heat. Within one minute there was no way that a person could stand. Within two minutes, the room was engulfed in flames and within three minutes there was total conflagration. All the while, there was silence, not the crackling of wood and the roar we would expect from a romantic fire.


It’s scary to consider the number of people who live in multiunit condos and apartments that are of combustible construction. I would urge readers to be aware of escape instructions. For those of you living in single-family dwellings, listen to your children who learn fire safety tips at school. Check every smoke detector in the house and be prepared in an emergency to get out.

For more information about fire safety, visit www.nfpa.org.

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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WATCH THE BELMONT STAKES TRACKSIDE ENJOY LIVE MUSIC AND DRINK SPECIALS

SATURDAY JUNE 6 • 4-8PM
Armonk Lions Set to Roll Out Annual Fol-de-Rol This Weekend

If you’re near downtown Armonk later this week, there’s a way to have a fun time and help contribute to great causes.

Starting Thursday evening and extending through Sunday afternoon is the Armonk Lions’ 41st annual Fol-de-Rol at Wampus Brook Park on Maple Avenue. There will be rides, games, food, crafts, vendors and lots of other entertaining activities.

While everyone is expected to have a great time, the real benefit is that all money raised will go to several organizations selected by the local chapter of the service organization, said Armonk Lions treasurer Mike Rosenman.

Over the years, recipients have included the North Castle Police Department, NC-4, scholarships for graduating Byram Hills High School seniors and the Armonk Baseball League. Nonprofit groups such as Guiding Eyes for the Blind and Open Door Family Medical Center, among other organizations have also reaped the rewards.

In a typical year, the event raises between $15,000 and $25,000,

Rosenman said.

One of the returning attractions this year that was a big hit in 2014 is the Jersey Disc Devils, a group of performing dogs.

A complete list of the vendors and entertainers and all the information pertaining to the fair can be found at the Armonk Lions website at www.armonklions.org.

—Martin Wilbur
By Janine Bowen

Stefan Pappalardo has been an avid cyclist since childhood, so it makes sense he would try to bring that passion into his career.

Pappalardo, 28, opened Ride of Pleasantville (its official name is ride of pleasantville) on Apr. 8 after years of involvement in the cycling industry. He began working in a northern Westchester bike shop when he was in 10th grade, then went to the University of Virginia to study mechanical engineering.

After detesting the school, feeling out of place as a northerner in a southern state, he transferred to the University of Vermont, where he graduated with a physics degree with the goal of applying his skills to the bike industry.

"I really liked the idea of having my own shop even when I was starting college," he said. "I grew up racing and riding, so to pay for that you end up working in the shop, you kind of get bit by the bug a little bit more and you end up staying with it."

Pappalardo said opening a shop was the easiest way to get into the business, since there are few jobs with manufacturers and designers. After graduation, he began compiling capital from private financiers and through small business loans, but still didn’t have enough money for his own shop. He put the dream on hold to temporarily manage a bike shop in Brooklyn. Eventually, his long-term girlfriend’s father joined Pappalardo as a partner and helped make Ride a possibility.

Despite the initial challenges of financing the shop and the challenges posed by the online marketplace, Pappalardo noted that bike shops continue to be a fixture because manufacturers are protective of their dealers. Companies that produce the bicycles want their products sold by professionals who know how to assemble and fix them properly.

Pappalardo said one of the things that sets Ride apart from its competitors are the bike tune-ups and fittings as well as specialty mountain bike rebuilds that are done on site. Where other shops might try to charge customers to replace costly bike parts, Pappalardo will look to make repairs whenever possible.

"I’m way more into [the idea that] if it’s an expensive thing let’s try to fix it," he said. "But the Manville Road shop is more than repair shop. It carries some of the best bicycle lines in the business, including brands such as Grant, Biachni and Norco as well as a full assortment of bike-related equipment.

Although the store has only been open for about two months, Pappalardo noted that it has already developed a kind of cult following, having become a popular hangout for middle school and high school students on the Pleasantville Mountain Biking team. Group ride events on local trails and instructional classes have also been steadily growing in popularity.

"Everybody that bikes in town have started to show up," said Pappalardo. "You can see that there’s a lot of enthusiasm about the shop."

Ride of Pleasantville is located at 351 Manville Rd. and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 914-495-3666 or visit www.ride914.com.
Tuesday, June 2
Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo. Born and raised in Italy, De Matteo combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Tuesdays through June 23. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, June 3
Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Julie Genovesi at 303-929-7023 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.

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

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

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

Senior Benefits Information Center. Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-769-2260.


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

Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group. Northern Westchester Hospital at Chappaqua Crossing, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Thursday, June 4
Let Your Yoga Dance Classes. The popular Kripalu noon dance class is now in Chappaqua! Combines easy dance, gentle yoga and great music. Come join this noncompetitive, heart pumping and joyful experience. Drop-ins welcome. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greetly 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.

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

Smart Seniors. Protect yourself from scams and frauds that target older adults. Learn the warning signs and how and where to seek help if you are a victim. The presentation will be led by Gary Brown, state-wide elder abuse coordinator for the state attorney general’s office. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. RSVP appreciated. Info and RSVP: 914-769-2911 or e-mail clintonstreetcenter@gmail.com.

Armonk Lions Club Fol-de-Rol. The Armonk Lions Club presents its 41st annual Fol-de-Rol and Country Fair. A fun-filled weekend of rides, pet and car parade, games, craft and food vendors, continuous entertainment, animals and much more. Helps to raise funds for various projects in the Lions’ local, county, national and international communities. Wampus Brook Park, Maple Avenue, Armonk. 6 to 10 p.m. Also June 5 from 6 to 10 p.m., June 6 from 12 to 10 p.m. and June 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. No admission. Info: Visit www.armonklions.org.

Burger and Beer Blast. Westchester's best restaurants vie for Best Burger status, along with drinks and entertainment. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Members of Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc. $50. Non-members: $65. Info: 914-231-4033 or visit www.friendsofwestchesterparks.com.

Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $15 a class. $29 for four classes. $55 for eight classes. Meets every Thursday. Also Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Info: 971-215-1720, e-mail AddietudeDance@gmail.com or visit www.Addie-tude.com.

Friday, June 5
Movies in Millwood: “Big Hero 6.” The Chappaqua-Millwood Chamber of Commerce and Drug Mart present the first of four screenings of family movies on consecutive Friday nights. Millwood Park, Route 100, Millwood. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Movie at sundown. Free. Food available for purchase or may be brought in. Info: See the chamber of commerce’s Facebook page.

Friday Night Films: “49 Up.” Before there was reality television, there was Director Michael Apted’s work on the Up Series, the original documentary that examined the lives of several English children in seven yearly seven-year periods. When the first child hits 49, the geography and lives of the child are re-examined. Also includes music, children’s activities sponsor, Kiwi Community in a weekly market, creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. Featuring about 40 vendors weekly. Also includes music, children’s activities and a food demonstration. Chappaqua train station, Chappaqua. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit pleasantvillafarmersmarket.org.

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

The Armonk Players’ “Time Stands Still” opens Friday night at Whippoorwill Hall.

The Armonk Players’ “Time Stands Still!” This play by Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies is the story of James and Sarah, a journalist and a photographer, who share a passion for documenting the realities of war. But when injuries force them to return home to New York, the adventurous couple confronts the prospect of a more conventional life. Directed by Pia Haas. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. $20. Students (18 and under): $10. Also June 5, 11, 12, 13 at 8 p.m. and June 7 at 4 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit www.armonkplayers.org.

Saturday, June 6
Pleasantville Farmers Market. 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, seven nearby parking lots and creative weekly programming, it’s a delicious good time every Saturday. This week the market welcomes back acoustic rock band Skyskator and its great musicianship, song-crafting and performing chops. Also, come meet the staff of the market’s kids and activities sponsor, Kiwi Country Day Camp, as they visit with an activity of their own. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit pleasantvillafarmersmarket.org.

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STEM Education the Focus at County’s KENKEN Tourney

By Sarah Bonanno

Ten-year-old Gaurav Pandey captured Westchester’s first-ever international KENKEN competition on Sunday afternoon, solving a 7x7 puzzle in less than four minutes to win the championship round.

The tournament at Pace University in Pleasantville, which attracted roughly 40 students in grades 6-12, was organized in an effort to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in Westchester. KENKEN is a math puzzle that requires quantitative reasoning skills.

Pandey, from India, has always loved math and science. He was introduced to KENKEN through his school about a year ago when he entered a series of competitions. Pandey and four other Indian students defeated more than 35,000 competitors to win a trip to the United States and a berth in the tournament.

“He’s always been very brilliant,” Pandey’s father said.

Devika Pillai, also from India, and Eleanor Grueskin finished second and third, respectively.

Iris Pagan, left, executive director of the Westchester Youth Bureau, and Robert Fuhrer, second from left, with the top three finishers in the international KENKEN competition on Sunday at Pace University.

“It’s not okay to say I hate numbers. It’s okay to say I have difficulties and challenges with numbers because they’re too pervasive in our lives,” Pagan said.

As with Pandey’s elementary school in India, schools across the United States have also started to integrate KENKEN into the math curriculum, which helps interest in STEM flourish.

“There’s a quote from an opinion piece that said that STEM is actual social justice and that’s what we want to do,” Pagan said.

“We want to open up our doors so that all of our kids can have a chance to be employed by the top-level pharmaceutical companies. We have to have an employment of people that can deal with these kinds of methods,”

Robert Fuhrer, owner of Nextoy, a Pleasantville toy company that helped bring KENKEN to the United States and organizer of Sunday’s competition, said over 30,000 classrooms have registered to receive KENKEN puzzles weekly for educational purposes.

“The benefits of KENKEN, from experience, is not only basic math skills but problem-solving skills and factoring skills and just being more comfortable to make math more fun because most people think of math as torture,” Fuhrer said.

Math teachers Aaron Kaswell of MS 88 in Brooklyn, Josh Rosen of Springhurst Elementary School in Dobbs Ferry and Jonathan Matte of Greens Farms Academy in Westport, Conn. each had students competing. They all use KENKEN in their curriculum because it helps make students more confident in math.

“Just beyond what a textbook is going to show, I think that it’s important for students to understand that there’s more than what is curricular in terms of what you can do recreationally with your brain...there’s something to be said for just getting down and dirty with feeding your brain with this stuff,” Matte said.

Kaswell uses KENKEN in the classroom as a fun method to attract students for all ages and abilities to learning.

“I’ve had so many students that could care less for typical mathematics in middle school, and yet with KENKEN they’re instantly engaged,” Kaswell said. “So it keeps them really engaged in class.”

The competition was sponsored by the Westchester County executive’s office, IBM and Acorda Therapeutics.

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

The Hardy Boy. English novelist and poet Thomas Hardy was born on June 2, 1840, in Dorset. To mark his 175th birth-anniversary, the quiz words come from one of Hardy’s best known works “The Tess of the D’Urbervilles.” The 1891 work is a tale of tragedy, but hopefully this week’s quiz will not be a tragedy for you.

1. epistle (n.)
A) a letter  B) a brief oration  C) an occurrence

2. disabuse (v.)
A) to terminate  B) free from a falsehood  C) converse at length

3. vacuity (n.)
A) an erratic action  B) a small cavity  C) an empty space

4. unwonted (adj.)
A) unwilling  B) unusual  C) unkempt

5. enervate (v.)
A) to weaken  B) remain firm  C) carry out effectively

6. barton (n.)
A) a hayloft  B) a farmyard  C) a fallow field

7. purblind (adj.)
A) intended to purify  B) marked by profanity  C) lacking insight

8. mien (n.)
A) a fit of ill humor  B) a dialect  C) demeanor

ANSWERS:

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

78th Annual Strawberry Festival. Music, food and fun for everyone. Vendors will be selling handmade crafts and booths, face painting, magic tricks, and bouncy castles are some of the activities to delight children. There will also be attic treasures, a room full of great bargains on household items and jewelry. Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin, 191 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: Visit www.smtv.org.

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

Found 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 Ripstick® and combining constant simulated drumming result in working the entire body. TADA Theatre And Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097 or msmith@bcnwm.com. Registration: Visit http://www.bgcnew.com/events.

Alan Parsons Live Project Greatest Hits Tour. A revered classic progressive rock producer, music engineer, songwriter and performer, Alan Parsons’ work with The Beatles and other megastars, his groundbreaking recording techniques on “Dark Side Of The Moon” and his multiplatinum albums by The Alan Parsons Project have made him a music icon. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. $45, $60 or $70. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 ext. 2 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Sunday, June 7

Support Connection’s 11th Annual Celebrate Life Day. Held on National Cancer Survivors Day, this is an uplifting program with inspiration speakers, musical entertainment and lunch. Featuring speakers Joe Madigan, Support Connection volunteer and dedicated husband of Theresa, a seven-year breast cancer survivor, and Nancy Heller, co-founder and Support Connection board president and a 30-year breast cancer survivor. Award-winning singer/songwriter Steve Chizmadia will be the musical guest. The Travelers Rest, 25 Saw Mill River Rd. (Route 100), Ossining. 12 to 3 p.m. Free for cancer survivors; small fee for their guests. Info and reservations: 914-962-6402.

Nature Scavenger Hunt. A leisure hike to search for clues for natural items, then decode them to find the message in nature. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

Prevention Collection Speaker Series. Karen Milici Palmiero, noted author and Hudson Valley counselor for families affected by drug and alcohol use, will offer parents perspective on how they can create distance between their children and drugs. This is the first in a series on substance-use prevention talks sponsored by Mount Kisco Partners in Prevention and the Mount Kisco Public Library. The first 50 parents to register will receive a free copy of Palmiero’s book, Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: E-mail your name to mw@wlsmail.org. (Use the subject line “90 Ways.”)

Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester 21st Annual Humanitarian Award Dinner. The Humanitarian Award will be presented to Brian Skanes, the Club’s executive director for 21 years, at the 21st annual awards dinner. Featuring fundraising auctions, a cocktail reception, a plated dinner, a special tribute journal, live band and more, Hilton Westchester, 215-1720 or visit www.addie-tiude.com.

Knitting Group. Hats for our servicemen and women overseas and other ongoing projects for care centers and hospitals. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: $9 per child, Non-members: $12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburgnaturecenter.org.

Comedy Night: A Night of 1,000 Laughs. Six of stand-ups’ best comedians: Joe Larson, Leighton Lord, Tom McTiernan, Angel Salazar, Joey Vega and Greg Warren. A hilarious evening but not for the faint of heart. These well-known comedians hold nothing back. Adults only. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Show at 8 p.m. $84 per person, plus tax. Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.BroadwayTheatre.com.

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

Tuesday, June 9

Student Wellness Conference. The Lower Hudson Regional Special Education Technical Assistance and Support Center and Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health are sponsoring the Lower Hudson Regional Special Education Technical Assistance and Support Center for Behavioral Interventions and Supports at the University of Connecticut, will be the keynote speaker. Participants will learn the key features of the Interconnected Systems Framework that support all students through proactive, multi-tiered school and community systems. Open to school leaders and teams, social workers, juvenile justice workers, service organizations and the general public. Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Parking: $10. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.pmwboces.org/catalog.

Wednesday, June 10

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

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

Art Discussion Series: “Lo Scheggia and Masaccio.” Older brother Tommaso (known as Masaccio) and younger brother Giovanni (known as Lo Scheggia) di Ser Giovanni led two very different artistic lives. Masaccio, credited with developing the use of three-dimensional technique in painting, revolutionized the art form, while his brother created domestic objects. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Wing Rd., East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlerlibrary.org.
The Restaurant Examiner

The Great American BBQ Co. Returns for 2015 Season

By Jerry Eimbinder

Restaurant-goers pursuing delicious barbecue will find many appealing attractions at The Great American BBQ Co. in White Plains, an eatery and a full-service catering organization.

The entree list at the restaurant includes a sampler dish with an array of barbecue favorites: grilled salmon, sliced filet mignon and a pig roast for 15 or more patrons that requires 48-hour advance notice ($32.95 per person).

The off-premise catering function has separate menus; however, some of the dishes on the restaurant menu are also offered on the catering menu. Catering for 20 to 3,000 people can be accommodated.

The Great American BBQ Co., which reopened for the summer yesterday (Monday), is the next-door neighbor of sister restaurant Sam’s of Gedney Way. A seasonal operation, it returns each June and remains open through Labor Day.

“We modified the menu for this season a bit, adding shakes, burgers, salads and vegetarian options,” said Executive Chef Joseph Sasso. “Most importantly, our barbecue sauce is now gluten-free, so now instead of needing two sauces, we are going to use just one. Same great taste without the gluten.”

The Taste It All Sampler is listed at the top of the restaurant’s entree list and includes four taste-pleasing main portions, each of which is also available individually as an entree. They are dry-rubbed St. Louis ribs, braised beef brisket, Carolina pulled pork and barbecue chicken. The platter also includes locally grown buttered corn on the cob, cole slaw and house biscuit ($23.95).

Barbecue dishes are gently smoked for a short time but long enough to obtain a mild smoked flavor and then roasted. The pork, beef and chicken are brined (soaked in seasoned water overnight), rubbed with pepper and fresh parsley.

Westchester’s Most Delicious Dishes: The Flatbread at Café of Love

By Jerry Eimbinder

“Flatbread has our guests swooning,” said Leslie Lampert, the proprietress of Mount Kisco’s Café of Love. “It’s a delicious mouthful for this time of year.”

Lampert was referring to a new crunchy, caramelized, sweet and savory selection that can be eaten as a snack or as a main course.

“Chef Esvin’s tender tart pastry is the canvas for our basil-walnut pesto topped with sautéed mushrooms and onions,” Lampert said referring to Esvin Perez Garcia, who is also the pasta chef at Café of Love.

Contributing flavor and balance to this delightful, warm weather dish are a fluff of baby Amba Farms arugula, shaved parmesan and candied garlic tops. The flatbread can be eaten by hand — break off one small piece at a time — taking care not to let the ingredients on top spill off.

Cafe of Love sources many ingredients locally and stresses the importance of contributing to the neighborhood’s economic (and overall) health. It is open for lunch and dinner every day except Monday and for brunch on Saturday and Sunday.

The Café of Love is located at 38 E. Main St. in Mount Kisco. For more information, call 914-242-1002.

Corn bread (mini)

Yield: Two quarts

Ingredients:
Corn muffin mix, 1 quart
Shredded cheddar cheese, 1 pint
Heavy cream, 1/2 pint
Jalapeños, 1, no seed, minced (1)
Chopped cilantro, 8 ounces
Poppy seed (sprinkle over mix), 2 teaspoons

Instructions:
Mix all ingredients. Use small corn molds. Heat molds first, spray pan and bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. If you don’t have small corn molds, use any type of pan, but spray first.

Mango coleslaw

Yield: Two quarts

Step 1
Cabbage head (2)
Large shredded carrots (2)
Sugar, 1.5 quarts
Vinegar, salt and pepper

Step 2
Celery salt, 1 tablespoon
Celery seed, 3 tablespoons
Mayonnaise, 1 quart
Mango, 1 pint
Red pepper, julienne, 1 pint
Chopped parsley, 1/3 pint

Instructions:
Marinate cabbage for more than six hours. Squeeze out remaining liquid. Fold in mayonnaise, add mango, julienne red pepper and fresh parsley.

For catering information, contact Karen Herrero at 914-949-0978. A pig roast station is available at catered events.

The Great American BBQ Co. is open Monday through Saturday from 12 to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 4 to 9 p.m. It is located at 52 Gedney Way in White Plains For more information, call 914-686-2277.
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LEGAL NOTICE
On April 27, 2015, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the “Village”) adopted a Bond Resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Village is not authorized to expend money or the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the New York State Constitution. Summary of Bond Resolution

1. Class of Objects or Purposes - the purchase of machinery and apparatus to be used for constructing, reconstructing, repairing or maintaining Village improvements, including a dump truck and sweeper to be used by the Department of Public Works, the cost of each item of which is $30,000 or more.

2. Period of Probable Usefulness - fifteen (15) years.

3. Maximum Amount of Obligations to be Issued - the maximum amount of obligations to be issued for the objects or purposes described above is $425,000.

The Bond Resolution herein summarized shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours for twenty (20) days following the date of publication of this notice at the office of the Village Clerk of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York.

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The Rationale Behind a Wine Snob’s Thought Process

When I was younger I drank wine to be sociable, to be used as a prop for an engaging conversation, either with the other sex or with friends seeking to engage the other sex. And of course when I was even younger, I drank for the sake of getting a buzz at the lowest cost.

As I matured (chronologically), I transitioned to enjoying wine for its ethereal qualities. Through trial and error I developed my personal preferences for aromas, flavors and balance.

After many years of honing my personal preferences, I now possess a trained palate that instinctively discerns the components of a glass of wine. I’ve also learned the techniques in evaluating the characteristics and nuances of a glass of wine when first assessing it. Some are subtle; others are rather flamboyant.

To the typical tippler, these seemingly unorthodox techniques raise questions in their minds of the sanity of self-proclaimed oenophiles. But rather than intending to be supercilious or intentionally ostentatious, there is a specific rationale behind each gesture and gesticulation I’ve learned over the years.

A freshly opened bottle of wine reacts and responds to its new environment – but not without difficulty. To fully appreciate the wine, to quickly release its aromas and flavors, and to fully enjoy its bouquet and taste, it is helpful to provide assistance to the poured wine. Connoisseurs approach a freshly poured glass with several unorthodox techniques:

*Holding a glass high above one’s head and peering into the poured wine.* The rationale: the color of a wine is the first indication of its body (the darker the color the more full bodied and vice versa). It also is a predictor of the stage of its life cycle. (Look for contrasting color on the edges of a poured red wine; a brownish hue indicates the wine may be oxidized or past its prime, or both.)

*Vigorously swirling the wine on a surface like a whirling dervish.* Corollary: vigorously twirling the glass in mid-air. The rationale: while it may indicate the wine may be oxidized or past its prime, or both.)

*Inserting one’s nose deeply into the glass and loudly sniffing and inhaling the contents.* The rationale: the aromas of wine number in the thousands. The olfactory senses capture and discern these aromas and provide a broad and deep appreciation for the wine before tasting. The closer one’s nose to the surface of the wine, the more the aromas waft into the nostrils and through the nasal passages. This technique provides the greatest measure of one’s opinion of the wine.

Chewing before swallowing. An axiom I follow for wine, not just for food. The rationale: one’s tongue and mouth are the repositories of the sense of taste. To sip and swallow in one motion is to miss the experience of fully appreciating the flavors in wine. Instead, hold that sip in your mouth and slosh it around as if you are gargling. The wine will coat and be absorbed by your taste receptors. The sound of this in mixed company may initially be off-putting, but once you convince others of the merits of this technique, your slurping will be lost in the cacophony of the group’s ode to joy.

Breathe in, breathe out. Immediately after swallowing, an audible sound is made, similar to that when slowly sucking air through a straw. The rationale: when swallowing, wine passes through the nasal receptors in the rear of the mouth, providing another opportunity to savor the bouquet and aromas of the wine.

Do the means justify the desired result? It depends on two considerations: your desire to enhance your drinking experience and refine your palate and your level of self-confidence as you subject yourself to quizzical stares.

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.

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

By Nick Antonaccio
Lighthouse Youth Theatre Presents ‘Spring Awakening’ This Weekend

The Lighthouse Youth Theatre (LYT) will present “Spring Awakening” at Yorktown Stage this Friday, June 5 and 6, at 7 p.m.

The Tony Award-winning musical is based on a controversial play written by Frank Wedekind in 1891 and contemporized in a story by Duncan Sheik with lyrics by Steven Slater.

Though set in late 19th century Germany, the “most gorgeous Broadway score this decade” (Entertainment Weekly) resonates brilliantly with a contemporary audience through the exhilarating use of alternative rock. The story poignantly chronicles the angst and passion of a group of teenagers who are exploring their identities and blossoming sexuality in a repressive society, where the adults refuse to acknowledge their feelings or answer their questions.

The talented cast features members of LYT’s Protégé troupe, a dedicated group of advanced theater students who are described as “the next generation of theater professionals,” by John Fanelli, director of the production and LYT artistic director.

“Spring Awakening” cast members include: Christopher Milano, Sam Rodd, Jackson Fanelli, Greg Carey, Jonathan Genovese, Jack Lanza, Adam O’Connell, Noah Silverman, Elana Jonathan Genovese, Jack Lanza, Adam Rodd, Jackson Fanelli, Greg Carey, Jonathan Genovese, Jack Lanza, Adam O’Connell, Noah Silverman, Elana. To assist the cast with character development and to create a safe environment for cast members, who are in the same age range as the characters they portray, Fanelli has held open discussions during rehearsals about the sensitive subject matter explored in the show, which includes themes of masturbation, teen pregnancy, abortion and suicide. To broaden this discussion by bringing this production to the community is an example of “the power of theater,” Fanelli said.

“It’s a reflection of our society and brings value in that it can teach us not to make the same mistakes,” said Fanelli, referring to the tragic events depicted in the show.

Carrie Silvernail is the choreographer with musical direction by Ricky Romano and stage management by Diane Bradell.

High schools and/or youth groups are invited and encouraged to create discussion groups around the show’s content and will be offered discounted ticket prices for groups accompanied by a school or organization representative.

Tickets for “Spring Awakening” are $20 and $18 for students. For tickets and information, call 914-741-4205 or visit www.lytshows.org. Visit https://youtu.be/ZoyyAw8WbCg for a glimpse inside the production of the show.

Located in Armonk, LYT was created in 2006 by Fanelli with the goal of creating high-caliber productions for children and teens in Westchester and surrounding areas. LYT produces full-scale productions annually for the Junior Company (ages 5-13), Senior Company (ages 13-19) and the selective Protégé company (ages 13-19), and runs ongoing theater arts classes as well as performance arts camps during the summer.

Format Change Sought for Bellizzi in Mount Kisco

By Neal Rentz

Bellizzi has been a popular destination for diners in Mount Kisco since 1991, but like most things, there is time for a change.

Owner Isidoro (Isi) Albanese is planning to transform the Main Street restaurant into something new. He is proposing to rename Bellizzi, which currently specializes in pizza and other Italian fare, Exit 4 Food Hall and offer a variety of cuisines at the establishment. The name is inspired by the fact that it is located a few miles from Exit 4 of I-684.

While Exit 4 Food Hall would continue to serve pizza, pasta, paninis and salads, the menu choices would be expanded to include stations containing rice and quinoa bowls, barbecue, Middle Eastern food and tacos. There will also be lobster rolls and sushi provided by Mount Kisco Seafood.

Albanese said he wanted to offer new food choices that aren’t readily available elsewhere in the village. One of the priorities will be to use food from local farms, he said.

Renovations are estimated to take about one month. Albanese hopes to open Exit 4 Food Hall no later than Oct. 1.

Patrons would continue to order at the counter, similar to how Bellizzi currently operates, and either pick up or have their food brought to their table.

Albanese said the proposed format changes were needed. A few years ago he removed the game room from Bellizzi because of children’s changing tastes and that other venues offer arcade games, such as Grand Prix New York.

The restaurant also needed more food options.

“It’s time for a change,” Albanese said. “For the project to proceed, Albanese said he will need site plan approval from the planning board and for the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant new signs.

Even with his proposed changes, some of the Bellizzi favorites will still be available at Exit 4 Food Hall.

“You can still have pizza,” he said.

Contact Nanette Fanelli at 914-721-4205 or email nana@lytshows.org for information.

Art Around Town Debuts June 4 in Chappaqua

This Thursday, June 4, the Northern Westchester Artists Guild (NWAG) will kick off its inaugural Art Around Town in downtown Chappaqua.

The event pairs NWAG artists with merchants in the hamlet. The opening night kickoff is from 5 to 8 p.m. and will be a lively celebration of art and community, including a reception at each participating merchant with wine, food and music.

The artists will be available to discuss their work. The works will be on display until June 29 and are for sale.

Merchants hosting artists include: ICD Jewelry; Petticout Lane; Houlihan Lawrence; Whispering Pines; Douglas Elliman; Serena Rose; Emmary Day Spa; Family Britches; Sothely’s; Pizza Station; Desires by Mikolay; Eye Gallery of Chappaqua; Breeze; Breathe Pilates & Yoga; Chappaqua Wines; Donna Hair Salon; Salon 228; Le Jardin; 21 Studio Nail Salon; New Castle Historical Society; The King’s Scribe; Cosmetics Boutique; Hall of Scoops; and Great Stuff.
Memorial Day weekend was just the beginning of what Town of North Castle residents and elected officials see as a new era for the former Anita Louise Ehrman or North Castle Pool and Tennis facility located on Greenway Road in Armonk.

For the first time, the facility is a true town pool, operated by the North Castle Department of Recreation and Parks. It is known as the North Castle Town Pool.

With beautiful sunny weather, the pool opened with a splash. The May 23 grand opening events included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, free admission and food and a DJ for several hours. Over the course of the weekend, people enjoyed the great weather, the pool, the food and spending time with family and friends.

Town Supervisor and pool member Michael Schiliro was at the facility throughout the weekend along with other town officials.

“Thanks to the tireless efforts of so many people, led by (Superintendent of Recreation and Parks) Matt Trainor, the official town pool is a reality,” Schiliro said. “The word that I heard most this weekend was community; residents feel a true sense of community at the pool.”

If the first weekend is any indication, the North Castle Town Pool is off to a great start. The crowds grew over the weekend, with the largest on Monday, filling most of the parking lot.

Children and adults were in the water while others were on the deck taking in the sun. For those that wanted to stay out of the sun, there are several shade structures as well.

“It was great to realize I was walking away at the end of the day with a smile on my face,” said Councilman Stephen D’Angelo, the town board’s Recreation and Parks liaison.

The reasonable membership fees make joining the pool a very affordable option.

“We are very excited about our membership turnout so far and hope that even more people decide to be members,” Trainor said.

As of last Wednesday, there were 304 distinct memberships accounting for more than 1,000 people, Schiliro said.

Membership registration must be done at the recreation office located at 40 Maple Ave. in Armonk. Office hours will be extended to allow people more opportunity outside of the regular office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sign up for the pool and have their ID pictures taken. The extended hours are Wednesday, June 3 from 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to noon; Thursday, June 11 from 4 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The pool is open weekends only until June 27 from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The pool will be open daily starting June 28 with weekday hours from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and weekend hours from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. until the beginning of September.

For membership fees and additional information on registration and additional programming, call 914-273-3325 or visit www.northcastleny.com.
Personnel from fire departments came from throughout the area and converged on Pleasantville early last Friday evening for the village’s annual fireman’s parade. With beautifully warm late spring weather, marching bands and bagpipers entertained the crowds that were lining the street. There were also pieces of vintage trucks and equipment that were part of the event where the public could see what firefighters used to battle blazes generations ago.
Mt. Kisco’s Saw Mill Club Goes All in on the Benefits of Yoga

By Martin Wilbur

The Saw Mill Club in Mount Kisco may be known in the area as a top fitness center and a great place to swim or play tennis. Recently, it’s been adding another increasingly popular activity to its schedules that’s enhancing its reputation even more.

The Kensico Drive facility had converted its squash court into a yoga studio where as many as 40 participants at a time can try an assortment of yoga classes. Nearly everyone is likely to be able to find a class that is suitable for them regardless of age or fitness level.

Michelle Briks, the club’s director of Ohra Yoga training, has networked to bring in talented instructors to provide Saw Mill members with some of the best yoga experiences around.

“We would love to be known as the ultimate yoga center in Westchester,” said Kathleen Goldring, Saw Mill’s group exercise and yoga director. “I think it could be Westchester/northern Westchester, but outside New York City. It’s a great thing that Michelle can go into the city and meet all these great yoga instructors and now I want them to know the place to go when they come out is Saw Mill Club.”

With her extensive training, Briks has helped expand the class offerings. While many people may equate yoga with meditation and peace and quiet, there are classes that have made it a full-fledged cardiovascular exercise experience.

One of the more popular classes is hot power yoga, where the temperature in the studio is usually elevated to between 98 and 102 degrees (a little cooler in summer). Briks said that class is going to make sure its attendees get a workout.

“You’re going to move efficiently but you’re going to move and sweat,” Briks promised.

Another fast-paced class is Yoga for Athletes, which focuses on core strength. Briks said before each class a different muscle or body part is selected to be worked on.

Then there’s slow flow, where the pace is more moderate and the studio is kept at room temperature for people who can’t handle the hotter room.

For those who might want a little more of a traditional experience there’s hot candlelight yoga, which starts off with meditation and provides an outlet to relieve stress.

Goldring said there are many other classes as well, including teen yoga, for the younger members and a fitness stretch session, which isn’t yoga but helps some people who are afraid or intimidated by the yoga room.

Most classes are 75 minutes, but some are either an hour or hour-and-a-half. But Saw Mill doesn’t just offer yoga classes. It has become home to training sessions for those who want to become certified yoga instructors. Intensive courses can take several months for the student to complete.

“We have had five graduations of yoga instructors come through here and they’re terrific,” Goldring said. “I get yoga instructors from other programs who come out to teach here, and you compare my instructors who come out of Michelle’s programs, they are great. I’m really proud of how she’s really developing these people.”

The explosion in yoga’s popularity has occurred in part because younger people are exposed to it at an earlier age, Goldring said. Not only isn’t it foreign anymore but they also experience the health benefits.

Briks added that learning the benefits of efficient movement transfers well to other sports and physical activities.

While only members can take advantage of the Saw Mill Club’s classes, Goldring said for regular yoga practitioners it would be a benefit. A session at a yoga studio costs at least $20 a visit, so if a person goes three or four times a week it could amount to a few hundred dollars a month. For the $149 monthly Saw Mill fee, not only does a member get the other benefits of the club if they choose, but there is unlimited yoga.

For more information about all of the Saw Mill Club’s yoga classes, call 914-241-0797 or visit www.sawmillclub.com.

Time to Relax at the Burns With Meditative Life Series

By Neal Rentz

As the weather heats up, there are many ways to unwind.

One way to relax is to head to the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville this week as The Meditative Life series returns after a hiatus of several years. The series, which includes five documentaries and a program of shorts, opens tomorrow (Wednesday) and runs through Monday, June 8.

Although always very popular, there’s a good reason why Burns patrons haven’t seen The Meditative Life series in a while, said Programming Director Brian Ackerman.

“There typically aren’t enough films to do it annually,” he said.

Ackerman said there are new documentaries that explore meditation, yoga and Eastern spiritualities.

“Some are about yoga and meditation, while others are essentially meditations in themselves: quiet, transporting moments of exploration,” Ackerman said. “I’m even offering an evening of shorts, in a very unorthodox program about... death and transformation."

This year’s series kicks off with “Monk With a Camera,” a 2014 film directed by Tina Mascarand Guido Santi. It documents Nicholas Vreeland, son of Vogue magazine editor Dianna Vreeland, who left a life of privilege and moved to India to study Tibetan Buddhism and is now a monk. The movie features an appearance by the Dalai Lama.

While many of the films in the series document Eastern spirituality, “Manakamana,” directed by Stephanie Spray and Pacho Velez, “is very like a meditation” as it was entirely filmed inside a cable car high above a Nepal jungle, Ackerman said, transporting people to an ancient mountaintop temple.

The series concludes on June 8 in an unconventional way. The sold-out program, “Death by Shorts,” is 90 minutes worth of film that Ackerman would not identify because he wants to surprise the audience. He did say one of the films was about the last weeks of a dying man.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, including ticket prices and schedules, call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.
The Armonk Lions Present the 41st Annual

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